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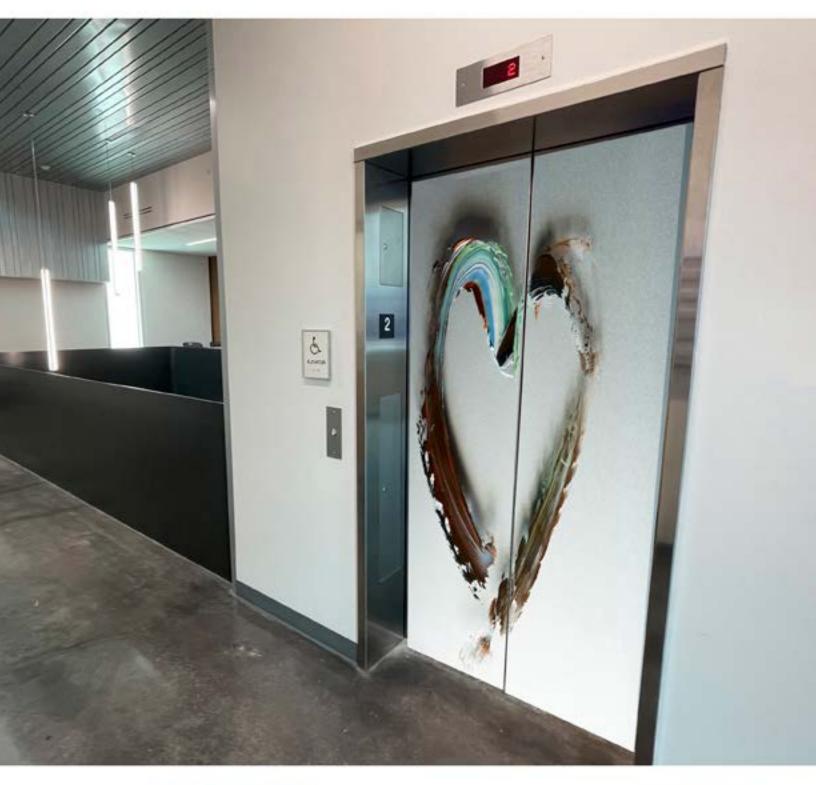
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# PAMELA NIELSEN ART









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Joan S. Peck

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Jamie Lim, Liquid Star Photography

# From the Editor

Welcome to the latest edition of *Chic Compass!* We hope you enjoy this edition as much as we did to create it for you. Our multi-talented writers have done an outstanding job in portraying all that is happening today in our city and beyond. We can't wait for you to see what we have waiting for you!

Las Vegas is all about ... beauty, fashion, music, food, creativity, talent, and new beginnings! Chic Compass has it all in this latest edition of its magazine.

With his unique eye for the best shot, the renowned photographer Mark Gunter graces our cover. *Chic Compass* is always delighted to have Mark show off his talent with a camera by sharing fashion photos ... taken this time during London Fashion Week.

On the other side of fashion, David Tupaz shares his expertise in fashion design with photos of stunning wedding dresses designed by him to make each bride feel like Cinderella at the ball. Renowned for his designing for the stars, David shows us pictures of himself at the 80th Golden Globe Awards and a story about the "Hollywood's Party of the Year."

We bring you stories about several artists. We are pleased to bring the talent of Sina Pearson, the renowned textile designer, to our pages with her story. Her talent seems to be unlimited and never-ending. See for yourself.

Memories... remember Shields and Yarnell? Robert Shields, robot extraordinaire, studied under legend-

ary French mime Marcel Marceau and is now a prolific painter and sculptor.

Don't forget about the art of dancing. Kotb's iLuminate is a multi-sensory experience that showcases the talents of some of the country's top dancers and choreographers while using customized LED light suits. It is now available for you to see after being closed down due to Covid. Don't miss it.

Music—the language of the Gods—is what the fabulous, soulful, crowd-pleaser singer D Train is all about, demonstrating he is much more than a singer.

You can read the heartwarming story of the Jazz Outreach Initiative. JOI, which creates programming opportunities for kids to play in public, among other rich jazz performances. And their other jazz performances are not to be missed.

We present updates on the unstoppable Sherry Gordy, daughter of music mogul Berry Gordy. She wears many hats as a CEO, Producer, Host, Real Estate Broker, Philanthropist, and Entrepreneur. See what talented Sherry Gordy is up to now.

And who doesn't love to hear about a great restaurant to try? The local favorite, Honey Salt, is the place to go for farm-to-table healthy eating. They have been such a hit with its funky menu that the demand for its excellent menu is having them expand to other areas across the U.S.! Check it out!

What about all the new beginnings for Las Vegas?

Don't pass up Emmy award winner and PBS cooking show personality Martin Yan's new restaurant opening this spring. M.Y. Asia will be the top dining place for all Asian foodies, created by an outstanding chef.

Theatre-going is back! Up and coming, soon-to-beopen, The Beverly Theatre, located downtown, will be enticing you to grab your phone and reserve your seat for all they offer in the art of independent cinema.

Sotheby's, the Las Vegas luxury real estate industry leader, recently opened its doors on a new 12,000-square-foot Sin City office space at UnCommons, a 40-acre mixed-use "utopia."

The exciting and unique ALL Net Resort & Arena is being constructed on a 27-acre site on the north end of the fabulous Las Vegas Strip with a new slant. It will be a refreshing place for family time and sports enthusiasts with its beautiful, high-technology structure with a "neighborhood vibe." Their motto? ... "A Resort for Tomorrow's Lifestyle"—technology, health, wellness, entertainment, and education.

You won't want to miss out on reading our business story about cryptocurrencies and the possible dangers of what is being offered. It is a must-read for everyone.

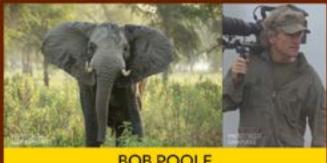
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Joan S. Peck

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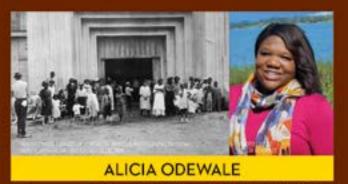


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# EAT, ENJOY, AND BE ENTERTAINED

CHEF MARTIN YAN'S SOON TO BE OPENED LAS VEGAS RESTAURANT, M.Y. ASIA

By Elaine & Scott Harris

as Vegas is certainly no stranger to celebrity chefs staking their claim under the famed neon lights. But some chefs are renowned on a global scale. They are masters, few and far between, and may come along once in a generation. For decades, Master Chef Martin Yan has been a gastronomic master creating on multiple levels. He is now taking his rightful place in the culinary epicenter of Las Vegas with a partnership with Caesars Entertainment with his new endeavor, restaurant M.Y. Asia. The restaurant is looking for a 2023 opening in Las Vegas at Bally's, soon to be rebranded as the Horseshoe Las Vegas later this year.

Emmy award winner and PBS cooking show personality Martin Yan is the host of over 2,000 cooking shows and enjoys distinction as a certified Master Chef, a highly respected food consultant, a professional instructor, and a prolific author. He has written over 30 cookbooks, including the award-winning Martin Yan's Feast, Martin Yan's Asian Favorites, Chinese Cooking for Dummies, Martin Yan's Chinatown cooking (intro by Julia Child), and Martin Yan's Quick & Easy.



His TV series, Martin Yan's Chinatowns, won a Telly Award in 2004. Newsweek cited the companion book as one of the year's 10 Best Cookbooks. He has appeared as a quest judge on several episodes of Iron Chef America and on the cartoon talk show Space Ghost Coast to Coast, and as a guest judge on the Season 10 finale of Top Chef as well as a Season 11 episode of Hell's Kitchen. He garnered a nomination for the 2004 James Beard Award and Best National T.V. Cooking Show Award. He received the 2022 James Beard Lifetime Achievement Award for his 40-year career teaching others the joy of Chinese cooking. He is also known for being able to carve a chicken in 18 seconds. He has earned the attention and respect of millions of cooking fans worldwide. His life-long quest is to inspire an understanding of Asian cultures and their cuisines concerning history, heritage, and religion with exuberance, dedicated knowledge and skill, and good humor. "I am excited about everything I do," said Yan. "I use these platforms to bring awareness to Asian cuisine and Asian culture. I have been an ambassador for over 40 years. I want to share that food reflects history, heritage, culture, and religion. That's why I use the words SEE, TASTE, and DISCOVER. I want people to discover the spirit of Asian Cuisine at M.Y. Asian."

With the impressive lineup of celebrity chefs under the Caesars umbrella, Chef Yan feels confident and humbled to be a part of this group of notable food su-



perstars. "There are many great Chinese and Asian Chefs in Las Vegas. But to do something and survive amongst so many great chefs and restaurants, you must be great and make a difference. Before the pandemic, I had M.Y. China in San Francisco for nine years. It was nationally known for its interactive noodle bar, which was very popular," said Yan. "I wanted to do something in Las Vegas where people connect with the chef. We want to have people learn about the cui-

sine. When I am in town, I will offer an interactive happy hour cooking class to show you how to make basics like a won ton, fresh spring rolls, and other Asian dishes."

Being in the entertainment city of the world, Las Vegas, Chef Yan strives to incorporate dining theater into the very fabric of M.Y. Asia. "We want people also to eat, enjoy, and be entertained. We are in the entertainment city of the world."



"You may go to the best restaurant; it doesn't matter how elaborate the meal may have been, but it's forgotten about it after the dinner," said Yan. "I want people to have an authentic dining experience that they don't forget, an enjoyable Las Vegas Style experience. We will show how to hand pull noodles, where you can dance with them, by beginning with one strand noodle and seeing it expand to 32-foot noodles. The Noodle is the symbol of long life and longevity. We will demonstrate how to cook and flip a Wok along with the handpulled noodles. There will be T.V.

screens showing some of the most popular recipes from my shows."

Yan's M.Y. Asia will bring authentic Asian cuisine to Horseshoe Las Vegas, the former Bally's Las Vegas. Designed by PGAL, the reimagined space designed to match the energy and enthusiasm of Chef Yan.

The centerpiece is a Lucky Bell Bar surrounded by a 130-seat dining room. M.Y. Asia will even feature a "show kitchen," with a hand-pulled noodle bar and wok kitchen to entertain the eager diners. For those who order takeout, try 'digital carryout lockers,' adding whimsy and a wink to Chinese takeout while keeping the experience contact-free," stated Yan.

Yan holds a Master's Degree in Food Science and other impressive accolades and strives to use seasonal, fresh ingredients in all his dishes. "I believe a plantbased diet is not a new concept in Asian cuisine. The menu will revolve around the seasonal offering, eating with the season, and we strive to use less oil and salt; we will bring in fresh Dungeness crabs for our Thai red curry and chili crab; we want a cajun chicken with five spices on the menu, and clams from the east coast. I also love avocados; I hope to have Chef Rick Bayless come and create a Hispanic, Chinese fusion. With the network of chefs, I hope to work with them on special projects.

Enthusiasm, unparalleled determination, and an entrepreneurial spirit are alive in his heart of living the American dream. From age 13, working in a kitchen in Hong Kong and then rising to the top of the culinary world, Yan has never taken his success lightly. "You must believe and move with courage and optimism because you will be tested on your patience and passion for food," concluded Yan.

"I never consider my work fun and games; at 74, I am going strong and have not gained a pound in 40 years! Now I will be in Las Vegas at M.Y. Asia, and nothing comes close to this one-of-a-kind place."

# 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.

# WAITING ROOM



# 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





herry Gordy wears many hats as a CEO, Producer, Host, Real Estate Broker, Philanthropist, and Entrepreneur. As the daughter of legendary music mogul Berry Gordy, Sherry developed a resolute work ethic from an early age, carving out her path to success. In 2004, Gordy founded the Sherry Jackson Foundation, which focuses on underprivileged children. In 2013, she debuted the Motown-inspired "Take the Stage" at the Club Tequila Showroom in the Fiesta Rancho Casino Hotel in North Las Vegas and created "Stage 2 Stage," a national talent competition.

Groomed to be an erudite businesswoman, Sherry was entrusted to rate businesses and write reports for her father—thus developing her unique talent as an entrepreneur.

When in Sherry's presence, she exudes quiet confidence and warmth. Professing to be extremely shy even when in the spotlight, Gordy rises to the occasion by taking the stage with assurance and pizazz. However, she admits, "When I'm hosting my shows, I'm acting ... I'm not that outgoing. My natural self is behind the scenes and quiet. That's how I've been my whole life. My dad and the celebrities have always been the focal point, and I was in the background observing."

Recently, I sat down with Sherry Gordy at her home in Las Vegas and discussed her life and successes. Here is our interview.

Chic Compass: Describe how growing up as the daughter of the legendary Berry Gordy shaped your life. What was typical in your childhood, and what was unique or different?

Sherry Gordy: Growing up as the daughter of my iconic father, Berry Gordy, I felt as if all eyes were always on me. My behavior reflected the morals and ethical values he instilled in me. I didn't realize that my young life wasn't as normal as everybody else's because I was expected to do my assigned chores for an allowance, accomplish my nightly homework, maintain excellent grades, and take piano and dance lessons, like the rest of my friends did. It took me years to realize that my life was exceedingly privileged and highly unique.

Chic Compass: You were surrounded by music and artists shaping a generation and generations to come. Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, Smokey Robinson, and so many more were part of your musical family. Talk about how this influenced your creative process or business acuity.

Sherry Gordy: What I learned from the people you mentioned, such as Diana Ross, Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson, and the rest of the Motown family, was poise, grace, humility, and how to conduct myself properly in



public. They were my aunts and uncles. I didn't see them as stars; they were simply my family.

Chic Compass: You developed a strong work ethic at a young age. Please speak about how that has affected your life.

Sherry Gordy: At a young age, I learned how to be independent, self-reliant, and goal-oriented from my father. That has served me well through the years, much to my father's delight and approval.

### Chic Compass: Are there any fun stories you'd like to share growing up in the Motown family?

Sherry Gordy: There're too many stories to share, but I will tell you one of my favorites. My mom gave me a huge backyard fifth birthday party. The one thing that stood out most to me at the time was the hundreds of presents I received. Keep in mind I was just turning five. As an adult looking back, I realize that the large family at the party were some of the biggest stars in the world,

like those mentioned above, but to me, it was just a fun backyard family party.

Chic Compass: Talk about developing your career as a successful businesswoman in the real estate/mortgage world.

Sherry Gordy: By becoming educated ... first in real estate and obtaining my Real Estate broker's license. Later becoming educated in the mortgage industry, starting in an upper management position with a well-known national mortgage firm and working my way up to a vice president position.

Chic Compass: Why did you choose Las Vegas as the city you wanted to live in and develop your businesses and entertainment projects there?

Sherry Gordy: The national mortgage company I worked for had an opening at their Vegas office, which they offered me. That meant relocating to Las Vegas.

Chic Compass: How did you create and launch "Tickle Me Tuesdays Comedy Jam Dinner Show" on the Las Vegas strip?

Sherry Gordy: I spent an evening with two friends in Los Angeles, where they took me to a comedy club in West Hollywood. I had the time of my life and told them I wanted to produce my comedy show in Vegas. If I could have this much fun, others would too. The idea for "Tickle Me Tuesdays" Comedy Jam and Dinner Show" was born. I assembled a great team, and together we debuted the show inside the Blue Note Showroom at the Aladdin Hotel & Casino (now Planet Hollvwood) to rave reviews.

Chic Compass: You then continued to develop many more venues for artists: "Take the Stage" at the Club Tequila and "Stage 2 Stage," which gave new talent a place to be seen. What was your vision here?

Sherry Gordy: I wanted to honor my father and the legacy he created with a variety show that would allow local talent to have a venue to perform and hopefully help launch their careers. About a year later, at the suggestion of John Anthony, we created a spinoff production, "Stage 2 Stage." It was a touring production like "Take the Stage," with the addition of a weekly singing competition in different cities each week.

The winner would be flown to Las Vegas to perform on the big stage at "Sherry Gordy Presents," which received immense international exposure, and people from around the world came to Las Vegas hoping to get on the show. Years later, we were invited to



create a production in Australia for a world tour.

Chic Compass: You have also been recognized with awards, certificates of merit, two Sherry Gordy days in Las Vegas, and doing philanthropic work with children. What does this mean to you?

Sherry Gordy: Let me start by saying that the awards, commendations, and proclamations were given to my team as well as to me. Together we have put in hard work and have been recognized for keeping our vision alive and relevant.

I learned philanthropy from my father, who put me on the board of The Berry Gordy Family Foundation. I was then inspired to create the Sherry Jackson Foundation to benefit children. It's an honor to try and make a difference in causes that are dear to my heart. Children are precious, and my efforts will always go toward helping children to thrive and survive in an increasingly difficult world.

Chic Compass: You also developed the Las Vegas Soul Festival at UNLV in 2014 for a few years. How meaningful was that to produce? And you're working on the Mo-Museum Expansion. town Please talk about how that is going.

Sherry Gordy: In 2014, I was asked to help with the production of The Las Vegas Soul Festival and lend my name to it. It was a thrilling opportunity to be involved with the Soul Festival and help promote SGP at the same time. It was a huge undertaking and my first experience helping to produce a music festival. Charity work is one of my passions, so it was extremely rewarding to collaborate with the Lazarex Cancer Foundation

The museum expansion will be a great asset to the world. The renderings look amazing. My cousin Robin Terry, CEO and President of the Museum, is doing an excellent job. The work is targeted for completion in 2024.

Chic Compass: You're newly married. Happy 3rd Anniversary! How has this changed your life?

Sherry Gordy: Thank you so much for the anniversary wishes. Yes, Dexter and I have been married for three years. I'm so lucky to have found the Yin to my Yang. We work as a team and as a couple.





Any married person knows that relationships aren't perfect, but this time I found a man with whom I have an easy, peaceful, harmonious, wonderful life. He's my rock! I have found myself a keeper! I can't imagine having to shelter in place during the pandemic with anyone else.

What has Chic Compass: been the best compliment

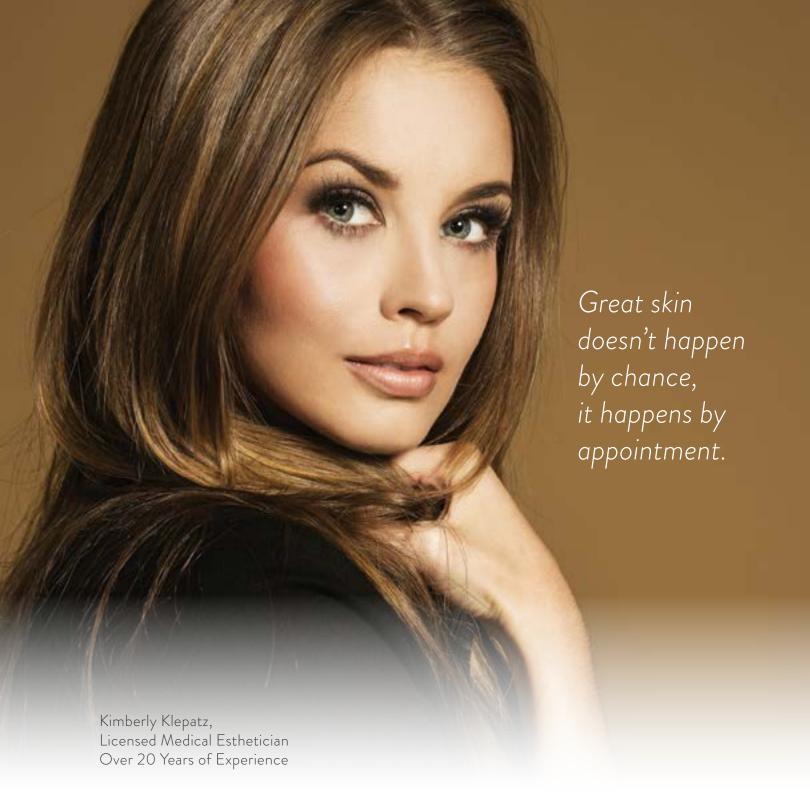
#### you have received from your father?

Sherry Gordy: My father loved how I produced "Take The Stage" and the other shows that I did. He's always complimenting me, and that makes me very happy.

Chic Compass: What does the future hold for you personally and professionally?

Sherry Gordy: To be honest, I have had some time in the last few years to travel and enjoy life. I wish to continue traveling and seeing the world. But I'm certainly not ready to retire.

Thanks for taking the time to get to know me better. It's been my pleasure to sit down with you and reflect on Love and Motown.





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## **SPINNING YARN**

As a student of architecture and later interior design and now a professional in the field, I was thrilled about this assignment and even more excited to meet Ms. Pearson, albeit virtually. She is currently considered a design legend and leads a bespoke division of Momentum textiles. She is known for her high style, lively patterns, and complex textures.

For Sina, textile design balances inspiration with a deliberate yet organic process. Her approach holds reverence for letting every fabric "be what it wants to be" while she seeks to capture moments in time, drawing connections of even the most simple and obscure details. From the blurred view of a passing train to the fine structural details of an architectural façade, she uses real-world experiences to guide her design process.

Meet Sina Pearson.

## **WOVEN**

In the 1950s, Sina Pearson grew up in Seattle, Washington. She spent summers at her family cabin north of the city and later built a vacation house nearby surrounded by 80 ft fir trees. She visits as frequently as possible. "I live in New York and love it, but Seattle will always be home."

She was introduced to art very early on. Museum visits as a child influenced her career. "I remember my first museum visit was with my parents. They were interested in art themselves. My mother was a self-employed landscape designer, and her passion was gardening. My dad was an engineer at Boeing, but he was also a fine photographer. He had a dark room which was his passion. They not only loved going to museums themselves, but they had artist friends from whom they bought their art. So, you can see they were both highly visual people. I'm a combination of both my parents."

Once, on a business trip to New York, her parents visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where they purchased in the gift shop a small Cycladic figure that resembles a [Constantin] Brancusi sculpture. "That was in our living room for 50 years, in a place of honor. It looked very modern, but it was also the most classic thing you could ever have, and now it is one of my most treasured inherited pieces from my parents."

# **LOOMING** CAREER

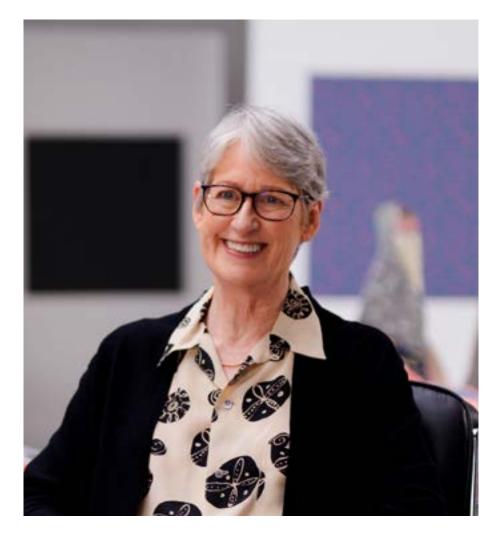
Asked when she decided she was going to pursue creating textiles as a profession, Sina answered, "I don't think I ever decided I was going to be a 'textile designer,' but my mom used to say that when I was three years old, I would cut pieces of fabrics and pat them on our sofa. And even in high school or college, I never

imagined being a textile designer in the contract industry. I just liked playing with fabric; it didn't matter what it was. Fortunately, mentors, teachers, and supporters opened doors for me and said, 'You should try this, or you should try that."

In the late sixties, Sina went to college at the University of Washington. "I began in the home economics department with a Textiles/Clothing major. I knew how to weave before college - that's because when I was twelve, I took a summer class in art school and had a teacher who was a Swedish rug weaver. So, I knew about threading up looms and loved playing with the yarn and

colors, but I moved to the Art department and changed my major to Art, which I was more drawn to. Along with classes in fine arts, I had a wonderful teacher who encouraged me to explore all textile processes."

Approaching graduation in 1970, Sina was wondering what to do when her professor suggested that she get a Master's degree in textiles at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. "I had never even heard of Cranbrook. But it was one of the most important experiences I have had in my life. We each had our own studio and two years to explore with fiber/textiles what interested us most."





### LOOM-INARIES

While finishing her time at Cranbrook, Sina learned of an opening at Skidmore Owings and Merrill, the global architectural firm based in Chicago. They wanted someone from Cranbrook to be one of their color materials librarians in their interiors department. She interviewed in the Chicago office and got the job. So that was her introduction to this industry when she was 22. "It was one of the best jobs of my life. I loved being the librarian and seeing all the different materials people have to work with. I met all the salespeople coming in with their fabric, wood, and marble samples. I'm such a touchy-feely visual person. I think that's what textile people have in common ... touching things and feeling and color. I got to come up with schemes for the

senior designers at SOM. It was a dream job, my first job in life."

"I did a lot of documenting projects, doing color material schedules, and putting together client schemes. I even did a little bit of rug designing. I was doing anything and everything." Now, as a mentor, Pearson adds, "I always tell students starting their first job that if they want someone to volunteer for something, raise your hand and say, I'll do whatever you need to be done."

Pearson's career at the onset was a tapestry of experiences that seemed to put her in front of industry luminaries for that era. "I worked with Bob Kleinshmidt and Don Powell, super perfectionists, and legendary designers. I was the go-to messenger to pick up things at the showrooms in Chicago and take the wood samples and the lacquer samples back and forth to the wood maker."

Sina was there at Skidmore for a year when she received a scholarship for independent study at the Royal Academy of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm, Sweden. "I was in Sweden for a year, then returned to New York and got a job at John Carl Warnecke, in their materials library, helping designers source products for their projects. A few years later, I was offered the position of Director of Textiles for the firm Jens Risom. My experience at architectural firms and my knowledge of and passion for textiles made me a candidate for that job. I worked with mills to develop new textile patterns for the collection and did client presentations and sales training."



In 1978 Sina went on to work with the iconic designer Ward Bennett to develop his textile collection. She recalls, "He didn't sit at a desk and draw the furniture he was designing. He would come into the studio and announce he had an idea for a chair. And he would sit in his chair, wrap some cardboard around him, and say, 'Now, Sina, you have to get the pitch right.' It was truly a unique and inspired way of creating. I got to work with the best of the best at Ward Bennett."

"After working several years with Ward, I accepted the position of President of Unika Vaev, the textile division of ICF. It was a tiny textile line but, within a few years, grew to be a significant player in the contract market. If you remember

the 1980s to 1990s, it was the golden age of textiles. Designers and clients had healthy budgets. Textiles were beginning to take off with this incredible explosion of design, and all the boutique companies like Deepa, HBF, Sunar Hauserman, and Unika Vaev were coming into their own."

"Contract textiles had previously been quite plain because making larger-scale or complex patterns required expensive computer changes. With the advent of CAD, we were able to expand the design options. At Unika Vaev, I designed elegant worsted wool patterns that were still durable for contract use and introduced tapestries to the market. That was quite revolutionary at the time."

## **ACT**

In 1985 Sina co-founded ACT. the Association for Contract Textiles. In a sense, it began as a mild act of defiance. "In the mid-1980s, fabric companies were not invited to join New York City's Designer's Saturday furniture industry trade event. Dick Wagner, VP of Knoll Textiles, and I sent a letter to all the textile companies and asked if they would like to create our own organization to promote contract textiles. Everyone immediately came on board, and ACT soon became the voice of the textile industry. I was on the ACT committee in 1990-92 to create textile durability standards and icons. ACT continues to educate the design community





ACT is a professional trade association comprised of companies and individuals involved in the design, development, production, promotion and application of textiles for commercial environments.



about all things relating to contract textiles and works to update industry standards as needed, and remains the most important organization for those involved in contract textiles."

# **COMMON THREADS**

"I was at Unika Vaev for ten years before starting Sina Pearson Textiles in 1990. I was fortunate to have Unika Vaev as a teaching platform to run my own business. They had given me a lot of decision-making experience. And when I called my parents and told them I was going to start my own company, they said, 'We always knew you would."

"I had Sina Pearson Textiles for 25 years, and it was a privilege to design the textiles, develop my marketing ideas and tools, and, most of all, meet our clients directly through personal sales calls. My husband worked with me as Sales Manager, so we were truly a Mom and Pop small business known for our high-performance textiles that featured classic textures and unique patterns in fresh

and enduring colors. We worked with the best of European and American mills and created hundreds of textiles, many of which won numerous design awards."

"In 2016, I was ready for a change and sold my business to Momentum Textiles and Wall Covering. Now, at Momentum, I'm working with a team of CAD designers who are true geniuses

"Textiles are everything. If you look at different cultures, it's the textiles that define our uniqueness and celebrates what binds us together."

in the trade. Each year we introduce a collection that explores ideas and concepts that interest me and hopefully speak to our clients. The latest collection, At the Museum, is a love letter to museums and features patterns inspired by visits to my favorite museums."

Sina (and the team at Momentum Textiles and Wallcovering) have also just created her first digital wallcovering pattern as part of that collection. She only sees more exciting times ahead for her creative designs at Momentum.

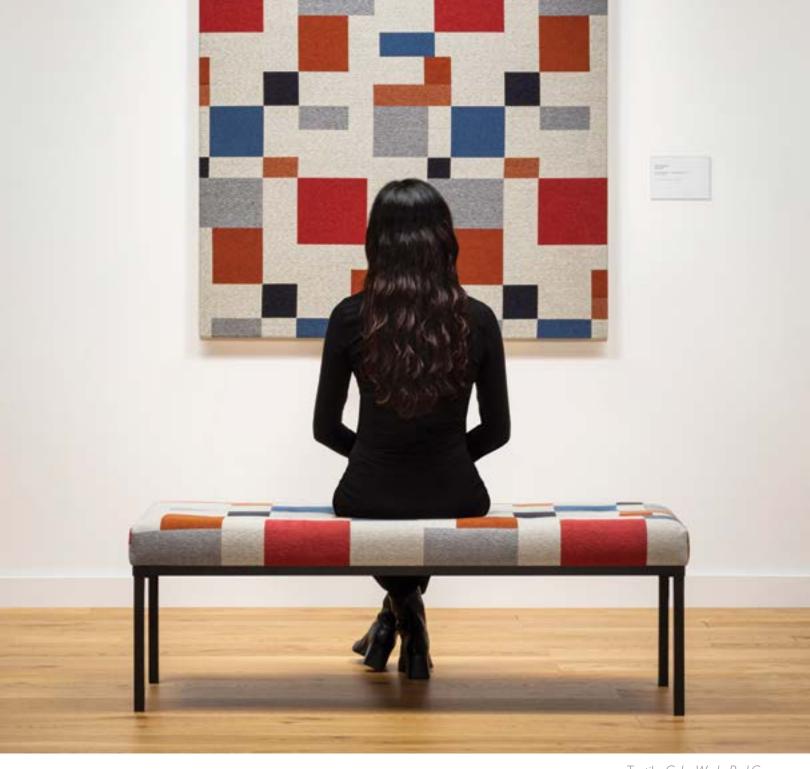
### **FINISHING**

There were some pivotal twists and turns in Sina's career. "There were a few jobs I had that didn't work out, but sometimes the best thing can be starting over—a clean, fresh path to a new direction with a new company or new people. I always say to students or young designers, when someone opens the door for you, march right through. Even if it doesn't work out, it's okay because you can always move on to another thing, but try that open door."

Asked if she was doing anything new, Sina responded, "I love having a project and recently bought a slide scanner and have been scanning all my dad's slides, which is our family's history, and scanning all my older travel slides. That has made me even more mindful of my past and blessings. I am incredibly grateful for each and every day and all the experiences I have been given."







Textile: Color Works Red Gray

# AT THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

by Sina Pearson

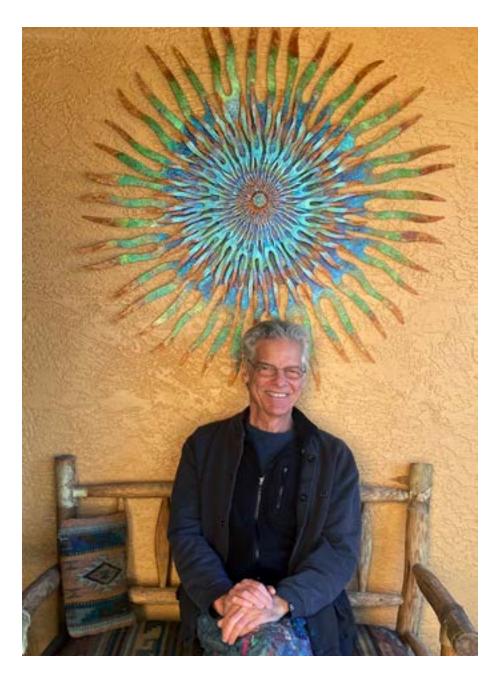






# ROBERT SHIELDS ARTISTRY IN (CONSTANT) MOTION

By Stacey Gualandi



here is an old adage that says, "You should never meet your heroes" because if you meet them in real life, they will never live up to your expectations.

As a kid who grew up in the era of variety shows and watched endless hours of television, Shields and Yarnell was the biggest act in entertainment. They've been Hollywood heroes of mine ever since.

After interviewing Robert Shields recently about his decades-long career, that old adage couldn't be more wrong.

Shields is now a prolific painter, sculptor, and jeweler, whose creativity with metal, giclée's, and mixed media knows no bounds.

But long before the 71-year-old successfully set up shop outside Sedona, Arizona—an art studio-turned-funhouse filled with his fantastical handmade paintings, sculptures, metal pieces, and jewelry—Shields mesmerized millions (and me!) as a world-renowned mime.

"[Mimes] are usually actors, gymnasts, dancers, writers, and the most important thing, comedians," says Shields. "I've never stopped being that. I do it all the time. I have over 400 masks in my house and am constantly performing."

He famously became known for "The Robot" after legendary French mime Marcel Marceau first discovered Shields in his teens (and later Michael Jackson, who took his first moon-walking cues from Shields!)

"I started doing [the Robot] in 1967 when I worked at the Hollywood Wax Museum," says Shields. "I could go for an hour without blinking. I would train my eyes. If they see you blink, they'd know you're not real, so that's how that started."

He quickly transformed from a beloved San Francisco street performer who stopped traffic (and got arrested multiple times!) to one-half of the dynamic dance and mime duo Shields and Yarnell.

Together, they dominated the 1970s. They starred in their own television variety show; toured with celebrities like Bob Hope: won an Emmy and the "Las Vegas Entertainers of the Year" award two years in a row; and appeared on over 400 national television shows with everyone from Dean Martin to Carol Burnett.



The "silent" screen star never said a word, but his work always spoke for itself.

Since then, he's continued expressing himself through his oneof-a-kind creations; yet the anything-but-robotic artist now has plenty to say.

Shields recently took a break at his Clarkdale, Arizona, studio to talk show pieces, show business, and everything in between.

CHIC COMPASS: You haven't slowed down a bit!

ROBERT SHIELDS: I have a tremendous amount of energy. I mean, it's like I'm very blessed with energy, and I'm still a 32 waist! I do yoga every day, and I eat right. Well, today, I had these Christmas cookies I needed HAI

#### CHIC COMPASS: How long have you been making art?

ROBERT SHIELDS: I was a ceramicist in high school, and I was a teacher's assistant. My love always was art first. I had my first showing at 15 in a major gallery. I was doing purple



nudes with eyes coming out of them and weird [stuff] that was very advanced, then I started doing castles in 1969 when I graduated. Now I'm doing all kinds of different things. I create every day, and I'm very lucky that I am fortunate enough to make an incredible living selling my art. It's magic!

### CHIC COMPASS: What inspires you?

ROBERT SHIELDS: It's symbolism. I'm looking at a painting I did that has a guy meditating. There's a raven, and there's a ladder going up, and there's a peacock on the ladder, and there's a window, and there's a quail looking out the window.







There's a big eye that turns into a sun, and there's an owl, and there's a moon hanging by a string.

And there's a cat that comes out of a jack in the box, and there's a big cup of coffee, and then there's a beautiful heart with all these rays coming out of it. And there are three hummingbirds with a heart around them, and there's a guitar and an amplifier with music playing.

I love symbols and windows and ladders and animals and giraffes poking and at looking under things...goddesses and crosses and Stars of David and candles. Oh, dragons and teacups piled on top of each other with a guy holding an umbrella.

### CHIC COMPASS: Do you have a favorite piece right now?

ROBERT SHIELDS: The suns are a new thing I'm doing. If you see them in person, they're psychedelic man. They're detailed, layered, and very dimensional.

### CHIC COMPASS: Wow! Is there no end to your creativity?

ROBERT SHIELDS: No, there's no containing it. I mean, if you walked into my house, it's like I live in a magical wonderland. I have my own gallery, and I'm in about eight galleries now. I also have an online presence—www. robertshields.com—which offers free shipping. During Christmas, I shipped out 150 packages! Every one is handmade by me because I don't have any employees. I used to have all that, and a big giant display at the Mirage [in Las Vegas], and I sold to all these hotels; I had my own show on QVC; I was a jewelry designer for years; I had five of my own galleries, my own restaurant and I wholesaled at 2,000 stores all over the world....but then I decided to pull back and just do art shows, make stuff myself and just be simple. That became wildly successful for me.

### CHIC COMPASS: Is there something that you haven't accomplished yet?

ROBERT SHIELDS: No, I have no plans to do anything. I just live a kind of moment-by-moment existence, and I love doing art. I get orders every day from people who come over, and all these stores call me who love my artwork. My whole life was about achievement. It was this tour and that tour and going to Taiwan for 19 weeks. I played Vegas three or four times in all those hotels and had a contract with Caesars and Atlantic City.

### CHIC COMPASS: How influential were you?

ROBERT SHIELDS: Before Cirque du Soleil, there was [Shields and Yarnell]. We influenced a lot of people, and that was really great. Show business is such a weird mistress. It's incredible how it's changed now...there are some people who are just absolutely brilliant, but there's a lot of mediocrity.



### CHIC COMPASS: Why did you leave "Hollywood"?

ROBERT SHIELDS: I was young and famous in Los Angeles and was invited to all the parties and hanging out with Jack Nicholson and all that... but I'm very sensitive. I started to really learn how to meditate. I was studying Zen and going to Japan a lot, and performing/writing pieces that were very introspective. I had to leave LA.

I went to Sedona back in '86, and I never left. I've been [in Clarkdale] since 2013. I hang out with people, and they don't care who I am or who I was, and I don't care who they are. That show-business attitude is not around anywhere, and I just love living in a little hick town.

CHIC COMPASS: Is it better to have had the fame than never to have had it at all?

ROBERT SHIELDS: Once you've had it, you look at it and go, "Wow!" People don't realize what an illusion it is. Fame is a bitch. It took me a long time to come off that ego trip. I was glad to have that for a while and to see the illusion of it because it's really dangerous. It's a very dangerous thing to be famous because it's a gigantic responsibility.

### CHIC COMPASS: What will be your legacy?

ROBERT SHIELDS: Happiness. I make people happy. My art makes people happy. I hear that a lot, and it makes me happy to make people happy. Coming up with "The Robot" was a groundbreaking thing for me. I got a scholarship with Marcel Marceau, and the whole robotic thing spawned off all these break dancers...

### CHIC COMPASS: What has your career taught you?

ROBERT SHIELDS: I think the biggest thing is realizing I'm no different from anyone else. Everybody is an artist, and everybody has the same talent. The key is to work hard...and life is a long lesson in humility. As you get older, it's important to realize that all that stuff is dust in the wind. The main thing is just being nice to people and being nice to yourself and not thinking that you're anything but right here in the moment. That's all that matters.

### CHIC COMPASS: Thank you, Robert! You definitely exceeded my expectations!

To see Robert's artwork, go to www.robertshields.com.

To see the trailer for his documentary "My Life as a Robot" coming soon, go to mylifeasarobot.com.







# AND THE TALE OF THE BEVERLY THEATER

### By Sam Novak

Las Vegas is a city of lights, music, vision, and possibilities. People come here to fulfill dreams and to foster new ones. It's a place where artists can thrive in a boundary-free vibe. It's also a place where a combination of talent and resources lends itself uniquely well to the cinematic arts.

It's true that Vegas has become a small-scale Hollywood of sorts. Independent filmmakers reap the benefits of scenic desert surroundings, sometimes garish architecture, and iconic landmarks. Its locals are budding models, singers, actors, and athletes who clamor to be immortalized on the big screen, and producers love the endless sunshine and work ethic

Despite a wealth of art galleries, concert halls, and intimate stages, the city lacks a proper venue to display cinematic artistry.

That's why The Beverly Theater was conceived. Upon its completion in early 2023, The Beverly Theater will be the first and only purpose-built home for independent cinema in Las Vegas.

For some, the designation of cinema as "art" suggests the cerebral and impenetrable, such as the works of Federico Fellini and Terrence Malick. But independent filmmakers carry an urgent and contemporary voice that mainstream films often lack. So, it's only fitting that The Beverly Theater has turned to a youthful visionary.

Kip Kelly is the face and guiding force behind this venture. His playful, all-American name might evoke images of a star quarterback or a charismatic class president. That assumed countenance is not too far from the gentleman himself. With an athletic build, glowing smile, and easygoing

personality, the affable Kelly is as self-deprecating as he is confident.

One wouldn't expect a veteran of Sin City's nightclub industry to guide a prestigious arts-driven project, but Kip Kelly isn't your typical businessman. The Texas-born former Arizonan entered the music scene as a deeiav. A desire to start an entertainment business brought him to the Las Vegas area a decade ago.

Along the way, Kelly broadened his horizons to direct marketing and communications for several firms and entertainment venues. In 2022, he was selected as "Founding Creative Director" for The Beverly Theater. His unique qualifications were heralded by its namesake, Beverly Rogers. "Kip's breadth of knowledge and entertainment experience, combined with his unbridled enthusiasm for creative collaboration,



make him the perfect choice to shepherd the vision for this project," she stated in May last year.

Kelly refers to his responsibilities as a "Golden Ticket" of opportunity. As such, he's been tireless in his efforts to make The Beverly Theater the natural bridge between the city's burgeoning Arts District and its historic yet hip Downtown.

During a hectic holiday season, Kelly and his team relentlessly prepared for an early 2023 unveiling. Despite a myriad of rapidly approaching deadlines, he found time to talk with CHIC COMPASS Magazine about his pivotal role in the history-making project.

CHIC COMPASS: After describing yourself as a "second-rate deejay," you developed a philosophy regarding how much you'd devote to an effort before moving on. Can you tell us how you came to that realization?

KELLY: "My motivation has always been to find something I love and could be the best at. That's not to say that what I'm doing now I'm the best. I see potential to becoming the best, and by that, I mean more of a marketer, a producer, a backstage programmer."

"I really miss playing music for people. I loved the artist's selection and the response when selecting the right song. But, you know, I'm where I am now, offstage and

backstage, and that's where my strengths lie. I have the opportunity to be the best at that and the support to do it."

CHIC COMPASS: The Beverly Theater is, first and foremost, a home for independent films, giving them a voice rarely seen in Las Vegas. It is also a companion venue to The Writer's Block, which serves a similar purpose for the literary world. How do cinematic and literary arts intertwine beyond the familiar bestseller-to-blockbuster pattern?

KELLY: "We are an independent film house, but the live component is part of that story. There are things in this theater you would not see in a typical indie film



house, and it's really all designed to be performance-based."

"There's a lot of lead-ins with directors writing books, publishing screenplays and scripts, and some of them tie into older films. A film released twenty years ago might just now have been published. Or the director or somebody else wants to write a book about their experience."

"We have opportunities to feature a book, director, or author, then immediately have everyone experience it (the film) on the big screen. With The Writer's Block next door, it just makes sense."

CHIC COMPASS: As a film house, concert scene, and storytelling arena, The Beverly will be more than just a screening venue. So, it will host social gatherings,

premieres, music, and literary events, correct?

KELLY: "We want to be a true storytelling arena, which is really what we want to plant our flag in. We want to tell stories through film, our concerts, our performances, and the literary things we do. So as a true storytelling arena, it's the ideal collaboration to have The Writers Block come in and help us with programming."

"They do a lot of great events, and we're going to create more with them and pair the films with some of the things they do or the books they might have on their shelves "

"There's a lot of outstanding indie films that were books first, and we're working on a lot of that. I think people will be excited

to understand that book-to-film loop."

CHIC COMPASS: Now that you've been promoted to Chief Experience Officer, do you anticipate drawing on your entertainment and nightlife marketing expertise, or will this be uncharted territory?

KELLY: "I'm no stranger to booking events and venues. Where this will be different is the type of venue that we're able to offer artists, touring bands, and acts who want to reach the Las Vegas market and not just our visiting economy."

"We have a place Downtown that's easily accessible. It's really for the people who live here...the Las Vegas community, and gives people a chance to play in front of what we hope is the actual Las Vegas demographic."

"Being that this venue is so flexible, this is uncharted territory for the industry. You don't typically have concert theaters that show films three days a week. You also don't typically have art houses that can flex into an industry-standard performance house or concert scene. The venue's design is uncharted, so by definition, how we program it will be uncharted."

"Candidly, we're trying to create a model and prove a concept. Our goal is to 'eventize' everything that we do. A lot of venues are pigeonholed as "exhibitors." If we show a film that doesn't open so well, we have enough programming and events coming in after that to "save us." I think this is the model that most exhibitors will want to copy, especially coming out of the pandemic. I welcome that."

CHIC COMPASS: Las Vegas now has a growing Arts District and acclaimed repertory theater groups. Was The Beverly Theater envisioned to be a deliberate part of that movement? Or was the time right for Las Vegas to have its own independent cinema?

KELLY: "This was the brainchild of Beverly Rogers. She loves storytelling and is obviously a huge supporter of the arts. She decided there was a hole in Las Vegas. I think she dreamt up a space where independent spirits could live and thrive, and storytelling could be a headlining kind of moment where there wasn't one before."

CHIC COMPASS: Beverly Rogers is a self-described "Leader of Champions." As chairman of The Rogers Foundation, she has been instrumental in fostering local artists while simultaneously helping to fund both educators and students. Why did you feel it was important for The Beverly Theater to carry her name, and how did she react to that decision?

KELLY: "Her name is on a lot of buildings. That isn't unusual for her. The difference is that it wasn't some mandated automatic stamp that comes with donating a certain amount of money to an institution. This is more a personal thing."

"When one hundred percent of the theaters in this country were closed, and most of them didn't reopen, she was the only one saying, 'Let's build a new one.' There is a revolutionary power to that. My department was liquidated, and we were all wondering what entertainment would look like. For her to put her money where her mouth is...it meant a lot to me, too."

"I thought that The Beverly Theatre



is a great name for a theater, and she deserved that stamp on something so personal to her. I bought all the digital real estate, secured all the handles, bought all the domains, and said, "Here's what we're going to call it." And we all outvoted her because it was the right thing to do. She warmed up to the fact, and now I think she likes it."

CHIC COMPASS: Cutting-edge electronics are just a few attributes that make The Beverly Theater appealing to film fans and industry professionals. Do you have concerns about technology overshadowing the human elements of art?

KELLY: "Coherent Design (an award-winning firm that has created venues for casinos, hotels, nightclubs, and Allegiant Stadium) has called this "the most technologically-advanced theater of its kind in North America." All that means is that there are a lot more things to give us flexibility in our programming."

"I don't worry about the tech overshadowing the human element of art. I worry a little more about this building being so new that we really have to "warm it up." Most people aren't used to a brand-new theater. It's just not something that happens that often."

"People are going to feel something when they walk in. They're going to feel good, but they're not going to know why. And a lot of it will be because it's so brand new."



"We have the ability to support and maximize the creativity of the artists, the filmmaker, or the performer. We have a Meyer Sound system that allows us to mic the entire room. We have retractable seats which give us the ability to extend the capacity of our main theater when we want to."

"We have a Nana Wall door that opens our theater into the courtyard. We'll want to bring those spaces together. We have a concession stand and box office designed for grab-and-gostyle stuff. Makes it much quicker being a cashless venue. I think it's something new to art houses but is catching on in the city."

"One thing you can't compete with is history. Traditionally, indie film houses are historic—exposed brick walls, and the seats are worn. That's their character. We can't just stamp "Established in 1956" on The Beverly Theater ... we have to earn it. I want the walls to feel like they're bursting out with all these things that have happened here. And we'll get there."

CHIC COMPASS: The Beverly Theater has three primary areas—the screening room being the most obvious. Could you give us a quick overview of the other two?

KELLY: "SEGUE is our rooftop jazz

terrace. We call it our "Modish Overlook on Sixth." SEGUE will have jazz programming every night of the week. That's where The Writer's Block will have most of its events. It'll have a bar. It's got some really cool seating, and we think we'll be a cool place to hang for people who don't have tickets."

"That is another thing that's not traditional to theaters. We wanted to create a space for people who, if they show up and don't have tickets, we want to welcome them to SEGUE. And maybe they'll buy a ticket."

"The Courtyard is on the lower level. It's more intimate. We've got a lot of nice park benches, some trees, and planters. We might have smaller acoustical performances and lighter book readings as we get going. It will be a place where people want to sit and wait until the show starts."

CHIC COMPASS: Circlina back to the lineup of possible films...independent productions,

especially those made around Las Vegas, often feature raw talent working with extremely low budgets. As a state-of-the-art facility, will The Beverly Theater welcome the gritty as well as the polished?

KFIIY: "If we have a local filmmaker that's got a great idea for an event and they want to do a premiere, we can make that work. Our projector plays everything. Most of the things from our distribution partners are going to be digital cinema packages. We hope to have the latest and greatest independent film, an excellent repertory program, and some revival cinema."

CHIC COMPASS: Fremont Street stages like NOTORIETY, INSPIRE, and CHEAPSHOT have become important spots for rising talent. What is it about Downtown Vegas that speaks to independent voices?

KELLY: "A lot has happened downtown in the last ten years; Tony Hsieh was obviously the catalyst for that. Ryan Dougherty created unique spaces that don't feel casino-driven because they aren't. There's a lot less casino culture Downtown than on the Strip."

"Locals, in general, come here more. It's an easier "hang," an easier "park," and an easier vibe. The Life Is Beautiful music festival is a significant cultural moment for the entire city, but more specifically (because) it happens Downtown. Its footprint is felt the entire year."

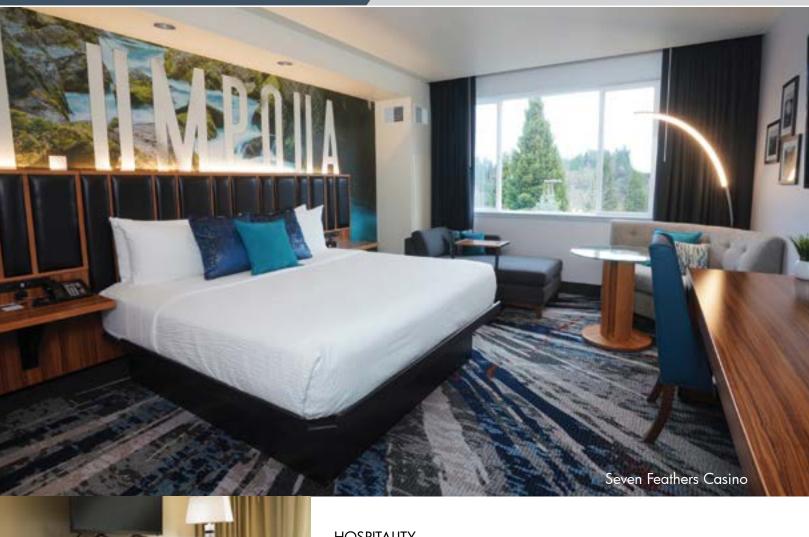
"They're not just three-day festivals; they're not just independent bars, and they're not just one little spot where you can see a show. We've done a nice job adding these independent things to create this Downtown fist."

That "fist" will indeed be felt when The Beverly Theater debuts in early 2023. The location is 515 S. Sixth Street in Downtown Las Vegas. You can follow The Beverly Theater's grand opening announcement and other events online at TheBeverlyTheater.com.





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# **D TRAIN**

Flying on the Wings of His Faith

By Sheryl Aronson

TRAIN, singer, songwriter, producer, and actor, constructed a prolific career in the entertainment industry for over 40 years. At the center of this artist's creative being is his relationship with God – a soulful purpose to inspire and melt the hearts of the audience when singing on stage. Growing up in the church in Brooklyn, NY, D TRAIN sang in the church choir, where his musical and ethical education was formulated

"I sang in the choir where my voice was groomed. It was a great spiritual foundation, and I carried it over to the music industry," said D TRAIN.

Music wasn't D TRAIN's first love – it was football. At Erasmus Hall High School, he played defensive tackle on the football team, and this is where he received the nickname D TRAIN after the MTA Brooklyn subway ... the team's captain said of him, "When he



D TRAIN. Photo by Ed Foster



D TRAIN. Photo by Ed Foster

hits you, it's like being hit by a train."

Seemingly guided by the hand of God to a career in music – D TRAIN fell into fate's hands when he sang backup vocals for his pal Will Downing at a recording session and caught the attention of musician and producer Hubert Eaves. The two became a group, and in 1981 they had their first hit single, "You're the One For Me." From top billboard hits to six albums, touring the world, performing in films and television, to hosting radio shows ... D TRAIN has flown on the wings of success where he recommits his faith in God every day.

### Chic Compass: How did you begin your singing career?

D TRAIN: I grew up in the church and sang in the choir where singer Ronnie Dyson (who had the

song "It You Let Me Make Love") attended. Reverend Al Sharpton was my junior church minister. Growing up in a Christian home, there were lines you did not cross, and I'm grateful for those lines because they kept me out of a lot of trouble.

### Chic Compass: As a young man, did you know that being a professional musician was your destiny?

D TRAIN: I wanted to be a football player. I didn't want to be a singer even though I could sing.

Chic Compass: Will Downing, an amazing vocalist, was

### responsible for jump-starting your singing career.

D TRAIN: I've known Will since the 10th grade at Erasmus High School. One day, I went into the Chapel, and these three guys were standing around the piano singing. Will says, "Hey man, how are you doing? Are you a singer?" I said, "I'm a football player, but I can sing."

I started singing, and their jaws dropped because I was captain of the football team. They asked me to join the Choral Academy. I said, "No, I'm not doing that." However, I ended up joining both choral choirs, and Will and I have remained friends since that time

After graduating from Erasmus, Will did song demos and songwriting for people like Melba Moore. One day he called me into the studio and said he had a song he was working on and would like me to sing background vocals. During the recording session, a guy walks into the studio and was listening to the music. The next thing I know, Will tells me that this big producer loves my voice and wants me to come to his house and write some songs. I'm flabbergasted. The next day I jumped on the train and went to the producer's house. The rest is history! The name of this gen-

"D TRAIN has flown on the wings of success where he recommits his faith in God every day."

tleman was Hubert Eaves III, and we became partners in writing music and performing.

### Chic Compass: Working on that first song with Hubert Eaves got your first record deal.

D TRAIN: That's right. Hubert said, "I got this track I'm working on, and it's called "You're the One For Me," but I don't have any lyrics." I said, "Play it again and give me a pen." I started writing, and within an hour, we recorded the demo with the lyrics. It wound up in the hands of Prelude Records. They signed us to a deal, and I was 19 years old.

### Chic Compass: How did you handle the lifestyle of becoming a recording star at such a young age?

D TRAIN: Actually, I got married, bought a house, and started raising my family. However, I kept hearing "You're 20 years old, and you're supposed to be the sex symbol. You're ruining your career." I did not care about that. I was on the road with Parliament Funkadelic and making good money, and I had a wonderful family that I came home to after I got off the road.

### Chic Compass: How have you developed emotionally and spiritually while dealing with being a celebrity?

D TRAIN: When you're young, it's about ego. It's not that you're a millionaire, but you're making money at 21 years old that most kids don't make. People are recognizing you on the street, and people in your neighborhood and church are proud of you. Luckily, I was grounded in my faith, and my faith kept my ego grounded - my family kept me grounded. I still had to go home and change diapers and shovel snow.

Now at 60 years old, it's not so much about how good or great you are... it's about who you can bless. Every morning I pray and meditate for an hour from 5:30 to 6:30. I talk to God. I can deal with anything outside that door in the world around me because I've established my communication with God. I do not take any days off.

When I get on stage, I ask God to use me because everybody that comes to my show has different emotions: some of them are going through a bad divorce, lost their jobs, or lost their husbands, and I want them to feel better. I do that by allowing God to use



*D TRAIN with fans. Photo courtesy of D TRAIN.* 

me as his vessel every time I open my mouth. I take myself out of the equation and check my ego at the door. I've seen breakthroughs. I've seen miracles. I've seen tough dudes like my friend John Leto, a private investigator in Long Island, New York, start crying. I've had this experience over and over with families and individuals. I want to break through the walls of whatever people are going through. It's a spiritual approach because some people who are not religious and do not believe in God know they were touched by something.

Chic Compass: You've had hit songs, and hit albums, have toured the world, worked in television and film, and been a producer ... look at your career and talk about the highlights.

D TRAIN: My first big highlight was in 1985 when I opened for Smokey Robinson at the Radio City Music Hall. My mom, dad, aunts, and uncles were in the front row. The second big highlight was performing at Wembley Arena in 1986 in front of a crowd of more than 17,000 people opening for Chaka Khan. Also working with Michael Jackson in the studio on his album "Invincible," working on "Dance with My Father" with Luther Vandross in the studio, and working with Bette Midler. I was invited to perform at the Kennedy Center Honors from 2012 to 2014. I was called by the Catholic Church to sing for Pope Francis in 2015 at Madison Square Garden.



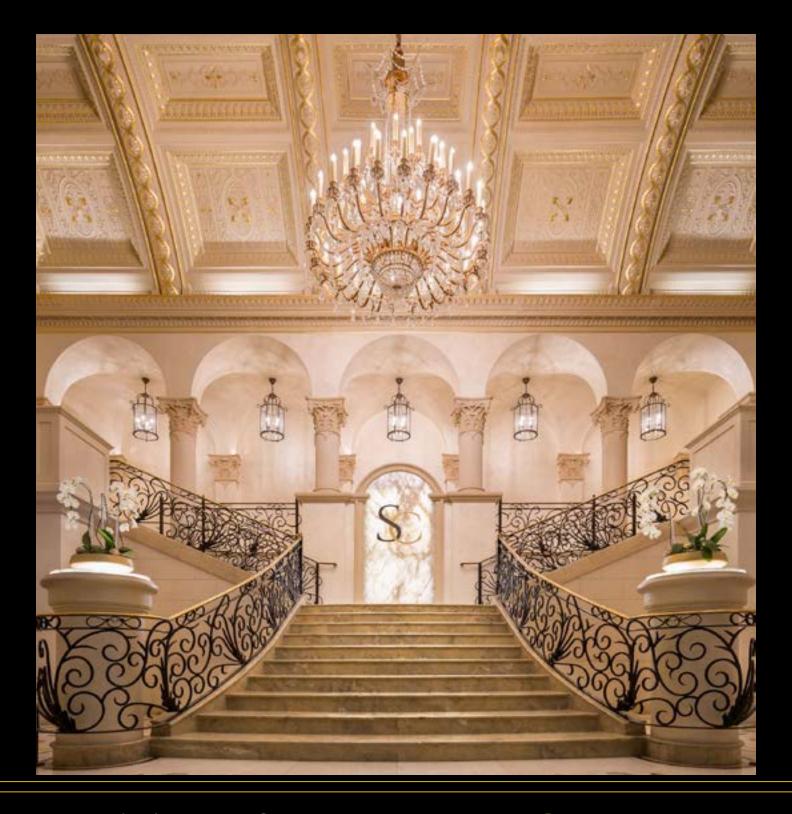
D TRAIN. Photo by Ed Foster

Now, here's a story ... Prince's keyboard player called me and asked if Prince could sing my song "You're the One For Me" at the LA forum, saying "we're doing it for 21 nights." I said, "God bless him, and tell Prince I thank him very much for doing my song." Later that same year, Prince died. I get a phone call a year after he died, and it was my friend Rob Mathes who told me that the Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra would like me to go on tour with them to sing "Purple" Rain." I was shocked. Then I realized Prince got me the gig. It was another huge spiritual moment for me. The first time I sang "Purple" Rain," I got a standing ovation.

Chic Compass: What are you working on now?

D TRAIN: I've been touring Greece and London, then I did Lyon, France, about 2-3 weeks ago. Last week I was in Detroit, and this coming week I'm in Purchase, NY. I just finished recording my 7th studio album. I'm going to release it in probably April of 2023. I'm shooting the music videos now. I'm starting my podcast and interviewing big-name artists like Michael McDonald, Vanessa Williams, etc. I have already done my interview with Will Downing. The podcast will be global.

I want to go to a higher spiritual level by being alone with God, which is my primary purpose, and everything I do goes forward with Him.



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# IT'S A SLAM-DUNK!

The ALL NET Resort & Arena is Scheduled to Open in 2025!

By Joan S. Peck

ope springs eternal, and Jackie Robinson (pictured) is proof of that. A family-friendly destination, ALL NET Resort & Arena is being built on a premium 27-acre site on the north end of the fabulous Las Vegas Strip. It is being developed by Dribble Dunk, LLC, owned by businessman and former NBA and UNLV standout basketball player Jackie Robinson, and designed by Cuningham.

ALL NET Resort & Arena will establish Las Vegas as a professional sporting event destination by providing the city with a one-of-a-kind venue to host world-renowned events. There will be something for everyone at ALL NET Resort & Arena, from premier luxury suites to breathtaking designed rooms for the value-minded guest. You'll walk from your room to your favorite entertainment event, treat yourself at one of the exclusive retail shops, or enjoy spectacular





rooftop dining surrounded by a lavish pool.

The resort has been in the making since December 2013, when Jackie Robinson announced the project with the initial plan to open in December 2016 (costing \$1.3 billion). However, since then, the resort has had its setbacks. The project cost has increased several times, and construction has been delayed repeatedly because of difficulty in acquiring construction funds.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 29, 2014, but preparation work on the site did not begin until early 2017. The property consisted of an excavated hole for the next several years while Jackie Robinson sought financing.

In October 2020, the Clark County Commission granted a final six-month extension for the project to finalize agreements with the county, and some work resumed on the site. On September 20, 2022, the necessary financing came forth, and the \$4.9 billion project is expected to be finished by late 2025 - a venue well worth waiting for!

For many of us who live in Las Vegas, a new casino & resort is not that rare. So what will make ALL NET Resort & Arena so unique and welcoming? Let me introduce you to Jackie Robinson, the visionary behind this beautiful, inspiring extravaganza.

I had no idea what to expect when I met Jackie Robinson, but



I was pleasantly surprised when I did. Jackie is a calm man at peace with himself ... a kind man ... a thoughtful man ... a man with heart.

At the age of eight, the head of the YMCA, tossed a young kid, born and living in Los Angeles, a basketball. "Here, go play." With that, Jackie Robinson's love and talent for playing basketball began and grew.

Times weren't always easy for Jackie growing up in a poorer neighborhood with seven siblings, nor was it easy for his mother. Yet, his mother's belief that "God wants the best for everyone" was instilled in him with the confidence that he could be the best.

Basketball and sports became his life for the years of his youth. In 8th grade, Jackie belonged to the Chuck Boyd club and traveled with it throughout southern California, playing the game he loved.

Yet, basketball was not the only sport where Jackie shined. His love of sports included track, where he went to the state finals in high school, competing in the 100 - 200 meters races.

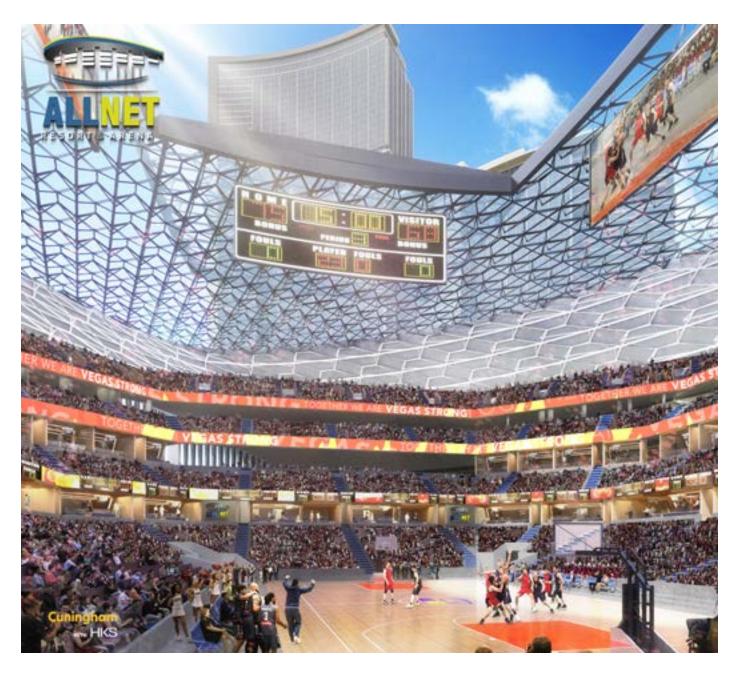
When Jackie graduated from Morningside high school, UNIV was searching for greater exposure and wanted to form a basketball team. He was recruited by none other than Sammy Davis, Jr., who, at that time, was still not allowed in the casinos as a black man. Jackie joined UNIV as a 6'6" forward and became

a top performer and star of the basketball team for the four years he was there

A standout basketball player at UNIV, Jackie was drafted by the Houston Rockets. He won an NBA Championship with Seattle SuperSonics and played for the Detroit Pistons and Chicago Bulls before retiring from professional basketball.

Afterward, Jackie played five years in Europe and, upon retirement, held executive positions in several Las Vegas companies that worked in retail, real estate, construction, credit, and the food and beverage industries.

When Jackie was working as a captain at the Aladdin Casino, he saw Sammy Davis, Jr. looking sick and unwell. Jackie ap-



proached him to say hello and ask him if he remembered the kid he had recruited for UNLV. Sammy told him he had throat cancer and said, "I was hoping I would live long enough to see a Black man own a casino on the strip." Today, when Jackie remembers that, he is filled with a sense of knowing that Sammy Davis, Jr. is smiling.

Jackie Robinson was the owner and operating manager of the Las Vegas Silver Bandits, a semi-professional basketball team in the International Basketball League (IBL) and the Las Vegas Slam of the American Basketball Association. As Chairman/CEO and Operating Manager of RLW Inc., he was the 52nd largest minority employer in the United States with 3500 employees and more than half-billion dollars in sales.

By 2008, Jackie Robinson and real estate veteran Michael Bellon had teamed up to develop a multibillion-dollar project on Bulloch and Gaffin's property, Elysium. It called for condos and hotel rooms, a dome-covered oceanbeach swimming complex, and more. It was to be located on the southeast of the Las Vegas Strip. Then the "Great Recession" hit and the opportunity was lost. But like most everything, when one door closes and another opens, it is often for the better.



And now, ALL NET Resort & Arena is happening at an even better location.

After spending time with Jackie Robinson, I knew his project would be unique because it would have heart, and I was thrilled. ALL NET Resort & Arena would not be another casino calling tourists to visit and spend their money. It is going to be so much more. What do I mean by that?

ALL NET's goal is to construct a facility that will combine sporting events and entertainment with corporate promotions to provide visitors with an exhibarating and memorable experience enhanced by technological innovations.

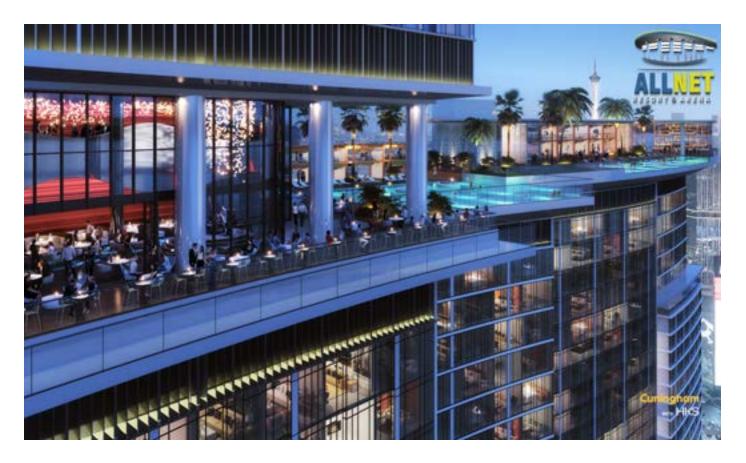
And yes, it is no surprise that Las Vegas, the world's entertainment capital, is vying for a chance to expand its offering. The NBA is considering expanding its league to include other cities, with Seattle and Las Vegas at the forefront of being considered as the next NBA cities. Jackie Robinson said, "Would we like to have an NBA team? Absolutely. Will we be deterred if we don't? No." So, what can we expect at the All Net? The fabulous features will include the following:

- Multi-Purpose 23,000 Seat Arena for Basketball and 25,000 for Concerts and Boxing with a Retractable Roof and a Matrix of LED Screens for dramatic visual experiences.]
- 500-Room Five-Star Luxury Spa Hotel
- 70 Story, 2,000-Room Hotel
- Spectacular Rooftop Dining

- surrounded by a Lavish Pool
- 275,000 sq. ft. Convention Center
- Victory Plaza, a 400,000 square-foot Food and Retail Plaza with Exclusive Retail Shops
- World-Class Restaurants and **Nightclubs**
- 3,000 Seat Dinner Showroom
- 12-Screen Luxury Movie Theater
- 24-Lane Bowling Alley
- 65,000 sq. ft. Broadcast Production Studio

So, where is the heart of this unique and exciting project?

The resort is a union project, and it has been given the attention and thoughtful details to make it a part of Las Vegas and its valley with a neighborhood vibe. It is the place



to lose yourself in the kinder, more considerate aspects of this extravaganza, making it the place to visit time and again with its eye on the family, health-minded, and sports enthusiast.

- 35% of the 40,000 jobs will be for minorities
- No casino or gambling of any kind is allowed on the property
- It's a non-smoking property
- Family events will occur throughout the year, in addition to the use of its 24-line Bowling Alley and the 12-Screen Luxury Movie Theatre
- Events will be more than a limited one-time venue if they can include an educational aspect for students
- Student field trips will be available
- Parking will be underground

- to beautify the grounds and surrounding area
- An Urgent Care facility will be on-site, relieving the worry of emergency care not being received in a timely manner
- A health-minded store like Sprouts will be available for health-conscious patrons
- A walking track through beautiful scenery like Central Park to keep trim
- Vegas's dinner club intrique will be revived in an upscale dining experience with tables viewing the Vegas Strip.
- There will be a Jazz Club featuring local musicians and others
- Endless opportunities for the Multi-Media Production Studio to create content
- The 23,000 to 25,000seat Arena will allow many venues the needed space

- previously unavailable
- The Arena is sheathed in a Matrix of LED screens for dramatic visual experiences
- And so much more ...

Jackie Robinson says it's "a Resort for Tomorrow's Lifestyle"—technology, health, wellness, entertainment, and education. Asking what he wanted his legacy to be, Jackie responded, "I want every kid—no matter color or circumstance—to never lose HOPE and to know (as his mother taught him) that God wants the best for everyone. They can be the best of whatever they choose to do."

I sat in thought. From our conversation, I heard endless possibilities to immerse yourself in all offered at the ALL NET Resort & Arena...a place to find yourself ... and I was ready to sign up.



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# An Illuminating Journey

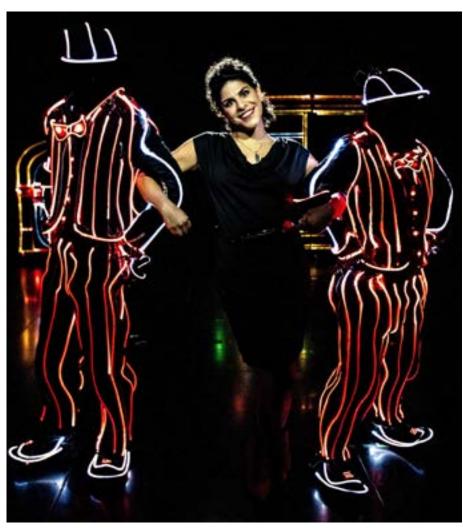
Two-time Cancer Survivor Miral Kotb on Bringing iLuminate to Life

By Heather Turk

uring one of the darkest times of her life, iLuminate creator/founder Miral Koth discovered the light both metaphorically and literally speaking.

Growing up, Koth always had a passion for dance and technology. She began writing computer software when she was just nine years old and went on to study coding at Columbia University. All the while, Koth never gave up on following in the footsteps of her father, who previously performed in Egypt's national dance troupe, by continuing her own dance training. When Koth finally reached the point in her life where she was ready to leave her job as a software engineer at Bloomberg to become a fulltime dancer, she got some devastating news that would end up changing the course of her career.

"They found a tumor in my right hip," Kotb, diagnosed with sar-



iLuminate's Las Vegas residency features numerous types of music, as *Kotb wanted to create a show that everyone could enjoy.* Photo by Kim Metz



coma in 2001, told Chic Compass. "The diagnosis was so bad there was potential for my leg to be amputated, and I'd never be able to dance again. I was very lucky that they didn't have to remove my hip, and I could continue dancing."

Koth ended up leaving Bloomberg to become a freelancer focused on website coding instead, which she did while traveling around Europe. After returning to America, she decided to attend Apple's app developer conference, where she learned about wireless chips getting so small they could be put into everyday devices. Kotb's mind immediately went to dance, realizing that she could put a chip on a dancer and be able to communicate with them wirelessly in real-time while they performed. She then cultivated that idea into having the chips control synchro-

*Left: Kotb said she loves coding* because it's a "fun and inclusive field. It's just you, your ideas, and your passion that shines." Photo by Kim Metz

nized lights attached to dancers, and in 2009, the theatrical and technology group iluminate was born.

"When I realized I could merge my love of art and my passion for technology to make this really cool, immersive experience that was unlike anything I had ever seen, it just made sense," Koth stated. "I had a prototype in a matter of weeks of the initial light suit, thanks to using my friends as guinea pigs. We eventually caught the eye of many celebrities, including GRAMMY Award-winning superstars Chris Brown, Christina Aquilera, and the Black Eyed Peas, who wanted to use this technology. We went on to appear on 'America's Got Talent' in 2011, where we came in third place."

Unfortunately, Koth couldn't enjoy iLuminate's success for long. She wasn't feeling quite right and discovered in 2017 that she had acute myeloid leukemia caused by the radiation from her first bout with cancer. Once again, Kotb found the strength and courage to fight the disease, and once she was in remission, she set her sights on a Las Vegas residency for iluminate.

"Any cancer journey can make you spiral a bit, but I knew I wanted to create something special with my two passions, so that



Kotb said her favorite number in iLuminate's Las Vegas show is the prohibition scene, as it brings "the incredible sounds of big band jazz music to life through choreographed lights and movement." Photo by Kim Metz

gave me strength—and I'm a very tenacious person," Koth said.

The obstacles weren't over for Kotb just yet, however. With a premiere date set at The STRAT Hotel, Casino & SkyPod for March 26, 2020, iLuminate's residency had to be put on hold once Las Vegas temporarily closed all of its productions because of the COVID pandemic. Kotb took that time to make the show even better, and in August 2021, iLuminate finally celebrated its long-awaited Las Vegas debut.

A multi-sensory experience that showcases the talents of some of the country's top dancers and choreographers while using customized LED light suits, the dazzling, dancing-in-the-dark production recently announced that it has been extended at The STRAT until June—an impressive feat considering how many shows in Las Vegas that also premiered during the pandemic have since closed. Needless to say, iluminate's success would have never been possible without the strength and conviction of its creator, who never lost her focus no matter how many obstacles she faced along the way.

"I always say, let all your doubts happen before you commit," Koth said. "Once you've committed to pursuing something, don't look back. I say this with experience. Not just battling cancer or a worldwide pandemic shutting

you down, but every step of the way, have conviction and commit to yourself. Even the 2021 launch of iluminate had its ups and downs, but I learned to stay true to myself and my vision and not be afraid to step back and reevaluate. It certainly was a journey getting here, but I am thrilled that we just celebrated our first anniversary and have won some wonderful awards (including the 2022 Best of Vegas award for Best Date Show) along the way."

As for what's next for the inspirational entrepreneur, Kotb joked that she "can't not be creative." Not only would she love to see iluminate continue to call Las Vegas home, but she'd also love to launch a touring production, cre-



ate a kids' television show and write a book about iluminate and her life. Additionally, Kotb plans to empower young women to get into the coding field by continuing to mentor them. Regardless of where Kotb's bright future takes her, one thing is certain: she won't waste any time thinking about the darkness in her past.

"I really try to look forward and not back," she stated. "'Everything Happens for a Reason' is a motto I try to keep in the back of my head. Otherwise, you can go crazy with the 'why did I' or 'what ifs.'

iluminate performs inside The STRAT Theater Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7 p.m., with an additional 3 p.m. performance on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit iluminate.com.

Above: iLuminate combines state-of-the-art technology with dynamic dancers performing in the dark, creating a visual arts experience audiences of all ages will love. Photo courtesy of iLuminate

Below: Kotb believes that "the people you surround yourself with are the key to success in life." Photo by Kim Metz





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ive years ago, one of Sin City's renowned trumpeters forged a deal with another celebrated jazz icon to form the Jazz Outreach Initiative. JOI was born, and a colossal new musical wave barreled toward the West Coast, crashing to a stop in Las Vegas.

The young organization was the vision of Vegas native Kenny Rampton, currently a full-time musician with The Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC) Orchestra in New York City. He drew inspiration from his friend and fellow trumpeter from New Orleans, IALC Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis.

Founded to fill a need for heightened exposure to contemporary jazz studies and awareness, the organization focused on three pillars of education, performance, and community outreach by engaging students and audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

In its short lifespan, JOI has ex-

ploded like a supernova for jazz. Overnight, it established two orchestras - the Las Vegas Youth Jazz Orchestra (for students 11 to 19) and the JOI Jazz Orchestra, a professional big band comprised of Las Vegas top-tier jazz musicians and mentors. The company then launched its Band Directors Academy, Jazz for Young People Concerts, and Essentially Ellington event, plus a bevy of outreach programs, including festivals, clinics, master classes, and local school "informances." And it's still growing!

How did this Big Bang happen? As a licensed affiliate of New York's prestigious Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC) program, JOI seized on JALC's impressive program curriculum and learning curve, creating its own feisty trajectory designed to revitalize a community of world-class jazz in Vegas. A kind of "Lincoln Center West" suddenly established roots in Sin City!

### Three Amigos Form a Band of Brothers

As unique as the New York connection is, JOI couldn't have happened without the intersection of three guys who grew up together as alumni of Bonanza High School, Nevada School of the Arts, and UNLV. The three uber-talented musician friends later reconnected with the perfect skill set to advance JOI. The founding vision and star power of Kenny Rampton united with VP/ Co-Founder Gary Cordell, who heads up all of the company's education and performance programs, and Executive Director Donny Thompson, who provides the dauntless business oversight to build the organization's nonprofit board and infrastructure as IOI surges from infancy.

The "operations team" connects every Tuesday (often remotely) to accommodate Kenny's national and international touring appear-



"Best of the Best" JOI Jazz Orchestra in a light-hearted moment before performing Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite. Photo by Joseph Donato/Cashman Photo Enterprises

ances. But the vision drives the intensity of JOI's programming. The Las Vegas Youth Jazz Orchestra recently joined the CSN Big Band in a fall concert at the Nickolas Horn Theatre. During the holidays, JOI wowed a sold-out crowd at the Starbright Theatre with a knock-out performance of The Nutcracker Suite by Duke Ellington with star headliner Clint Holmes and emcee Nathan Tannebaum.

## Essentially Ellington 2023

Each February, JOI presents its Essentially Ellington Regional Festival for high school bands as the capstone to all of JOI's work. The program features arrangements, artists, clinicians, and special quests from Jazz at Lincoln Center, along with the UNIV School of Music's Division of lazz and Commercial Music as co-host.

Essentially Ellington tocuses on promoting jazz as America's unique art form in schools. The event is the largest of its kind in the country, drawing in high school jazz bands of all levels from the Clark County School District and across the Southwest to perform the music of Duke Ellington and other big band composers. Participating bands receive valuable professional feedback from JALC clinicians and other jazz professionals.

This year's program highlights Kenny Rampton as festival artistic director and world-renowned jazz luminaries such as Rodney Whitaker, Camille Thurman, and Jeff Hamilton. As part of the twoday festival, JOI sponsors a celebratory dinner at UNIV for clinicians and educators, followed well into the evening by an epic pizza party and jam session for students.

The second night concludes with a spirited awards ceremony, followed by the award-winning UNIV Jazz Ensemble I on stage with quest artists and high school soloists performing music from Ellington's extensive catalog. This distinctive festival is remarkable in that it is non-competitive, focusing on supporting each participant's musical collaboration and growth rather than jockeying for awards.

### Routes to Jazz Roots

JOI's Jazz Routes Program awards donated and brand-new instruments to local at-risk students who demonstrate musical talent. As a unique bonus, Jazz Routes recipients also receive a year's worth of donor-sponsored lessons to launch them on their musical journey. A professional musician with extensive teaching experience is carefully matched with each student in partnership with Music



Jazz Routes recipient 6th-grader Giovanni Fetes receives his trumpet from Donny Thompson and Gary Cordell. Photo by Joseph Donato/Cashman Photo Enterprises

& Arts, the nation's largest instrument retailer.

In JOI's vernacular, an instrument with lessons isn't just a gift to a student in need. "It feeds a passion to experience life's lessons of teamwork, problem-solving, improved academics, and musical mastery," according to Gary Cordell. "In the end, our initial investment in lessons pays dividends to both JOI's students and the soul of our community."

### Celebrating a Rich Legacy While Shaping the Future

JOI creates programming oppor-

tunities for kids to play in public. While education is foundational to building musical talent, performances build confidence, depth, and strength for aspiring young musicians. To that end, the company has created two major jazz orchestras: one at the top of its game that performs the canon of jazz for inspiration and one that helps shape the superstar players, arrangers, and composers of tomorrow.

"After four years of JOI's amazing growth, it was time to launch a professional big band which could further support our mission and vision in the way that Jazz at Lincoln Center does," cited Kenny Rampton, who has performed

alongside Wynton Marsalis in the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for over a dozen years.

JOI Jazz Orchestra (JOIJO) is comprised of "first call" local musicians who also serve as volunteer mentors for students of the Las Vegas Youth Jazz Orchestra. The orchestra is a professional showcase for accomplished musicians to perform charts from jazz's greatest musicians, composers, and arrangers - while also featuring music from highly talented local composers and arrangers such as Rachel Eckroth, Jorge Machine, Nathan Tanouye, and Barry Ross.

Las Vegas Youth Jazz Orchestra (LVYJO) members receive all music, instruction, jazz language classes, comps to JOI events and concerts, a specially assigned mentor, and masterclasses from world-renowned jazz luminaries all for just \$125 per semester.

### Reaching Out to Make a Difference

Jammin' with JOI provides students with a free program that meets every Tuesday during the summer. Students from middle school through high school join seasoned professionals to study jazz language and play with the pros and other students across Southern Nevada in a fun, relaxed, and supportive atmosphere. Students do not have to reqister, can come any time, and are welcome to bring friends.

- Buzzin' In Brass is the brainchild of Gary Cordell, in partnership with The Smith Center. This highly acclaimed program targets Title 1 "at risk" elementary schools and is designed for kindergarten through 5th-grade students. Buzzin' In Brass introduces a love for jazz through live performances of the JOI Brass Quintet. The "informances" are engaging, fun, and interactive - in high demand by both local music specialists and school administrators.
- Jazz for Young People (J4YP) provides narrated one-hourlong concerts designed for secondary school students. Students learn life lessons through the narration of the lives of famous jazz artists who succeeded despite cultural obstacles and social prejudice. Licensed from lazz at Lincoln Center, the IOI Sextet performances are informative and interactive.
- JOI in Schools sends highly qualified professional mentors

- into Clark County School District band rooms at no cost, thanks to the generous support of JOI donors.
- JOI's Annual Band Director Academy provides an intensive in-person training program for jazz band teachers designed and hosted by Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York. Reaistered middle school and high school band directors learn from masterclass educators and world-renowned artists from across the country. The course is approved for graduate-level credit, pay step increases, and state licensure renewal.
- Jazz Language Classes are offered weekly to students of the LVYJO and the general public that teach the language of jazz basics, covering topics from improvisation and transcriptions to chord structures and progressions. Students explore the expansive jazz lineage through active listening and self-expression to create their own compositions.

"The JOI of Arranging" classes with Grammy nominee Rachel Eckroth are currently available through a collaboration with the Nevada School of the Arts at NSA's downtown campus.

## Partnering with the Community

Armed with inspired, competent leadership and an exciting array of innovative mission-driven programs, JOI has now reached out to build alliances, coalitions, and donor support with businesses and other nonprofits throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

Kudos to the JOI team for building a doggedly-dedicated powerhouse board that totally supports the organization's goals with time, expertise, and financial support. Already JOI's partnerships reach deep into the community with UNLV, CSN, Nevada School of the Arts, the Clark County School District, Music & Arts, KUNR 91.5, and scores of new corporate and individual sponsors and donors.

One can't underestimate the contacts and connections of the Three Amigos either. Gary Cordell's background spans that of a trumpeter, arranger, and composer. But his long teaching career inside the school district allows him to call on virtually every band director and music specialist within miles to funnel the best students into JOI's programs.

Kenny Rampton's colossal musical stature allows him to call on star



IOI Annual Summer Soiree at Monzu Italian Oven + Bar



Vocalist Jonathon Karrant performs with the Las Vegas Youth Jazz Orchestra

peers when performing in town, asking them to drop by rehearsals or meet students at their shows. He'll often have living composers Skype in to work with students as they interpret their musical charts. Who else can match that kind of gravity and respect?

Donny Thompson, a musical child prodigy, has come full circle as a successful performer, small businessman, corporate banker, and crackerjack executive, having just received his master's degree in nonprofit administration from Louisiana State University in 2020 providing the perfect managerial fit.

The 101 lazz Alliance is the company's newest spinoff as the company's volunteer organization dedicated to supporting JOI's mission and purpose through service, fundraising, volunteering, and event planning.

### A New World of Jazz for the New World

If the bottom-line goal of JOI is to reboot or reinvent a world-class community of jazz in Las Vegas, then JOI is well on its way.

"The culture of jazz is healing for a community. It's a great uniter," claims Donny Thompson. "Jazz tells the story of America - good and bad - with democracy always shining on a Big Band stage.

"You not only hear inspired improvisation," he continues, "but you see each artist collaborating and supporting each other by listening and reacting in real-time - without a conductor. That's the genius of jazz."

Or, as Wynton Marsalis so eloquently sums up, "How great musicians demonstrate mutual respect and trust on the bandstand can alter your outlook on the world and enrich every aspect of your life - understanding what it means to be a global citizen in the most modern sense. Jazz music is the power of NOW."

Visit jazzoutreachinitiative.org to:

Join the 101ful Notes Newsletter

- Become a 101 lazz Alliance Volunteer
- Donate a musical instrument
- Become a corporate sponsor
- Make an individual donation
- Check out upcoming classes and performances
- "Adopt" a young musician for a year
- And more!

Jazz Outreach Initiative (JOI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a Platinum Shield rating from GuideStar.

"Connecting the language of music to the language of life!"

### KENNY RAMPTON

Growing up in Las Vegas was such a gift. My dad was a firstcall percussionist for the Relief Orchestras that gave the House Bands a night off. He often took me to rehearsals so I could meet the best of the best musicians.

When I was about 11, I picked up the trumpet, and my dad introduced me to Doc Severinson, who was performing in town. I remember I asked him, "How much do you practice?" And he told me, "The more you play, the more you need to practice."

My mother was a teacher, pianist, and organist at our church. She had me sit on the organ bench while she played at church, and that's how I learned to read music. My mother was also a staunch advocate of early music in the schools.

I was exposed to such a high level of music at such a young age - and I want other kids to have that opportunity. I am the player and person I am today because of how I was raised.

I had the kind of education you couldn't buy. It is a profound discipline to study music at an early age. You become a better person. Research shows it helps with brain development and one's approach to mastery and success.

I've had so many great experiences with my travels as a musician to share with young talent. I realized how the music industry



of my dad's era uplifted the community, and I wanted to do something to help my hometown. I love Las Vegas, and after seeing what Lincoln Center was doing and working with Wynton Marsalis - probably the top name in jazz today - I wanted to pay back to the community.

Once I reached out to folks, JOI

just took off - with support from all sides. I want JOI to grow into an amazing program like that of Jazz at Lincoln Center. But most importantly, I want JOI to be an umbrella for the entire community to support - one that helps each of us learn and grow. I'm here for the long run. I'll never step back as long as we keep moving forward!



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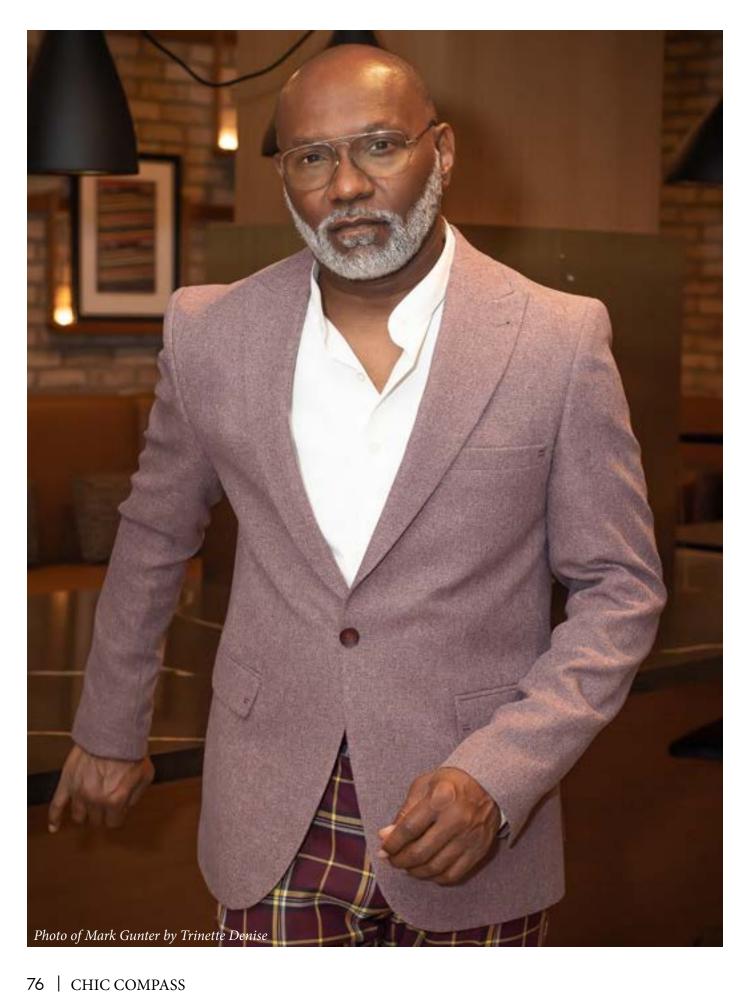
# MARK GUNTER HE GETS THE SHOT

By Jazmyne Courtnii Byrd Photography by Jaime Lim, and Trinette Denise

From the red carpets to fashion runways in London, Mark Gunter of Mark G. on Point is one of the most in-demand fashion photographers in the business. His eye for detail and crisp color contrasts have made him one of the most sought-after photographers in the industry. What has been vital to him in his career has been consistency.

Gunter says, "Consistency has been the key for me because much of my business comes through referrals. With a magazine, they are looking for a cover that's going to make people buy it off the shelves, and with weddings and events, people want to feel like they were in the room when they look at the shot. Getting the chance to shoot a cover so early in my career just prepared me to be able to work in the industry and with this high level of client. My goal is to make you feel like you are front and center."

Using the camera to capture unforgettable moments on film can seem like a super effortless job. Still, getting that one memorable trendsetting shot is not as easy as it looks. You go to the red carpet event or studio, snap the shots, go home and edit. That is the life of a photographer.



"A lot of people think that being a photographer is simple. From social media, it looks like everyone can get the perfect shot with their cell phones and apps with filters, but that's not the reality of a real photographer. We look at angles, settings, and lighting. We are very technical. The photos need to tell a story and capture a moment in time. Every time my client sees the shot, they relive it and enjoy it. I look at my craft as something special and timeless."

You may have seen his work in one of your favorite magazines or online on one of the most talked about blog sites, and we can almost bet that when you saw the shot, you felt like you were there.

Mark G, an East Texas native, has a strong love for fashion and photography that began as a hobby. Simply having a passion for fashion and taking pictures helped him get where he is today.

"I attended college in East Texas at Jarvis Christian university before joining the Marines. When I purchased my first camera, I bought it to take pictures as a hobby. I got better and better, and it was just in me to do. I never thought it was something I could turn into a career until people started asking me to take their pictures, and I started making money. After a while, it became more demanding, and I had to choose between my career and my degree. Ultimately, I chose photography."

Fashion photography has been one of Mark's strong points in the fashion industry. Designers hire Gunter because of his keen eye for good fashion shots. From Dubai to London, he is one of the most highly recommended photographers in the industry, and during fashion season, he is jet-setting across the world to get the best shots.

"I get calls from designers and fashion show producers from all across the globe to capture the shots of their shows. Not every photographer gets the opportunity to become an international photographer and be successful. I have literally built my career on getting the shot."

In the beginning, working with fashion models can be very intimidating because that one shot, that one cover, can be seen worldwide with just one click. Fashion models often have a reputation for being demanding, but Gunter knows how to work around that and still focuses his lens on perfection.

"At first, it can be a bit different, you know, learning how to navigate around people with different personalities in different situations. So, while I'm on set, I focus on the direction of the vision. My job is to ensure that every hair is in place, every garment is placed properly, every angle is great, and that the vision of the storyboard is captured to perfection. I like to set the vibe on set and make sure that everyone is happy and content so the shoot can go well."

Not only has Gunter worked with high-level fashion models, but he has also had the privilege of shooting with a lot of celebrities. On his experience working with stars, he says, "When I shot my first celebrity, I was terrified because there were so many people on set, and everyone depended on you to get this done and make them look great. It can be really intimidating because it's not like being on a red carpet where there are so many photographers and videographers present. It's all eyes on you. You know, the makeup artists have their job, and then the hairstylist has theirs, but the photographer is the one who is responsible for making it all come to life. The photographer makes it all come together so that everyone gets to shine. I like that

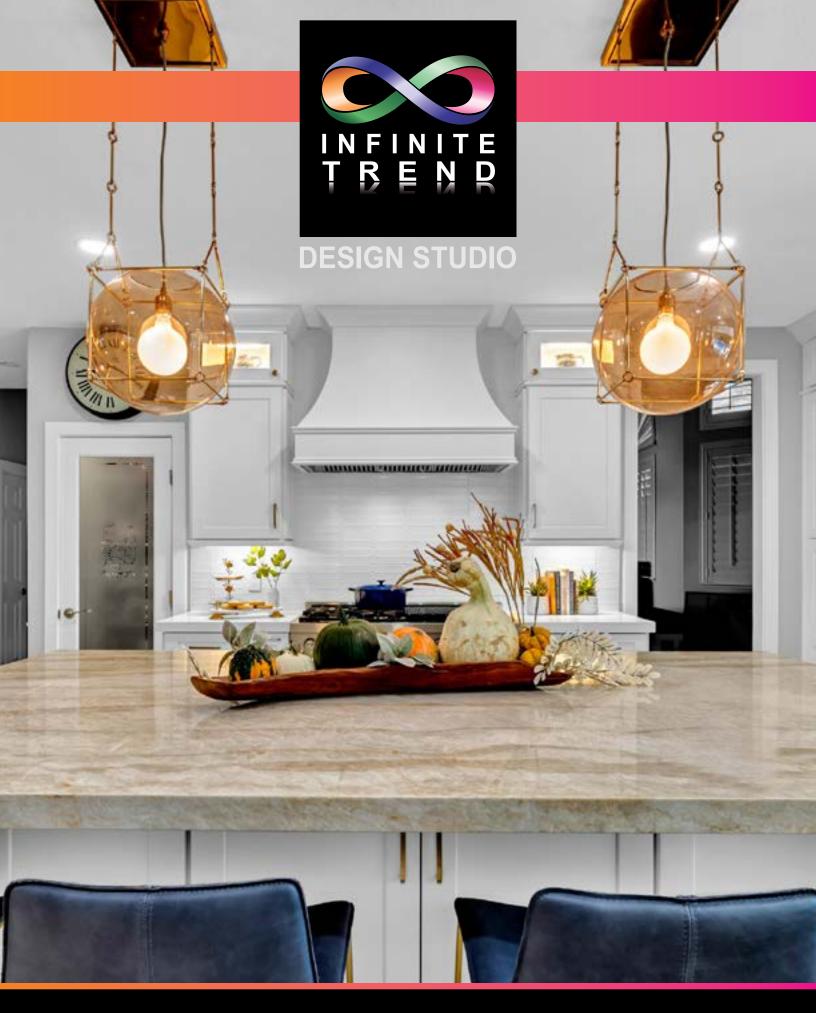
"Being the best photographer in the world doesn't mean that you'll get all of the shots; it means that you have to get the shot every time you shoot." - Mark Gunter

responsibility because I have studied and mastered it, which makes people trust me when I get behind the lens. But I would be remiss if I said my first time didn't make me nervous. Now it's like riding a bike."

Being a photographer is one of those careers that fall into the hands of those who have an eye for what they are captivating. Gunter has captivated the eyes of many because of his years of dedication to a craft that he has

successfully mastered because of his love for fashion. Clearly, Gunter, who has expanded his career across the seas, will continue to be the eye at the end of fashion runways worldwide.





### LOCAL FAVORITE HONEY SALT CELEBRATES A DECADE OF EXCELLENCE

### Summerlin, Las Vegas, Nevada

### By Elaine & Scott Harris

Off oney Salt, created by the husband and wife culinary team of Elizabeth Blau, CEO of Blau & Associates, and renowned Chef Kim Canteenwalla celebrates ten years in Summerlin Las Vegas. Over the decade, Honey Salt has been beloved by locals and visitors alike. Birthdays, receptions, anniversaries, meetings, or just plain

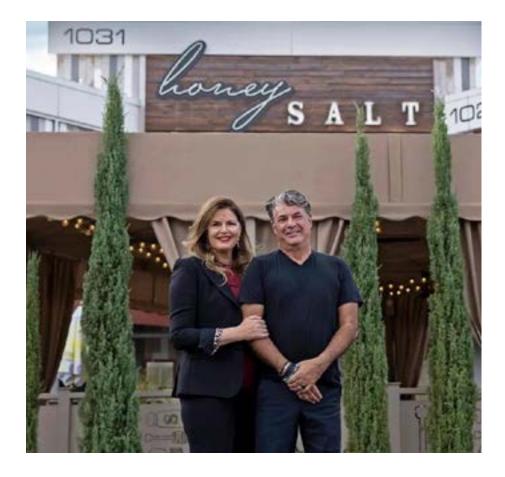
"hanging out" with friends and family, it's always a good time within the neighborhood. It's also not uncommon to see celebrities eniovina farm-to-table fare, seeking a respite from the bright neon lights of the famed Las Vegas

"We started with the principle of how we like to entertain at home

and how we like to eat at home," said Blau. "We did something very authentic to us. That menu reflects the healthy and indulgent aspects, including homemade desserts. We started with the kids' menu, Cole's Corner. It says Cole tested; Mom approved. The mac and cheese-y is still a favorite. We have evolved our entirely plant-based menu, reflecting how we like to eat; we built that front and center." Elizabeth adds, "The revolving and seasonally inspired menu draws from our travels. friends, and families."

Flizabeth's Caesar Salad is a take on the classic but with Tuscan kale and black garlic dressing. Another great dish reminiscent of this menu philosophy is the grain power salad, an abundance of delicious quinoa, beluga lentils, orange, creamy avocado, and dotted with bright pomegranates all mixed with a zingy lemon vinaigrette.

"The restaurant has evolved and grown with us," said Canteenwalla. "The real thing is the people we have worked with and have grown with over these years. I love seeing people grow, from



runners and bussers to servers to management positions." Corporate Chef Todd Harrington, who has been with Kim and Elizabeth throughout the years, remarked, "We have always been like a family."

The ten years have been busy for this couple, creating many loyal quests, a cookbook, coveted James Beard Award nominations, and even getting through a pandemic. They keep generating hospitality excellence because that's who they are. When Honey Salt opened its doors, it began a shift in Las Vegas dining—taking culinary artistry with both front-of-the-house and backof-the-house expertise and bringing them off the Strip and into the neighborhoods in the Las Vegas valley. This trend continues to this day. "We have the DNA of the design and the service aesthetic. We have the core of our menu, which translates anywhere in the country and internationally," Blau said. "That makes it unique and authentic to any city it goes to as we incorporate food, land, and culture."

Honey Salt is all about community. "We have created a culture focusing on philanthropy, whether at home or the restaurant. Even a year after the pandemic, we delivered close to 700,000 meals with Delivering with Dignity. Whether it's Three Square or Community in Schools, we practice what we preach."

Chef Kim Canteenwalla brings decades of international experience to the kitchen. He started





as sous chef in Toronto, executive chef at Raffles in Singapore, and Le Méridian in Dubai, in addition to his Las Vegas experience at famed Strip fine dining venues.

Blau has appeared as a judge on the Food Network's Iron Chef America, featured on the Travel Channel and the Martha Stewart Show, and is an annual judge for the Hotels magazine "Great Hotel Restaurant" list. Elizabeth co-starred on CNBC's Restaurant Startup as one of the Season 3 investors. In 2017, Blau and Canteenwalla co-authored "Honey Salt:

A Culinary Scrapbook," named Best Cookbook of 2018 by Food & Beverage Magazine.

Elizabeth's many honors and awards include the 2006 recipient of the IFMA Gold Plate Award, Cornell's 2017 MMH Outstanding Alumna of the Year Award from the School of Hotel Administration, and 2019's Stevie Award for Women in Business. In February 2020, Elizabeth was honored with the Silver State Innovator Award, which honors excellence in Nevada.

After ten years of success at Honey Salt, this team is nowhere near satisfied. They operate Buddy Valastro's Buddy Vs. on the Strip and working on a new project in the affluent Pinnacles. Outside Las Vegas and the United States, they opened Honey Salt in Vancouver, Saudi Arabia, Dubai projects, and even a steakhouse in Dallas. They keep making culinary magic on an accurate global scale.

Since opening in 2012, they have created something exceptional. Authentic farm-to-table dishes inspired by their travels, memories,









and countless meals shared with friends and family in their homes. Whatever you are in the mood for, there is something on the menu for you to enjoy. Everything from classic comfort food, lighter fare, vegan options, and a decadent brunch, all designed with care and competence, are available to hungry diners. At the bar, enjoy handcrafted cocktails, craft beer, and a wine list with many boutique treasures worldwide. Their wine dinners sell out almost every time, as well as theme nights, special events, and holiday meals, and their many charitable causes keep the team hopping and engaging the community. There is always something going on to keep things fresh and exciting.

"I like to think we were a part, a pretty sizable part, of making restaurants off the Strip more acceptable where they are going to get reliable service and food on par with the Strip," said Cantawalla. "This makes us more relevant as a culinary city," added Blau. "The Strip indeed differentiated us, but if you look at LA, Chicago, or New York, we are on par with the off the Strip dining."

Whether you live right around the corner, on a date night, out for a girls' lunch, or venturing off the Strip, the Honey Salt family will make you feel right at home.

### **Honey Salt Restaurant**

(Rampart Commons) 1031 S. Rampart Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89145 Telephone: 702.445.6100





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## CHRISTOPHER TODD

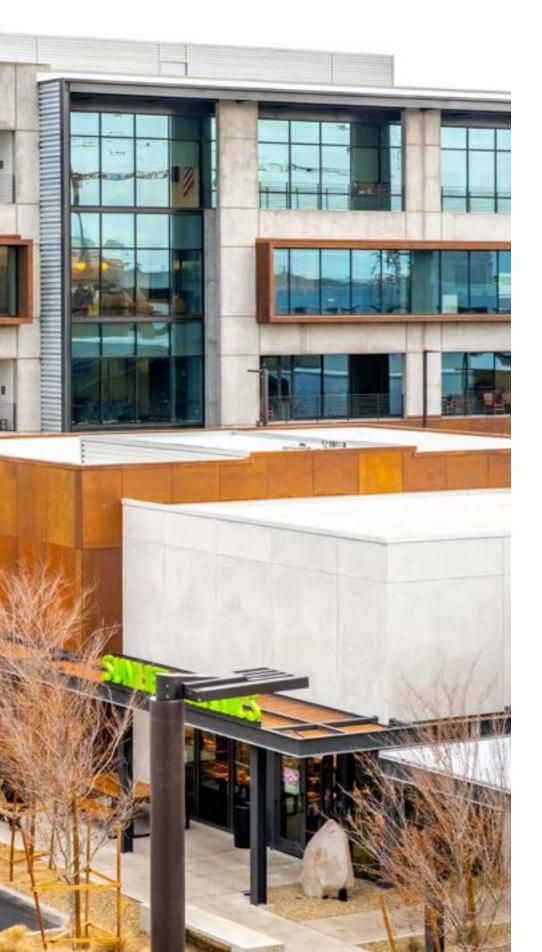
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# CHRISTOPHER TODD





he leader in the Las Vegas luxury real estate industry has a new location, location, location, location.

Sotheby's International Realty recently opened its doors on a brand new 12,000-square-foot Sin City office space at UnCommons, a 40-acre mixed-use "utopia," and the global real estate giant already looks right at home.

This relocation is just one of a thousand Sotheby's International Realty strongholds in 80 countries and perhaps ideally suited for a world-renowned brand that prides itself on being, well...uncommon.

"We're not your normal real estate agent," says Sotheby's International Realty real estate advisor Claire Nagel. "We are different from other agencies because of our global reach, huge international online presence, and quality of service. I always say you hire Sotheby's International Realty because you don't have to think about it."

That is evident the moment you enter the elegant property. From the full-scale marketing wing to the two non-confrontational conference rooms to the ample number of glassed-in agent offices, it is an affluent yet approachable atmosphere, with a major emphasis on the client-centric relationship.

At Left: UnCommons Office Space

Las Vegas Sotheby's International Realty President Randy Char, who calls it "beyond the status quo," says they've laid a foundation to "deliver a level of service to our agents and their clients that this community has not seen before."

In addition, the new hub at Un-Commons has the iconic Sotheby's auction house seal of approval. You might say Sotheby's

International Realty is a literal chip off the old auction block!

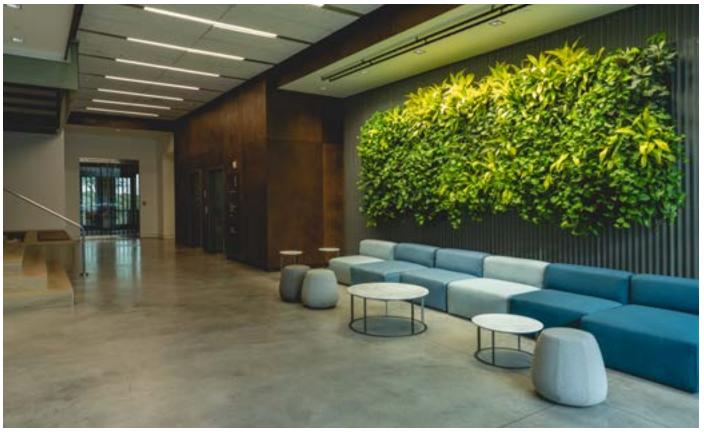
Sotheby's is "the oldest and largest internationally recognized firm of fine art auctioneers in the world." Its first official auction took place 279 years ago in London, thanks to founder Samuel Baker, but the real estate branch didn't emerge until 1976 as a full-service firm for Sotheby's clients.

Cut to 2021. The company boasts a network of top-producing agents who generated over \$204 billion in total sales. To this day, Sotheby's name internationally remains synonymous with innovation and inclusiveness.

"We feel like a family," says Nagel of the company's current cul-







With her extensive background in customer service, Nagel says their entire network of agents consistently working together has become integral to Sotheby's International Realty's success, as well as her own.

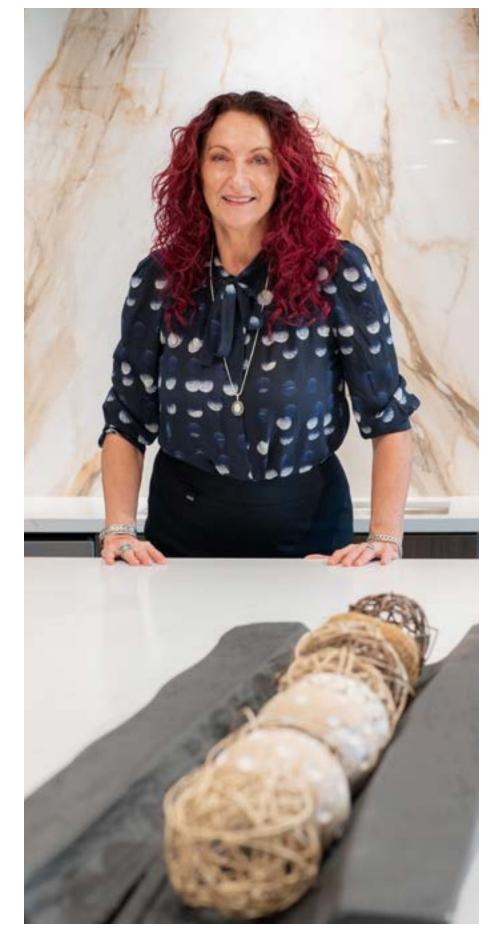
"We all help each other, and we have a great referral network anywhere in the world. If you wanted to buy a house in Italy, I could find someone to help you," says Nagel. "We provide white glove service, and we go the whole way. If someone's selling a house and they're connected with the auction house, we have the means to help people sell their house, [as well as] their artwork, gems, wine collection..."

Right now, the market is hot with leads on luxury listings. If visits to sothebysrealty.com are any indication—46 million, the most in its history—Sotheby's International Realty deserves an ovation, ovation, ovation.

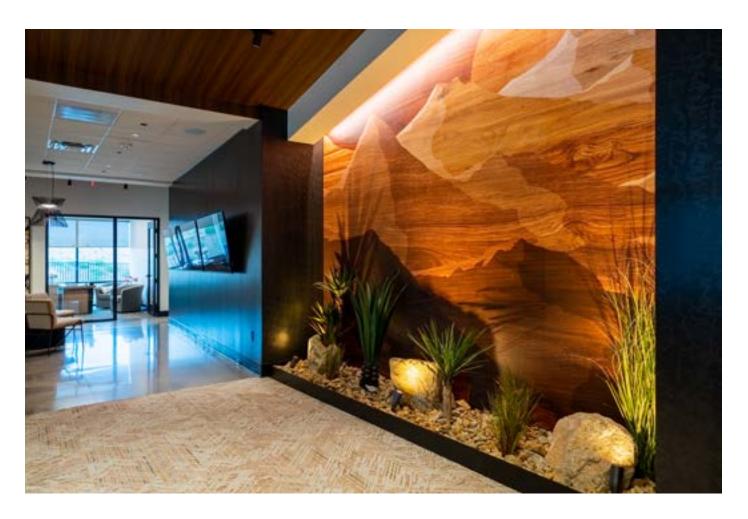
But if you're looking to visit in person, Sotheby's International Realty in Las Vegas is rolling out the red carpet.

Now that's what I call curb appeal.

To learn more about 2023 global market trends, visit: www.luxuryoutlook.com

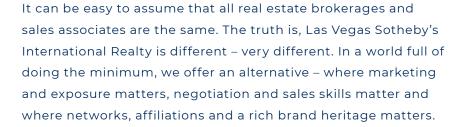


At Right: Claire Nagel at Las Vegas Sotheby's International Realty









Let me help you find your dream home whether you're moving down the block or around the world.

### **CLAIRE NAGEL**

Global Real Estate Advisor 702.327.2727 claire.nagel@sothebysrealty.com lasvegassir.com







## A DREAM WEDDING AMID NATURE

Article by David Tupaz Photography by Stephanie Heymann Photography

Tanya Murray and Michael Heath met unexpectedly in 2015 when Tanya was in Phoenix for a last-minute visit with family. They divided their time between Las Vegas and Arizona, spending many weekends at Tanya's family home in Sedona, Arizona, where Mike proposed in July 2019. They made plans to be married in Bellagio, Lake Como, Italy, in June 2020, surrounded by their kids, family, and close friends. Those plans had to be canceled due to Covid

Tanya and Michael spent the next year thinking about a new wedding plan and, during a weekend trip to Sedona, decided that the home where they had shared so many special memories was the perfect place.

Transforming the natural grounds of the Creekside home into a fairytale wedding venue required a very special talent which they found in Phoenix wedding planner Amy Petrovsky, owner of Sensational Events. Amy created a venue that was nothing short of magical. The ceremony was held on a stage installed over the creek and took place at sunset with the backdrop of the creek and the famous Sedona red rocks. Chandeliers hung from the sycamore trees throughout the property, with extensive florals complimenting the area's natural beauty.

Tanya's dress was a custom design by dear friend David Tupaz featuring Christian Dior lace and Valentino silk with a removable skirt paired with Jimmy Choo Swarovski encrusted heels.

A dinner reception followed the ceremony with a station-style presentation by M Caterers. Cocktails were served from an antique Italian cart by Bubbles' n Brew and included a selection of champagne, prosecco, and specialty cocktails. A custom dance floor under the stars was the perfect backdrop for an evening of dancing and celebrating.

The following day Pink Jeep Tours arrived to whisk them off for an adventure shoot arranged by Amy for some fun and adventurous photos at Merry-Go-Round Rock.

### Thank You:

### **Wedding Planner:**

@sensationalevents, @sedonaweddingplanner

### Photographer:

@stephanie.heymann. photography

#### Glam:

@makeupbutterfly

#### Florist:

@youreventflorist













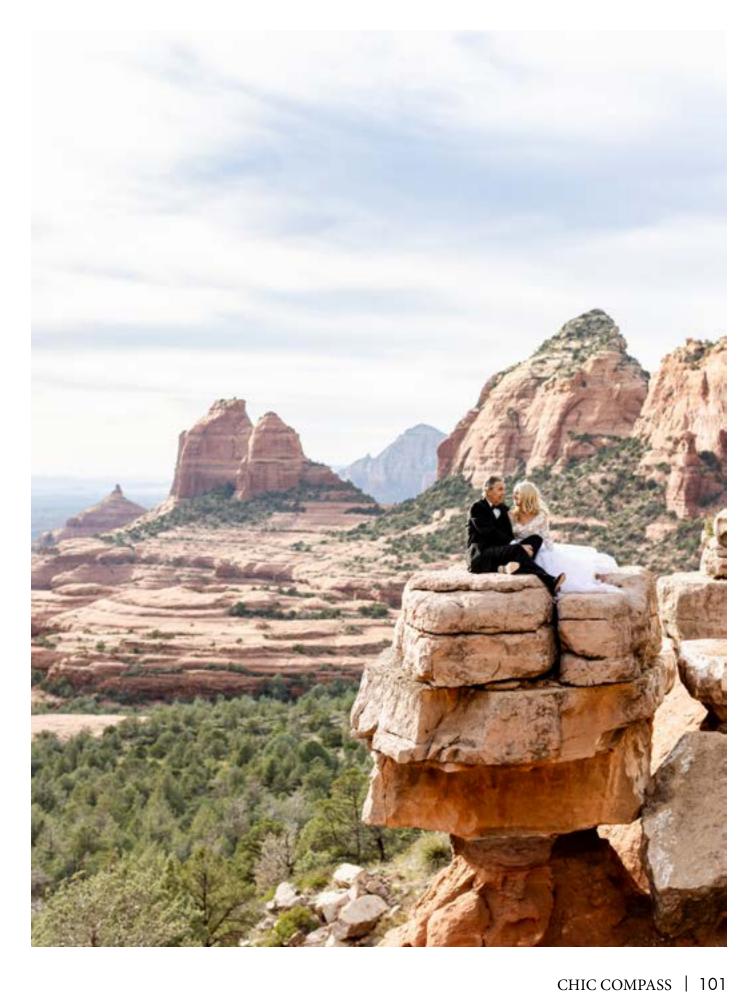


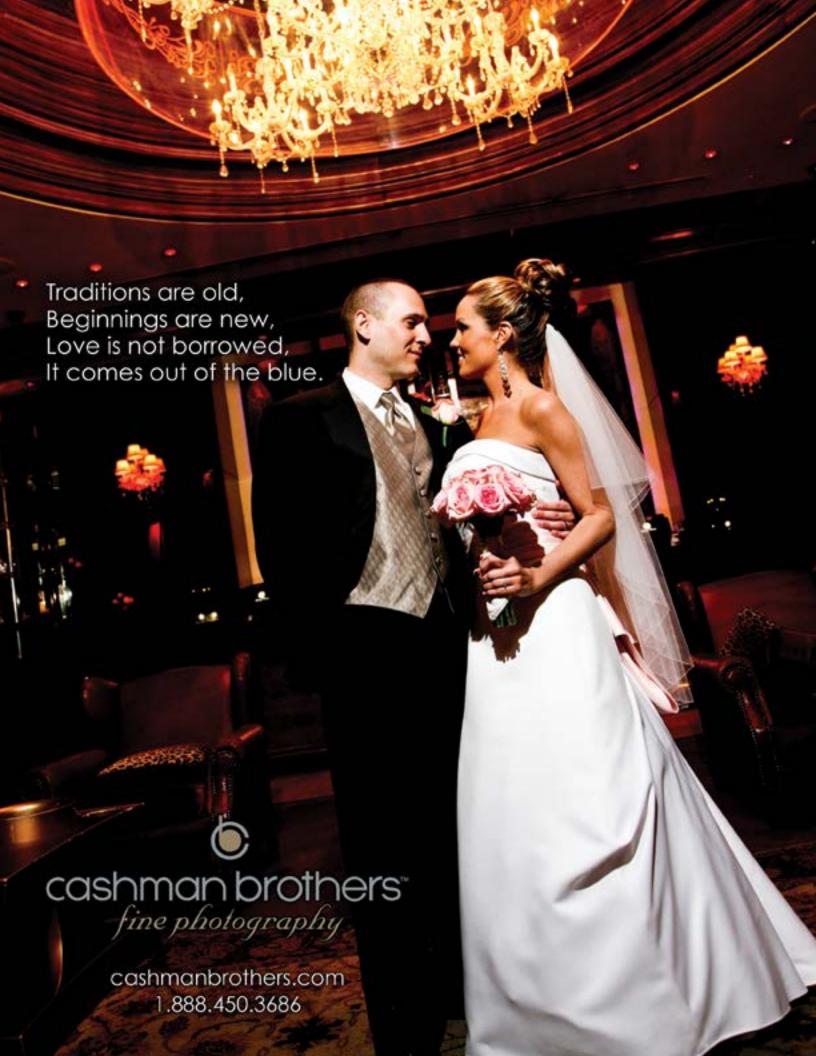














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## ODEATH CARD SERIES

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

DEATH.

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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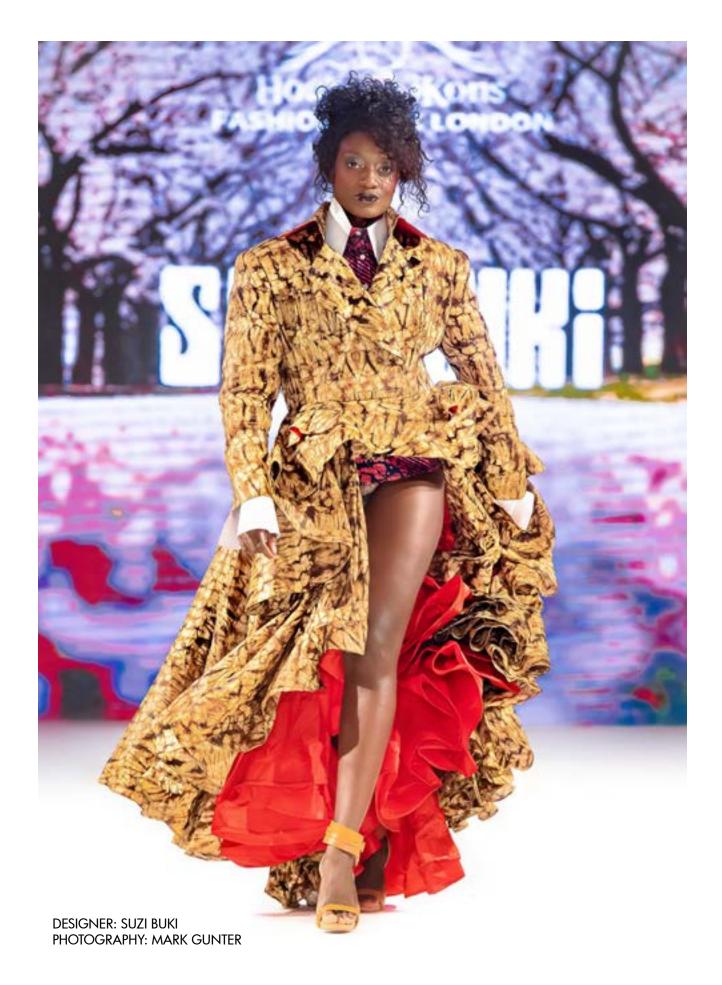
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## THERE'S NO STOPPING FASHION

Article by Joan S. Peck Photography by Mark Gunter

With the passing of Queen Elizabeth on September 8th and her state funeral set for September 19th, the fashion industry was unsure whether to go ahead with London Fashion Week, which fell during that time.

House of iKons Fashion Week London paid tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II before their show started. The founder gave a speech acknowledging the inspiration the late Monarch gave during her reign of duty, service, and dedication to the United

Kingdom, The Commonwealth, The Realms, and the rest of the world. All guests stood during the National Anthem, thanking Her Majesty for her 70 years of service. All staff, music artists, and the host wore black; models and designers wore black wristbands in honor and respect for the Queen.

House of iKons Fashion Week London, with their partner Liberte International, launched their first designer 'Sigrun' into the MetaVerse

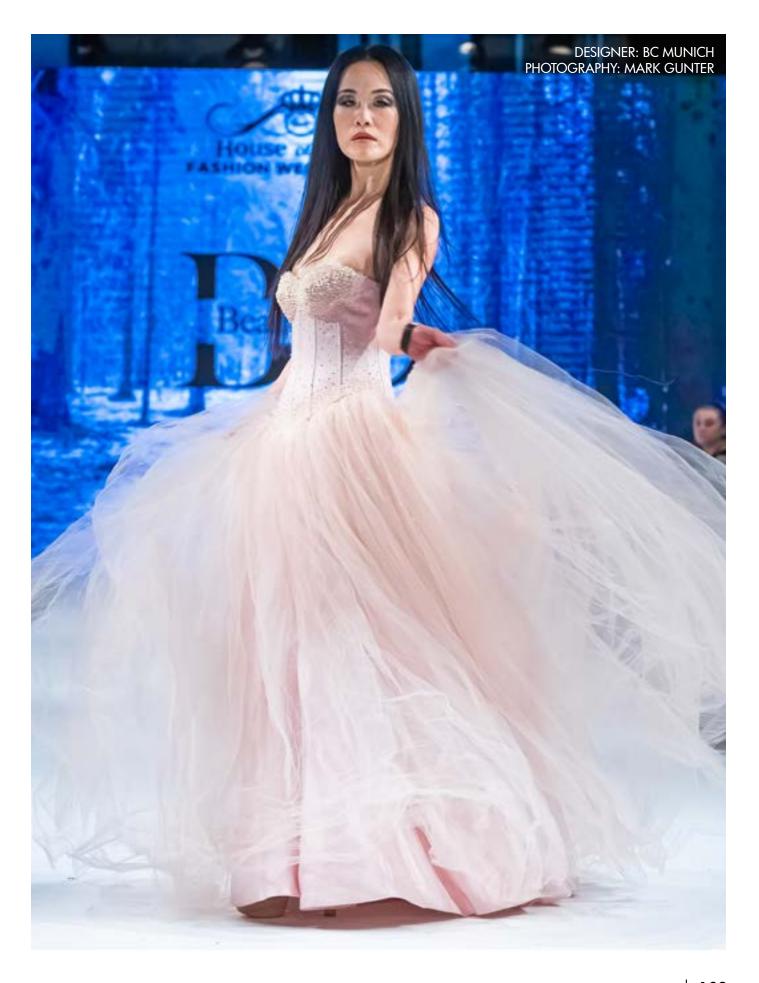


with designs ready to be purchased at the show. This event was held at the Leonardo Royal St Pauls London Hotel in the heart of London on Saturday, September 17th, 2022. House of iKons works to launch emerging designers, representing a diversity of fashion creatives worldwide. It maintains its position as one of the top six brands with its Innovative Voices in The Fashion World on Wiki Vid. The show pulled in over 1,000 people per day in attendance, with private clients, buyers, department stores, boutiques, and high net-worth guests. Their designers have platformed

worldwide, working with celebrities such as Jlo, Katy Perry, Michelle Obama, Beyoncé, and many more often seen on their social media and various press. Some of their designers have been selected from the shows to be wardrobe designers for feature films.

This season, the show's grand opening was a brand supported by the Thai Royal Family - ICHKA. For more than nine decades, Queen Sirikit (aka Her Majesty Queen Rama 9) has provided opportunities through supplementary occupations to households throughout Thailand to pre-

serve Thailand's arts and culture. Queen Sirikit has been a strong advocator of women's fashion and has championed the cultivation of Thai silk throughout her reign. This season was a mixture of men's, women's, and children's wear. From high street, sportswear, couture to theatrical costumes graced the runway. The show continues to celebrate beauty and diversity on its platform of models of all ages, shapes, heights, and backgrounds from around the world, setting the standard as market leaders, not followers.

















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

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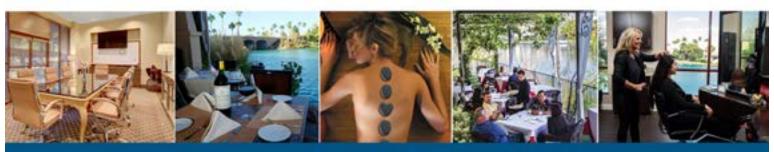
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### CRYPTOCURRENCY **NIGHTMARES**

By Joseph Amato

rom the disastrous FTX Super Bowl ads to Bitcoin ATMs, cryptocurrency has become mainstream. Year over year, the level of crypto scams has jumped exponentially in both the number of fraudulent transactions and dollar amount lost. In 2021, cryptocurrency had a record-breaking year where crypto scammers took \$14 billion worth of cryptocurrency from unsuspecting investors ... nearly twice the \$7.8 billion taken by cryptocurrency scammers in 2020. It is estimated that the 2021 number will be eclipsed in 2022 as the scamming population becomes more sophisticated and their methods bolder to attract the vulnerable members of the investor class.

The possibility of you becoming a crypto scam victim is greater in 2023 than ever due to Blockchain's technical aspects and the lack of much-needed financial regulation, government oversight, and common sense.

Many types of crypto scams have evolved over the past years. These scams can come in many forms. The individual attemptina to invest in this arena or be influ-



enced by others to invest in cryptocurrency is always susceptible to any scam or fraudulent activity.

Cryptocurrency scammers are especially attracted to the decentralized financial system ["DeFi"] nature of these transactions without bank or government oversight or a centralized authority or requlations. Because Blockchain transactions are irreversible without any possible means to retrieve illicit fund transfers, and crypto users interact through wallet addresses, not their legal names, it is nearly impossible to track down specific users, allowing them to slide into the unknown easily.

There are crypto-only payment demands often fraudulent and untraceable once the money has been transferred, leaving the actual goods or services unpaid because the money was rerouted to another account.

Every second of every day, various fake identities are established.



and in a decentralized platform, there is no way to distinguish between an honorable crypto participant and a thief. The cryptocurrency investment method can be used to launder money by purchasing cryptocurrency with dirty money and then reselling the crypto to earn legitimate returns to the originator. Some elements within the Blockchain verification process attempt to curb this illegal activity, yet, their efforts are not ironclad and fall short of complete satisfaction due to the very nature of cryptocurrency itself.

Other scammers use the introduction of digital collectibles or games, attracting investors to purchase a newly minted coin or token for an online game and driving up the price. Then the scammer will immediately sell their initial holdings and disappear, leaving all the investors with a collapsed crypto vehicle

and absolutely no way to recoup their investment funds that disappeared into nothingness.

This method is also used to establish other investment scams whereby new coins are introduced into the crypto marketplace as initial coin offerings (ICO) with the promise of unbelievable returns and profits. In the end, as the money is placed into a digital wallet that has been compromised, the "rug pull" or the "pump and dump" process begins until all the cash is vanquished and the coin is rendered worthless.

Not to be outdone, the scammers will use dating apps to attract individuals to "invest" in their collective future by putting money into cryptocurrency trading accounts and using the profits to travel together, purchase assets together and eventually save the profits to marry. The level of sophistication

is not profound, and the scammer will use their profitable results from various trading platforms to attract the victim's attention. They will share their information about robust returns on investment to evidence their significant profits.

Many will share stories of financial calamities, business losses, and personal hardships faced during Covid and how these investments allowed them to recover their losses and become independently self-sufficient. After long romantic conversations, flowery words, and promises for the future, the victim sends thousands, tens of thousands, or hundreds of thousands into these joint or separate trading accounts on various trading platforms. They begin to trade together and watch the profits grow in a series of transactions meant to increase the size of the fund exponentially. Once the fund reaches a certain point, the

scammer and the victim decide to cash out of the fund, and the selected trading platform gets more intimately involved in the scam.

The first alarm bell should go off when the trading platform demands payment for taxes and conversion fees. At this point, the victim is asked to pay taxes and fees on the amount in the portfolio (not just the profits) and the money needs to be sent through the original crypto exchange used to open the trading account in USDT format so it will eventually be hard to trace in the future. Once the taxes and fees have been paid, the trading platform will most likely go dark, and the scammer will block the victim from whatever dating app and/ or social media account they met on. If the trading platform does not go dark, it will give the victim various excuses and explanations why the victim will never receive its investment or profits.

It is an embarrassing situation that has cost the victim personally and financially. The consequences could be disastrous if the victim invested more money than she could afford because the victim was thinking romantically—not rationally. This type of scam accounts for almost 20% of all crypto and digital scams that occur annually.

The crypto scammer will also utilize the Ponzi Method in both the cryptocurrency marketplace and foreign currency markets and exchanges. FTX may be a type of Ponzi scheme whereby those individuals in charge constantly needed to attract new investors to pay for their obligations to older investors. Or, in this case, to cover the losses of bad investments made with the initial funds brought into the company and not intended for outside investment. The king of all Ponzi schemes was Bernie Madoff, who misappropriated \$64.8 billion in investment funds and defrauded thousands of investors as a legitimate stock trading company. One can only imagine the damage he could have possibly done in the world of cryptocurren-Cy.

It is difficult to tell how the crypto scammer and the trading platforms interact to provide consistent profits and no losses during the transactional process. The entire scam depends on the victim witnessing consistent growth in trading profits and coin values, intended to incentivize the victim into buying more coins and investing more money into the trading platform.

Interestingly, the crypto scammer victim represents people of all ages. Young adults to middle-aged individuals, ages 20 to 49, are more than three times likely as older age groups to have reported losing cryptocurrency to a scammer. Yet, one assumes that the younger crowd is more likely to report a scam and the older group is more likely to be embarrassed and not sophisticated enough to report one.

The red flags are prevalent and consistent and should always be at the forefront of any cryptocurrency investor or potential victim.

Always remember that only a scammer will quarantee a profitable investment and substantial returns on investment; no legitimate business entity or individual should require payment in cryptocurrency, and never mix online dating and investment advice as a precursor to establishing a relationship.

Finally, if you have fallen victim to a cryptocurrency scam, it is essential that you report the activity and provide as much supporting documentation as possible. Believe me; these scammers are working the system with many potential victims on the hook at the same time. Understand that reporting these scammers to the authorities may save someone else from the same fate.

I will tell you that the crypto exchange or crypto wallet you use will not be any help or assistance. The crypto exchange will claim that they cannot track or trace any transaction and therefore cannot assist you with your losses. Other than the crypto exchange, divisions within the Securities and Exchange Commission, The Federal Trade Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Internet Crime Complaint Center, and your local and statewide law enforcement agencies will collect your information, document the crime, and assist where possible.

Ultimately, you must protect yourself and never trust anyone else with your investment but a licensed and trained professional. I don't want you to lose a penny to these crypto scammers.





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## HOLLYWOOD'S PARTY OF THE YEAR

By Janet Susan R. Nepales Photography courtesy of Janet Susan R. Nepales, Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA)

Everybody had missed the "Party of the Year" during Covid, so when it returned this year, people were ready to get down and have a good time!

The 80th Golden Globe Awards was back at The Beverly Hilton Hotel this year, and the A-listers did not want to miss it this time. From Brad Pitt to Margot Robbie, Viola Davis to Eddie Murphy, all the who's-who in Hollywood made sure they were there. Although rain was predicted, the weather cooperated, and sunshine blessed the day with warmth.

For the first time in its award history, the Golden Globes Awards was held on January 10th, a Tuesday, instead of a Sunday due to a conflict in schedule with a football



game that NBC broadcasts. The carpet was gray this year to allow the bright-colored gowns to pop out more.

Above: Cecil B. Demille Award Recipient, Eddie Murphy onstage at the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards\* - Photo by Earl Gibson for the HFPA Moet champagne flowed, and the thumping music of DJ Pee .Wee (aka rapper Anderson . Paak) blasted everywhere at the poolside of the Beverly Hilton, the site of the after-party of the 80th Golden Globe Awards.

Powered by Billboard this year, it was the one party to be seen and dance the night away. Hundreds of quests, and winners, nominees trooped to the covered poolside, where an infectious spirit of celebration pervaded. In the International Ballroom, the quests broke into truly joyful dancing—some twerking, others jumping, or simply gyrating.

Winners like Jenniter Coolidge and Evan Peters proudly brought their Globes to the party, where the engraving station was also located. Coolidge mingled with another Globe winner. her The White Lotus creator. Mike White, and model and television host Heidi Klum.

Everything Everywhere All At Once actor and winner Ke Huy Quan, who gave one of the most emotional speeches that night, made sure his name was spelled correctly on his Globe trophy.



Quinta Brunson of Abbott Elementary had her hands full with her two Globe trophies. She gamely posed for the photographers and admiring guests. When her assistant took her Globes from her, Quinta ensured they were safely placed in the boxes. Later, 2022 Golden Globe winner Michaela Iae Rodriguez found Brunson and congratulated the latter on her win.

Above: Jennifer Coolidge during the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards® after party at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, CA - Photo by John Salangsang for the HFPA

Comedienne, actress, and TV host Nicole Byer, one of the show presenters, sat and bonded with her friends as they chatted away and watched the crowd getting carried away by DJ Pee. Wee's music.



RRR's M.M. Keeravani, clutching his Golden Globe, N.T. Rama Rao Jr. and S.S. Rajamouli were probably waiting for their winning song, "Naatu Naatu," to be played at the party; however, they enjoyed the night anyway at their first Globe party.

Above: Best Actor, Musical or Comedy, Colin Farrell, *The Banshees of Inisherin* onstage at the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards® - Photo by Earl Gibson for the HFPA

Right: Best Director, Steven Spielberg, *The Fabelmans* onstage at the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards\* - Photo by Earl Gibson for the HFPA Songs like Lauryn Hill's "Doo-Wop (That Thing)" and Ice Cube, Mack 10, and Ms. Toi's "You Can Do It" played to a full dancefloor, with guests creating a space in the center for the party revelers to show off their dance moves individually.

Many of the partygoers joyously displayed their dance interpretations of the music playing. For one, Abbott Elementary star and nominee Sheryl Lee Ralph gamely twerked and owned the dancefloor.

A mature woman, a cap over her ponytail, stole the scene, making everybody stop in awe and watch her smooth, graceful terpsichorean skills to the gleeful screams of the crowd.

Top Gun: Maverick actor and presenter Glenn Powell gamely photo-bombed guests with colleague Lewis Pullman as they posed for







Above: Michaela Jae Rodriguez onstage at the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards® - Photo by Earl Gibson for the HFPA

Above Right: Best Actress, Musical or Comedy, Michelle Yeoh, Everything Everywhere All at Once onstage at the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards® - Photo by Earl Gibson for the **HFPA** 

photos with Todd Boehly. The Maverick actors showed up in full force that night as they partied away with other cast members, including Greg Tarzan Davis, Danny Ramirez, and Monica Barbaro.

Atlanta's Donald Glover looked suave in his black and white ensemble when he posed at the after-party's gray carpet before joining the dancing and toasting crowd.

Triangle of Sadness's Best Supporting Actress nominee, Dolly de Leon, arrived on the pre-show carpet in a black AZ Factory leather dress by Norman Rene De Vera. She told her manager Adam Kersh that she should change to a more laid-back outfit for the after-party ... and she did.

Adam and Naomi Scott arrived at the party holding hands as they squeezed their way into the packed party.

There was a seafood station brimming with gulf shrimp, king crab legs, and West Coast oysters and a sliders station. Appetizers included pecan-crusted chicken skewers, flatbread, and coconut curry scalloped potato cakes. Saxophonist Maurice Brown brought the house down when he started playing and, like a pied piper, prompted a line of guests to dance and follow him toward the center of the dancefloor.

The Swarovski crystals on Euphoria actor Colman Domingo's black Dolce & Gabbana tux glittered and swayed as he danced the night away. Domingo was easily one of the best-dressed guys of the night. Abbott Elementary's Janelle James and Tyler James Williams joined in the fun.

Paul Walter Hauser of *Black Bird*, who earlier gamely laid down on the floor with his Globe trophy backstage with the press, arrived at the after-party ready to celebrate his win and hang loose.

The Fabelmans' Gabriel LaBelle, Wednesday's Jenna Ortega, and Not Okay's Reece Feldman jumped into the evening's celebratory spirit.

Ortega and co-star Percy Hynes White were among the laughing guests who took playful photos at the MirMir photo booth.

Above: Billy Porter onstage during the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards® - Photo by Earl Gibson for the HFPA

Right: Jessica Chastain and Julia Garner during the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards® - Photo by Stewart Cook for the HFPA





Justin Hurwitz, the winning composer of Babylon's original score, was among the quests who enjoyed the bash's music – after all, Billboard was behind it with the Golden Globe Awards.

Mike White and Better Call Saul's Bob Odenkirk found each other and shared a laugh and a toast.

Ladies who got tired and weary of their stilettos were seen taking them off and leaving them on the floor as they resumed dancing.

The party went on Cinderella time. But we saw "Dancing Queen" grandma still making her groovy moves with a new partner. It looked like she was not ready to stop. That was the power of the great music that night.

Right: Jenna Ortega during the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards® - Photo by Chelsea Lauren for the HFPA

Below: Priscilla Presley, Austin Butler, Lisa Marie Presley and Baz Luhrmann during the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards® -Photo by Chelsea Lauren for the **HFPA** 









Above: Domhnall Gleeson, Martin McDonagh and Eddie Redmayne during the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards® - Photo by Chelsea Lauren for the HFPA

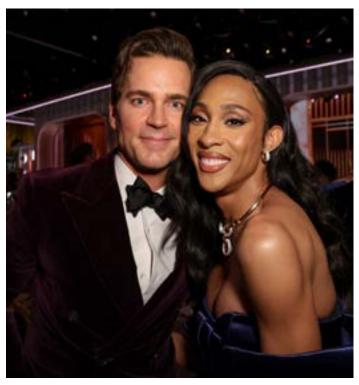
Left: Brad Pitt and Olivia Hamilton during the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards® - Photo by Stewart Cook for the **HFPA** 

Top Right: Jean Smart, Hannah Einbinder and Paul W. Downs during the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards® - Photo by Chelsea Lauren for the HFPA

Right: Matt Bomer and Michaela Jaé Rodriguez during the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards® - Photo by Chelsea Lauren for the HFPA

Far Right: Jamie Lee Curtis and Ryan Murphy during the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards® - Photo by Chelsea Lauren for the HFPA











# **ABOUT TOWN**





### 19th Annual Athena International Awards

Above: Back row: Dolores Campuzano-Pignatello, Norman Beland Jr., June Beland, Norman Beland, Capucine Holmes. Front row: Summer Webb, Patricia Lee, Berenice Church. Photo by Dolores Campuzano-Pignatello.

Left: Quin Rivers, Ann Parenti, and Rose Hendricks. Photo by Kendall Hardin.

Below: Paula Jackson, Taylor Gardner, Krystal Allan, Summer Webb, Shane Jasmine Young, Angela Cook, Jacqueline. Photo by Dolores Campuzano-Pignatello.





19th Annual Athena International Awards (Cont. Photography by Sheryl Aronson)

Above: Standing: Joseph Amato, Kendall Hardin, Sheryl Aronson, Sondra Lynch, David Tupaz. Seated: Joan S. Peck, Ann Parenti, Curtis McCoy

Right: Ann Parenti honored with the Digital Media Award





### 6th Anniversary Celebration & UNLV Mario Basner Passion **Project Fund Kick Off**

Above: Patricia Pieper Fink, Susan Houston, George Daugherty, Deanna Basner, David Ka Lik Wong





Above: Don Snyder, Deanna Riley, Mario

Basner

Left: Camilo Gomez, Candice Cole, Dacia

Burns, Brian Burns





Janet Nepales

Tupaz











CHIC Compass VIP Event at The Stirling Club (Photography by Jeruel Canlas/Cashman Photo)

Above: Joseph Amato, Roman Allen Sarmiento, Ann Parenti, Weina Zhang, Robert Dolan, Nick Giannakopoulos

Above Right: Scott Harris, David Tupaz, Elaine Harris, Jake Naylor



**Above:** Claire Nagel, Ann Parenti, Joan S. Peck, Stacey Gualandi







Above: Dimitrije Curcic, Robert Dolan, Holly Niemoth

**Left:** David Tupaz, Joan S. Peck

Bottom Left: Joan S. Peck, Jake Naylor, Durette Candito,

Brian G. Thornton

Below: Justin Young, Ashley Young, Liz Poltronieri,

Richard Sapperstein



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