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VOLUME 4 | EDITION 2

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A woman with long, dark, wavy hair is wearing a strapless, off-the-shoulder red dress with intricate lace and ruffled details. She is looking slightly to the right, with her hand near her face. The background is a warm, golden-toned interior with architectural details.

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# CHIC

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## *Contributing Writers*



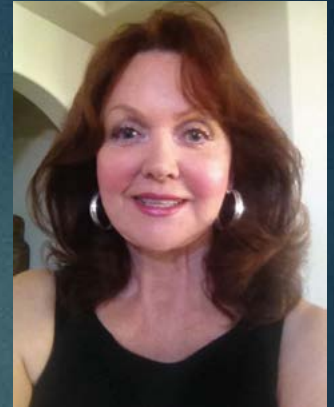
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**Ann Parenti**  
PUBLISHER

# *From the Publisher*

---

What can I say about the first quarter of 2022 that would even describe what has transpired in this ever tumultuous world we all live in these days. So much drama comes to mind, and it is all too surreal to capture in a few short paragraphs. Unless you live in a cave, you know exactly what I am referring to.

In the meantime, Chic Compass has been gathering inspirational stories here and there and trying to find some semblance and balance in a world that requires navigation through storm after storm, and we are here to deliver just that.

We invite you into our little niche of sanity and share many stories of people making a positive difference in our world and shining light with their music, art, or showcasing what is fresh and innovative in the fashion world or design. We now also offer a business perspective to share with you, too.

I am delighted to say that we have featured the beautiful and talented Melissa Manchester as our cover for this edition. Melissa shares some heartfelt tales about what she has learned along the way in her career and how some of the songs she has sung or written over the years take on a whole new meaning at this stage of her life. We hope you enjoy catching up with what this fabulous entertainer is doing these days.

This time, we do not travel too far out of town to take you on a wine tour. Grape Expectations is a unique experience to learn about, and has been here in the desert since 2005. Next up, we take you on a beautiful fashion shoot of some of the newest fashions of Anna Gupta shot by the uber-talented Jaime Lim. Jaime also reminds us that weddings are making a comeback in grand form! We feature the beautiful designs of Parvesh Jai.

We take a quick trip to New York to hear about why once you visit NYC, you will fall in love with the energy, food, theatre, and everything else it has to offer. Can't make it to New York soon? Then we suggest visiting the new Todd English Olives inside the Virgin Hotel here in Las Vegas. If you want to learn more about what Todd has been up to, visit our blog site and visit his new boutique hotel, The English Hotel, in downtown Las Vegas. While downtown, visit the famous World Market Center and learn about some of



the latest things they have accomplished during the Covid times.

We would not miss sharing some inspirational stories of some folks who make a difference day in and day out in our world. Don't miss the feature on Marilyn's Project and find out how they are helping the ladies of Ukraine. Then we have a plethora of talented artists to share with you. We feature the talented artist-photographer Elisa Terry and are stunned by the subjects she photographs. Come along with us and meet the man with many markers Neal Portnoy and share his many accomplishments over the years. Artist Renata Bosnjak also gives us an inside take on what drives her to create the soulful images that she captures on canvas. Artistry comes in all shapes and forms, and we learn about the artistry of celebrity make-up artist Miguel Julio and some of his famous clients.

We never disappoint by bringing you a story here and there of some fabulous talent that we have here in Las Vegas, and this time is no different. Reckless in Vegas is a fun and talented group of entertainers you won't want to miss if you get the chance to catch them while you are in Las Vegas.

Most times, well before we develop our first story for the next edition, we give the edition a name or theme. This time it was Magic in the Air, and after we developed that theme, we got the opportunity to interview the fabulous and entertaining Kevin Lepine and find out what makes his show so unique and fun to watch. Don't sit too close to the stage, or you may become part of the show, and the wildest part is... you won't even remember it, but everyone else in the audience will!

We hope you find some magic in every story we have to offer this season. The heat is about to begin for the season, but we will be back in the autumn with some more hot tales we gathered over the summer to share with you then. May our world be less chaotic and stressful by then, and may all of you have a wonderful peaceful spring and summer ahead and find a little magic in the air!

*Ann Parenti*



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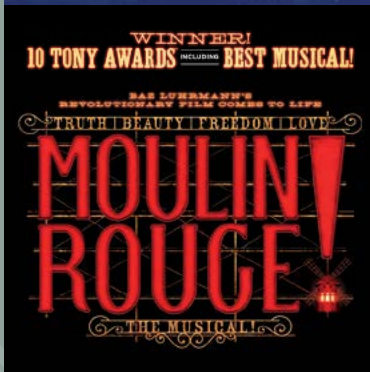
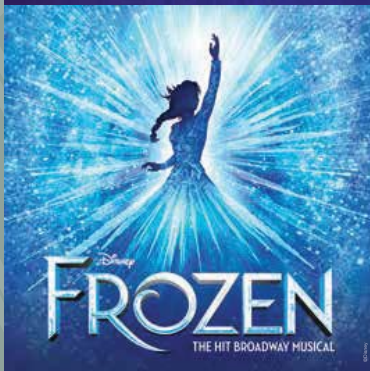
Forgotten Song Foundation, Inc., a registered 501c3 organization, is dedicated to recognizing, remembering, and sustaining the visual artists and performance artistry of live music for future generations.

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**Joan S. Peck**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

# From the Editor

---

Welcome to another exciting issue of Chic Compass magazine! Our theme for this issue is Magic in the Air. With all that we offer you this time, you will discover that each article has its own magic.

Melissa Manchester graces our cover and shares some of her insights and what she has accomplished through her years of creating music and teaching music to aspiring musicians. Even more fascinating is seeing how Melissa recreates her past successful songs into new ones with a different twist. It is an article you may want to read several times. As always, fashion is a significant part of our magazine. We share stunning photos of Anna Gupta's fashions taken by famous photographer Jaime Lim. In addition, Jaime Lim showcases a hauntingly beautiful fashion extravaganza, "White Wedding Dresses," by the famous Canadian duo Parvesh Jai.

A surprising story about the "best wines coming from the desert" will take you to Henderson's Grape Expectations, Nevada's School of Winemaking, the only one in Nevada. Learn how you, too, can become a winemaker. Grape Expectations is the place to go to take you back in time when it was essential to relax and enjoy a glass of outstanding white or red wine at the end of the day. Grape Expectations has it all; see it for yourself.

Nothing uplifts our souls like stunning art. Elisa Terry and her photography take our breath away, while Neal Portnoy's creations make us wonder how anyone has the talent to catch a person's personality so cleverly. Artist Renata Bosnjak uses her talent to bring you into her paintings to connect to the soul of her subject. Then there is Miguel Julio, a delightful celebrity make-up artist who instills our respect for his vocation.

Marilyn's Project demonstrates the importance of caring for the needs of others. It is a story that all women can relate to and urges us to give a nod and silent hurrah to Wendi Schweigart for all she is doing.

Entertainment is king in Las Vegas, and we have some to share with you. Reckless is Vegas is a fabulous group of entertainers you'll want

---

## ON THE COVER

**MODEL:**  
Melissa Manchester

**PHOTOGRAPHY BY:**  
Nick Spanos



to see and stamp your feet to their beat. Unique Kevin Lepine and his fun, hypnotic talent is a must-see.

Market, Market, Market unfolds some of the mystique of what it is and who is behind it to make it run smoothly. It makes us realize how fortunate Las Vegas is to have Market here, drawing clientele from all over. On the business side, Joe Amato's new business column stimulates the entrepreneur in us.

A story about New York City is always fun, making you want to load onto a plane and see everything yourself. Something new here in Las Vegas always draws our attention, and what better than to visit the new boutique hotel, The English Hotel, in the arts district? It is the dream of Todd English, the renowned chef who heads his restaurant, Olives, inside the Virgin Hotel in Las Vegas. We are so fortunate to have him bring Olives back again with his mouth-watering creations.

Once again, our multi-talented writers have done a splendid job bringing us stories that demonstrate there is magic in all we do. I can't wait for you to see that inside this edition of Chic Compass magazine with each piece you read. I hope you enjoy it as much as we did to create it for you.

Enjoy!

*Jean S. Peck*





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# GRAPE EXPECTATIONS

SOME OF THE BEST WINES  
COME FROM THE DESERT

By Joan S. Peck







When my friend Richard told me that he belonged to a wine group, I smiled indulgently and thought, How nice! He continued, saying they would soon be pressing the grapes and might I be interested in seeing this? I thought, sure, why not? I joined him and the others in his friendly, fun-loving wine group, not knowing what to expect. I was so glad that I did. I can't begin to express what it was like to step into a massive vaulted room and see all the different barrels of wine in various stages of fermenting lined up against the wall. And the smell—earthy and intoxicating!

That experience opened a whole new world for me—winemaking. And, let's be honest, who hasn't thought about making their own wine at some point in their lives—especially after seeing some of the most romantic movies filmed in Italy?

So, where to begin? ... perhaps, the nuts and bolts of this fantastic enterprise.

*At Left: KJ Howe, Patty Peters, Chad Evans, Mike Schoenbaechler, the team at Grape Expectations.*

## Where is this gem of a place?

Grape Expectations – Nevada School of Winemaking – is located in Henderson, Nevada. It opened its doors to the public in 2007 and is a nine-month experience. People can come and make a barrel of wine themselves or with friends/family or join groups making wine. Anywhere from 1 to 20 people can make a single barrel of wine (no more than 20 people per barrel allowed). The 2022 cost per barrel is up to \$5000 (depending on the grapes), which equals \$250 per case or \$20.86 per bottle, making the whole experience affordable. People also can join a Social Barrel to make one or more cases of wine for \$275 per case.

Grape Expectations' winemaking business is based on two harvest seasons: fall and spring.

The fall harvest is with California grapes, and the varietals provide an endless choice of grapes.

The spring harvest is with Chilean or South African grapes. The Chilean varietals include Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec, Carmenere, and Syrah. The South African varietals include Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah from the Coastal Region, Stellenbosch District.

How did Grape Expectations get started? Who is responsible for bringing winemaking to Nevada? "Charlie Peters, a registered sommelier, studied the winemaking process for two decades. During a trip to his hometown in New Jersey

in 2000, he visited a well-established winemaking school operated by Lou Sodano. He decided Lou's winemaking concept would be a perfect business model for the Las Vegas community. In 2005 Grape Expectations was born, and in 2007, it opened to the public with 70 barrels produced that year.

Over time and through word-of-mouth, the school outgrew its modest home, and on September 1, 2012, they moved to a much larger 11,000 square foot facility. Eight days later, Charlie died unexpectedly.

Patty Peters first moved to Las Vegas in 1981, and she never imagined she'd be part owner of a winery and winemaking school someday. Her life was on a different trajectory that included a career with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

With Charlie's untimely death in 2012, Charlie's wife, Patty, reached out to their friend and co-worker, Mike Schoenbaechler (now part-owner), in an effort to keep this unique experience alive and to help it become what it is today—the only winemaking school of its kind in the State of Nevada." Mike Schoenbaechler was a long-time friend of Charlie's and made it a point to volunteer his time and energy to help out at Grape Expectations. After a full day of work, Mike would be at the winery helping Charlie with the day-to-day duties of winemaking while performing the back-breaking work of mopping floors, cleaning equipment, and assisting the many

winemakers who frequented the facility. Before Charlie's death in 2012, he asked Mike to join the staff of Grape Expectations.

Today, Mike says, "It's a great place to socialize and participate in the fun, unique activity of winemaking." He wants everyone to know, "We're here! And we have so much more to offer."

In 2008, KJ Howe made his first barrel of wine during the second year the winery was open to the public, and he became hooked with it all! KJ has been involved with Grape Expectations ever since. Once his place of work (the Port Tack) was sold, he was on board full-time as the "Professor of Yeastology," teaching about the winemaking industry.

KJ says, "Grape Expectations is an authentic "hands-on" winemaking experience because everyone does the work and nothing is automated. Other winemaking schools around the country don't offer that experience."

In 2013, they added Chad Evans to the Grape Expectations roster to help make Grape Expectations the only winemaking facility of its kind in the State of Nevada and a destination location for anyone wanting to learn the art of winemaking. "If a great winemaker were a cocktail, the recipe might look something like this: three parts meticulous, two parts expressive, one part maniacal. Combine all ingredients, strain into a busy cellar, and garnish with a good pair of boots." Few industries depend so heavily on a single stretch of the year, just





sensory. As the fruit converts sugars to alcohol, there are endless opportunities to see, smell, taste, and feel the beginnings of a young wine. Fermentation will run for approximately one week. When all the sugars have successfully converted to alcohol, it's time to press.

## Stage 2 - "Pressed for Wine"

One week after The Crush, it's time to liberate your young wine from the fermentation tub into its new home, a 53-gallon American oak barrel, once the wine has achieved dryness (when all the sugars have successfully converted to alcohol).

a handful of weeks in length," Patty says.

So, what are the four stages for producing your handcrafted premium wine?

### Stage 1 - "Crush'n It"

What happens during that critical stretch between harvest and pouring the wine into barrels? "It all begins when the first truckload of grapes arrives at the winery. It's a mix of artistry, science, manual labor, and experience—to the tune of 18-hour workdays and a lot of caffeine," says Patty.

The best wines are the result of the best fruit. Twenty-one crates of grape varietals are staged for each winemaking group in preparation for crushing. An incredibly effective machine aptly named the "De-stemmer" does the work, using centrifugal force generated by a rotating cylinder to separate the

grapes and stems. Everything but the stems is pumped into a fermentation tub.

After crushing, winemakers participate in the fermentation class with KJ Howe, adding yeast and nutrients. Fermentation is the most

The process of pressing utilizes a traditional hydraulic wine press. At this point, you have wine—it will look like wine and get you drunk like wine—but it will not taste much like wine because it's just seven days old.



*Above: Cake left after crushing the grapes.*

### Stage 3 – “Nice Rack”

Racking happens approximately four months after pressing and, simply put, means moving the wine from vessel to vessel. Wine is pumped from the oak barrel into a stainless-steel tank. The sediment at the bottom of the barrel (the lees – spent yeast cells and other solids) is removed, and the barrel is rinsed clean.

Then the wine is put to bed by pumping it back into the clean barrel emitting aromatic odors as it connects to the barrel. The barrel is filled to the brim to prevent oxidation, a bung is applied to seal it, and it is put back in storage.

Here, you can taste test what the wine will be like when it fully grows up. This is also a time to sigh in

relief that the wine has graduated and is now off on its own.

### Stage 4 – “Put a Cork in it!”

Woohoo! Approximately four months after racking, it is time for bottling and labeling. It is your ‘Wine Graduation Day,’ and the day your wine bottles leave Grape Expectations to be enjoyed by you.

With the aid of a gravity filler, you will load the wine into sterilized bottles, cork the bottles with a manual press and, finally, shrink wrap a decorative protective capsule on the neck of your 240 bottles of joy. You can now enjoy the fruits of your labor. The work may be over, but not the fantastic memories of making your own wine!

Please note: Any wine produced at Grape Expectations is considered “home-made” and can’t be sold.

### So What’s Next? The Neighborhood Tasting Room & Wine Lounge!

Vegas Valley Winery, the first bonded winery in Clark County, opened on December 8, 2017, with a grand opening on January 20, 2018. Vegas Valley Winery’s tasting room and wine lounge is the evolution of their sister business, Grape Expectations. You can “experience our wine—one tasting or one glass at a time.”

Both Vegas Valley Winery and Grape Expectations’ Nevada School of Winemaking are part of the Henderson Booze District ... affording customers the unique opportunity of experiencing “all things wine, beer, and spirits” in one centralized location.

Vegas Valley Winery is a place where you can come to enjoy wines and hard cider crafted locally. It is where customers have the opportunity to purchase wine by the glass and/or bottle and hard cider by the glass and/or growler. The intimate atmosphere of the Tasting Bar and Wine Lounge makes for a unique and memorable date night destination, social meeting spot, and even your next book club meeting or card club. It’s a great place to “change-up” from the more boring venues for meeting your friends and business contacts, adding new excitement into whatever you’re doing.







KJ Howe, and Chad Evans make up an unusually copasetic group with their upbeat, easy-going energy on display.

Grape Expectations and all it offers is truly one of Nevada's most incredible hidden gems. Come and experience for yourself that some of the best wines do indeed come from the desert!

Find them online at:  
[www.vegasvalleywinery.com](http://www.vegasvalleywinery.com)



### There's More? Yup!...

Many regular events held at Vegas Valley Winery include:

- Wine Wednesday where customers can purchase glasses of white and Rose' wines (\$7), red wines (\$8), and small pizzas (\$5) from 4 – 9 p.m.
- Food Truck Fridays 5 – 9 p.m.
- Live Music every Friday and Saturday from 7 – 9 p.m.

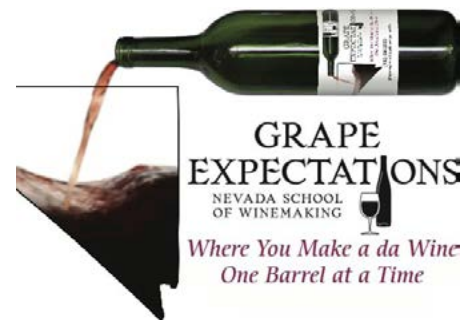
Other events include:

- Yoga and Wine
- Essential Oil Meet Ups
- Impromptu Speakeasy's
- Meditation and Wine
- Sip & Shop Events
- Comedy and Wine
- Appy Hour Wine Paring
- Cork n Craft and Wine
- Painting and Wine

Coming soon, Vegas Valley Winery will launch their Wine Club, where Members will enjoy many benefits in addition to wine shipments and pickup parties. Members will receive special discounts in the Tasting Room all year long, exclusive wine club events, etc.

Since joining The Killer Wine Group, I have had so much fun making "killer wines!" Richard Stearns designed our logo, and we even got to create our own wine label.

I can't begin to express how delightful it is to visit Grape Expectations, sip their outstanding wine, and be in an atmosphere that takes you far, far, away into the "old world" comfort of simple living and tasting. Patty Peters, Mike Schoenbaechler,



Above: Logo for the Killer Wine Club

# CHRISTOPHER TODD

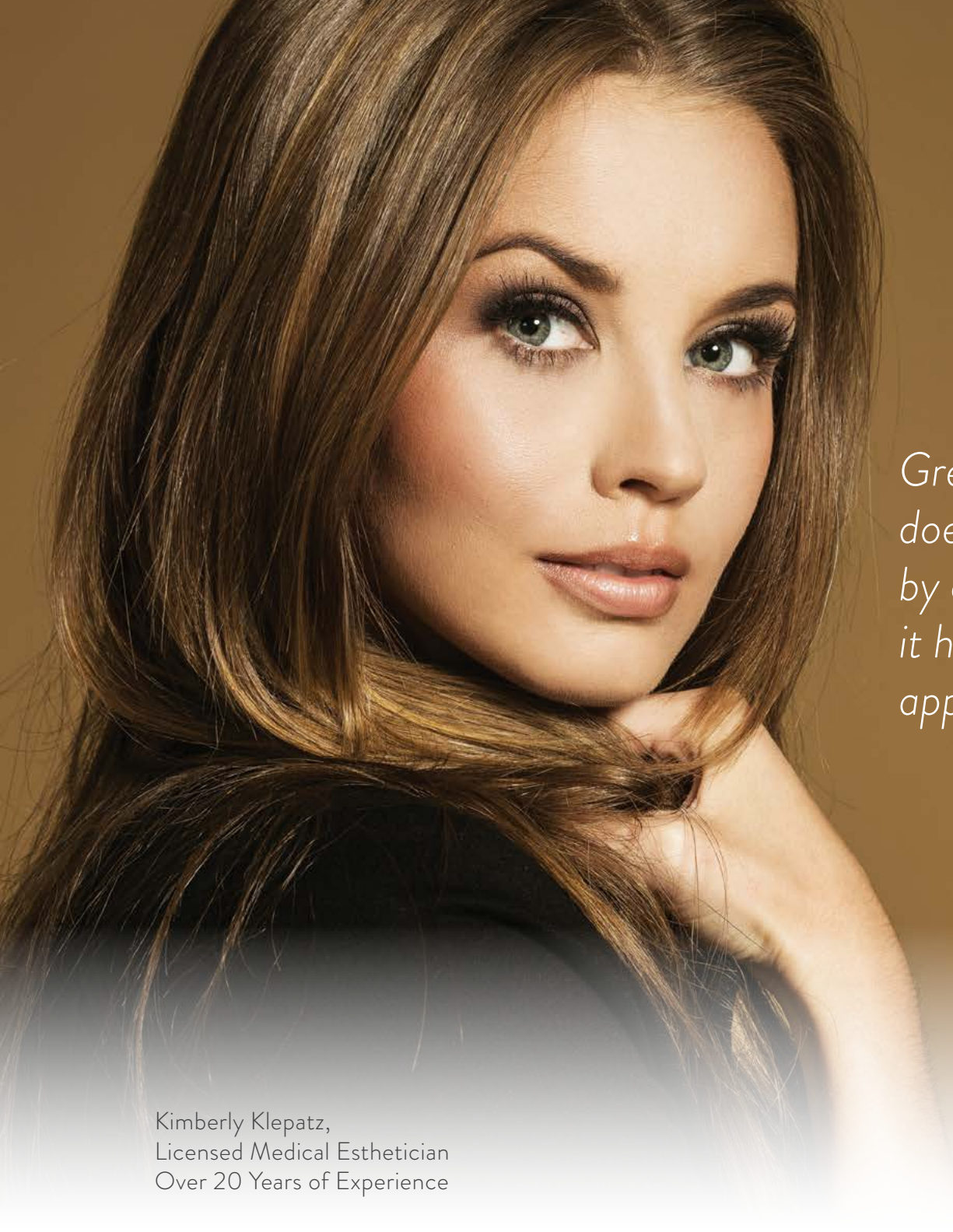
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PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
JEWELRY: BINNO JEWELS  
MAKEUP & HAIR: REYNA KHALIL, MAKSIM LEONOV  
MODELS: (FROM LEFT) ANNA GUPTA, JOANNA BOROV, JAZZIKA KILE



# ANNA GUPTA

## A CREATOR OF GLAMOROUS ROMANTICISM

---

Article by David Tupaz  
Photography by Jaime Lim

I recently spoke with designer Anna Gupta and asked her to tell me about her fabulous collection.

"I enjoy and receive great satisfaction in working with different textiles. You will find varying tulles, laces, and silks throughout my collections."

The idea behind this collection, Anna says, "was to focus on the inspiration that each romantic creation provides." Each creation captivates the viewer with its passion for detail and craftsmanship, creating a longing for another time and what could be again.

It was a fluid experience for Anna to embody romanticism, which was incorporated into the gowns through intricate three-dimensional flowers, flowing textures, stunning embroidery, large volumes, luxurious details, and ultra-feminine energy.

Who is an Anna Gupta woman?

The Anna Gupta woman is confident and glamorous but doesn't follow trends and always possesses the same femininity and elegance that Anna Gupta is known and famous for.



LIQUID  
STAR  
PHOTOGRAPHY

DESIGNER: ANNA GUPTA  
PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
JEWELRY: BINNO JEWELS  
MAKEUP & HAIR: REYNA  
KHALIL, MAKSIM LEONOV  
MODEL: JOANNA BOROV





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MAKEUP & HAIR: REYNA  
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JEWELRY: BINNO JEWELS  
MAKEUP & HAIR: REYNA  
KHALIL, MAKSIM LEONOV  
MODEL: JAZZIKA KILE





# LIQUID STAR PHOTOGRAPHY

DESIGNER: ANNA GUPTA  
PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
JEWELRY: BINNO JEWELS  
MAKEUP & HAIR: REYNA  
KHALIL, MAKSIM LEONOV  
MODEL: JAZZIKA KILE



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KHALIL, MAKSIM LEONOV  
MODEL: ANNA GUPTA





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# MELISSA MANCHESTER: REIMAGINING HER CLASSIC HITS IN HER 24TH ALBUM *RE: VIEW*

---

By Sheryl Aronson

---

After 50 years of performing, Melissa Manchester, a Grammy Award-winner and multi-Academy Award-nominated artist, decided to apply a new twist for unveiling her 24th album, *Re:View*. Since September 2020, Manchester has been reimagining her charted hit songs from the 70s and 80s, releasing music videos. To date, six videos from ten chosen songs have been released: "Just You and I," "Midnight Blue," "Don't Cry Out Loud," "You Should Hear How She Talks About You," "Fire in the Morning," and "Come in From the Rain."

Melissa Manchester's illustrious career began in the late 1960s as she worked alongside aspiring musicians and composers of that day, including Barry Manilow, Ashford and Simpson, and Patty Austin. The Brill Building in Manhattan housed these creative, talented up-and-coming artists. At 17 years of age, Manchester was already writing songs.

"In 1968, the Brill Building was the center for songwriting. Publishers would sign artists. I was a jingle singer. We all had dreams to be singer/songwriters and be signed for a record deal. We traveled in a pack. It was no big deal to hear about your friend getting a record deal or hitting the road for a tour. I even worked as a gopher on *Sesame Street* and parked cars to be around creative people. It was a thrilling time to be alive."

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Manchester received her first Grammy nomination in 1979 for singing the Peter/Allen/Carole Bayer Sager hit song, "Don't Cry Out Loud." In 1980, she was the first artist ever in the history of the Academy Awards to be nominated for two songs, "Through the Eyes of Love" (*Ice Castles*) and "I'll Never Say Goodbye" (*The Promise* in the same year.) In 1982, Manchester won a Grammy for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for the song "You Should Hear How She Talks About You." In May of 2021, Melissa was inducted into Michael Feinstein's Great American Songbook Hall of Fame after a joint performance with Feinstein. In December of 2021, she was one of the presenters at the Kennedy Center Awards, honoring her longtime friend, Bette Midler.

On March 5th, 2022, Melissa Manchester performed a concert at the theater in Laguna Woods, California, to a sold-out house.

Accompanied by John Proulx on keyboards and Susan Holder on percussion, the night turned magical as the audience watched Melissa exude her majesty of heartfelt storytelling.

No worries, Las Vegas, because you'll be able to see the legendary Melissa Manchester live at the Smith Center on June 25th, 2022. I sat down with Melissa Manchester in the comfort of her living room and talked about how she has been reimagining her new album *Re: View*.

**SA: How did *Re: View* come to fruition?**

MM: "I thought it was time to re-record several of my uncharted hits for many reasons. One, I've grown with these songs. They've become living monologues, and I have tweaked some of the harmonics over the years. The other part, like many of my colleagues also

re-recording their charted hits, is that now we can own the master. Prior to this, the record company that signed us in the 60s, 70s, and 80s owned the masters, and it isn't concrete because the context of those contracts had no vision of social media or any of these new revenue streams."

"So I started releasing a video to go with each single when we were in the depth and height of the pandemic, and each video reflects what we were going through."

"The first single was a song I wrote with Carole Sager called "Just You and I." The video was an homage to all the front-line workers. We have about four more videos to do, one more song to finish recording, and then we will release a CD. But once you look at all of the videos, it will be like a travel log of what we've been going through."

**SA: Talk about the album's name because it's very telling.**

MM: "Re: View is about viewing something again."

**SA: How was it to "re: view" the songs?**

MM: "I have never gotten bored singing these songs. I am bending around the corner of 50 years of my career, and these songs are such blessings because they have become living monologues. I know so much more about the interior life of "Midnight Blue" and songs that were gifted to me [like] "Through the Eyes of Love" and "Don't Cry Out Loud."



*Melissa Manchester with Bette Midler at the Kennedy Center, photo by Mila Baturin*





*Melissa Manchester with Debbie Allen at the Kennedy Center, photo by Mila Baturin*

"I got a chance to record much of it down at Citrus College before the pandemic. Citrus College is a community college where they have an astounding music department. Many of these kids are first-generation college students, many are children of immigrants, and many don't really play anything yet. They want to be part of a musical something ... a band, orchestra, choir, or musical theater. And their studio is state of the art, simply magnificent."

**SA: You've recorded a few albums there.**

MM: "Two albums there, yes. I recorded my 20th album, *You've Gotta Love the Life*. That's when Stevie Wonder, the late Al Jarreau, and Dionne Warwick came, and it was just spectacular for the students to see the collaboration and what creating music could be like. So, it was great, and I'm very devoted to the students. When they play on my albums, they get real-time performance credits, so it's a win-win."

**SA: You have a chorus with the students. Which song is that on?**

MM: "Just You and I," the first single we released last time. I wrote the choir parts, and the Citrus singers—you see them in the video—are beautifully trained and sang magnificently."

**SA: "Midnight Blue" is a classic, and I love how you redid that.**

MM: "Yes, it's a true musical conversation between present me and the me that was there when she was made famous in the mid-70s. It's very touching." [Laughs].

**SA: In the video "Don't Cry Out Loud," I noticed a bit of social commentary.**

MM: "Correct. "Don't Cry Out Loud" was another one that grew into this moment when all the venues on the planet had shut down. We'd never been through a plague like this where nobody could get out [and] nobody could be around

anybody else. So, "Don't Cry Out Loud" was sort of a rallying cry for me. It's an anthem. Carole Sager's magnificent words of "Don't Cry Out Loud" became much more potent! It was very interesting to use the video as an instrument to help reframe this new inner life of the song."

**SA: How did you come up with the idea of releasing your album in videos?**

MM: "Well, none of us was going anywhere. I thought the unexpected gift of being in isolation for all of 2020 was that not only could I look at society, but I could see it for the first time. I could see what was beautiful, broken, and unfinished, and I thought, "let's service that." Let's slow the experience of releasing the single with the video to go with that moment. And then the next month, let's do another. And if it takes us two more months to get the next one ready ... again, who's going anywhere? It was deeply creative, and all the folks that I work with (my director Paco Silva and his crew and, of course, Sue Holder, my manager) got a chance to reframe how we were going to do this. At the end, there will be a hard copy CD so that you can look at all the credits. When I perform now, I will be using all these videos."

**SA: Last Thanksgiving, you released "Come in From the Rain," which you wrote a long time ago.**

MM: "Yes, with Carole Sager. When we wrote it, we were young and married, and we were trying

to figure out how to communicate with our young husbands. We were wrestling with these ideas, and the song showed up. I have lived so much longer, so the song is kind of optimistic. The video itself is very dramatic; very George Hurrell, very 1930s, and in black and white. But the actual song is welcoming and open-hearted for the listener because they're not alone. We have all learned and have gotten over the folly of our immaturity. We have forgiven other people and have forgiven ourselves for expectations. The song is sort of about that."

**SA: You're from New York City?**

MM: "Yes, I'm from the Bronx and Manhattan."

**SA: Your father was a bassoonist?**

MM: "Yes, for the Metropolitan Opera. I grew up around opera all my life."

**SA: In your song, "Come In From the Rain," you have a bassoonist?**

MM: "Always, yes ... William Wood. I have a bassoonist playing a new arrangement. My father played the original arrangement."

**SA: "You Should Hear How She Talks About You." What's its purpose?**

MM: "Well, we did two videos for that song because when the election ended, happily ... I wanted to use "You Should Hear How



*Photo of Melissa Manchester courtesy of Sasaphotos.com*

She Talks About You" as the "She" in the title being our nation. And I wanted it to salute the incredible voter turnout that happened. I showed that one when I first started to perform again, but then I realized I didn't want to think about politics anymore, so we did a second video that you can now see. It's actually kind of fun because it's about my original performances around the time I won the Grammy for that song, and me now."

**SA: Tell me about the last song, which is very romantic.**

MM: "Fire in the Morning." It's a very sweet song. My fans ask me to perform that song a lot, and I don't, just because I haven't rehearsed it and we have so many other ones. I wanted to do it as a nod to them."

**SA: There will be ten songs on the album. Can you say a little bit more about that?**

MM: "Yes. I'm re-recording "Whenever I Call You Friend," a song I wrote with Kenny Loggins, and I'm re-recording "Just Too Many



People" that I wrote with Vini Poncia. And there's a new song out, an old song that I never recorded, so that'll be fun."

**SA: You were saying how the pandemic affected you as an artist. What were the good points and not-so-good points?**

MM: "The good point was that I got a chance to finish my choral suite. The final portion of it, which I wrote first, is called *Awake!* And there is a video of that on YouTube, so that will be the finale of the suite. But there are two other pieces that are just being copied and proofread now, and then I'll record them and hopefully get a choir to sing them."

**SA: You took a break from the music industry. Then, you returned and reinvented another round of creativity.**

MM: "Well, I always wanted to have children, so I took time off to raise my kids, and while I was doing that, I was able to work on some wonderful projects for the Disney company. I wrote a song for *The Great Mouse Detective* and wrote the score for *Lady and the Tramp 2*. By the time I was ready to go back on the road when my kids were old enough, I had to start all over again and find new ways to move forward in my career. Then I was invited to teach at USC Thornton School of Music, where I met wonderful students who introduced me to the world of crowdfunding, and they

helped me with my projects. My first album on crowdfunding was *You've Gotta Love the Life*, my 20th album."

**SA: Amazing album!**

MM: "Thank you. The second album with crowdfunding was *The Fellas*, my tribute to several of the great male singers. I'm not doing crowdfunding with *Re: View*, but it allowed me to see the new normal that young artists take for granted."

**SA: What are some things you'd like to tell members of the younger generation aspiring to be musicians?**

MM: "Well, one of the things I would say is to listen to the [Great] American songbook. Go on



*Melissa Manchester at the Laguna Woods Theater, photo courtesy of Sasaphotos.com*



*Melissa Manchester at the Laguna Woods Theater, photo courtesy of Sasaphotos.com*

YouTube and listen to Nat [King] Cole, listen to Sinatra, listen to Tony Bennett, listen to the women, listen to Ella Fitzgerald, listen to Billie Holiday, listen to Judy Garland. Listen to the structure of what popular music sounded like. When I'm teaching a semester, I always assign my kids a song to learn from the American Songbook. And invariably, they'll say, "You have to breathe so differently." The reason you breathe differently is those were very long lyrical ideas, followed by long melodic ideas. These days, because percussion is walking into the room first, the phrases are very short and repeated. But to actually develop an idea is really different. So, I think that's why I love working with Michael Feinstein because his

American Songbook Foundation has been spectacular. I've done a Master class for him, and I think he's the nation's archivist."

**SA: Congratulations on your award from Michael Feinstein!**

MM: "Thank you very much. It was for the American Songbook Foundation for new standards. I was given an award, and posthumous awards were given to the great Sammy Cahn and the brilliant genius [Billy] Strayhorn. To be in that company was just really rarified. The actual concert I did with Michael was in Carmel, Indiana, where the foundation resides. It was our first concert out of the pandemic, and the audience was

thrilled to be back in the community."

**SA: Also, you got to present an award to your wonderful friend.**

MM: "Yes, it was such a thrilling experience. I got a chance to pay tribute to the remarkable Bette Midler, who just won a Kennedy Center Honor, along with Berry Gordy and the opera star Justino Diaz, Lorne Michaels, and Joni Mitchell (one of my heroes). It was just stunning to acknowledge and pay tribute to Bette because she was at the beginning of my career. That's when I knew her. I had helped Barry Manilow create what became the Harlettes, and



I was the toots in the middle, the background singer for about six months.”

**SA: What inspires you to write all your beautiful songs?**

MM: “Eavesdropping! Eavesdropping and staying open. Frequently as I’m awakening from sleep, I’ll start to hear things. I always have to keep a pad and pencil nearby because you never know.”

**SA: Are you ever afraid that the ideas will dry up?**

MM: [Shakes her head] “No, the ideas will not dry up. And the urge to express myself artistically will never dry up because spirit doesn’t know time. It doesn’t know age, and it doesn’t know the concept of retiring. It just wants to express. So the most interesting thing to me is to lean into spirit and see (not only express) but how it expresses itself . . . yet insists on being expressed, because that’s the one you want to follow. You have all kinds of interesting ideas all the time, but the one that sort of niggles at you is the one you want to wrestle to the ground and find a shape for and bring to life.”

**SA: Are you touring this year?**

MM: “I am, and please, God, if all of the venues postponed from the last two years come through, I will have a very busy year, and that’s a beautiful thing.”



*Melissa Manchester with Smokey Robinson at the Kennedy Center, photo by Mila Baturin*



*Melissa Manchester with Daniel Levy at the Kennedy Center, photo by Mila Baturin*

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An aerial, high-angle photograph of a dense urban landscape, likely New York City, featuring numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The buildings are packed closely together, creating a complex pattern of vertical lines and architectural details. The overall atmosphere is one of a bustling, iconic metropolis.

*Adventures in Travel & Dining*

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# NEW YORK

NEW YORK

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BY CARY VOGEL & LANCE ROBINS

WHAT A WONDERFUL TOWN  
AN INSIDER'S VIEW





LIFE IS NEW YORK CITY, AND NEW YORK CITY IS LIFE! And this is the reason we maintain a Pied-à-Terre residence in this glorious urban oasis.

When spending time in Manhattan (the city), every one of our senses is engaged and heightened in a way that elevates even the simplest activity into an elated experience—from a trip to the market to a walk through Central Park—we find it joyful!

Everything in the city feels bigger, bolder, louder, and more vibrant. Colors feel more saturated, and we feed off the electricity in the air.

We love that we get inspired by something as simple as a stroll

down the shopping avenues, with a coffee in hand, appreciating the sophisticated and elaborate window displays. Being part of the world of interior design and owning our own design firm, we've always found inspiration in noting current trends in fashion that could translate into interior furnishing palettes for our clients. New York is the epicenter of design, in our opinion, and it's been our great fortune to be able to spend time in the city and absorb all the "latest and greatest."

New York City consists of five boroughs (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island), each area having its own distinct character. Each borough is made up of a vast matrix of neigh-

borhoods creating a multi-cultural and very diverse area ripe for exploring. We reside on the island of Manhattan, which is approximately eleven miles long and four miles wide at its largest points. Within Manhattan, you can experience pretty much everything life has to offer, from the bustling financial district to the world-renowned Broadway theater district to the beautiful historic brownstones on the Upper East Side. Some of the heavily visited neighborhoods are Midtown, Hells Kitchen, The Upper East Side, Harlem, Tribeca, The Meat Packing District, SOHO, Greenwich Village, and The Upper West Side. There is such a vast number of activities and events going on in New York City at any given time that you could spend every day for





the rest of your life residing there and not have the time to participate in everything offered.

While spending time in the city, we are able to indulge in a number of our passions. A favorite pastime for us is to attend Broadway shows. To us, there is nothing as exciting or exhilarating as when the house lights dim and the curtain goes up on Act One. Whether it's a drama, comedy, or musical, the Broadway productions are like no other theatrical experience. And that is not all. There's also Off-Broadway, Off-Off-Broadway, cabaret clubs, burlesque shows, piano bars, music clubs, comedy clubs, jazz clubs, street musicians, and free concerts in the parks. Lincoln Center is another venue for us to enjoy our passion for live theater. It is considered one of the world's leading performing arts centers and houses the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera, and the New York City Ballet. The Julliard School of Music also has its home here. This past holiday season, we were delighted to be able to obtain tickets to the Met's gorgeous opera production of *Porgy & Bess*; we walked home that evening on cloud nine, absolutely euphoric.





Our friends and family know that we love to visit cities conducive to walking as you get the feel and essence of the city by being "in" it. A certain feeling can be described as liberating or freeing as you traverse the city streets. The sense of promise almost crackles as we head out to meet the day and what adventures lie ahead. One of our favorite walking destinations is Central Park, where we regularly go, whether to get our "steps" in, meet up with friends for a brisk walk, or have a time-out from the city's hustle | bustle. Each time we venture into the park, it seems we discover new areas to explore. We came across a small waterfall on a recent visit, which was such a delightful surprise... Who knew there was a waterfall in New York City?!

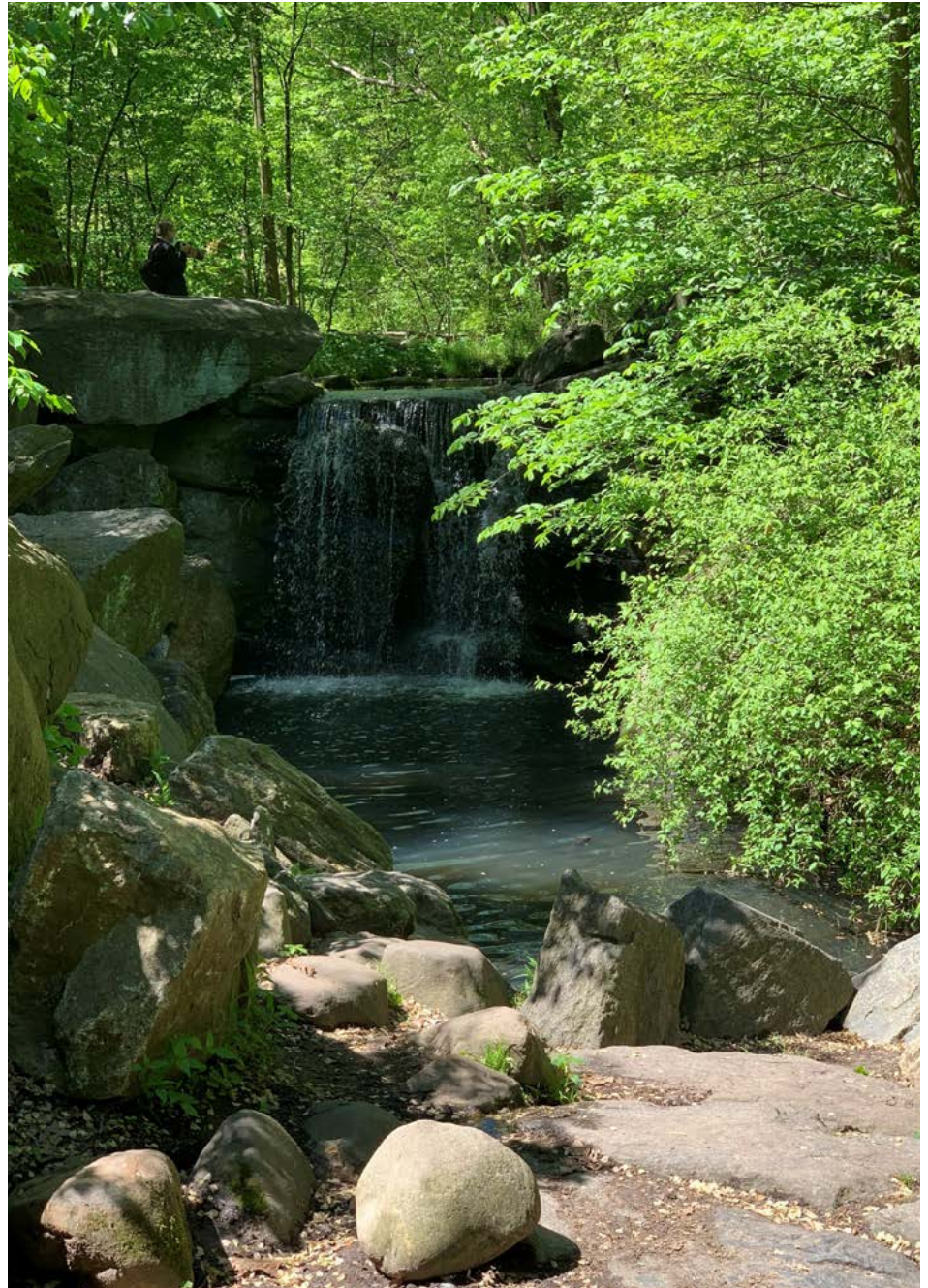
On many an occasion, the day holds a trip to a museum. No one does museums like New York City except possibly a few in Europe. From the glorious grand Metropolitan Museum of Art (the Met), which houses so many important collections from fine art to decorative arts, to the New York Transit Museum in Brooklyn, which provides a history of New York City public transportation, there's something for everyone to enjoy. A special museum that stays in our memory is the Tenement Museum, located on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. It was a very emotionally moving experience to tour the buildings where our ancestors lived upon arriving in the United States via Ellis Island.

FOOD! There is no better food on the planet than what can be

found and devoured in New York City. If pizza is to your liking, you will melt when downing a "slice of pie." Pretty much every country in the world has a restaurant(s) representing their cuisine. And here in the city that never sleeps, you can eat 24 hours a day.

Whether you desire to visit world-class museums, eat some of the best food in the world, "shop till

you drop," enjoy a variety of the best entertainment offered, walk the high-line, go to the 102nd floor of the Freedom Tower providing views of multiple states, walking over the Brooklyn Bridge or simply people watching... New York City is your type of town! It will leave you with an endless yearning to return again and again to take a bite out of the big apple!









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# RECKLESS IN VEGAS

## DANGEROUS RIFFS MEET VINTAGE SWAGGER

By Sam Novak





*Reckless in Vegas photo courtesy of Jerry Metellus*

The first few notes sound vaguely familiar. A single guitar plinking out a melody that you can't quite place. The baseline kicks in, chords striking an unexpected key. Frontman Michael Shapiro lets loose with the lyrics, and you finally recognize the Frank Sinatra standard. This rendition is edgy, dangerous, and totally entrancing. "Luck Be A Lady" never sounded quite like this...and you know you're in for one Hell of a show. Welcome to "Reckless In Vegas."

Numerous cities have produced their own distinctive sounds, from Seattle grunge to Minneapolis funk. Bands from Las Vegas have yielded a broader range, including radio-friendly Imagine Dragons, dance-pop Panic! At The Disco, post-punk The Killers, and heavy metal Five Finger Death Punch. Each is distinctive and totally original. Reckless In Vegas may be the first group from Sin City to meld its golden era with powerhouse beats. It's the Rat Pack gang on steroids, pushing sexy sophistication to a level-eleven dream.

Michael Shapiro's genre-bending concept was the result of a trance. Deep in meditation, he received a perfect image of the band's future. Showgirls, guitars, drums, and the glorious stylings of yesteryear, all integrated into what would become



Reckless In Vegas. The year was 2013, and the world has changed a great deal since then. Perhaps it's finally catching up to Shapiro and his surreal, artistic vision.

Some artists like Prince and Elvis were known to live inside their music. Shapiro follows a similar path. His Las Vegas home was constructed during the same era he idolizes, located in a neighborhood where iconic celebrities once resided. His eye-catching driveway leads to a tall gate, serene courtyard, and two massive doors. Think "Wayne Newton meets Mike Brady."

Inside, the multi-level home is adorned with vintage photographs, artwork, and memorabilia from decades past. Step down to the sunken living room, and you'll be tempted to head directly to the bar. Behind it, you'll see a restored

portion of "REEL 21," a game his grandfather invented in 1961.

The 1968 structure is part of a quiet community southeast of the Strip. It was reportedly owned by an MGM hotel executive for a while. Elvis Presley is rumored to have dined at the home, and why not? Showgirls, mobsters, Robert Goulet, and Engelbert Humperdinck had all resided here in Las Vegas at one time. It was clearly the place to be during the seventies.

As you might expect, the Shapiro family played a significant part in the city's history. Not only did his grandfather Barney Shapiro create numerous gambling machines, but he also founded United Coin (later United Gaming). During the mid-50s, Barney was a partial owner of the Royal Nevada. The

retro-cool hotel-casino stood on a spot later occupied by the Stardust and now Resorts World. Artifacts and awards from his contributions can be spotted throughout Michael's spectacular home.

Across from an indoor waterfall is a corridor that leads to the home's most magical space – "Shapitol Studios." It was here that I got to witness a rehearsal for an upcoming performance. When I arrived, Shapiro was bantering with bandmates Jack E. Roth (drums), Chris Nichols (bass, vocals), and his wife Roni Meron (vocals).

As they prepped their equipment, it was obvious that the four entertainers had spent many years together. Their conversation ricocheted through religion, war, gas prices, gay rights, and even vegan food. Ever the wise guy, Shapiro added,





*Reckless in Vegas photo courtesy of Jerry Metellus*



“Yeah, it goes great with a crack pipe.” The resulting laughter signaled that the band had entered “rockstar mode,” and the world’s problems were about to fade away.

Ripping through “Luck Be A Lady,” the crew pushed forward with modern-rock interpretations of classics by Dean Martin, Tony Bennett, Tom Jones, and even Sonny and Cher. Mob-centric films like “The Godfather” and “Goodfellas” get the “Reckless” treatment, as does Elvis himself. The soundscape is unlike anything you’ve ever heard. Who would have the audacity to blend Sammy Davis Jr’s “Mr. Bojangles” with influences from Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix?

“The songs and artists from that era were so incredibly special that it was of the utmost importance to pay homage to original versions, yet make them our own,” says Shapiro. “I guess one might say we’re a tribute to an era, but somehow, somehow, we’ve managed to bring it current and make it our own,” he adds. In other words, reinvigorated, reinvented, and totally reckless.

When they were eleven years old and growing up in Las Vegas, Shapiro and his drummer pal Jack Roth weren’t worried about the consequences of being reckless. Their only concern was how to get inside the auditorium of what is now known as Westgate Resort. Back then, it was the Las Vegas

Hilton and home to Elvis Presley’s record-breaking fifty-eight consecutive sold-out shows.

The two boys headed toward the massive hotel and parked their bicycles at the valet. Sneaking into the venue, they looked across the empty theater from that same iconic stage where The King had once played. Filled with awe, their young minds envisioned musical stardom. Had the buddies been apprehended, chances are that their parents would have cut them some slack. After all, future rockers are rebellious by nature.

Michael credits his father, Lenny, for fostering an interest in show business. The elder Shapiro was also involved in the gaming

industry and operated two popular Las Vegas bars during the nineties. "I really owe him for my love of music. He was my idol and took me to many concerts in the '70s and '80s. Santana was my first in 1976. I believe that actually was the beginning of my dream."

Ohio native Chris Nichols was an early participant in that vision, too. Shapiro created the band "TRIP" during the nineties and recruited Nichols to be a member. Together, they released a number of albums and joined the "VH1 Rocks Across America Tour", where they opened for major names like Cheap Trick,

The Romantics, and Duncan Sheik. Now, the longtime friends have regrouped and added Nichols' wife Roni to the roster. Shapiro's wife Jolae Brandt-Shapiro choreographs their appearances and performs with dancers who add spice and class to the proceedings. A little older, a lot wiser, and eager to make Vegas classy-cool again, Reckless In Vegas blankets the Valley's music hotspots with eye-opening arrangements created by producer Dan Shea (Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, Santana).

Initially a part of the band's early efforts, Shea returned to develop

the "Reckless" sound and style aligned with Michael's vision. "He's my partner, and without him, we would not be where we are today."

Since its launch, the band has partnered with a variety of charities, sharing a significant portion of sales to benefit foundations like St. Jude's Ranch. Sponsors have come aboard, donating money for each ticket sold. Most recently, Shapiro has offered his time and talent to NOTORIETY GIVES, a foundation that immerses at-risk children in the magic and benefits of artistic expression.

Now that the crippling effects of the pandemic have begun to wane, Reckless In Vegas is adding dates in venues as varied as The Space and Italian American Club on the east side. They've also been securing a residency inside a historic Strip hotel. Smart money would be on Sahara for a summer debut.

Ultimately, Shapiro and his team are just excited for the opportunity to bring joy and live music once again to a suffering world. "It's easy to slip into a news cycle and get depressed about life. But if we look inward, we'll find the things we're grateful for and how blessed we are. Rock on!"

*Reckless in Vegas photo courtesy of Bobby Black*







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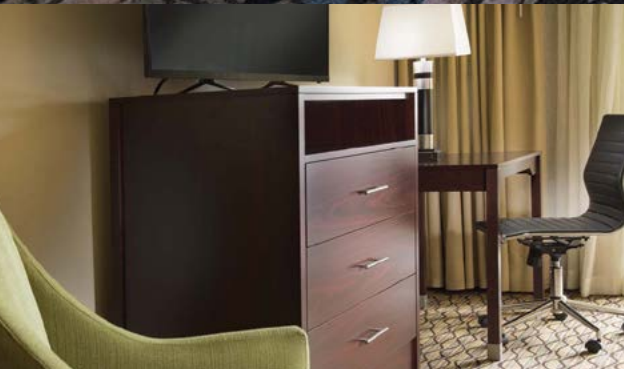


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# Faith

## RENATA BOSNJAK

### A Lady of Faith

By Joan S. Peck

When I learned that I'd be writing about Renata Bosnjak, the talented artist of predominantly religious figures and portraits, I had no idea what to expect. Upon meeting her, I was taken aback, for to me, she looked like she could have fit into one of her paintings. She was tall with her long blond hair pulled back, and she reminded me of older times. But it was her eyes that drew me in—so expressive as only an old soul can exude. I wanted to know more about her.

Renata was born in Bosnia in 1976. Growing up, she always heard stories about her grandfather, an Austrian-German man with an affinity for art. Even though she never met him, those stories carried her through her passion. Holidays and special occasions often brought large boxes of chocolate candy into the household. Those times provided Renata with a clean pallet when she could use the inside cover of the candy box to paint. At the age of seven, she took the inside lid from a chocolate box to paint her first painting, "Girl Holding Dog," which she kept and brought with her when she moved to Las Vegas in 1997.



*"Girl Holding Dog" by Renata Bosnjak at age 7*

"I have never been taught painting, and no one took me seriously when I painted, even when I won "best in art" in middle school."

After middle school, it was an unhappy time in Bosnia when the four-year Bosnian war began in 1992, blocking Renata from pursuing her passion. After high school, a choice in career became a matter of survival rather than love, pushing her to work in the police department instead of continuing her art. Her life took another unexpected turn when she finally received her American visa.

Her aunt was living in Las Vegas after being sponsored by a local catholic church, and it was through that same church that Renata received sponsorship and was finally able to move to Las Vegas in 1997.

When Renata first arrived in the United States, it was not easy for her. She didn't know English and, because of that, was often treated as if she were uneducated and naive. Renata managed to find work at the Luxor as a chambermaid, but without her family and feeling alone, Renata turned to her art to find solace. She began to paint in earnest ... first landscapes, and then portraits. She also found herself painting large murals and creating plaster-clay sculptures.

Settling in Las Vegas, Renata looked around and realized that "All the people were refugees from one place or another ... even if only from another state. And I saw the fear and worry of being somewhere new in their eyes."



Aware that so many refugees from different places are women, Renata views them as beautiful regardless of color, age, or looks. She is attracted to their soul, and that is what she paints. She wants her painting to express to women new to this country, "You have endurance and power. You can do it!"

Her themes of love, faith, motherhood, and all positive attributes of humanity, generate an immediate visceral impact and healing energy.

Renata calls her portrait work "Soul Painting," and it is evident when you look into the eyes of those she has painted that she's been able

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*"You have endurance and power. You can do it!"*

---





to reach their soul to express their emotions. "When people see my painting of the Madonna, I don't want them to forget that she lost her son like any mother and child, and I express that."

Renata uses Old Master painting techniques and has developed her own unique style enhanced by her sensitivity to her subjects and keen attention to detail. "People have said to me that I must paint famous icons like Elvis or Marilyn Monroe to be a success in Las Vegas, but

it's just not me. I love the more traditional painting, and I plan on staying true to myself and my techniques. That is what makes me feel successful."

*Left: "Madonna and Child" - 24" x 36" oil on canvas*

*Far Left: "Hope" - 30"x 40" oil on canvas*

*Below: "Mother's Love" - 24" x 20" oil on canvas*





*Left: "Through the Windows"  
16"x 20" oil on canvas*

*Below: Renata Bosnjak*



curated by Renee Phillips, Director of Manhattan Arts International. Phillips wrote: "Renata Bosnjak's oil paintings of predominantly religious figures and portraits are imbued with a life-affirming presence."

She continues evolving through her personal and professional experiences, developing her love for her craft; and mastering her Artistry.

Renata's art has been in many gallery exhibitions, including the Laguna Art Gallery, the Vegas Wonderland Gallery, and New York Art. Her solo exhibition is being planned by the Steiner Gallery in Vienna, Austria.

She has received several awards from critically acclaimed art

curators, including the International Art Prize Frida Kahlo and the International Prize of New York City. Her art has been published in several books and magazines, including Current Masters, among others.

Renata has won Awards of Excellence from The Healing Power of ART & ARTISTS and Manhattan Arts International. She received a Special Recognition Membership Art Award in "The Spirit of Resilience" exhibition,

When I look at Renata's work, I feel a sense of calmness, for I see the hope, love, and fearlessness of the female gender. Yet, for me, those portraits nudge me to be more of who I am. After all, it is the power of women, like Renata, who are willing to meet life's challenges and do what is necessary to remind others in her own way of the simplicity of living a kind, good life filled with faith.

View more of Renata's artwork at: [www.renatabosnjak.com](http://www.renatabosnjak.com)



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# hope

## PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST THE PORTNOYS GIVE BACK THROUGH ART

By Stacey Gualandi

*I*t never fails. Whenever portrait artist Neal Portnoy meets someone, they always ask, “Can you do me?”

In just six short years, the Boston native has made his felt-tip mark in Las Vegas and realized his dream of becoming the “Illustrator to the Stars.” So this Portnoy has no complaints.

Name any popular performer, politician, or personality—on and off the Strip—and you can bet they’ve been “Portnoyed.” (Yes, that’s a thing!)

For many of those fortunate enough to get caricatured on canvas, they see his portraits as a badge of honor; it’s an “I’ve arrived” vibe.

“Vanity, vanity, vanity,” admits Neal. “I have no other way to explain it.”

Quick side note: I won the chance

to get “Portnoyed” in a charity raffle, and I won’t lie. I am honored to hang with a “Who’s Who of Sin City.” Maybe someday I’ll even get to “hang” on Portnoy Gallery’s “Wall of Honor!”

Neal says his downtown gallery has 3,200 square feet of wall space, all filled with portraits, but he adds, “I have five times that I still haven’t framed!”

He definitely has no trouble filling wall space. In fact, Neal’s largest work to date—a 28 x 40-foot black-and-white mural of the Raiders—is on full display inside Allegiant Stadium.

“I had done the drawing a year before they even got here because I did my homework,” boasts Neal. “I heard they were coming, and I wanted to do the greatest Raiders mural of all time. It took me two weeks, eight hours a day, five days a week.”

It’s that desire to make an impact, says Dorothy, Neal’s wife of 15 years, that fueled their move across the country—with all 5,000 markers—to open a Las Vegas gallery together.

“We had this five-year plan, and then I ended up between jobs,” says Dorothy. “So, one day, Neal





has an epiphany and says, 'Book a trip to Vegas! It's the entertainment capital of the world. We should be there!'"

Now that he has literally made a name for himself in Las Vegas, Neal is also putting those markers where his mouth is. The Portnoys say it's important they use his God-given talent for good.

"When we had events here at the gallery, we wanted to help out the community, so we started giving back," says Dorothy. "For many years, we raised funds for St. Jude's Ranch for Children, which was great."

Since then, the Portnoys have raised money every month for performers and their charities-of-choice at the "Wine and Music" gallery events. Last year, they were invited to become ambassadors for The Tyler Robinson Foundation. Neal made a thousand limited-run prints of the band "Imagine Dragons," the founders of TRF, to help support families battling pediatric cancer.

"The band has the potential for distribution of this print on all of their social media to raise half a million dollars!" boasts Neal.

Dorothy says no gesture is too big or too small when it comes to giving hope to those who need it most.

"I see the reactions of people when they get Portnoyed," says Dorothy. "When Neal decides to do a portrait randomly, he picks someone, and then we get the phone call: 'Oh my God, you have no idea



*Dorothy and Neal Portnoy. Photo courtesy of David O Photo*



*Stacey Gualandi with her caricature by Neal Portnoy*



what a day I was having and how much this just made me feel happy. I can't believe that you did this for me."

If anyone understands the power of hope, it's Neal Portnoy.

"I've been there," admits Neal. "I grew up in a housing project in Worcester, Massachusetts. My mother passed away when I was 14 years old. We never owned a house; we never owned a car... we literally didn't have anything. We were very poor."

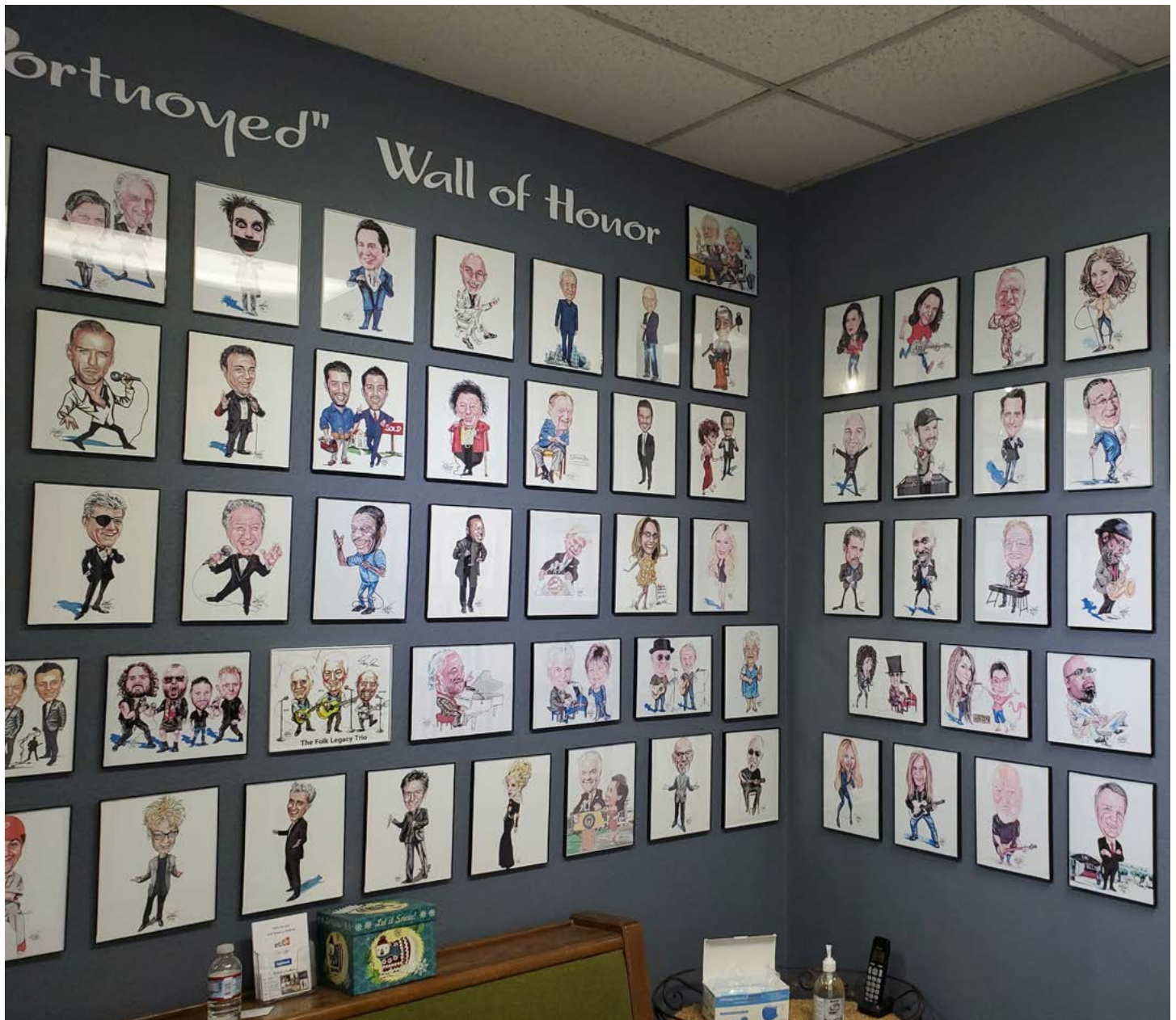
As a young boy, Neal was drawn to sketching but relied on his athletic ability to escape the projects. Eventually, he found his field of dreams until a career-ending injury sent him back to the drawing board.

"I cried for a couple of weeks because my dream was gone," admits Neal. "I literally went inward and became very defensive when people would say, 'Oh Neal, he's good at copying pictures,' but I never got any credit. To this day, I'm proving people wrong. I'm gonna get it done, and I'm gonna figure it out."

Neal's career finally took off after being asked to draw a college basketball team as a gift. That led to a massive body of "athlete artwork" and hundreds of commemorative program cover commissions for countless universities. And it didn't take Neal long to parlay his passion for portraiture into performance art at trade shows, weddings, and corporate events.







"In five minutes, I have a full-color cartoon that looks like you," says Neal. "I'm like Don Rickles with a pen. Can I draw? Yes, but my job is to make sure that I am the most entertaining at a trade show. You want to keep people at your booth? You bring me in, and I'll keep 'em there."

As a "former jock who happens to draw," Neal says his love of sports (just as his ring tone interrupts with "Put Me in Coach...") is what in-

spired the Portnoys' early charity work.

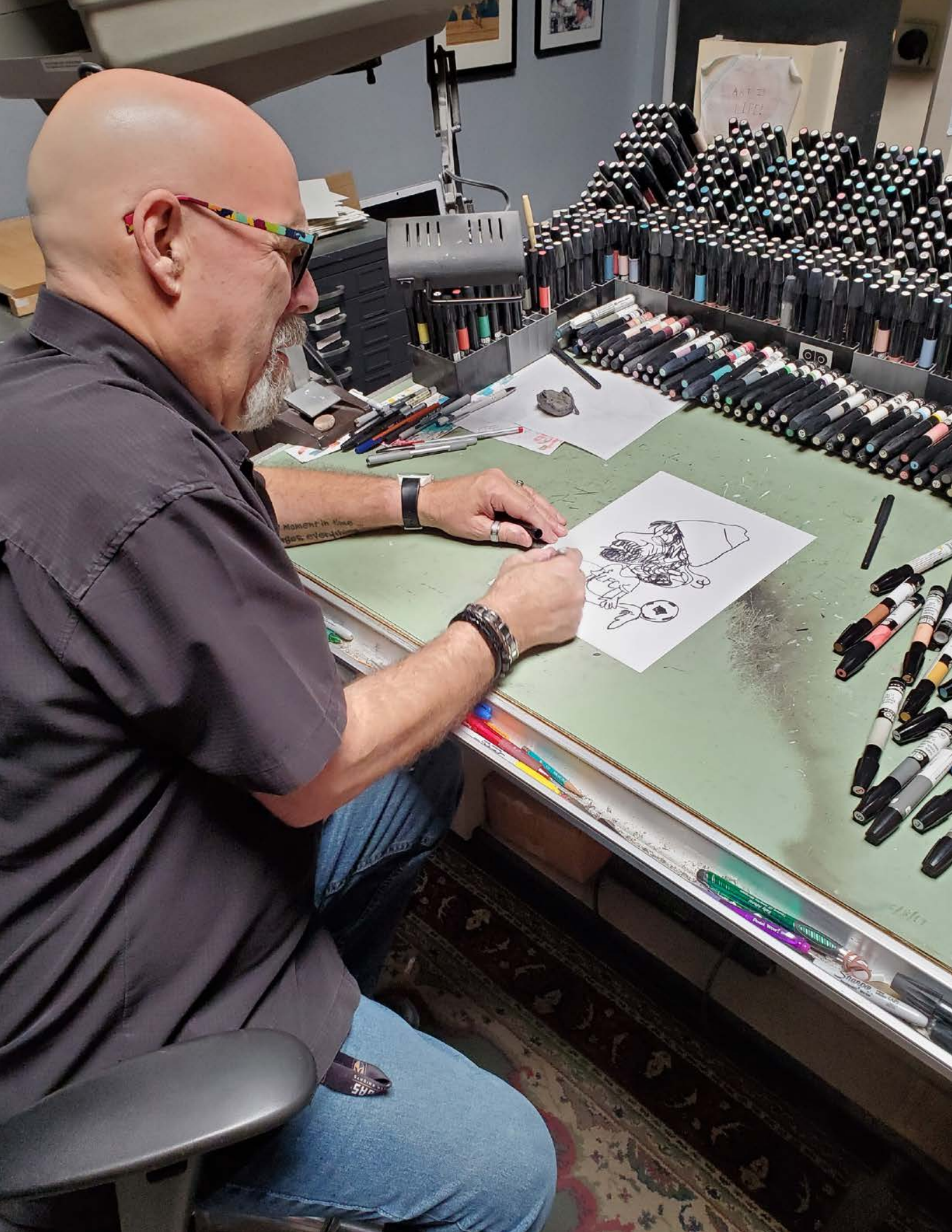
Marie Osmond and the Children's Miracle Network commissioned him to create an original multi-action portrait of longtime Duke University basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski.

"It raised \$384,000 [at auction] and helped build a wing at Duke Children's Hospital."

Neal's illustration of NFL quarterback Doug Flutie called "Flutie Through the Years" raised money for the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism. The Portnoys also became actively involved with The Jimmy Fund, the fundraising wing of the Dana Farber Cancer Research Institute.

"I felt like, 'Who can I cheer up today?'" says Neal. "I'd walk out of there, and I'd lose it because that kid may not make it."







Jump to Las Vegas years later, and Neal is still cheering people up. During the pandemic, dozens of the people and performers adorning his gallery walls were out of work and struggling.

"Nobody was making money, so I said, 'Here's a way we can give back to the entertainers so at least they can make some money,'" says Neal.

Adds Dorothy, "We set up a website, and we put all of their caricatures on coffee mugs, pendants, and ornaments. To this day, we continue to give 50 percent of the net proceeds of those sales back to the individual entertainer."

But then, Neal got COVID, and the prognosis wasn't good. At one point, he had double pneumonia in both lungs and a severe blood clot. He was literally dying.

"Truthfully, I was ready to go," admits Neal. "I thought if I leave tomorrow, I will be remembered. I've already made my mark, so that kind of changed my whole perspective on life."

But the community whose spirits he had spent years lifting came out in full force to keep him from losing hope.

To illustrate, performer David Tatlock of the Soul Juice Band posted this message on social media not long ago. Neal still gets choked up while reading it.

"What I really appreciate about Neal is that he and his wife Dorothy generally care about people



and help them in practical, sincere ways," writes Tatlock. "Neal's been so encouraging in so many ways...he wants to see you succeed as much as he wants himself to succeed, and that's rare indeed. He has donated so much time to helping numerous charities, raising millions for people in need, and using his talent for causes that matter. Neal's been good to so many in the community, and I really appreciate our friendship."

Now the Portnoys are drawing on

that mutual support as they continue to find new ways to provide others hope. Neal knows life isn't picture-perfect, but he's not ready to turn in his markers yet. After all, he's got places to go, charities to meet, and people to do.

"Our goal will always be to put a smile on somebody's face every day and to leave a lasting impression."

To learn more and to take a tour, go to [portnoygallery.com](http://portnoygallery.com)





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# Finally, a book you'll read and tell your girlfriends to get!

The Waiting Room is a delightful romp with three women who meet in the waiting room of a doctor's office and grow to become life-long friends. After Allison's roommate goes missing and later is found dead, the man they identify as a suspect stirs up trouble for them.

Fortunately, life has its way of making things right, and so it was left to the three women to see things through to the end and correct a wrong.

Years later, when the friends gather, they realize the waiting room they're now in is actually the space between here and there – a timeless space where you choose how to live your remaining years.

Humorous, honest, and tender, *The Waiting Room* will steal your heart and hold it captive long after you finish turning the last page. It's a book worth sharing with others, especially with those you love.

## *The* WAITING ROOM



[www.JoanSpeck.com](http://www.JoanSpeck.com)



JOAN S. PECK is a writer of both non-fiction and fiction books. She first began writing in 2009 as an author of spiritual non-fiction books. *Prime Threat Shattering the Power of Addiction* won a Top Shelf Book Award Nominee. Nine years later, she published her first fiction books under the pen name J.S. Peck and won a Top Pick for Spirited Woman for *Death on the Strip*, the first book of her mystery Death Card Series. Throughout her fiction books, Joan has become known for expressing addiction and human sex trafficking concerns through her strong, likable characters. She has an extraordinary writing ability that brings the reader into each book's storyline, holding them hostage until the end.

Her books are available on all book sites and her website – [www.joanspeck.com](http://www.joanspeck.com)



# grace

## NEW WAYS OF SEEING

### WITH ARTIST-PHOTOGRAPHER ELISA TERRY

Article by Kendall Hardin / Artwork & Photography by Elisa Terry

In today's Instagram-saturated world, where everyone is a self-proclaimed photographer armed with a smartphone, the work of a true photographic artist jumps out from all the rest.

While brilliant photography can be reduced to four simple concepts - light, composition, technique, and subject - it is hardly a simple art. Moreover, making a livelihood as a professional photographer requires not only a gifted eye combined with passion and perseverance but also a head for business and a heart that recognizes life's unique moments.

I was first drawn to Elisa Terry by her photographs of Ballet120 dancers. While dance suggests movement, her shot of a sensual supple body juxtaposed within a weathered door frame caught my eye. It is a frozen "landscape" of the dancer's body and yet so revealing about the artform. She challenges the canon by making us "see" the dance performer differently.



Dancer-Aerialist Samantha Bergman in Blue Label Dancewear



I was intrigued to discover how Elisa propelled her reputation and business as a young photographer in Las Vegas. Her tale is half inspired artist and half intuitive entrepreneur.

Armed with two degrees in industrial design from Auburn University, she ventured to Las Vegas to work as an exhibit and environmental designer at Derse, where she met the

man she would marry. Later, when her son Elias was born, she focused on raising her child at home. She wanted to re-engage professionally when he entered school, but re-entry was challenging.

"I couldn't return to the exhibit design field, which is very specialized here in Las Vegas. With my husband Logan as an executive of one of the major companies,

I couldn't very well work for the competition. And I don't think I could handle my husband as my boss," she jokes. "So I launched my business from home."

Elisa returned to her roots as an artist and photographer to pursue her love of the arts. Her signature style combines the use of vibrant color and bold contrast in unique settings to bring her subjects to life.



Studio 702 Dancer Reese Tolentino



Hip Hop Dancer CJ Edwards

She started by photographing friends' weddings, graduations, engagements, and even family/pet portraits and branched out to work with scores of artists, athletes, community events, and fashion retailers to complement her own creations in painting, illustration, and photography.

"I love working collaboratively with all kinds of artists and athletes in action," Elisa professes. During the pandemic, she photographed a variety of artists so they could enhance their websites. "I wanted to show them as real people who are talented, trained professionals driven in their professions. I wanted them to have a voice in the darkness."

Her current collaborations extend to commercial fashion photography for *Child on the Go* clothing lines for the Lander Company in Portland and *Blue Label Dancewear* designed by Las Vegas dancer Summer Smith.

"I'm not exactly an artist's rep, but I play an important role in reflecting a performer on and off stage," Elisa notes. "My 10-year-old son has become obsessed with street dancing and pleaded for a private lesson with local phenomenon Bailey Muñoz, winner of *So You Think You Can Dance* in 2019. This request led to an unbelievable photographic session with the two of them I've been able to capture here in Las Vegas!"

Occasionally, Elisa donates pro bono talent to local causes. She photographed the Covid Memorial and covers the Walk for Apraxia at the Springs Preserve each year to provide support for this neurological motor disorder affecting children's ability to coordinate speech and movement.

"I like to integrate design and photography," she explains. "And I have my camera and sketchbook with me wherever I go." Elisa also creates large painting commissions and sells her photographs of landscapes and cityscapes online. "My money all goes to more lenses, brushes, and paint," she shrugs with a grin.





Bailey "Bailrok" Muñoz, winner of 2019 So You Think You Can Dance





Desert landscape with Waterfall



One of her newer pursuits is hand-painting custom footwear and bags, especially for street artists, Cirque performers, and groups performing in dance competitions. Her creations are 100% scuff-proof, rendered in oil-based acrylics, and sealed with a clear matt fixative.

Perhaps Elisa's most endearing venture so far is her *Mini-Me Project* for kids. "All children are artists until they're told they're not!" she paraphrases John Lennon.

"Basically, I work with individual children to find out what interests them," she explains. "Then I start an illustration and send it back with suggestions of creative ways to enhance and display the work, and the child finishes it. I ask the parents to send me images of the kids working on their masterpieces, which I then post on social media."

All of Elisa's photos are *memories in time*. "I like to work outdoors in natural light. All my shots are in motion with a high shutter speed - even my portraits are never posed in a studio. While I look forward to working more with local sports teams and Olympic athletes, I enjoy covering everything in music and dance from classical ballet to hip hop."

For Elisa, close collaboration with the people she photographs provides the magic. "Together, we choose the setting and anything special like props and clothes - all of which sets the mood for capturing the moment."

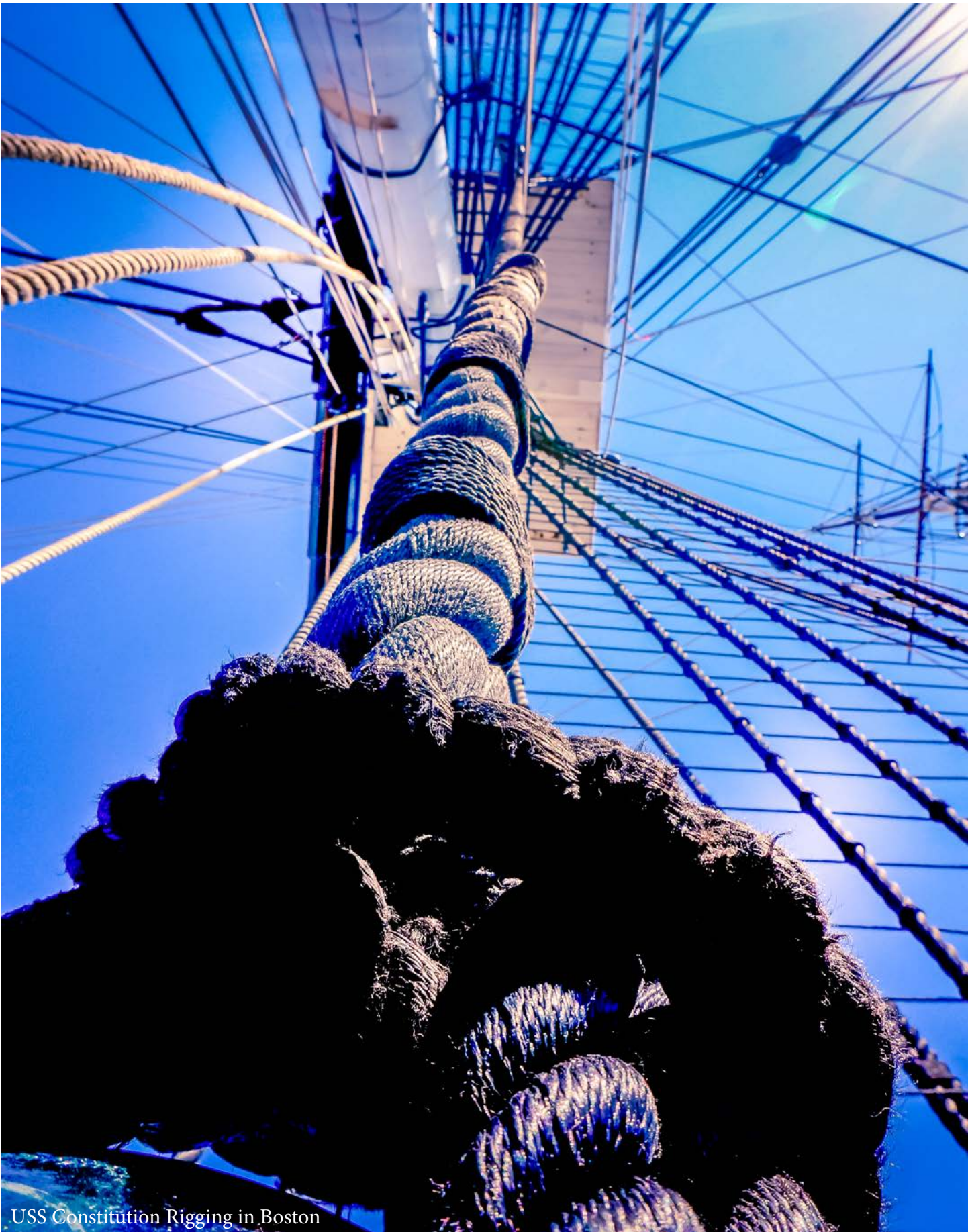


Galaxy-Themed Tap Shoes



"The Day the Music Died" 30" x 40" acrylic of John Lennon





USS Constitution Rigging in Boston





Performer Bailey “Bailrok” Muñoz with Elias Terry



Las Vegas COVID Memorial in March 2021

On her website, she sums up her approach. “Viewing art and photography should be a liberating moment in time. The content should be secondary to the meaningful

communication of emotion through color and composition.”

While Elisa’s signature style is dynamic and evocative, her work

always feels infused with graceful ease. She pulls us in to observe the world through the lens of her craft, leaving each viewer with new insights, awareness, and wonder.

She’s definitely one artist to follow as her career skyrockets!

**Please Note:**

Elisa’s Mini-Me Program for young artists costs \$20 for one piece and \$15 (each) for multiple pieces.

Take a tour of Elisa Terry’s art and photography at [elisaterryart.com](http://elisaterryart.com)

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# charity

## PROJECT MARILYN

### A MISSION WITH DIGNITY. PERIOD

By Stacey Gualandi

**M**enstruation has gone mainstream. TV and film tackling the once-taboo subject of a woman's period are now on-trend.

Pixar's new movie "Turning Red" (about a girl who turns into a red panda) and episodes of "And Just Like That," "Pen15," and "I May Destroy You" are just a few examples of Tinseltown going with the flow and including positive period plotlines.

But while Hollywood continues to ride this crimson wave, the reality for many women in our country is a serious lack of access to proper hygiene products and facilities, especially if they are home insecure or truly houseless.

Wendi Schweigart (pictured) wants to end this often-overlooked cycle of "period poverty." Period.

She founded the Las Vegas-based Project Marilyn, a non-profit that provides people who menstruate



with sufficient period supplies who otherwise can't afford them.

"Our mission is not only a healthy period but a dignified period," says Wendi. "We want you to hold your head high, but how can you do that with fast food napkins in your underwear?"

In 2018, the Alliance for Period Supplies said, "1 in 4 women couldn't afford period products in a given year due to lack of income." Now, it's 2 in 5—a serious Code Red.

"You also can't use any sort of federal funding for period supplies, toilet paper, diapers, any of those





*Photo of Wendi Schweigart's mother Marilyn*

things,” adds Wendi. “So instead of a handout, some people just need a hand-up; they just need a little bit of help this month. As women, we put ourselves last, and if you have your last \$10, you’re going to buy milk for your kids, not tampons.”

This former hospital candy-striper knows a thing or two about giving a helping hand (“I’ve always loved to volunteer!”). But she only learned about “the homeless period” three years ago in *People Magazine*.

Her entrepreneurial husband Nathan, who owns NDL Group construction company, asked, “Why not start a non-profit of your own?” So, in 2019, she selflessly launched “Project Marilyn” in honor of her

mother, who died of breast cancer in 2011—the same year Wendi gave birth to her son.

“Marilyn was fabulous. I mean, she was the one who really encouraged and drove me to Valley Hospital to volunteer,” says Wendi. “My mom was really about giving people dignity.”

But throughout her life, Wendi says her mom rarely received the respect she deserved.

“She just really pulled herself up by her bootstraps. To me, she was the original boss babe before that was a thing,” says Wendi. “I know she passed away with a lot of regrets; she had a life of obligation instead of a life of inspiration, so I

just wanted to do something that keeps her memory alive.”

That included using Marilyn’s photo and driver’s license signature—and a little eyelash—for the charity’s logo.

“She wore false eyelashes and nude lipsticks. Sometimes my family would say, ‘I don’t know if she would like her face on a bag of tampons,’ and I said, ‘Well, it’s really on a bag of dignity.’”







*"Period Posse" at a "Pop Up and Give Mobile Market" at Cortney Middle School*



Project Marilyn packages two kinds of bags: black (with tampons) and pink (without), and each contains enough pads, panty liners, and hygiene wipes for an entire menstrual cycle. The goal is never to cramp anyone's style.

"We don't care if you're a prostitute; a stripper; a drug addict; gay, straight, Republican; Democrat. Wherever you fall, a person's period is coming, and we want to help with that," says Wendi. "There are so many wonderful organizations helping with the rest; we just want you not to bleed on your pants."

For Wendi, Project Marilyn has been a blessing, not a curse. In just three short years, she has formed a

"period posse" with other community partners like Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth and The Just One Project to help distribute period kits.

"We go out with The Just One Project's "Pop Up & Give Mobile Markets," says Wendi. "Brooke Neubauer and her whole team have been fabulous in taking us in because we really have to go where the people already are."

There is also a "Finding Marilyn" tab on the website to locate the agencies that distribute packages discretely. Currently, there are four, including the Foundation for Recovery.



"You walk in, and you say, 'I'm here for the package Marilyn left me,' and they will give you a bag," says Wendi. "What surprises me most are the people I know who come to me and say, 'You don't know this, but I was a homeless teen, and I had to steal pads from the Dollar Store. If I had had access to one of your bags, it would've made my life so much better.'"

Last year alone, Project Marilyn donated 15 thousand kits and over 370 thousand pads, and in March, Wendi teamed up with non-profit Baby's Bounty to expand overseas. Together, they shipped thousands of feminine products to Ukrainian refugees in Poland, just another opportunity she says to do her part.

"We are small, but we want to do what we can and show the people of Ukraine what a big heart Las Vegas has," said Wendi to KLAS.

This mission to end period poverty hasn't gone unnoticed. Wendi has received numerous awards, including the "Best of Las Vegas" Bronze winner for Best Non-profit; the Young Professional Leadership Award from the Women's Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame; and on May 9th, it was her time of the month at "Monday's Dark," a bi-monthly variety/fundraiser show benefitting various local charities.

"I picked that date because May 8th is Mother's Day."

In a matter of 90 minutes, they raised \$10,000 for Project Marilyn!



*Wendi received the Soroptimist Ruby Award for Women helping Women; presented by Punam Mathur.*

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## "Last year alone, Project Marilyn donated 15 thousand kits and over 370 thousand pads."

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"Vegas is just an outstanding community of people who want to keep improving the community around us," she says.

As Wendi looks to the future, she dreams of someday opening a "period pantry" and converting a food truck into a "Tampon Taxi," but without any paid staff members, her mood swings between expanding her empire or sticking with the status quo.

"I want to help as many people as we can without sacrificing our integrity, our quality, and our reputation, and if that means we have to stay small, then that's what we'll do."

While she admits this labor of love is amazing and rewarding yet frustrating and exhausting, Wendi will keep plugging away because, as she says, menstruation matters. Marilyn would be very proud.

"I miss her so much, but I feel like she's watching us," says Wendi. "I just want her to know that her life meant something, and I was inspired to do something for the greater good because of her."

Period Poverty Awareness Week is May 23-29, 2022.

To donate and spread the word, go to: [projectmarilyn.com](http://projectmarilyn.com)



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# A TRUE LAS VEGAS SUPERSTAR

COMEDY HYPNOTIST KEVIN LEPINE SHARES  
THE SPOTLIGHT DURING ‘HYPNOSIS UNLEASHED’

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Article by Heather Turk

For the past 12 years, Kevin Lepine has done what very few headliners have in the Entertainment Capital of the World—he’s transformed ordinary people into Las Vegas superstars.

Now performing at Four Queens Resort and Casino in downtown Las Vegas, Lepine’s hit hypnosis show, “Hypnosis Unleashed,” gives audience members the opportunity to star in the production by volunteering to have the award-winning hypnotist use his certification in clinical hypnotherapy “for mischief instead of good.” While hilarity naturally ensues, “Hypnosis Unleashed” has become the hypnosis show to see in Las Vegas for one very good reason: Lepine never humiliates his trusting volunteers.

“My goal, once someone walks up onstage, is I want to make them a superstar,” Lepine told *Chic Compass*.

“I’m not going to embarrass anyone because if I embarrass them, everybody feels embarrassed for them. The entire audience knows one fact about my volunteers. They all know, ‘Oh my God, that could have been me!’ The way I treat my volunteers, my audience knows that’s how I would have treated them. So, the better I can treat people onstage and the more fun I can make them have, the more fun everybody else has.”

“Hypnosis Unleashed,” that rare Las Vegas show that’s different each night because of audience participation, could have easily kept the same material it had over a decade ago when Lepine first began hosting the show with two other hypnotists at the now-defunct Harmon Theater on the Strip. However, the production has continued to evolve over the years thanks to the hard work Lepine con-



In addition to being a two-time *Las Vegas Review-Journal* Best of Las Vegas Readers' Choice Award recipient for Best Hypnotist, Lepine is a five-time Certificate of Excellence recipient from TripAdvisor and a member of the TripAdvisor Hall of Fame. Photo by Shane O'Neal of SON Studios.





stantly puts into it, and its newest incarnation inside The Canyon Club at Four Queens—which opened last July—is undoubtedly its strongest version to date.

“The production level is so much more fun,” Lepine said, who currently hosts the show alongside his wife, Emily. “We have so many great new toys. The lights, the video, the lasers—we can do so much more, and I’m so happy about that. Also, one of the great things now is that the Mike Hammer show is before me at 7 PM. Mike’s a fantastic comedy magician, a great comedy writer, and has a great eye for direction. He and I sit around backstage and talk about jokes, and that’s made the

material a lot better. As a comedian, you have to change things because things change. Things that were funny five years ago aren’t funny today, so you have to keep modifying and growing.”

Even though Lepine prefers to have five to seven people hypnotized onstage so that “everybody gets the chance to have some kind of a solo moment,” he recently created several new group scenarios for when more volunteers successfully go under hypnosis. Sometimes he’ll make all of his volunteers think they’re traveling in a spaceship, while other times, he’ll have one of his male volunteers believe that he’s pregnant and have everyone else onstage think they’re his deliv-

*Above: Lepine recently started hypnotizing some volunteers into thinking they’re bodybuilders during his show. Photo courtesy of Kevin Lepine*

ery nurse. Although the scenarios change nightly based on who is hypnotized, Lepine does have one signature routine that he always tries to work into the production.

“My favorite bit is I’ll have someone onstage, and I’ll bring their spouse up from the audience and have them pick their favorite color,” Lepine explained. “Whenever the spouse from the audience says their favorite color, that makes the hypnotized spouse give them the biggest honeymoon-style kiss ever.





*Above: Throughout “Hypnosis Unleashed,” Lepine makes sure that his volunteers don’t do anything onstage that they’ll feel bad about or make the people they came with feel uncomfortable. Photo courtesy of Kevin Lepine*



*Left: Lepine’s spacious new showroom afforded him the opportunity to make some enhancements to “Hypnosis Unleashed,” including adding live violin music on select nights. Photo courtesy of Kevin Lepine*



We have people who have been married 20, 30 years, and to see them kissing and embracing is just inspiring. It's funny, but it's also beautiful to watch. It's one of those moments where everyone goes, 'I wish that was me.'

Not only does Lepine make sure his volunteers shine during the show (doing whatever he can to accentuate each one's personality the best), but he also leaves his stars with a positive suggestion at the end of the night as a thank you for coming up onstage. Lepine even strives to make a difference offstage by donating part of the proceeds he makes on the merchandise sold after each performance—which includes flash drives with 10 guided meditations on them that people can do at

home to help with things like losing weight—twice a year to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"The reason we donate twice a year is that we wait until some major corporation is matching or double matching donations so that we get the maximum bang out of it," Lepine said. "It's such a great organization. When I was 19, I got called about fulfilling a couple of wishes at different children's hospitals. For those who don't know, the point of the Make-A-Wish Foundation isn't to grant extravagant wishes—it's to give the entire family one day where they can just be happy and feel as normal as possible. I think that's absolutely beautiful. If you've ever been a part of a wish, it's an experience that will change you forever."

*Above: Lepine promises that ticket holders will have more fun onstage during "Hypnosis Unleashed" than in the audience. Photo courtesy of Kevin Lepine*

Further proving he's not just a hilarious hypnotist but one with heart, Lepine currently has a special offer on his website offering active first responders one complimentary ticket to his show as a thank you for all of their tireless work.

"Hypnosis Unleashed" runs Tuesday through Saturday at 9 PM. It's recommended guests be at least 18 years of age to attend the production.

Visit the show's website at: [vegashypnosisshow.com](http://vegashypnosisshow.com)





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SINA PEARSON



# MIGUEL JULIO: BUBBLING TO THE TOP A PASSION FOR BEAUTY, TRANSPARENCY, AND INTEGRITY

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Article By Beth Ilagan  
Photos courtesy of Las Vegas Raiders



Who is Miguel Julio? Most of you have probably seen him on the local FOX 5 KVVU-TV's "The More Show" every other week. Some may have been his clients at his mobile beauty studio. Yet others had met him through the Raiderettes, the official cheerleading squad for the Las Vegas Raiders professional American football team. Mostly, people know him simply as the funny, charming, crazy, over-the-top, vegan person. However, the other side of that is an independent, disciplined, and organized person—with very high standards! Miguel has a commanding presence of a natural-born leader. Born on January first, he comes in with a bang! I wanted to know more about him and find out what makes him so interesting, fabulous, and lovable.

## What are your accomplishments?

MJ: "I have been a make-up artist for twenty-eight years. I started as a make-up artist at the Estee Lauder counter of the Macy's Department Store in Seattle, Washington. I traveled all over the country with Dior Cosmetics and Chanel Cosmetics doing make-up. Eight years ago, I started my own beauty company in Las Vegas called 'Miguel Julio Beauty.' Five years ago, I became a Beauty Consultant for FOX 5 KVVU-TV's 'The More Show.' Three years later, my Glam Squad was selected to provide mobile beauty services for the Raiderettes. Recently, we were offered to do beauty services for the 87th NFL Draft 2022, a three-day event (April 28-30) in Las Vegas. It is the

annual meeting of the National Football League franchises to select the newly eligible players.”

### **How did you end up in Las Vegas, Nevada?**

MJ: “Eighteen years ago, I worked for the Sephora Corporation (a world-famous cosmetic chain) as a national trainer. I traveled all over the country teaching make-up as part of the introductory class for new make-up artists. They offered me a position in Las Vegas, so I decided to stay.”



### **Describe your family/childhood. Did anyone in your childhood/early adolescence influence your career path?**

MJ: “I come from very humble beginnings. During that time, we didn’t have a lot of money, so there wasn’t much food to go around. My mother, Dorothy, always made sure that we were fed and clothed. She used to say, ‘Just because we are poor, we do not have to be dirty.’ During my early adolescence, my sixth-grade teacher Edy Byrne allowed me to draw and create big pieces of wall art during lunch breaks and after school. These were displayed on the walls of our classroom. Ms. Byrne did this to keep me safe and not get bullied in school. She is a very good person, and she inspired me to be an artist. She gave me my creative and artistic freedom.”



### **What else should people know about you?**

MJ: “They should know that I am





a former performer. I love to dance and sing, and I am an aspiring comedian. I would like to enjoy that journey later in life."

### **Who inspires you?**

MJ: "My mother inspires me. She is a very strong woman and single-handedly, with very modest means, took care of four children. That lesson taught me how to make something out of nothing. When clients and colleagues ask me how I became successful, my answer is, 'I have learned how to operate with almost nothing—that is by becoming highly creative!' In my business, you have to understand what your client wants and then create something big out of it. That is my philosophy in life!"

### **How did you get started in the beauty business?**

MJ: "I was studying Interior Design at the Art Institute of Seattle, and I needed a job to keep myself financially afloat. I applied for a job at Macy's and was given a position at the Estee Lauder counter, where I learned about cosmetics and their various applications."

### **How would you describe your style, and how is it different from others in the same industry?**

MJ: "In this very competitive beauty business, I would say my style has a lot of integrity. I learned that I do not have to be the star of the show or shock anyone. I can create my own path by not pushing anyone out of my way but rather showcasing my unique talent."



### **Describe a recent victory.**

MJ: "Being chosen as the official glam squad of the Raiderettes is a recent victory. I would never have thought that this would be part of my journey. Helping women achieve confidence is what make-up and hairstyling do. My glam squad signed a three-year contract with the Raiders/Raiderettes, and now the sky is the limit! We are helping in so many ways and doing so many things for the Raiderettes that it has become a year-round commitment."

### **What is the highest point/highlight in your career?**

MJ: "Anything that I ever dreamed of, I've gotten to make it happen one way or another. Traveling on tour with Oprah Winfrey for her "The Life You Want" tour has been the highest point in my career. She

has her own make-up artist, but I did the make-up on her guests like journalist/author Elizabeth Gilbert and alternative medicine advocate/author Deepak Chopra. All these spiritual and thought leaders influenced me deeply."

### **What motivates you to get up in the morning?**

MJ: "My business has never been busier. Upon getting up, I like to have a cup of coffee, have breakfast, then go to the gym. These prepare my mind for what I have going on for the rest of the day. Always being sought after, I answer at least one hundred e-mails daily and give the attention needed by my team. My job never ends. It is a 24-hour day job, seven days a week. We work even weekends because of weddings, parties, and other events."

## **What puts a smile on your face?**

MJ: "Making my clients happy! Making women beautiful gives them confidence. It's like giving a person a superpower that they can put on. They can face the world knowing that they look and feel beautiful."

## **Do you have a hobby?**

MJ: "I would say that make-up artistry is my hobby. I am always looking for new ways to accomplish things and educate myself to keep up with the latest techniques. I love nothing more!"

## **What excites you about being the contracted beauty service for the Raiderettes?**

MJ: "Nothing is more exciting! I have never been so fulfilled in my life! I was a cheerleader in High School. It was a great outlet for me because I was bullied a lot for being different. Being around cheerleaders helps me see how women express themselves through dance and, with our help—through make-up. It is quite a feat to be part of an organization that is so large. I have to say it is one of my life's dreams come true!"

## **How do you demand or maintain excellence?**

MJ: "My entire glam team is at the highest echelon of the beauty services. We have twenty-two contracted make-up artists and hairstylists that work with Miguel Julio Beauty. They are amazing and are the best of the best! We understand that we can come to-

gether and accomplish more as a team. A lot of make-up artists promote themselves, and that's great, but when you are on a team, you can achieve so much more."

## **What is your greatest challenge or barrier in your business?**

MJ: "Competition is the greatest challenge. The beauty business is a very saturated field, and the only way you can bubble to the top is to be the best of the best and operate with integrity, grace, and conviction. We know we are the best because we hire the best people and talents. Add to this their great personalities. That is the main reason why we are rising to the top!"

## **Are there lessons you have learned in life?**

MJ: "There are many lessons I have learned in life, and many of them deal with integrity. If you do not have integrity, you do not have anything. I am transparent with my employees, loved ones, and everywhere in my life. Transparency and integrity will take you far."

## **Who are the people whom you are forever thankful to?**

MJ: "I am thankful for my family, my glam squad, my colleagues in the industry, and all the associations I have met along the way. I would like to give a shout out to the Raiders Organization and FOX 5 Las Vegas because they have propelled my career beyond my wildest dreams."



## **What is trending now in the beauty business?**

MJ: "Products and services readily available; people want instant/quick results. Both men and women are interested in taking care of their skin and learning the science behind it. Advanced skin-care products, light therapy, and exfoliation techniques are popular now. People are also interested in new make-up and hair tips and tricks. These are motivated and influenced by Tik Tok and YouTube channels. We plan to have our own Tik Tok and YouTube channels soon!"

## **What is your vision for the future in your career/business?**

MJ: "My vision is to have our own stand-alone store at some point. We had our boutique before; however, our clients love that we go to them with our mobile glam squad and provide services onsite. If we open a boutique again, it will have to be on the Las Vegas Strip to be more accessible to our clients."

Miguel Julio Mobile Beauty Studio serves Las Vegas and San Diego. Contact them at 1-866-332-2979 or [www.migueljuliobeauty.com](http://www.migueljuliobeauty.com).





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LIQUID  
STAR  
PHOTOGRAPHY

DESIGNER: PARVESH JAI  
PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
MODELS: (FROM LEFT) NINA LAZRQ, DEANNA YII, GISELE VOO, TERESAA



# THERE'S NO STOPPING LOVE

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Article by David Tupaz  
Photography by Jaime Lim

With so many weddings canceled or delayed because of Covid, it was a call to love to feast on the beautiful wedding dresses presented at the 5th ANNUAL – BRIDAL FASHION WEEK 2022 created by Parvesh and Jai, the world-renowned Canadian Fashion Designer duo.

North America's most opulent and luxurious wedding extravaganza featured the designers' beautiful White bridal collection held at three different locations for all to see. With each creation shown, hearts beat with anticipation, proving once again that there's no stopping love.

LIQSTAR  
LIQUID  
PHOTOGRAPHY

DESIGNER: PARVESH JAI  
PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
MODEL: DEANNA YII







LIQUID  
STAR  
PHOTOGRAPHY

DESIGNER: PARVESH JAI  
PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
MODEL: TERESAA

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DESIGNER: PARVESH JAI  
PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
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PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIME LIM  
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# MARKET, MARKET, MARKET!

## World Market Center, Las Vegas Market, and The Global Design Stage

By Brian G. Thornton  
Photography Courtesy of IMC







When Jan Brady, middle daughter of 70s sitcom *THE BRADY BUNCH*, told her parents she was sick of being overshadowed by older sister Marcia...things began to change. That triple cry for attention resonated and gave birth to her own identity. It's become a meme or an expression of jealousy towards someone else's success. Market, Market, Market could easily refer to design Markets in High Point, NC, Atlanta, GA, and our own Las Vegas Market. In a town where more is more and excess is best, Las Vegas's World Market Center unabashedly glows by comparison to its competition domestically and by sheer size on the global stage. We celebrate our superlative status and simultaneously demystify what goes on beyond the 16-story buildings for designers, their clients, and visitors in downtown Las Vegas.

## **NOT JUST GAMING ANYMORE**

Las Vegas is more than gaming, casinos, and entertainers. However, the first things that come to most people's minds when they think of Las Vegas are miles of neon or LED lights, day and nightlife, and larger-than-life tourist experiences. With post-pandemic residents buying, Californians are relocating, renovating, and building here, and

*At Left: World Market Center*



*The World Market Center's iconic Building A opened in 2005.*

they need home décor now more than ever. Many still import their designers, but there is no shortage of talent in the valley, and they have the hometown advantage of established relationships with the design center and the semiannual Las Vegas Winter and Summer Markets.

I reached out to colleague Cain Brodie, General Manager for the Las Vegas Design Center, to give voice to the three buildings seen from I-15 heading north. I've known Cain for more than 13 years, and I watched him progress from Brand Manager to Director of Marketing in 2014. I especially wanted to ask about the Las Vegas Design Center and how it functions with the World Market Center and the branded Market trade shows that happen in Winter and Summer.

### **GROWING GAINS**

It could be said that the World Market Center is the real home shopping network. Many would

argue, especially after our global pandemic, that in-person shopping leaves a lot to be desired. Virtual shopping or electronic retailing made popular by mega-retailers tries to imitate design Marketing. Those in the industry like to call this "the Amazon effect." You have to be able to sit on the furniture, and there is no replacement for the tactile experience and absolute color rendition under showroom lighting.

According to Brodie, "The World Market Center, Las Vegas project broke ground in 2004, with Building A and the first Market debuting in July 2005. Building B opened in 2007, followed by Building C in 2008. Las Vegas Design Center was branded and launched in 2009, consisting of the first two floors of Building A. Those showrooms would open daily to serve the regional design community and retailers in between markets. In 2011, IMC was formed with \$1B in funding from Bain Capital and Oaktree, which was used to facilitate the

acquisition of 13 buildings in High Point and the World Market Center campus in Las Vegas. In 2018, IMC acquired AmericasMart Atlanta, which pushed IMC's assets to 3 cities and over 20 million square feet of showroom space."

In 2020, The Expo at World Market Center was completed. This state-of-the-art, purpose-built facility features 315,000 square feet of exhibit/tradeshowspace and is the only active convention hall in downtown Las Vegas. In addition to housing the temporary exhibits during Las Vegas Market, the facility hosts several third-party tradeshows and events throughout the year. In 2020, IMC launched IMC-di, which in turn launched IMC's first-ever e-commerce platform Juniper Market in 2021.

### **A PLACE TO CALL HOME**

What's a place in the community without its people? A show without its cast? There is no band without musicians. The integral instruments of a thriving and working home design Market exist because of its





leadership, vendors, visitors, and of course, designers. A look at some of the personalities that make up our Las Vegas Design Center appears with as much texture, color, style, and variety as the products sold here.



*Cain Brodie*

Cain Brodie has been the General Manager of the Las Vegas Design Center since 2019. "LVDC offers a true, complete trade-sourcing opportunity from furniture to fabrics, lighting to wall décor, rugs to decorative accessories, kitchen & bath, and more. For many brands in LVDC, LVDC is the only trade/corporate showroom they have west of the Mississippi. While most

of those lines are available through sales agencies and reps throughout the country, LVDC provides the only opportunity out west to see many of those full lines in person, in a trade-showroom environment. This draws buyers and specifiers throughout the Western United States", says Brodie.

Kara Maas is an interior designer from Southern California with 25 years of professional experience. She currently holds the title of Designer Relations Specialist. On most visits to LVDC, you'll see her at the Front Desk, multi-tasking and greeting designers and visitors. Our interview wanted to get into her day-to-day and learn what it's like to be on the 'front line' of LVDC and navigate through Market, recent challenges of COVID, and the pandemic.

Maas began, "There is no typical day before Market. As I tell friends when they ask what Market is, 'Market is like hosting a big party twice a year.' The weeks leading to Market are a lot of planning, and the days before opening day are a fun and crazy bustle of activity. There are always last-minute changes or additions."

Kara moved to Las Vegas in 2015 and gravitated toward what she knew, and she knew Market. "I had been attending Las Vegas Market since the very first one in the Summer of 2005. I was not as familiar with the campus 'off market' and was excited to learn about it and later join Las Vegas Design Center. LVDC serves the local and regional design community. In between markets, we host several seminars and

events tailored to the industry. I enjoy working at LVDC because every day offers something different while remaining in the industry."

Maas gets to work closely with designers as well as showrooms and manufacturers. "I need to know the showrooms and their product offerings...many times, designers will reach out to me to help identify an item or get a referral," she says. "The start of the pandemic had a lot of unknowns," she responded. "Not knowing if it was going to be the start of the next recession or not."

"Our LVDC team worked from home for the first few months and learned to pivot fast. I had never heard of Zoom before, and now I use it multiple times a day. We moved our programming and seminars online, and it was interesting to see how those changed. We were suddenly able to reach a much broader audience. Instead of an in-person event of 40-50 designers, we suddenly saw our virtual audience jump to well over 100 – with attendees joining from as far as the East Coast."

"One of the outcomes of the pandemic was demand," Maas says. "Surprisingly, there was a huge demand for home furnishings and décor. Interior Designers were busier than ever. With the demand so high, we were able to work with the local government and reopen LVDC in June 2020."

Heather Jakusz-Bruning is an Independent Sales Representative in the residential and hospitality segments. She's been doing this for over ten years now. Generally located in the Southwest Region, her



territories vary by line but include AZ, CO, HI, NM, NV, and UT.



*Heather Jakusz-Bruning*

Her lines include Howard Elliott (mirrors, accessories, accent furniture, wall art, pillows, outdoor) and recently moved in January 2022 to a gorgeous new showroom; RC Furniture (a high-end upholstery line); Capel Rugs (Capel is family-owned and has been in business for over 100 years); Artmax (a unique collection of furniture, lighting, wall art, and decorative accessories) shows during the Markets in Space B467. Her line also includes Christopher Guy (a Luxury Line made in Java, Indonesia) anchored in a beautiful showroom on the ground floor of Building A but pulled out of the US Markets upon the untimely death of the founder, Chris Harrison.

As far as her favorites, Heather says, "Well, they're all my favorite, and it just depends on what my client is looking for. I have a lot to offer, and unfortunately, all my lines do not show at the LVDC (yet)!"

"I've also created wonderful relationships with the LVDC staff & showroom managers. It's work but also social, and I LOVE that!"

Jakusz-Brunin continued, "I attended an evening event at the LVDC Christopher Guy showroom and was introduced to the CG Sales Director. The next day, I interviewed for outside sales with Christopher Guy, and the rest is history! The LVDC has been a very important part of my career, and I'm proud to be a part of it. We are lucky to have this wonderful resource here in Las Vegas!"



*Cary Vogel*

Cary Vogel, IDS, owner and lead designer of Interiors by Cary Vogel, is an award-winning designer in every aspect of the term. With 34 years in Las Vegas and over four decades in total, he performs his craft in Mid-to-High End Residential design. He's now retired from practice in Las Vegas and New York.

Cary recalls, "Early on in starting up my practice, I needed area rugs for a project, and the manager of Capel Rugs, Suzanne Berger was so helpful in searching out options, locating other available rugs in their main warehouse, providing high-res images and loaning samples. She even delivered a room-size rug in her car to the job site and assisted me in getting it into the client's home!"

Typically, he would average once-a-month visits, and during the closures of the pandemic, "initially, all was handled remotely via phone calls, email and requesting samples mailed out to me."

Some of his favorite showrooms include Global Views and Studio A, Wendover Art, Leftbank Art, Hooker Furniture, Currey & Co., Capel Rugs, and Feizy Rugs. Of course, all the temporary spaces during markets!



*Sheila Blanton*

Sheila Blanton is the Head Designer for Loni M Design - a residential design firm doing business in Las Vegas and Los Angeles. The company has been in business for 12 years.

Ms. Blanton added that among her favorite showrooms are Global Views, Currey & Co, Four Hands, Left Bank Art, Azzurro, Nourison Rugs, Area West, etc. "There's so many here, so these are just a few of my favorites." She added, "I have a design office at World Market, so I'm there 2-3 times a week. During the pandemic, I was able to work from my home office, but the challenge to this day is getting products.



I'm only purchasing and showing clients items in stock or on the floor for purchase."

One special moment? "I was desperate for lighting and went into Currey & Company and found exactly what I needed. An amazing sales rep, Randy, assisted me with opening an account and getting my items out to the project ASAP."



*Julie O'Dwyer*

Julie O'Dwyer is the owner of JulieO Design, a residential architecture and interior design firm. She has been in the design industry her whole life, literally, and grew up in her father's architecture studio. "I have been practicing architecture and interior design for over 30 years now. My design studio is in the heart of the beautiful Rogue Valley, Ashland, Oregon. My clients take me all over, though." O'Dwyer added, "Currently, I have projects in Los Angeles & Sacramento CA, Asheville NC, Tampa FL, Dallas TX, Spokane WA, and Naples ID."

"My two must-sees in Las Vegas are The Phillips Collection and Fourhands furniture. Each gives me a sense of what is hot on the Market and what uniqueness can

be added. I used to go at least once a year, but COVID kept me at home. This year, I am looking forward to Market, but I might also try the shows in Atlanta, NYC, or Chicago." Further, "The pandemic left me with only virtual representation. It is difficult because I am not located in a major city, so I had to do a lot of sourcing when I traveled. I LOVE going to the Global Views showroom each and every time. I think I know every piece in their catalog, and then I see something displayed in a new way, and it inspires me all over again. One day I will have their Turned Pendant Chandelier hanging in my dining room, and all will be good in the world!"

### **YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW**

As part of the International Market Center, World Market Center Las Vegas is the largest center of its type in the world, encompassing over 5 million square feet in three

original connected buildings. "IMC serves as the center of commerce for the furniture, gift, home décor, and apparel industries, bringing buyers and sellers together from all over the world in Atlanta, High Point, and Las Vegas. IMC's leadership team consists of seasoned veterans with decades of experience in the home furnishings, gift, and apparel industries. Please visit <https://www.imcenters.com/our-leadership/> for details on our leadership and ownership teams.

"LVDC continues to add and improve upon its product offering to the local design community. Recent additions include major home furnishings manufacturer Hooker Furnishings and accessories provider Howard Elliott Collection. Look for more new resources coming soon," Brodie says.

"For the future," says Brodie, "the impact of e-commerce on the home furnishings industry is ever-present. IMC's launch of Juniper Marketplace offers buyers and



*Hooker Furnishings Showroom*

designers a complete omnichannel experience that offers sourcing and buying resources year-round. We are so very fortunate to have this great resource in the Las Vegas valley. We are even more fortunate to have the breadth of talent in and around the region to support the Las Vegas Design Center.”



*Brian G. Thornton*

“Chic Compass magazine asked me to give my thoughts about our World Market Center as an architectural showplace, a one-of-a-kind Design Center, and a beacon in the design community that could not be overlooked. As a newcomer to Las Vegas in 2006 as Director of Design for MGM MIRAGE Design Group, I had to learn that the recently opened center was the go-to place for design sourcing and the local nucleus for all of the above. As the recession of 2008 hit and the entire creative sources were challenged like no other time, we watched as the World Market Center expanded to celebrate the openings of Buildings B and C.”

“What was unheard of at the time was multiple industry organizations that had barely survived in their respective universes. With fledgling

resources and talent seeking work or relocating, there was no connectivity. I invited ADAS - The Architectural & Decorative Arts Society, AIA - American Institute of Architects, ASID - American Society Of Interior Designers, IDS - International Design Society, IIDA - International Interior Designers Association, NEWH - Network Of Women In Design, NKBA National Kitchen and Bath Association, and the newcomer my non-profit network for creatives, designMINDS.”

“I approached The LVDC in the spring of 2009 to host a networking and showcase of talent reception during the Hospitality Design Expo that came to town once a year. With all this activity and luminaries visiting, it was a time to show off our hometown talent and introduce visitors to Las Vegas’s World Market Center. This success was followed by opening its doors for the first annual Holiday Gala at World Market Center. This themed party with over 600 attendees brought the recovering design and creative community together after a harsh economic downfall. It had never been done before! For years this was the largest all-encompassing holiday charity event at the time.”

“To this day, this is one of my most rewarding contributions and community-related activities in my career. I don’t think Las Vegas will soon forget the generosity and comradery generated by this series of events.”

Just because saying “Market, Market, Market” three times doesn’t work like a charm, it still conjures up great shopping experiences.



*Nick Alain Showroom*









# wander in wonder



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# DEATH CARD SERIES

Reading is a way to be drawn into another time and place. A good story can place us on a journey of words, open our minds, and inspire reflection.

We invite you to join in the journey of Rosie and her family in the Death Card Series.

It all begins here:

## Death on the Strip

Thirty-two-year-old Rosalie Bennett lives in Las Vegas and uses her psychic ability and tarot cards to predict her clients' future. But when the death card shows up and murders follow, she must use her talents in a whole new way and becomes embroiled in cases to either save people or solve murders. Things aren't as simple as they appear, causing Rosie to take things into her own hands to save the day. Her silky dog, Sweet Pea, is her sidekick, and her

grandmother's spirit still pops into her life with advice or simple expressions of love --- sometimes at the most ill-timed moments.

## Death at the Lake

When the Death Card continues to pop up in her tarot card readings and murders follow, Rosie deals with a crazed person trying to kill her. Will she survive?

## Death Returns

After Rosie brings down the person responsible for her fiancé's death, she falls into a slump. A telephone call changes everything. What will she do?

## Death in the Shadows

Danger lurks everywhere, and trouble unfolds. Rosie and Isabella join their psychic forces to bring Tiffany back from the SHADOWS. Can they find her before it is too late?

## Death on the Run

Mike tells Rosie he isn't ready to further their love relationship—where does that leave Rosie? Isn't separation supposed to make the heart grow fonder? Life throws a curveball and catches Rosie unprepared for what takes place. What will she do?

## Death Comes Calling

As time passes, Rosie finds herself to be "a woman of a certain age" ... and bored. Reviewing her life, Rosie misses her younger years when she worked with the police to solve cases. So, when Police Chief Roberto calls Rosie to help find a runaway girl, she jumps at the chance. Can Rosie save her granddaughter?



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# CELEBRITY CHEF TODD ENGLISH'S OLIVES IS BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER

## at The Virgin Hotel in Las Vegas

By Elaine & Scott Harris

Todd English is a celebrity chef in every sense of the word. His culinary journey started at the young age of 15 when he first saw a professional kitchen. Just a few years later, at 20, he attended the Culinary Institute of America and went on to graduate in 1982 with honors.

After graduation, he wasted no time and began to hone his skills with Jean Jacques Rachou at New

York's La Cote Basque. He then relocated to Italy, where he apprenticed at the well-established Dal Pescatore in Canneto sull'Oglio and Paracucchi in Locanda dell'Angelo. It was in Italy that Todd, drawing from his Italian heritage, developed his unique style and approach to cooking.

After gaining additional skills, he returned to the United States at 25 as Executive Chef of the

award-winning Northern Italian restaurant Michela's in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He served there as an executive chef for three years, garnering accolades from both the press and the public. English originally opened Olives in Boston in 1989. In 1998 he opened Olives at the Bellagio, bringing his Mediterranean-inspired culinary skills to Las Vegas.

Chef Todd English is back and reimagined at his Mediterranean restaurant Olives at the new Virgin Hotel. English's fans can rest easy as many of Olive's flatbreads, seafood, and other classics from his menu are back.

English worked closely with design firm Icrave to create his 185-seat dining room with a stone and steel hearth kitchen and an elevated bar with plush lounge areas featuring stone, wood, cork, and hand-glazed art. The décor takes you back to a 1920's supper club with gold and deep brown tones that marry to give it a warm cozy feeling. This celebrity chef has a reputation of only wanting and getting the best. He sought out Andy St. John, one of Las Vegas's most sought-after General Managers,





to take the helm of the front of the house so guests could expect and receive impeccable service.

The menu is still rustic with English's personal touch of Mediterranean and Italian accents dishes prominently found in every section on the menu. One addition to Olives 2.0 is the addition of a large woodfired oven adding many additional items like a decadent 36 day-aged New York steak and a roasted half-chicken.

A perfect way to start your Olives experience is a Beef Carpaccio with Gorgonzola rosti cake and scallion cream. Of course, pulling from his Boston roots, Nantucket Bay scallops with top chestnut risotto with orange vinaigrette is an excellent choice. Still in a northeast mood? Jump into a bowl of mussels with whole grain mustard and grilled Tuscan bread to soak up the goodness. Flatbreads are an Olives' specialty. Order for the table fig and prosciutto with fig jam, Gorgonzola, and prosciutto or fiery chicken sausage with herbed ricotta cheese, balsamic onions, and roasted tomato sauce.

Pasta perfection can be found on the menu as well. Peruse choices featuring agnolotti with lemon ricotta and veal Bolognese to bucatini with shucked Maine lobster, uni butter, and crushed cherry peppers. They are all tremendously rich and palate-pleasing.

Olives is perfect for large groups, so why not share the love with shareable plates? Go traditional with chicken Milanese or a big veal parmesan smothered in





mozzarella and ragu. Go Italian with Mezza rigatoni alla vodka, or why not pappardelle with rabbit and radicchio and charred eggplant with miso for veggies?

The woodfired half chicken with roasted tomato and olives and roasted cauliflower parmesan is plated perfection for entrees. A real treat is the Wood Oven Roasted Branzino with Gigante beans and charred escarole—all topped with preserved lemon and parmigiano.

In the mood for a perfectly cooked steak? Look no further and enjoy a 14 oz Bone-in Prime Filet Au Poivre with creamy whipped potatoes



Scott Harris, Chef Todd English, Elaine Harris

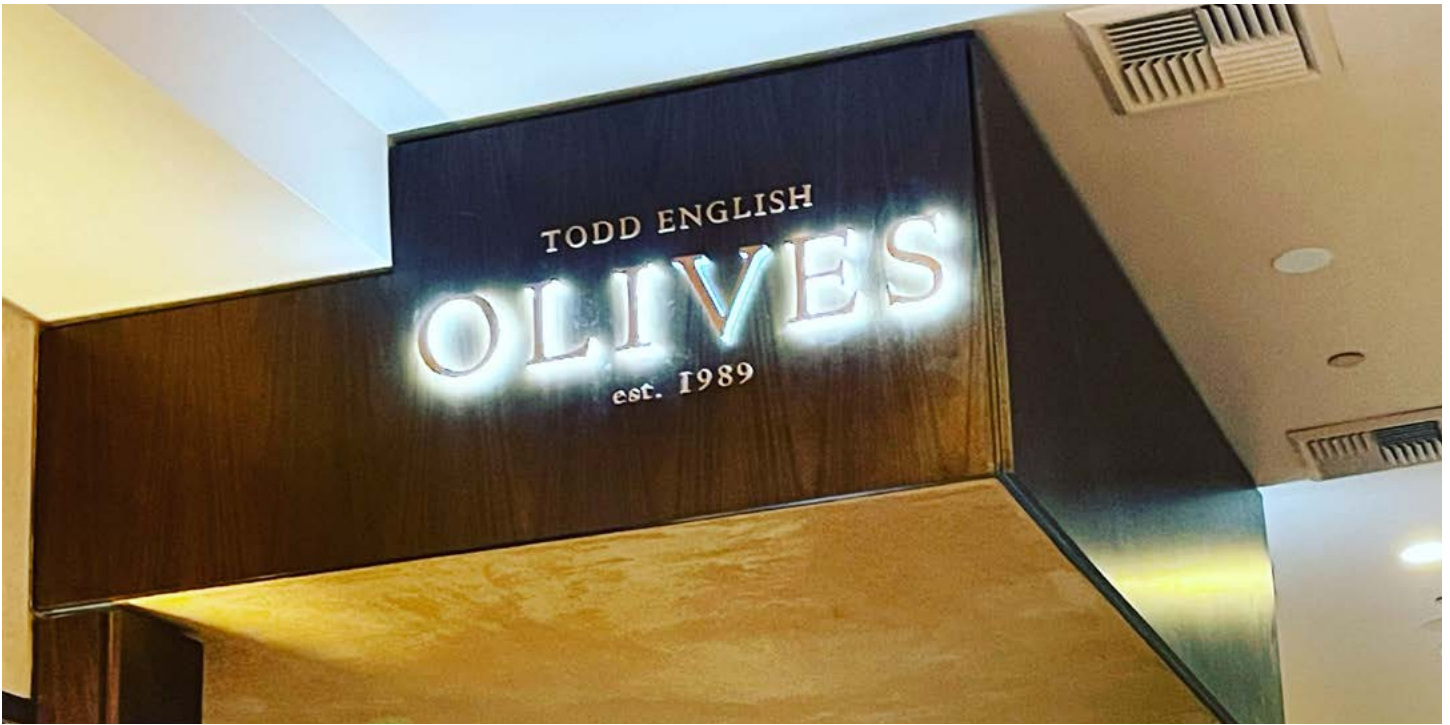


and lemon escarole. English's Untouchable Veal Parmesan with fresh mozzarella, Nona's ragu, and fried basil is a house specialty and well worth the experience.

For the grand FINI, a Very Vanilla Soufflé with vanilla ice cream, vanilla crème anglaise, or Mascarpone Panna Cotta with fresh blackberries, balsamico, and passion fruit are truly special—so why not get them both!

The beverage program is certainly top-notch. For the oenophiles, the wine list features a brilliant selection of old and new world wines and domestic favorites that are to please even the most discerning wine lover. Stand out cocktails Momo Martini with Peach Schnapps, Sake and Peach Puree as well as the SlingBack a nice well-balanced cocktail with grapefruit, vodka, passion fruit puree, fresh sour, fresh lime, simple syrup,

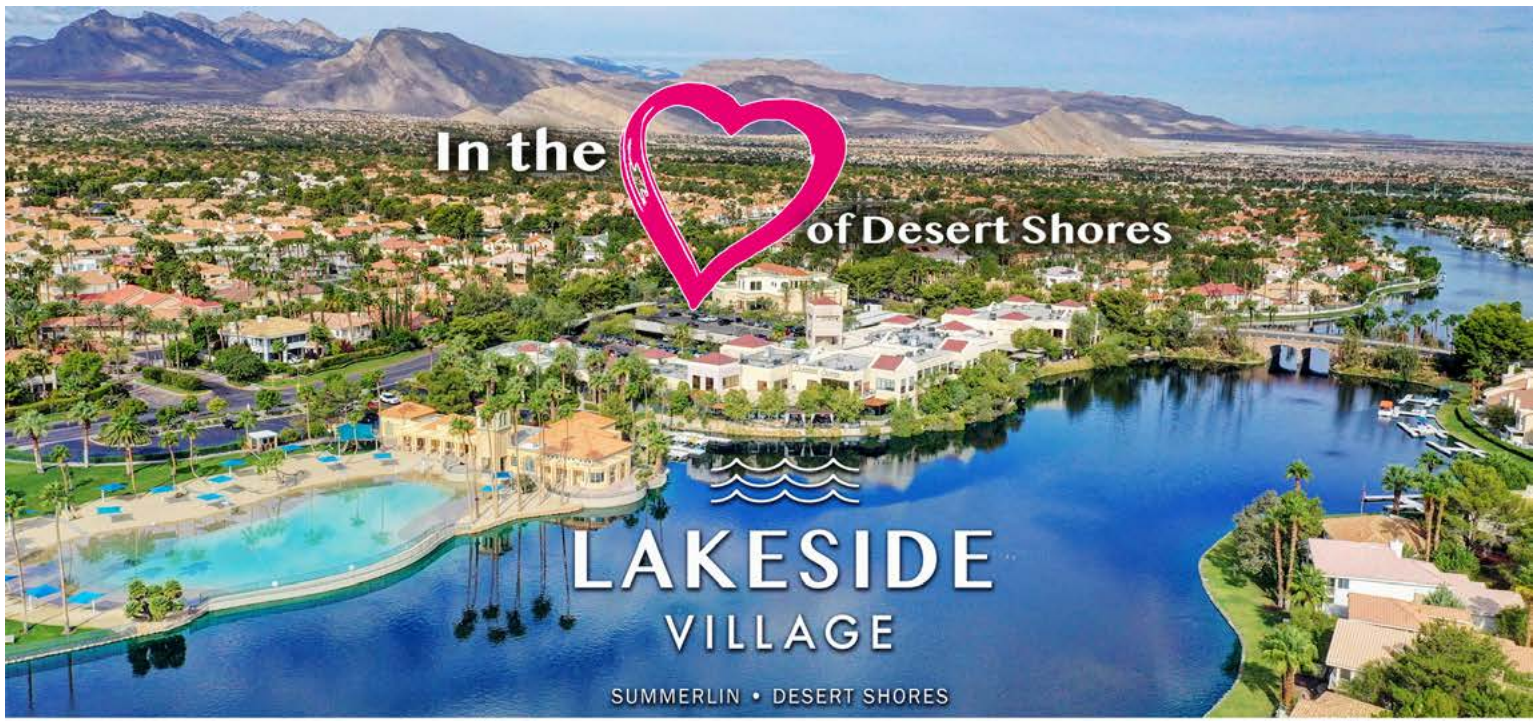




and a sugar rim. A very interesting White Chocolate Martini with vanilla vodka, white Godiva liquor, white crème de cacao and half and half is rich and tasty is a must. Olives at Virgin Hotels joins sister restaurant Olives in the Bahamas. English plans to open more Olives restaurants in New York City, Los Angeles, and Dallas. In Las Vegas, the four-time James Beard award winner also has The Beast Food Hall at Area15, the entertainment complex west of the Strip.

The rich flavors of the Mediterranean and Italy combine and come to life at Todd English's Olives, where guests indulge in brilliant pastas, unique woodfired flatbreads, outstanding seafood dishes conceptualized with the use of only the freshest seasonal ingredients, an incredible dessert menu, and an award-winning wine list ... all served in a warm and inviting ambiance.





Lakeside Village is conveniently located on the lake at 2620 Regatta Drive in the heart of Desert Shores, adjacent to Summerlin. We offer four award-winning restaurants, a community patio, beauty services, including a salon and spa, executive business suites, award-winning wedding and event sites, as well as numerous business services to benefit the Summerlin and Desert Shores community.

*See You at the Village!*

**Lakeside Village Directory**

**Restaurants**

- Americana
- Marche Bacchus
- Buena Vista Kitchen
- Vino Las Vegas Wine Club

**Weddings and Events**

- Lakeside Weddings and Events
- Lakeside Brides Beauty Services
- Buena Vista Kitchen Catering
- Flowers at Lakeside

**Beauty and Wellness**

- The Salon at Lakeside
- Lakeside Yoga at the Spa
- The Spa at Lakeside 2.0
- Rejuvenate Me Med Spa
- Las Vegas Brow

**Lakeside Business Suites**

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# BRINGING BUSINESS INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITY TOGETHER

By Joseph Amato

It is a privilege to be asked to write a business column for Chic Compass magazine. As the former chief executive for the Small Business Administration in Nevada for the last five years, I witnessed business obstacles and opportunities throughout the State of Nevada.

I have also seen the devastating effects of Covid-19 during the last two and a half years on our business population, including the shutdowns, restrictive government policies, immediate price increases, and supply chain intrusions that made it very difficult to survive as a business owner.

When 2022 arrived, it appeared that life and business might be returning to normal, and I was excited to see the events taking place in Las Vegas and the surrounding business communities that support the opportunity for survival, growth, and prosperity.

Yet, although I see the light at the end of the tunnel, it's going to be very important for our local business community leaders, statewide business owners, and various state and federal government agencies to continue to work together to



overcome the many obstacles that remain a clear and present danger and those alarming issues that sit on the horizon yet to come.

To accomplish the task of survival and prosperity in 2022 and be-

yond, each business owner needs to get back to basic economics and accounting. The fact that we continue to face supply chain disruption, employment shortfalls, price inflation, increasing fuel costs, cessation of most state and federal

stimulus programs, and insufficient access to capital will only impede a business owner's ability to move forward from Covid malaise.

Those who truly understand the roots of our capitalistic society and the basic elements of our free market system will find solace in our current circumstances.

There is always a silver lining or opportunity to act with every economic disaster, downturn, or recession. Business owners that survive these economic predicaments are usually positioned to make moves that increase revenue opportunities, market share or provide the impetus for instituting innovative methods or procedures that did not exist before.

I have always believed that most businesses that operate on a shoestring or barely survive these negative economic times have only themselves to blame when forced to close. Their demise is mostly due to financial mismanagement or poor planning, the inability to be flexible when times become difficult, somewhat illiquid, or clueless regarding operational matters and efficiencies. In every case, any of these issues will leave a business owner gasping for economic air, resulting in their untimely corporate death.

In a free-market society, there are always opportunities to innovate and change the trajectory of our businesses and economic communities. Innovation comes in many forms and can be easily transferrable when used properly. Each business operator should determine

where capitalism and innovation become intertwined and seek to improve their product or service no matter the industry.

Today we are seeking constant cutting-edge improvements in technology, renewable energy, manufacturing, automation, delivery systems, and healthcare, to name a few.

There is not one business in any Nevada-based ecosystem that is not affected directly or indirectly by these innovative activities.

I'm seeing a consistent shift from a workforce-based economy to a conglomeration of industries that desire to replace the workforce with future technology that provides a consistent product or service without the human element involved.

Covid 19 changed entire industries where employers sought to replace their skilled or unskilled workforce with machinery, equipment, process automation, and technology wherever possible. That does not bode well for the common worker as they are replaced by technology, but if handled correctly, it could open multiple opportunities to retrain, educate and reclassify these workers into contributing members of a new economic workforce for centuries to come.

The federal and state government agencies should adopt policies and programs that focus their efforts on preparing business owners and workers alike for the new wave of innovative practices that are now unavoidable. Workforce

training and economic incentives should be expanded to provide every company with the resources they need to be poised to make the changes necessary to remain competitive in the marketplace.

The future of business growth lies within the ability to accommodate the needs of each business as they seek to innovate, expand, and prosper. Government can do its part by providing policies and incentives for the business community, including protecting intellectual property both in the United States and abroad; supporting research and development from the incubator to big business; negotiating non-intrusive trade policies; providing government guarantees for funding future business expansion, and promoting cooperative relationships between academia and the private sector.

But the private sector must always be the catalyst for innovation and change, whether the government supports their effort or not. The primary incentive for every business owner has never changed. In a capitalist, free-market economy, whether it be Henderson, Reno, Summerlin, Elko, Fallon, North Las Vegas, or the City of Las Vegas, the primary drivers for a business owner are always the same. They are understanding and dominating your competition and profit.

As an entrepreneurial country, we all possess an intrinsic opportunity to advance in life through business ownership, an immeasurable gift that many realize, but few truly succeed. The State of Nevada provides fertile ground for those who





dare to venture into the business marketplace. For those who succeed, the path is never easy. But they usually survive by having the best information regarding their industry at their disposal. They set up a strong corporate identity that allows them to work within the legal guidelines of business ownership; they understand the tax benefits of residing in Nevada and the tax rules that guide their business entity; and they provide a product or service in an expeditious, affordable manner.

Business ownership is a privilege that must not be taken lightly. Whether you are a sole practitioner or proprietor, multiple-employee limited liability company or corporation, you have an obligation to yourself, your employees, your customer base, and every member of your supply chain to work responsibly, effectively, legally, and profitably.

There are various resources available for you to accomplish this task—both government and private

sector consultants and advisors—so please take advantage of the Nevada Small Business Administration, the SBDC program offices, SCORE, your attorney, your CPA, your chamber of commerce and local and regional economic development programs and agencies when possible. You will never possess too much information or professional support to ensure your success. I can guarantee you will be more likely to fail without them.





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# ABOUT TOWN



**Collaboration & Celebration** (Photography by Susie Magit)  
**Above:** Shari Guest, Nicole Verma, David Tupaz, Net CH  
**Left:** Dr. Jeffrey Cummings, Jonathan Karrant, Kate Zhong  
**Below:** Makenna Gillespie, Danielle Maas, Flavia Morante







**Collaboration & Celebration (Cont.)**

**Above:** Renata Rebernik-Bosnjak, Rose Kendrick, Sondra Lynch, Alicia Steinhauer. Front from left - Anna Billings, Marteen Moore  
**Right:** Uli Geissendoerfer



**Isabelle Ruen Art Show at City Lights Art Gallery**

(Photography by Eric Courtney)

**Above:** Isabelle Ruen with Guest



**Above from Left:** Isabelle Ruen, Kelley Poling, Bob Sandusky, Isabela Vasile  
**Left:** Isabelle Ruen with Guests





**The College of Fine Arts Hall of Fame at UNLV**  
 (Photography by Cashman Photo)

**Top Left:** Clint Holmes, Stacey Gualandi

**Top Middle:** Diana Della Iacono, Jonathan Karrant, Vera Goulet, Chadwick Johnson

**Top Right:** Kenny Rampton, Jennifer Bradley, Donny Thompson

**Right:** Diana Della Iacono, Ann Parenti, Andrea Thomas, Dave and Debora Loeb

**Below:** Standing - Dean Emeritus Jeff Koep, Andrea Thomas, Diana Della Iacono, Ann Parenti, Dave and Debora Loeb;  
 Seated - Robert & Shirley Kramer, Laura Taylor and Dr. David Mulkey







**Art on the Rocks** (Photography by Susie Magit)  
**Above:** Lena Walther, Sandra Rouch, Marteen Moore, Anna Billings, Ken Walther, Sondra Lynch

**Right:** Sharon Gainsburg, Liz Gini  
**Below:** Claire Nagel, Nate Jones, Julie Porter, Deng Jones, Skai Jones



**The 64th GRAMMY Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena** (Photography by Stacey Gualandi)

**Above:** Val Abron Harrell, ET's Nischelle Turner, Stacey Gualandi

**Left:** Nischelle Turner and Kevin Frazier hosting Entertainment Tonight at MGM Grand





# ANNE FONTAINE

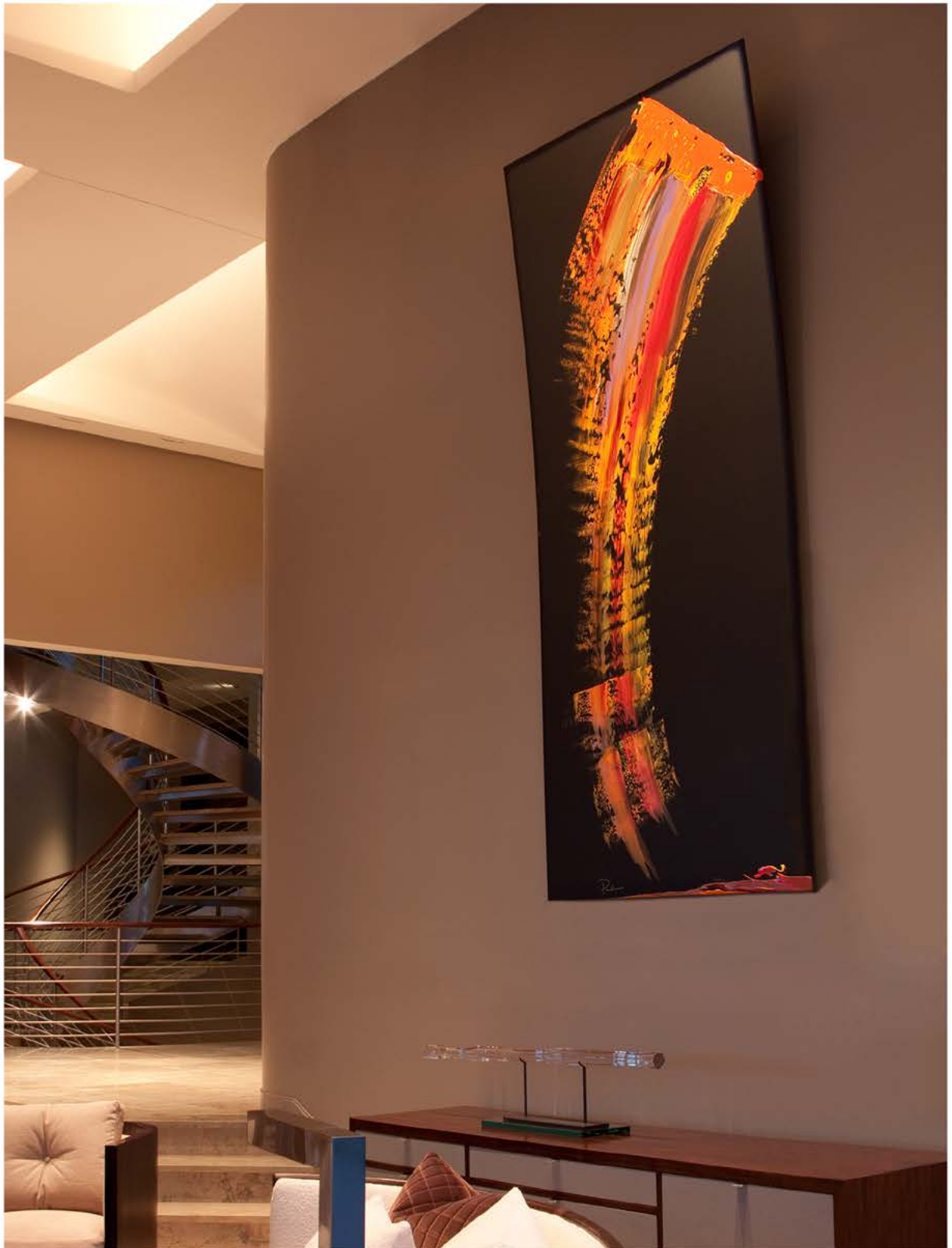
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