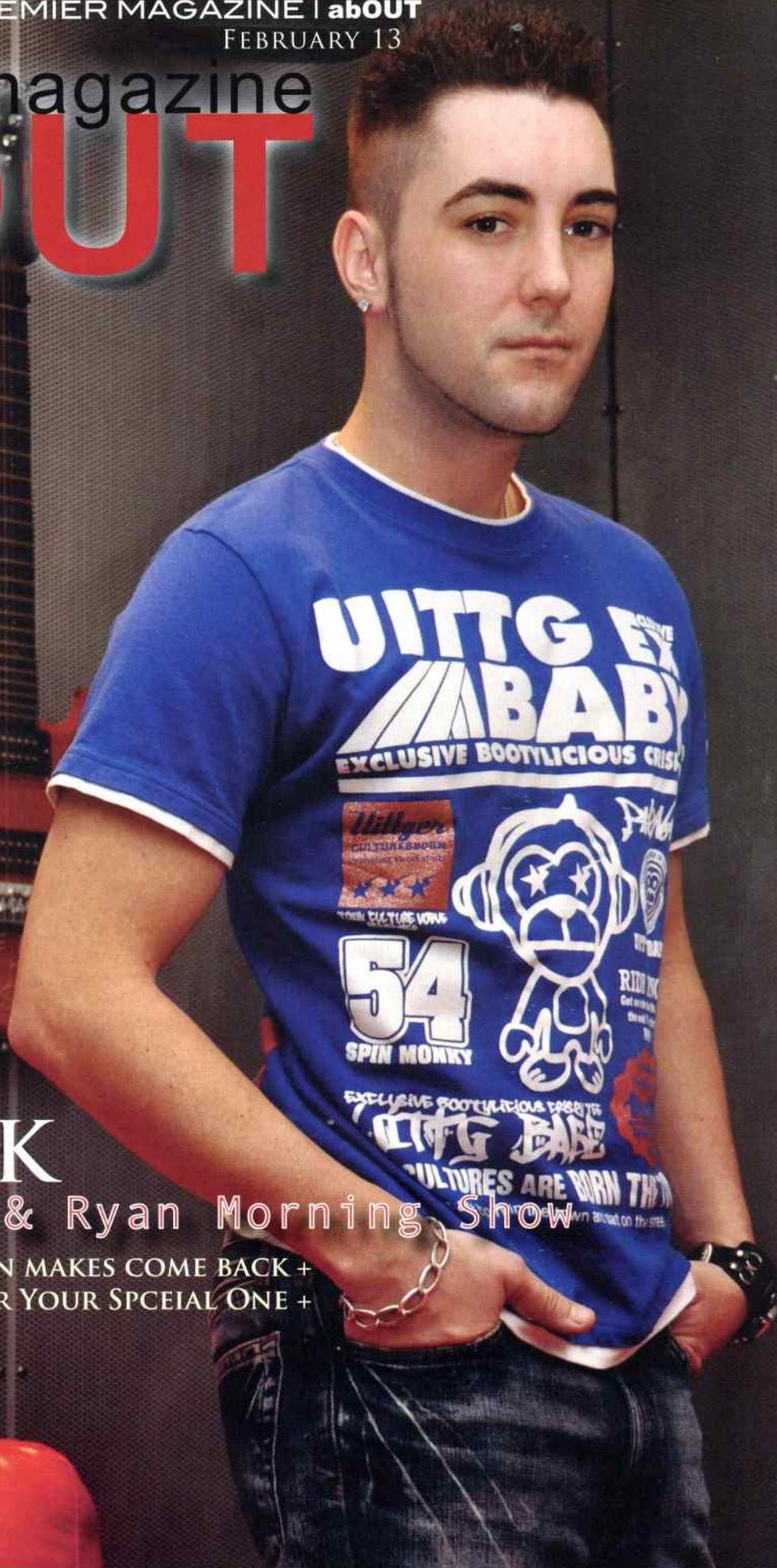


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February | 2009

Volume 1 Issue 6

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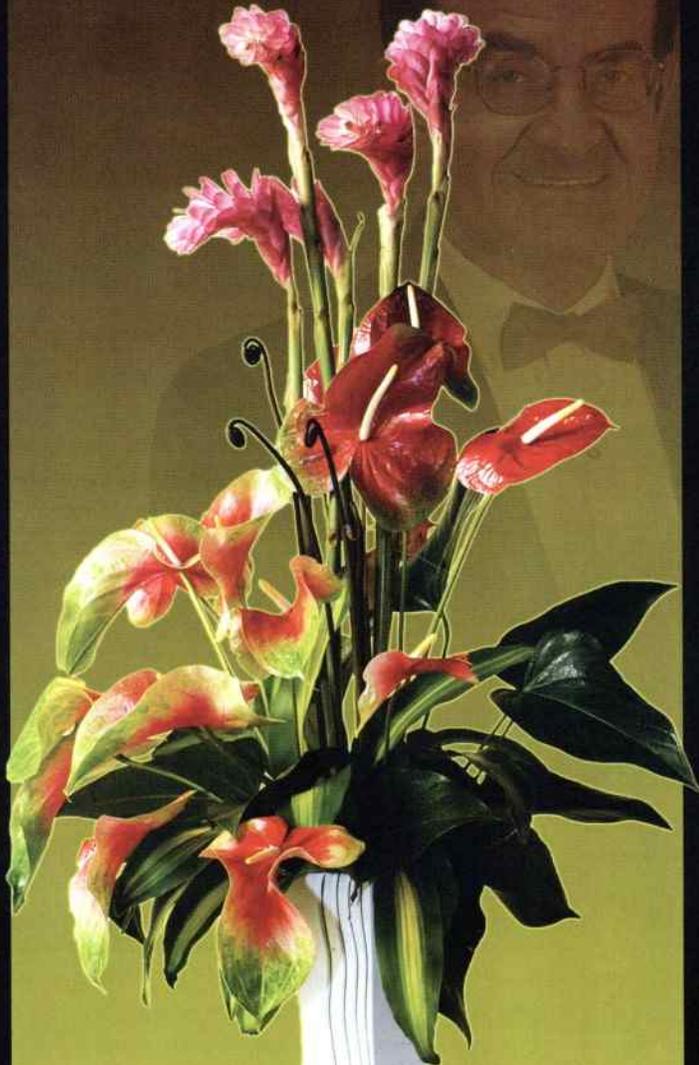
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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Working, working, working. That's what this publisher seems to do these days. Long gone are the nights with friends and the road trips with family. Now it's more like the real world hit me all at once. The night clubs, beats on the dance floor, the lights, and not to forget a mention to all my favorite bartenders at all the amazing clubs I once to use to be a part of are now a distant and missed memory.

I've always wanted to give back to that industry that in my opinion is often overlooked. I wanted to sit down with each DJ from the local clubs and bars and do a write up on each one of them. Well that definitely did not happen. BUT I've made up for it and did a profile on the ones that I could get a hold of.

This issue is themed Diva's and DJ's and covers some of the amazing talent Houston has to offer, as well as some of the national talent.

The next few issues of abOUT should be something of interest, you will see many new additions to the abOUT layout, including a new column that we assure will be a hit in the community. "YES Ma'am, NO Ma'am" will cover the styles and fashions in the community in a new catty way.

I hope the readers of abOUT are as excited as I am about this issue. On February 27th we'll have a exclusive sit down interview with Houston City Controller Annise Parker, who has recently announced her candidacy for the top job in Houston: Mayor. No topic was off limits, so expect a very candid conversation.

As I said last time, thank you today and thank you tomorrow for all your support.

Code Michaelz

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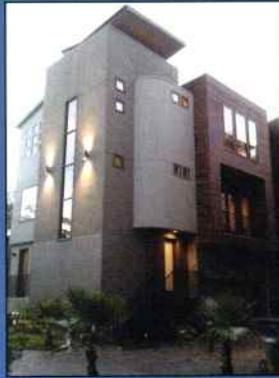


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abOUT Exclusive by: Cade Michals

"I can't believe they made you do that Special K, do you get paid for that or are you an intern?" -- Sallie Mae Average Listener

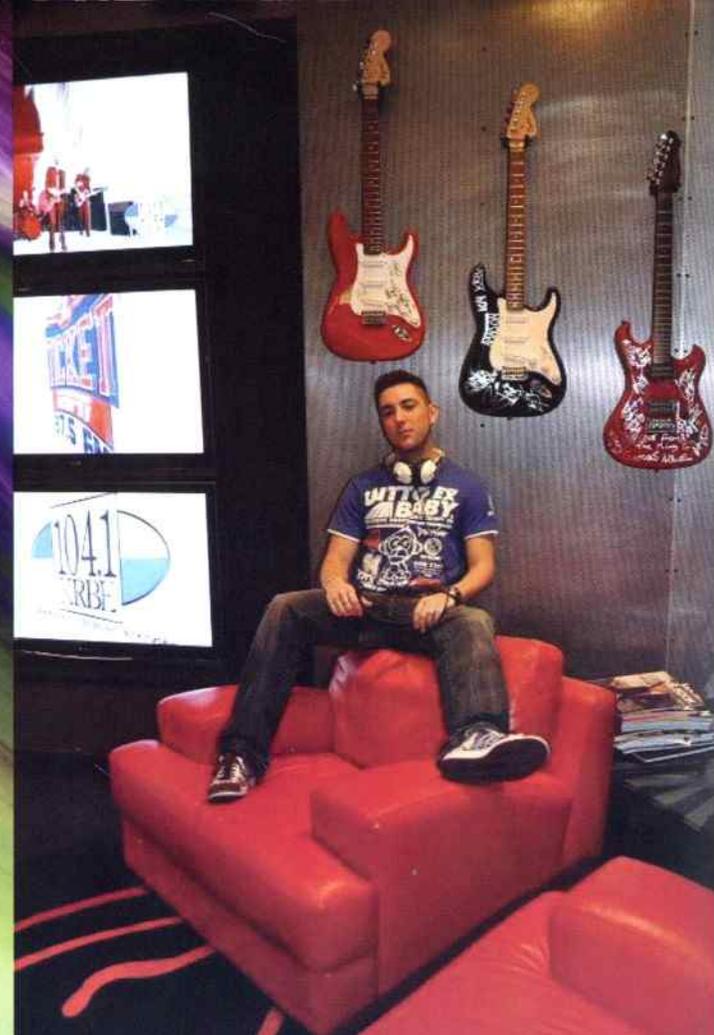
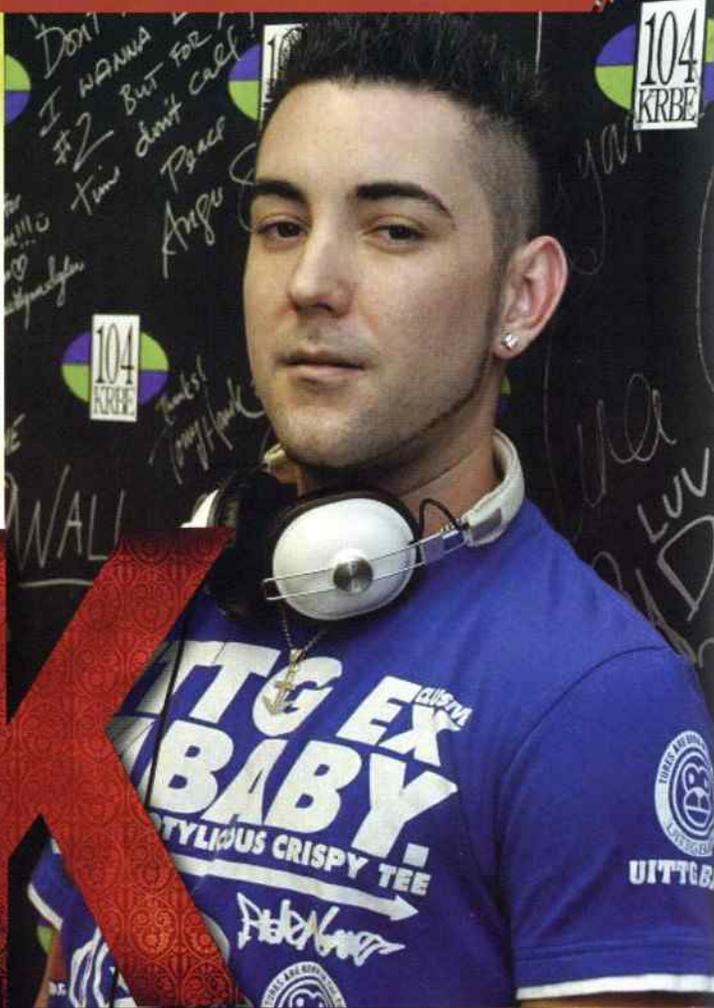
Its 9:30 on a Monday morning and my photographer and I are in the lobby of 104 KRBE. Special K is still on the air for the next thirty minutes, so my time is passed staring at the wall. Not just any ordinary wall, these walls are lined with hundreds of autographs and signed guitars. I must admit to all who have never made it to the station, it's pretty much a rock stars office. So that made it a little easier being up so early. For those that don't know Special K, it could be because he has had several names in the community. Some know him as Limey, the DJ at the once popular "O" Club in Montrose. Then comes Kevin, or maybe you know him as the amazing DJ behind the tables at Guava Lamp. But Houston KRBE listeners know him as Special K, the witty voice on the Roula & Ryan Show, weekday mornings on KRBE.

SPECIAL K

"Welcome to the Roula & Ryan Show", Special K announced to us as we walk into the studio. Special K seems to have a million things going on behind the scenes, in addition to being on the air. The crew is prepping for the arrival of Cindy Crawford, who will be in the studio the following day. "I really want to be here, pleaseeeee", Special K pleads to Roula, in an attempt to get out of a remote promo broadcast that would interfere with it. "Signing with Roula & Ryan was a huge risk and an expensive move but now I can say it's by far the most rewarding position I've ever been in. I no longer have to Spin, Teach, and sling promotional material just to make rent"! Special K says as we sit in the studio. "Some people go to work and sit in a cubicle crunching numbers or pushing for the next sale. I however spend my mornings making a mockery of pop culture and current events. Sometimes that means i get to make an ass of myself! Woo Hoo! Some people say self deprecation is a key to endearment but I guess I get off on it a little".

"I get up at 3 every weekday morning to be here at the studio, and sometimes that's rough, especially if I have a club gig the night before", he explains. "But this is radio, and this is KRBE, and I love it so much. The people that I work with on a daily basis are amazing, and it's never the same. Each day holds something totally different".

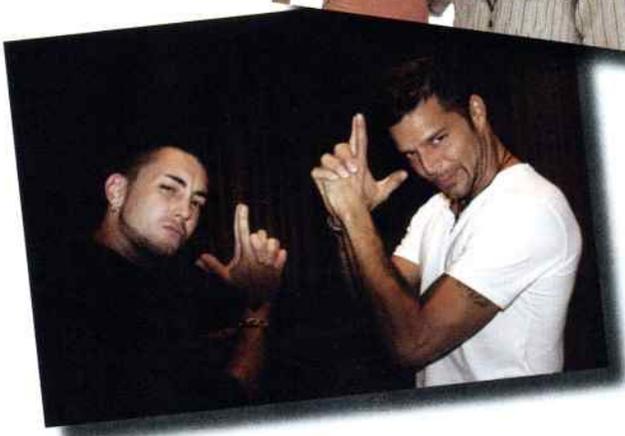
104.1 KRBE DJ



As we tour the studio, Special K shows us what use to be the "jocks' offices, now an empty room with a wall full of autographed signatures from the many many A-list celebrities that have made their way through the hallways of KRBE.

Special K has not always live in the Houston area. "I've been back and forth from the East Coast twice now. I never even considered living in Texas though. It seemed so weird and foreign, plus it seemed like no place for a twinkie lil gay boi! Thank goodness my mom made me check out Texas A&M Galveston when it was time to rush me off to the Military at 18. HELLO! It was beautiful compared to the frigid winter wonderhell that I had come from in Delaware. I was sold. Even though I didn't stay in the Corps of Cadets at A&M I did end up hooking up with most of them! HA! I wish! Ug. Regimental life was not for THIS twinkletoes. I ended up graduating from UH bitches! I did, however come out of A&M as a Shellback named LIMEY! ...WTF does that mean? Well "Limey" is derogatory term used for English Sailors. I was a Sailor by the name of Kevin England at the time. Limey was Born... Soon to be killed off by the offensive and inappropriate Special K... You can credit Ryan Chase'.

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AMERICA'S TOP DJ'S

BURNING UP GAY DANCE FLOORS

BY PATRICK FLEMING

There are more DJs than ever in 2009 — 150,000 and counting if you believe the national DJ registry. It seems these days, any guy or girl with a headset, mixer and an iPod can call him or herself a DJ.

But there is more to being a star DJ than just hitting the play button on a stereo. You need to be a master in track selection, own technical skills, spark creativity, be consistent, and most important: you have to be able to pack a dance floor.

The mix masters on this year's Top Ten not only meet all the criteria — they excel in it. That's why they're ranked above the 149,991 other so-called DJs as the best of the gay dance floor. Here they are in descending order of gay — er — greatness.

9. DJ WAYNE G

Wayne G rose to prominence as the original headliner of London's "Heaven" nightclub, but it's his sea-gig aboard Atlantis Cruises that most gay fans know him for. Circuit crowds also hail him for spinning gay super events including Sydney Mardi Gras, Berlin Love Parade, Folsom St Fair, and Fire Island's Pines Party.

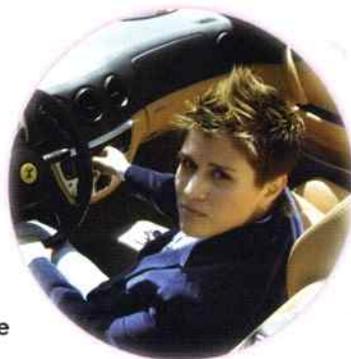
A talented producer, Wayne G has remixed for the likes of Cher, Christina Aguilera, and Celine Dion — but don't call him a commercial DJ. He eschews being categorized in any one particular genre. He weaves house, anthemic vocal tribal, and Latin flavored percussion to create a melodic high energy journey all his own. You can get a taste of it in his new remix compilation album, *Move: Atlantis Dance 2009* (Silver Label), in stores now.



8. ALYSON CALAGNA

Alyson Calagna admits she doesn't play by the rules. She spins a wide variety of music from pop to electro, some tribal and even funky house. Her love of beats and her passion for making people feel alive on the dance floor have made Alyson one of the most in-demand DJs on today's dance floor.

Last year, Alyson's career reached an important pinnacle when she headlined Arabian Nights at Disney's One Mighty Party event. The exposure rocketed her to the top of the DJ pool, landing her even more gigs. In fact, in the first quarter of 2009, Calagna will be appearing in twelve US cities, an impressive feat in these tough economic times.



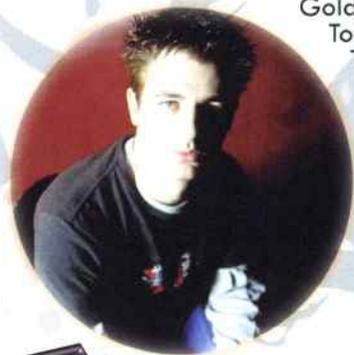
7. SCOTTY THOMPSON

Scotty refuses to take himself too seriously; and that is the treat that's endeared him to fans around the world. Sure, guys lust for his bod, but they yearn his for his beats too - and enthusiasts call Scotty a savior from the boring, self-important circuit DJs of yore. "I'm not afraid to take risks," explains Thompson. He differentiates himself from other DJs both in approach — mixing on the fly, layering tracks on top of one another — and in content: he refuses to constrain himself to strict genre boundaries. He also strives to offer the circuit crowd something different. He plays a diverse array of House, Electro, Vocal and Tribal sounds. "You don't always have to listen to Beyonce," laughs Scott. "There are other names in dance music, people."



6. SETH GOLD

If you haven't heard of Seth Gold, it probably means you're over thirty. If you're in your twenties, well then, kid, you need to get out more. In fact, two years ago both Out Magazine and Instinct Magazine heralded Seth Gold as the next "It" DJ. Last year, Genre Magazine named him "America's Hottest DJ". It's not just because of his good looks. Gold has something most other DJs don't - the ear of the young gay crowd. His previous national parties - "The Varsity Tour", "The Black Out Tour" and last year's "Spring Break Tour" - were



smash hits with newbie gays. This year, Gold embarks on "The Knock out Tour", featuring the stars of TNA Wrestling. It's sure to be another big gay hit with the kiddies.

5. TONY MORAN

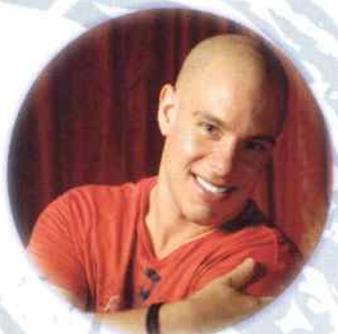
Gay club goers literally crawl out of the woodwork for a chance to hear Tony Moran play. For sure, he is a true rarity in the industry. Few can say they've stood in the sound booth with the likes of Bruce Springsteen, Michael Jackson, and the late Luther Vandross. Moran hit a milestone this year, clocking in two decades in the dance world. He may be older than



most of the other top DJs on the gay dance floor, but he is also wiser. He predicts a shift in the gay party scene. "Twenty years ago, gay partiers let loose in small bars. Then the late 90's were all about big rooms. Now, gay partiers are shaking their groove things aboard enormous, lavish cruises. The venues change, but the party remains

4. ESCAPE

While many of today's top DJs complain of the lull in today's dance scene - arguing that the crowds are waning and that clubs are not investing enough money in parties - Escape says the gay club land is actually experiencing a resurgence. "The scene is more fun than ever," he says. "All of a sudden, the industry is back to high energy, happy music. The dark, monotonous beats that took over dance floors at the start of 2000 are history." In addition to his DJing gigs, Escape is one of the most sought after remixers on gay dance floors today. His remixes of Kristine W's "Never" and Sarah Altereth's "It Doesn't Take Much" are among the most popular mixes in clubs right now. But it's his remixes of Beyonce that are really getting all the single ladies' hands up.



3. JUNIOR VASQUEZ

They say that legends are made, not born. And after years of making the beats, playing the clubs, and producing the names that have kept club-goers partying for years, Junior Vasquez can easily count himself a legend. But that doesn't mean it's time to count him out. Twenty years after he started his meteoric rise to international fame and invented the notion of the superstar DJ, papa's got a brand new of tricks up his vinyl sleeve. "When I look

back at my discography, even I'm impressed," admits Vasquez with a laugh. Indeed, he's worked with countless divas including Whitney Houston, Cher, and Britney. He's also one of the few people out there to piss off Madonna... and Live to Tell about it. "I like being controversial," he says. "I'll keep doing whatever I can get away with, because if you don't cross boundaries, you don't get attention."



2. HECTOR FONSECA

If any DJ understands the pulse of New York City, it is Hector Fonseca. With his residency at New York's hottest Saturday-night party, his Billboard-climbing remixes, and his new album New York Club Anthems Volume 3 (Star 69 Records) flying off music store shelves Hector Fonseca has proven he commands the sound of New York City. "The New York club scene has experienced significant changes in the past few years," explains Fonseca. "We are reclaiming New York as the epicenter

of the world's dance scene. Still, due to my frequent tour travels, I am heavily influenced by the beats I hear abroad and I feature those sounds in my sets too." Fonseca is a signed to the Star 69 music label, founded by superstar DJ Peter Rauhofer. In fact, Fonseca names Rauhofer as his DJ mentor - and it shows.



1. TRACY YOUNG

Tracy Young scores the top spot for '09! In between her gigs at the nation's best gay parties, Young spins for celebs like Lenny Kravitz, The Smashing Pumpkins, Sean "Puffy" Combs, and Russell Simmons. She is most famously connected with the Material Girl, who has personally called on Young to spin at her movie premieres, cd release parties, and even her

wedding! Tracy has nine music CD's under her belt including her latest - and, in our opinion, her greatest - Genesis, which celebrates her highly praised annual New Years day event in Miami. Young has been a top five DJ since 2000. She was ranked alongside the original super DJs Manny Lehman, Tony Moran, Vasquez, and Peter Rauhofer. But where the other giants have seen their stars fall, Young has continued to rise. 2009 is indeed the year of the woman!





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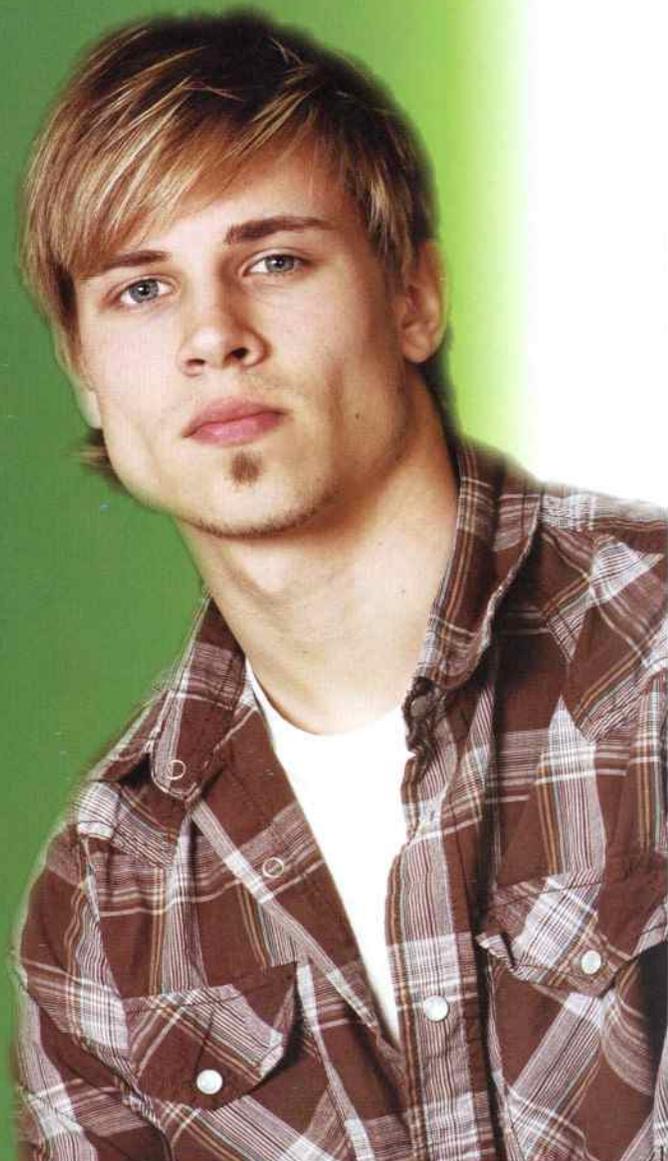
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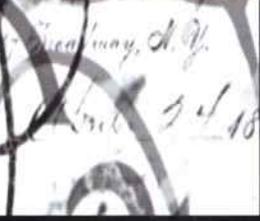
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out & about

By Cade Michals



LITTLE BIGS

In case you all have been living under a rock I feel it's my duty to inform you about a wonderful new addition to the lunch, brunch and late night atmosphere of Montrose. Little Bigs is a creation by Bryan Caswell and Bill Floyd, owners of the midtown landmark REEF. This restaurant has seen nothing but crowds since its opening only a few weeks ago. Offering delicious slider burgers with a choice of beef, mushroom, and or chicken, hand-cut fries, handmade milkshakes, beer, wine and even daiquiris to-go (which this reporter finds especially amazing), Little Bigs has nothing but success in its future. Located at the former Ming's (2703 Montrose Blvd), Little Bigs boast a new massive deck outside, Bryan and Bill seemed to know exactly what they want and exactly how to achieve it. Super Bowl Sunday, as well as every late night of the weekend, has seen a packed deck full of people enjoying the food. If you have not had the pleasure of trying a slider burger topped with caramelized onions and a special sauce, ya'll have my pity until you do!

www.littlebigshouston.com

HOUSTON TRANSGENDER UNITY COMMITTEE

The Houston Transgender Unity Committee has set March 16 as the postmark deadline for applications for the Peggy Rudd Transgender Scholarships. The non-profit organization will award two \$1000 scholarships at the annual Houston Transgender Unity banquet on May 2. Transgender individuals who currently attend or will be attending accredited institutions of higher learning are eligible. The application is available at www.htuc.org. The Houston Transgender Unity Committee formed in 1990 to bridge the gap between the groups and organizations representing transgender persons in the Houston area, to promote unity among the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, and to educate and advocate with open and honest advocacy. Representatives from Houston-area transgender groups serve on the Unity Committee.

abOUT Community

NEWS

www.abOUTmagazine.net

DINNER IN BLACK HELD

On January 25th, Chuck Renslow, founder of International Mr. Leather, was the featured speaker at the Dinner in Black, hosted by Rene Cantu. The event provided 40 attendees an opportunity to learn about the history of IML and how it has evolved over the last 30 years. The event served as a fundraiser for the Colt 45's AIDS Trouble Fund. "It was great to see our community support this event and even greater to see the camaraderie and brotherhood energy in the room," said Cantu. "My goal is that this type of event becomes an annual event."

For more photos, visit www.brihouphotos.com.

IN THE LOOP... ..

If you have not noticed the camera crews around town in the community, or maybe you have and are wondering what it's all about. Well abOUT had to find out and tell it's readers. We learned from the director of the crew, they are in town shooting footage for a new reality show that is going to be pitched to MTV, but will be Houston based. The director is a University of Texas Film major. Some of their recent spotting has been, at EJ's Bar, abOUT Magazine Launch Party, Cyclone's in midtown, and the Darke Art Gallery. Recently a VIP viewing party was held at Anita's Bar & Grill for a selected group to view the first few minutes of each show. If you were not able to attend, it was an amazing evening fill with a wonderful charity being rewarded with some of the proceeds of the evening's sales.

STARBUCKS 5TH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

The 5th annual Silent auction benefiting The Aids Foundation Houston will be held at the Montrose Starbucks located at Montrose Blvd & Hawthorne on Friday March 6th, from 5pm till 9 PM. Please join this fight to help raise much needed funds for a important cause! If you would like to participate by donating an art piece or maybe you are a business that would like to donate a gift certificate please contact the below names. One Houstonian is infected with HIV / AIDS every 8 hours.
Angela: alara@starbucks.com or Kevin: kroach@spacecityroach.com



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haircut and style

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Valentines for HIM

1. **Hobbies.** Collectible memorabilia: fanwear from his favorite sports team, movie scripts, or anything that adds to his collection
2. **Toys.** Electric scooter, remote-controlled cars and planes, Xbox, Wii, PS3
3. **Gadgets.** Digital camera/camcorder, plasma television, MP3/DVD player
4. **Sports.** Tickets to a sporting event, autographed ball
5. **Underwear.** Silk boxers or a terrycloth robe
6. **Camping.** Swiss army knife, tent, compass
7. **Office.** Briefcase, Cross or Montblanc pen, PDA
8. **Money.** Nice leather wallet or money clip
9. **Clothes.** Collared shirt, cashmere scarf, wool jacket
10. **Golf.** Passes to a local golf course, new clubs, golf shoes
11. **Adventure.** Race car driving, bungee jumping, sky diving
12. **Read.** A subscription to his favorite magazine, a new book
13. **Games.** Dart board, pool table, foosball table
14. **Drink.** Home beer brewing kit, wine rack, imported beer or wine, flask, decanter
15. **Smoke.** Some of his favorite cigars, an antique pipe
16. **Music.** iTunes Gift certificate, old records, new CDs
17. **Accessories.** Timepiece, cufflinks, belt, cologne
18. **Shave.** A Shaving kit complete with razor, brush and soap dish, electric razor
19. **Sexy.** Adult toys for couples, lingerie to surprise him with, candles and a bath
20. **Shopping.** Gift certificate or American Express giftcard

Valentines for HER

1. Does she need to be pampered? Get her a gift certificate to a spa where she can choose from an array of health and beauty treatments. A facial, massage or pedicure are sure to please.
2. Is she into the latest gadgets? Look for a digital camera that would best suit her needs and pair it with a digital picture frame. Pre-load the frame with pictures of friends and family so that she has something to enjoy.
3. What woman doesn't love jewelry? Look for a necklace or a bracelet that you think she would like, that way you don't need to worry about her ring size or whether or not her ears are pierced. Think about getting her birthstone or something personalized like an engraving.
4. Could she use a getaway? Plan a weekend to a nearby resort, ski lodge, or scenic town. Take care of all of the travel arrangements beforehand so all your special lady has to do is show up.
5. Does she drink tea or coffee? Get her an antique tea set with an infuser and some loose tea so that she can brew it herself. If she's a coffee lady find some imported gourmet coffee as well as an electric grinder and French press or Cappuccino maker.
6. Does she like to cook? Sign her up for some cooking classes. Look for an offering that teaches preparations for her favorite cuisine. Pair this with a cooking book and some specialty ingredients to get her started.
7. How about a change from the gym? Locate the nearest yoga studio and ask about a gift certificate or a small package deal. Purchase a yoga mat and a cute yoga outfit.
8. Is she a working girl? How about a new briefcase, blackberry or fancy pen? She will definitely appreciate the accessory and think of you when she's at the office.
9. A night on the town? Buy tickets to a play or concert that you can attend together. Dress, make dinner reservations and enjoy the special night.
10. Does she like to read? Say it with words, and they don't even need to be your own. Pick out a novel or a book of poetry that are meaningful to you and write a brief inscription on the inside cover. That way she'll think of you and the special holiday every time she opens the book.
11. Need a last minute gift? You can't go wrong with an American Express gift card, that way she can buy whatever she wants. Make a date to go shopping with your lady.

Billboard

1 This Week

Top 10 in the United States

Kelly Clarkson

My Life Would Suck without You
RCA / Digital / RMG

Beyonce

2 Single Ladies (put A Ring On It)
Music World | DIGITAL
Columbia

Kanye West

3 Heartless
oc-A-Fella/Def Jam | DIGITAL
IDJMG

Lady GaGa Featuring Colby

4 O'Donis
Just Dance
Streamline/KonLive/Cherrytree |
011524 |Interscope

Taylor Swift

5 Love Story
Big Machine | DIGITAL
Universal Republic

The All-American Rejects

6 Gives You Hell
Doghouse/DGC | DIGITAL
Interscope

The Frey

7 You Found Me
Epic | DIGITAL

T.I. Featuring Rihanna

8 Live Your Life
Def Jam/Grand Hustle |
516201* | IDJMG/Atlantic

Britney Spears

9 Circus
Jive | DIGITAL | JLG

Jason Mraz

10 I'm Yours
Atlantic | DIGITAL | RRP

Whitney Houston Returns to the Stage at Clive Davis' Pre-Grammy Bash

At one table, Paul McCartney bros down with Foo Fighters' Dave Grohl. A few feet away, Diddy is jumping a banister to say hello to the Jonas Brothers, while out on the balcony, Duffy shares a smoke with Slash. Welcome to the Clive Davis pre-Grammy party — the hottest ticket in town for music makers and the most difficult to score for those who work with them. That's because the annual gala features intimate performances by so "There's nobody that's not here," said repeat attendee Akon on the red carpet early on in the evening. "You literally could take the [Grammy] trophies, grab everyone who's nominated and give them their award tonight. Seriously." Indeed, a quick scan of the guest list revealed at least a couple dozen nominees, including Kanye West (who slipped in mid-show with Dr. Dre), winner Jennifer Hudson, Estelle, Josh Groban, Leona Lewis, Taylor Swift, Chris Brown and Rihanna. And there were also plenty of Grammy winners past and present, among them: Rod Stewart, Prince, Barry Manilow, Herbie Hancock, and, yes, a comeback-ready Whitney Houston.

For first-timers, however, the sheer star power can be a little overwhelming. Pre-fame Katy Perry had that experience. "I actually crashed the Clive party five years ago," she confessed. "Glen Ballard brought me and I was like, 'Wow!' It's probably gonna be a lot different tonight." Perry can take some comfort in knowing even legends still get star-struck. When Barry Manilow noticed Sly Stone standing outside on the balcony shortly after dinner was served, he had a near meltdown. "I can't talk," he stammered. "Sly's right there and I don't know what to say." Manilow went with what any fan in his position would do: he asked for a picture. Newcomer Duffy, meanwhile, fell victim to delayed celebrity recognition syndrome. After sparking a cigarette and a few minutes of conversation with Antonio Banderas, she finally figured out who she was talking to. "It was like I thought he was an uncle," she later said with a hint of embarrassment.

But as much as the fete is famous for who's there (though noticeably absent this year were Clive party regulars like Beyoncé, Jay Z, Alicia Keys, John Mayer, Pink, and Usher, who, Davis announced, had to cancel at the last minute due to a "serious family emergency"), the bigger picture is the music. Davis typically curates a mix of old and new, mostly pop and R&B with a smattering of rock, and always promises one surprise performance or a long-awaited comeback. This year, Kings of Leon filled the rock slot, playing their two singles, "Sex on Fire" and "Use Somebody" to a standing ovation by Grohl and McCartney. Leona Lewis extended her new artist billing by performing the chart-topping Grammy-nominated hit, "Bleeding Love." Jennifer Hudson elevated her rank, joining Manilow for the song, "I'll Be Good For You" (afterwards, he remarked, "What kind of a schmuck can follow that?"). Kelly Clarkson belted her new single, "My Life Would Suck Without You," along with Janis Joplin's "Piece of My Heart," by Davis' request. And at long last, Whitney Houston returned to the stage for a triumphant four-song mini-set.

And while usually it's Davis who bestows honors on the current Grammy graduating class and select alumni, this year he was the one getting recognized by the Recording Academy as part of its Salute to Industry Icons. Manilow did his part to pay tribute, telling the crowd, "Clive should get the Icon award every night. I think Clive has given the world more music than any person in history ever. I know that I wouldn't be here without him. I am the grateful recipient of this man's genius and I am proud to call him my friend." Houston echoed that sentiment. "He is truly my father in the music industry," she said from the stage. "We've been together for so long."

With a new album in the works, Houston's appearance was expected, though far from a sure thing. Carrie Underwood remembered last year's party, when Houston was in the audience but never took the mic. "Everybody was waiting on it and waiting, and it didn't happen. So I was very excited."

As the grand finale of the night, Houston did not disappoint. Wearing a form-fitting leopard-print dress and beaming with confidence and a healthy glow, she teased the audience with a snippet of "I Will Always Love You," before launching into "I Believe In You and Me," and "It's Not Right, But It's Okay." Jennifer Hudson, with Fantasia in tow, bolted for the front row so they could dance, sing and cheer along, while Jaime Foxx filmed it all on his digital camera. Houston closed out the set with a rousing version of "I'm Every Woman," which had Katy Perry hand-raising like a grandma at Sunday church. "She killed it," yelled Foxx after the last note was sung. "We gotta get this up on YouTube!" me of music's biggest names (all of Davis' choosing) in a Beverly Hilton ballroom packed to the gills with celebrities and industry VIPs. It's one hell of a schmooze-fest, but also an unforgettable display of talent.



summer abOUT



Baskit, the underwear company that helped usher in the fun-derwear movement, encouraging men to jump from boring white underwear to colorful fun briefs, is unveiling the next generation in men's underwear: Organic Underwear. The *Pure* collection, featuring 100% pure organic cotton, now available at select specialty stores and online retailers. Baskit swimwear will be available at Houston's Male U Wear.

What makes Baskit's *Pure* collection different from other cotton underwear?

Many of today's popular men's briefs are made from cotton that has been harvested in ways that are not friendly to the environment. Cotton growers are planting weak graded cotton and injecting them with toxic fertilizers to encourage faster growth and protect them from bugs and disease. The harsh chemicals harm the earth's soil and it was even recently discovered that they are being absorbed into the skin of men wearing the briefs, when mixed with their sweat.

Baskit's *Pure* collection, on the other hand, is made from 100% pure, organic cotton. It is grown using environmentally friendly farming processes, in environmentally appropriate areas. Baskit then processes the cotton using methods which comply with the EU Flower certification, the most recognized organic certification in the industry.

From start to finish, cotton to color dies to the box we ship it in, everything is environmentally friendly and EU Flower certified," explained Baskit CEO Eric Schwerts.

The *Pure* collection is available in a jock, a bikini brief, a low-rise trunk and Baskit's signature boxer. The briefs will retail for \$21-24.99, a bit higher than Baskit's other design collections, due to the higher cost of organic cottons.

Is going green with your underwear an extreme form of social-consciousness?

For a sneak peak at all of Baskit's new Spring 2009 collections, visit www.Baskitwear.com

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LOCAL DJ'S



DJ Chad Guidry's love for music began long before he was old enough to hit the clubs. As drummer in grade school and college he learned many of the details of music that he uses today during his sets. His passion for house music was sparked at the end of the 90's the first time he stepped into a dance club. As a DJ this passion is clearly evident. Regardless of whether he's spinning a house party, prime time club event, or a driving after hours gig, you can be assured that he'll be dancing right along with all of

the party goers. Chad's resume is filled with several well-known events and promoters: **Spoiled Boyz** (Houston, TX), **BCBC** (Houston, TX), **Bunnies On The Bayou** (Houston, TX), **Halloween XXIV and XXV** (New Orleans, LA), and **K/Os** (Dallas, TX) to name a few. DJ Chad Guidry can be heard every Friday night at **Guava Lamp** Houston and can also be heard regularly at **Oz** New Orleans.

DJ Darrell After graduation from Angelo State University in 1995 with a degree in radio, t.v. and film DJ darrell landed a gig at KRBE, which launched his dj career, while paying at such venues as Volcano and 8.0. Learning that he was pretty amazing at it, landed another high rolling residency at Club Uropa and Prive Lounge. DJ Darrell is now the resident for both of the Bronx Bar locations and The Manor located on Washington. Recently working at Warehouse Live for the last 2 years where having had the opportunities to play for huge crowds and bands that range from The Go Gos to Mickey Avalon to Buckcherry to G.Love and Special Sauce

You can hear DJ Darrell at the following places:

Tuesday - Bronx Bar Village
 Wednesday -The Manor (Soft opening Feb 18th)
 Thursday - Bronx Bar Village
 Friday - Bronx Bar Galleria
 Saturday - The Manor

DJ Chris Allen As a DJ, Chris Allen has been spinning clubs, parties, and events all over the great state of Texas since 1992 when he left Houston and moved to Austin. He started spinning at this club called Oilcan Harry's where he stayed put for nearly 10 years. That was followed by some time playing at Splash Video Bar, Twist, Rain on 4th, The Boyz Cellar, Dick's, The Empanada Parlour, Charlie'. Along the way, his guest spots have included several Gay Pride festivals statewide, opening events for the circuit parties Meltdown, Perfect Day, and Rip'd, over a decade of First and Last Splash, several fashion show/receptions, I-N-C, Calvin Kline & H.R.C., pool parties galore, and many more. Chris Allen has been writing music since he was a kid but never really got serious about it until after his father died in 1999. At first, the music was his therapy. Then, the unfortunate events that took place after Bush became our country's president un-elect only encouraged him further to pursue a life and career based on art, creation, and positivity rather than the negativity of destruction. Chris Allen has released 7 self-produced albums under the name Stiletto, Texas since 2000. DJ Chris Allen is now the resident DJ at South Beach the night club.

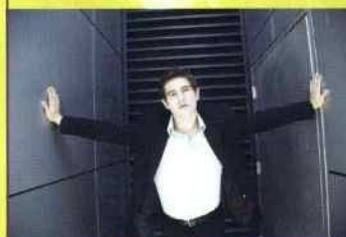
DJ Ron Duffee Originally from Minneapolis, MN, DJ Ron Duffee has been in Houston since the early 90s and has been involved with the club business for many years, providing him with plenty of connections and mentors to learn and launch his DJ career. He started out like many DJs do, playing small gigs, house parties, etc., Luckily Ron's day job was with Richs and it didn't take long to add DJ to his job description, continuing the party after acts such as Dave Dresden, Kaskade, Axwell, DJ Dan, Donald Glaude and the list goes on his wide range of musical taste includes rock, blues, progressive and electro, all fun, sexy and hot attitude. He spins what he likes and hopes his dance floor will like it and follow him on his journey.

You can hear him spin after hours every Friday night at Richs. Ron Duffee is also a graphic designer for abOUT Magazine.



DJ Jimmy Skinner Starting at the age of 15 as a bar back in the club scene at a bar called "Carrz", making friends with the resident DJ, did Jimmy learn his true calling. Starting to be a dj, Jimmy started at a after hours club named "Middle Earth" Jimmy recalls, "This was actually the first club to put the name "DJ Jimmy Skinner" on a flier, and the only night that I played there, on Saturdays, we ended up doing almost 2000 people, with an average crowd of around 1500 people, every Saturday night"

Now at the age of 34, Jimmy Skinner is one of the best known local djs in the Houston area. He is one of the only Billboard reporting. Jimmy can be heard on the tables at South Beach!



DJ James Reed Born in Washington D.C. and raised in San Francisco, DJ James Reed makes his home in Texas! James is a professional dancer with the Houston Ballet by day but one of Houston's top DJ's by night. After moving to Houston in 2003 to join the Houston Ballet, James has attempted to accomplish a lot in his time here. Nominated as Houston's Best DJ of 2007, winner of the Houston Press DJ

competition City of Spin and chosen by Forbes.com as Houston's Most Eligible Bachelor, James is currently the opening DJ Friday nights at Richs. He has earned his place in Houston night culture by opening up for numerous big acts and tours that have come to Texas. He has played opening sets for ATB, Benni Benassi, Gabriel and Dresden, Kaskade, Donald Glaude, Carl Cox, Sandra Collins, Crystal Method, Mark Farina and many more. You also may have also heard his live opening act for ATB on the XM Satellite Radio Worldwide Broadcast on the SYSTEM channel (Ch 82). James, adpet in every style of House music will often rock a party, with Electro, Disco, Swing House, Progressive and Funky House all in one set.

DJ Riddler You gotta be at the top of your game in order to carry a name that sounds like this off the pages of a super hero comic strip. Fortunately for Rich Panglilan, AKA The Riddler, he is. In addition to being named best radio mix show DJ at the International Dance Music awards and Hot Mixer of the Year at the Winter Music Conference for his shows on Sirius Satellite Radio and WKUTU-New York, The Riddler's released a slew of best selling dance mix compilation cds which have surpassed Gold status cumulatively. Among them, MTV's "The Grind" (Tommy Boy), "Club Nation" (Ministry of Sound/MCA) and the popular "Dance Mix" series, volumes 1-5 (Tommy Boy), Ultra Dance 06 and Ultra Dance 08(Ultra). Aside from his compilation cds, the Riddler has released major label remixes with the likes of Janet Jackson, Mariah Carey, Dido, Kelly Clarkson and Christina Aguilera. He has produced for several up-and-coming dance artists and is now working on a full-length album as part of the group MYNT which features Kim Sozzi, Albert Castillo, Marisol Angelique as well as himself to be released in the fall of 2005. There you have it. One mystery solved. But you can bet The Riddler's got plenty more surprises up his sleeve. Hear The

DJ Red Ryan McKay's unique sound and energetic live performances have made him one of the fastest rising DJ's in Texas. After visiting an Austin Film festival called South, by Southwest and witnessing performances by Z-trip, Mix Master Mike, and Dj Spooky Ryan was hooked on the art of Turntablism. Soon after purchasing his first turntables he realized skatching did not offer the realm of expression he was looking for, and hence began a journey to define a style and sound unique to his own self. Dj Red made his start djing in the competitive NYC and Philly scenes in 1998. After working hard to promote his music, he found himself lost amongst a sea of DJs. He decided to make the move to Texas, where he had gone to college, and he immediately was given several opportunities to showcase his talent, and received positive recognition for his dedication and obvious love for the music.

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ABOUT PULLS ON THE VINE

Guava Lamp known for its popular picks in entertainment will play host to the fabulous Sherry Vine, on February 27th. That's a Friday at 10:30. Born in Los Angeles and living in New York City, this girl has been around the block, several times, from living in Berlin, to her good fortune in theatre, films and clubs all around the world. Sherry has starred in the smash theatrical productions of *The Bad Weed '73*. Her one-woman/ten character hit *Kitty Killer*, was a smash hit. Sherry can be seen in the films *Charlie*, *Francesca Page*, *Wigstock*, *Stonewall*, *Scream*, *Teen*, *Scream* ("the best comedic performance of the year" - *LA Weekly*), *The RuPaul Christmas Special*, *Mutti The Movie*, and *Raspberry Reich*.

In 1999, Sherry teamed up with Joey Arias to create *StarLust*, a spectacular cabaret that premiered in Berlin and then played in Manchester, Sydney, LA, NYC, Las Vegas, Budapest, Vienna and all over Germany.

In 2002, they were invited to premiere their new extravaganza, *SINsation*, in Sydney for The Mardi Gras Festival and then took the show to Berlin. They ended their trilogy with *The Greatest Hits in Berlin*. Sherry premiered her first solo-cabaret show, *The Way of Love*, at B.K.A. Theatre in Berlin in 2003 and followed this with *Funkalicious Fantasy* at Big Eden. Having a wealth of material, shows can be created especially for any event in any space; large club, small bar, theatre, or truck stop! From one over-the-top show-stopping number to fifteen hysterical, dazzling minutes to a full hour cabaret show. Campy numbers, tragic torch ballads, Broadway show tunes, rock-n-roll biker bitch, disco classics, French hits of Edith Piaf, or anything you might need for a specific occasion. This girl even sings in 5 languages!

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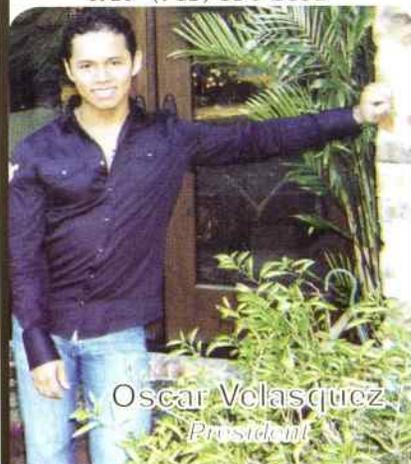


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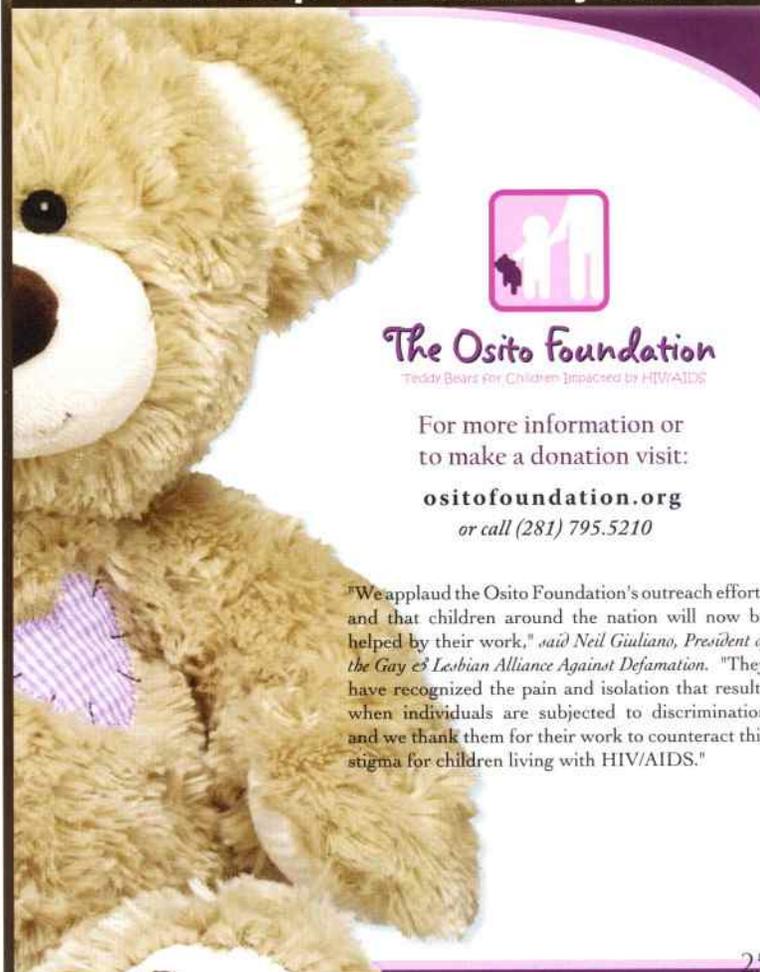
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"We applaud the Osito Foundation's outreach efforts and that children around the nation will now be helped by their work," said Neil Giuliano, President of the *Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation*. "They have recognized the pain and isolation that results when individuals are subjected to discrimination, and we thank them for their work to counteract this stigma for children living with HIV/AIDS."

Finding a life-long relationship is challenging. So many awkward and meaningless dates! Where does one go to find the perfect mate? While many gay men may use the internet or hanging out in bars to meet someone, others feel they are wasting their time in these places. Houston's gay community is in desperate need of a more upscale service for professionals to meet each other.

Christophe Brillard saw an opportunity to help gay men find sincere and lasting relationships. In October 2008, Brillard launched The Agency Houston, the first private, exclusive and personalized dating network for gay men in Houston.

Brillard, originally from Paris, has found that the life of a gay man in Houston is much different to the one in Paris. Perhaps due to a more conservative southern culture, he realized that gay men in Houston find it particularly challenging to meet the right person. He and many of his friends have endured dating nightmares: everything from men who are in relationships claiming to be single to men involved in drugs and alcohol abuse. Despite these problems, Brillard remains optimistic about Houston men and believes that many gays want to find love and to live "happily ever after," but often times, do not have the resources and information they need to succeed in finding "The One."

The Agency Houston takes the uncertainty and drama out of dating by thoroughly screening every potential member. They look at all aspects of an individual to ensure clients are matched with those who are most likely to be a fit. All members are given extensive background checks allowing other members to be confident they are meeting quality individuals. The Agency realizes that getting to know someone on a personal level is a priority in finding a great match. The goal is to match men according to personality and preferences in order to build lasting connections.

Once The Agency makes a match, it will provide the introduction and give each client access to the other's profile. If both agree to meet, The Agency will **organize the date**, reserve a table for lunch, dinner or simply drinks. During the date, the connection and romance are all up to the members. If both members desire to meet again, The Agency will provide the phone numbers. If either party is not satisfied, The Agency will handle the situation and new introductions will be made.

Don't let another Valentine's Day pass you by. Allow The Agency Houston to help you find the man of your dreams.

For more information please visit www.theagencyhouston.com.



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