

Volume 32 Issue 15 • July 29-August 11, 2014

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**27th GAA Gala/Bleather Weekend**

**Celebrating LGBT+ Life, Music & Culture!**

**INSIDE:**

- ⇒ Baton Rouge
- ⇒ Houston
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- ⇒ Mobile
- ⇒ New Orleans
- ⇒ Pensacola
- ⇒ Slidell

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Gulf South LGBT Entertainment/Travel Guide© • 32nd Anniversary 1982-2014 • For Adults Only

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 14th 2014**

join us for the TRIUMPHANT return of  
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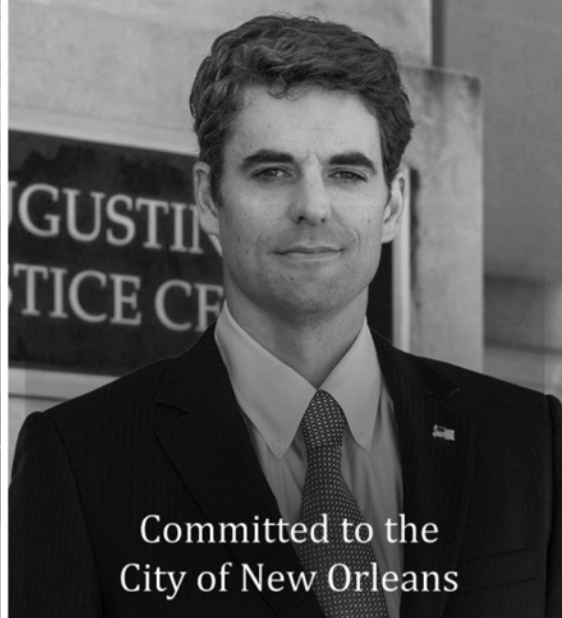
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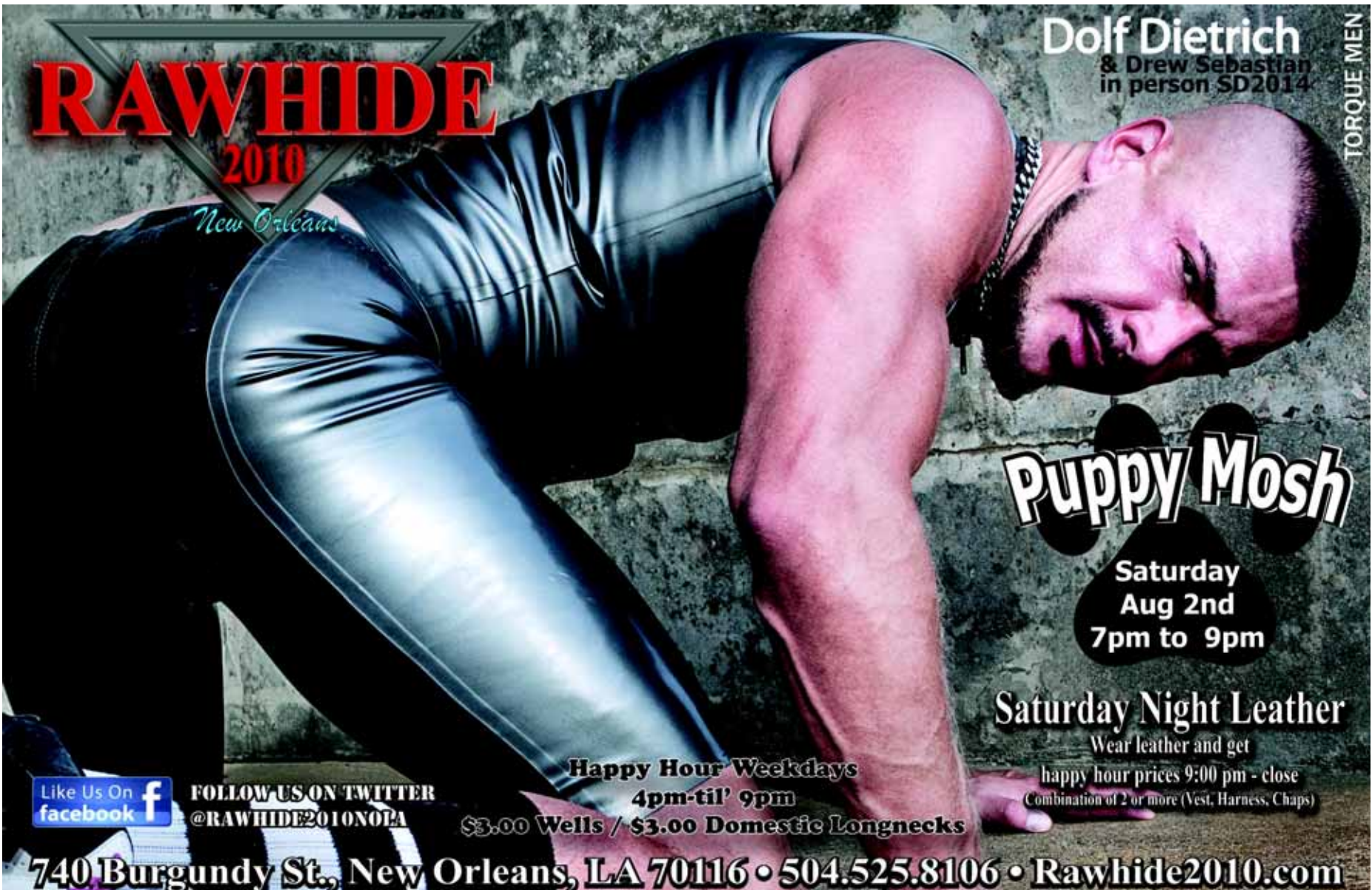
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# the "official" dish

by Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain  
Email: [marsha@ripandmarsha.com](mailto:marsha@ripandmarsha.com)

## Tommy Elias to Receive 27th Lifetime Achievement Award @ GAA Gala Aug. 2

The GAA Board of Directors have unanimously chosen Tommy Elias to receive the prestigious 27th Annual Gay Appreciation Awards Lifetime Achievement Award. His outstanding dedication and support of the LGBT community and its many charities led to his selection. The GAA Gala is set for Saturday, August 2 from 8-10pm at Oz New Orleans, 800 Bourbon Street. The winner from the Top 5 Finalist in 21 categories voted on by the Gulf South readership of **Ambush Mag** will be announced culminating with the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award. ([www.AmbushMag.com/GAA](http://www.AmbushMag.com/GAA))

There are only two VIP Tables left which include four seats for \$200. Contact Rip Naquin for table reservations at [ripna@ambushmag.com](mailto:ripna@ambushmag.com) or 504.522.8049. Door admission is \$10. The GAA benefits Southern Decadence.

According to Tommy Elias, "I was born in Laurel, Mississippi in 1948. I was so lucky to have two wonderful parents who loved and supported me in everything I did. I also come from a huge family and was always surrounded by the love of many uncles, aunts, and cousins whom I loved dearly.

After high school, I attended the University of Southern Mississippi and graduated with a degree in Fine Arts. I always loved the theater, and singing was my love. I was fortunate to have been able to travel with a USO tour after college and travel all over the World entertaining the troops during the Vietnam War in 1969. After that I knew I was hooked and wanted to make singing my life, and started my own band called Fancy Music, and traveled all over the United States entertaining many people. During this time I was also able to star in a Broadway play called **Cleavage** in 1983. It was one of many highlights in my life, and I enjoyed every minute of it.

In 1993 I opened my first gay club at 800 Bourbon Street called Oz. I became one of the owners and was the General Manager for 20 years. Here is where I feel I accomplished a lot, and made a lot of life-long friends in the gay community in the city I love so dearly. Since I love entertaining so much our drag show on Wednesday Night became my outlet to continue that love. With a starring cast such as Lisa Beaumann, Teryl-Lynn Foxx, Raquel Chevallier, Nikki Rich, and Bianca Del Rio, we had the best show bar on Bourbon Street. Those years working with that cast with their talent helped make Oz the bar it is today, and on a personnel note, were some of the best years of my life.

During this past year I began working with my brother at our bar, The Corner Pocket. I love the Corner Pocket very much and it is my home now. I also love working with my brother whom I love dearly. I am also very fortunate to be able to work with again the love of my life Carl Geleno who never leaves my side. We have been together for 20 years, and those of you that know me, know how important he is to me.

In 2012 life threw me a curve ball and I was diagnosed with stage 4 Colon Cancer. With the love and support of my family, and many, many friends, I am doing fine and feel wonderful. I do not plan on this being my final curtain call, and have lots more to accomplish and contribute to this great city of ours that I love so dearly!"

Top 5 Finalist include:

- Circuit Party/Event of the Year: Baton Rouge Pride, Gay Easter Parade, Halloween XXX, Oz White Party, Southern Decadence 2013
- Gay Mardi Gras Ball of the Year: Krewe of Amon-Ra, Krewe of Armeinius, Krewe of Petronius, Lords of Leather, Mystic Krewe of Satyricon
- Hair Salon of the Year: Bobby Blue Beauty Parlor, Fee & Art's Revival Studio, Fifi Mahony's, Head Quarters Salon, Mickey Nolan's Salon
- Neighborhood Bar of the Year: Corner Pocket, Four Seasons & Patio Stage Bar, Golden Lantern, Good Friends, GrandPre's
- Buzzy Fanning AIDS Award [organization/individual doing outstanding service in the AIDS arena]: Darren Ferris, Gay Easter Parade, Gia GiaVanni, Toby Lefort, NO/AIDS Task Force
- Bitch of the Year: Electra City, Reba Douglas, Chi-Chi Rodriquez, Persana Shoulders, Princesse Stephaney
- Show Club of the Year: Bourbon Pub



Tommy Elias  
(Photo by Larry Graham)

- & Parade, Corner Pocket, Four Seasons & Patio Stage Bar, Golden Lantern, Oz
- Donnie Jay Performing Arts Award [play, chorus or theatrical group/no individuals]: **Golden Girls**, La Familia, New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus, Running with Scissors, Southern Barbitchuates
- Restaurant/Deli/Coffee House of the Year: Clover Grill, Eat, Little Vic's, Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli, Verti Mart
- Dance Club of the Year: Bourbon Pub & Parade, Corner Pocket, Lucky Pierre's, Oz, Rawhide
- Bartender of the Year: Frank Joseph/Oz, Ashlee Logan/Golden Lantern, Jeff Palmquist/Cafe Lafitte in Exile, Chris Peterson/Oz, Wayne Penton/Oz
- DJ of the Year: Jason Emrick, Dominick "Dom" Kolb, Robbie Martin, Tim Pflueger, Jonathan "JRB" Reed
- Leather Bar of the Year: Phoenix, Rawhide
- Cheridon Comedy Award: Jeff DeRouen, Rikki Gee, Gia GiaVanni, Persana Shoulders, Princesse Stephaney
- Fly Fashion Glamour Award: Domin-

ique DeLorean, Connie Hung, Monica Synclaire-Kennedy, Karli LaCorre, Aubrey Synclaire

- LGBT Business of the Year [no bars/restaurants/delis/hair salons]: Bourbon Pride, Crescent City Tour Booking Agency, Delaney & Robb Attorneys at Law, Panda Bear, Rab Dab Clothing & Gifts
- Leather Person of the Year: Alan Bowers, Toby Lefort, ADKus Supps, Jeff Turberville, Gary Vandeventer
- Transgender of the Year: Regina Adams, Adrian Claveria, Joann Guidos, Rikki Redd, Chi-Chi Rodriquez
- Lesbian of the Year: Misti Ates, Stacy Bundrick, Mina Hernandez, Pat McArdle, Courtney Wilson
- Gay Man of the Year: Chad Boutte, Tommy Elias, Frank Joseph, Toby Lefort, Tony Leggio
- Marcy Marcell Entertainer of the Year: [female/male impersonator/drag star or entertainer]: Gia GiaVanni, Connie Hung, Monique Michaels, Aubrey Synclaire, Persana Shoulders

Featured entertainment includes last year's Entertainer of the Year Monique Michaels, and Top 5 Show Club of the Year Finalist Bourbon Pub & Parade, Corner Pocket, Four Seasons & Patio Stage Bar, Golden Lantern, and Oz which have all agreed to do a production number.

Sponsored by **Ambush Mag**, the awards thanks those in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community who are often not recognized for the outstanding services and efforts they perform. These individuals and businesses have made the LGBT Community into the viable, successful and powerful community it is today.

The Board of Directors includes Lisa Beaumann, Teryl-Lynn Foxx, and Rip and Marsha Naquin-Delain.

## Official Sponsors Present Southern Decadence 2014

The 43rd Annual Southern Decadence celebration of gay life, music and culture is off to a great start with many official sponsors already joining the efforts of Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XL Chad Boutte, Reba Douglas and Aubrey Synclaire. Other sponsorships are in the works. This year Southern Decadence is presented by **Ambush Mag**, [SouthernDecadence.com](http://SouthernDecadence.com), The Golden Lantern, and Oz New Orleans.

Platinum Sponsors include The Four Seasons & Patio Stage Bar, and Harrah's.

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Funds raised minus expenses benefits this year's charity, PFLAG-New Or-

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out August 12 >DEADLINE: Tues., August 5

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