



After my diagnosis, it took me a while to accept the fact that being HIV-positive is not the end of the world: It's just the beginning of a whole new way of life. The first meds I was prescribed gave me some bad side effects. But I worked with my doctors to find a new one that was better for me. Now I feel great and my viral count is undetectable. That list of things you wanted to accomplish before you were diagnosed? It's still possible if you stay in care and work with your doctor to find the treatment that's best for you.

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I’m happy.
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Cedric – Baltimore, MD
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under the gaydar

by Tony Leggio
Email: ledgemgp@gmail.com
Photo by: Larry Graham

Bartender of the Month

My choice for the month of April epitomizes not only the characteristics of a great bartender but also a model employee in general. Josh Rivero who works at the Bourbon Pub is a powerhouse behind the bar. I recently ran into him again tending bar at Tony Marino's fabulous St. Joseph's Day soiree and he is still his gregarious and charming self just as much off-site as when he is at his home bar.



Bartender of the Month
Josh Rivero, Bourbon Pub

Josh is a true professional which is the reason why he is so sought after to work people's private events. Like a true pro he never breaks form behind the bar, having fun the entire time he is serving customers their cocktails expediently. His jovial attitude makes him a favorite at the Pub.

I believe his love nature gives him the positive light that melds perfectly with working with the public and specifically behind a bar. Being first-rate bartender commands patience with all kinds of people in all states of sobriety. Josh handles people with a disarming ease that makes the patron feel right at home.

Another fun fact about Josh is that he will be moving soon to Mississippi with his partner to become gentlemen farmers. Yes, I had to look up exactly what this was, so here is Wikipedia's summary of this growing phenomenon. A gentleman's farm is a small farm acreage wise that is not used to produce large amounts of food, grain, or livestock for major markets. Basically a gentleman farmer has an independent source of income (the Pub) and farms for pleasure rather than for money.

But do not fret; Josh will still be at the Pub Fridays through Sundays making people's weekends cocktailed and bright. I would like to wish him luck in the purchase of his grandmother's house and land to start his organic farm. Can you imagine, he can grow some fabulous ingredients to make all those craft cocktails.

So stop by the Pub over the weekend and have Josh show you Southern hospitality at its best. The Pub is located at 801 Bourbon Street.

Hot Happenings

Easter has gone down that rabbit hole, now we are in Festival Season. Here are just a few of the fun things the city has going

to keep some spring in your step.

Friday April 10, 2015

Come Out For Life! Join the Louisiana Equality Foundation at their 2015 Coming Out Party from 7 – 9pm at the New Orleans Healing Center and learn more about their "Together, We're Holding On To Hope" Suicide Prevention campaign. There will be a presentation about local suicide prevention resources and how you can help save lives in the LGBT community. Council Member Jason Williams will be there to give a welcoming greeting. The Coming Out Party is a FREE event, open to the public. The New Orleans Healing Center is located at 2372 St. Claude Avenue. Please R.S.V.P. at this link - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/come-out-for-life-tickets-15770317444>.

Friday April 10, 2015

It's time to hit the dance floor again when A FORCE MAJEURE serves up /// CLUB MAGS\\ at Mags 940. The first installment of Club Mags during Mardi Gras was a mega-dark and sexy success, so here is a second helping. From the creative minds of Bouffant Bouffant and Mark Louque, this amazing event is not to be missed. There will be plenty of dancing bodies to get your libido stirring. The event begins at 10pm. Mags 940 is located at 940 Elysian Fields Avenue.

Saturday April 11, 2015

We now have our Grand Marshals for Gay Pride this year, now it is time for the 2015 New Orleans Pride Pageant to be held at Oz from 5 – 8pm. Contestants eligible to compete should live in the New Orleans or Southeast Louisiana/ Southwest Mississippi area. There will be four divisions:

1. Miss New Orleans Pride: Male or transgender (MTF) competitors presenting as female
2. Sir New Orleans Pride: Female or transgender (FTM) competitors presenting as male
3. Ms. New Orleans Pride: Female or transgender (MTF) competitors presenting as female
4. Mr. New Orleans Pride: Male or transgender (FTM) competitors presenting as male

All contestants must be 18 years and older. The theme this year is "An Enchanted Evening" and Pride Grand Marshals Persana Shoulders and Adikus Sulpizi will be emcees. Oz is located at 801 Bourbon Street.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Have a cocktail and support a good cause when you join Jeff Bater and Tim Irving, our guest hosts, for the Big Easy Cocktail Club event at the Queen and Crescent Hotel from 5:30 – 7:30pm celebrating The CHAT (Curbing HIV/AIDS Transmission) Project. The CHAT Project is an art-based, peer-led HIV/AIDS prevention project in New Orleans, based at the NO/AIDS

Task Force. Through HIV awareness and testing events such as Open Mic Night, Bounce Out HIV, and Parties and Workshops, CHAT educates and supports our youth ages 13-19 and offers them a safe space to discuss safe sex and risk reduction. Let's help The CHAT Project help NOLA's youth. As always, 100% of the \$5 minimum at-door donation goes directly to our beneficiary. The Queen and Crescent Hotel is located at 344 Camp Street.

Tuesday April 14 – Sunday, April 19, 2015

The New Orleans Theatre Association presents the new national tour of JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT, directed and choreographed by Tony® Award-winner Andy Blankenbuehler, April 14 – 19 at the Saenger Theatre in New Orleans as part of the East Jefferson General Hospital Broadway in New Orleans 2014 – 2015 Season. Tickets for JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT start at \$25. Tickets will be available at the Saenger Theatre Box Office, BroadwayInNewOrleans.com, and all Ticketmaster outlets or by calling (800) 982-2787.

Broadway and television star Diana DeGarmo (Narrator) and Broadway star Ace Young (Joseph) head up the cast, which also features Paul Castree as Simeon, William Thomas Evans as Jacob/Potiphar, Brian Golub as Reuben, Max Kumangai as Judah and Ryan Williams as Pharaoh. Husband-and-wife team Ace Young and Diana DeGarmo first met when they shared the Broadway stage in the 2009 revival of HAIR. One of the most enduring shows of all time, JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT is the irresistible family musical about the trials and triumphs of Joseph, Israel's favorite son. The first collaboration of composer Andrew Lloyd Webber (Jesus Christ Superstar, Phantom of the Opera, Cats) and lyricist Tim Rice (Jesus Christ Superstar, The Lion King), JOSEPH blends pop, country and rock into an uplifting, technicolored story of biblical proportions. Retelling the Biblical story of Joseph, his eleven brothers and the coat of many colors, this magical musical is full of unforgettable songs including Those Canaan Days, Any Dream Will Do and Close Every Door.

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Are you ready to come out for one of the best fundraisers in the city in support of St. Anna's Church? You are cordially invited to the Fifth Annual Dodwell House Extravaganza from 7 to 10pm at Generations Hall located at 310 Andrew Higgins Boulevard. Help be a part of the restoration of the Dodwell House and the creation of a community center. The entertainment that evening features Topsy Chapman, The Tremé Choir, The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and Tony Leggio and Miss Elizabeth Bouvier as your hosts. There will be both a live and silent auctions, local cuisine with wines and champagne. Tickets are \$70 each (\$80 at the door). Proceeds for the night benefit the Dodwell House and its Mission, Anna's Place NOLA, A Ministry of St. Anna's Episcopal Church. For more information, call 504.947.2121.

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Calling ALL Queens . . . and Kings, Emperors and Empresses, Tsars and

Tsarinas. Princesses and Princes, Dukes, Duchesses, Barons and Baronesses. Basically anyone with an Imperial or Ruling Title, or the offspring of an Imperial, Royal or Noble is invited to the glittery Cocktails & Crowns? Honestly this fabulous event is open to anyone with a crown or tiara. So dust off your headdresses, shine those rhinestones and crown yourself again for a night of Sparkle and Dazzle. This is the Krewe of Petronius' first event of the year celebrating 55 years of Gay Carnival. Cocktails & Crowns will be held at Carl Mack Presents located 318 North Rampart from 7 to 10pm. Dress for the event is festive attire (wear your crown and rhinestones!), business casual or dressy casual. Tickets are \$35 and include complimentary champagne and cocktail food. The event will include a silent and live auction to benefit the staging of the Krewe of Petronius Bal Masque 55. For tickets or more information, go to info@kreweofpetronius.net or your favorite krewe members. The Krewe of Petronius is a 501(c) organization and donations to the Krewe are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Saturday, April 25, 2015

New Orleans Advocates for GLBT Elders (NOAGE) is hosting their monthly Coffee Talk Discussion dealing with the Art of Intimacy: Finding Happiness in Your Relationship from 10 – 11:30am at the New Orleans Healing Center. For more information, go to www.noagenola.org. The New Orleans Healing Center is located at 2372 St. Claude Avenue.

Thursday, April 30, 2015

It's time! Join Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XL Chad Boutte, Reba Douglas, and Aubrey Synclair at Oz for a star studded show, as they announce their Grand Marshal 2015 selections. Come see who will be honored this year as the event takes place from 7 – 10pm, with a \$10 cover benefiting the Official Charity of SD 44. Oz is located at 800 Bourbon Street.

Party Down

As I am writing this the countdown to Easter has begun with an incredible array of shows, events and parties. Let's begin on Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day when I went to see Once at the Saenger Theatre. It was kismet that I went on this night to see this play because it is basically an Irish love story. The music and energy was great and I loved that before the show and during intermission, you could go up on stage to hang out on their bar set. You could even buy a cocktail up there.

Not to be outdone by St. Patty's Day, I attended an incredibly elegant party on Thursday, St. Joseph's Day at the home of Tony Marino. This enchanted evening celebrating the feast of St. Joseph included an over-the-top block party with an Italian buffet feast, opera singers, open bar and one of the most beautiful St. Joseph Day altars I have ever seen. From the Italian seed cookies to the lamb cake, this event brought back fond memories of when my grandmother was alive and her and my aunts use to have an altar for the neighborhood. A large thank you goes out to Tony for keeping this New Orleans tradition alive.

On Friday I was off to the races with Jeff Mallon (aka Elizabeth Bouvier) for last Starlight Races of the season at the Fair-

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\$560 for table of 8 (limited)
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Topsy Chapman & Solid Harmony



Saturday, April 18th
7-10pm

Generations Hall

310 Andrew Higgins Blvd.

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trodding the boards

by Brian Sands
Email: bsnola2@hotmail.com

RuPaul's Drag Race Battle of the Seasons 2015 at The Civic Theater

RuPaul's Drag Race Battle of the Seasons rolled back into town again and if last year's edition was fabulous, this year's was even better. The **2015 Condragulations Tour** packed **The Civic Theater** wall-to-wall, but even from a seat in the balcony, a great view of the show could be had.

And what a show it was. **Alaska Thunderf*ck 5000** started things off in a towering blonde wig and a wispy basso voice that sounded like a 33rpm record played at 16rpm. Her *Your Makeup Is Terrible* commanded the stage, equal parts singspiel and performance art.

Next up was **Ivy Winters** who not only juggled glow-in-the-dark pins impressively, but who, to *My Strongest Suit* from Elton John's *Aida*, magically went through about eight instantaneous dress transformations to receive the most well-deserved standing ovation I've seen in ages.

Sharon Needles' Halloween-themed set, as much fun in March as in October, featured her single *Dead Girls Never Say No*. Any song that includes the line "I'll be your Rosemary's baby tonight" is a treat.



Jinkx Monsoon greeting fans

under the gaydar ...from 18

grounds. We were in a private box enjoying these majestic horses running. There was live music on one level and a DJ with go-go female jockey dancers on the other. If you missed these fun events this year, put them on your calendar for next, this is a great scene. And even though almost every horse I bet on lost, I still had a blast.

Saturday was a busy day of floating from event to event starting with the opening reception at the Presbytere for the exhibit *From The Big Apple to the Big Easy*: Two Carnival Artists Helen Clark Warren and John C. Scheffler. Curator of Costumes and Textiles for the Louisiana State Museum Wayne Phillips welcomed guests to this ribbon cutting. He also was able to gather over one dozen of the city's top Mardi Gras costumers to the event for a one of a kind evening. It was a lovely event and the exhibit is worth seeing. These two artists' designs are just awe-inspiring.

Next, I was off to the Armeinius Captain's reception at their den. Their outdoor deck is an ideal location for evening cocktail parties. The krewe mingled with each other and special guests as they mapped out their plans for the next Mardi Gras season. We were off next to The Four Seasons in Metairie for the Gay Easter Parade's 13th Spring Fever Extravaganza which featured the talents of GEP Board's Electra City and Tittie Toulouse, EGMs XVI Johnny Passion & Deja Deja-Vue', Pussy Hertz from Los Angeles/Las Vegas, Natasha Sinclair, Taze Ya Balls, Big Momma, Princess Stephaney and Countess C Alice. There was great raffles and lots of frivolity as the excitement mounts as we approach Easter. The highlight of the night was Tittie Toulouse's energetic rendition of RuPaul's Peanut Butter. I ended the marathon evening with a stop at the Tulane Avenue Bar for Kitty D' Litter's LitterBox Review with special guests star Miss Hot Mess herself Puddin' Tain. Kitty's shows are so lively and fun, they are worth venturing out of downtown to catch.

The next day turned from Sunday Funday, to Sunday Drunkday early and fast. It started with brunch with my friends

Beaux and Barrett at one of the hottest new brunch places in Mid-City called Biscuits and Buns. This comfort food eatery is a quaint spot that allows you to bring in your own champagne. The food was delicious and after polishing off a few bottles we were ready to face the rest of the day, which consisted of floating around the French Quarter to the corner of St. Ann and Bourbon for some more libations, before moseying to the Marigny Opera House for the Halloween New Orleans thank you reception. Hosts and supporters had cocktails and nibbles while they were able to tour Lazarus House which is located adjacent to the venue. The new theme, the Fall of the Pharaohs, was premiered as hosts were able to see where the monies the organization raises goes. It was a wonderful uplifting way to end the day. After that we took our extremely cocktail selves back home to call it a night.

The following week on Wednesday, I attended two hospitality events. The first was at Apres Lounge located on Fulton Street in the Warehouse District. This upscale champagne bar is an exceptional place to hang out for cocktails for happy hour, special occasions or just in general. And since champagne is my favorite alcohol of choice, it is one of my favorite new spots. One cool feature is when you order a bottle of champagne; it comes to your table with a sparkler atop it. Next, I went to the March Hobknobbers Networking event at the Degas House. This complex was once the home where Edgar Degas resided when he was in the Crescent City. Now a bed and breakfast, venue space and museum, this treasure is interesting for both locals and tourists alike.

The next night I went to Le Petit Theatre to see the wonderful *Dinner With Friends*. This dramedy is impressively staged with a fine cast of actors including my friend and co-worker Chelle Duke who was fabulous if I must say so myself. The play based on the lives of two couples who are friends, one going through a horrible divorce and the other questioning their relationship. It was a fascinating premise that kept your interest piqued the entire

For us musical theater queens, **Jinkx Monsoon** gave us an entertaining medley as the Witch from *Into the Woods*. Sondheim was also well-represented by Jinkx, Alaska and Mistress of Ceremonies Michelle Visage's straightforward version of *You Gotta Have A Gimmick*. I wondered what Stephen would think.

As always, **Bianca Del Rio** took no prisoners, sprinkling her brilliant routine with cracks about such local favorites as Becky Allen, Persona Shoulders and Lisa Beaumann. With lines like "All the tops in Wisconsin f*ck Swiss cheese cause its holes are tighter than all the bottoms there,"

show becoming drawn in the characters' lives. I highly recommend this thought provoking play that puts a microscope on the reasons why people get married and stay together.

The second Saturday once again turned out to be another marathon starting with the Hotel Plays during the Tennessee Williams Festival. This interesting theatrical concept kept the people moving as we were split up into groups and saw four staged productions of Tennessee Williams short stories in different rooms and the garden of the historic Herman Grima House. It was an intriguing way to see theatre and you never got too set because you moved from room to room getting a history tour of the home as you went along. After the show, I ran home to do a quick change then I was off to the Friday Night Before Mardi Gras' host and supporter thank you event at GrandPre's. This year's event was quite successful and the organization was able to give money to four noteworthy organizations that are deal with LGBT issues. Over twelve thousand dollars was handed out to the NO/AIDS Task Force, the Gay Easter Parade, NOAGE NOLA, Breakout! and the Louisiana Equality Foundation. It turned out to be a lovely evening on the patio of GrandPre's.

Then my night turned purple at the Gay Easter Parade's 16th Purple Party held at the Double Play. Owners Chuck and Bill rolled put out quite a spread for guests who were decked out in the color of the season. There was amazing auctions as I got to emcee the show with the gorgeous Miss Opal Masters. Food, drag, booze and Easter eggs, my night was complete. And because I still think I am in my twenties, afterwards I went with some friends and danced at Oz till the wee hours of the morning; hence me laying on my sofa all day on Sunday. God, hate getting old.

That ends my two weeks as I get ready for a weekend of festivities, Bunnies in the Big Easy, the Marigny Bunny Hop, my fabulous Easter Day brunch and the Gay Easter Parade. I wonder what people in other cities do to celebrate. Hope you had a fabulous Easter.

In Other Gay News

Sound the fire alarm; East Jefferson General Hospital Broadway in New Orleans announced the lineup for their 2015 - 2016 Season. And it is scorching with some of Broadway's biggest hits to be shown at the historic Saenger Theatre. If you haven't got season tickets, this is the year to get them. The sensational season opens in September with the market debut of *DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID*. The beloved animated classic comes to life on stage with memorable songs like "Under the Sea" and "Part Of Your World." In

she had the crowd laughing and cheering so loudly they sometimes covered up her next bit.

Detox provided a witty take on *Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now* from **Mannequin**, and if Adore Delano's rock'n'roll numbers were not quite to my taste, she was clearly an audience favorite.

In addition to the individual numbers, Visage hosted a mini-challenge in which three young guys received a fashion makeover; the results were hysterical, with Detox and her cutie deservedly winning.

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October, Rodgers + Hammerstein's *CINDERELLA* features an incredible orchestra, jaw dropping transformations and all the moments you love — the pumpkin, the glass slipper, the masked ball — plus some surprising new twists! The season continues with *DISNEY'S NEWSIES*, the smash-hit, crowd-pleasing new musical from Disney and the eye-popping spectacle, *DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* presented by NETworks, featuring unforgettable characters and dazzling production numbers, in December.

January gets an exhilarating start with *MOTOWN THE MUSICAL*, the true American dream story of Motown founder Berry Gordy's journey from featherweight boxer to the heavyweight music mogul who launched the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Smokey Robinson and many more. February welcomes *KINKY BOOTS*, a musical that will lift your spirits to new high-heeled heights. Winner of 6 Tony Awards® including BEST MUSICAL, it also features a joyous, Tony®-winning score by Cyndi Lauper, direction and Tony-winning choreography by Jerry Mitchell and a hilarious, uplifting book by four-time Tony winner Harvey Fierstein.

After a record breaking run in New Orleans in 2013, *THE BOOK OF MOR-MON* will return to the Saenger Theatre for a limited engagement in March. Direct from Broadway, the acclaimed masterpiece *CABARET* will play at the Saenger Theatre in April. As part of their 50th Anniversary Season, Roundabout Theatre Company is proud to present *SAM MENDES* (Skyfall, American Beauty) and *ROB MARSHALL'S* (Nine and Chicago, the films) Tony Award®-winning production. The season will conclude with a four-week engagement of New Orleans' most popular musical *WICKED* (season special) in May. Based on the best-selling 1995 novel by Gregory Maguire, *WICKED*, winner of over 100 international awards, including a Grammy® and three Tony® Awards, is the untold story of the witches of Oz.

The dates for the shows of the 2015 – 2016 East Jefferson General Hospital Broadway in New Orleans are: Theatre Under The Stars' production of Disney's, *THE LITTLE MERMAID*, September 15 – 20, 2015; Rodgers + Hammerstein's *CINDERELLA*, October 27 – November 1, 2015; *DISNEY'S NEWSIES*, December 1 – 6, 2015; *MOTOWN THE MUSICAL*, January 19 – 24, 2016; *KINKY BOOTS*, February 16 – 21, 2016; *THE BOOK OF MOR-MON*, March 8 – 13, 2016; *CABARET*, April 5 – 10, 2016. The following productions are not included as part of the six-show Season Subscription Package: NETworks presents Disney's *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*, December 29 – January 3, 2016 and *WICKED*, May 25 – June 19, 2016.