

Talent

in motion

m a g a z i n e

ART BASEL MIAMI
WYNWOOD WALLS

New York FASHION WEEK

Percussionist **JOHN MAHON**
From The **ELTON JOHN** Band

ORNELLA FADO

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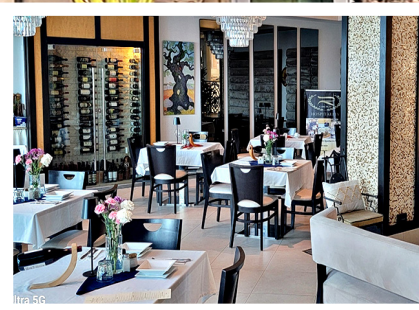
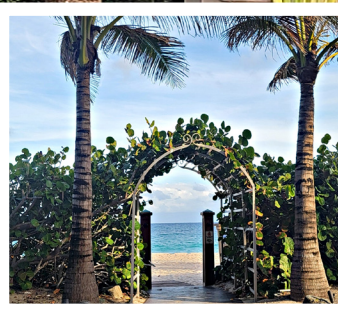
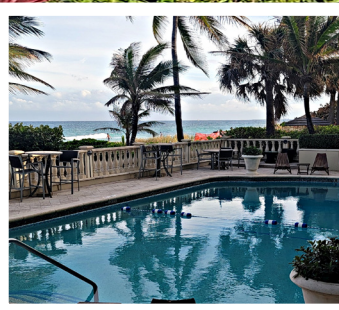
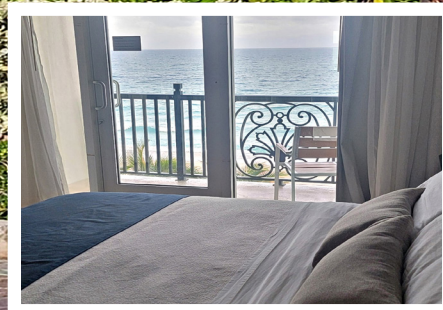
Vol XXVII, Issue 1



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At The Sea Lord Hotel & Beach Club, on location in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl.
This page: The Royal Hotel in Paradise Island, Bahamas.
Right page: Swimming with the Sharks, The Coral Hotel, Paradise Island, Bahamas.

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LEAD TO
BUTTERFLY
BEGINNINGS.**

**BEST OF LUCK
GOOD FORTUNE
LONG HAPPINESS
RISING MOON.**

**PAST DUE NOTICES
PLEASE TAKE CARE
OF OBSTACLES
TIMELY AND FAIR.**

**TASTING THE WINE
SMELLING THE ROSES
LIVING THE DREAM
CAREFUL IT CLOSES.**

**TIME WILL PASS
AND THE LIVING LOST
TOAST TO MEMORIES
NO MATTER THE COST.**

**OLD TIMES
GOOD TIMES
BETTER TIMES
IT'S ABOUT TIME.**

**FOR YOUR LIGHT
WILL TRULY SHINE
WAIT FOR IT
YOUR NEXT IN LINE!**

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INNER GLOW

WITH THE GUA SHA GODDESS DECK

By Rachel Sokol



Over the years I've been curious about GUA SHA, an ancient Chinese practice said to soothe and revitalize the skin. Advocates claim it reduces puffiness and redness on the face while offering healing properties. The elegant Gua Sha Goddess Deck set comes in two beautifully designed boxes. One contains a white jade Gua Sha stone, which feels cool and smooth to the touch, while the other features a collection of lavender-hued cards offering guidance and inspiration.

What Is GUA SHA?

Originating in China during the Ming Dynasty, Gua Sha is a therapeutic treatment where a smooth jade stone is (gently!) rubbed across the skin to stimulate blood flow and promote healing. The term "Gua" translates to "scrape," while "Sha" refers to "illness" or "sand." Gua Sha supports energetic balance, promoting a healthier body and glowing skin.

The benefits sound amazing—no wonder advocates still swear by Gua Sha hundreds of years later. Gua Sha: Boosts blood circulation, targets collagen production and lymphatic drainage, and helps alleviate tension and pain.

A Step-by-Step guide to glow begins with educational cards to start your journey; the Gua Sha Goddess Deck offers everything you need.

The GUA SHA set includes:

5 Educational Cards detailing the history and benefits of Gua Sha.

22 Beauty & Health Tutorials to guide you in improving skin health and enhancing your natural glow.

7 Chakra Balancing Meditations & Affirmations for aligning energy centers and fostering inner peace.

10 Goddess Oracle Cards offering wisdom and inspiration for self-love and spiritual growth.

1 White Jade Gua Sha Stone crafted for its calming, cooling properties.

What makes this set truly stand out are the card visuals and videos. Each card in the deck includes a QR code that links to short tutorials or meditations. These quick videos helped me feel confident in my technique, ensuring the proper use of the jade stone correctly to achieve the best results.

Additionally, each card beautifully illustrates how to use the jade stone—for example, how to gently trace your jawline to reduce puffiness or soothe fine lines. My personal favorite is the Express Facial card, which explains and demonstrates how to target firming the undereyes, forehead, cheeks, and neck.

After just a few days of consistent use, I noticed a difference—my face looked brighter, less puffy, and more sculpted, as if I'd just had a spa treatment. (Just a tip: when using the stone on your face, don't press too hard. Be gentle!).

Beyond Skin Deep

The Gua Sha Goddess Deck isn't just about beauty—it's about mindfulness and connection. The oracle cards add a spiritual element, offering gentle reminders to embrace self-love and to open chakras. The Moon Goddess card inspired me to reflect on my relationships and face challenges with courage. Who doesn't love that type of support?

Why I'm Obsessed

This set combines skincare and self-care in a way that feels indulgent yet practical. The jade stone is beautiful and calming to hold, and the cards add a touch of elegance to my daily health and wellness routine (which I'm always working to improve as I age). When using the jade stone, I make sure my face is gently moisturized with a simple lotion—though some users prefer using a serum rather than a traditional lotion.

Priced under \$40, the Gua Sha Goddess Deck makes a thoughtful gift for any beauty enthusiast or spiritual seeker. Whether you're new to Gua Sha or looking to deepen your practice, this collection is a wonderful investment in self-care.

GUA SHA is available for purchase at www.matkabeauty.com.



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New York FASHION WEEK:

The Anastasia Li Magazine show



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1. Gloria Cressler Black Tie Magazine at Korean American Association of Greater New York., Designer: Valda Rainey.



2. Pamela Quinzi show at El Kallejon Restaurant., NYC. Designer: Pamela Quinzi. Pink T-shirt by designer Guchi Sachi.



3. Unieke Mode show at The Kaplan Centre. NYC. Designer: Zoom Cherry.



*Photography by
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5. Content creation, photography, film making, red carpet placement, location scouting, event promotions, music videos, fashion campaigns.



ON LOCATION:

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

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Stylist: DaNisha Greene,
Hair/Make-up: Linda Zuidemeer.
Top Photo: At The Sea Lord Hotel & Beach Club, Designs: Red & White Polka Dot Dress With Hat: Mirimari.
Black & White Sleeveless Shirt: Hardcore Fashion.
Bottom Photo: At Bahia Mar Marina On Location: Ft. Lauderdale, Fl., Designs: White Flower Blazer: Mirimari, Silk Pink Suit: Le Catou.



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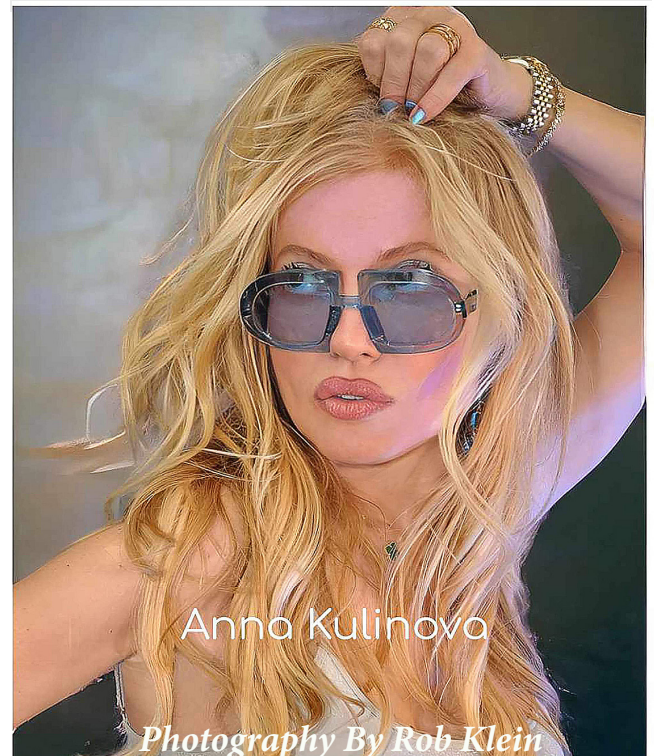


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New York Filmmakers **KYLE GAUNT** And **DAVID FREY** Breaking Ground With New Projects

By Nick Christophers



(L) Kyle Gaunt and (R) David Frey

Both KYLE GAUNT and DAVID FREY have been in the film game for close to four years and have made some inroads in the process.

They both attended Hofstra University and studied Film Studies and Production. Kyle who had a love for films at the tender age of seven years old, began thinking of being a filmmaker in High School. While in High School he took a class in film which fueled his interest even more. He picked up his first camera in 2015 and began experimenting and began working on his first film project for a class assignment. Kyle would take it one step further and founded his first YouTube channel entitled "Kyle Gaunt Reviews". On his show he would engage in critiquing films he saw either in the theatre, rented or old movies he viewed growing up.

"I started a YouTube channel entitled "Kyle Gaunt Reviews" where I would critique the movies I saw in theaters, new movies I rented, and movies I loved growing up. This process allowed me to express my love of cinema in ways I couldn't with my peers and family," said Kyle.

David's experience entering filmmaking was slightly different. He was first immersed into dancing among the hip-hop craze at the time. When he was around eight years old, he took part in small dance competitions and performing on stages. The positive response he received from audiences led him to think about going into acting. But over time this faded, and he began to become intrigued in critiquing films he would watch which was like what Kyle was doing. This new interest planted a seed in him with the idea of filmmaking. David's desire to break into filmmaking was not only as an actor, but to take on any role in the growing industry's development.

"I would also do small, friendly dance competitions after learning the craft and hone in on the technique. Nothing too big, or grand, but just performing on stage had given me a sense of awe. Seeing the audience cheer and clap would give me the confidence to have me go from just dancing to trying to act as well. Then later down, I lost passion for performing in front of crowds. Watching films and being a "critic" after viewing them has always been a hobby of mine. So, watching movies as a hobby and performing on stage has always sparked a passion for filmmaking," added David.



David and Kyle would soon work on a project together titled "Kill Me Dead" it was based on Kyle's senior thesis film. David was the sound man on the project, and it was an important role for him to take as it was a vital learning experience.

They would move onto another project titled "Necklace" that was a more promising project to work on. The on-hands work allowed them to approach this project with better results. In 2024 they both worked on a new project (not titled yet) which is a short horror film. The project is due to be submitted to a film festival in Connecticut. When it comes to festivals Kyle has been submitting films on the site Film Freeway. For his thesis "Kill Me Dead" was selected to The SoCal Film Awards. The other project we mentioned earlier "The Necklace" has been selected in ten different festivals. It had won an award

from the One-Reeler Short Film Competition, and Honorable Mention nomination by the SoCal Film Awards. In addition, it qualified as a semi-finalist at the Serbest International Film Fest. Outside of these accomplishments Kyle and David had also been selected in multiple in person festivals set in New York, California, Florida, and Georgia.

"Film Noir is a sub-genre but, it is something I am extremely passionate about. That passion can be felt in Kill Me Dead. My goals and process of writing have changed during the past year. While my goal is to create a different project each time to avoid possible typecasting, the kinds of stories I want to tell have altered. I take the strengths I obtained from one project and inject them into the next while exploring new genres," mentioned Kyle.

David is also a horror buff but, recently is experimenting with a new film, which falls into the Western genre. The project is in its fourth year of development, only because David is always fine tuning the script to his specifications, until it is where he wants it to be. A current project that David and Kyle are currently percolating, is an action/crime/suspense/thriller film. They are hoping to present it as a feature and not a short film. Both talented artists are on their way to create amazing works as they grow in the indie film industry and beyond.

For more information, go to IG: @kylegaunt_2187 or @david.w.frey, or Freyguyproductions.bloggger.com.





JUHAHN JONES:

A True New Force In The Industry

Article provided by Worldwide Entertainment & Media



JUHAHN JONES, got his first taste of his dream, landing a recurring role on HBO's "THE WIRE." Shortly after relocating to Los Angeles, Juhahn received a NAACP Theater Award for "Best Supporting Male" in the play "Sunday Mourning."

Now with over fifty acting credits, which include working with Wayans Brothers, Russell Simmons and Kevin Hart as well working a recurring role on the late John Singleton's show REBEL (BET), he successfully completed his own sketch comedy Show, THE JUHAHN JONES IS SHOW on YouTube.

As his journey as a creator continued, Juhahn posted a daily video on Instagram earning him over 1.4M followers, 1.6M on Facebook and almost 400K Subscribers on YouTube, which led him to be honored at the Just For Laughs festival in the New Faces Influencer/Creator category.

With Juhahn venturing off to be a "More Longer Form Content Creator," he accomplished creating two new shows named "You

Hittin Dat?" (2022) and "Killer Bae" (2019) which accumulated over 50 million views online combined! Both shows won awards and nominations in festivals and landed him a distribution deal, getting placements for both shows on Tubi and multiple streaming sites. Other film titles include The Starving Games (2013) and The Juice: The Story of Juicy Larry and more recently, Too many Christmases (2024).

Juhahn has graduated to being a true new force in the industry for his work and relationships which led him to shooting his first full length feature "You Married Dat," inspired by one of his hit shows "You Hittin Dat?"

Between being an award winning actor, a creator with a huge audience and stand up comic, Juhahn Jones has all the ingredients to becoming the next legendary star!.

For more information, go to IG: @juhahnjones or google him to find out his upcoming media outlets.

ORNELLA FADO:

Founder and TV Producer of "Brindiamo! A Toast to the Finest Italian Restaurant"

By Laurie Sheppard

ORNELLA FADO, born in Naples, is a leading figure in the Italian-American artistic and cultural scene whose brilliant career spans several disciplines: She is, in fact, a dancer, actress, presenter, TV producer, and entrepreneur. She is also the founder of OK Production LCC, which launched the highly appreciated television program "Brindiamo! A Toast to the Finest Italian Restaurant" in 2005.

Raised in a small town in Calabria, Ornella stood out as a child for her natural talent for music and dance, studying piano and classical dance. At 17, she moved to Rome, where she began her career as a professional dancer, debuting with the prestigious "Compagnia Nazionale di Danza" directed by the étoile Diana Ferrara of the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma. Ornella's insatiable curiosity, unwavering talent, and deep-seated passion for art have driven her to explore every corner of the entertainment world. She has honed her skills in classical, modern, and jazz dance, music, acting, musical theatre, history of dance and music, and stage make-up, studying under the tutelage of the best teachers and choreographers in Italy and abroad.

Ornella's versatility is a testament to her talent. She has shone in various roles, from soloist to showgirl and actress. Her talent has graced many RAI television programs, including 'Fantastico 6', 'Un altro Varietà', 'Cinema che Follia', and 'Sentimental.' She has also performed in Italy's most prestigious theaters, taking on leading roles in productions such as 'Rinaldo in Campo' with Massimo Ranieri, 'Aggiungi un posto a tavola' with Jhonny Dorelli, and 'A Chorus Line.' (That fateful musical changed her life forever—a turning point that shaped her future). Cinema is also fascinating to her; she is in several sets in Federico Fellini's film L'intervista and Franco Zeffirelli's film Otello. She also worked as a model and Brand Ambassador for cinema, television, and numerous fashion and dance magazines, thanks to her Mediterranean beauty and charisma.

Ornella soon discovered that her greatest passion was television. As a TV hostess, she became the face of the first private television station in the Lazio region, GBR, and hosted numerous talk shows and kids' shows. In 1992, Ornella moved to New York (where she currently lives), and here she embarked on a new adventure as a promoter of Italian culture in the United States, creating programs such as "DANZA E MUSICA" and "KIDS ON BROADWAY."

At this point, her career underwent a significant transformation; in 2004, she founded a multimedia production company, OK Production LCC, which has the primary objective of bringing attention to authentic Italian culture, also dealing with charity, culture, and entertainment,

creating important promotional campaigns for the most prestigious Italian brands. The production company's flagship



program is "Brindiamo! - A Toast to the Finest Italian Restaurant", a weekly television program that celebrates Italian cuisine and the lifestyle of Italians in America, of which Ornella becomes the face, as well as being its producer and host.

Twenty years ago, Ornella Fado transformed the production of cooking shows with 'Brindiamo!' by showcasing chefs cooking in the kitchens of fine Italian restaurants in the USA, Italy, Canada, and Bermuda. This distinctive format emphasized the authenticity of traditional dishes and the individuality of each chef and restaurant, distinguishing 'Brindiamo!' from other cooking shows filmed entirely in studios. The program has been broadcast on NYC Life Channel 25 since October 2005 and on Amazon Prime since October 2018. In addition to being one of the longest-running programs on the New York State channel, it is also the only television program in America that welcomes Italian personalities who visit the States. Italian celebrity guests on the show include Massimo Ranieri, Ron, Raf, Edoardo Bennato, Sergio Castellitto, Vittorio Storaro, Barbara D'Urso, and Giovanni. Allevi, Carlo Verdone, Emanuele Filiberto di Savoia, and Teresa De Sio. Since 2020, the programs have also been available on VOD and fast channels, such as TUBI TV, XUMO TV, and FOOD TV.

OK Productions LLC, with TV programs such as Brindiamo!, Brindiamo! On The Sea, Brindiamo! Special Edition Italy,

Brindiamo! Special Edition Canada, Brindiamo! Special Edition Bermuda and Brindiamo! In My Kitchen has been offering viewers content celebrating Italian cuisine, culture, and lifestyle since 2004. OK Productions LLC is not only involved in TV programs and events but is also the creator of "Brindiamo! Restaurants Week" and "Brindiamo! Guide," the only comprehensive guide to quality Italian restaurants worldwide. This unique resource is a must-have for any food enthusiast, offering a curated selection of the best Italian dining experiences (a restyling of the guide will occur in the fall of 2024). The primary goal of the OK Production LCC project is to eliminate negative stereotypes about Italy and promote a more precise and accurate understanding of the Italian lifestyle, break down clichés and prejudices, and showcase the beauty and various facets of Italian culture.

Ornella Fado's entrepreneurial ability was further demonstrated in 2020 with the launch of the thematic fast channel "Brindiamo! Channel" streaming on SAMSUNG TV PLUS, LG CHANNELS, and RAKUTEN. A significant milestone is the achievement of 10 million views on Samsung TV Plus alone in October 2020. These linear channels stream over 100 episodes of Brindiamo! and many new television productions such as "My Talented Friends," "Eccellenze Italiane," "La Casa della Gastronomia," "Sparta Yoga," "Tutta Una Vita In Vacanza," "Il Circolo dei Buongustai," "Finì Dance "Change your destiny".

Ornella is also the only woman to own an Italian fast channel out of over 100 channels, a significant achievement that makes her proud. For all her commitment over the years, she is considered by the American public to be the true spokesperson for Made in Italy and Italian Excellence in the United States. For this reason, she was the only Italian presenter to conduct the "FOOD & RESTAURANTS INDUSTRY FORUM" live on TV in June 2009,

closing the NASDAQ stock exchange in New York with a highly followed speech on international catering. In October 2009, the mayor of New York, Michael Bloomberg, in attendance at the "Italian Heritage Day" event, crowned her as an expert on Italian gastronomy, singing the praises of her professionalism by honoring Brindiamo! as the "hit show" on NYC LIFE.

In addition to television, Ornella is actively involved in the Italian-American community as co-founder and VP of the GenialItaly Association, a non-profit organization with the mission of building bridges between Italy and Italians in the USA, also serving as "Creative Director" of GenialItaly Magazine. Another important role is her commitment and volunteer work as a member of COM.IT.ES. (a representative body of the community, directly elected by Italians living abroad in the consular district of New York), where she is President of the Communication and Events Commission. In 2023, counselor Ornella Fado presented a project on the theme of "Valorization of the Historical Role of the Italian Community in the Tri-state" and received from the MAECI the highest funding offered in the history of Comites in the world to create and conduct a documentary written by her and entitled "Colors, Flavors, and Memories."

A proud mother of a wonderful daughter, Ornella continues to work on new and innovative projects such as the book "Behind the Scenes of Brindiamo!" that tells recipes and anecdotes of her almost 20 years of work in American television, her collaboration with the brand of Gioielli DOP, of which she is Brand Ambassador and the new and fantastic collaboration with the legendary Topo Gigio. Ornella is also working on a bilingual children's book inspired by her daughter's story, "Carolina Ballerina," demonstrating her inexhaustible passion and dedication.

Over the years, Ornella Fado has received many important awards and honors, among which include: "The Premio Calabria America," "The Columbia Association Award," "The UNICO Appreciation Award," "Who's Who," "Telly Awards," "The Taste Awards," "Global Woman Awards Entrepreneur," "Puglia Center of America Award" Premio Città di Castrovillari," "Friends of NOIAW." "The Lifetime Achievement Award" is coming soon, as is the FINI DANCE Italian International Dance Award 2024, the "Woman of the Year 2024" on October 14 by the ACINY, and THE EXTRAORDINARY ITALY Awards in Rome.

Ornella Fado is an enterprising and multifaceted woman, whose love for Italian art and culture has crossed the ocean. She deserves credit for contributing day after day to spreading and enhancing Italian cultural heritage throughout the world.

For more information, go to www.ornellafado.com or www.ornellafado@brindiamotv.com.



TEETH

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL MADE MY LADY LIPS SMILE

By Wilhelmina Sparrow, IG: MrsSparrow83
Photos by Valerie Terranova

The musical comedy horror play, TEETH, is delightfully comedic, with a shocking, twisting story plot. You sit down ready to see a coming-of-age play, with an opening of cute and funny and innocent references, that lead to chastity and the importance of waiting for marriage to lose your virginity.

From Pulitzer Prize winner, Michael R. Jackson (A Strange Loop) and Anna K. Jacobs (Pop), TEETH is based on the cult classic film of the same name. It is a slapstick humorous and shockingly funny approach to rape by deception and the importance of understanding your body and what the changes can do to a young girl and young boy, while navigating societal expectations of behavior. The musical touches on so many topics surrounding sexuality and the comedy twists the issues of peer pressure and religious devotion that our society has known to take when protecting the precious blooming flower of a young lady's virginity, how religion wasn't a route of spirituality but a form of oppression to control secrets and hide behind chastity while fighting the natural urges of puberty and physical carnal needs.

This play was indeed equal opportunity in all the areas of oppression and mocked the mind control tool of RAMCOA (Ritual Abuse Mind Control & Organized Abuse) used in many cults and military training we see today. This is a method of extreme abuse and conditioning mixed with corporal punishment and sexual abuse at times, especially in child trafficking rings. Teeth, as it's known for a young teen who has teeth in her delicate lady area...can we say vagina? I believe we are all grown enough to use an honest word of the scientific term of a woman's body. And that's what appealed me in the play...the references to how ridiculous we are going so far to oppress our growth from young teen to woman. And, how it seeds such hate between the genders leading to the gender wars we see today. Young men are encouraged to express their sexual freedom by any means necessary, including lying and deceiving us into sexual relations with them. And the struggles of freely exploring your sexual growth as a young lady and how slut shaming is used to encourage suppression and not allowing us the time to discover and understanding our bodies. Especially, with so much that does go on downstairs in the carpet room, that occasionally lays out the red carpet for our baby making ovulating ovaries. In other words, our periods; aka menstrual cycle.

Teeth takes a bite out of every social issue and the struggles of homosexuality and doesn't even discriminate with the roles of the characters in how they feel when dealing with coming-of-age issues. The performances bite at the church's use of youth groups to encourage oppression while allow-





ing the opportunity to be children and sneak off and get into trouble regardless of the strict rigid rules that only mentally and emotionally stunt our youth while they still have sex anyway.

With a bit of blood and I will not tell you from where, (wink, wink), this play can shock you while making you laugh, and yet in its way touched me and I am sure for many young ladies out there, they can relate. Many times, rape by deception, which is when an individual lies to manipulate sexual consent out of the other party, is used to show the emotional damage impacted on a young woman who is struggling to discover her body. Betrayals are evident in the scenes. Each betrayal leads to the next rotating, yet humorous plot, that will have you roaring with laughter.

TEETH is playing at New World Stages, Stage 1, at 340 West 50th Street, NYC.

For more information, go to www.newworldstage.com.



This page: Top: Alyse Alan Louis and the cast of Teeth.

Middle: Will Connolly and the cast of Teeth.

Right: Madison McBride and Julia Bain.

Left page: Top: Alyse Alan Louis.
Middle: Andy Karl and the cast of Teeth.
Bottom: Jason Gotay.

The Amateur Comedy Club of New York City Presents...

DEATH BY DESIGN

By Eric Kuzmuk

DEATH BY DESIGN by Rob Ubinati was performed at the Amateur Comedy Club of New York City as the first production of their 141st consecutive season. It was no small accomplishment to bring this most amusing play to their stage.

Penny Bergman was an amazing director, making this her fourth time directing for the club since her debut production of Moonlight and Magnolias, by Ron Hutchinson in the fall of 2012. She slaved in the pits for four nights a week over the course of five weeks, with assistant Bonnie Seiler by her side. The club used an all-volunteer work crew overseen set designer Ted Cubbin to build a spectacular set on their stage in their private theater at 150 East 36th st. Costume designer Andja Budinich assembled a fabulous array of superb period appropriate costumes. William Reid (respected novelist) curated a soundtrack of brilliantly suitable period musical numbers as background and sound effects to enhance the sense of reality on stage. Frank Bull aimed the lights in all the best directions and programmed the lighting computer to have them go on and off in precisely the right way. Makeup artist Shelley Heller groomed and painted the cast into a frenzy to look almost unrecognizably beautiful as the characters on stage. Finally, props were rustled up and put into place by prop master Andrew Demers.

None of this could have been accomplished without the extraordinary coordination of the Clubs play comm. chairman Fred Oldenberg, working with his chosen production manager, Jose Pincay-Delgado at the helm. Then in stepped a root'n toot'n top-notch stage manager David Scharf to run the operation and the absolute best A team was in place to create a magical show which ran for two weeks at the end of October into November.

According to the review by Stu Chamberlain the club's newsletter editor, the plot of "Death by Design" has more twists and turns than a West Virginia highway map. It all takes place at an English country home in the spring of 1932. The playwright gives us a room full of people, à la Agatha Christie in collusion with Noel Coward, each of them despicable in their own ways, and each of them having expressed a

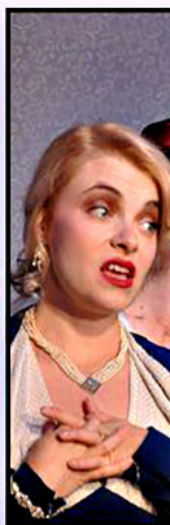
desire to murder at least one of the others.

The cast put in performances that were all appropriately over-the-top and all brilliant. David Eby was Jack the chauffeur, complete with a spot-on Cockney accent and a physique to be envied. The very grand Eric Kuzmuk as Edward, a successful playwright who writes witty but inconsequential plays for his wife to star in, grandly bloviated his way around the stage with meticulous upper-class British mannerisms and the accent to match. Gregory Taft Gerard played Walter Pearce, a self-righteous and hypocritical Parliamentarian everyone dislikes, with all the necessary unctuous self-interest of a slimy loathsome politician. Kurt Steinhauer made his debut on the club stage as the politically crazed Eric using a suspicious German accent and perfectly conceived threatening gestures.

The ladies of the cast were equally glorious: Kelli Maguire as Bridgit, the most cantankerous maid in Britain...Kellyrose Marry as Sorel, Edward's actress wife whose moods change faster than a speedtrap red light...Zane Julia as Victoria, Sorel's ditzzy, artsy friend (or maybe not)...and Robyn G. Belt as Alice, who mysteriously appears from nowhere and shoots Walter Pearce at the end of the first act setting the plot into overdrive. The audiences experienced a fast paced, witty mix of murder mystery meets farcical British drawing room comedy much to the delight of all.

Coming up in February the Amateur Comedy Club will present Sandy Toes & Salty Kisses by Michael and Susan Parker. The play, a comical farce with murder mystery undertones, will open on the 7th of February and run to closing on the 22nd. Invitations to see performances at the club are offered to friends and family of the club members and are not available for purchase.

For further information regarding the Amateur Comedy Club please contact the Club administrator at admin@amateurcomedy-club.org.





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MIKE FINE

A Comedian for All Events

By Jerry Kahn, www.JerryKahn.com

“A rabbi and a minister walk into a bar...” That could be the beginning of a joke or it could be MIKE FINE going to his next comedy gig. In addition to being a comedian, writer, and actor, Fine is both an ordained rabbi and an ordained minister, who performs in clubs, weddings, and even helps with funerals.

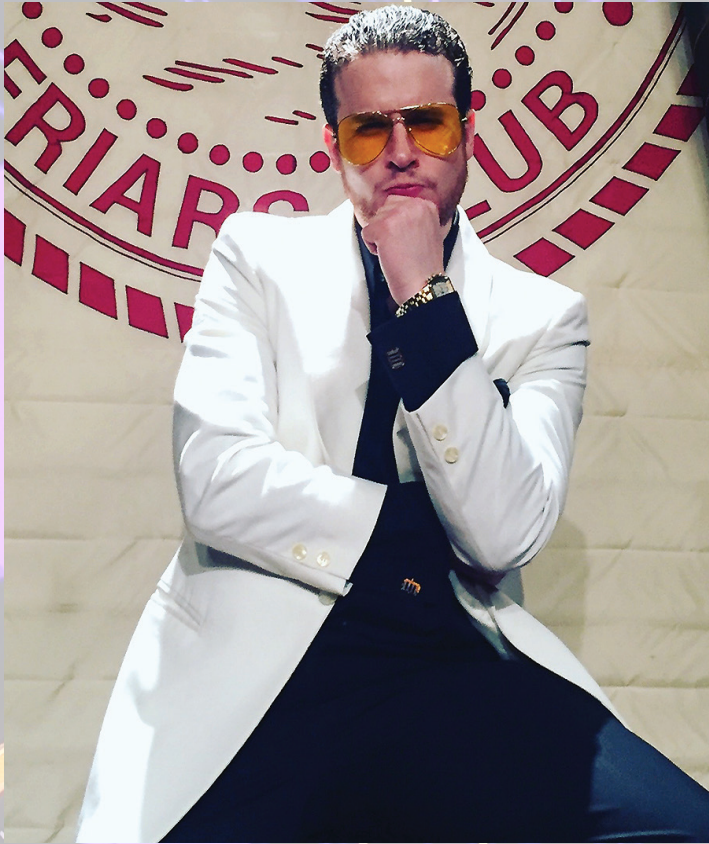
Fine, who has been performing comedy for 23 years, sets up and officiates weddings for people who cannot afford more than to go to city hall to get married. He founded a ministry and serves as a spiritual advisor for singles and couples. “(Becoming a) minister, I did that because I officiate weddings for non-Jews,” Fine said. “I actually have a very large non-Jewish congregation. I don’t charge for it. Instead of going down to city hall, we do theme weddings. The ministry is... just to get people in if they want weddings. I don’t turn people away.”

Years later, he went to school to become a rabbi, and presides over Jewish weddings. When he noticed that many famous comedians of the past did not have families, and were dying alone, he began a burial fund for performers, and helped with end-of-life events. “I started that endeavor with Mickey Friedman of the Phil Silvers Show,” Fine said. “He and his wife Annie didn’t have any kids. I thought that it would be a sin if (no one was there for him). Comedians and other talent in show business started approaching me for end-of life questions. That’s when I became a chaplain, and then became a rabbi.”

Fine has also worked on radio and TV programs, and wrote a magazine column. He said, “The Ferris Butler Program is how I got my break. He was one of my biggest influences and teachers. He taught me how to write sketch comedy, how to do characters.” Butler had a TV show on Public Access which inspired many Saturday Night Live sketches.

Fine's comedy inspirations include Shecky Greene, Jackie Mason, Woody Allen, Pat Cooper, Jackie Miles, Bobby Ramsen, Max Alexander, and Elaine Bosler. He describes his style as "reminiscent of the classic Borscht Belt style of humor, with a lot of non-sequiturs. Not one-dimensional. Easily relatable. It

may be deadpan. Mixed with sarcasm. It's not an act- it's me. What makes something funny, in my opinion, is the character delivering it. The two people that I get compared to the most are Albert Brooks,... and Woody Allen."



Fine, who is in his early 40's, grew up in Queens, NY. His parents separated when he was very young, and he became very close with his grandparents. He was not a good student, and was kicked out of several schools. One teacher, suspecting that Fine would not do well on a test, told him to write some jokes, instead, and he would be graded on that. His mother got an unlisted telephone number to prevent the schools from constantly calling her to pick him up. Unlike many parents, Mike's parents were very supportive of his career choice of comedy. His grandfather advised him to get a career that involves speaking.

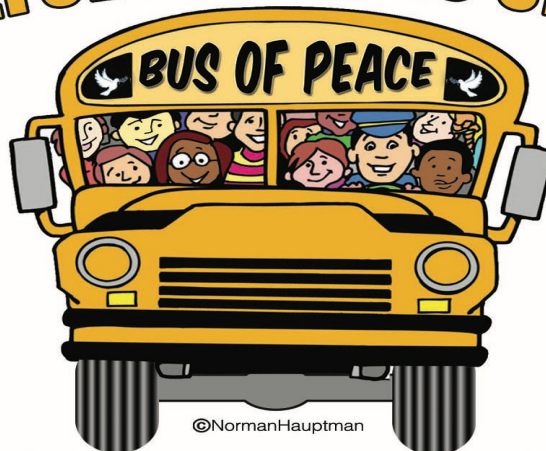
Fine said that comedy helps him overcome his bad childhood. "Performing in front of an audience can fill that void. The most fun for me is the writing process. To me it's like a science; there's a technique to it. There's something about the writing process. To look at a joke for 12-14 hours, to me that's (most enjoyable). I have a unique background,... seeing it through the lens of a rabbinical standpoint."

In the Spring of 2025, Fine plans to do an Off-Broadway show, and he hopes to finish a book that he was co-writing with Jackie Mason. "I'm tailoring the act for every single show," Fine said. "It's not like I'm using a template. That's how I keep it exciting. I enjoy every audience."

For more information, go to www.mikefinecomedy.com. or IG: @mikefine.

Left photo: Mike Fine at the world famous Dangerfield's Comedy Club, NYC.
Above photo: At the New York Friar's Club.

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GOLDEN WOOD JEWELS



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Model @reyna_ozawa, Makeup @bella_yumi1221
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Photography by Alexander Gurman, IG: @alexanderegurman,
Tel: 917 825 8225, alexanderegurman@gmail.com.

ALL THE TROPHY TIES COLLECTED



Model/Designer:
Amanda Dunkirk@dunkirk
Styling Amanda and Alexander.

CANVAS CLAY IN SHAPES

Designer @lakshmicaldera.
Makeup @bella_yumi1221
At Sky Wise Lounge, Brooklyn, NY.

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Only Belts and Buckles



Belts Fashion Show Model
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ART BASEL MIAMI:

WynWood Walls

By Athena Star, Photos by Linda Zuidemeer

Since 2002, Miami, Florida has opened its galleries, shops, streets and walls to an art phenomenon called Art Basel. Founded by Swiss Gallerists Ernst Beyeler, Trudi Bruckner and Balz Hilt, the global art platform recently has been estimated to attract over 79,000 people to pass through the Miami Beach Convention Center. Art Basel has established itself as a key event for art collectors, galleries and enthusiasts globally. It has also become a “must-attend” event for the highest level of contemporary and modern art, as well as attracting movie stars, top musicians and pro athletes to the fair’s festivities.

Named “The World’s Most Prestigious Art Fair,” Miami Beach opened its newest edition, Art Basel, 2024, under the leadership of Director Bridget Finn. This year’s installment of Art Week Miami Beach for the first time included complimentary water taxis connecting Miami Beach with downtown Miami, along with a fleet of free, dedicated shuttle buses designed to transport visitors and residents to a variety of art fairs, including the art destination, Wynwood Walls, located at 2516 NW 2nd Avenue.

Wynwood Walls was founded in the early 2000s by Tony Goldman, a visionary real estate developer, whose passion for neighborhoods and his belief in the power of art and culture to revitalize overlooked areas. Tucked nicely next to The Design District in the City of Miami, the outdoor museum features cutting-edge works from leading fine artists, graffiti writers and muralists from around the world, all thoughtfully curated by Goldman Global Arts, founded by Tony Goldman. Since its inception, The Wynwood Walls program has seen hundreds of artists representing over 20 countries and has covered over 80,000 square feet of walls. In the 15 years since its inception, Wynwood Walls has lead the charge on elevating street art into the global phenomenon it is today. What started as a simple collection of murals has evolved into a global destination hosting everyone from the iconic figures that birthed the street art movement to today’s legends-in-the-making. The museum has become a must-see international destination, with media coverage that has included the New York Times, BBC News, Vanity Fair, and Forbes, who mentioned them along with Wynwood on their list of America’s hippest neighborhoods.

Each year, there has been a theme designated to the annual Miami Art Week program as a new group of artists transform the Walls with new murals to enjoy. This year, Wynwood proudly hosted talented artists such as Shepard Fairey, Elle Street Art, Kenny Scharf, Ron English, Jesse & Katie and DiDi Contreras, among many others. Their colorful artwork and immensely stated sculptures engulfed the property, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in plein air art.

For more information on The Wynwood Walls at Art Basel, go to www.thewynwoodwalls.com or www.artbasel.com.

Photos Top Row (l to R) 1: Elle Street Art; 2: The Last Supper, Lauren YS; 3: Mexico, 2021, Farid Rueda; 4: Untitled, Kenny Scharf; 5: Butterfly Pearls, DiDi Contreras; 6: Sculpture: Panda 2022, Bordalo II; Background painting: Untitled, Jesse and Katie; 7: Temper Tot, Ron English; 8: Sculpture: GALA, Hebru Brantley; Background painting: King Basquait, Kobra.





DIANA "DIDI" CONTRERAS

Brings Her Art to Art Basel, Miami

BY THOMAS CARTER



DIANA "DIDI" CONTRERAS is an established, prolific Miami-based artist. "Her

work is inspired by her blended identity from her Peruvian roots, with her Miami upbringing. From painting murals in the Urban Art scene to exhibiting canvas pieces in galleries,

her art has been seen in exhibitions and private collections internationally, including Street Art Dubai Gallery in Dubai."

Most recently Didi Contreras displayed her artwork at Wynwood Walls for the 22nd Annual Art Basel held this past year in Miami. Of her featured illustrations presented was a tropical mermaid, whose sultry look was evocative of the legendary cartoonist, Bill Ward. Her paintings, such as Ex-hale With Butterfly and Butterfly Pearls, were fresh additions to the classical figurative art genres, while her sculptural pieces such as Tres Cero Cinco, includes a bold use of color and fantasy themes. Her piece on the race car driver, was impressive and attention grabbing. Her artwork, being unique with noticeable parallels to popular artists of the past, has attracted wide interest amongst critics and collectors of modern art.

Contreras' primary medium is oil, but she also enjoys experimenting with anything she can get her hands on. From canvas, walls, stickers to shoes, her work embodies femininity and always sets her characters in whimsical portraiture. Her distinct style emerges from her love of classical techniques infused with her passion for illustrations and street murals.

Contreras received her B.S. in Art Education and a Post-Graduate of Art in Education from Florida International University. She also studied abroad in Florence, Italy where she focused on Art History and the old masters. Additionally, she enrolled at the Art Students League of New York in New York City for painting, fermenting her status as a resilient and successful artist.

Photos: Above: Tres Cero Cinco, Right Page: Mermaid (top) and Race Car Driver (bottom).

For more information on DIDI CONTRERAS, go to www.dianacontrerasart.com.



The art of NUMEROLOGY

By Jo Lance

Numerology is the study of energy, frequency, and vibration. Modern numerologists apply numbers to people, and some systems designate numbers with repeating digits as master numbers.

In Numerology, your life path number is said to represent your true nature, uniqueness, and karmic debt. Some believe that your life path number, along with your name, can explain your traits, strengths, and life path.

To calculate your life path number, you can use the following steps:

1. Write out your birth date.
2. Add the month, day, and year together.
3. If the result is a double digit, add the digits together until you get a single digit.

Gematria in Fashion

1



by Jo Lance

Leader-Fighter -Pioneer

Gematria in Fashion

3



by Jo Lance

Child-Creativity-Comedian

Law-Builder-Organized

4



Gematria in Fashion

Beauty-Entertainer-Travel

5



Gematria in Fashion

Gematria in Fashion

6



by Jo Lance

Caregiver-Family-Responsible

34



Gematria in Fashion

7



by Jo Lance

Genius-Loner-Philosopher

Gematria in Fashion

8



by Jo Lance

Abundance-Karma-Wealth

Gematria in Fashion

9



by Jo Lance

Artist-Chameleon-Healer

Master Numbers



Gematria in Fashion
by Jo Lance

Charismatic-Manifestor-Visionary

Master Numbers



Architect-Balanced-Materialistic
Gematria in Fashion

Master Numbers



Gematria in Fashion
Educator-Matrix-Trailblazer

POEMS



by Jo Lance

SPIRITUAL WARRIOR

By Jo Lance

In shadows deep, where silence dwells, An empath walks with untold spells. A heart so wide, yet heavy with pain, In a world that scoffs, and leaves disdain. He whispers truths that others fear, A light that flickers, but not sincere. With open mind, he seeks to share, Yet laughter rings, an empty snare.

"Crazy," they call him, "lost in a dream," As he weaves his thoughts like a fragile seam. In crowded rooms, he feels the chill, A chosen one, yet alone, he stands still. His spirit soars on winds of grace, While mocking glances carve his face. In every kindness, a wound exposed, In every

smile, a heart deposed. He walks the path of the misunderstood, A spiritual warrior, a force for good. But in his chest, the ache does grow, For a world that fails to see the glow.

Yet through the dark, he holds the light, Though weary, he fights the endless night. For in his heart, a truth resides, That love can heal where sorrow abides. So let them mock, let them deride, He'll stand unwavering, with hope as his guide. For in his spirit, the universe sings, A melody of peace that only he brings.

Contact: #poetry, #love, #poetrycommunity, #poem, #writersofinstagram, #quotes, #poet, #writer, #poems, #poetsofinstagram, #writing, #lovequotes, #wordporn, #poetryisnotdead, or #inspirationalquotes.

Montserrat Contemporary Art

Manhattan, New York

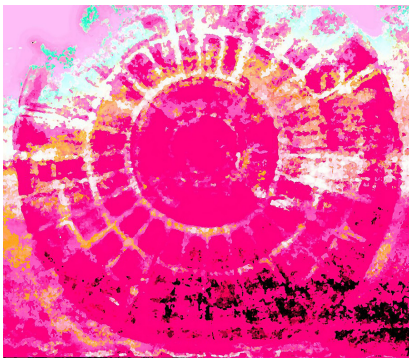
Established in 1989

We have been dedicated to the service of Contemporary Art with a physical location in SoHo, N.Y., since 1989. In 2005 we moved from SoHo to Chelsea, New York.

Our mission is to promote artistic excellence. We focus in showing mid-career artists, helping them in the development of their career.

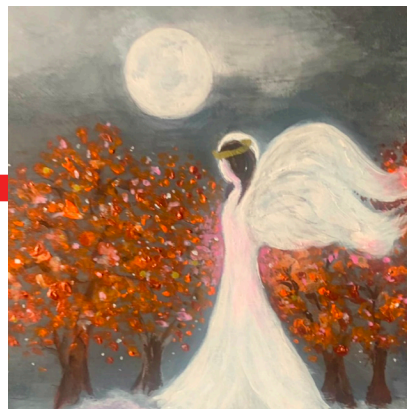
After our graduation from the Faculty of Fine Arts of Sant Jordi, Barcelona University, we realized our dream of showing Contemporary Art in New York City, the capital of the art world, where collectors, museums, galleries, and the general public, can view contemporary artists at our Chelsea location.

FEATURED ARTISTS



PILAR VIVIENTE,
FUSCIA RODETTE

For some time now, I have been developing the concept of "Rodete" in my work through digital art, mixed media and music. The wheel-shaped ornament on each side of the Lady of Elche Iberian bust is called Rodete. My artistic research revolves around the theme of the wheel in all its symbolic meanings and its role in the historical process.



HOLLY ADAMS, NOVEMBER ANGEL

With an art degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Adams's art attempts to speak to all, to discover peace from within. Working with Acrylics and mixed media, Art speaks in many voices and my work expresses tranquility and fragileness. I feel the process of healing and art compliment one another to connect the idea of hope and beauty to enlighten the lives of people with the sense of comfort and harmony.

Adams has shown her work in galleries in New York, Atlanta, Milwaukee and Roswell, GA and abroad in London and Egypt. She is currently represented by the Hall House Fine Art Gallery in Dahlonge, GA.



DOROTHY KRAKAUER,
FLOWER IN FLIGHT

My statement for many years has been "There is beauty even in a thorn. Beauty is everywhere. I love light, shadow, movement, and color. I find newness every day, and I love to be outside when I produce my artwork. Nature has been good to me for there is where I find my most beautiful subjects."

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HOUSE OF LANA

Modern Decor,
Inspired by Touch

By: Leela Briggs

Hi, my name is Leela Briggs, and I've recently embarked on an exciting creative journey; my home decor brand, House of Lana!

I craft modern texture art using joint compound and spackle, transforming ordinary materials into stunning, one-of-a-kind pieces. My inspiration comes from the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi, an ancient concept that celebrates the beauty in imperfection, simplicity, and the passage of time.

At its heart, wabi-sabi teaches us to appreciate the imperfect and incomplete. This philosophy resonates deeply with me, and I strive to reflect it in my work—highlighting the beauty in flaws and creating pieces that remind us to embrace



life's delicate imperfections. This journey is a brand-new venture for me, one I'm incredibly passionate about. As an artist still exploring and refining my craft, I find joy in pushing creative boundaries and discovering fresh ways to bring textures to life.

In honor of my debut, I want to give back to those who support me at the very beginning of my journey. I'm offering to create 10 free pieces of art for

the first 10 people who reach out to me (one piece per person). These aren't just gifts—they're also opportunities for me to experiment with new designs, techniques, and ideas.

If you'd like to claim one of these exclusive pieces, you can email me directly at leelabriggs16@gmail.com. Whether you're looking for something to complement your home decor or just want to experience the calming beauty of texture art, I'd love to collaborate with you.

Thank you for joining me on this journey.

Let's create something beautifully unique together!

**FREE
ART!**



The Power & Perseverance of Percussionist

By Sandra Castillo

If music were an umbilical cord, JOHN MAHON has been tethered to it his entire life. From his early beginnings, as a young boy-born and raised in Canton, Ohio—who'd fully immersed himself in music lessons, school bands, the high school choir and later, playing one of the principle leads in a production of "The King and I," it's no surprise that Mahon's journey, from adolescence to adulthood, eventually led him to concert stages, front and center, around the world.

At the behest of his drum instructor, who Mahon praises as a "fantastic teacher," Bill Severance (a former alumnus at Berklee School of Music in Boston) encouraged Mahon to leave Ohio and go to Los Angeles or New York. Mahon took Severance's advice, and in the summer of 1983, he and his wife moved west to California, where he's now been ever since.

A highly in demand musician, Mahon has worked with Peter White, Rita Coolidge, Al Stewart, Helen Reddy, and Chuck Negron (Three Dog Night) and eventually secured the coveted position, as percussionist, in Elton John's band. Thanks to a dear friend and bandmate, the late Bob Birch, who had worked with Mahon in the late 1980's, introduced Mahon to Davey Johnstone, Elton's longtime lead guitarist. From there, Mahon had flown to the South of France, showed up at the rehearsals in preparation for Elton's 1997 world tour, got the gig, as his percussionist, and as they say, the rest is Rock and Roll history.

Talent in Motion recently spoke with Mahon at his home in Los Angeles, where he revisited his youth, Elton's swan song—the Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour—and what it's like to work with one of the most iconic performers in music.

Let's go back to where it all began, when you were growing up in Canton, Ohio. My father was a policeman. The

police department in Canton had started a Boys Club. There were four of us boys, so Dad would take us there to keep us from killing each other.

There's some seriously gorgeous, empyreal, almost divine firepower permeating your playing, when you onstage.



Top Pic:
John Mahon
L & R Pics Cer
Elton John
w/the Band

One day, the Boys Club decided it was going to start a drum and bugle corps. I was twelve years old, maybe thirteen, in the eighth grade, and we used to go down there all the time. They had a boxing gym, basketball and movies on Saturdays and all those drums, trumpets and flugelhorns laid out. The staff asked me, 'What do you want to play?' I said, 'I want to play the drums!' I joined the drum and bugle corps, and my two older brothers were both horn players in that band. I was also in the marching band in high school and in the concert band, where I played timpani, cymbals, and other different instruments.

JOHN MAHON



Before you ever teamed up with Elton John and joined his band, did you listen to any of his music, while growing up in Canton? My brothers and I had records and a turntable. One of us had, I believe, the Goodbye Yellow Brick Road album. In those days, you'd own a bunch of records, and if you were like me, you couldn't afford to own a bunch of them. So you'd borrow records from your friends. My friend, this piano player I was playing with back in high school, had Madman Across The Water. I loved that one! He also had the songbooks, and we'd sit at this local bar that had an old upright piano in the back and play the Elton John "Madman Across The Water" songbook. The strange part about it is I never played any other songbook or anybody else's (music)-just Elton John.

As a percussionist, you've quite an impressive arsenal. What instruments do you employ to create all that beautiful noise? The percussion instruments I use are Latin percussion or LP Music. They're the main congas, bongos, shakers, tambourines. For my cymbals, they're Zildjian, who I've been with since the 1990's. Remo are the drumhead people, and Vic Firth is the drumset company that made a custom stick, half-mallet and half-timbali, for me.

There's some seriously gorgeous, empty, almost divine firepower permeating your playing, when you're onstage. To what do you contribute these elements? I bring a totally different layer (to the musical equation) than what Ray Cooper brings. He's more like a meat and potatoes percussion player. He's laying down these beautiful tambourine and conga parts. His timpani playing



is unbelievable! I have an electric system (Yamaha) onstage. With the Yamaha drum system, I can play any sound I want-big booms and explosions-that Elton has put on a record.

Given his reputation for excellence, it seems that Elton John would not settle for anything less. What's it really like to work with him? Elton is good to work for, because he knows what he wants and knows exactly what he wants to hear. He's not afraid to tell you exactly what he wants you to do. When you work with Elton, you really have to be bulletproof.

How do American audiences differ from that of other audiences around the world? American audiences are very raucous. They like to party and have a good time. British audiences are very similar to American audiences. They like to have a good time, drink, party it up. The Irish-they are the best audiences. They like to sing along (with the music). Then you've got the Germans. They love Elton! Asia's a different story. (The audiences there) are super subdued. In Japan, they just sit there. Great Britain, Scotland, Germany, Ireland-those are our big, wild audiences.

Elton John's "Farewell Yellow Brick Road" tour kicked off in Allentown, PA, in September 2018 and wrapped up its final show in Stockholm, Sweden in 2023 at the Tele2 Arena-five years later. A triumphant success, the tour was attended by over six million people and grossed nearly a billion dollars. At that time, "FYBR" was the biggest-selling concert tour in Rock and Roll history.

How did you decompress, after coming home from this celebration heard 'round the universe? I did some little road trips on my own. I went out to the desert and did some hiking and spent time by myself, because I'm the kind of person who needs to be on my own a little bit. I also did some mountain biking out in Moab, Utah.

Now that the tour is in the rear-view mirror, what do you hope the future brings your way? It would be nice to see Elton play a few more shows, just so we (the band) can all be involved a little bit more and be a part of his music. I think that would be kind of fun, actually.

Parting question, John. What's your advice to anyone who's serious about investing their time and energy into making music? The one piece of advice I give musicians, when asked, is remember the three P's: practice, perseverance and passion.

For more information:
www.johnmahon.com or
 IG: @johnmahonworld.

The Josie MUSIC AWARDS

By: Sharyn Weintraub, Photos: Gill Caballero

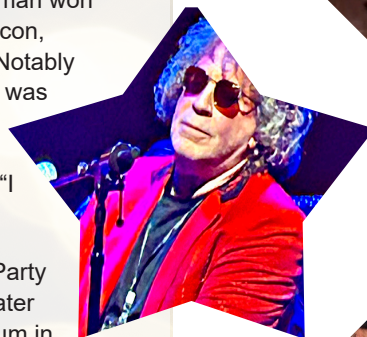
THE GRAND OLE OPRY HOUSE in Nashville hosted the 2024 JOSIE AWARDS. The awards show, which was established in 2015 by Josie Passantino-Boone and her daughter, Tina Passantino, is the largest music awards show for independent music. Awards are given to singers, songwriters, and industry professionals who are deemed to be outstanding talents.

A few of the lucky nominees and award recipients were: Gary Patrick - Winner for: Folk/Americana/Male Artist Of The Year, John "SoHo Johnny" President of Tribeca Records (right) was nominated for "Best Record Label." Singer/Songwriter Clare Cunningham won the "Songwriter Achievement" award, Jonathan Heilbronn won the "Young Adult Male Artist of the Year" award. Randy Edelman won the "Songwriters Legend Award", and 80s music icon, Tiffany, was the winner of the "JMA Icon Award." Notably absent due to an illness was Irene Michaels, who was nominated for two prestigious awards including "Artist Of The Year." In 2023 she won a Josie Award in the Pop Song Category for her hit song "I Like Rain".

Starting with the 10th Anniversary Pre-Party Celebration Concert held at the CMA theater at the Country Music Hall Of Fame & Museum in downtown Nashville on Saturday, October 26th and concluding with the Josie Awards on Sunday, Oct. 27th, it was a most entertaining weekend. Congratulations to all of the nominees and winners.

Captions: Left Side: Irene Michaels. Jonathan Heilbronn. Gill Caballero in front of the guitar at the Grand Ole Opry. Tiffany sings "I Think We're Alone Now." Right Side: Sharyn Weintraub in front of the Grand Ole Opry. Gary Patrick, winner of Folk/Americana/Male Artist of the Year. Randy Edelman singing his hit song "Weekend In New England." John "SoHo Johnny," President of Tribeca Records being interviewed.. Singer/Songwriter Clare Cunningham poses with her "Songwriter Achievement" award.

For more information: www.josiemusicawards.com.



SHIJE SOLID

By Melissa Schiller

Musician and writer SHIJE, is known for her folksy style and poetic lyrics. Frontwoman of the eponymous band, she has spent her life pursuing her passion and drawing influence from the environment around her. She also has forged a path in writing, interviewing well-known creatives in her city. But her first love? “Always music,” she told me.

Shije said music was always her first love, but she learned a lot from her mother, who worked as a publicist and a writer. She saw her mother getting published in major magazines and thought, “I’ll always have that to fall back on...I can ask people questions and type.”

Growing up in the Southwest would help shape her musical aesthetic. An upright piano that came with a home purchase proved to be a gift in Shije’s childhood. She also played viola and guitar in school and started writing songs at age 11. Eventually, she joined an all-girl rock band in college while obtaining her B.A. in Psychology. In 2011 she got her master’s from Pace. Shije credits nearby Fordham University’s WFUV.org radio with giving her the start in airtime.

Her lyrical themes include grief over losing a friend to addiction (Skin), relationships that didn’t quite work out (Anything, Alone with the Fire), and the oneness of humanity (The Dance of the Fire).



Shije also discovered a love of writing poetry and interviewing celebrities. For example, she met artist Mark Kostabi



(known to the masses for his cover art of Use Your Illusion 1 & 2 by Guns ‘n’ Roses) at the Martin Lawrence Gallery in Soho and interviewed him for an article. Her poetry has been published and is available for viewing on her site, Shije.com and her Instagram @ShijeCom.

When asked how she chooses who to write about, she considers her fans: “If I think the audience who loves my music might be interested in this person, I ask them,” she said. The interviews add another dimension to her site, fostering a community of individuals with similar tastes.

Aside from playing acoustic or rock shows, and an occasional glamorous Sunday brunch in New York City, Shije also gets her name out to the world by singing at sports games, including singing the national anthem and doing halftime performances. During the holidays, she creates merch such as hot cocoa mugs with pictures of her album covers. “On sale for \$12, ships direct from the factory to your mailbox. This year my store has hoodies and totes. Substack is next, digital downloads, free album covers, posters and swag.”

Shije is currently recording new work, an affirmation and validation audiobook “Right On, Rock ON” and song “Dance of the Fire”, which will be released first on Apple Music. A music video and musical theater are in the works with Shije’s songs “See My Eyes” and “Fools Gold”

For more information on her music and written work, visit Shije.com.

THE GLOBAL LEGACY OF DECON

By On Davis

DECON BLU is a Hip Hop MC original! With the global legacy of the art form now having reached past its 50 year mark, Decon Blu has been a contributor all his life!

Hailing from Central Islip, New York, Blu was introduced to the a world of musical expression by his father, who, when he was only five years old, gifted him a Steely Dan record. On that recording was a track named "Decon Blues". As Blu morphed through his MC stage names as a youth, it was this track that impressed him all his life, and, hence, Decon Blu became his claimed name to fame.

Central Islip was a cultural mix bag for Blu growing up, and the world of Hip Hop was an all too welcoming environment for youthful fun and expression. Blu started collecting records from the earliest Hip Hop stars such as Houdini, Run DMC and Grand Master Flash. But Hip Hop stars were no strangers to his own home town scene, and it was the likes of K-Solo, Hit Squad and Keith Murray who fueled Blu's love of the music. By the time Blu was 10 years old, he had already amassed a wonderful collection of Hip Hop music. Totally enthralled, Blu took every chance he could to mingle with the older teen kids, finding himself more often to be the youngest kid around. Not yet 15 years old, Blu had already gone to work producing a 'mix' tape of himself, already showing his command of this new and exciting street culture. By the time Blu had graduated High School, he was well on his way to becoming a major player in the game.

In the early mid-90's, Blu found himself in Dajhelon Studies in Rochester, New York, honing his craft in the environment of future Hip Hop stars such as Missy Elliot, Timberland and DJ Green Lantern. It was K-Solo who specifically wanted to include Blu as part of his 4-squad group to open the acceptance of the genre for all youth worldwide. Blu then found himself in Rock and Reel Studios, a base for ground breaking efforts that sprung the likes of NAS and Red Man. The sculpting of the identity of the Rock and Reel artists was profound, in that the motto was "no colonization! Be heard before you're seen! Be your best YOU! Respect the culture, and pass it down!"

After these years of collaborative efforts with numerous artists, Blu decided to make his move to go solo. By the end of the 90's, Blu had performed and/or appeared in compilation releases that had him starring along with De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest, Arrested Development and Black



Sheep. Also, amazingly, Blu even was featured with rock legend John Entwistle of The Who. Blu was on board for the 2004 Warped Tour, perhaps one of the biggest tours at the time, bringing Blu to the stage of international attention. In 2006, Blu signed to "Jazzy Hip Hop", a label from out of Japan, and produced more compilation efforts, this time being featured along with Black Thought of The Roots and Aloe and Black, ushering the introduction of another generation of genuine Hip Hop stars. A second release was distributed in 2011 to the roar of approval by Blu's fans.

Producing on the Bouchoux Label, Blu released 5 EPs in one and a half years, an ambitious feat. With these releases, Blu countered the growing presence of 'low level' rapping with wit, sarcasm and street-wise profundity. Blu conscientiously avoided any leanings to comment on political agendas or to entertain lining up during the east-west rapper wars. Taking any sort of position with these regards was never of any interest for him. Blu was always committed to lifting the community of Hip Hop with strong worthwhile and positive focuses of which he saw could be his roll to leave a legacy. Blu opted to infuse his brand of classic 90's beats and stirring rhyme to incite positive reflection and hopeful inspiration. Blu long sensed recognized that being an artist can be a difficult life. Dealing with matters of business and self management, especially being a solo artist, demands another kind of attention, things that only concentrating on performance skills often fall short on.

BLU



So Blu decided to enroll in college, the idea of it escaping his immediate attention while he pursued his MC dreams. Having accomplished his wildest dreams as a successful MC, Blu decided to re-enforce his personal securities. Today, Blu has a business administration background and has involved himself with a variety of enterprising endeavors. He prides himself with being a family man and with a desire to set an example for the next generation of youth in the Hip Hop game. For one, Blu has since his beginnings renounced himself from the use of vulgarities and profanities. He remains steadfast with his committed motto to "pass the culture down".

After a 20 year solo career, something not easy at all to maintain alone, Blu stands as an artist of integrity and resilience. Ever remaining in the game of Hip Hop, Blu has been working together with his longtime associate from out of Memphis, Paul-Paul Fresh. The two have formed a 4-squad crew called the "Four Sportsmen", together with Tone Chop and Frost Gamble. This group has released a new effort entitled "Quadro", to the motto of, "If it aint fun, it aint gettin' done!" Long live a king!!

For more information on Decon BLU, go to IG: decon-blumusic, Facebook: Deconblumusic or deconbluxpapafresh.mysshopify.com.

Photos By Ted

FB: Ted Karpovich
tedkar1@juno.com



**Photo: Steve Van Zandt,
Little Steven, from
The E Street band
and Silvio from the SOPRANOS
at his charity golf event
August 2023.**



CHRISTINE WALEVSKA: Cello Remastered

BY ERIC KUZMUK

Christine Walevska has held center stage among world renowned cellists ever since her first concert appearance in an internationally recognized venue at the age of eighteen. Her remarkable performance at such a young age brought her great acclaim along with prestigious awards and she soon established a rich roster of successful performances. Her talent was innate, and her skills developed rapidly. She inspired the sort of accolades normally reserved for star performers who have reached maturity.

Typical of the many early tributes was the comment by the Los Angeles music critic Patterson Greene: "Christine Walevska parallels on the cello the singular persuasiveness of Fritz Kreisler on the violin." Having launched her career on such firm footings she has spent more than four decades concertizing around the globe during which she has played with orchestras throughout Germany, the United States, France, in every corner of Spain, Poland, Mexico, Central and South America (where she has brought music to every big city or small, wherever there is a concert hall with an orchestra or piano to accompany her), in Holland with the Rotterdam Philharmonic, The Hague, in the Concertgebouw, the Stockholm Philharmonic, the Israel Philharmonic, Vienna, Italy, Prague, Cuba, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Dresden Philharmonic, concerts in Japan, Hong Kong, China and Taiwan.

One can only imagine that over the course of this extensive career, playing her extraordinary, antique and rare cello created in 1740 by the famed Italian luthier Carlo Bergonzi, she would have amassed a vast private library of recordings of her performances.

That treasure trove of glorious music has now been assembled into a boxed set of eight compact discs, curated by Emilio Pessina the artistic producer for Rhine Classics, an independent classical label in Venice, Italy. First released for purchase on December 1st under the title; CHRISTINE WALEVSKA | private archive recordings, the collection will soon be distributed internationally by Amazon. For complete information on the actual musical content of the CDs and on how to obtain them please go to <https://www.rhine-classics.com/products/rh-034-8cd-christine-walevska>.

We can offer our highest endorsement of this incredibly unique and inspiring collection of the great classical compositions for the Cello. Nothing can be more entertaining than listening to her in person when both our eyes and ears can take part in the intimate details of her virtuosity when playing her extraordinary antique cello. In addition to all that delicious music, during private sessions she relates such fantastic tales as having performed at the personal command of Castro in Cuba, and all the backstage intrigue, excitement and personalities involved in performing at the great concert halls the world over. If you are in the least way a fan of classical music you owe yourself the pleasure of experiencing the musical renderings of Christine Walevska.

For more information, go to IG: @christinewalevska or www.christinewalevska.com.

Opera Nightingale: KATARZYNA CZARNECKA

BY ATHENA STARR



Katarzyna Czarnecka is a talented opera singer and actress with a rich background in the performing arts.

Graduating from the prestigious National Conservatory in Poland, Katarzyna honed her craft in both opera and film studies.

Now based in New York City, she actively pursues her passion for acting, appearing as an background actress in notable productions such as "Law and Order," "Saturday Night Live," and newest "Frankenstein." With a unique blend of classical training and contemporary performance experience, Katarzyna continues to captivate audiences with her artistry and dedication to her craft.

Jadwiga Wandinger, has been a transformative force in Kat's life as an opera singer. As her voice teacher and mentor, she not only nurtured her vocal talents but also lifted her stage presence, instilling in her the confidence to perform. Her unwavering support and guidance have shaped her artistry, making her my biggest inspiration. "I am deeply grateful for the invaluable lessons and love she has shared with me," says Kat.

Kat's journey as a classical singer has taken her to magnificent venues across the globe; from the grand stages of renowned opera, to intimate performances at exclusive corporate events and glamorous galas. She has captivated audiences at prestigious charity events, using her voice to not only entertain, but also to make a difference, raising funds for various causes. Each performance is a unique experience, blending artistry with the elegance of the world's most celebrated cultural events. Her craft has allowed her to share the beauty of opera in diverse settings, leaving a lasting impression on all who have had the pleasure of attending those events.

For more information: Katarzynany2020@aol.com.

Aligning With The Stars: The Magic And Muse of **DURAN DURAN**

Story and artwork by Sandra Castillo, photos by Sandra Castillo and Timothy Link

If you weren't around when DURAN DURAN dominated the airwaves of MTV, VH-1 and the head space of millions of "Duranies," a moniker that identifies their rabid fan base, then there's no way to explain the magnitude of their popularity during the height of the group's fame in the 1980s.

The closest scenario to that global, mass hysteria was when the Beatles invaded the living rooms of millions of Americans on the evening of Feb. 9, 1964—courtesy of The Ed Sullivan Show. After the Fab Four had performed a five-song set, entire lives and future plans flipped 360-degrees for many people around the country, with the majority being young males, who'd decided NOW was the time to form music bands in their parents' garages. That "assault" on the nation's collective psyche was known as the "British Invasion."

Fast forward to 1982, and the succeeding wave of the first occupation, aka the "Second British Invasion," torpedoed its way across the Universe. Bands like Culture Club, The Police and Wham! found themselves locked into heavy rotation on music channels throughout the Free World. But, it was Duran Duran that unleashed the mother lode of all blitzkriegs on an unsuspecting public.

Insanely gorgeous, highly skilled musicians, who wrote their own songs and played their own instruments, while donning Antony Price menswear and sex appeal as accoutrement, Duran Duran were suddenly the hottest commodity on Planet Earth in the 1980s.

With the release of *Rio*, the band's 1982 juggernaut, and music videos for "Hungry Like The Wolf" and "Rio," the album's title track of the same name, Duran Duran were now global superstars. Thanks to the visionary foresight and direction of filmmaker Russell Mulcahy, whose flair for superb linear composition, exotic on-location shoots (Sri Lanka and Antigua) and tantalizing facial close-ups of each band member, Duran Duran's videos were nothing less than cinematic masterpieces.

As an artist and photographer for over four



decades, I've been massively influenced by Duran Duran's artistry and music. They were, and still are, an aphrodisiac for my creativity. From methodically studying and scrutinizing their videos to incorporating a visual aesthetic of their highly stylized imagery into my work, I was able to unharness my inner Duran Duran onto canvas and film. The end result has been extremely gratifying, which has allowed me to become a more efficient, effective artist.

I dare think what would've become of me, if Duran Duran had not existed. Fortunately, I've never had to face the consequences.





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Photo © David Schrichte

PARADISE ISLAND, BAHAMAS:

By Mark Seidman

The BAHAMAS has a distinct culture that has evolved over generations, from a mixture of mostly African, combined with some British and American influences, which developed into a unique and colorful style of Bahamian self-expression. Bahamians are best described as easy-going, friendly and hospitable. Being a part of the British Empire, they have British laws such as the Westminster Parliamentary System of Government, driving on the left and also drinking tea as daily routine!

The biggest most extravagant Fish Fry in the Bahamas can be found on ARAWAK CAY in the capitol of Nassau. It's one long strip of land, with sit-down restaurants and ends at the beachside, where beach shack barbecues serve up a whole new vibe and don't forget the tropical conch salad! The international straw marketplace in downtown Nassau is a great place to buy local crafts, souvenirs, gifts and other daily necessities. It's a fun place to visit where one can bargain to get a good price and they have nice open-air restaurants as well.

Located on the pristine white sands of Cable Beach, Baha Mar is the Bahamas newest luxury resort destination. You can choose from the iconic ocean-front hotels—the richly refined Rosewood, the playfully hip SLS or the stylish and ultra-modern Grand Hyatt, which opened in 2019 and is a stunningly gorgeous property. Dinner at the fantastic Asian Fusion restaurant on premise called Cinko Asian Latino Grill, which also happens to be kosher, entailed a delicious meal of Peruvian polo and steak.

Paradise Island sits just offshore from the island of New Providence in the Bahamas. Two bridges connect to the city of Nassau, over Nassau Harbor. It is known for its powder-soft beaches and crystal clear turquoise waters great for diving and snorkeling. The white sand beaches include popular Cabbage Beach and Paradise Beach both edging on the Atlantic Ocean. Dominating the island is the sprawling Atlantis Resort complete with a casino, where visitors can try their luck at the Atlantis Casino which connects The Royal and Coral resorts.

Atlantis features five distinct hotels in which to stay: the grand iconic towers of the Royal, the family-friendly ambience of the Coral, the spacious waterside villas at the Harborside Resort, the all-suite luxury accommodations at the Cove and residential-style living at the Reef. You can dine “around the world” at celebrity chef restaurants at any of the locations. There is a shuttle bus every 15 minutes that connects all the properties.

Also on premise is the Aquaventure Waterpark and an extensive marine habitat. Predator Lagoon and Tunnel between the Royal and the Coral puts you

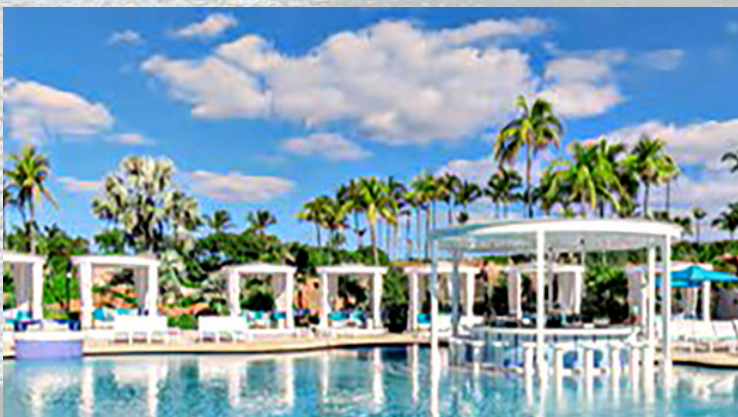
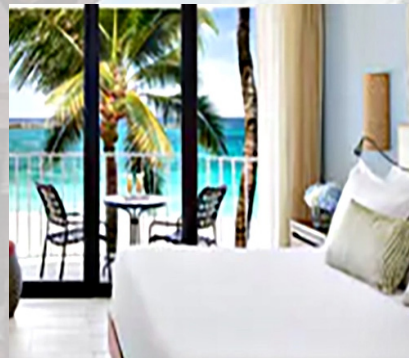
face to face with its awesome predators as you walk through a transparent 100 feet underwater tunnel submerged in the lagoon with 360 degree views from above and below! You will see huge hammerhead sharks, barracuda, sting rays, sawfish and giant grouper living among vibrant schools of fish. At the Dig Aquarium you are transported back to the ancient lost city of Atlantis



with ruins and artifacts from the mythical city alongside impressive marine exhibits. There is a lot of exploring you can do with lionfish, sharks, human-size moray eels, colorful jellyfish that seem to change color and sting rays gliding through the water among the ancient artifacts transporting you back to an ancient time.

Dolphins Cay at the Cove, is the world's largest open-air marine habitat, discover Dolphin Cays extraordinary environment and marine mammal interaction program. Dolphin Cay is one of the most sophisticated marine habitats in the world with the Caribbean Premier Marine life rescue. It supports the Atlantis Blue Project Foundation a non-profit organization working to protect coral reefs and sea-life. Here you can check off one of your bucket list items,

An Experience Like Nowhere Else



where you can swim freely in a natural ocean-fed deep water lagoon alongside a sleek bottlenose dolphin, in this one-of-a-kind educational adventure!

The Coral Resort has a great pool with a swim-up bar, a lazy river around the property with waterfalls and sharks and sea turtles. The adjacent property, The Royal, features the biggest water-park in the Bahamas with 141 acres of high-speed slides and 14 pools! Aquaventure promises a one-of-a-kind water escape where fun meets paradise! The Cove, which is a stunning high-end resort, features an adult-only clothing-optional pool! Afterwards you can have a drink at the gorgeous Sea-Glass, a sophisticated bar/lounge with stunning ocean views.

Marina Village Atlantis, is where paradise meets luxury in a bustling water-front setting. Spanning over 65,000 square feet and featuring

more than 20 designer and retail shops, this vibrant outdoor marketplace invites you to stroll through its charming streets. You can lose yourself in the delightful ambiance as you explore the shops discovering the latest fashion trends or try on exquisite jewelry and unique treasures that capture the essence of the Bahamas. If you're hungry, grab a bite at Murray's Deli or at the Burger Shack or stop in for fresh conch salad at Mackenzie's and then kick back with a delicious craft beer at the Pirate Republic Brewing Co. For finer fare, Cafe Martinique and Seafire Steakhouse are sure to satisfy the most discerning palates. We had a delicious meal of lobster at Bimini Restaurant during the JUNKANOO Parade that takes place every Tuesday and Friday at 9pm at the Marina Village. It's a most joyous, colorful parade, with very colorful costumes and great lively music that makes you get up and dance with the revelers! The biweekly celebration gives you a taste of the much larger JUNKANOO Festival, a lively celebration of music, dance and costumes that takes place every year in downtown Nassau around Christmas and New Years.

There are many reasons to visit the Bahamas including the beautiful beaches, tropical climate and rich cultural heritage. The Bahamas is known for its white sandy beaches and clear blue water, with plenty of sunshine year-round. You can relax, or try the water sports; and its clear waters are great for snorkeling and diving and where you can explore various species of the coral reefs, underwater caves, and colorful marine life.

Photos: Top L:to R: Cave swimming at Paradise Lagoon, Leap of Faith from the Mayan Temple, Snorkeling the Ruins of Atlantis, Delux Suite at the Coral, Lobster at Bimini in Marina Village. Bottom L to R: The Aquaventure Waterpark, The JUNKANOO Parade at Marina Village and the pool at The Coral. For more information, go to atlantisbahamas.com or bahamar.com.

Food Network's **SOBE WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL**

Presented By Capital One

Images courtesy of The Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival presented by Capital One (SOBEWFF®)

Story by Stefano Kaplan



MIAMI BEACH, FL - The 23rd Annual South Beach Wine and Food Festival touched down in Miami Beach this past February. The 4-day event had something for everyone, from tastings to hours-long parties to celebrity seminars. Chefs and sommeliers occupied the more than 100 booths to offer everything from lobster rolls to Cuban sandwiches, fulfilling the festival's mission to "Eat, Drink, and Educate."

Foodies loved Thursday night with Rachel Ray's Burger Bash, where they sampled some of the best burgers in the country. Pincho, a Miami-based casual restaurant, won the People's Choice award in the contest. Their burger was by far the best we tasted. Celebrity chef Guy Fieri hosted an event titled Diners, Drive-ins and Dives, named after his successful show. The event included a contest in which Memphis Uncle Lou's Fried Chicken took the win with their delicious chicken and biscuits.

The Wine Spectator Trade Day started things off on Friday



at the Goya Grand Tasting Village. The crowd experienced the world's best spirits. Our favorite was the Crossfire Hurricane Rum, launched by the Rolling Stones and named after their famous lyric. A blend of Caribbean runs from Jamaica, Barbados, and the Dominican Republic; the spirits aged up to five years in charred aged barrels. For the chic crowd, Fontainebleau's Best of the Best (sponsored by Cristal) was the place to be seen.

Saturday was Tacos and Tequilas (presented by Tequila Cazadores and hosted by Aaron Sanchez) and the Hallandale Beach Food and Groove event, held at the Village of Gulfstream Pegasus Park. The weekend's crown jewel was the closing night block party on the sands beside the iconic Ritz Carlton. Hosted by Melba Wilson, with a performance by hip hop legend Rev Run from Run DMC, he had the fans screaming at "Walk This Way."

All net proceeds from the festival benefited the Florida International University Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

For more information, go to www.sobewff.org.

Photos: This Page, Top left: Pincho's Burgers, Right: Bartenders promoting the Johnny Walker brand, Bottom Left: Rev Run from Run DMC. Next Page Top: Beach Dessert Food Sponsors, Middle: Patty & Franks Sausages. Bottom Left: Chef Scott Conant and Bottom Right: Sagatinni Chef.





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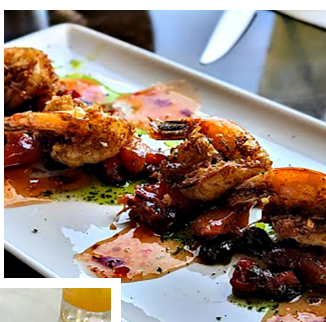


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RESTAURANT REVIEW:

Fine Dining & Birthday Celebrations at KALUZ Restaurant

By: A. Brooks, Photos by Linda Zuidemeer & Gayle Levitt



TOP: COCONUT SHRIMP
LEFT: DANISH RIBS.



TOP: CEDAR PLANK SALMON
LEFT: TOP SHELF COCKTAILS
RIGHT: GOING BANANAS. BANANA CAKE.

Located on the intercoastal waterway in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, KALUZ is an upscale American restaurant and bar, serving premium food, cocktails, wine and desserts. With a diverse menu featuring seafood, steaks, vegan, and vegetarian options, Kaluz caters to a variety of tastes. A recent birthday celebration at Kaluz was complete with great atmosphere in a picturesque setting, awesome food and drinks, and lots of fun!!

ON THE MENU: COCONUT SHRIMP, Hand Dipped Jumbo Shrimp, with Sweet Mango Compote, Chili-Ginger Beer Glaze, Cilantro Olive Oil and STEAK AND PORTABELLA FLATBREAD, with Diced Prime Rib, Portabella Mushroom, Gouda, Red Pepper, Blue Cheese Crema, and Parsley for appetizers, were easy to share with my fellow birthday guest. For a dinner entree, I enjoyed the KALUZ DANISH RIBS, with Pork Baby Back Ribs, Kansas City Barbecue Sauce, French Fries, with Sweet Coleslaw and my birthday companion

had the CEDAR PLANK SALMON, with Faroe Island Salmon, Cedar Roasted, Brown Sugar Mustard Glaze, and Asparagus, with a Wild Rice Blend. And for our birthday dessert, we shared the delicious GOING BANANAS Banana Cake, with Chocolate-Hazelnut Icing, Shaved Coconut, Sliced Bananas, and Vanilla Ice Cream. Yum, Yum!!

Throughout our visit, we enjoyed lively day views on the canal, with grand yachts arriving at the nearby dock that turned into evening celebrations. Our server, Ben, was especially attentive to our needs, providing exceptional service and was wonderfully entertaining during our stay. The ambiance was delightful at Kaluz, perfect for a date night or gathering with friends and family. I invite you to come and experience their wonderful attributes for yourself.

KALUZ Restaurant
is located at 3300
Commercial Blvd,
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954.772.2209.
www.kaluz-restaurant.com.





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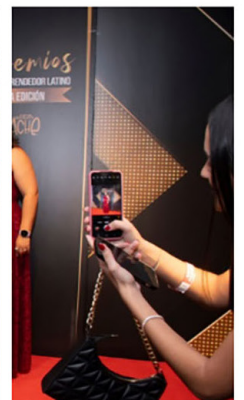
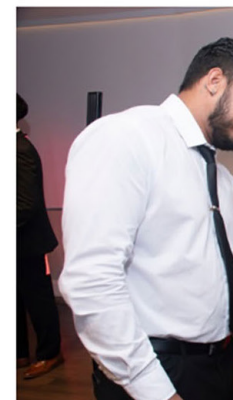
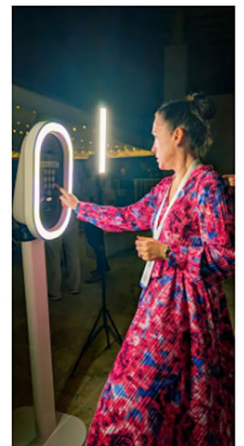
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EVENTS

SIZZLING EVENTS in South Florida

By Sharyn Weintraub



Photos: Left Side: Top: Sport Illustrated Runway Show - Miami Swim Week, South Beach. Bottom: Florida Grand Opera "What Would You Do For Love?" event - Temple House, Miami. Right Side: Top: Sheila Rinker(r) 2024 honoree from Palm Beach Atlantic University, Breakers Hotel, Palm Beach Bottom: Florida Follies performing in Coconut Creek. Bottom row - L-R: 1. RDF Melanoma Fashion Show Luncheon - Breakers Hotel, Palm Beach 2. Guy Bavli, Master Of The Mind, entertained at the Riverside Hotel, Fort Lauderdale. Photos 3. 27th Anniversary Wine & Spirits Culinary Celebration - Museum Of Discovery & Science, Ft. Lauderdale. 4. Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits entertaining at "Stars Of The 60's" - Boca Raton. 5. 27th Anniversary Wine & Spirits Culinary Celebration - Museum Of Discovery & Science, Ft. Lauderdale. 6. Sharyn Weintraub & Gill Caballero attending the show "Memphis" - Lauderhill Performing Arts Center, Lauderhill, FL.



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The ANNUAL DERBY PARTY

Draws an Impressive Guest List for 2024

By Melissa Schiller with Stefano Kaplan

LOUISVILLE, KY—Celebrities and socialites descended upon Louisville to attend the 35th Annual Barnstable Brown Gala, known as the party to be seen during Kentucky Derby weekend. This year, the Derby's 150th anniversary guaranteed a city full of celebration.

The Gala, founded by twins Patricia Barnstable Brown and Priscilla Barnstable (whom you may remember as the Doublemint Twins), has raised nearly \$20 million for diabetes research throughout the years. Named by Conde Nast as "one of the 10 best parties in the world," guests could purchase tickets to dance and mingle with celebrities; past guests have included Tom Brady, Jack Harlow, Cyndi Lauper, and Paris Hilton.

The party took place in the Barnstable Brown residence, a beautiful home on a hill near the Churchill Downs. The gala took on a special meaning this year. Patricia's granddaughter, Catherine Barnstable-Brown, was diagnosed this year with Type 1 diabetes. The brave 10-year-old, who must manage injections and blood sugar monitoring daily, appeared on the red carpet with her father, Christopher Brown, to discuss her diagnosis and offer hope and strength. This year's guest list included Josh Groban, Tracy Morgan, Smokey Robinson, Tina Knowles, Kid Rock, Larry and Dannielynn Birkhead, Pepa from Salt-n-Pepa, Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, Aaron Rodgers, Wynonna Judd, Jack Harlow, and many more.

For more information on the Barnstable-Brown Diabetes Center, please visit: <https://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/barnstable-brown-diabetes-center> For more information on the Barnstable Brown Gala, please visit the Instagram account at @barnstablebrowngala.

Photos (top to bottom, L to R): Patricia Barnstable Brown, Catherine Barnstable and Chris Barnstable, Wynonna Judd, Holly Robinson Peete and Tina Knowles, Frances Gladney and Smokey Robinson, Tracy Morgan, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Dson and Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, Josh Groban and Natalie McQueen.



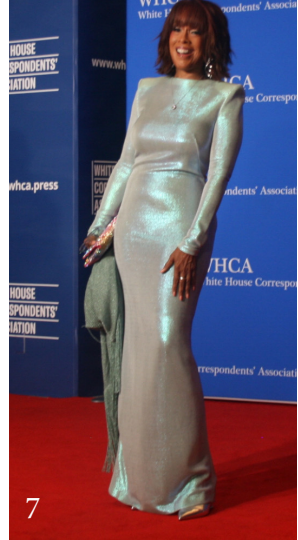
SHAGGY'S CORNER...

Photos by Stephan Kaplan and Papawarin Raksasutee



PHOTOS:

Andre Agassi at US Open Tennis, Flushing, NY. 2) Chris Stein, from rock band Blondie, at Morrison Gallery, NYC. 3) Yoko Ono at book signing. 4) Patricia Fields at NYC fashion week. 5) Josh Groban At Barnstable party, Kentucky. 6) Frankie Valli of Four Seasons rock band. 7) Gayle King at White House Correspondents Dinner, Washington, D.C. 8) Miami socialites at Wheels, Wings, and Fashion Charity Boca Raton, Fla. 9) Lindsay Vonn, Olympic Gold Medalist. 10) Taylor Swift leaving boyfriend Travis Kelce's football game.



The WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION's Annual Dinner

By Melissa Schiller with Steve Kaplan



Photos: Top (L to R): Sophia Bush w/Karine Jean Pierre & Ashlyn Harris, Scarlett Johansson & Colin Jost, Anthony Blinken & Evan Ryan, Fran Drescher. Bottom: Molly Ringwald & Panio Giannopoulos.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The White House Correspondents Association's Annual Dinner, affectionately known as the "Nerd Prom," lit the Washington Hilton abuzz with celebrities, correspondents, and President Biden himself. Many of last year's guests returned on the red carpet, including Chuck Schumer, Fran Drescher, Rosario Dawson, and Gayle King. Scarlett Johansson joined her husband, comedian of the night Colin Jost.

The guests mingled for a couple of hours before settling in to hear the comedy, speeches, and award announcements. Jost's comedy set touched on the rivalry between Biden and Trump, the TikTok ban, and cocaine in the White House. The Wall Street Journal team gave their second red carpet tribute to their colleague Evan Gershkovich, who has now been detained in Russia for more than a year.

President Biden offered additional jabs at both himself (in a self-deprecating way) and Trump (in an unironic way). He added the following dedication to the journalist community: "There are some who call you the 'enemy of the people.' That's wrong, and it's dangerous. You literally risk your lives doing your job. You do."

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