

# book review

## Gumbo Ya Ya: 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition Original and Unabridged

Lyle Saxon, Edward Dreyer, and Robert Tallant. River Road Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-941879-05-4. 582 pages \$19.95. by Frank Perez

Originally published in 1945, Gumbo Ya Ya was the product of the Louisiana Writers Program, a part of FDR's Works Progress Administration. This edition was published to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this classic book. Many consider it to be the definitive book on Louisiana folklore.

The Louisiana Writers Program was directed by Lyle Saxon, a gay man around whom a writer's / artistic colony formed in the French Quarter in the 1920s. Saxon was a fierce advocate for the French Quarter and led by example by preserving / restoring historic properties.

The scope of the book is statewide but there is much New Orleans material included. For example: the Baby Dolls, the Irish Channel, St. Joseph's Day, and the Axe Man serial killer. There are also ghost stories and tales of cemeteries. Cajuns and Creoles and plantations and slaves and pirates and a slew of other topics are also explored.

This book is essential reading for anyone interested in Louisiana history and folklore.

Edward Dreyer was the Assistant State Director of the Louisiana Writers Program.

Lyle Saxon (1891-1946) ranks among Louisiana's most outstanding writers. During the 1920s and 1930s he was the central figure in the French Quarter's literary community, and was widely known as a raconteur and bon vivant. In addition to *Father Mississippi*, *Lafitte the Pirate*, and *Children of Strangers*, he also wrote *Fabulous New Orleans*, *Old Louisiana*, and *The Friends of Joe Gilmore*. During the Depression, he directed the state WPA Writers Project, which produced the WPA Guide to Louisiana and the WPA Guide to New Orleans.

Robert Tallant (1909-1957) was one of Louisiana's best-known authors and a participant in the WPA Writers' Project during the 1930s and 1940s. During the last years of his life, he was a lecturer in English at Newcomb College.

### the "official" dish ...from 6

The first Friday of each month at 6pm at The Page hosts Mwindo's Classic Fish Fry at \$10 a plate. Plate includes fish, potato salad, string beans, mac & cheese, and cake.

Mwindo's 19th Bal Masque is Saturday, January 28, 2017 at the Lyon Center. Tickets are \$50. Contact Bobby Mackie at 504.975.9937 for further information or inquire at The Page.

## Johnny Passion's 5th Winter Wonderland Nov. 27 benefits St. Anna's Episcopal Church & Food For Friends @ Eiffel Society

Join a night of holiday magic celebrating the true reason of the season. Misti and Catherine Gaither are proud to announce their 5<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Wonderland which will be a fundraiser for both St. Anna's Episcopal Church and NO/AIDS Task Force, Food For Friends program at Eiffel Society, 2040 St. Charles. The night will also honor Princesse Stephaney as she is presented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual ICON Tribute Award in recognition for her many good works throughout the LGBT+ community.

The event will begin with doors opening at 5pm with a catered dinner

from Semolina's served for VIPs only from 5 – 6pm. The venue will be decorated as a beautiful Winter Wonderland. During dinner the VIPs will be entertained with music from pianist, Ben Childress. As a VIP, you will walk in to the venue on the red carpet like a Hollywood star and have your picture taken by our paparazzi consisting of several well known local photographers. Tickets are already selling very fast and must be purchased BEFORE the event. VIP tickets are \$40.00 each which includes dinner. There are also sponsorship levels still available. VIP tickets will be the only way to guarantee you a seat during this event. Contact show producer, Misti Gaither at 504.292.3983 or inbox on Facebook to reserve your VIP tickets now!! There is a very limited number of VIP tickets remaining for purchase.

After dinner, general admission will begin for the event at 6:30pm. You will be entertained by a top notch variety drag show, that is filled with several of our area's most loved and talented performers, during which will be the award presentation to Princesse Stephaney.

Local Artist, Cheryl Grace has painted a nine (9) portrait series of Princesse Stephaney called "Another Pretty Face". All of the paintings will all be on display during the event and for sale. Cheryl has generously donated one of her paintings of Princesse for auction. She will also donate a portion

from the sale of her other remaining paintings of the series. The paintings are beautiful and portray Princesse in some of her most ICONic looks.

There will also be a silent auction that will be filled with wonderful items so you will be able to complete your holiday shopping list.

## Miss Gay New Orleans USofA Nov. 30 @ Oz

Join Persana Shoulders and Oz on Wednesday, November 30 for a fabulous night of competition at the Miss Gay New Orleans USofA pageant. A city preliminary pageant for the Miss Gay Louisiana USofA pageant, contestants will compete for the crown and a chance to become the state titleholder.

The pageant will feature Dominique DeLorean (current reigning Miss Gay Louisiana USofA), Karli LaCorre (Miss Gay New Orleans USofA 2015/ Miss Gay Louisiana USofA Newcomer), and a bevy of fabulous entertainers.

Categories are: Interview, Evening Gown, and Talent. Registration starts at 5pm with Interview beginning at 6pm. Competition begins at 10pm. It is a \$10 cover at the door.

Who will be the next Miss Gay New Orleans USofA? For more information on the pageant, contact Persana Shoulders. Oz is located at 800 Bourbon Street.

## 30th Anniversary Art Against AIDS Dec. 3

The 30th Anniversary Art Against AIDS is set for Saturday, Dec. 3 at Club XLIV on Champions Square at the Mercedes Benz Super Dome. The Patron Party is 7 to 8pm with the gala running from 8 to 11pm.

Michael L. Walters as Dame Edna will blow into town for Art Against AIDS with the force of a Cat 5 hurricane... Hurricane Katrina kept the original Dame Edna from performing in New Orleans over 11 years ago. So this is a show you definitely won't want to miss!

Sequins blaze and punchlines fly as renowned vocalist and stage actor Michael Walters presents an uncanny impersonation of Dame Edna that critics and stars alike have lauded for nearly 18 years! [www.Totaltheatre.com](http://www.Totaltheatre.com) raves, "The closest thing to enjoying Dame Edna's outrageous comedy on Broadway is to laugh 'til you cry over Michael Walters as Dame Edna!" On top of that, Walters lends his booming baritone voice to jaw-dropping Broadway classics which the wife of late Broadway legend Robert Goulet calls "Beyond Impressive!" You've never seen or heard Dame Edna quite like this!

Join NO/AIDS Task Force as they bring together both visually stunning and spectacular performing arts all under the roof of Club XLIV on Champions Square at the Superdome.

Event Chair is Tim Fields with Honorary Auction Chair Lucille McDonnell; and Auction Chairs: Kimberly Norwood Robinson, Colleen Keogh, Andrea

Sabillon Halstead and Jake Thomas.

Tickets include:  
AAA Single Patron Ticket \$250.00  
AAA Double Patron Ticket \$500.00  
AAA Abstract Ticket \$1,000.00 (4 Tickets)  
AAA Gala Ticket \$100.00  
AAA Gala Ticket (35-under) \$50.00  
Visit <http://www.noaidtaskforce.org/events/aaa/> to purchase tickets.

## VIP Card Pre-Sale Party Dec 3 @ Oz

On Saturday, December 3rd from 8-10pm, Oz will be hosting their annual VIP Card Pre-Sale Party at 800 Bourbon Street.

Buy Oz's 2017 VIP card, which gets you no cover and priority entrance all year round INCLUDING all major holidays, for a discounted price of \$150! Save \$50 on your purchase by attending! You don't wanna miss out on this fabulous deal! For more information, visit [www.OzNewOrleans.com](http://www.OzNewOrleans.com).

## Academic Scholarships Available for Louisiana LGBTQ Students and Straight Allies

The New Orleans Chapter of PFLAG is accepting applications for scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year. The scholarships recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and non-binary students and encourage their continuing education while helping these students foster a positive image of LGBTQ people in society. Most of the scholarships are \$1,000, but some are for more, and there is one four-year scholarship for \$10,000.

To be eligible, the applicant must:  
a) ) self identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer...or anywhere within the LGBTQ "family,";  
b) be 17 years old or older as of April 15, 2017;  
c) be a resident of Louisiana; and  
d) be planning to attend (or attending) a post-secondary educational institution.

For the fifth year the organization is sponsoring a \$1,000 scholarship referred to as "Straight for Equality." Individuals who do not identify as LGBTQ but are advocates for and supportive of LGBTQ issues are eligible.

Applications and detailed information about the scholarships can be found at [www.pflagno.org](http://www.pflagno.org), or by sending an e-mail to [scholarship@pflagno.org](mailto:scholarship@pflagno.org). The application must be submitted by February 1, 2017 and supporting documents must be mailed and post-marked by the same date. All applicants will be notified of results by April 15, 2017. Recipients must be present at the awards ceremony to accept the scholarship in person. The ceremony is Saturday evening, May 13, 2017, in the Homer Hitt Alumni Center at the University of New Orleans.



## THE FOUR SEASONS

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**PRIME TIME TRIVIA**

**WITH RIKKI GEE & DJ PING**

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**DOMINIQUE DELOREAN'S CABARET**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26TH 10:30P**

**DEM DAMN DAMES**

**STARRING TIFFANY ALEXANDER  
& MONIQUE MICHAELS-ALEXANDER**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 2ND 10:30P**

**DOMINIQUE DELOREAN'S CABARET**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD 10:30P**

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**3229 N CAUSEWAY BLVD METAIRIE**

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### **THANKSGIVING EVE PARTY!**

**THE BIGGEST PARTY OF THE YEAR**

*IT TAKES A LOT OF ALCOHOL TO HANG OUT*

*WITH YOUR FAMILY... LET US HELP!*

**IT ALL STARTS AT 8:00P**

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23TH**

### **THANKSGIVING DAY POTLUCK**

*BRING A DISH... WE HAVE THE ALCOHOL!*

**IT ALL STARTS AT 4:00P**

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24TH**

*Open 7 days a week at 4:00p!*

*Happy Hour 4:00 - 7:00p*





Mwindo Royalty Announcement Party @ The Page



Grand Reveler II Will Antill raises \$1,124 for LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana @ The Double Play



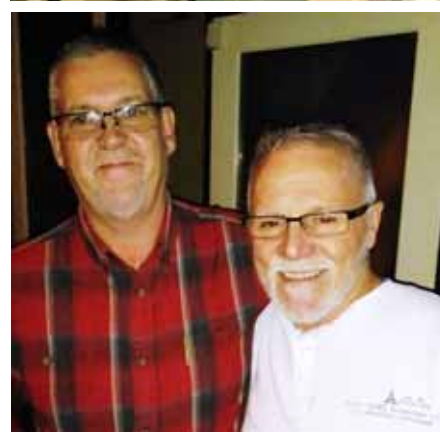
GrandPre's



Amon-Ra Bar Crawl through the French Quarter



The Phoenix, Lords of Leather



C'est si Bon ~ New Orleans ~ Photos by Bobby Mackie, Paul Melancon, Rip Naquin

