



Kendrick stands strong with a message

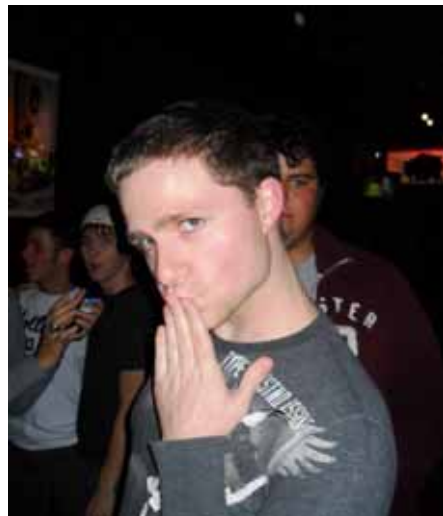
acadiana
paparazzi



Kira looking amazing at the Apollo Announcement Party



DJ Kyle D, DJ Chad Evans, Brodie & DJ Point-n-Click take time to pose @ Tonic



Shayne @ Tonic



Maria, Wendy & Brett @ Jules' Moulin Rouge Party



Rick Rowan (center) with Lafayette Chamber of Commerce members @ Apollo Announcement Party



Wow, Joe & Justin made it in a second time, Justin must be on a roll!



Strike a pose @ Tonic



Justin & Joe @ Jules' Moulin Rouge Party



DJ Ryan Powell poses with King of Apollo @ the Announcement Party



Connie G entertaining guests @ Jules



Sam, what are you really thinking behind that smile?



Looking good!



Jason takes time to strike a pose after the Elton John concert



Steven looking sexy @ Jules Moulin Rouge Party



Ryan & Todd, trouble waiting to happen



Krewe of Apollo de Lafayette Royalty



Mess just being Mess @ Tonic



Apollo Announcement Party



Darren & John

Apollo, Jules, Tonic ~ Lafayette, Louisiana ~ Photos by Joey Collins

Miss Mess Productions is proud to present to you...

"ONE MESSY WEEKEND"

Swerg, swerg, swerg!!!

Friday, December 17,

Turn Back Time with "A Night of Cher"
@ Tonic, Lafayette

Saturday, December 18,

"The Return of Bianca Del Rio"
@ Crystal's, Lake Charles

Sunday, December 19,

Sunday Fun Day "Boys for Toys"
@ Tonic, Lafayette...

Bingo with Miss Mess and Bianca Del Rio @ 6:30

Boy Next Door Strip-Off @ 8:30-9

Christmas Drag Show @ 10p

No cover with unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots



Bianca Del Rio



Miss Mess





trodding the boards

by Brian Sands
Email: bsnola2@hotmail.com

The Mystery of Irma Vep at Le Chat Noir

Having seen *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, Charles Ludlam's send-up of Victorian penny dreadfuls, twice before, including the original Ridiculous Theater production with Ludlam, as I wrote seven years ago, "things just don't crackle."

Well, attention Sherlock Holmes—the mystery of Irma Vep has finally been solved! Directors Ricky Graham and Jeffery Roberson wisely trimmed the script, especially the exposition-drenched first act, and came up with a far, far better version that garnered laughs galore from beginning to end with nary a dull spot in between.

In this mash-up of *Rebecca* and *The Wolfman* with a vampire or two thrown in as well, double entendres abound along with a sprinkling of interpolated local references that made the fun even fun-er.

Graham/Roberson paced the show brilliantly, allowing an audience little time to make sense of this sophisticated nonsense. Yet they never condescended to the material or camped it up for camp's sake, but rather infused the show with a pulsing sense of true feeling and a high

stakes, life-or-death urgency.

Playing roles ranging from the upright Lord and the ditsy Lady of the Manor to the stern housekeeper and the hunchbacked stableman, Graham and Varla Jean Merman (Roberson's alter ego) layered sublime comic timing with finely calibrated acting to bring an almost operatic grandiosity to the proceedings.

Graham is so convincing when portraying a woman that, when he transformed into a man, one could mistakenly have thought he was a woman in male drag.

Varla added a rococo filigree to her roles with his multi-octave voice that is seemingly able to make vocalizations which most of us could not even begin to attempt. If Varla outshone Graham by a smidgen it's only because s/he played a ukelele too!

Ricky and Varla may have achieved single name status worthy of Diva-hood, but they clearly work beautifully together, neither ever trying to outdo the other. We are fortunate to have these national treasures right here in the Big Easy.

James Jennings's multi-tasking set and Cecile Casey Covert's opulent costumes provided visual wit and allowed the cast to make stunningly quick changes from one character to another. Su Gonczy's

real estate ...from 26

ments themselves – even before they got processed with obviously forged signatures – were somewhat questionable. Thousands of affidavits submitted to foreclosure judges, for instance, essentially state that the mortgage company "attests to the fact" that it cannot find paperwork to prove that it has the authority to foreclose, but that the paperwork is somewhere in the lender's files. Even though they cannot fully demonstrate that they have the right to do so, in other words, lenders are evicting LGBT homeowners and auctioning off their houses.

According to reporters from NPR and the New York Times, courts and judges have been pretty much going along with the process, and in some states retired judges have been reactivated out of retirement to help process foreclosures faster. They are given benchmarks for performance based on how many foreclosures they can push through the system, and in some courts judges are ruling on as many as 1,000 cases per month. To facilitate this kind of volume many of these judges work not in traditional courtrooms but from behind desks that are literally in the hallways of courthouses. People line up in the overcrowded halls to plead their cases for keeping their homes or having loans modified, and lots of cases are heard and decided in a matter of just one or two minutes – which does not give the homeowner time to explain anything.

But these observations are not limited to disgruntled LGBT borrowers or investigative reporters. There are sheriffs who have stopped enforcing foreclosure actions in their counties because they are not

convinced that lenders have enough proof. In some regions of the USA title companies have even stopped guaranteeing clear title to properties that have changed hands due to foreclosure because the title companies are not convinced that the transactions are entirely legal. Investors who put up the money for mortgages that funded properties that ended up in foreclosure are also threatening to sue banks and other lenders for negligence based on a lack of proper documentation.

Many experts believe that judges will ultimately side with the powerful banking industry and rule that these foreclosure paperwork oversights are acceptable. That would help cure the bottleneck of foreclosure proceedings clogging up the courts and it would be a big boon for mortgage lenders. It would also help rid the housing market of unsold foreclosure inventories which would push real estate prices higher.

But if a court does deem a foreclosure invalid, either because the lender didn't have the correct paperwork or because the borrower was not actually in default, the title will revert back to the original owner. That could happen even if in the meantime the home was sold through foreclosure to somebody new.

Naturally this situation has many LGBT buyers and homeowners wondering what it might mean to them in terms of their financial or real estate circumstances. Right now nobody knows for certain, and only time will tell what the courts decide.

To find ethical, trustworthy real estate and mortgage professionals dedicated to active support of the LGBT community, visit www.GayMortgageLoans.com and www.GayRealEstate.com, or call toll free 1.888.420.MOVE (6683).



Diana Shortes & Keith Launey in Frozen

lighting and Thad Griffin's sound design atmospherically transported us from the moors of Britain to the depths of an Egyptian tomb and back. The wondrous stagecraft demonstrated by the entire *Vep* krewe was exemplary.

Would that Ludlam was still around to have seen Ricky and Varla bring his *The Mystery of Irma Vep* to such joyous life.

Frozen at the Shadow Box Theatre

Bryony Lavery's *Frozen* explores the nature of forgiveness as a mother, Nancy, confronts the man, Ralph, who killed her daughter many years ago. If Lavery can't provide any definitive answers for how to deal with such a heart-wrenching situation, she cannily illuminates one woman's attempt to move on with her life.

When I saw *Frozen* on Broadway in 2004, I felt it could've been a great one act, 90 minute play rather than a l-o-n-g two act one. While it could still probably do with some trimming, Glenn Meche's production for the new Crescent Theatre Collective was paced, if not speedily, then with a bracing forward momentum one finds in a Mahler symphony when conducted by James Levine.

Meche's precise direction created the proper tension from the start that had been

missing on Broadway. This chamber work also benefitted by being done at the intimate Shadow Box Theatre rather than a large Broadway house.

As Nancy, Diana Shortes kept her emotions just below the surface until they boiled over for the least logical of reasons. Bringing more gravitas to the role than Swoosie Kurtz did in New York, Shortes journeyed from a severe, if rational, perspective to wanting revenge desperately to a seeming acceptance of her lot.

At times, Shortes' eyes darted anxiously, perhaps hoping to find her missing daughter; at others, they seemed dulled, as though overwhelmed by her tragic burden. Shortes can sometimes be an over-emotive actress but, in *Frozen*, by reining in her feelings, she gave a potent and moving performance.

Keith Launey submerged himself into Ralph, making him seem to be of average intelligence but just a bit off; how appropriate for a child killer who can actually rationalize his actions. Launey's too friendly face could alternately scare a child and attract her into his clutches. By presenting himself as "normal," Launey made understandable, almost, how such a deeply disturbed individual could do these things. Without ever asking for our pity, Launey made Ralph an engrossing individual.

[continued on 39]



acadiana happens

by Joey Collins, Lafayette, Louisiana
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Do you feel that? What is that? I think it's your pants expanding. Yep, it's the holidays and I'm sure that's exactly what it is. I suggest wearing several layers of sweatpants so that you have the possibility of working off some of those holiday calories as you walk from table to table. Nonetheless, here's the dish on some local favorites. You're listening up with Joey Collins.

Holiday Pleasure

First things first, what are you going to eat? Whether you're not feeling the family thing this year or you are spending it with your alternate family, your friends, where would you like to eat on Thanksgiving Day? If you're like me, you most definitely do not want to cook. I mean why cook? By the time you finish off your meal you're going to want to be moving onto your fifth cocktail and by that time dishes are out of the question. Don't worry, I have you covered.

Hilton Lafayette, Acadiana's premiere full-service hotel and conference center, will be hosting a Thanksgiving Day Dinner beginning at 5pm. This award-winning staff plans to welcome you with the ultimate Thanksgiving buffet. The menu includes the following: salad bar, carved ham with orange and maple glaze, roasted turkey with giblet gravy, macaroni and cheese, rice dressing, cornbread dressing, green bean casserole, candied yams, corn maque choux, and assorted desserts. Rick Rown, Corporate Sales Manager, excitedly discussed the traditions of Hilton Lafayette. "We always grow very anxious during the holiday season. It becomes a very welcoming experience for not only our guests from out of town but our guests who live locally as well. Each holiday meal is prepared with care just as your mother or grandmother would prepare it." If you're 65 years of age or older (Rick Rowan) then the price of \$9.95 is almost a steal. Adults are \$16.95, children 5 to 12 years are \$9.95, and 5 years and under complimentary. For reservations you may call 337.235.6111, extension 2253, or visit their website at lafayette.hilton.com. The venue will be Alexander's Restaurant on the Lobby Level.

Interested in an Acadian experience? A staple in the downtown Lafayette area, The Original Don's Downtown, features their annual Thanksgiving Day feast. With such items as roasted turkey, cornbread dressing, pecan pie, Waldorf salad, sweet potato casserole, and more, you're in for a unique Acadian experience. Even if that does not satisfy you, Don's will also offer items off of its award-winning menu. Seating times begin at 11am but one must hurry because when I called the 11am seating was already booked and the earliest one was now available for 1:30pm. For reservations contact The Original Don's Downtown at 337.235.3551 or visit their website at donsdowntown.com.

One last suggestion always brings the kid out in me. The images of a Sunday afternoon and standing in a line filled with finely dressed people in coats, ties, and smeared gaudy makeup with long church dresses still remain fresh in my mind. What else would I be talking about besides Piccadilly? Piccadilly, America's cafeteria, will be offering a Thanksgiving feast as well. The traditional items such as turkey, rice dressing, and pecan pie will be served alongside the traditional items of Piccadilly. For more information you can contact the Johnston Street location at 337.984.7876 or the one in the Oil Center at 337.232.4317.

Bar Spill

The past two weeks have been very busy for both Tonic and Jules Downtown. Jules recently hosted its annual Moulin Rouge Party and participants were whisked away with a French burlesque theme complete with the can-can dance. Local DJ, DJ Digital, had the house jumping and lived up to his reputation. Tonic hosted the National Mr. and Miss Apollo Party with a magnificent reunion, so to speak, of the Apollo krewes from across the Gulf Coast. An amazing display of talent was displayed in the art of fashion, performance, style, and class.

Tonic of Lafayette and Crystal's of Lake Charles has announced One Messy Weekend. This spectacle, beginning on Friday, December 17th, and running till Sunday, December 19th, will feature the famous Bianca del Rio as Cher. The event will stretch from Tonic to Crystal's. Much more is soon come on the event so

JULES DOWNTOWN
Presents
The Second Annual RED PARTY AIDS BENEFIT
SATURDAY
Dec. 4, 2010
doors open at 8pm
Part of proceeds will be going to help fund
ACADIANA C.A.R.E.S.

trodding the boards ...from 38

Shortes and Launey combined for a great scene when, after having served many years in prison, Nancy visits Ralph there and each tries to bridge the huge gulf between them.

Portraying Agnetha, an academic involved with serial killers and their rehabilitation, Liz Mills was burdened with the

please stay tuned.

Jules will be hosting its annual Acadiana CARES fundraiser, The Red Party, as a benefit to raise HIV/AIDS awareness, education, and support for the local community. Dress in red and impress on Saturday, December 4th. Doors open at 8pm and a percent of the proceeds will be donated to Acadiana CARES.

Closing Out

Holiday season in Acadiana can be one non-stop party. From holiday parties to office parties and a party just because it's a Monday night, make sure that you keep it safe. The presence of the police is always heightened at this time. Enjoy the presence of friends and family, try to find the good person from within, and enjoy the party. As always, keep the party going. You're listening up with Joey Collins, girl!

least well-written and developed role. Compared to the other, more compelling characters, it's hard to care about Agnetha's romantic break-up. An always fine actress, as was recently seen in *reasons to be pretty*, Mills did as much as she could—which was considerable—to bring Agnetha to life but even she couldn't overcome the mere melodrama of this storyline.

Eric Martin Webb fittingly lit the women in warm oranges and Ralph in cold blues.

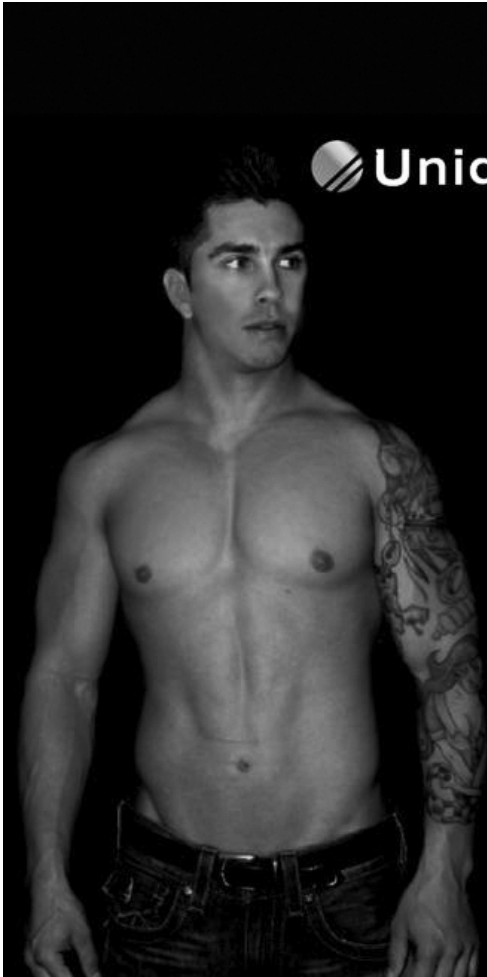
This was a simple but powerful production, made all the more effective by its simplicity. I look forward to the Crescent Theatre Collective's future offerings.


Next Edition
Holiday Shopping
Guide

Deadline Nov. 30

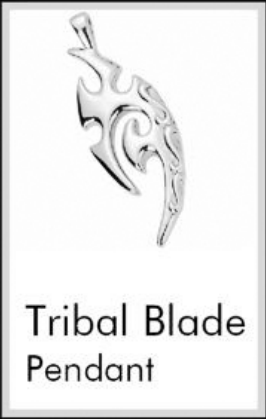
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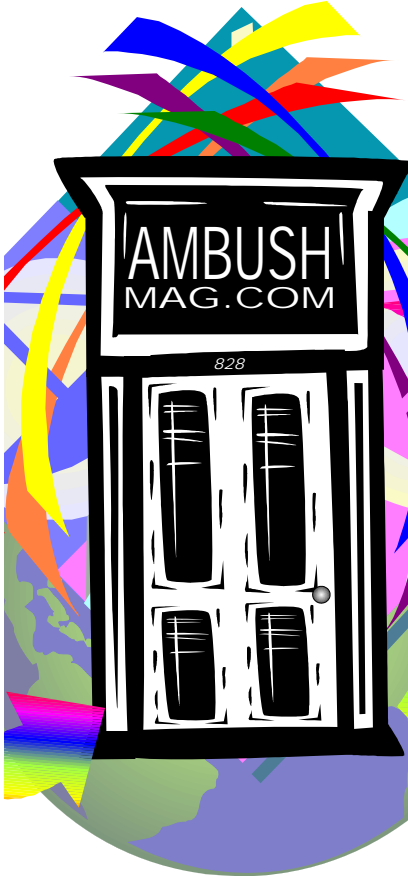
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Happy Birthday Greg, We Love YOU...The Brown-Rivers Family



Happy Birthday B-Bob's birthday girls Toni Dee & Regine Phillips



Heather & Company @ B-Bob's along with Miss Cie



Hello Jayme, Will, Jason & Judson @ B-Bob's College night



Pensacola Emerald City Show Director Lauren Mitchell performs @ B-Bob's



Rupaul Drag Race Contestant Pandora Boxx performs @ B-Bob's along with Miss Cie



The Avera Family party @ B-Bob's College Night Thursday



Jeremy & Mack shake a tail feather



Brandon & friends @ B-Bob's College Night Thursday



Happy Birthday Paul celebrating with Miss Cie

Birthdays, Stars, College Night ~ Mobile, Alabama ~ Photos by Cieanne & John