

YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 20 Issue 10
October 2025



ASK NANA



BRAD LOEKLE



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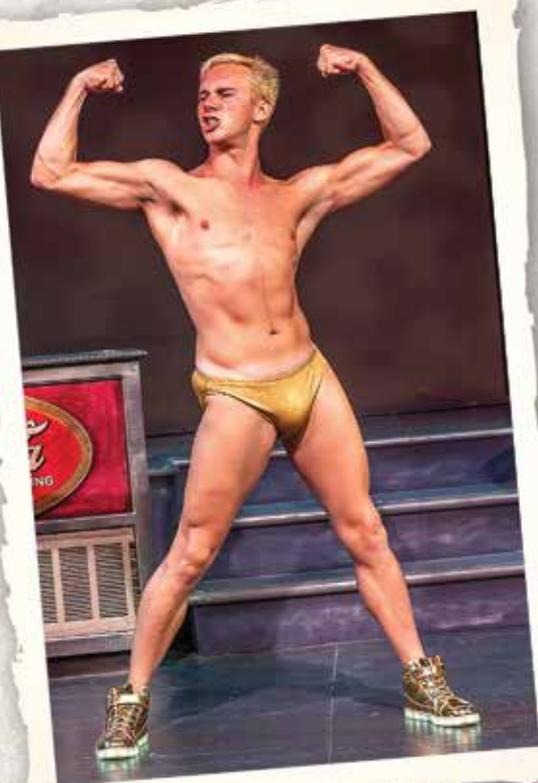
YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



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Welcome To Paradise!

This is the 50th anniversary of The Rocky Horror Picture Show and we will celebrate with the 5th anniversary of having it performed live at The Waterfront Playhouse.

Come do the time warp and dress up as your favorite asshole or slut!

Enjoy!

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Stephanie Wise

LEZ
GO
OUT



W

When you think of October, you probably get all pumpkin-spicey and cozy campfires, but here in Key West, our pumpkins look a little bit... different this time of year.

It all started off with a very slow off season and a parade to draw snowbirds back to the island a bit earlier than just when it was snowing elsewhere. Several shop owners who usually shuttered their businesses for months at a time wanted to create a fun way to make the island THE October destination and so they held a crazy, Halloween-themed costumed parade. Alllllllllll the way back in 1979. It caught on... Now, it brings in as many as 75,000 visitors each year, according to the website (www.fantasyfest.com) under the history section. There you'll find a schedule of events, pictures of past craziness and resources for fun that you are actually not ready for... Go check it out.

Fantasy Fest 2025 is held in Key West from October 17–26, and this year's theme is pure imaginative gold: Bedtime Stories & Magical Monsters. Truly, the possibilities are endless..

Think creatures from under the bed—all parading through the streets of paradise, trying to impress one another. The whole island transforms into a playground of costumed creativity, with events ranging from sultry masquerade balls to the iconic Captain Morgan Masquerade March (aka the Locals Parade), the Headdress Ball and the Duval Street Fair.

You can embrace (or unleash) your inner storybook character or nightmare beast. Locals and visitors alike dive into the fun—expect strong drinks, body paint, and spontaneous adult-only dance parties, even if it's

just in the middle of the street. There's even a Pet Masquerade, so as long as your hotel allows pets, even your furry friends can costume-up and get in on the fun (not to be confused with Furry Friends - though, they'll be there, too).

This spectacle of a festival supports local nonprofits like the Florida Keys SPCA through events like the Royal Coronation and Headdress Ball. Get your tickets early. It sells out every year and raises gads of money.

Can't think of a costume but really want to come play? Here are a few concepts to spark your imagination that channel the "Bedtime Stories & Magical Monsters" theme. You'll see everything from glittering fairy queens to sultry storybook villains in their pajamas, or what's left of them.

You could be:

An Enchanted Bedtime Fairy. Think iridescent wings, glowing lantern accessories, and a flowing nightgown with celestial accents.

The Monster Under the Bed. Go full theatrical—fuzzy textures, glowing eyes, and limbs peeking out from beneath a faux bed frame worn as a costume base.

A Twisted Storybook Duo. Pair up as Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf, but glam it up with sequins, masks, and dramatic capes.

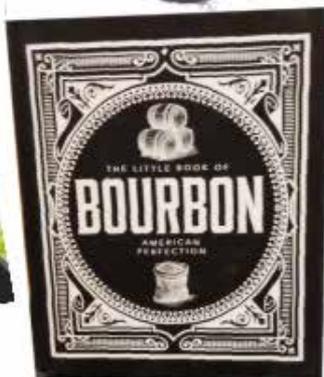
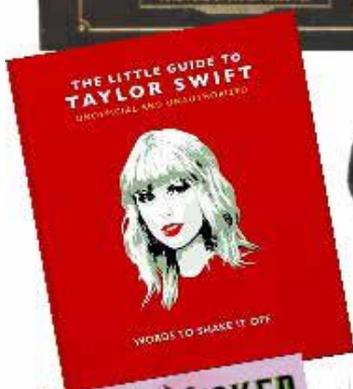
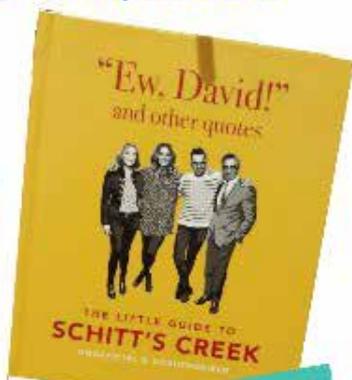
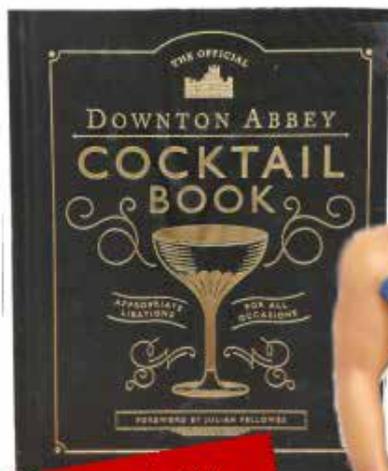
A Dreamweaver Siren. A luxe take on sleep and seduction—silky robes, moon motifs, and shimmering body paint. But zombiefied.

A Possessed Teddy Bear. Cute meets creepy: oversized plush bear suit with stitched-up seams, glowing eyes, and a sinister grin.

Your imagination is the limit and even then, there are truly very few boundaries when it comes to Fantasy Fest. It can get a little crazy, but it's all in good fun for a good cause. So Lez Go Out and at least watch the fun ensue. Besides, if you just can't think of a costume, there's always body paint... See you at the ball!

We have bedtime reading material

& Fantasies



in touch with you

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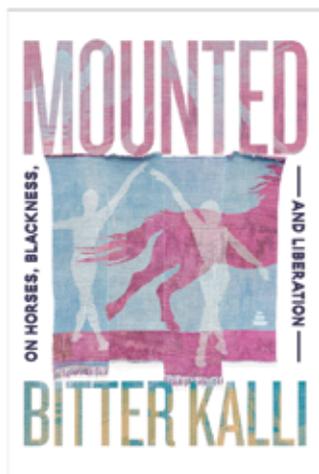
BEACH READS

LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*



"MOUNTED: ON HORSES, BLACKNESS, AND LIBERATION" BY BITTER KALLI

c.2025, Amistad | \$22.00 | 192 pages



One thousand, two hundred pounds and four legs.

Put that between your knees and you'll find out what real horsepower is. You're five feet off the ground, moving as fast as a car on a downtown street, hooves pounding as hard as your heart. Dangerous? Maybe. But as you'll see in **"Mounted"** by Bitter Kalli, your ancestors did it and so can you.

When they were a young child, "around the age of six or seven," someone gave Bitter Kalli a set of "pony books," the kind that appeal to young girls, mostly

white ones. Kalli wasn't entirely comfortable identifying as a girl then but they adored the books, in part because the stories featured the kinds of friendships and acceptance Kalli wanted. After devouring those stories, they begged their parents for riding lessons from a nearby Brooklyn stable.

Fast forward to 2014, when Kalli was seventeen years old, an experienced equestrian, a trans individual, and a protester at college. During that protest, they watched the horses that carried the police, and wondered what those animals saw in the crowd.

For that matter, what did horses see throughout Black history?

In times of slavery, it was not uncommon for fleeing slaves to steal a horse or two to get away faster. Kalli shares heart-pounding tales of

escape, sharing examples of how human chattel was often compared to that of equines in newspaper ads, as slaveholders mourned the latter loss much deeper than the former.

Many Americans are unaware of the rich contributions that African Americans made to the settling of the West. Kalli examines a popular movie, deconstructing it and adding real history to the Hollywood tale.

“What we know as the Wild West would not exist without the 182,000 enslaved people living in Texas in 1860...” they say.

Horses are featured in many of the world’s religions. Horsey language lends itself to the erotic. Even, says Kalli, “Black and brown youth in Brooklyn” understood the appeal of a good-looking Polo pony...

Take a good study of the cover of “Mounted.” Appreciate the artwork, notice the design. Then add this book to your “Things I Never Really Thought About” list, because you’ll think about it now. And you’re going to want to read every delicious word.

Horses have been hiding in plain sight in Black history for centuries, but author Bitter Kalli pulls them to the forefront, turning each facet of the subject over for deeper examination and additional thought. Happily, you won’t feel forced to do that; their writing comes across like an invitation to a warm, intimate conversation, the kind you get while casually hanging out with a new group of friends on the patio. What you learn is highly intriguing, and you won’t ever see horses in the same way again.

Beware that this book has one explicit chapter inside, but it fits the narrative and you won’t mind. You’ll be too busy enjoying what you read and wanting more. For horse lovers and history lovers alike, “Mounted” is the perfect ride.

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MY BIG GAY LIFE

Brad Loekle



A HOLE BY ANY OTHER NAME...

I am very lucky that my comedy career has brought me all around the world to many countries and continents. Even as a child, I used to love even the most mediocre “trip” my family would take. I remember when we were having our house remodeled and, for the week they were doing the bathrooms, my parents and I stayed at a Days Inn about 20 minutes from our house. Well, it might as well have been a summer in the Hamptons as far as I was concerned. My parents would laugh each morning as I would take it upon myself to immediately go refill the ice bucket from the night before, swing by the lobby for my continental breakfast, and chat with the front desk staff as if I was one of the elderly women who lived at the Carlyle Hotel in New York City in the 1970s.

I've come (and gone) a long way since the Days Inn on Route 17. Recently I was bouncing around various Greek isles, Istanbul, Cairo, and Alexandria on an Atlantis Events gay cruise. As my grandmother would say, “Well, smell you, Nancy Drew!”

In Alexandria, my friends and I toured various ancient sites. In a place like Alexandria, most everything feels ancient. Even the sun-bleached building built in our lifetime. We toured the fortress on the sea that stands where the great lighthouse of Alexandria once stood before she was sunk by a great earthquake. We also toured the local catacombs. Now, I love a catacomb. Especially when one is in Egypt in August. The original catacomb was built for an unknown wealthy family. As our tour guide said, “We know enough to know they weren't of any royal lineage but they would have had

to be quite wealthy and important to have such an ornate catacomb built for themselves.”

“Great”, I said. “We’re in a Ptolemaic tech bro’s tomb.”

I will say the decorating style back then was very Versace. Medusa heads and filigrees everywhere. But what was more interesting is the fact that after the fall of whatever empire that tomb was built in, later generations continued to carve out many more burial chambers that were used by all the people of Alexandria. What was once a shrine to one wealthy family became a massive resting place for all classes. Power to the (dead) people!

Then our tour guide, a delightful young Alexandrian woman named Engy (who wore a light floral hijab with a full beat of makeup on), said the following:

“You will probably not believe this. But there are over 340 holes in this catacomb. Many held two to four people at a time. Sometimes whole families including the children. Can you imagine?!”

“Oh Engy!”, I said. “Hold on to your hijab! Because we’re currently traveling on a cruise ship that is chartered and has over 2500 holes on it. Many of them holding two to four people even as we speak! Though I can assure you there are no families or children involved.”

You can’t take me anywhere!

Brad Loekle’s latest comedy special & album, “Brash Boys Club” is available on Amazon, AppleTV, iTunes, and other platforms. He was a semi-finalist on NBC’s “Last Comic Standing”. He can be seen every week on TruTV’s “World’s Dumbest”, has written for Joan Rivers on E! “Fashion Police” & tours internationally. His book, “My Big Gay Life” is available on Amazon. For all this and more, check out: www.bradloekle.com

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5pm - Midnight. 2 for 1 drinks.

FRIDAY, 10/17 & SATURDAY, 10/18
GOOMBAY POOLSIDE PARTY FOR ALL
Noon - Midnight. Food, Drinks and Dancing.

SUNDAY, 10/19
ZOMBIE BIKE RIDE AFTER PARTY FOR ALL
Afterlife - a Sensual Kickoff. BSP Garden Bar. \$\$

MONDAY, 10/20 TOPS OR BOTTOMS
UNDERWEAR PARTY FOR MEN
10pm - Til. Private. Pool & Garden Bar.

TUESDAY, 10/21 FOR ALL
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FRIDAY, 10/24 Noon - 5pm FOR ALL
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SATURDAY, 10/25 Noon - 5pm
POOL PARTIES FOR ALL

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SUNDAY, 10/26 9am - 4pm
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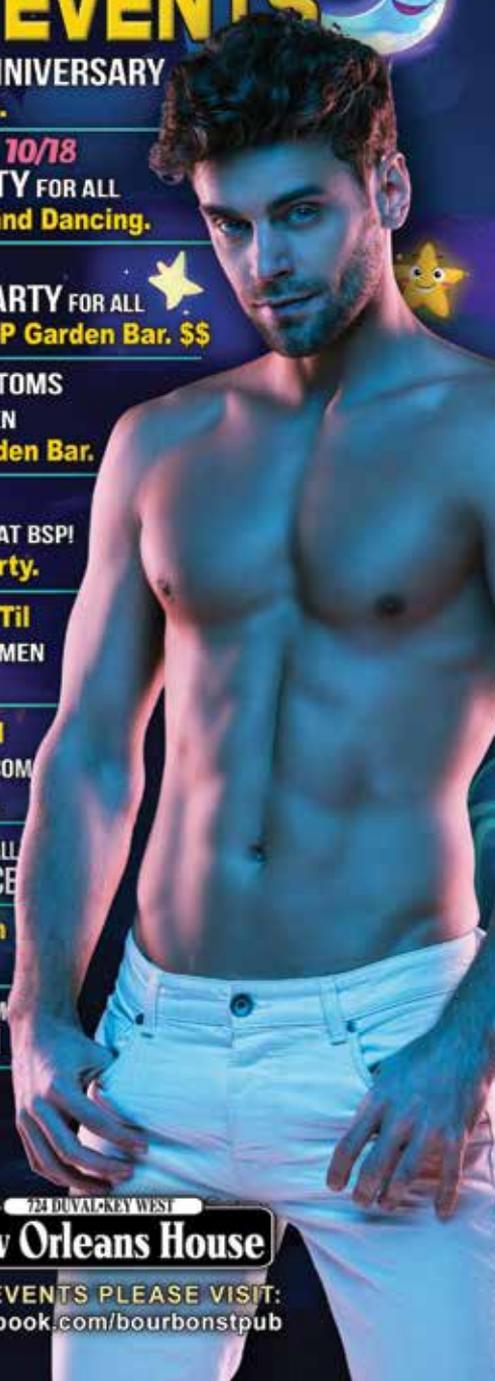
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- 9 **Bourbon** - 724 Duval St
- 10 **Graffiti** - 721 Duval St
- 11 **In Touch With You** - 706A Duval St
- 12 **Island House** - 1129 Fleming St
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WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Trivia at 4 PM

Drag Show at 8:30 PM

Back Bar

Monday Night Football at 8 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM



TUESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Show at 8:30 PM

Back Bar

Movie Night at 8 PM

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show at 7 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

WEDNESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Bingo at 6 PM

Drag Show at 8:30 PM

Back Bar

Watson Wednesday at 3 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Island House

Hot Naked Pool Party starting at 5 PM

THURSDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Show at 8:30 PM

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show at 7 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

SATURDAY

801

Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Shows at 8:30 PM

Karaoke at 11 PM

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show at 7 PM

PleXXX Naughty Dance at 10 PM

Bourbon

Naked Pool Party at Noon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

FRIDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Show at 8:30 PM

Karaoke at 11 PM

Back Bar

RuPaul Viewing Party at 8 PM

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show at 8 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Boys Night Out starting at 10 PM

Saloon 1

Cock Shock contest at Midnight

SUNDAY

801

Karaoke starting at 4 PM

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Show at 8:30 PM

Back Bar

Hot Dog Church at 3 PM

Bourbon

After Tea 7 PM - 10 PM

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Island House

Hot Naked Pool Party starting at Noon

LOCATIONS

801 - 801 Duval Street

Aqua - 711 Duval Street

Back Bar - 711 Duval Street

Birdcage - 504 Angela St

Bourbon - 724 Duval Street

Island House - 1129 Fleming St

La Te Da - 1125 Duval St

Saloon 1 - 504 Petronia St

IsLAND HOUSE  EVENT SCHEDULE

FANTASY FEST



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22 5 - 8pm

BOWTIES & BIRTHDAY SUITS

An EPIC, gay men's clothing-optional pool party! Rock your complimentary Bowtie! Great music, videos, friendly shot boys, and HALF-PRICE DRINKS from 5-8PM!

FRIDAY OCTOBER 24 10pm - 2am

MIDNIGHT MASS: A HEATED GAYTHING

Calling all daddies, jocks, bears, and everybody in between for a night of raw attraction and unleashed inhibitions! Communal alters, swings, and absolutely NO judgements. Watch or play!

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26

Noon - 4pm

AFTER CHURCH POOL PARTY

After church, and before Tea Dance, comes ISLAND HOUSE! Clothing optional pool party entertaining boys for nearly 2 decades! Pool boys, loads of free shots, and giveaways!




IsLAND HOUSE

1129 Fleming St. | Key West, FL 33040 | IslandHouse.com

ALL GAY, BI, TRANS, QUEER + BROTHERS WELCOME!

ASK NANA

E-mail your questions to
nana@keywestgayrag.com



Dear Nana,

My boyfriend is really into scary movies. He has been since he was a kid. I've never liked them. I don't find a lot of pleasure in being scared. He always wants me to watch them with him. I think that he thinks I will grow to love him because he loves them so much. I don't want to hurt his feelings. He's a great guy. But I also don't want our date nights to be me trauma bonding with Jason or Freddy Kreuger. What do I do?

Oh, my little scaredy cat, fear not! This is an easy fix. His gory heart is in the right place and you clearly know that. I would sit him down and give him some helpful comparisons. Surely there are foods, or types of music and art, or activities of any sort that he absolutely hates but plenty of other people adore. It's just that simple: different strokes for different folks. Tell him you love that HE loves horror movies but that you hating them shouldn't take anything away from his enjoyment of them. Buy him tickets to every new gore flick that comes out and tell him to go enjoy his "murderous me time." You two share more than enough as boyfriends. You share the stuff that really matters: your hearts, your thoughts, your feelings, and your genitals. That should be enough for him or any man.



Dear Nana,

My mother has been going to a psychic for a couple of years. She swears by the woman. Everyone in the family just sort of shrugs it off as her quirky hobby. Some moms get into bingo or scratcher lottery tickets. Our mom goes to a psychic once a month. No big deal. Things in my life haven't been going that great lately. Work drama and life drama. But now, my mom is insisting I go to her psychic to get her mystical advice on what to do with my life. I kept shrugging her off but now she's made a non-refundable appointment for me next month and I really don't want to go. Can I just fake being sick to get out of it?

The short answer: No. The long answer: who cares that psychics are probably just unaccredited therapists with too many geodes in their office, she's your mother and she paid for it. So go waste an hour of your life and then go on with your life. Who knows, maybe she'll say something inspiring to you. Maybe it will just give you some good stories for you and the rest of the family to laugh about when mom's not around. She is your mother and she's trying to show she cares about you and wants to help. She took the time to carry you for 9 months and then have you tear her vagina to shreds on the way out... you can spare an hour of your day for her Madame Cleo crap, dear heart.

DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS? OF COURSE YOU DO! WHY NOT LET NANA HELP YOU?!

Send your questions to: nana@keywestgayrag.com

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MONROE COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

WHORE--SCOPES

AQUARIUS JAN 20 - FEB 18

You already have the best Fantasy Fest costume. The circus fat man.

PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20

Remember, costumes are made of nylon and polyester. Wear deodorant for once in your life.

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

If you gain any more weight, you'll need to go to a truck stop to be weighed.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20

Even a dark room at the bathhouse isn't helping when they can't find your dick through the fat.

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

Is that a safety pin in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?

CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

According to your fibit, you masturbated 3 miles today.

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

You're so dumb that you just partied hard while taking Tic Tacs that you paid \$100 for!

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

Your credit is so bad that the bank won't loan you a pen!

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

Looking at your savings, I'm guessing your retirement plan is to work until you're 107.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

Gluten isn't making you fat, it's everything else in the pizza!

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

Your wardrobe is much like our former rainbow crosswalks, no color and boring.

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

Why waste money on PrEP? No one wants you!



IsLAND HouSe

HOT NAKED POOL PARTIES



HOT NAKED
WEDNESDAYS

5 - 8PM

(2-4-1 EXTENDED HAPPY HOURS)

HOT NAKED
SUNDAYS

12 - 4PM



FREE SHOTS / POOL BOYS / VIDEOS + MUSIC / GIVEAWAYS

www.islandhouse.com

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pool parties

full gym
dry sauna
steamroom

two jacuzzis
sun loungers
sun deck

All Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer + Brothers Welcome