



Trustee J. Field serves up cold ones for LSGRA's Beer Bust during Country Western Night @ JohnPaul's

## Ambush Paparazzi



Good Friends manager Neel getting ready to have his grilled chicken @ Rawhide's BYOM Night



DJ Johnny Love, Willie & Daniel in for the Bourbon Street Bailout @ Neighborhood Bar of the Year Lafitte's



Gene, Mary Kay, Jamie, Jewel & Rich celebrating @ The Friendly Bar



Saints fans Ronnie & Michael @ JohnPaul's



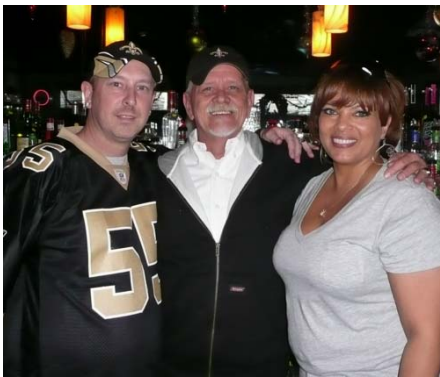
Marcus & Rawhide manager Joe enjoy King Cake on 12th Night @ Rawhide's BYOM Night



Aletha & Bartender of the Year Jeff serving up \$1.50 well vodka's Fridays @ Cafe Lafitte in Exile



Daryl, Lynn, Matt & Don cocktailin' @ The Friendly Bar



Thomas, Barry & Kristie behind the bar @ JohnPaul's cheering on the Saints



Rawhide bartender Joe ready to serve you Monday-Thursday 9pm-5am



Princesse Stephaney snags Marsha for Drag Dingo @ Oz



Winnie, Koo & Joe celebratin' @ The Friendly Bar



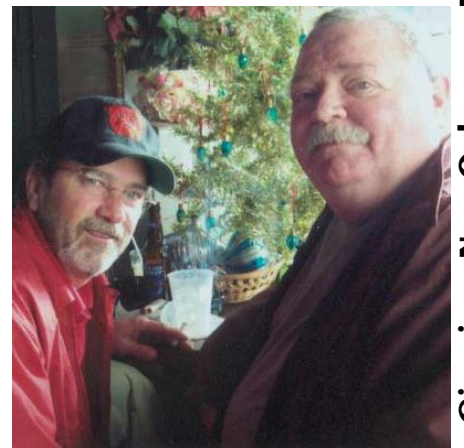
Tony & Friends take in Dance Bar of the Year Oz



Marcus snags a DeKuyper Burst shirt from Glazer's Ashley



Marleeka joins Marcy @ Starlight By The Park



Cutter's Mac & Jimmy @ The Friendly Bar



Linda, the Lesbian, in for Meat Night @ Rawhide



Joel & Richie as Lady Gaga behind the bar at Good Friends



Dudley & George @ The Friendly Bar



Chris serves up his famous martinis Thursdays & Fridays @ the Phoenix

HITTIN' THE CIRCUIT ~ NEW ORLEANS ~ PHOTOS BY AMBUSH, JACK SAUCIER



## under the gaydar ...from 35

Britney Spears really well. Just saying.

And finally, we reach the leader of the pack, Ms. Elizabeth Bouvier. Well, her story is just a tad more sordid. As a stand in for Ms. Celene Dion's show in Vegas, Elizabeth lived the high life of booze, chorus boys and fast living. That is until her star overshadowed the diva herself. There was a horribly trashy showdown between the divas and Elizabeth found herself unceremoniously banned from Sin City.

But being the trooper she is, she traded in Sin City for the Big Easy and vowed to become a bigger star than her former mentor. Her heart will go on and for this New Orleans is eternally grateful. Catch all these Desperate "Drag" Wives as they perform every other Friday at JohnPaul's, 940 Elysian Fields. And if you are lucky, you will catch a plucky new performer called Barbara Ella. She is from the Midwest and quite the little entertainer. She seems so wholesome in an "All About Eve" sort of way. Just saying.

## Dance Your little Tutu Off

Now this is what I call entertainment and culture. The New Orleans Ballet Association is finally doing drag. Actually, they are hosting Les Ballets Trockadero De Monte Carlo dance troupe. This group will perform at the Mahalia Jackson Theatre on January 29 at 7:30pm. One of the best comic creations, Les Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo is affectionately called The Trocks. They are an all-male ballet company that performs parodies of great ballet classics on pointe and in tutus. Rumor has it they are coming town early to catch one of Marcy Marcell's shows to learn some moves from the master. All kidding aside, this is a talented group and the NOBA ballet is probably one of my favorite cultural organizations in the city.

Also, check out their next performance of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre performing at Mahalia Jackson Theatre on February 26 and 27 at 8pm. One of the most famous dance companies in America, Alvin Ailey is dedicated to bringing the African American experience and dance traditions to the world's stages. For more information call 504.522.0996 or go to [www.nobadance.com](http://www.nobadance.com). For all of you wanting to try something new, the ballet offers incredible entertainment and a wonderful opportunity to meet people all while expanding your cultural horizons.

## Mardi Gras is Here

With the start of 12th Night, Mardi Gras is here and the city celebrated in style to usher in the Carnival season. The Mystic Krewe of Satyricon had its 8th annual 12th Night Ball at the Country Club where it announced the new royalty for 2010. It was a wonderful celebration with a great DJ, good food and a packed crowd. King Satyricon VIII is Paul Metoyer and Queen Satyricon VIII is Ty Johnson. Their annual choosing of the 12th Night King and Queen was very festive and the adorable Brent from the Krewe of Petronius was named King and one of Paul's friends, Kathy was crowned Queen. The evening also some star power as actor Wendell Pierce from HBO's *The Wire* was present. A fun time was had by all and remember the Krewe of Satyricon is holding its ball on

Friday, February 5 at The Sugar Mill at 1021 Convention Center Blvd at 7pm. Make sure you come out and see this year's ball with the theme *All That Jazz*. It is sure to be one of the best shows of the season. And wait to you see my costume. Let's just say I am going angelic for this year. For tickets or more information, call 504.525.4498.

Another great place to celebrate 12th Night was Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World on the Eastbank. If you have never been, go to this event next year. It is catered by restaurants from all over the city and has high energy entertainers. Dancing among the floats and props was the highlight of the evening.

## Lesbian Drama

I love lesbian drama, it is always more intense than the gays. We tend to be more flighty. Coming to the stage is *The Last Reading of Charlotte Cushman*, a play by Carolyn Gage. This Break the Mold Production will be at the Always Lounge/Marigny Theatre at 2240 St. Claude Avenue at 8pm on January 22 and 23 and 6pm on January 24. The admission price is \$15.

I decided to actually do a little research on Miss Cushman and holy hell, did she have quite the torrid life. This is why I love Wikipedia. If you will indulge me in a little history lesson, I think once you read about this woman, you will definitely want to go see this play.

Charlotte was a remarkably bright, sportive child, excelling her schoolmates and developing a voice of remarkable compass and richness, with a full contralto register. Two friends of her father, one of them John Mackay, in whose piano factory Jonas Chickering was then foreman, provided her with the best musical instruction. She sang in choirs, and aided in the support of the family from the age of twelve.

When Mrs. Joseph Wood visited Boston in 1834, Capt. Mackay introduced Cushman, who sang with her in two of her concerts. Through Mrs. Wood's influence she became a pupil of James G. Maeder, a lady's musical director, and under his instruction made her first appearance in opera in the Tremont Theatre as the Countess Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* with great success, and her second as Lucy Bertram in *Guy Rimering*. She went with his company to New Orleans, where her voice, which had been strained by the soprano parts assigned to her, suddenly failed. Seeking the counsel of James H. Caldwell, manager of the principal theatre of New Orleans, she was advised by him and by Barton, the tragedian, to become an actress, and given the part of Lady Macbeth to study, in which she made her appearance with complete success in 1835.

After a successful season in New Orleans, she returned to New York City under contract with the Bowery Theatre. By 1839, her younger sister Susan Webb Cushman became an actress, and at the age of 14 had married Nelson Merriman. Her husband abandoned her when she was pregnant and Charlotte cared for her sister. The two sisters became famous for playing *Romeo and Juliet* together, with Charlotte playing Romeo and Susan playing Juliet.

In 1843, Cushman became involved romantically with Rosalie Sully. By 1844, the romance had ended. She began trav-

eling abroad acting in theater, and Sully died shortly thereafter. In 1848, Cushman met journalist, writer and part time actress Matilda Hays. The two women became involved in a lesbian affair. They became known for dressing alike, and in Europe were publicly known as a couple. She took up residence with Hays in Rome, Italy. They began living in an American expatriate community there, made up mostly of many lesbian artists and sculptors of the time. In 1854, Hays left Cushman for lesbian sculptor Harriet Hosmer, which launched a series of jealous interactions between the three women. Hays eventually returned to live with Cushman, but the tensions between her and Cushman would never be repaired.

By late 1857, Cushman was secretly involved with lesbian sculptor Emma Stebbins. One night while Cushman was writing a note, Hays walked in on her. Suspecting that the note was to Stebbins, Hays demanded to see it. Although Cushman maintained that the note was not to Stebbins, she refused to show it to Hays. The altercation that followed was impulsive. Hays became enraged, and began chasing Cushman around the house pounding her at every opportunity with her fists. The relationship ended immediately, and Hays moved out. She then sued Cushman stating in her claim that she had sacrificed her own career to support Cushman's career, and therefore was due a certain payment. Cushman paid her an unknown sum, and the two women parted company forever.

Emma Stebbins moved in with Cushman shortly after the break-up. Although Cushman maintained that she was devoted to Stebbins, she became involved with another woman not long after her relationship with Stebbins began. Cushman met an 18 year old actress, Emma Crow and fell for her. The two women began an affair, and Cushman often called her "my little lover".

When Cushman returned to Italy, Crow followed. Not long after arriving in Italy, Crow attracted the attention of Cushman's nephew, Ned Cushman. In April 1861, Ned Cushman and Emma Crow married. During the last six year's of her life Cushman developed a remarkable ability as a dramatic reader, giving scenes from Shakespeare, ballad poetry, dialect poems, and humorous pieces with a success not less decided than her earlier dramatic triumphs. In 1871, after a residence in Europe, she resumed her career in the United States as a reader, besides fulfilling several dramatic engagements.

In 1869, Cushman underwent treatment for breast cancer. Stebbins ignored her own sculpting career and devoted all of her time to caring for Cushman. Charlotte Cushman died of pneumonia in Boston in 1876 at the age of 59. In 1915 she was elected to the New York University Hall of Fame. Now that is one hell of a life. Go see this play!

## When Only The Best Will Do

That was the theme for this year's Krewe of Mwindo 12th annual Bal Masque held on Saturday, January 9. And, only the best did do that night as a crowd of nearly 400 strong attended the festivities at the Best Western Landmark Hotel in Metairie. I was slightly apprehensive of the space, not having been to the Landmark in over 10 years, but I was pleasantly surprised. The event took

place in their spacious Mardi Gras Ballroom.

The evening began with the President's Welcome by Byron Hogans followed by the prayer by Mark Johnson. After the national anthem, the festivities kicked off with the introduction of the Master of Ceremonies and Ball Captain 2010 Joseph McCrory taking the stage. He entered with a foot stomping dance routine. He then introduced Siaz Foxx Bonet who performed several numbers for the New Orleans Covenant House.

The tableau began with the return of the King Mwindo XI, the Divo of Swing Kenny Moses and Queen Mwindo XI. The returning royalty was followed up by four great costumes, the Diva of Music, the Glamorous Diva of the Black Birds, the Drunken Diva of Feathers (a girl after my own heart) and the Diva of the World. Next up the new royalty was introduced to much fanfare as Mwindo XII King Divo Bobbie Wagstaff Mackie came out as an African God complete with dancers and drummers. He was joined by his counterpart Queen Diva Queen (her first name is Queen) Lemon as the Barbie Goddess. There outfits were visions in white and they shined as royalty.

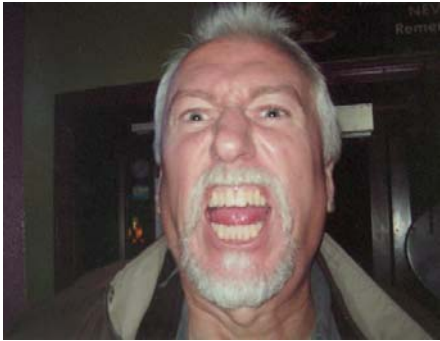
FYI, did you know that Divo was the male version of a diva. It means divine male performer. But I digress. Mwindo started the season right for the gay Mardi Gras balls. If you are interested in joining Mwindo, please attend their rush party on Sunday, February 21 at 3pm at their den located at 5902 Alost Street. For more information, contact Ball Captain 2010 Joe at 504.512.3958.

## An Afternoon at John Paul's

On Sunday, January 10, JohnPaul's played host to two big Mardi Gras functions. Starting at 1pm, the Lords of Leather held their annual wreath auction and royalty appreciation party. It was a great event with scrumptious cuisine and great wine. The krewe got to also show off their creative side as they made some of the most artistic wreaths for the season. I myself purchased two such wreaths, which ranged from very elaborately decorated to very suggestive. The visiting royalty was introduced before the auction and then a toast was made to the reigning Lord King XXVI Gary Vanderverter and Lord Consort Bruce Orgeron. The auction was spirited helping raise money for the krewe. Their XXVII Bal Masque will take place on Valentine's Day, February 14 at 7pm at the Alario Center. For more information, go to [lordsofleather.com](http://lordsofleather.com) or call 504.251.5697.

After one reception ended, another one began at 5pm as the Friday Night Before Mardi Gras held a fundraising/membership drive for their upcoming extravaganza on Friday, February 12 at the Audubon Tea Room. This was an incredible star-studded event that had over 20 performers. Their were several show stopping numbers like Elizabeth Bouvier and Babara Ella's homage to the play *Chicago* or Princesse Stephaney's balloon making clown performance. The incomparable Ricki Gee and DJ P played off each other wonderfully as they emceed the event. FNBMG is one of those not to be missed events during Carnival season. There are dancing boys, a costume contest, delectable cuisine and fun entertainment. For more information on tickets go to [fridaynightbeforemardigras.com](http://fridaynightbeforemardigras.com).

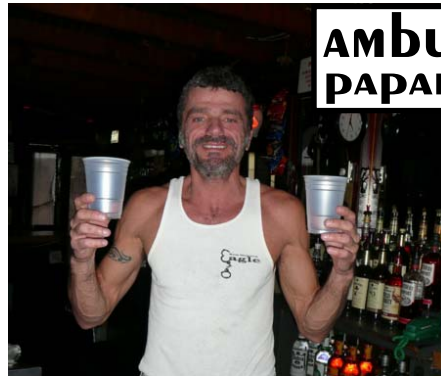




Ted's expression when he saw his infamous Cowvicky pic in *Ambush* @ JohnPaul's



Capt. Armeinius Bruce tips Miss Elysian Fields Barbara Ella @ JohnPaul's



Brian W serves up 2 for 1 cocktails Tuesdays 12noon-4pm @ the Phoenix



Big Mama joins Coca, Sable Nicole Starr & Alexis Daniels for the monthly show @ Billy's in Slidell



Elizabeth Bouvier & brother Jarret Mallon (cast member of Broadway's *Hairspray*) live in FourPlay @ Show Bar of the Year JohnPaul's



Elizabeth shows her other side in FourPlay



You can catch Jimmy behind the bar @ Tubby's Golden Lantern



Chris & Latonya enjoying the show @ Billy's in Slidell



Ranzy & Creig in for the New Year's Day edition of FourPlay @ JohnPaul's



Miss Louisiana Leatherette Cathy Fox in the January 1 edition of FourPlay



Todd joins Princesse Stephaney for Drag Dingo Mardi Gras Classic weekend @ Oz



Brad & Chuck behind the bar @ Billy's



King Cake Queen XVI Tami Tarmac hits the stage for FourPlay New Year's Day



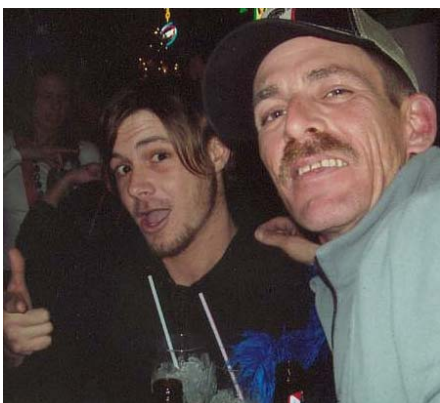
Lauren Brown, one of the regulars in FourPlay @ JohnPaul's



The Ladies of Oz hit the stage Wednesday nights @ Oz



Persana between a rock & a hard place @ Oz's Thursday night strip-off



Trenton & Bill celebratin' New Year's Day @ JohnPaul's



Joann, Marcy & Steve celebrate Kajun's Pub's 5th Anniversary



Entertainer of the Year Coca & Dr. Mac @ Oz

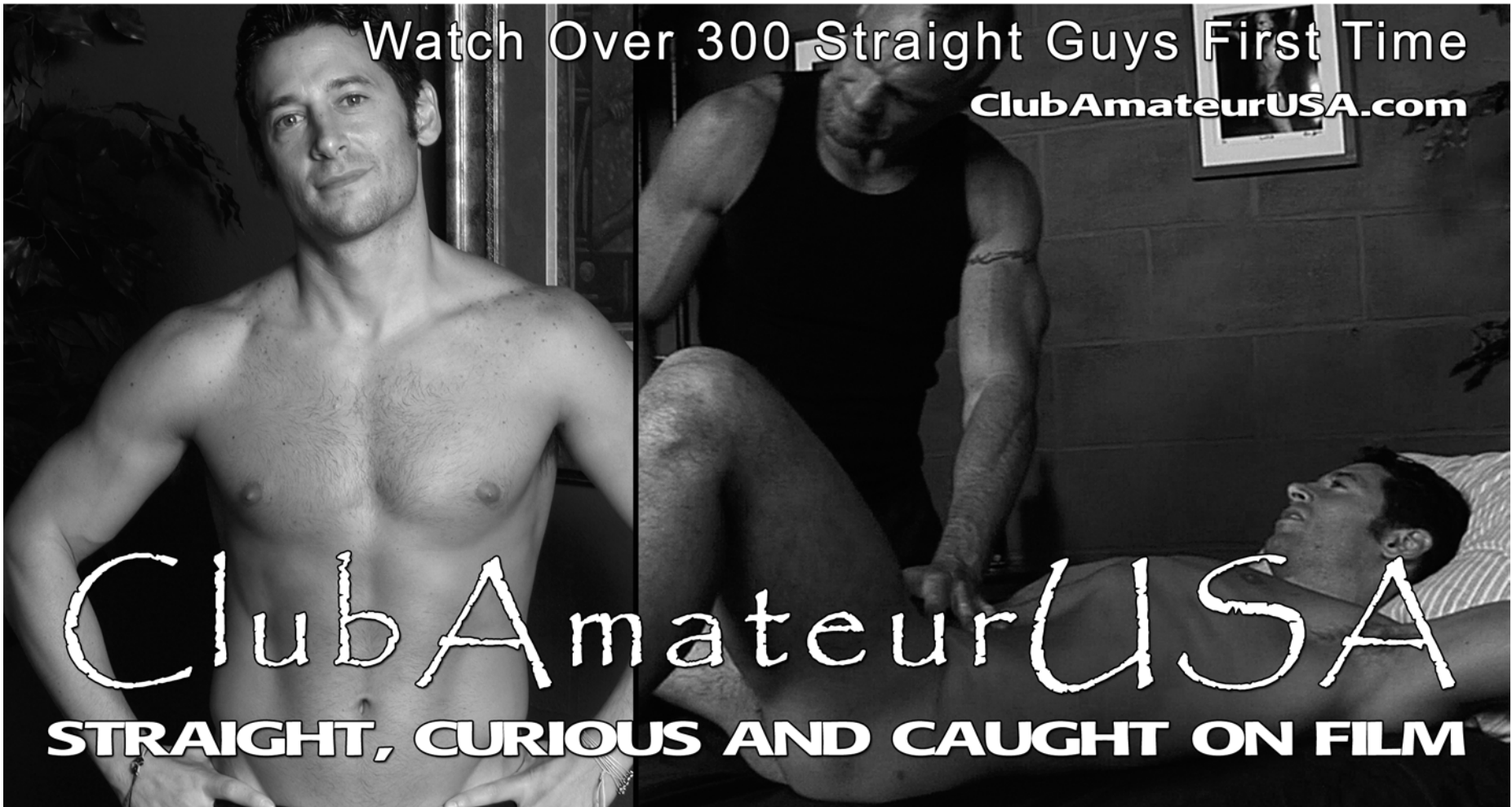


Wendy, Mike & Dimitri @ Bywater Patio Bar on New Year's Day





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