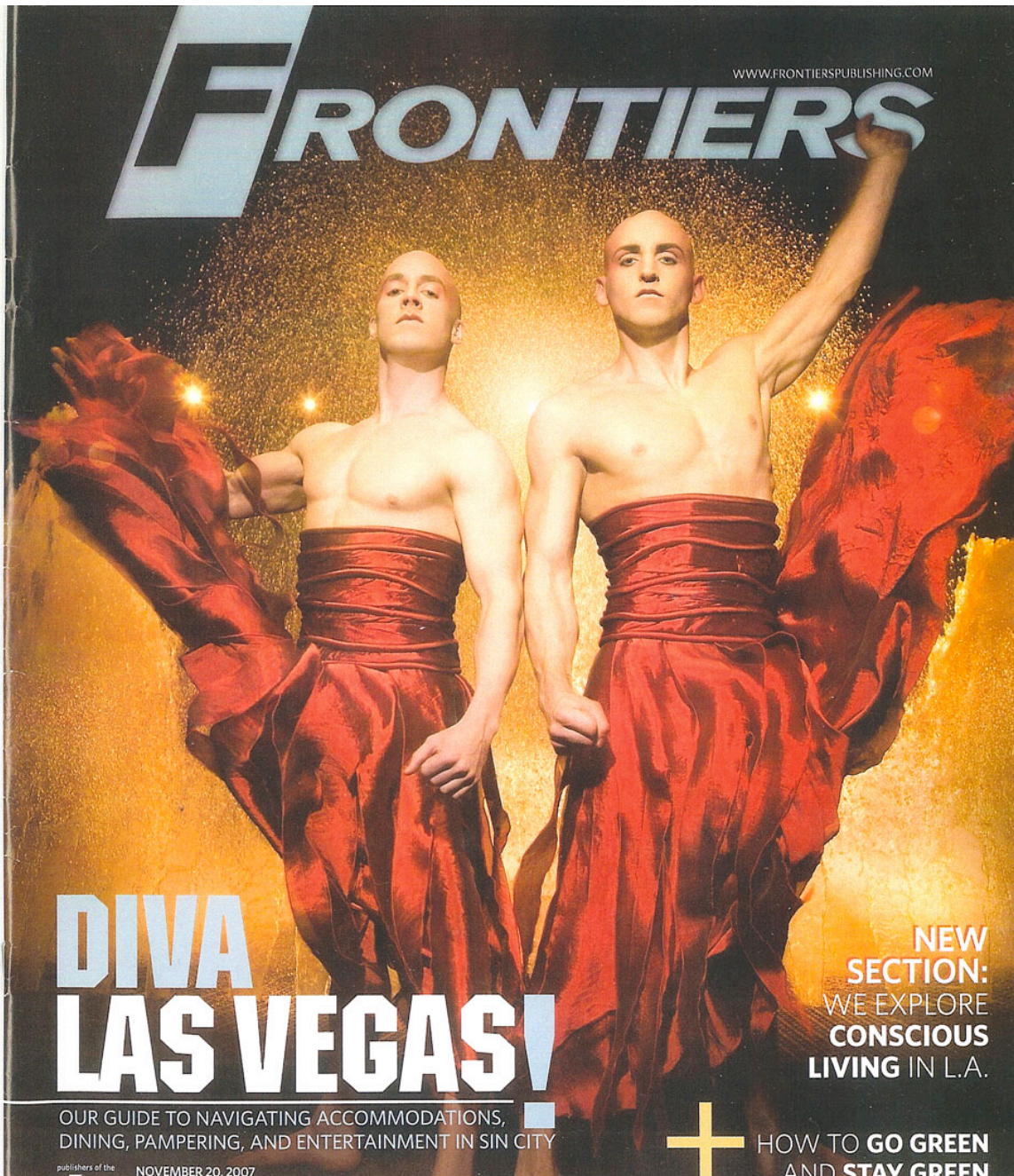


# FRONTIERS

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## DIVA LAS VEGAS!

OUR GUIDE TO NAVIGATING ACCOMMODATIONS,  
DINING, PAMPERING, AND ENTERTAINMENT IN SIN CITY

publishers of the NOVEMBER 20, 2007

NEW  
SECTION:  
WE EXPLORE  
CONSCIOUS  
LIVING IN L.A.

+

HOW TO GO GREEN  
AND STAY GREEN

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Le Réve created by DRAGONE

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# Naked City

SO-CAL UNCOVERED

## Lucky Devils

Two L.A. nightlife impresarios find success as partners, but it has nothing to do with luck

BY STEPHAN HORBELT

**THE NAMES TOM WHITMAN AND IVAN KANE ARE FAIRLY COMMONPLACE** when discussing the Los Angeles nightlife scene, although not until recently would it have been so routine to hear the two names brought up simultaneously. Both men have created nightlife empires based on their names, and both men produce parties and events that take place on any given night around town, but the Los Angeles crowds drawn out by their efforts often do not so much as overlap. That is, until now.

Tom Whitman, once a producer/director in television and film, took to event promotion in 2000 when he formed his namesake company, Tom Whitman Presents. Since that time he has made a name for himself as the gay community's preeminent promoter of nightlife events, currently producing over 200 events each year. Whitman is known for the massive crowds he attracts to venues around L.A. and surrounding areas, including gay pride event Wonderland, held at Paramount Studios; Elevation, the popular gay ski week held in Mammoth; and his long-running weekly nightclub events at Here

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# NakedCity

→ LUCKY DEVILS CONTINUED

Lounge and O Bar in West Hollywood. Even more notable is the roster of charitable events produced under his name, a long list of fundraisers for organizations including APLA, The Trevor Project, GLAAD, HRC, and Outfest.



The man behind Ivan Kane Enterprises is also no stranger to the after-dark pulse of Los Angeles. A one-time dancer, actor and screenwriter, Kane began his venture into the club scene in 1997, when he opened his first bar, Kane, on Melrose. In 2002 he launched Forty Deuce, a "burlesque striptease show and nightclub" that single-handedly redefined the nightlife-as-theater art of burlesque and brought it back into public view. Great success in L.A. resulted in expanding his Forty Deuce empire, adding a new branch in Las Vegas at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, an event documented by a hit Bravo reality series. Today, Kane looks to expand the Forty Deuce concept even further, with potential locations including Miami, London, Paris and Moscow.

Together, these two men have Los Angeles nightlife under wraps, with their respective constituents constantly awaiting their newest endeavors. In a pairing that is sure to shake things up in the industry of big-city nightlife, Whitman and Kane have recently partnered to create Lucky Devil Burlesque, the first weekly male burlesque event in the country, held each Tuesday at Kane's

own Forty Deuce venue on Melrose. "I have always wanted to do a male burlesque show with the same level of excellence I have in my other two burlesque shows," says Kane, speaking of the classic Forty Deuce show and his rock n' roll

burlesque show, Ivan Kane's Royal Jelly. "I wanted to partner up with someone who was equally excited about the concept and was an innovator in his own right in terms of the events he throws for the gay community," Kane says the choice was clear.

Whitman was more than happy to team up with Kane, a man with the utmost credibility and knowledge on how to produce a successful burlesque show. "When Ivan first approached me with the willingness to do a gay event, I was excited, because we had a similar vision: a sexy, fun show that was not about go-go dancers, but was really a burlesque show. A male version of what Ivan made famous with his regular shows featuring

girl dancers."

Lucky Devil is exactly that, a recreation of Kane's famous show, with the sexy women replaced by their male equivalents—professional dancers, as opposed to go-go boys. "This is about being sexy and masculine and hot, without being completely naked. It's the art of the tease, and not about a guy coming out in a g-string and standing in one place dancing. All of the go-go boys who work for me are going to read this and get so mad at me," Whitman jokes. "But it's just a different thing."

The response for the first month has been one of overwhelming approval, with the nightclub reaching capacity each week. The crowd has even been participating in the bar's ritual of getting on stage and dancing between routines. "So many guys have come up to me and said that they thought the event was fun and sexy and completely different from anything else we have in gay nightlife," notes Whitman. And says Kane, "I am confident that Lucky Devil Burlesque is an evening that is unparalleled in gay nightlife and the hottest thing to hit L.A. in a long time."

## A&A

ASKED & ANSWERED

### Michael Neymeyer

Despite a devastating fire that will keep Micky's closed for months, co-owner Michael Neymeyer is sure the West Hollywood nightclub will come back

BY CHRISTOPHER LISOTTA

Since 1989 Micky's has been a night time institution on Santa Monica Blvd., but an Aug. 21 fire put the lights out at a location that has been home to a gay bar for half a century. Despite extensive damage, co-owner Michael Neymeyer is focused on a major rebuild that modernizes Mickey's while keeping it true to its roots.



JOHNNY MCCLEND

**FRONTIERS: What was the immediate aftermath of the fire? Were any employees hurt?**

**MICHAEL NEYMEYER:** It was started by people working on the air conditioning upstairs. It was an immediate shock for everybody—it was a quick, real, instant, big fire. No one had more than ten minutes to get out of the building. There were people on both floors. The person injured was the air conditioning repair man. He had his arm injured. We had just opened. There were four or five customers on the patio and about six employees.

**What kind of damage is there?**

It is both floors; the lower dance floor area, and then the roof on the second floor. All of the offices on the second floor, everything was destroyed. And a large portion of the floor in the downstairs was destroyed.

**Seems to me it's a miracle there aren't more fires in clubs. What kinds of protection do you have in place, and are you adding anything?**

One of things we did not have was sprinklers, which would have been a great enhancement. I've been in the business for 30 years and thought our chances of a fire were very small because of the no smoking rules. My fear always was a cigarette would start a fire. Now that we don't have those issues, we didn't think we would have that happen. This particular fire was a fluke because it was started by people doing repair work. That is something you would never think of.

**When do you think you can reopen?**

We're probably six months away. The building is going to have an extensive remodel on both floors.

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