

YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

**Volume 21 Issue 1
January 2026**



ASK NANA



BRAD LOEKLÉ



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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 21 - Issue 1
January 2026



Welcome To Paradise!

Every year, we do New Year's a bit different than most communities. We lower a drag queen in a giant red high heel shoe onto Duval Street.

This year we welcome Mulan Alexander as our first "If The Shoe Fits" winner, as the queen of new years!

Enjoy!

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Nana

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Stephanie Wise

LEZ GO OUT



January in Key West is like stepping into a gay postcard that's come to life - without all of the white stuff... While much of the country is bundled up in scarves and furry boots, the island is full of queer-friendly fun. Wait... we still have the furry boots, but they're just for looks here. If you're looking to escape the winter chill, Key West offers not just sunshine but a vibrant, inclusive community that makes every moment feel like a celebration. Whether you're traveling solo, with your partner, or with a group of friends (you do you, Boo), here are some lez-b-approved things to do in Key West in January.

Sunset Sips at Lesbian-Friendly Bars. Key West's nightlife is famously inclusive, and January evenings are perfect for sipping cocktails while watching the sun dip below the horizon. AquaPlex Nightclub is a must for drag shows and dancing, while Bourbon Street Pub offers a lively scene with plenty of LGBTQ+ visitors and sassy bartenders. For a more relaxed vibe, head to La Te Da, a cabaret and piano bar where you can enjoy live music and interesting conversation. These spaces are not just bars—they're community hubs where you'll instantly feel at home. Don't miss Tea Dance on Sunday's starting around 4pm. Our resident DJ Rude Girl will get your spirits high. Do You Wanna Funk?

Cute Adventures on Two Wheels. Renting a bike is one of the most charming ways to explore Key West. Pedal past pastel conch houses, lush gardens, and hidden alleyways that feel like secret treasures. Stop at the Southernmost Point buoy for a photo op, or ride down to Higgs Beach to catch the ocean breeze. With its flat terrain and compact size, the island is made for cycling—and there's something undeniably romantic about discovering it together at your own pace. Key Lime Bike Tours can show you around and get you seated on the right banana while learning all about the local lore and secrets.

Art, Culture, and a Dash of History. For lesbians who love a dose of culture, Key West's art scene is a delight. The Studios of Key West often feature exhibitions by queer artists, while the Key West Art & Historical Society offers fascinating glimpses into the island's past. Don't miss the Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum, where you can wander through lush gardens and meet the famous six-toed cats. It's a quirky, literary stop that pairs perfectly with the island's creative spirit. Did you know that a single female ran the lighthouse for decades all by herself. Never married.... IYKYK.

Wellness and Self-Care. If your idea of a perfect vacation includes relaxation, Key West has plenty of spas and yoga studios run by fam. Imagine starting your morning with beachside yoga, followed by a couples massage at a boutique spa. It's the ultimate way to recharge and reconnect while indulging in a little pampering.

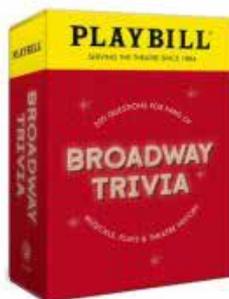
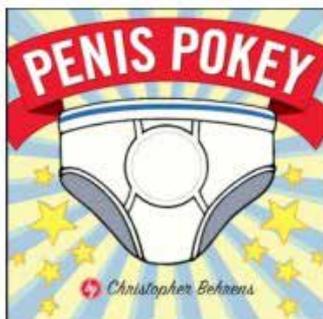
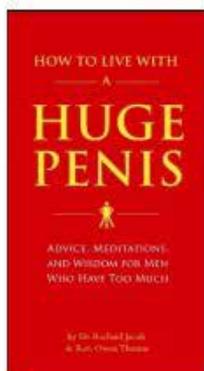
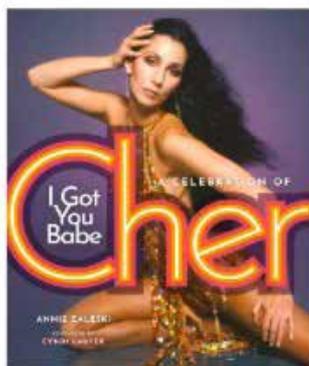
Dive into Adventure. For the adventurous lesbian traveler, Key West offers snorkeling trips to coral reefs, kayaking through mangroves, and even dolphin-watching tours. January's calm seas make it an ideal time to explore the natural beauty surrounding the island. Sharing these experiences with a partner or friends adds a layer of magic—you'll laugh, splash, and create memories that feel like pure joy. The reef is a magical place and you don't even need all the gear. Just hop on a reef snorkel tour and you're plopped right into heaven. Lazy Dog is fam owned and run and gives great mangrove tours and kayak rentals.

What makes January so special in Key West isn't just the weather—it's the sense of community. The island has long been a haven for LGBTQ+ travelers, and its inclusive spirit shines brightest when the rest of the country is shivering. Here, you can be yourself, celebrate love openly, and find endless ways to connect with others who share your joy. We're here and we're not going anywhere anytime soon!

Key West in January is more than a getaway—it's a love letter to queer joy and lesbian bartenders. If you're seeking a winter escape, this island paradise offers not just sunshine but a reminder that life is sweetest when shared, celebrated, and embraced with open arms... and other lesbians. Lez Go Out and play in the waves and leave the snow behind this January. See you out there.



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New Year



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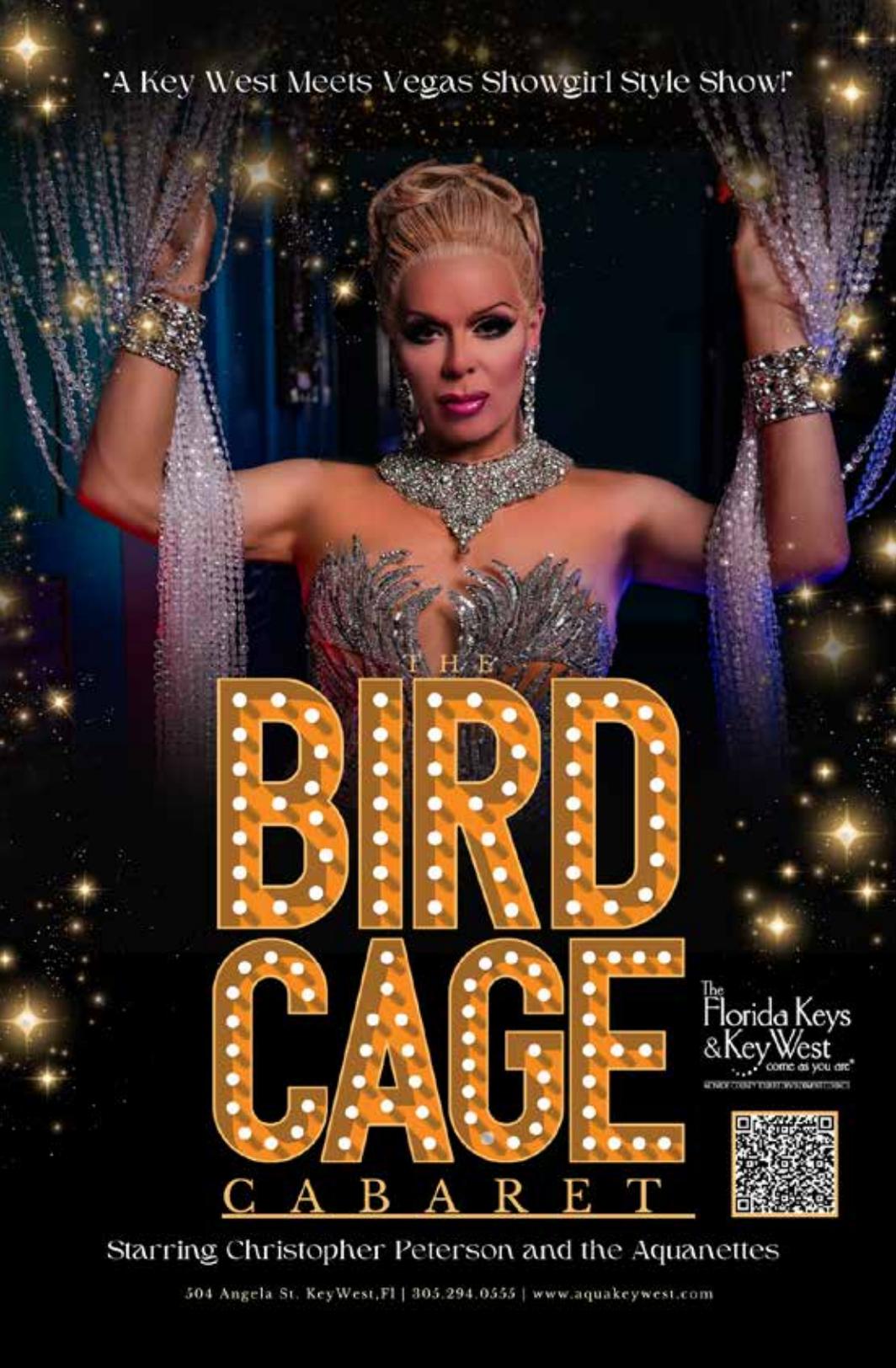
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BEACH READS



LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*

"THE DOGS OF VENICE" BY STEVEN CROWLEY
c.2025, G.P. Putnam & Sons | \$20.00 | 65 pages



One person.

Two, twelve, twenty, you can still feel alone in a crowded room if it's a place you don't want to be. People say, though, that that's no way to do the holidays; you're supposed to Make Merry, even when your heart's not in it. You're supposed to feel happy, no matter what – even when, as in "The Dogs of Venice" by Steven Rowley, the Christmas tinsel seems tarnished.

Right up until the plane door closed, Paul held hope that Darren would decide to come on the vacation they'd planned

for and saved for, for months.

Alas, Darren was a no-show, which was not really a surprise. Three weeks before the departure, he'd announced that their marriage wasn't working for him anymore, and that he wanted a divorce. Paul had said he was going on the vacation anyhow. Why waste a perfectly good flight, or an already-booked B&B? He was going to Venice.

Darren just rolled his eyes.

Was that a metaphor for their entire marriage? Darren had always accused Paul of wanting too much. He indicated now that he felt stifled. Still, Darren's unhappiness hit Paul broadside and so there was Paul, alone in a romantic Italian city, fighting with an espresso

machine in a loft owned by someone who looked like a frozen-food spokeswoman.

He couldn't speak or understand Italian very well. He didn't know his way around, and he got lost really often. But he felt anchored by a dog.

The dog – he liked to call it his dog – was a random stray, like so many others wandering around Venice unleashed, but this dog's confidence and insouciant manner inspired Paul. If a dog could be like that, well, why couldn't he?

He knew he wasn't unlovable but solo holidays stunk and he hated his situation. Maybe the dog had a lesson to teach him: could you live a wonderful life without someone to watch out for, pet, and care for you?

Pick up "The Dogs of Venice," and you might think to yourself that it won't take long to read. At under 100 pages, you'd be right – which just gives you time to turn around and read it again. Because you'll want to.

In the same way that you poke your tongue at a sore tooth, author Steven Rowley makes you want to remember what it's like to be the victim of a dead romance. You can do it here safely because you simply know that Paul is too nice for it to last too long. No spoilers, though, except to say that this novel is about love – gone, resurrected, misdirected – and it unfolds in exactly the way you hope it will. All in a neat evenings' worth of reading. Perfect.

One thing to note: the Christmas setting is incidental and could just as well be any season, which means that this book is timely, no matter when you want it. So grab "The Dogs of Venice," enjoy it twice with your book group, with your love, or read it alone.

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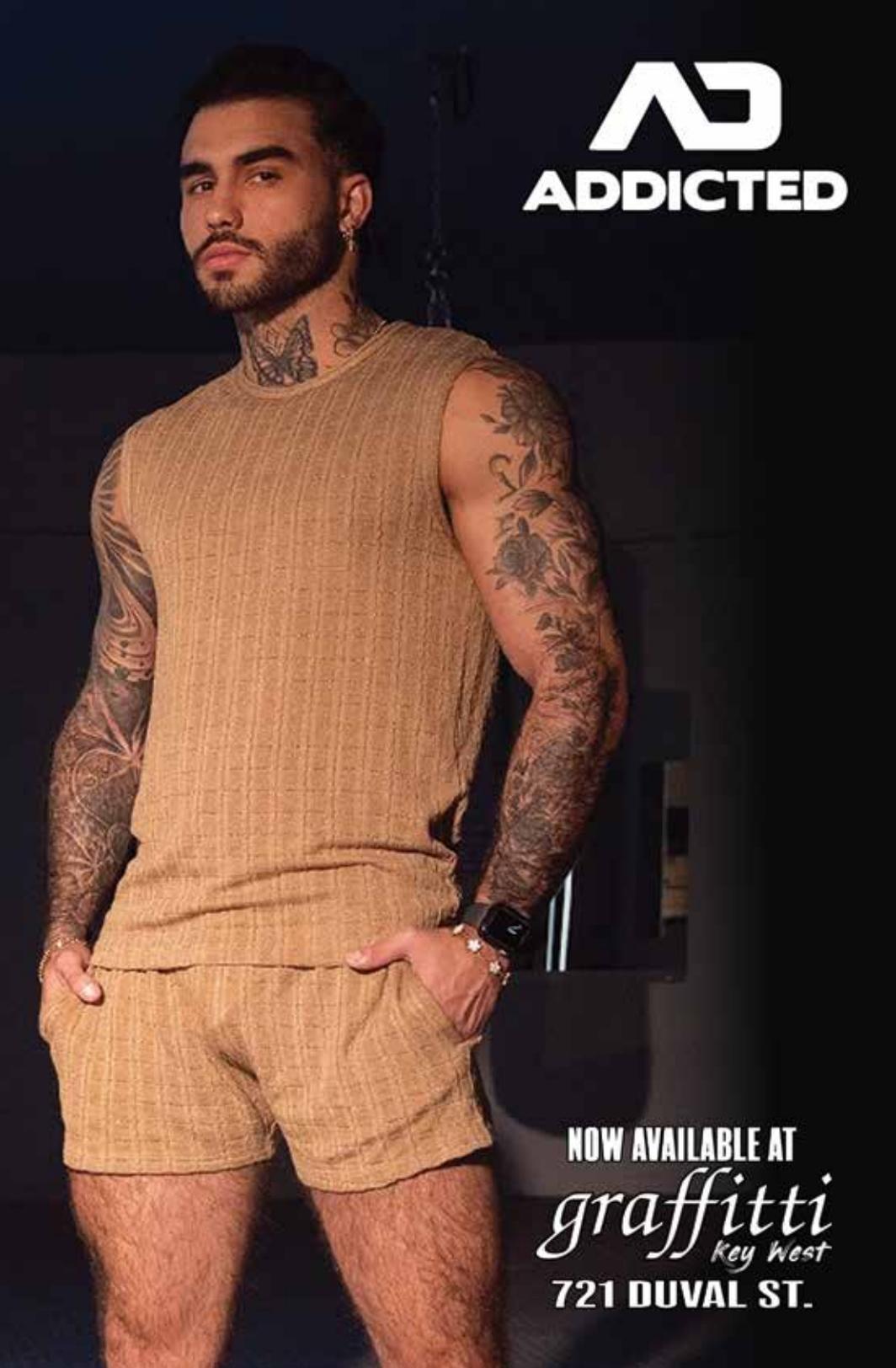
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A man with a beard and extensive tattoos on his neck, arms, and chest is wearing a tan, ribbed, sleeveless top and matching shorts. He is standing with his hands in his pockets, looking towards the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

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MY BIG GAY LIFE

Brad Loekle



ADVENTURES IN A HOMOSEXUAL'S MEDICINE CABINET

While I was out of the country performing during Christmas and New Year's, one of my many aunts came out to California to visit with my mother. Mom has seven sisters. A Roman Catholic family, obviously. She's always been quite close to her eldest sister, my Aunt Curl. We'll use family nicknames here to protect the innocent.

Aunt Curl is a wonderful, kind, moderately mentally disturbed woman. Nothing a little lithium can't help with. When properly medicated, she's a lovely and fully functioning mammal. When not, she has, on occasion, believed that Frank Sinatra is alive and well and living with her in wedlock in her New Jersey condo. At least she has good taste in delusions.

While I was away, my aunt was having some low-level anxiety issues. In fairness to her, who isn't these days?! My mother, wanting to help, told her to go into the medicine cabinet in the guest bathroom. "That is where Brad keeps all his toiletries and medications for when he visits. He's got every pill imaginable in there so just find yourself a Xanax and you should be better in no time."

Though well intentioned, what my mother had unwittingly done is send her dear sister into the devil's candy store without any adult supervision. The medicine cabinet of a mid-century homosexual really rivals the Victorian drug stores of yore. At one point I had quaaludes and some ether in there. That bathroom is a good time.

My sweet aunt found a small pill bottle marked "Xanax etc." Now, had

she simply showed the bottle to my mother, mom would have known to inspect the contents before moving any further. But that did not happen. What happened is my aunt took out the first mismatched pill from a bottle that was basically pharmaceutical trail mix, and popped it down her gullet.

About 40 minutes later, my mother text me across the world to ask “what the fuck is in the pill bottle marked ‘Xanax etc?’” I explained that there was no way for me to know what all I’d put in there. That’s the sort of bottle I use as catch all, of sorts. So, I asked her to send me a screenshot of what pills were in the bottle. In my own defense, there were about 11 Xanax in the bottle. There were also about 9 ecstasy pills. “If aunt Curl took one of the pressed pills with a smiley face emoji on it, that would be MDMA, mom.”

“Well, she’s currently brushing her hair with an ice cube and has consumed ½ a pack of Dentyne Ice in the last 20 minutes. So, yeah, I’d say she took one of the smiley faces.”

I could not stop laughing, especially after my mother asked me what the “antidote” was. I explained that she hadn’t eaten a poison apple from a witch or been bitten by rattlesnake, so there was no antidote. My mother ended up having a very exhausting 6-hour journey dealing with a 69-year-old woman experiencing molly for the first time. And my aunt discovered she really likes Lady Gaga and 90’s house music. What a way to grind our teeth into 2026!

Brad Loekle’s latest comedy special & album, “Brash Boys Club” is available on Amazon, AppleTV, iTunes, and other platforms. He was a semi-finalist on NBC’s “Last Comic Standing”. He can be seen every week on TruTV’s “World’s Dumbest”, has written for Joan Rivers on E! “Fashion Police” & tours internationally. His book, “My Big Gay Life” is available on Amazon. For all this and more, check out: www.bradloekle.com



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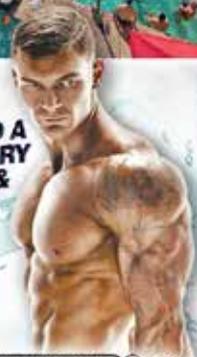
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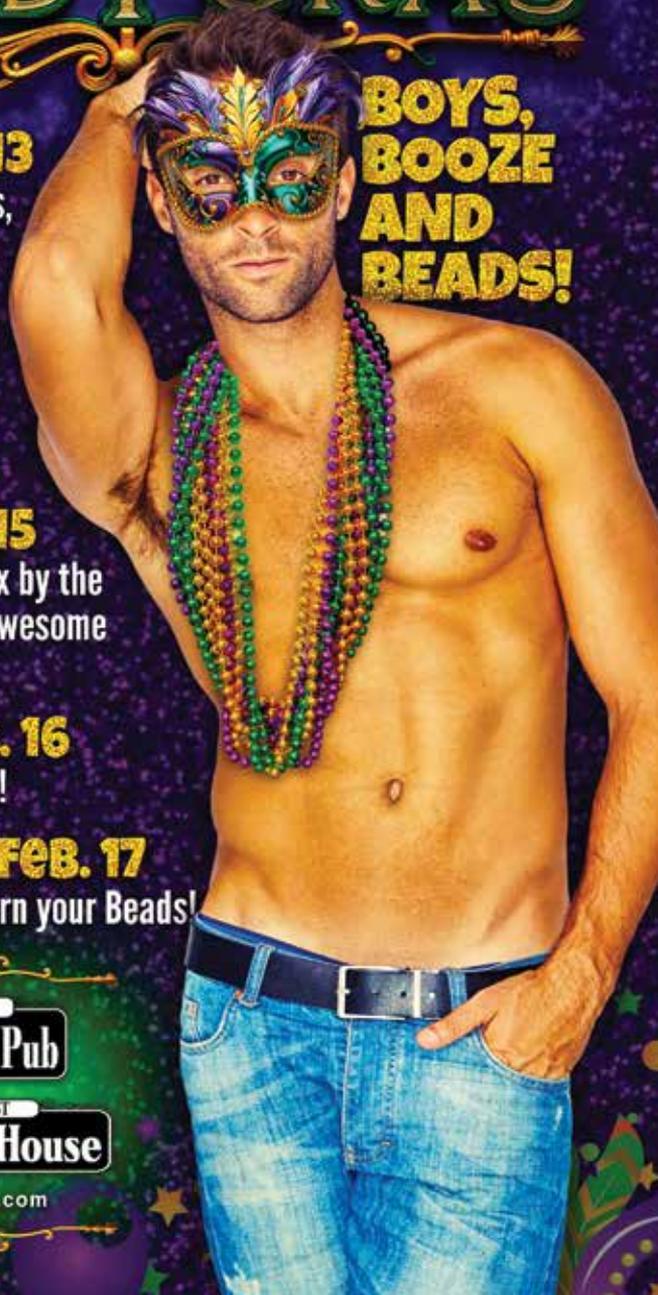
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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

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Q MAGAZINE

- 1 801 - 801 Duval St
- 2 A&B - 700 Front St
- 3 Alexander's Guest House - 1118 Fleming St
- 4 Alonzo's - 700 Front St
- 5 Aqua - 711 Duval St
- 6 Back Bar - 711 Duval St
- 7 Belmare - 700 Front St
- 8 Birdcage Cabaret - 504 Angela St
- 9 Bourbon - 724 Duval St
- 10 Graffiti - 721 Duval St
- 11 In Touch With You - 706A Duval St
- 12 Island House - 1129 Fleming St
- 13 KW Gay & Lesbian Visitor Center - 808 Duval St
- 14 La Te Da - 1125 Duval St
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WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Trivia at 4 PM

Drag Show at 8:30 PM

Back Bar

Monday Night Football at 8 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM



TUESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Show at 8:30 PM

Back Bar

Movie Night at 8 PM

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show at 7 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

WEDNESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Bingo at 6 PM

Drag Show at 8:30 PM

Back Bar

Watson Wednesday at 3 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Island House

Hot Naked Pool Party starting at 5 PM

THURSDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Show at 8:30 PM

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show at 7 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

SATURDAY

801

Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Shows at 8:30 PM

Karaoke at 11 PM

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show at 7 PM

PleXXX Naughty Dance at 10 PM

Bourbon

Naked Pool Party at Noon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

FRIDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Show at 8:30 PM

Karaoke at 11 PM

Back Bar

RuPaul Viewing Party at 8 PM

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show at 8 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Boys Night Out starting at 10 PM

Saloon 1

Cock Shock contest at Midnight

SUNDAY

801

Karaoke starting at 4 PM

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Show at 8:30 PM

Back Bar

Hot Dog Church at 3 PM

Bourbon

After Tea 7 PM - 10 PM

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Island House

Hot Naked Pool Party starting at Noon

LOCATIONS

801 - 801 Duval Street

Aqua - 711 Duval Street

Back Bar - 711 Duval Street

Birdcage - 504 Angela St

Bourbon - 724 Duval Street

Island House - 1129 Fleming St

La Te Da - 1125 Duval St

Saloon 1 - 504 Petronia St



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Dear Nana,

2025 felt like a really out of control year for me. I didn't really achieve a lot of the goals I set out for myself last January. The year wasn't a disaster or anything, but I just feel like, since I've turned 40, its harder to stay self-motivated. You've lived a long time. How do you keep yourself motivated and inspired?

Darling, "motivated and inspired" are the words of people in their 20s and white women who are trying to snap back from a messy divorce and/or prescription pill addiction. Here's what your 40s are about: taking care of your knees. Because if you don't already know this, they're about to start betraying you. Trying to stay physically fit enough that a sneeze doesn't throw your neck or back out for a month. Always having good cheese in your refrigerator. And, no, Cracker Barrel is not good cheese.

You're entering your 'scented candles excite me" years. You're day drinking on the weekends because you'd like to be passed out by 9pm and still get a solid night's sleep so you can go food shopping in the morning, years.

Could you double down on trying to make middle age your bitch? Sure. Has it worked for some? Sure. Are you still going to get old no matter what you do? Hell, yes. So maybe lighten up on yourself a little bit. Don't measure all your success by the number of things done on your to-do list. Maybe add in some points for the number of luscious naps you take just because you can. For the book you

decided to read when you just didn't have a "leg day" in you that week. Don't make life a chore before it has to be. Because, believe me, if you live a preposterously long time like me... it will get there without your help.

Dear Nana,

What's the one best thing I could do for myself to kick off my 2026 in the right way? I want to really make 2026 my year!

Marry wealthy. The rest really sorts itself out after that



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WHORE--SCOPES

AQUARIUS JAN 20 - FEB 18

Isn't it time for your annual shut-the-fuck-up-athon?

PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20

Remember when you were thin and attractive? Yeah no one does.

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

Don't fret about your small penis, no one can see it under your massive belly.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20

Maybe the talking scale wasn't a good idea. The last time you stepped on it, it called 911.

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

Your bank account is much like your personality, a big zero.

CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

Here it is, ten minutes into the new year and you've already broken all of your resolutions.

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

This is a good month for a new piercing. Get your lips pierced together fat ass.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

If you gain any more weight they're going to declare you a national monument.

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

People say you smell bad. I'm not so sure, but you certainly don't smell good.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

You make me wish it would freeze in Key West so I could have you lick a light pole.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

You just need to stop talking!

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

You light up every room you walk out of.



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WEDNESDAYS

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HOT NAKED
SUNDAYS

12 - 4PM



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