

under the gaydar...from 14

for Broadway houses across the nation. **Blue Man Group** is best known for multi-media performances that feature three bald and blue characters who take the audience on a journey that is funny, intelligent and visually stunning. A live band, whose haunting tribal rhythms help drive the show to its climax, accompanies the Blue Men. The blissful party atmosphere created at the live events has become the trademark of a **Blue Man Group** experience.

The eight performances of **Blue Man Group** are Tuesday through Friday at 8pm, Saturday at 2pm and 8pm, and Sunday at 2pm and 7:30pm. For more information on tickets, visit BroadwayInNewOrleans.com or the Mahalia Jackson Box Office. Tickets are also available at all Ticketmaster locations or via phone at 800.982.2787 (ARTS). Group discounts for 15 or more are available by calling 504.287.0372.

Movie Review: Red Tails

Recently, I had the wonderful opportunity to catch the premiere of the movie **Red Tails** at the AMC Elmwood Palace Theatre in Harahan. Usually I am not a huge fan of war movies, but this movie transcends a certain genre. There is action and adventure, romance and drama to satisfy any moviegoer. But most of all, it is more than just a black history period piece; it is an American story that speaks to all of us on some level.

Red Tails is by Anthony Hemingway, from a screenplay by John Ridley and Aaron McGruder. The story, written by Ridley, is inspired by true events. George Lucas serves as the executive producer for the project. It is based on the Tuskegee Army, a group



of African American servicemen during World War II, and is the first Lucas film production since **Radioland Murders** (1994) not associated with the **Indiana Jones** or **Star Wars** franchises. This movie stars Cuba Gooding, Jr. (who previously starred in **The Tuskegee Army**, an HBO made-for-television film about the same group of pilots) in his first theatrical film in five years, and Terrence Howard (who portrayed a Tuskegee pilot in **Hart's War**).

Although the movie does lag sometimes in parts, all in all, I found it quite entertaining. The dog fight sequences in the air were pretty intense. Howard seemed slightly stilted in the film, but

the rest of the young cast shined, especially Nate Parker as Martin "Easy" Julian, David Oyelowo as Joe "Lightning" Little, Method Man as Sticks, Ne-Yo as Andrew "Smoky" Salem and Tristan Wilds as Ray "Ray Gun" or "Junior" Gannon.

Red Tails is definitely worth your time to see.

Armageddon Is Upon Us

The Mystic Krewe of Satyricon is presenting its 10th Anniversary Ball this year entitled **Armageddon: The Disaster Ball**. The date is Friday, February 10 at the Sugar Mill. King and Queen Satyricon X will be Brick Bishop and Stephen Rizzo respectively. There will be plenty of entertainment and if anyone catches any mistakes that happen on stage, it is meant to be as part of the theme. At least that is the story I am using. The emcees for the night will be Varla Jean Merman and Elizabeth Bouvier.

Doors open at 7pm and the ball starts promptly at 8pm. General admission tickets are \$20. To buy tickets or questions, email tonymgp@hotmail.com. Like the Titanic, this will definitely be a night to remember.

Party Down

Well, I survived the start of the year and now we roll into the Mardi Gras season. I attended the Mwindo Ball on Saturday, Jan. 14 at the St. Bernard Cultural Center or its new title the Frederick J. Sigur Center. As always, Mwindo knows how to throw down with lots of crazy antics especially the person who's Saints cheerleading number was awe inspiring. The king and queen looked lovely with their snowflake back pieces that opened on cue. And this krewe knows how to handle their buffet. It is always the best home cooking. What a nice way to kick off the ball season.

Since this is my busy time of the year, my social life slows in lieu of my professional and krewe responsibilities, but I was able to sneak away from work on Martin Luther King Day to enjoy my friend Sammey's lovely annual cookout. It is always a wonderful party for those who have off or who take it to catch up, listen to great music and eat fabulous food. This year she had a large crowd who enjoyed the afternoon of friendship as we grooved to this impromptu band of her friends. After that, I moseyed to see Princesse Stephaney at Michael's on the Park for a little libation or two. She definitely keeps things lively.

On Wednesday of that week, I went to the wonderful opening of Manning's on Fulton Street. Talk about an event of who's who in the city. Everyone came out in support. You were greeted at the entrance by none other than Archie himself. The place is a

sports lover's paradise, complete with a movie theatre style viewing area. They have an upstairs area that is perfect for private events and it opens up to their spacious courtyard. The food that night was just delicious, taking the normal sports bar fare and bringing it up several notches. After I went to JohnPaul's to emcee Zsa Zsa d'LaHor's Hump Day the Country Way. As always, the ladies at that show make me giggle. After that show finished, I tagged along with Frankie Fierce to catch Tommy Elias' special **Broadway** show at Oz. You can see a lot of work went into this night and the girls worked their hardest to impress the large crowd of patrons. I am looking forward to seeing more themed shows like that.

Friday, I attended a very exceptional event. My friend Laura Tennyson invited me to the private screening of **Red Tails** (reviewed in this article) at the AMC Elmwood Palace Theatre hosted by four-time Grammy Award Winner Terrence Blanchard, Rod West and Roy Glapion. Now this was another event attended by some of the echelon of the city from politicians to major corporate heads. They had popcorn and soft drinks for everyone and it was a fun night at the movies with a few hundred of your friends. Afterwards, Laura and I went to a smaller reception hosted by Terrence and Robin Blanchard at their mansion on St. Charles Avenue. The director Anthony Hemingway was there along with the producer and several other key people involved with the film. The wine flowed and I had the opportunity to mingle with some very interesting people. It definitely will go down as one of my memorable nights in 2012.

On Saturday, the balls kept on rolling as Amon-Ra presented their 47th ball, also at the Chalmette Sigur facility. I was honored to be asked to be a guest at Opal Masters and Darwin Reed's table which as always was decorated to the hilt. Not only is she a wonderful costumer, she has an amazing eye for style. The evening was fun and light hearted. Congratulations to King David Forth and Queen Barry Rutherford, they will make excellent royalty.

Sunday may be a day of rest for many, but unfortunately, for me, it was jammed with errands and events. After spending the morning doing routine chores around the house and running tasks, I caught the show **Spring Awakening** at Southern Rep. Unfortunately, this is one of the last shows in their space at Canal Place, and I am looking forward to more great productions in their new home. After, I sauntered over to Lafitte's in Exile for the Amon-Ra Captain's party. It was so nice to see everyone relaxed and less hectic than the previous night. It was a peaceful way to spend the late afternoon.

Congratulations to both Mwindo and Amon-Ra on jobs well done. Until

next time, keep that party dress ready because in this city you never know when a hot event will pop up at a moment's notice.

Tony's Tidbits of Wisdom

Okay, I am a sucker for useless information. You know the kind of fun facts that helps make small talk at cocktail receptions or other events. But recently MSN had an article on the gayest cities in America (according to **The Advocate**) and it was not only quite good, but actually surprisingly informative. Surely, I thought that our beloved Crescent City would make the top of the lists since we seem to be the frontrunners of several not so nice lists like murder, poor education, excessive drinking, blah, blah, blah.

But I was shocked to find out the rankings. We have to remember these cities are listed as gays per capita. So this is the formula **The Advocate** used to come up with the listing. Take the number of gay.com profiles plus listed officiants for gay weddings within a fifty mile radius plus elected open gay officials plus WNBA teams plus International Mr. Leather Competition Finalists plus Imperial Court Chapters plus number of softball teams that competed in the Gay Softball World series plus LGBT bookstores plus number of nude yoga classes (WTF, is this akin to a bathhouse) plus number of LGBT protection laws plus the number of concerts by the Gossip, the Cliks and the Veronicas since 2009 then divide this number by the population within city limits. Personally it seems like there had to be an easier way to figure this out. I mean there were several queens with way too much time on their hands.

Anyway here is the list:

- 10 – Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 9 – Atlanta, Georgia (they are slipping)
- 8 – Knoxville, Tennessee (my friend Jason moved there, so he could have pushed them over the hump)
- 7 – St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 6 – Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 5 – Seattle, Washington
- 4 – Fort Lauderdale, Florida (no surprise there)
- 3 – Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 2 – Orlando, Florida (and all of them work for Disney)
- 1 – Salt Lake City, Utah

How did New Orleans rank on the survey? We came in 17th. I mean really, like we could not get any gayer in this city. When was the last Gay Mardi Gras ball Salt Lake City had, or when was the last Decadence style parade on their streets?

No matter what **The Advocate** says, New Orleans will always be the gayest city in the world to me.

Official Gay Mardi Gras 2012



Carnivale in Rio



Photo by Larry Graham, GrahamStudioOne.COM

**King Cake
Queen XIX**
of Gay Mardi Gras-Elect



Nicole DuBois reigning as The Samba Queen

...leading Carnival Festivities from World Famous Ambush Headquarters, New Orleans

19th King Cake Queen Coronation

Saturday, February 4, 2012 (by invitation only)



**25th Official
Gay Mardi Gras
Bead Toss**

February 21, 2012 • 2pm • 828 Bourbon Street

GayMardiGras.COM





MC Nicole DuBois, King Cake Queen XIX: The Samba Queen



Monkey: The Late Ricky Calais



Peacock: Joann Guidos



Peacock: John East



Wolf: Captain John Zeringue



Monkey: Rhonda Roget



Benefit Number: Prom Queen Michelle Tarmac Davis Jenkins



Hummingbird: Ball Lieutenant Pete Eschete



Returning Queen Amon-Ra XLVI Tami Tarmac



Tucan: Deja Deja-Vue'



Girl with the Tootie Fruiti Hat: Kenny Walker



Panther: Queen Amon-Ra XLVII Sidney Williams



Returning King Amon-Ra XLVI Jerry Scavo



Elephant: Opal Masters



Butterfly: Miss Gay Louisiana America Maybelline Maskara



Panther: King Amon-Ra XLVII David Roget



Monkey: David Richardson



Benefit Number: Queen Amon-Ra XLVI Tami Tarmac raising \$1,000 for St. Anna's Food Bank

Krewe of Amon-Ra Carnival Ball XLVII: CARNIVALE-Twilight in the Jungle ~ Chalmette, Louisiana ~ Photos by Rip Naquin



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SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

PATRIOTS VS. GIANTS 5:30



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Show Director
Rikki Redd

starring
Jessica Vanderhurst
Mercedes Ellis Loreal & Rotating Cast



9:30pm
Divas R US
Saturdays

**TAMI TARMAC'S
COUGAR CABARET**

**Fri., Feb. 3rd
10pm**

with Gizelle Bouvier
Deja Deja-Vue'
Bubbles Champagne
& Special Guests



Photo by Larry Graham

- MONDAYS
Happy Hour all day
- TUESDAYS
\$4 Long Island Ice Tea
- WEDNESDAYS 8pm
Country Night
Come in with Hats or Boots
for Shot Specials
with Cowboy Bartender Andy
& Free Dance Lessons
Thanks Big Easy Stompers
& New Orleans Bears for
2 Successful Fundraisers

Neighborhood Bar of the Year & Lance Pippin Bartender of the Year!



Returning King Mwindo XIII



Returning Queen Mwindo XIII



Krewe of Mwindo Ball XIV



Krewe of Mwindo Ball XIV



Krewe of Mwindo Ball XIV



Poncho & his new friend from Brazil @ Cafe Lafitte In Exile



Miss Gay Louisiana America Maybelline Maskara in Cougar Cabaret @ Tubby's Golden Lantern



Cougar Cabaret Show Director Tami Tarmac @ Golden Lantern



Biff & Jess @ Tubby's Golden Lantern Country Night



Josh behind the bar @ Tubby's Golden Lantern



Double Play bartender Will



Mardi Gras Classic Boys from Chicago @ Lafitte's



Big Easy Stompers raise \$605 @ Tubby's Golden Lantern



Billy & Jeff in the Balcony Bar above Lafitte's



Brandon (Honeyb) slinging cocktails in the Balcony Bar



Cincinnati boys in for Mardi Gras Classic @ Oz Dingo



Dallas Boys @ Napoleon's Itch for Mardi Gras Classic registration



Denver in for Mardi Gras Classic @ Oz Dingo



Napoleon's Itch bartenders Yorda & Keegan @ Mardi Gras Classic registration



Mardi Gras Classic registration crew from Team New Orleans



Balls, Shows, Mardi Gras Classic ~ Chalmette, New Orleans ~ Photos by Tony Leggio, Paul Melancon