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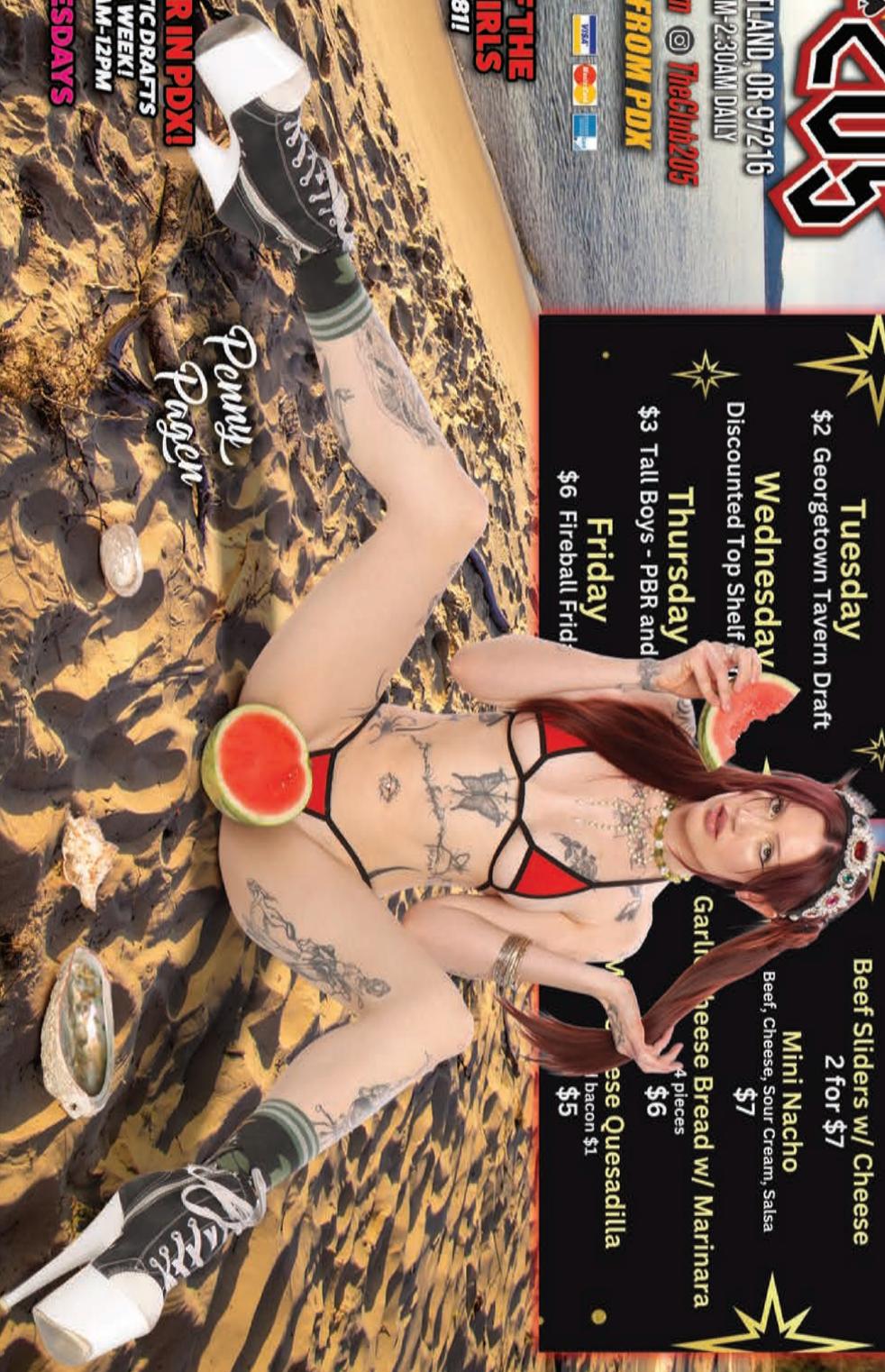
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Passion

**POLEROTICA 2025
CHAMPION
FROM
GUILTY PLEASURES**



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Published monthly by XMAG LLC.
Circulation: 75,000 per month at 200+ sites
Mailing Address:
Post Office Box 20273
Portland, Oregon 97294-0273
Telephone: (503) 241-4317
Fax: (503) 914-0439
Email: info@xmag.com
Exotic Online: www.xmag.com

Publisher
XMAG LLC.

General Manager
Bryan A. Bybee

Editor
Barnaby Bandini

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Graphic Design
VIDA Creative

Contributing Photographers
HYPNOX
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Adam J. Burt
(503) 804-4479

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Enrico Carrisco • Adam J. Burt

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Cover Photography
HYPNOX

Cover Model
Passion
Polerotica 2025 Champion
Guilty Pleasures



POLEROTICA 2025 CHAMPION Q&A

up close and personal with portland's newest
pole goddess
page 18 | by bryan a. bybee



CORN DOGS, JOJOS, AND SCREWS

a look into things claimed as pacific northwest
originals
page 34 | by hannah one cup



KNOCKOFF SUPERHERO MOVIES

low budget flicks that excel in just how bad they get
page 36 | by wombstretcha the magnificent



ADVENTURES IN EROTIC ART: SEAF 2025

on scene at this year's seattle erotic art festival
page 40 | by c. a. gray

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polerotica 2025 CHAMPION Passion

Interview by Bryan A. Bybee | Photos by HYPNOX

First and foremost...congratulations! Your performance was absolutely incredible, and the theme was very bold and unique! What led to your decision for the theme you chose? How many other themes had you considered?

I want to start by thanking everyone who supported me. I chose my theme, Asylum, because I knew it hadn't been done before. My inspiration stemmed from a *Dance Moms* episode, where one of the dancers wore a straight jacket in an acro routine. I had been wanting to do that particular theme for quite some time but was weary about actually following through with it. My theme was either going to be a big hit or a complete miss due to the controversialism. I had considered other themes such as Mardi Gras, ballet, or NASCAR, but none of them called to me artistically like Asylum did.



Describe your first experience competing in an Exotic event and how it shaped your preparations for Polerotica 2025.

My first time ever witnessing an *Exotic* event was around 3 years ago. I wasn't competing, but I was an extra in a friend's performance. I remember being in absolute awe of the skill level and raw talent I was seeing on the stage. I strived to be able to do what I was seeing and be able to compete with some of Portland's greatest. From then on, I worked on my flow, pole skills, and creativity. It definitely paid off in Polerotica 2025.

Thinking of the time during your actual performance, what do you remember thinking about or feeling while on stage?

During my stage set, I felt my mind leave and my body take over. I don't really choreograph any of my performances, so I just rely on my instincts and muscle memory. I remember hearing cheering and screams of terror when I did a nose dive. I also thought I was going to be docked for almost spilling the judges' pizza all over them. Overall, I felt liberated and like the crowd was experiencing the exact feelings I was trying to evoke.

Winning it all the first time you placed in one of our final events is really incredible—seriously! What advice would you give to other performers who are looking to win it all at an Exotic event?

I would say to compete in whichever competition suits you and will show who you are as a performer. Don't repeat what other people have done, and try to have a good support team. Crowd and judge interaction is key, and surprises during your performance will always spice things up. I would recommend to others to give it their all and, most importantly, have fun.

We always like to ask this next question! If you could travel back in time and talk to baby stripper Passion, what would you say, and what advice would you offer?

My advice to my baby dancer self would be not to compare myself to others. Everyone has their own look, style, and way they move. Own who you are, and don't let the fear of what others will think stop you from doing what you want to do. Progression will come

naturally with hard work and time.

This is your first Exotic cover! We're excited, and we hope you are, too! Was being featured on the cover something you thought about in the past? Were you nervous before and during the photoshoot?

I am stoked about being the cover. It is something I was offered in the past, but due to life circumstances, I wasn't able to make it happen. I've done lots of modeling in my lifetime but was never on the cover of anything, so it is an amazing opportunity. I wasn't nervous during the photoshoot because I have done many with HYPNOX before, and it's never anything less than a blast.



What if our readers are interested in seeing you perform? Where can they catch you on shift? Drop your socials, too!

I can be found weekly at Guilty Pleasures and Sassy's. I usually work the closing shift, but you can catch me at the occasional mid-shift. I post my schedule every week with the time and place where I'm working. It can be found on my Instagram, @passion.bruna, or you can find me on the Sassy's schedule posted on their website. You can also find my OnlyFans link in my Instagram bio ;).

Lastly, what consumes your time when you're not slaying it on stage or striking a pose for the next cover of Exotic?

In my spare time, I am usually at school or performing my usual mom duties. I am studying to be a nurse at PCC and enjoy spending time in the sun or by the water. I love art and have designed many of my tattoos, so let me know if you want to contribute to the fund for new ones. Some of my other interests and hobbies include forensic science, cosmetology, and going to new restaurants.

XOXO
Passion

God damn, we're getting old! *Exotic* is now 32 as of this issue! That marks us as the city's oldest monthly magazine and second-oldest monthly publication (shout out to *The Asian Reporter*, which is about 34 years old now). And if you can believe it, we're the city's fourth-oldest publication of any frequency and format. We wear it like a badge because publishing a physical publication in this era is a very difficult feat and something we couldn't do without our supporters.

We thank and appreciate all advertisers who have supported us over the last 31 years, as well as our loyal industry workers and patrons, who also value our publication and the service we provide to the industry. We love you, and thank you for your support! Without you, we would have no reason to exist.

Guess what?! We're not the only ones celebrating an anniversary this month. Three of our favorite strip clubs are celebrating birthdays this month, as well! Happy 19th anniversary to Cabaret and Hawthorne Strip, and happy 12th anniversary to Kit Kat Club! Make sure you stop by and help them celebrate! Friday, July 11, and Saturday, July 12, are the nights to stop by Kit Kat, as it's their official 12th Anniversary Party Weekend! See you there!

This is the first month that we have more strip club birthdays than performer birthdays! Stop by Union Jacks on Saturday, July 12, for Dream's Birthday Party. Happy Birthday from *Exotic*!

As far as other industry events and parties, Stars Cabaret (Bridgeport) will have their Fourth of July Party on Friday, July 4. Then, on Tuesday, July 8, swing by Union Jacks for their Industrial Night Kick Off, and then back to Union Jacks on Wednesday, July 16, for their EDM Night! On Saturday, July 19, there's a Luau Party at Stars Cabaret (Bridgeport), so break out your best Luau apparel and get in free!

Grunge fan? Make sure to stop by Union Jacks on Thursday, July 24, for their Grunge Night. Next, head to Stars Cabaret in Salem for Tiki Paradise on Saturday, July 26. Make sure to bring your motorcycle or car to The Lounge on Saturday, July 26, for The Wettest, Wildest Motorcycle & Car Wash All Summer! Then, take that shiny bike over to AJ's Gentlemen's Club on Sunday, July 27, for their Bike Night & Wet T-shirt Contest! Lastly, on Thursday, July 31, head to Union Jacks for their Island Beach Babes Night to close the month off right!

Wrapping up events for July, Dick Hennessy's 14th Annual *Vagina Beauty Pageant* starts this month! We have all the important dates listed to the right, and make sure you check out the event spread on page 16.

POLEROTICA 2025

The Pacific Northwest's original and largest pole competition came to a close last month over Memorial Day weekend. The night was filled with countless outstanding performances, and it was truly a memorable evening! A very special congratulations goes to *Polerotica 2025* Champion Passion, representing Guilty Pleasures. Don't miss our interview with her on the lefthand page!

We'd also like to recognize the amazing performances by Jess from Cabaret, placing 2nd, and Belladonna from Guilty Pleasures, placing 3rd! We are truly blessed to see all of their outstanding and unique performances, and we deeply respect all the hard work that goes into the entire process!

Check out the following two pages to see photos of all the entertainers in action during their performances at the *Polerotica 2025* Finals.

What's next, you ask? We'll see you this fall for *Miss Exotic Oregon 2026*!

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eroticcity spotlight

- FRI 04** – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT) – FOURTH OF JULY PARTY
- SAT 05** – X EXOTIC LOUNGE – VAGINA BEAUTY PAGEANT 2025 ROUND 1
- SUN 06** – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET
- TUE 08** – UNION JACKS – INDUSTRIAL NIGHT KICK OFF
- THU 10** – CLUB DETOUR – VAGINA BEAUTY PAGEANT 2025 ROUND 2
- FRI 11** – KIT KAT CLUB – 12TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY
- SAT 12** – KIT KAT CLUB – 12TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY
- SAT 12** – THE LOUNGE – VAGINA BEAUTY PAGEANT 2025 ROUND 3
- SAT 12** – UNION JACKS – DREAM'S BIRTHDAY PARTY
- SUN 13** – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET
- WED 16** – UNION JACKS – EDM NIGHT
- THU 17** – CLUB DETOUR – VAGINA BEAUTY PAGEANT 2025 ROUND 4
- FRI 18** – DESIRE – VAGINA BEAUTY PAGEANT 2025 ROUND 5
- SAT 19** – AJ'S – VAGINA BEAUTY PAGEANT 2025 ROUND 6
- SAT 19** – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT) – LUAU PARTY
- SUN 20** – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET
- THU 24** – UNION JACKS – GRUNGE NIGHT
- SAT 26** – GUILTY PLEASURES
VAGINA BEAUTY PAGEANT 2025 FINALS
- SAT 26** – STARS CABARET (SALEM) – TIKI PARADISE
- SAT 26** – THE LOUNGE – THE WETTEST, WILDEST
MOTORCYCLE & CAR WASH ALL SUMMER
- SUN 27** – AJ'S – BIKE NIGHT & WET T-SHIRT CONTEST
- SUN 27** – DANTE'S – SINFERNO CABARET
- THU 31** – UNION JACKS – ISLAND BEACH BABES NIGHT

HAPPY HOURS

- AJ'S – 10AM-5PM
- CABARET – 2PM-6PM
- CLUB 205 – 10:30AM-6:30PM
- DEVILS POINT – 3PM-6PM
- DESIRE – 6PM-9PM
- DV8 – 12PM-3PM
- GUILTY PLEASURES – 12PM-8PM (SU-TH)
- THE LOUNGE – 11AM-4PM
- LUCKY DEVIL – 3PM-6PM
- SKIN & GAMES – 5PM-8PM
- UNION JACKS – 6PM-8PM

1ST PLACE
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GUILTY PLEASURES

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DESIRE

Candy

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CLUB 205 7 **FOOD LOTTERY**
9939 SE Stark St | (503) 256-0527
Daily 10:30am-2:30am

CLUB DETOUR 8 **FOOD**
215 W Burnside St | (971) 385-1896
Wed-Sun 9pm-2:30am

CLUB ROUGE 9 **FOOD LOTTERY**
Portland: 403 SW Harvey Milk St | (503) 227-3936
Daily 5pm-2am
Beaverton: 8687 SW Hall Blvd | (971) 266-8340
Daily 11am-2am

COLUMBIA STRIP 10 **FOOD LOTTERY**
605 N Columbia Blvd | (503) 289-1351
Sun-Thu 12pm-1:30am, Fri-Sat 12pm-2:30am

DESIRE 11 **FOOD LOTTERY**
535 NE Columbia Blvd | (971) 339-2198
Daily 3pm-2:30am

DEVILS POINT 12 **FOOD LOTTERY**
5305 SE Foster Rd | (503) 774-4513
Daily 11am-2:30am

DIAMONDS 13 **FOOD LOTTERY**
318 SW 3rd Ave | (503) 206-7133
Daily 7pm-2:15am

DOMINIQUE STELLA 14 **FOOD**
15826 SE Division St | (503) 319-0318
Daily 2pm-2:30am

DV8 15 **FOOD LOTTERY**
5021 SE Powell Blvd | (503) 788-7178
Daily 2pm-2:30am

GOLDEN DRAGON EXOTIC CLUB 16 **18+**
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13639 SE Powell Blvd | (503) 760-8128
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KIT KAT CLUB 19 **FOOD LOTTERY**
231 SW Ankeny St | (503) 208-3229
Daily 4pm-2:30am

LAS GATAS GENTLEMEN'S CLUB 20 **FOOD LOTTERY**
1735 SE Tualatin Valley Hwy | (971) 990-4015
Daily 4pm-2:30am

THE LOUNGE 21 **FOOD LOTTERY**
6210 NE Columbia Blvd | (503) 281-3212
Daily 11am-2am

LUCKY DEVIL LOUNGE 22 **FOOD LOTTERY**
633 SE Powell Blvd | (503) 206-7350
Daily 11am-2:30am

MARY'S CLUB 23 **FOOD LOTTERY**
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THE OLD DOLPHIN 24 **FOOD LOTTERY**
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SASSY'S 26 **FOOD LOTTERY**
927 SE Morrison St | (503) 231-1606
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Tue-Thu 5pm-2am, Fri-Sat 5pm-2:30am,
Sun 5pm-2am

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317 NW Broadway | (503) 894-9679
Mon-Thu 7pm-2am, Fri-Sat 4pm-2:30am,
Sun 11am-2am

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17939 SW McEwan Rd | (503) 726-2403
Mon-Sat 11am-2:30am, Sun 4pm-2:30am

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938 E Burnside St | (503) 236-1125
Mon-Fri 6pm-2:30am, Sat-Sun 2:30pm-2:30am

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11142 NE Halsey St | (503) 206-4535
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709 SE 122nd Ave | (503) 257-8617
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8315 SW Barbur Blvd | (503) 972-1111
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Portland: 2330 SE 82nd Ave | (503) 206-4708
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12961 SW Pacific Hwy | (503) 430-5140
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AJ's Gentlemen's Club
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6
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CLUB 205
9939 SE Stark St
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(971) 339-2198

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(503) 972-1111

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3532 SE Powell Blvd
(503) 232-9516

109
Just Bliss LINGERIE MODELING & JUICE LOUNGE
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19
Kit Kat Club
231 SW Ankeny St
(503) 208-3229

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LUCKY DEVIL Lounge
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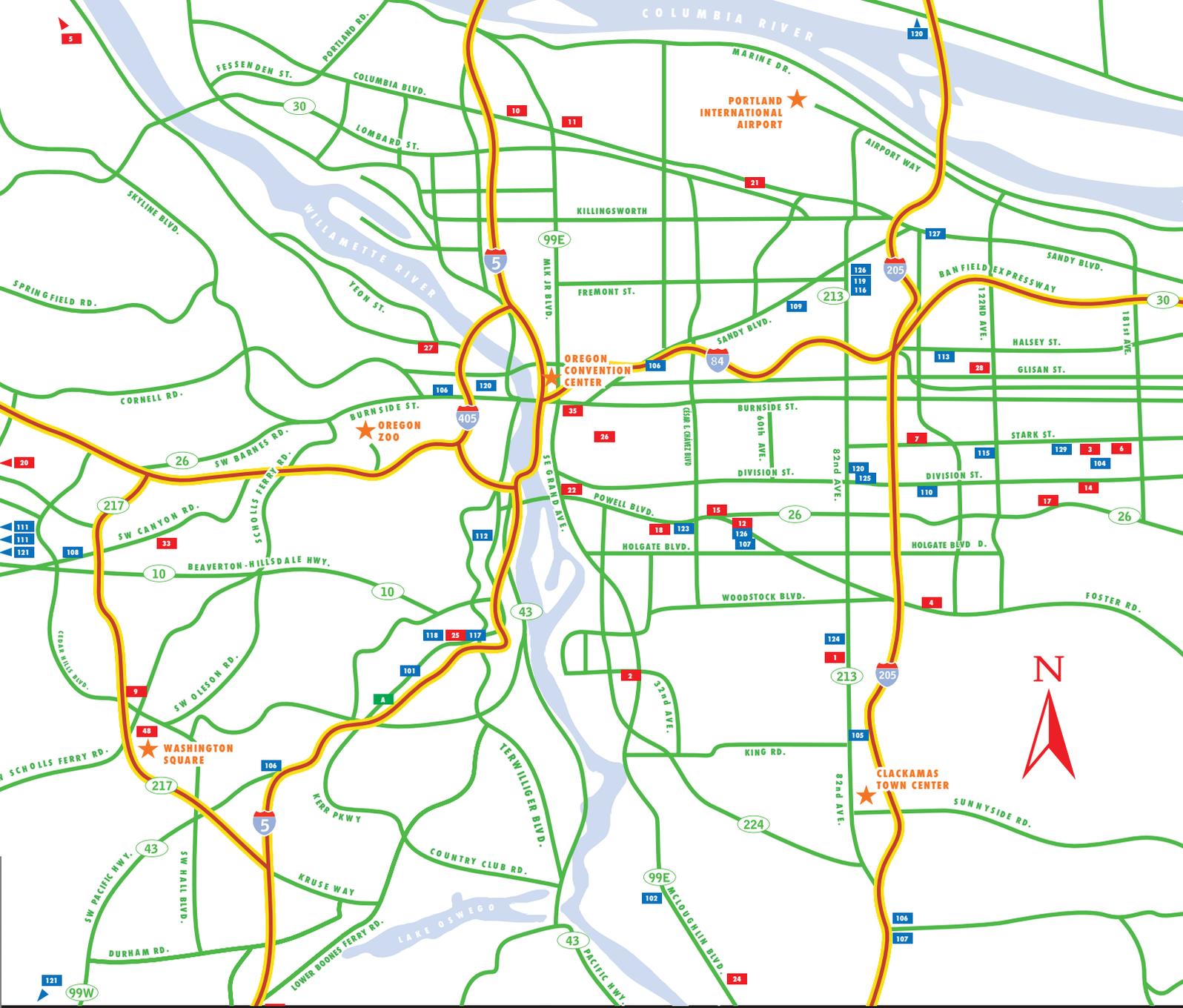
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STARS Cabaret
17939 SW McEwan Rd
(503) 726-2403

119
Sylvia's PLAYHOUSE
8226 NE Fremont St
(503) 568-4090

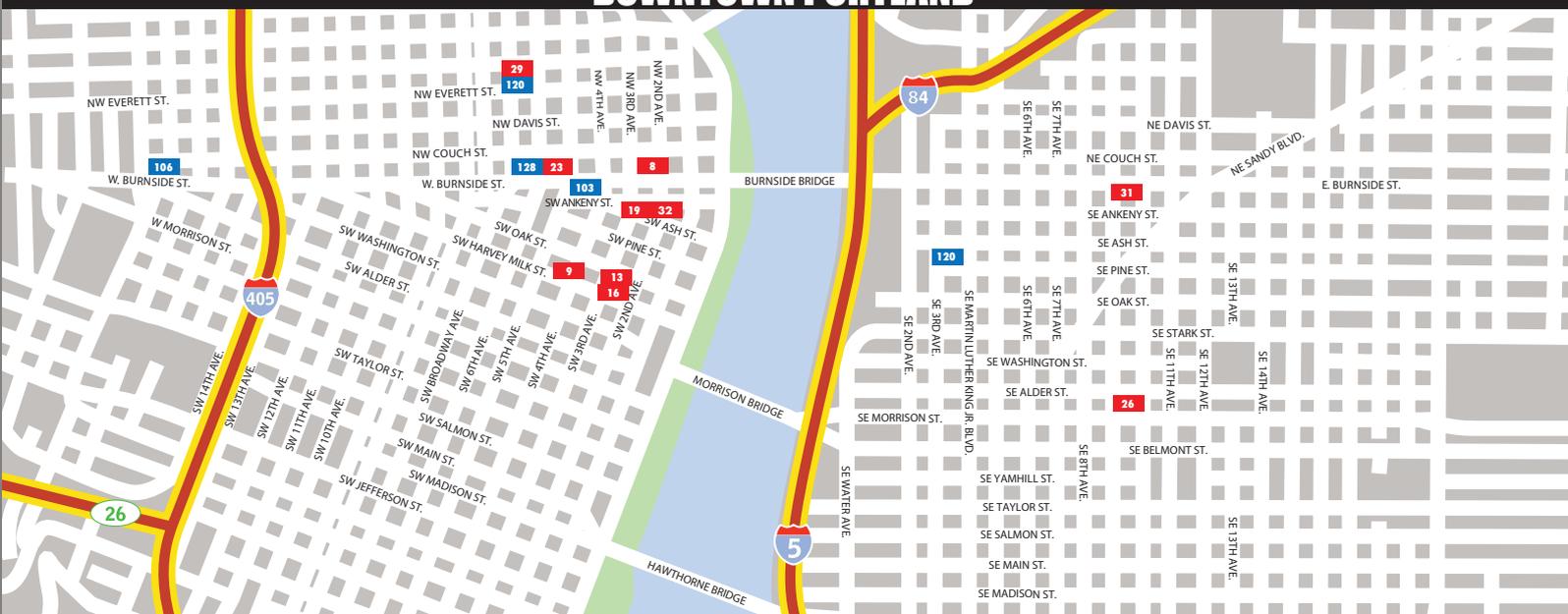
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ICE THAT WE SHOULD NOT ABOLISH

By Blazer Sparrow

This month, it was really tough trying to come up with something funny and music-related to write about for obvious reasons. Honestly, the only thing worth writing or even talking about is the unacceptable actions of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE. This dimstore Gestapo is not only giving America a bad name but the word “ice” in general. I’m seeing a lot of memes and hashtags saying things like “fuck ice” and “abolish ice,” and while they are all warranted and valid, I think it’s important that we not lose sight of the ice that has done good in our lives. The ice that not only we should not abolish but that we should celebrate.

In a seriously convoluted stretch, I will attempt to keep this column music-centered by listing four artists with ICE in their name that we most definitely should not abolish, as they are not committing what any civilized nation would easily consider crimes against humanity.



Ice-T

While many of you know this cat from his tenure on *Law & Order: SVU* and some of the more ancient readers may recall that he was actually a rapper in the ‘80s and ‘90s, yours truly was introduced to this New Jersey-born idol from the criminally underrated film, *Tank Girl*. Also, his inarguably awesome dabbling in rock music with the band Body Count. Unlike the federal agency, Ice-T does not (to my knowledge) go door to door inquiring about folk’s immigration status based on nothing other than hunches and the color of said folk’s skin. Do not abolish Ice-T, for he has only done good for this country. Also, that rock

band I spoke of had a song called “Cop Killer,” so clearly, this dude is on the right side of history.

Ice Cube

The lyrical soul of N.W.A. and—IMHO—the reason for the group’s notable decline in popularity following his departure, this talented fellow rehabilitates the name of ice in more ways than one. Partially because he does not have literal quotas to kidnap and deport two thousand human beings a day, but also because he co-wrote the cinematic classic *Friday* when he was only 25! While we can argue about the merits of his later solo albums, no one denies that this artist solidified his legacy as an American icon and ideal Angelino with his first three records, all released within two years! Name a better debut three-album run than *AmeriKKKa’s Most Wanted*, *Death Certificate*, and *The Predator*. Also, there’s no record of him separating parents from their children. No need to abolish this ice.



Iceage

This rowdy group of young Danish punks may not be on your radar. That’s probably because not once, if ever, have they invaded your community to terrorize and kidnap your neighbors based on nothing more than anonymous tips. No police state atrocities from these brash, alcoholic Scandinavians. Just a remarkably unique sound that strings a shaky bridge between Black Flag and Joy Division. Their early work stays more comfortably within the punk ballpark, but as they’ve grown and progressed, their sound draws from influences as foreign to me as troll legends and those weird open-faced sandwiches they eat there. Smorrebrod or something? Either way, this

noisy quartet has thus far incited no protests with their antics. Only a mosh pit or two. Here’s some ice that can definitely remain unabolished.



Vanilla Ice

Now, before you email me with your objections, let’s really take stock of all the terrible things Vanilla Ice has done. When you chalk them up against the unprecedented human rights violations committed by ICE the agency, ICE the Vanilla isn’t all that bad. Sure, if we look at his early career, we can use words like “cultural appropriation,” “uncleared samples,” and “unnecessary cameos,” but readers, please hear me out. These are crimes against taste, not against the fabric of our nation. Say what you will about “Ice Ice Baby,” but it was actually the first hip-hop single to top the Billboard Hot 100, thus opening the door for hip-hop to be recognized as a legitimate, money-making genre. It sucks that it took a white Texan to break that glass ceiling, but it was a different time. It’s not like this dude is calling in the National Guard because he’s scared of two blocks of peaceful protesters. This dude was held over a balcony by Suge Knight’s goons to sign over the rights to “Ice Ice Baby” so that Death Row Records could be funded. See? Rather than *take* from the community, like the federal agency, he gives *back* to the community, even if it is under duress. Also, when was the last time you watched *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze*? I dare you not to crack a smile at his shoehorned-in cameo. Cringe as he may be, there is no reason to abolish Vanilla Ice. It’s safe to say he still brings joy, unlike the other ICE, which only brings pain, sorrow, violence, and oppression.

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CORN DOGS, JOJOS, AND SCREWS-INVENTIONS CLAIMED AS ORIGINALS IN THE PNW

BY HANNAH ONE CUP

If there's one thing every place in the world is known for, it's saying they are the originators of [fill in the blank here]. The PNW is no different. From corn dogs to screws and even shopping malls, the PNW has no shortage of things it claims to have invented or been the purveyor of first.

Now, I don't have a problem with these sorts of claims or whether they're actually true or not. Historically, written documentation of events has never been very unbiased or entirely factual, so the claims that your father invented Post-Its could very well be true. We'd just never really have any good way to back up that claim, one way or another—we can only see that 3M created the patent. Either way, when the PNW claims to have invented something I use daily or enjoy in some sense, I will be first to admit that I, too, will fall for the bait and blindly march into war, fist in the air, claiming that "The PNW had that first!" (*PNW is used here as an all-encompassing area containing Washington and Oregon for brevity.*)

So, with that in mind, here are some things we can probably, maybe, be proud of or at least intrigued by that claim to have been invented in the PNW.



Corn Dogs

Okay, so...yeah, corn dogs have a long history of locations around the world, stating they are the OG creators. Who's to say they're wrong? *Me.* Pronto Pups is an original invention, and if I'm being truly honest, it is the best corn dog you will ever enjoy. They are less

sweet than typical corn dogs and, for some reason, are way more popular in the Midwest than their actual home state. Accidentally invented in 1939 due to some hot dog buns being rained on in Rockaway Beach, Pronto Pup's savory rice, wheat, and corn flour batter was fried up on a stick with a dog, and voila! Perfection. Pronto Pups are, factually, more likely than not the first corn dogs to become franchised and sold en-masse at state fairs and such. Hard claim to back up, but there aren't many sources saying otherwise.



Jojos

Dear god, if I hear someone say, "It's just a potato wedge," again, I'll roll my eyes so far back they might stay there. Jojos are *not* potato wedges. They are pressure-cooked, breaded pieces of golden, delicious, starchy tuber. The term "jojo" is fought over as to who came up with the term and where it originated from. But literally, no place other than Oregon and parts of Washington actually knows what the hell a jojo is when I bring it up, so there's that. Jojos (not its mediocre uncle, potato wedges) were created by a dude in Vancouver, Washington, who had a business called "Nicewonger Co.," named after himself, selling pressure cookers sometime in the 1950s (these are now awkwardly referred to as "broasters"). Fun fact: when you're in the "sticks" of Washington and Oregon, and you come across a gas station or "food market" with a hot counter, they'll have jojos. They look questionable, but I guarantee you won't regret purchasing a serving while you're out in the middle of nowhere.

Wikipedia

No, not the actual Wikipedia. However, the first user-made and edited internet article

was conceived by Ward Cunningham, a native of Portland, in 1995. He called it the "WikiWikiWeb," utilizing a Hawaiian word for "fast." There's a detailed interview with this guy that you can find on the interwebs. Look it up yourself.



Phillips Screws

Developed by John P. Thompson of Portland and sold to a businessman named...Henry Phillips, patented in 1932. You're welcome. Now, you get to look for *multiple* screwdriver heads when doing a project. Isn't it great when things get more complicated, thanks to human ingenuity? I actually loathe Phillips screws and find that they make any job I do take twice as long as it would have if I had just decided to give up on the project altogether.



Wireless Telephone

In 1909, William Dubilier plopped the first wireless telephone in Seattle, Washington,

which was actually used as the first radio station and was played at a booth in Luna Park. For 10 cents, you could hear a recorded voice and music over the wireless transmission—fancy that. Everything has always cost money, including radio, which, for some reason, a business person in Seattle felt the urge to charge for. I'm wondering if this was the beginning of the end for free entertainment of any kind.

The Modern Mall

I almost skipped this one since I found it kind of bizarre to be "known for" this. But after World War II, the first shopping center to face all its stores towards each other, along a lengthwise mall corridor (like the typical mall nowadays), was the Northgate Mall. It also boasts being the first mall to place a movie theater inside. Called "The Granddaddy of all modern malls." Oh, *daddy*.

The Lunar Rover

In 1969, Boeing (that company we all know and love) created the awesome Lunar Rover, which could travel at speeds of 10 mph on any terrain and was able to carry two astronauts and samples. This tech also led to motorized wheelchairs. Nifty!

Vinyl Records and CDs

Created by two different folks but in the same state of Washington. You can thank Waldo Semon and James T. Russell, respectively, for these two inventions. The latter was created in 1970 to replace vinyl, in case this needed to be mentioned.

Marionberries

Last but not least, marionberries were created by an OSU scientist who, for some reason, wanted to improve upon the already delicious blackberry. And *did* so by crossing one blackberry with another blackberry (Chehalem blackberry and Olallie blackberry). I will never pass up the chance to tell someone how delicious marionberries are and the proud fact that this fruit came from Oregon.

And there you have it. A very truncated list of things invented and *probably invented* items brought to you by the PNW. My heart sings when I get to tell others about the glory of many of these items—especially the Pronto Pup and marionberries. I find, for some reason, that most of the things I favor in this world were invented (supposedly or proven) in the PNW. It may be my biasedness towards my home states, but I'll still try shoving my opinions down people's throats to let them know I'm right...that my opinion is somehow as factual as our president being a lizard person that hibernates on camera, and not to question it.

Honorable mentions that were not included in this article: Hacky Sack, Fight Club (Chuck Palahniuk), Bandon and Tillamook cheese, Leatherman multi-tools, plywood, Nike, Kettle brand chips, aluminum frame bicycles, microbrews, warehouse/club stores, disposable diapers, pellet stove, Magic: The Gathering, and Cialis. You're welcome.

Hannah One Cup can be found enjoying her trips to the beach for Pronto Pups and hitting up Chicken Little for some jojos and fried chicken, after which she may partake in an alcoholic beverage that includes a marionberry-flavored, Portland-brand syrup while listening to others gripe about how awful the PNW is compared to other areas...all while enjoying the fruits of her state's labor, sticking her tongue out at those griping, and making farting noises like a 5-year-old.



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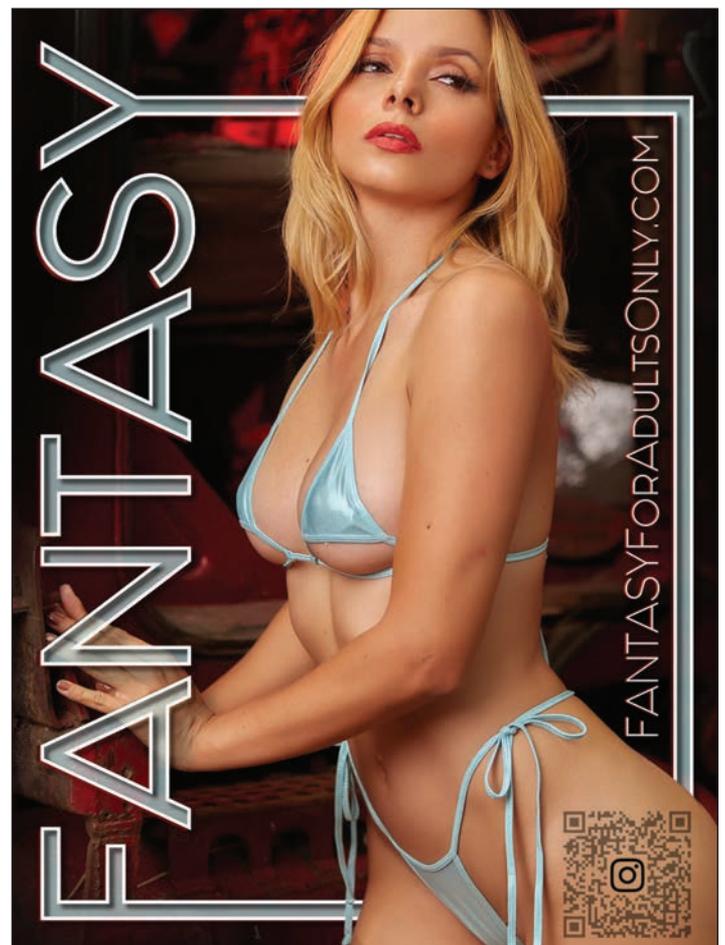
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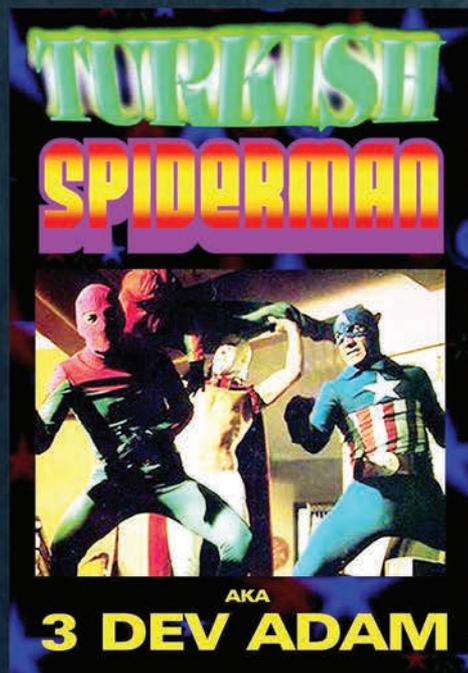
BY WOMBSTRETCHA THE MAGNIFICENT

KNOCKOFF SUPERHERO MOVIES (AND JUST HOW BAD THEY GET)

Do not get me wrong...I love totally low-budget movies with terrible plots; films that have no actors (or acting) of note and have absurd special effects, they sure are "special," heh. There is a special spot in my heart for those people who blow all their money on making life—if nothing else—a bit more ridiculous through their creative visions. That said, some are the moneygrubbers, out for nothing but a quick buck, but most do it because it's their dream.

So, let us go! The opinions on these movies are my own, but I think you will agree with a lot of them.

I got it—let us eat dessert first!



Turkish Spider-Man – 1973

Now, okay, lots of places have their own "Spider-Man" or men (lookin' at you, Mex-

ico). But usually, they are good guys. Not so here. A guy called "3 Dev Adam" (who



looks just like Captain America, by the way) teams up with Legendary Wrestler El Santo. They are both looking to find Turkish Spider-Man, because he has become a gangster and a pimp, and he is up to no good. The fights are as good as you can imagine. It must be believed to be seen.

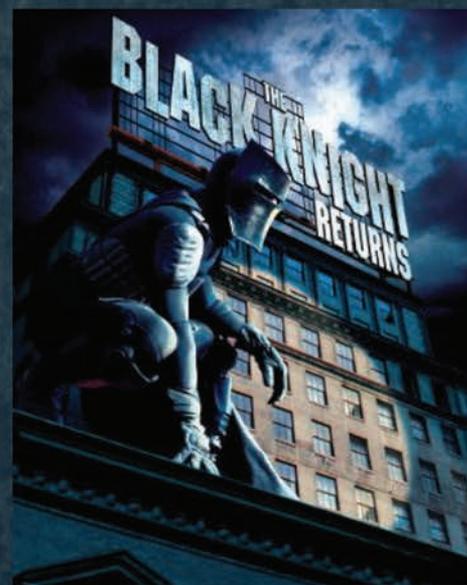
Rise of the Black Bat – 2012

This is almost the knockoff of knock-offs. We follow Chip Dick around, and he moves in with the wrong crowd one day; his family gets killed, and he gets blinded, but he can somehow still magically see like a bat. So naturally, the thing to do in



that situation is dress in a silly way and start dealing with criminals violently to get revenge. Daredevilbat. BatDevil?

The Black Knight Returns – 2009



An eeeevil company dares to threaten the world with the release of a likewise-eeeevil **VIRUS**, deadly to everything. You, me, Popeye's chicken nuggets—apocalypse! Naturally, when these things happen, your grandfather kidnaps you in the night and inducts you into the secret Order of the Black Knights, gives you some armor, and says, "Go get 'em!" Then, in all due course, you go try to stop them. Also, the truly inspired protagonist of this Batman/Resident Evil schlock-fest: his name is Evan Grail. Evan fucking Grail.



Metal Man – 2008

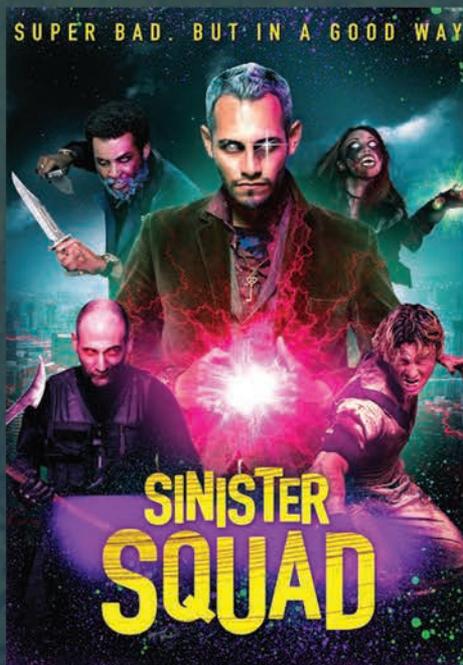
Some kid named Kyle builds a magic metal suit colored red and gold, and you wear it rather than just command it.

Of course, he fights ninjas, evil robots, wizards, and shit. Golly, I wonder where they thought that up?

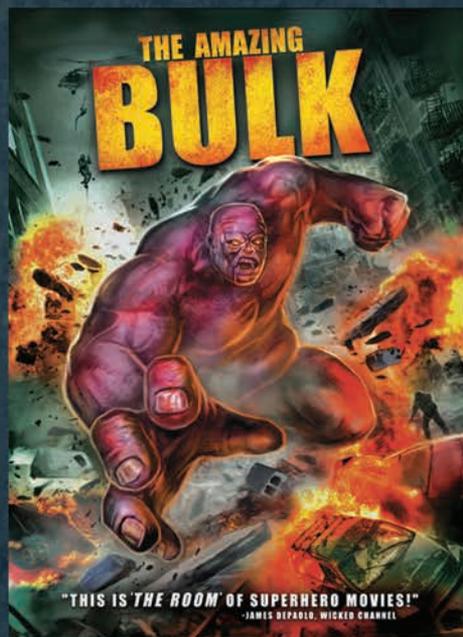
Anyhow, the most absolutely shameful thing is that it was in theaters at the same time Iron Man was: Grandma takes the kids to the wrong Iron Man movie! The horror; the horror! BTW, the text on the German part of the poster reads, "Half machine, half man, one whole hero."

Sinister Squad – 2016

Another ridiculous movie that came out the same year the name brand did. However, this one was not about supervillains fighting others of the same. No, it's about Alice from "In Wonderland." She is gathering up fairy tale bad guys to bludgeon, I



believe, the fictional characters (Goldilocks, Alice, Queen of Hearts, and Rumpelsofskin) to try and stop Death itself. So, like Wizard of Oz versus Suicide Squad.



The Amazing Bulk – 2012

The plot follows the standard formula: someone gets hurt, possibly due to their own idiocy, and gets superpowers. In this case, I would think, rather obviously, it would be the "Hulk" formula. A scientist gets stupid and turns into a giant, purple, more of a...bipedal blob, albeit a very strong one. However, his boss wants the chemicals for himself. The plot twist is that he wants the chemicals to cure his

ED, which I thought was pretty funny. Of course, I get it, but I respect my cock enough not to risk hittin' it with angry blob chemicals. It would be so rude, even if it did work, to show that to an unsuspecting lady. Naw. But I bet there are purple blob babes out there.



Mutant X – 2001-2004

This particular show was, of course, focused around superheroes, ripping off X-Men, and we all know it. The characters are even referred to as *New Mutants*—no guesses what they were trying to do. The show was apparently created and licensed by Marvel Studios and signed in my garage. The limits being, "Fuck you if you relate to [their] current Marvel X brand; this is the new shit!" The show was fine and did *okay* for three seasons. As one might expect, it was doomed in the end. Production deadlines, network approvals, *budgets*, and chili cook-offs got in the way. The manner in which they sent it to die at the race was by handing them a desperate cliffhanger, which they knew would be dropped like a toy dangled in front of a two-year-old—knowing full well it would be the last one. Look how sad John Shea looks in the middle there.

I am giving spoiler alerts; I'm spoilin' 'em because none of you are going to watch any of them...right?

Wombstretcha the Magnificent is an Amazing Bulk, returning bat, some kinda X-something writer, and retired rapper from Portland, OR. He can be found at his website, wombstretcha.com, on Twitter/X/whatever as @wombstretcha503, and on MeWe and (begrudgingly) Facebook as "Wombstretcha the Magnificent."

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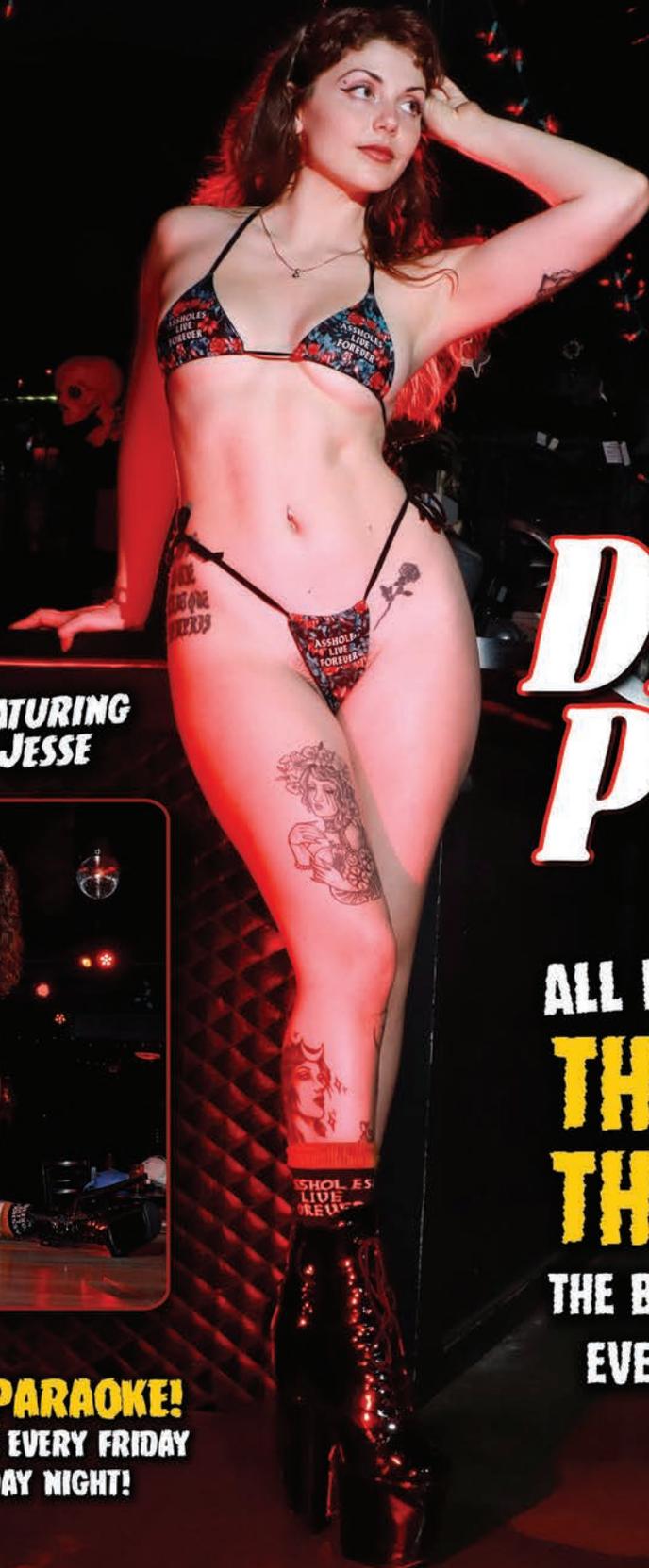
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Adventures In Erotic Art

SEAF 2025

By C. A. Gray

@chihuahua_valhalla



For more than 20 years, The Seattle Erotic Art Festival has been something of an anomaly in the Contemporary Art world. With “modern” art having completely rejected figurative art altogether over the last 75 years, we are left with a landscape often hostile to contemporary artists who pursue representational techniques, and this is then compounded by America’s Puritan roots and our society’s seemingly persistent fear of sexuality and eroticism. It can be very difficult to find a venue open to the public that is willing to display even a tasteful nude out of fear that such art would irreparably damage the outstanding moral fiber of any child or unmarried woman who should bear witness to such shameful representations of the human form. And yet, if you were to step foot in the Vatican (as I was once fortunate enough to do), you might find yourself shocked by the sheer amount of penises on display and, by extension; naked man ass. That is unless, of course, you’re familiar with the Catholic Church’s long-standing and prestigious history of pedophilia, in which case you might find that the presence of so many dicks makes perfect sense, especially considering how small the majority of

those penises are. The ancients were largely rocking micro-dicks, and the art of the era serves as proper documentation of this fact. There is one Vatican hallway in particular, called the Gallery of Statues, which is lined with ancient Greek and Roman marble sculptures of nude or partially clothed men that are just hanging dong left and right. Seriously though, there are tiny, little fucking penises everywhere in this temple of conservative religious values, in the very heart of the Christian world. I should also note that there is not a single image of a vagina in the entire Vatican... And yet, here in America, where our collective morals and ethics are for sale to the most relentless bidders, displaying the nude human form is often taboo.



C. A. Gray - D-Rex vs Triceracocks 2018



C. A. Gray - Dinner Time Naomi Remix 2018

I had the great fortune of exhibiting my work at SEAF this year, and while this was my fourth time showing work at the festival, it was very special to me because this was my first time exhibiting a full bronze figure anywhere ever. That might not sound that special, but it was my focus on learning how to create this exact sort of art that got me kicked out of the sculpture department at the Hartford Art School back when I was in college. My sculp-



C. A. Gray - Maiden Fragment No.1 2023

ture professors had such disdain for realism that after I returned from studying abroad in Italy, they would yell at me that Michelangelo made “stupid art for stupid people” and that I did the same. When I was eventually booted from the department, I only needed three more sculpture credits for my BFA, and if not for the fact that I had been pursuing a double major and had painting to fall back on, I would have been absolutely screwed. I didn’t touch sculpture again for 18 years, and my story isn’t particularly unique, either; contemporary fine art is often far more concerned with gaslighting viewer than actual artistry, and those who dare to follow their artistic vision into the realm of figurative art, can find it difficult to find acceptance in modern academia. I spoke to one of my favorite painters, who has shown his work in every SEAF for years now; artist Dave Clay

(daveclay.com check out his work, it's pretty great) told me that he didn't necessarily see his work as erotic at all, he was just painting the figure.



C. A. Gray - Maiden Fragment No. 2023

Luckily, the deep-seated American societal fear of sex is matched only by our vast obsession with...yup, you guessed it—sex. On top of being quite profitable, our obsession with sex has also allowed for an intersection of creativity and figurative art that speaks to my heart far more directly than widely accepted contemporary pieces like "The Comedian" (the one with the banana taped to a wall that sold for \$6.2 million), or anything done by uber-successful contemporary art hacks Jeff Coons (the giant balloon animal guy), Damien Hirst (known for suspending dead animals in large tanks) or the world's most overrated greeting card designer, Banksy. The beautiful niche that is erotic art is not only very profitable, but it is also possibly the strongest genre of art in terms of sheer power to connect with our shared humanity. Here, in this sphere, the taboo is a rich starting point for creative exploration of what many might consider the most "shameful" aspects of our existence. If anything, erotic art is the last true avant-garde, where you will find the bravest artists doing art that makes the most boring people in the world deeply uncomfortable. Keep in mind that there are still many places in the world where you would surely be killed for making the sort of art that is exhibited at SEAF every year.

For this year's festival, I decided to innovate a little; instead of spending a couple of hours chain-dabbing and doomscrolling in my hotel room before walking to the exhibition, I decided to do those things *and* micro-dose mushrooms...because self-sabotage is one

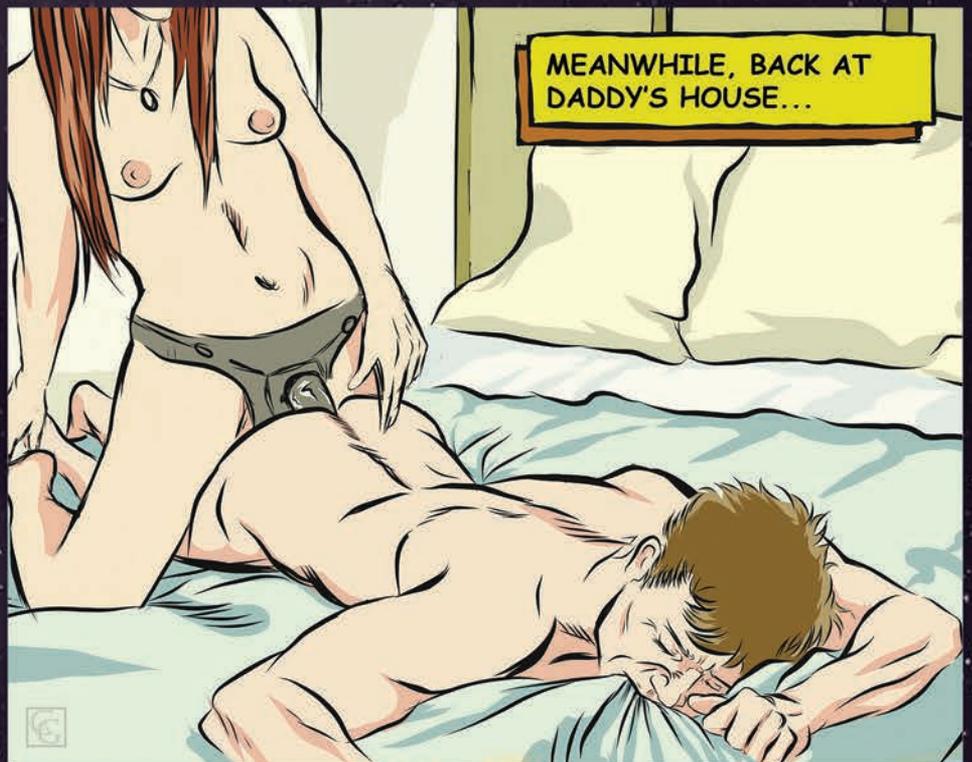
of my most endearing attributes. The thing about micro-dosing is that the dose is supposed to be small enough to be "sub-perceptual" or, in other words, unnoticeable. Unbeknownst to me at the time, however, a recent change in my medications also meant a change in my body's micro-dose mechanics, and shortly after stepping foot in the festival, it became clear that I had tragically miscalculated somewhere down the line. As I strode into the Seattle Center confidently at first, wearing my red SEAF Artist placard, the weight of my error began to bear down upon me, with a deepening sense that every single one of the festival attendees could tell that I was in the midst of a self-medication malfunction. Despite this, I was determined to persevere until the drugs wore off and do my best to enjoy the festival.

Once I focused on the exhibition itself, the art came to life, and I became immersed in a world of color and form and beautifully depicted humans doing all kinds of sexual acts in all manner of artistic styles and mediums. Festival mainstays, like Francois Dubeau (francoisdubeau.com) and Dave Clay's delightful new works, were prominently displayed. While I love to see what the festival regulars come up with every year, I find the greatest joy in marveling over all the amazing new art and artists represented at each SEAF. The bulk of art in the show is from new and emerging artists from all over the United States and Canada, and it is here that we find

exciting new directions and interpretations of the erotic side of human nature.

As I did the customary gallery shuffle around the vast exhibition space (it's a kind of slow walk, where you sort of meander from piece to piece, lingering at those works that are the most appealing or interesting before moving to the next), it did not take long before I fell in love with a small painting called "Play Time" by Washington artist Scott Anstett (scottanstett.com). Such a delightful gem of a painting; this piece looks like a Polaroid (complete with the white edges and everything), only to reveal itself as a painting once you get closer. It captures an intimate moment between two lovers in a way that feels both nostalgic and voyeuristic. A great artist once told me, "A piece doesn't have to be big to be precious; gems are small and precious. Make a gem." Well, I can tell you that Scott Anstett has mastered that lesson in spades. I loved this piece so much that I almost bought it that first night, and were it not for my desire to leave town well before the designated art pick-up time after the festival closed down on Sunday, I surely would have. I honestly regret not purchasing it, now that I am reminiscing about it, but I digress.

Along my journey through the exhibition, there were highlights from nearly every medium, like Tim Tucker Wulf's (tuckerwulf.com) emotionally heavy sculpture "Spent" to Ayla Quellhorst's (aylaquellhorst.com) stunning



C. A. Gray - Pegged 2018

photograph "Land of Milk & Honey" (one of this year's SEAF People's Choice Award winners)—every medium was well represented! I guess it's fair to say that my favorite pieces of art leave me filled with jealousy, which I then slowly funnel into the ambition to fuel my own work. There was just so much to be envious of at this year's SEAF...techniques I could only dream of and bold concepts that left me aspiring to achieve more in my own practice. Artist Cerveza's (cerezaarcayastudio.com) simple watercolor painting "Sweet" had me feeling all sorts of ways. The artist uses a relatively simple gestural technique that is so masterfully executed that the piece is as much about what wasn't painted as what was. Such beautiful gestures, a subtle dab of paint captures the subject's lips almost effortlessly, as if to dare the viewer to try such a thing without 10,000+ hours of practice.



C. A. Gray - Mr. Bearbottom 2018

Occasionally, I would remember that I was in a space with about 1,000+ other humans, and shit would get socially awkward briefly until I spotted another delightful piece of art to disassociate on, and then I was back into the ebb and flow of the gallery shuffle.

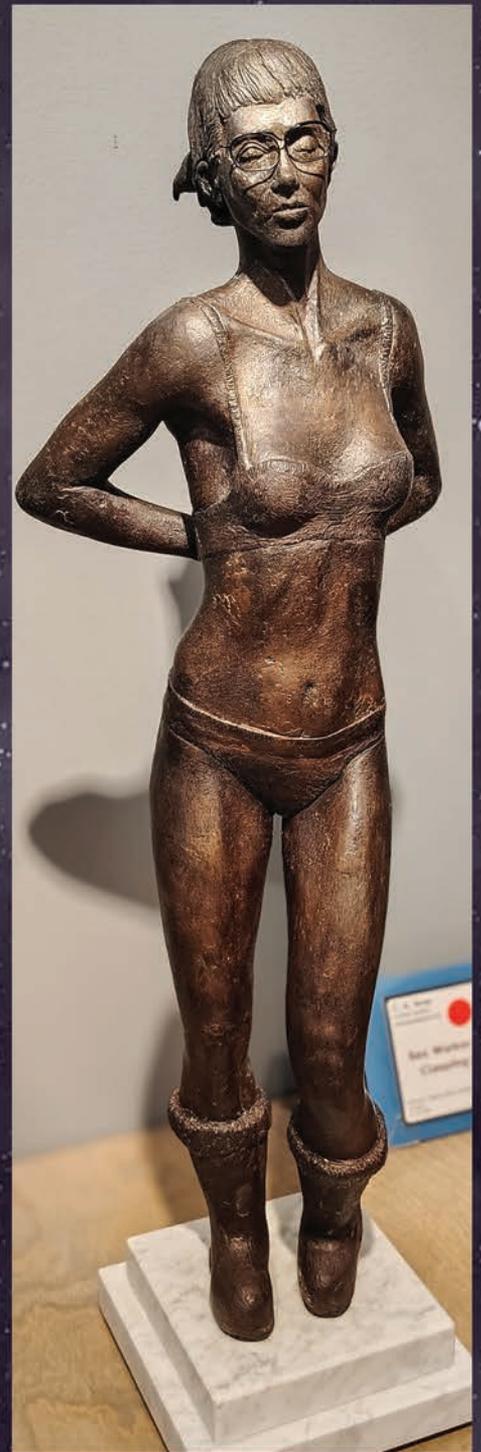
This went on until I neared the stage; it was nearly impossible to stay in a dissociative state in the face of an epic silk performance by Wei In The Clouds. SEAF isn't just visual art; there are also aerial performances with silks, pole dancing, and a range of cabaret showcases to entertain the masses. In case that isn't enough for you, there is plenty more going on around the festival, including the Pan Eros Festival Silent Film Showcase, the literary artists' readings, live body painting, tarot readings, the Erotic Movement Lab, and my personal favorite: live

figure drawing! It's a lot to take in, a feast for the senses, and that's not just mushrooms talking, either. Being from PDX, the strip club capital of the world, I was left to wonder why more entertainers from our humble, little metropolis don't perform at SEAF. There is more erotic showcase talent concentrated in PDX than anywhere else in the world, after all. Whilst contemplating how nice it'd be to see Portland's vast talent more represented at next year's SEAF, the gallery shuffle took me to the last section of the festival I had yet to view. I turned a corner to find my own sculpture prominently displayed. This came as a kind of shock at first; I was so lost in the experience of viewing this year's astonishing collection of art that I had forgotten my true purpose for being there: shameless self-promotion...

My first two times exhibiting at SEAF was as an erotic printmaker specializing in digital painting. After the pandemic, I decided to revisit my failures as an undergrad and switched disciplines back to sculpture. It took a few years to build up my new portfolio, but I was finally able to start showing my art again last year and was fortunate enough to get a pair of bronzes into SEAF 2024. For this year's festival, my sculpture "Sex Worker (Age 21) Clasp Her Bra" was accepted and, to my surprise, sold to a collector before the festival even opened. It was an amazing feeling, especially since bronze sculptures aren't exactly cheap to create, and in our era of late-stage capitalism, they definitely aren't getting any cheaper.

On the second day of the festival, I found myself in a much more sober state and was able to partake in some figure drawing and do a little socializing. The highlight of the festival for me is always the print store and the immense collection of affordable art for sale within. Each artist can submit up to 10 pieces to the store, so you can find all kinds of treasures here. This year, I added five more prints to my collection, including one by Echo Chernik (echochernik.com) called "Before Karnat," which I have fallen madly in love with. I should also note that her piece "Ocean Pets" from the main exhibition was absolutely stunning as well!

Fuck pretentiousness! The Seattle Erotic Art Festival is an art exhibition for people who like to actually enjoy stuff, aren't afraid of genitals, and love affordable art that slaps hard. If you've got a bucket list, go ahead and pencil "attend SEAF while wearing fishnets" in there, and thank me later!



Sex Worker Age 21 Clasp Her Bra at Seaf 2025



D-Rex vs Triceracocks and Pegged at SEAF 2018

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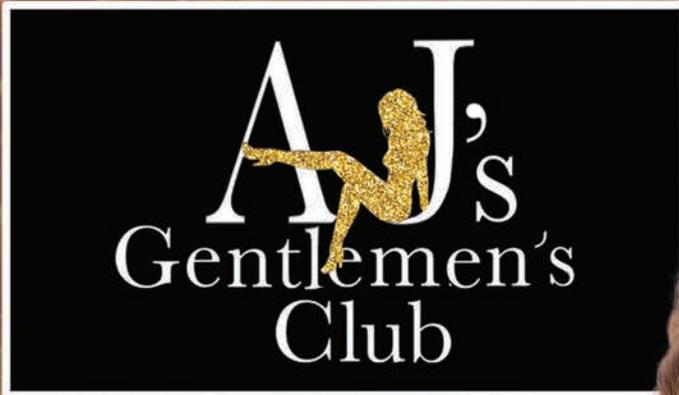


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