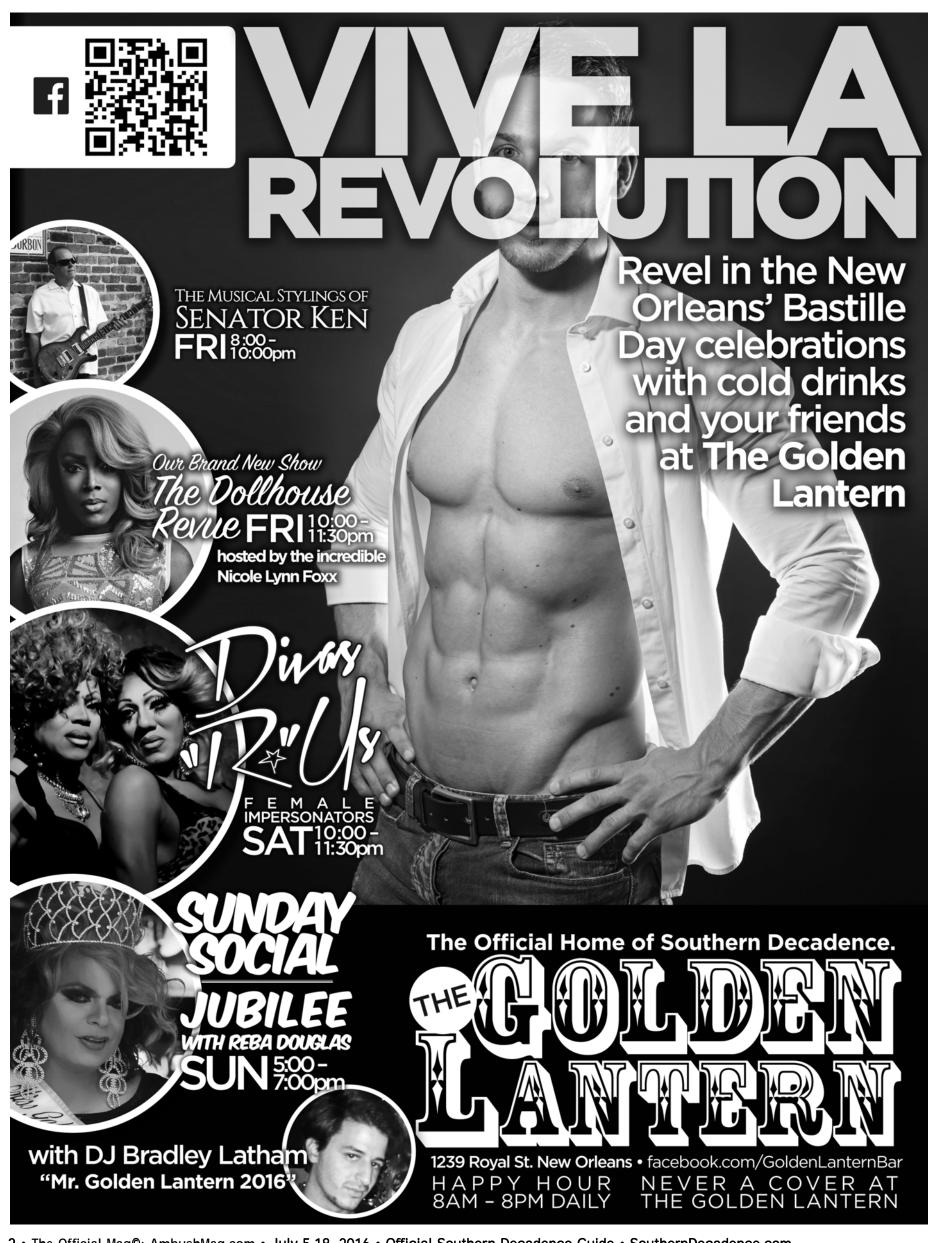




SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 • 10PM

HOSTED BY PERSANA SHOULDERS + THE HOT MEN OF OZ DANCING ON THE BAR!

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the "official" dish

by Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain Email: ripna@ambushmag.com

Brenda Laura To Receive 29th Annual Lifetime Achievement Award

The Gay Appreciation Awards Board of Directors has unanimously selected Brenda Laura to receive the coveted 29th Liftime Achievement Award on Saturday, July 23 at Oz. 800 Bourbon Street in New Orleans. This award will culminate the eagerly anticipated 29th Annual Gay Appreciation Awards Gala.

Ms. Laura is a committed, passionate activist who in the 1980's lead a coalition group to successfully reinvigorate Gay Fest New Orleans, and chaired this organization for 4 years, co-chairing Celebration for two

Her efforts furthered the community by bridging the gap between women's bars, tirelessly volunteering and fundraising for AIDS groups, and working with FACES, a pediatric AIDS support organization, and hosted fundraising parties to raise money for truck loads of gifts for those children who previously relied on the leftover donations from Children's Hospital.

Brenda has mentored countless young

women struggling to come out. She continues this theme of love and acceptance by hosting parties that provide an environment and social network for these women! Brenda uses the proceeds from these events to fund her animal rescue, and furthers her community involvement by saving and finding homes for these precious pets. She is now running an animal rescue and has put together a board to create the first Louisiana Women's Music Festival. Brenda is a partner in French Quarter Pet Asylum at 513 Dumaine Street in the French Quarter.

The Gay Appreciation Awards thanks those in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community who are often not recognized for the outstanding services and efforts they

This year the exciting event begins with "Walking the Red Carpet" emceed by Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLII Felicia Phillips as Joan Rivers, Tony Leggio, Jeffrey Palmquist and Derek Penton-Robicheaux from 7-7:45pm. This is your opportunity to "dress to the nines" in one or all of the official colors of Southern Decadence: amethyst (purple), ruby (red), sapphire (blue), or pearl (white). The grand marshals will choose the "best dressed" which will be awarded the first ever Red Carpet Oscar Award during the

The Gala will follow from 8-10pm announcing the winners voted online by the readership of Ambush Magazine back in early June. GAA Board's Lisa Beaumann and Teryl-Lynn Foxx will emcee the festivities with entertainment including a production number from each of the Top 5 Show Club of the Year Finalists: Bourbon Pub & Parade, Corner Pocket, Four Seasons & Patio Stage Bar, The Golden Lantern, and Oz New Orleans; and last year's Entertainer of the Year Gia GiaVanni. Benefiting Southern Decadence 2016. VIP Table's for 4 are available for \$200 (contact Rip Naguin to reserve your table 504.522.8049 or ripna@ambushmag.com), or it's a \$10 door donation.

Top 5 Finalists include:

Circuit Party/Event of the Year: 17th Gay Easter Parade, Halloween 32, New Orleans Pride, Page Anniversary Party, Southern Decadence 44

Hair Salon of the Year: Fee & Art's Revival Studio, Head Quarters, Mickey Nolan's, Rocket Science, Two Guy Cutting

Gay Mardi Gras Ball of the Year: Krewe of Amon-Ra, Krewe of Armeinius. Krewe of Petronius, Mystic Krewe of Lords of Leather, Mystic Krewe of Satyricon

Neighborhood Bar of the Year: Cafe Lafitte in Exile, Corner Pocket, Four Sea-

sons & Patio Stage Bar, The Page, The

45th Southern **Decadence Expected to Bring in Over** 200,000 Participants

According to the most recent online data, the 45th Annual Southern Decadence Celebration of LGBT+ Life, Music & Culture is expected to bring in over 200.000 participants in 2016 with another huge economic impact around the \$200,000 mark for New Orleans. From June 16-23, the official website www.SouthernDecadence.com brought in over 197,000 impressions, while it's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/

SouthernDecadenceNOLA garnered a total reach of over 47,000 the same time period!

In 2015, the 44th Southern Decadence broke all records bringing in over 180,000 participants Labor Day weekend. With an economic impact of a whopping \$216 million, this was one for the history books. The end of summer circuit weekend is the 5th largest in the city following Mardi Gras, Jazz Fest, Essence Fest, and French Quarter

Totals from this 44th Annual Southern Decadence celebration were added to the records kept

[continued on 8]

Buzzy Fanning AIDS Award: Misti Ates, Big Easy Sisters, Toby Lefort, NO/ AIDS Task Force, Adikus Sulpizi

Bitch of the Year: Electra City, Willie Mackie, Persana Shoulders, Princesse Stephaney, Aubrey Synclaire

Show Club of the Year: Bourbon Pub & Parade, Corner Pocket, Four Seasons & Patio Stage Bar, The Golden Lantern, Oz New Orleans

Donnie Jay Performing Arts Award: AUX Colorguard, La Familia Variety Show, New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus, The Southern Barbitchuates, Tennessee Williams Theatre Company

Restaurant/Deli/Coffee House of the Year: Cheezy Cajun, Chef Ron's Gumbo Stop, Clover Grill, Eat, Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli

Dance Club of the Year: Bourbon Pub & Parade, Corner Pocket, Four Seasons & Patio Stage Bar, Oz New Orleans, The Page

Bartender of the Year: Drew Kingswell/The Golden Lantern, Ashlee Logan/The Corner Pocket, Jake Morris/ Four Seasons & Patio Stage Bar, Jeffrey Palmquist/Cafe Lafitte in Exile, Chris Peterson/Bourbon Pub & Parade

DJ of the Year: OJ Carter/The Page, Kyle David/Oz, Dominick "Dom" Kolb/Four Seasons & Patio Stage Bar, Tim Pflueger/ Oz, Jonathan "JRB" Reed/Oz

Leather Bar of the Year: Cafe Lafitte in Exile, The Golden Lantern, The Page, Phoenix, Rawhide

Cheridon Comedy Award: Clorox Bleachman, Jeff DeRouen, Gia GiaVanni, Persana Shoulders, Tittie Toulouse

Fly Fashion Glamour Award: Adrian Claveria, Connie Hung, Chi-Chi Rodriguez, Aubrey Synclaire, Monica Synclaire-Kennedy

LGBT Business of the Year: Bourbon Pride, Crescent City Tour Booking Agency, Delaney & Robb Attorneys at Law, Formal Connection, Rab Dab Clothing & Gifts

Leather Person of the Year: Matthew Birkhoff, Tim Goodman, Troy Powell, Adikus Sulpizi, Gary Vandeventer

Transgender of the Year: Regina Adams, Adrian Claveria, Stephanie Lee, Rikki Redd, Chi-Chi Rodriguez

Lesbian of the Year: Misti Ates, Tracy Foxworth, Catherine Gaither, Mina Hernandez, Sandy Sachs

Gay Man of the Year: Andy Bergeron, Ken GrandPre, Tony Leggio, Frank Perez, Stephen Valiente

Marcy Marcell Entertainer of the Year: Nicole Lynn Foxx, Gia GiaVanni, Connie Hung, Coca Mesa, Aubrey Synclaire

For additional information, visit www.AmbushMag.com/gaa.

GAA Gala, Bleather Weekend issue due out July 19 inside **DEADLINE: Tues., July 12** a community within communities

celebrazzi baton rouge pride paparazzi moments in gay new orleans history 10 book review, lez talk 10 classifieds 24-25 real estate 25 29th gaa gala 11 trodding the boards, mobile pics 26 misti ates/catherine gaither wedding 12 nola pride weekend paparazzi 28 corner pocket anniversary pics 14 ambush paparazzi/metairie, nola phoenix nola pride block party 15 matters of health dining out for life 16 under the gaydar 18 AD INFO: Call 504.522.8049 45th southern decadence 19 ripna@ambushmag.com

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Saints & Sinners Literary Festival Hall of Fame/2015, Louisiana Excellence Award: Media & Internet/2014. New Orleans Print Media Award/ 2014, 25th NO/AIDS Task Force Humanitas Award/2013, New Orleans Print Media Award/ 2013, Krewe of Mwindo Media Honoree/2009, Krewe of Petronius Carnival Spirit of Gav Mardi Gras XLVIII Award/2009. Forum For Equality Acclaim Awards X Media Recipient/2008, NO/AIDS Task Force Prometheus "Torch of Truth" [media] Award/2001

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Florida - Pensacola Louisiana - Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Metairie, New Orleans, Slidel Mississippi - Bay St. Louis, Biloxi Texas - Houston

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MIss Cie, Leon Weekley-Mobile, AL National Advertising Rep: Rivendell Media 212.242.6863

Ambush Mag is published on alternate Tuesdays of each month by Ambush, Inc., R. Rip Naquin-Delain, President. Advertising, Copy & Photo DEAD-LINE is alternate Tuesdays, 4pm, prior to publication accepted via e-mail marsha@ripandmarsha.com, except for special holidays. The Publisher assumes no responsibility for the claims of advertisers and has the right to reject any advertising. The inclusion of an individual's name or photograph in this publication implies nothing about that individual's sexual orientation. Letters, stories, etc., appearing herein are not necessarily the opinion of the Publisher or Staff of AMBUSH Mag. Subscription rate is \$45 for 1/2 Year; \$75 for 1 year. Sample Copy is \$3 First Class Mail.

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