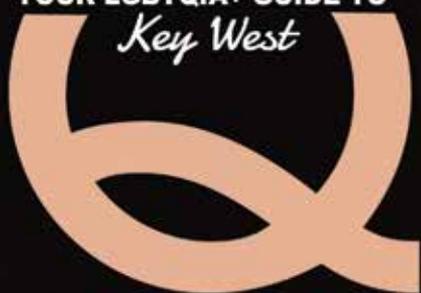


YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

*Key West*



**Q MAGAZINE**

Volume 20 Issue 11  
November 2025



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**BRAD LOEKLE**



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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

*Key West*



**Q MAGAZINE**

Volume 20 - Issue 11  
November 2025



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Brad Loekle

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Nana

Terri Schlichenmeyer

Stephanie Wise

## Welcome To Paradise!

Key West has always been a safe haven for our community, but even Key West is facing attacks.

While you're here, take pictures of every rainbow and share them on your social media to let people know, they are not alone and we will not be erased!

Enjoy!

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*Stephanie Wise*

# LEZ GO OUT



## N

November in Key West: Sun, Fun, and Quirks Under the Conch Republic Sun

Welcome to November in Key West. If you're reading this, congratulations—you've either just booked a trip to Key West, are considering it, or accidentally clicked a link while searching for "How to cook conch fritters." Either way, you're in for a treat. November in Key West is a magical time, where the palm trees sway, the chickens strut with confidence, and the only snow you'll see is in your frozen margarita. Let's dive into the best things to do this month in Conch Town.

**Weather:** Where Flip-Flops Meet Thanksgiving. First things first: pack light. November brings delightful temperatures averaging in the mid-70s to low-80s (°F), which means your parka can stay buried in the closet back home—unless you want to show off your "I Survived Buffalo" jacket at the beach for irony's sake. Humidity drops, the hurricane season waves goodbye, and the only thing threatening your comfort is the risk of sunburn on your... kneecaps. Sunscreen: it's not just for the tourists.

**Local Events:** Quirkiness on Parade. Key West doesn't do boring. November is stuffed like a turkey with events, some of which will leave you wondering if you've wandered into a Jimmy Buffett fever dream. Start with the Key West Film Festival (think: indie films, big laughs, and people pretending to understand French cinema). There's also the Annual Parrot Head Meeting of the Minds, where fans of all things Margaritaville flock together in Hawaiian shirts that can be seen from space.

If you're in town around Thanksgiving, don't expect your normal family drama—here, the drama is deciding which beach bar serves the best pumpkin pie martini. Some restaurants even offer traditional turkey with a side of fresh-caught shrimp. It's called fusion, darling.

**Outdoor Adventures:** Be Active Or Pretend To Be. November's weather is perfect for outdoor escapades. Rent a bike and putter around Old Town, dodging chickens like a local. Try paddleboarding: you'll either feel like a graceful dolphin or spend 45 minutes clinging to the board while giggling uncontrollably. Go snorkeling at Dry Tortugas National Park, where the fish are so colorful you'll think someone let a toddler loose with paint. Or, for those less aquatically inclined, take a leisurely stroll down Duval

Street—just remember, the “Duval Crawl” is not a race, and those cocktails are stronger than your last relationship.

Eat, Drink, and Be Merry (and Maybe a Bit Gluttonous). Key West is a food lover’s paradise. Start with a slice of key lime pie so tart it’ll make you pucker like you just saw your ex with their new partner. Seafood reigns supreme—try the stone crab, conch fritters, and, for the adventurous, a “fish dip” that locals swear by. Wash it all down with a locally brewed beer or a mojito from Sloppy Joe’s. If you’re feeling brave, order the “Rumrunner” and see if you can taste all 17 kinds of rum (spoiler: you can’t, but you’ll enjoy trying).

Wildlife Encounters: The Famous Chickens and... Others. No article about Key West would be complete without mentioning the island’s true rulers: the chickens. They’re everywhere, strutting their stuff like they own the place, which, honestly, they kinda do. Snap a selfie with one, but be warned: they have zero respect for personal space and may photobomb you with gusto. If you prefer marine life, visit the Key West Aquarium or take a dolphin-watching tour—just don’t ask the dolphins for directions, their sense of humor is notoriously fishy.

Nightlife: From Quirky Bars to Ghost Tours. When the sun dips below the Gulf, Key West truly comes alive. Hit up the legendary bars—Sloppy Joe’s, Green Parrot, or Captain Tony’s—where Hemingway once drank and the walls could tell stories (if you believe the walls, they’re drunk, too). If you’re not into loud music and questionable karaoke, join a ghost tour and learn about the island’s haunted history. You may not meet any actual ghosts, but you’ll definitely meet a few characters. **YOU ARE DOOMED.**

#### Pro Tips for November Fun

- Bring your sense of humor. Key West’s official motto is “One Human Family,” and laughter is the universal language.
- Don’t schedule too much—Key West time runs on “island minutes,” which are about three times slower than normal.
- Remember: chickens have the right of way. Always.
- Leave your worries (and winter coats) at home.

Final Thoughts: November Nirvana. So, whether you’re escaping the cold, seeking adventure, or simply want to eat pie in your flip-flops, November in Key West is a time for sun-soaked fun, a little weirdness, and lots of laughter. Just don’t be surprised if you return home with a tan, a collection of tacky souvenirs, and a newfound appreciation for poultry. So, Lez Go Out and enjoy “Fall” in flip flops on island time.

Veterans Day  
November 11

November

Happy  
Thanksgiving



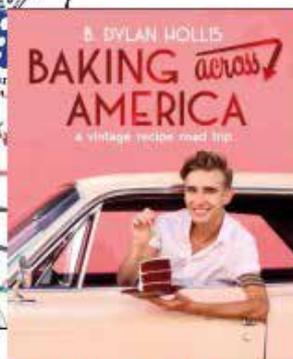
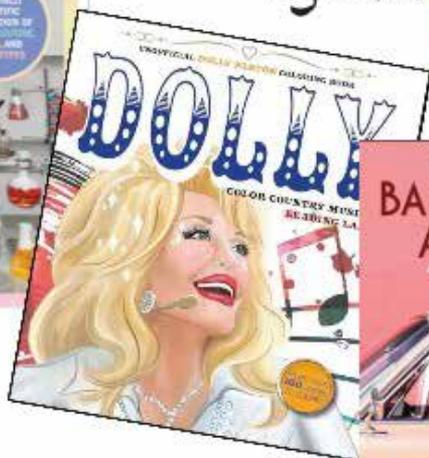
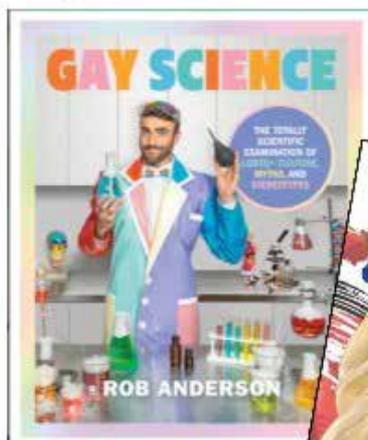
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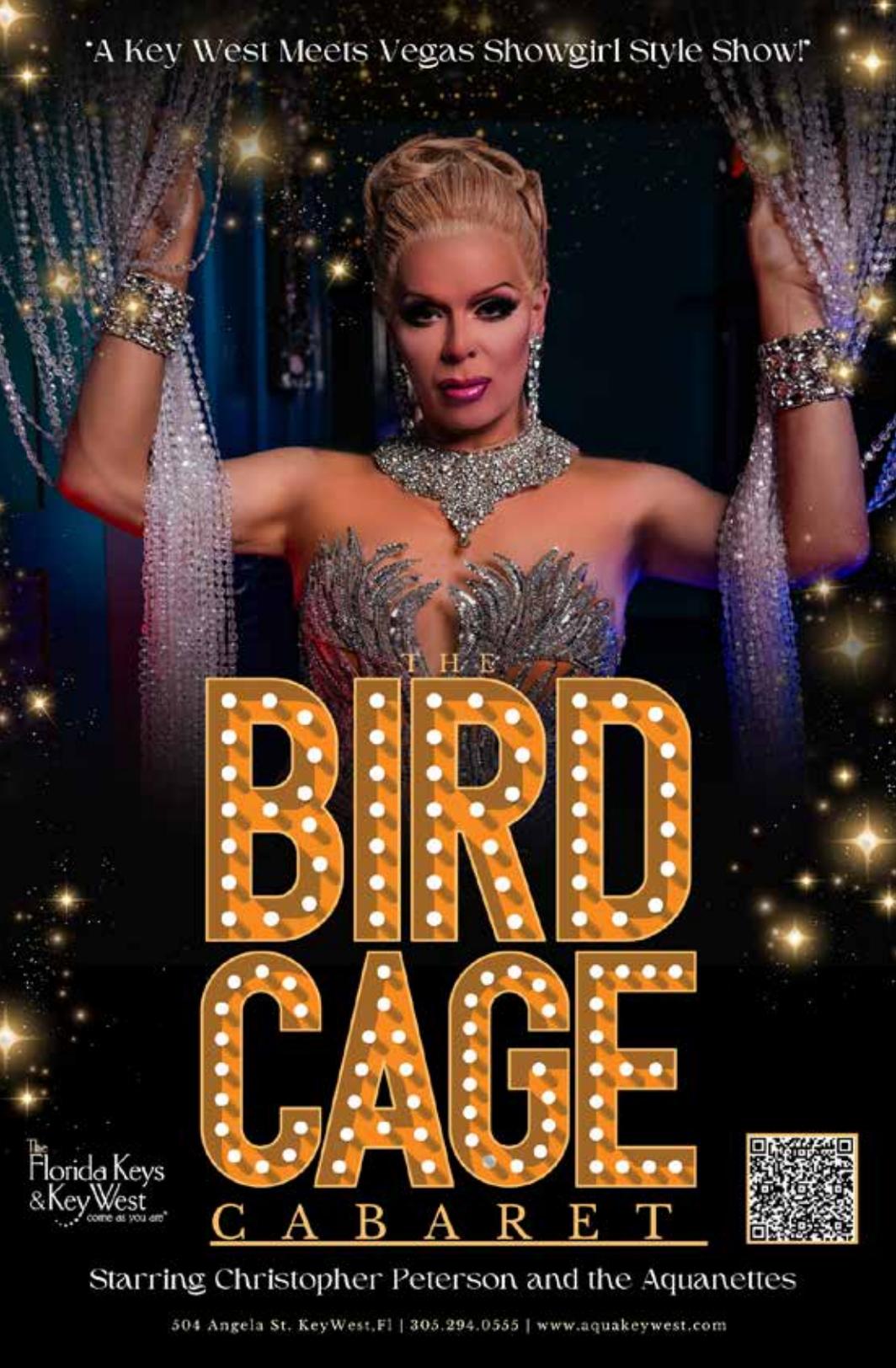
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# BEACH READS

LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*



## “BOG QUEEN” BY ANNA NORTH

c.2025, Bloomsbury | \$28.99 | 288 pages



Consider: lost and found.

The first one is miserable – whatever you need or want is gone, maybe for good. The second one can be joyful, a celebration of great relief and a reminder to look in the same spot next time you need that which you first lost. Loss hurts. But as in the new novel, “Bog Queen” by Anna North, discovery isn’t always without pain.

He’d always stuck to the story.

In 1961, or so he claimed, Isabel Navarro argued with her husband, as they had many times. At one point, she stalked out. Done. Gone, but there was always doubt – and now it seemed he’d been lying for decades: when peat cutters discovered the body of a young woman near his home in northwest England, Navarro finally admitted that he’d killed Isabel and dumped her corpse into a bog.

Officials prepared to charge him.

But again, that doubt. The body, as forensic anthropologist Agnes Lundstrom discovered rather quickly, was not that of Isabel. This bog woman had nearly-healed wounds and her head showed old skull fractures. Her skin glowed yellow from decaying moss that her body had steeped in. No, the corpse in the bog was not from a half-century ago.

She was roughly two-thousand years old.

But who was the woman from the bog? Knowing more about her would've been a nice distraction for Agnes; she'd left America to move to England, left her father and a man she might've loved once, with the hope that her life could be different. She disliked solitude but she felt awkward around people, including the environmental activists, politicians, and others surrounding the discovery of the Iron Age corpse.

Was the woman beloved? Agnes could tell that she'd obviously been well cared-for, and relatively healthy despite the injuries she'd sustained. If there were any artifacts left in the bog, Agnes would have the answers she wanted. If only Isabel's family, the activists, and authorities could come together and grant her more time...

Fortunately, that's what you get inside "Bog Queen": time, spanning from the Iron Age and the story of a young, inexperienced druid who's hoping to forge ties with a southern kingdom; to 2018, the year in which the modern portion of this book is set.

Yes, you get both.

Yes, you'll devour them.

Taking parts of a true story, author Anna North spins a wonderful tale of druids, vengeful warriors, scheming kings, and a scientist who's as much of a genius as she is a nerd. The tale of the two women swings back and forth between chapters and eras, mixed with female strength and twenty-first century concerns. Even better, these perfectly mixed parts are occasionally joined by a third entity that adds a delicious note of darkness, as if whatever happens can be erased in a moment.

Nah, don't even think about resisting.

If you're a fan of feminist fiction, science, or novels featuring kings, druids, and Celtic history, don't wait. "Bog Queen" is your book. Look. You'll be glad you found it.

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# MY BIG GAY LIFE

*Brad Loekle*



## TURKEY LURKY TIME

It's that time of year again. But, isn't it always? Right now, it's the time of year where most of us have two options: partake in a "Friendsgiving" where everyone laughs and eats and drinks and maybe throws up a little. But it's Friendsgiving, so someone is always there to hold your hair. Well not mine. Mother Nature decided to hold my hair permanently about 20 years ago. It's okay though, I save a fortune on shampoo and conditioner.

Your other option, of course, might be to gather with family. Tusk to tusk. Bring grandma's sweet potatoes as a shield from your own Ma's passive aggressive passing of the green bean casserole. For me, no holiday is complete without a little drama. Be it between family or friends. For years and years, I've heard this generalized social question of, "how do I deal with my parents' politics?" or "How do I deal with my sibling's awful children?" And my answer is always the same: by running full force into the storm! Let's make Thanksgiving grating again! When I was a kid, no holiday gathering was complete without some sort of explosion. There were literal explosions like when the hot water heater exploded on Christmas morning when I was 12 or like when my uncle blew his thumb off that one 4th of July. (That was closest any man in my family has come to serving their country... unless you count my public bathroom stall services that I used to offer during Fleet Week during the Don't Ask, Don't Tell era).

My favorite explosions have usually been the more emotional ones. Though those come with their own set of physical casualties as well. Have you ever seen a stoned aunt so mad at the whole family that she won't wait for anyone to move their cars that are blocking her into the driveway... so she does figure eights on the front lawn while blasting

The Rolling Stones? And all because everyone made fun of her asymmetrical bob just a little too aggressively before dessert. Listen, Agnes, you come at us with your hair at 45-degree angle, you should expect our forked tongues to be coming in hot too.

There was the year all my aunts (I have seven of them) got drunk on jug chianti and decided that our family Christmas tree decorations were so hideous, the tree might as well be covered with household items. So, they went about hanging dust pans and socks and even my grandmother's purse and pantyhose from the tree. We think the purse is what did it. And by it, I mean tip the tree over onto the dining room table. There were no culinary survivors. Though there rarely are in our home.

I tell you all this to remind you that some of your favorite memories of holidays past will be very traumatic holidays when they're present. So, make the present count! Pick a long-standing scab of a grudge with your sibling. Get your teenage nieces and nephews a little drunk or stoned for the first time. They're 13 and climate change is real. By the time they're old enough to have a really fun, "Traumaday" memories they'll be too busy fighting a water war with an AI server farm.

And that doesn't sound anywhere as fun as the Thanksgiving where my Aunt Nina and Aunt Eka tripped both chemically and physically while carrying the turkey from the kitchen to the table. They were fine, thank God. But, poor Tom the Turkey flew one last time... over my grandfather's come-over... and through the bay window behind him. Now that's what I call a Turkey Lurky Time!

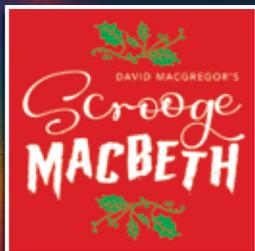
Brad Loekle's latest comedy special & album, "Brash Boys Club" is available on Amazon, AppleTV, iTunes, and other platforms. He was a semi-finalist on NBC's "Last Comic Standing". He can be seen every week on TruTV's "World's Dumbest", has written for Joan Rivers on E! "Fashion Police" & tours internationally.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



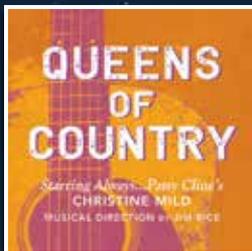
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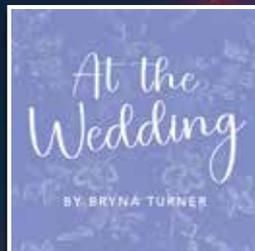
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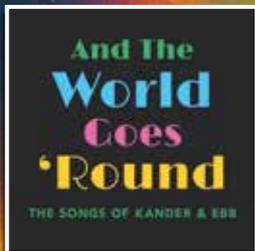
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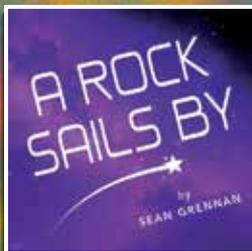
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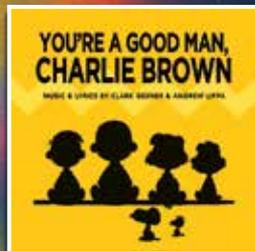
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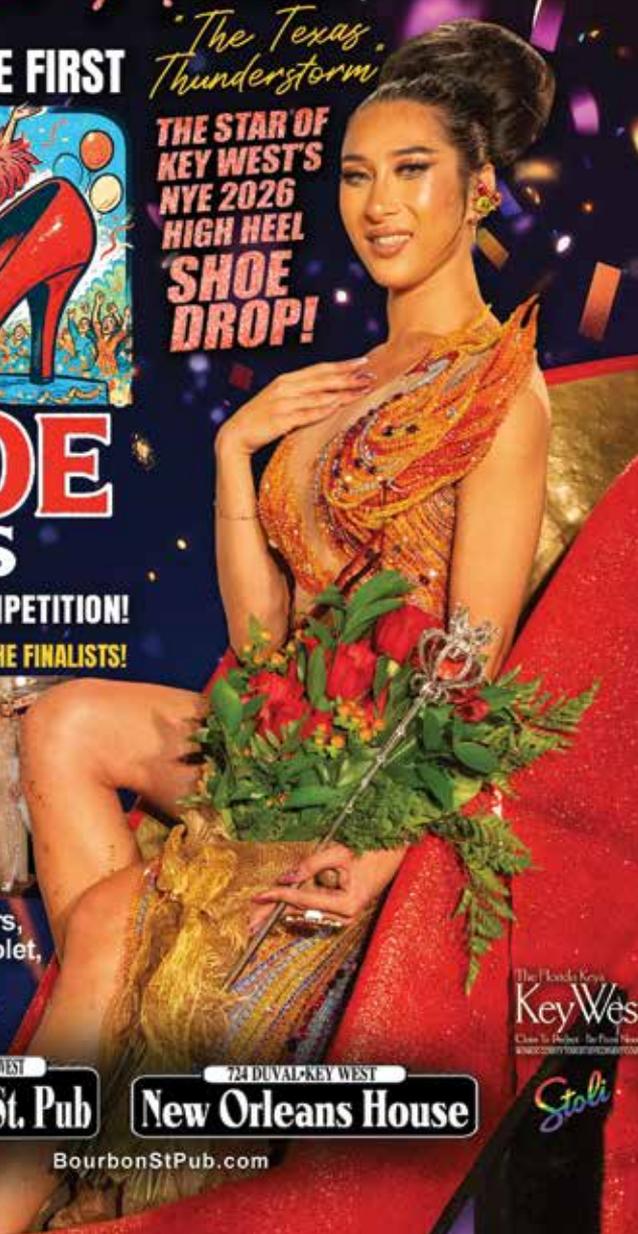
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- 2 A&B - 700 Front St
- 3 Alexander's Guest House - 1118 Fleming St
- 4 Alonzo's - 700 Front St
- 5 Aqua - 711 Duval St
- 6 Back Bar - 711 Duval St
- 7 Belmare - 700 Front St
- 8 Birdcage Cabaret - 504 Angela St
- 9 Bourbon - 724 Duval St
- 10 Graffiti - 721 Duval St
- 11 In Touch With You - 706A Duval St
- 12 Island House - 1129 Fleming St
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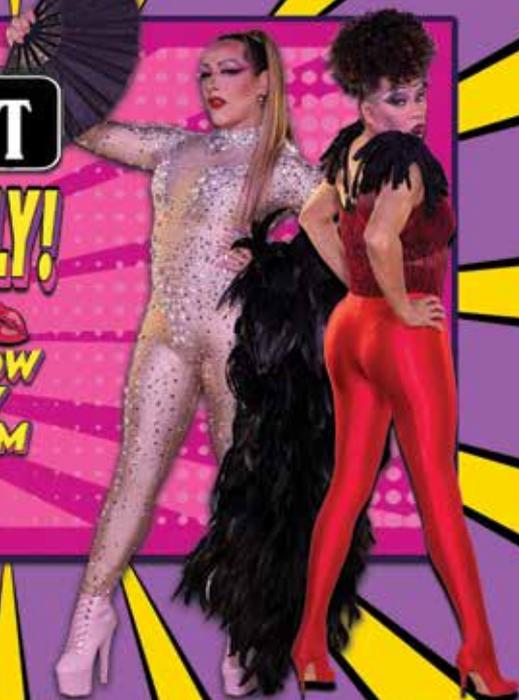
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# WEEKLY EVENTS

## 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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# ASK NANA

*E-mail your questions to*  
[nana@keywestgayrag.com](mailto:nana@keywestgayrag.com)



*Dear Nana,*

*My ex-boyfriend just asked me if I want to go on a gay cruise with him as roommates. We've been separated for almost 2 years but I would be lying if I said I didn't still harbor some feelings for him. We're still friends and hangout here in the real world without having had any problems. But is going on a big gay vacation together a good idea?*

Well, sailor, let's start with that you used the word "separated." Married couples "separate." Boyfriends break up. So, I'm going to bet a case of expired Trump Steaks on the idea that you want back with your ex. You don't have to be honest with me, or even with him, but please be honest with yourself. Because if you get on that big gay boat imagining some sort of Homosexual Hallmark channel fairytale, well... You'll probably turn into a drunk, depressed



pumpkin by the time the clock strikes midnight the first night at sea. If you do go as friend and roommate... make your trip about YOU! There are plenty of other fish in the sea and plenty of other seamen full of semen on those ships.

*Dear Nana,*

*My sister has asked that our whole family do a vegetarian Thanksgiving this year. I don't think she should hold the whole family hostage just because she's now a vegetarian. But I also don't want to turn Thanksgiving into a fight before all of us even get together. What would you do?*

Oh, my little Butterball, it sounds like you're already gunning for a food fight. Honestly, I'm of two minds about this age-old family feud. On one hand, I think everyone should be able to eat whatever they want. We're all adults. Everyone stay out of each



other's business and keep your eyes on your own plate. But I also don't see any issues with making the occasional allowance or sacrifice for the people we love. From your sister's point of view, she's been quietly ignoring all of you gnawing on carcasses for years now. So, maybe she just wants one year of PEAcE? Given the state of the world, and if it was my family, I'd just be happy to all be together and enjoy some family time in these chaotic times. And maybe you and Dad hide a ham in the trunk of a car and have a little "meat secret" for years to come!

**DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS? OF COURSE YOU DO! WHY NOT LET NANA HELP YOU?!**

*Send your questions to: [nana@keywestgayrag.com](mailto:nana@keywestgayrag.com)*

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# WHORE--SCOPES

## **AQUARIUS** JAN 20 - FEB 18

They say what goes up, must come down, but clearly they weren't talking about your weight.

## **PISCES** FEB 19 - MAR 20

You need to get some sun. If you were any more pale, you could get an X-ray with a flashlight.

## **ARIES** MAR 21 - APR 19

Maybe before going car shopping you should look at your budget. Your eyes are saying Corvette but your bank account is saying tricycle.

## **TAURUS** APR 20 - MAY 20

Looking at that outfit, I'm guessing you don't have mirrors at home?

## **GEMINI** MAY 21 - JUN 20

Whoever told you that hairstyle looked good was lying.

## **CANCER** JUN 21 - JUL 22

Just because it's a little cooler doesn't mean you can skip the deodorant!

## **LEO** JUL 23 - AUG 22

While prescription prices are not coming down, your bank account is down 1500%

## **VIRGO** AUG 23 - SEP 22

You remind me of an old chair. One leg bent, an arm dangling and sagging in the middle.

## **LIBRA** SEP 23 - OCT 22

I'd say it was time to go back to the gym but that would imply you've been there before.

## **SCORPIO** OCT 23 - NOV 21

Go to the beach. Get in the water. That's the closest you might get to bathing.

## **SAGITTARIUS** NOV 22 - DEC 21

With the change in seasons, you'll start to put on winter weight, though I'm not sure where it can fit

## **CAPRICORN** DEC 22 - JAN 19

You should take a trip this month dear Capricorn. One way.



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**SUNDAYS**

**12 - 4PM**



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