



Bar Baron Javier, Marcy & Lucille celebrate @ Starlight's C. Ray Nagin Good Riddance Bash



Mike (aka Opal), Darwin & Society Page's Orlando join Starlight's C. Ray Nagin Good Riddance Bash



Cutter's Jimmy & Dudley flank Lola following Cutter's Chocolate City My Ass Party



South Carolina's Jon & Denzil celebrate their 2nd anniversary @ Oz in New Orleans



Gizelle Bouvier in Opal's Follies @ JohnPaul's



**Labor Day
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Sept. 1st-6th

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acadiana happens

by Joey Collins, Lafayette, Louisiana
Email: ejcollins583@gmail.com

The humidity officially has our underwear stuck to our crotch area so you know what that means; summer in South Louisiana is here! Get ready for the dish because girl do I have a lot for you in this edition. It's time to listen up with Joey Collins!

Festival Recap

You've heard me discuss it many times now. Festival, as always, was a success. Many had doubts due to expected weather conditions yet sunshine beamed down all week-end long. This festival topped many past festivals with crowds hitting record numbers. According to the Lafayette Convention and Visitors Bureau, there were close to 500,000 people to be exact. If you

happened to be out and about downtown during this time then you felt the crunch.

Jules Downtown definitely felt it. I don't think anyone was prepared for the hurricane of people who hit this bar. For the first time in quite some time there was a line of people in front. The bar reached its capacity and had to start turning people away. Jules owner Darren Parker took the time from his busy Festival schedule to share with me his experience: "We brought in record numbers and were pleased to provide a very hospitable atmosphere for bar patrons. I haven't seen numbers like these in years. We were very excited to provide a location for cooling off." Many thanks go out to Parker, along with associate bar owner Wendy Wallace, and the hard working staff at Jules Downtown. The

mimosas were great!

Sound Factory saw its success as well. Not only were they celebrating Festival International, Sound Factory also found itself with yet another infamous *Bears on the Backside* with DJ Keith Doucet spinning his tracks. Sound Factory manager Mitch Tate took time to express.

"Festival always brings so many people downtown and we're happy to be a part of it. As always, we expect a great turn out and it never fails."

Jacque Rowe, Festival volunteer, took the time to share a moment. "For the past several years I have spent my time volunteering for the festival. It's practically the longest job I've ever held. I wouldn't have it any other way. I enjoy meeting so many people from all over the world, it couldn't get any better."

Mess a Success

Brodie "Mess" Meche hosted *Sunday Funday* at Sound Factory with an array of events. Sound Factory owner John Gilland was

very hospitable towards bar patrons as he welcomed in the day with free chicken and sausage gumbo for lunch. For those who still were not full enough, Brandon Richard boiled crawfish while the bar began to fill up with supporters who were eager to get the evening kicked off. Such events as drag bingo along with Sound Factory's notorious Sunday night drag show heated up the night. A wide variety of performers from across the Gulf Coast embraced the stage. As usual, Belinda Botox received great rave and applause from the audience. Miss Gay USA was also in attendance and was well received by audience members when she lit up the stage.

Bar Spill

On Saturday, May 15th Sound Factory will open its doors prepared for summer with a Hawaiian Luau. DJ Keith Doucet will be romancing the crowd with his mixes while attendees can enjoy \$4 Jungle Juice. Make

[continued on 29]

in the spotlight

How One Couple Takes Their Lives into Their Own Hands, One Goat at a Time

What do you get when you combine a former Martha Stewart Vice President, a drag queen turned ad exec and *New York Times* bestselling author, an estate and farm in upstate New York, a few quirky neighbors and goats, pigs and a llama to boot? In the case of Planet Green, it's their next primetime docu-series *The Fabulous Beekman Boys*, scheduled to premiere Wednesday, June 16 at 9:00 p.m. ET.

The Fabulous Beekman Boys is a funny and irreverent peek into the world of Josh Kilmer-Purcell and Brent Ridge, a fish-out-of-water couple who are reviving a farm in upstate NY in order to create a new organic lifestyle brand, 'Beekman 1802'. The series, produced by Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato's World of Wonder, uncovers how the couple's city slicker skill-set doesn't mean much when it comes to wrangling pigs and making goat's milk cheese.

"We believe that a farm can be much larger than its fences. If someone told us that we'd trade in New York City for eighty goats, two pigs, a dozen chickens and a narcissistic llama, we would have told them that they were crazy," said Kilmer-Purcell and Ridge. "It turns out that we are."

"*The Fabulous Beekman Boys* is an amusing look into Josh and Brent's very unique relationship, their desire to create a business and to transform their lives. Watching it unfold in real time is hilarious and entertaining" said Laura Michalchyshyn, Planet Green, Health, and Fit TV President and General Manager (who recently bought a farm of her own!). "Brent is a quintessential type A personality with a 'my way or the highway' attitude while Josh is a laid back, genteel kind of guy who spends weekends on the farm but is still commuting to work in the city during the week. Their eccentric, extended friends and family dynamic reveals to viewers that trying to live the simple life isn't so simple after all. We can't wait to bring these charismatic new personalities to television."

"They bought the farm...literally!" says co-executive producer Fenton Bailey.

"From wrapping 14,000 bars organic goat milk soap to organizing a harvest festival to benefit the nearby town of Sharon Springs, Brent and Josh have their work cut out for them, 24/7."

The Fabulous Beekman Boys documents the adventure of a lifetime, as Brent and Josh try to make their entrepreneurial venture a success without sacrificing their personal relationship. The farm is home to a menagerie that helps produce everything from goat milk soap to cheese, but with Josh still living in the city to earn a paycheck and Brent living full time at the farm dealing with the day to day tasks, the couple have created a recipe for conflict. They try to make the most of their weekends together on the farm now that their getaway has become their latest project, but there's always more work: be it a harvest weekend, book signing or launching a new flavor of cheese. There's a lot on the line but the "boys" are driven to fulfill their dreams.

When Pigs Fly - Episode 101

With Josh still living in the city to earn a paycheck and Brent living full time at the farm to launch their organic lifestyle brand, the couple tries to make the most of their weekends together on the farm. Brent and Josh welcome two new residents to their growing family as they bring home a pair of baby pigs who seem more than a bit reluctant to join the Beekman menagerie. Later, Josh asks Brent to come into the city for the first reading of his new book, but Brent says he's too busy with the business and Josh is left disappointed. Personal feelings are quickly put aside after Polka Spot, the llama, appears to have become ill after

her feeding. Brent's calm doctor skills take over, while Josh sets off in a panic, only to later discover that the llama was simply sunning herself. Josh heads back to the city for the week and has a successful first reading of his book as he recounts the first time he met Brent's former boss, Martha Stewart. When Josh returns to the farm looking forward to a relaxing weekend, Brent has other plans in mind and immediately sets off to do work. Josh can't handle the fact that Brent has turned their weekend getaway into a business and Brent reminds Josh that they have committed to a year of sacrifice to get their company up and running. But Josh threatens that he'd rather not have a business at all if it means having to sacrifice their relationship in the process.

Beekmanpalooza - Episode 102

In order to bring attention and business to Sharon Springs, as well as to the burgeoning Beekman brand, Brent plans a Harvest Weekend. The 3-day event includes a garden party on the Beekman property, a harvest festival in the village and a feast at the American Hotel. Brent stresses out Josh and Farmer John, wanting to make sure everything will go off as perfectly planned and Josh laments that Brent has no idea how to throw a good party. The garden party goes off without a hitch, but the question of whether people will actually show up to the festival still looms. Josh exchanges his farming attire for an outfit more appropriate for debuting their new Beekman cheese at the harvest festival, while Brent frets about the poor attendance. Eventually, the crowds turn out and the festival is a success. At the harvest feast, Josh is dismayed when Brent announces he didn't get them reservations to the gourmet dinner, because he wanted to sell out all the tickets. Brent and Josh resort to eating a less-than farm fresh meal, but still find that the weekend was, in its own way, pretty perfect.

Unhappy Birthday - Episode 103

Josh heads home to the Beekman from NYC looking forward to his 40th birthday weekend on the farm. But because Brent has agreed to host the first-ever wedding at the Beekman, Josh's birthday is put on the back burner. Josh has a hard

time accepting that the weekend won't be all about him and he freezes Brent out, but his anger is overshadowed by sympathy when the ominous weather threatens to ruin the bride's special day. Brent and Josh pitch in to help with the ceremony, and Josh confesses that his disappointment lies less in the fact that he didn't get a birthday party, and more in that another couple is getting married at the Beekman before themselves. In the end, the wedding goes off without a hitch and Brent gets back into Josh's good graces with a birthday present that truly takes Josh by surprise.

Dr. Brent Ridge was the Vice President of Healthy Living for Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia and developed Stewart's Healthy Center for Living at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York. Brent's doctor skills come in handy when the animals on the farm fall ill.

Josh Kilmer-Purcell is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *I Am Not Myself These Days* and *Candy Everybody Wants*. His newest book *The Bucolic Plague: From Drag Queen to Goat Farmer An Unconventional Memoir* (HarperCollins, June 2010, \$29.95), is a look back at his experiences at Beekman Farm over the past year.

The Fabulous Beekman Boys is executive produced by Planet Green's SVP of Production & Development, Jeff Hasler and Executive Producer Lynn Sadofsky. Executive Producers from World of Wonder are Randy Barbato, Fenton Bailey and Tom Campbell. Angela Berg is the supervising producer. Innovative production company World of Wonder is behind such entertaining hit series as *Tori and Dean: Home Sweet Hollywood*, *RuPaul's Drag Race*, *Million Dollar Listing* and *Man Shops Globe*. In addition, World of Wonder has created award winning films and documentaries such as *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*, *Party Monster* and *Monica in Black and White*. With offices in Hollywood and London, the company has produced cutting-edge fiction and non-fiction programming for HBO, Showtime, VH1, Sundance Channel, Discovery, MTV, BBC, PBS and Channel 4 UK, and can be found online at its entertainment blog The WOW Report, which boasts 500,000 unique visits per month at www.worldofwonder.net.

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JULES
DOWNTOWN

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for their Daily Drink Specials

Acadiana happens ...from 28

sure you stop by and enjoy this tropical paradise.

Don't forget to keep your eye on Jules Downtown's Facebook group. This is the best way to keep up with daily drink specials. As always free shots on the bar will be offered to unsuspecting patrons. Bartender Justin Menard always seems to have something up his sleeve.

Community Involvement

Acadiana CARES is an organization which was started in 1985 by a group of concerned citizens as a response to the affect that HIV was having on the area and to meet the needs of those infected and affected with HIV/AIDS in Lafayette. Since its beginning the organization has grown to serve many people in the Acadiana area. Through these efforts, Acadiana CARES has worked to provide education to halt the spread of HIV in the region and to end the prejudice and discrimination surrounding HIV/AIDS issues. The mission of Acadiana CARES is to address the issues and problems associated with the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to provide education and services for the purposes of HIV prevention.

FM Acadiana is a support group within Acadiana CARES that caters to young gay and bi-sexual men from the ages of 18 to 30. FM holds its meetings every Thursday and Sunday at 7pm at Acadiana CARES. These meetings are held to discuss issues that affect our gay community. It is also a good opportunity to meet other gay men outside of the bar scene. For more infor-

mation you may contact Jason Crooks at 337.233.2437. You may also check out their Facebook group: FM Acadiana.

Acadiana CARES also provides free and anonymous HIV testing. No needles are needed and accurate results are provided within 20 minutes. Testing times are on Tuesdays from 12pm to 3pm and Wednesdays from 6pm to 8pm. You may also call to schedule a testing.

On Sunday, May 16, at 7pm, Acadiana CARES will be hosting the International Candlelight Memorial. This event is held to honor those who have lost their lives to HIV/AIDS.

Acadiana CARES is located at 811 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. You may contact them at 337.233.2437 for further information. You may also visit their website at www.acadianacares.org.

Legislation Affecting YOU!

The start of summer also means the start of our Louisiana Legislative Session. For many of you, you may not be aware of the current legislation that poses a great deal of threat to the Louisiana LGBT community. Recently Colin Miller of Forum for Equality took the time to share with me the issues currently facing our community.

Forum for Equality is a civil rights foundation, an LGBT advocacy organization and a political action committee dedicated to the establishment of a society free from discrimination and to support of good government. Forum believes that the fastest and most efficient way to achieve its goals is through community organization,

education, and constructive participation in the political process.

Colin Miller is Forum for Equality's Southern Field Director. Here is my exclusive interview with Forum.

Joey Collins: As a Southern Field Director, what sort of responsibilities do you take on?

Colin Miller: I have the wonderful responsibility of participating in our state's political process. I educate, and advocate legislatures for LGBT rights. Forum is a bipartisan organization and being so, I work with all political parties. I am very fortunate to travel the Southern part of this great state and organize many energetic people who are thrilled to become involved in this process.

JC: What sort of legislation currently affects the LGBT community?

CM: Currently Louisiana Senate Bill 606 is a constitutional amendment that would redefine "religious freedom". People would be able to disobey laws which currently protect many of us. It would void laws which protect such individuals in employment, housing, schools, etc. It also threatens such non-employment discrimination acts in such cities as New Orleans and Shreveport. Anyone feeling as though perusing a certain act based on religious convictions would be allowed to carry out such an act, including discrimination.

JC: What are some things that our community can do to become involved in defeating such bills?

CM: First off you can go to the Forum's website, www.forumforequality.com, and go directly to the Join Now link. Doing so you can stay up to date with current advocacy campaigns that are aimed towards

legislatures and make sure we have a voice represented. Beyond that, you can personally contact your state legislatures. I encourage everyone in our community, including our allies, to write to your elected officials. It simply takes a small wave of emails for these elected officials to take our stance seriously.

JC: For those who may not be aware of who their elected officials are, how can they find out?

CM: Simply check out our website. We have a system where by entering your zip code you can find out who your elected officials are.

JC: Rather than oppose, are there any bills in our court in which we should be supporting?

CM: Louisiana House Bill 738 by Representative Juan Lafonta is a wonderful bill that would allow a parent who is legally recognized to petition to have a partner added as a parent. LA House Bill 737 by Senator J.P. Morrell and LA House Bill 901 by Representative Walter Leger would add two single adults jointly to the list of the persons who may petition for adoption. This is a huge bill for us and I urge members and allies of our communities to write their elected officials in support of this bill.

JC: What sort of victories has Forum and the LGBT community recently shared?

CM: Recently The Forum along with President of New Orleans City Council, Arnie Fielkow, ACLU Representative Marjorie Esman, FBI Special Agent Kelly Bryson, and Log Cabin Representative Ted Baldwin went before Senate Judiciary

[continued on 30]



Brodie Mess @ Sunday Funday



Belinda Botox performing @ Sound Factory's Sunday Funday



Scott, Mikey, Darius & Mario @ Sound Factory



Hunter, Brodie & Jason hanging out @ Jules Downtown



Hanging out @ Jules Downtown



DJ Keith Doucet getting ready for Bears on the Backside



Jenn enjoying Festival International from within Jules



A mess waiting to happen



Jacque & Jeff volunteering @ Festival International



DJ Kyle D returns to downtown @ Sound Factory



NOLA's own Patrick, worn out after a day @ Festival International



Trey, Rick, Mitch & Kyle enjoying crawfish @ Sound Factory's Sunday Funday



Another crazy after-party



Getting ready for another night @ Jules Downtown



Trey & Scott showing off their crazy shirts



Scott, Genn, Big Girl, Mark & Tony, resting @ Sound Factory during Festival International



Band performing downtown during Festival International



Ryan bartending @ Jules Downtown



Gypsy/Jazz Band playing @ Festival International



Troy & Tayler @ Jules Downtown

Sound Factory, Jules, Festival International ~ Lafayette, Louisiana ~ by Joey Collins