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*The truth is, you're only as good as your support. At Real Vegas, we are immensely grateful and appreciative of all our local readers! Without the contributors listed here, this publication would be next to impossible. This special feature issue is dedicated to our 2024 Most Magnificent Men of Las Vegas. We are honored to have had the opportunity to get to know and learn about these outstanding leaders and their respective businesses and organizations. These are truly innovative and hardworking individuals in our community!*

*This special feature is the result of our collective hard work, dedication, and passion. Every contribution to each issue is a labor of love from the bottom of our hearts. We proudly thank every advertiser, writer, photographer, and contributor in every way. Without you, we couldn't share these stories or provide rich content, including current events and the rich history of Las Vegas, which is extremely important to us.*

*Feel free to submit any editorial pieces for consideration to: [info@realvegasmagazine.com](mailto:info@realvegasmagazine.com). Don't forget to follow and like us on social media and visit our website: [realvegasmagazine.com](http://realvegasmagazine.com). We host many local Real Vegas community events and would love for you to join us! Stay tuned for information on our upcoming events, promoted and shared on social media.*

**THANK YOU** all, we hope you enjoy reading Real Vegas as much as we enjoy creating it!

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# VEGAS SOUL

By Lawana Rice

Each morning when we wake up, we awake to a brand-new day. What if we decide before our feet hit the floor that no matter what, we ARE going to have a great day? That would require us to be intentional about what we say, where we go, what we see, and what we do. There are people and places and things that are joy stealers that need to be avoided. But what about the negative things that we simply cannot avoid? What about our jobs and maybe coworkers, or even some negative family members or neighbors? Again, it simply goes back to the choice you made at the beginning of the day and that's the power of intention.

Most all these negative distractions and irritants are external, but you choose what you will allow to press your "Staples" button. When you make up your mind and set the positive intention to be in total control of yourself and your emotions, no one can cause you to act out of character or steal your joy and peace.

The devil has been credited with "making us do" so many things, but in reality, it's our choice to yield to his and other evil influences. But by making up your mind to do good, see good, feel good, think good, you lessen the chance of someone upsetting your good day and robbing you of your harmony and peace. Add to that an intentional smile. It is hard to get mad or be rude to someone who's smiling. It is documented it takes 15 muscles to smile. It required 50 muscles to frown. By you choosing to be positive changes you from the inside as well as the atmosphere around you and overall, how you perceive life.

Life is a truly a gift that should be handled with care. We can't get a second, minute, hour, or day back as time is one of the most precious commodities in life. Each day fades into night and the present becomes the past in a few hours. I encourage you to be mindful, intentional, positive and you will see the infectious result of that in others around you!



Mary Kate Ash  
said it best.

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# the NATIVE Juice

## An Extremely Generous Las Vegas Legacy Media Mogul Jim Rogers

By Candice Wiener

**B**orn on September 15th, 1938, James E. Rogers was an outstanding American entrepreneur and former attorney. He graduated from Las Vegas High School in 1956 and got degrees in both accounting and law from the U of A (University of Arizona). Rogers achieved honorary doctorates from University of Arizona, Idaho State University, Kentucky Wesleyan College, Carroll College and UNLV.

Rogers went on to go into media and founded Valley Broadcasting Company in 1971 as CEO from 1979-2014. On KVBC-TV (now KSNV, Channel 3). His broadcasting company was the NBC affiliate in Las Vegas. Jim owned 98% of the stock of Sunbelt Communications Company (now known as Intermountain West Communications Company) which operated the NBC affiliate television stations in Las Vegas, Reno, Elko, Yuma, Arizona-El Centro, California, Helena, Montana, Pocatello-Idaho Falls, Idaho, Casper, Wyoming, and the Fox affiliated in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Rogers was known to have given one of the largest donations to the law school in which he graduated from, the University of Arizona and earned the recognition by Time Magazine being named as one of the nation's Top 12 Philanthropists. His largest gift was \$137 million in 1998 to his alma matter, the University of Arizona, which was then renamed the University of Arizona college of Las James E. Rogers College of Law. He also made hefty contributions to UNLV, which also bears the Wiener-Rogers Law Library name.

Jim Rogers was a major advocate for education, he and his wife, Beverly, made many major significant contributions to not only non-profit organizations, but many educational institutions. I vividly recall the last time I saw him, which I believe was the same year of his passing, in 2014. I had known and met Jim as a child, as my grandfather was his business partner in Sunbelt Broadcasting. I hadn't

seen him in many, many years and I went up to him and re-introduced myself, reminding him who my grandfather was, and he grabbed my hands so sincerely with a very sentimental look on his face and thanked me for stopping by to say hello. This was at the Silver State Awards, in which he was being awarded the "Spirit of Education



Award". An interesting thing happened that evening. The room was filled with the "who's who" of Las Vegas; Wayne Newton, Frank Mir, among countless other celebrities and socialites and when it was time for Jim to speak, he focused solely on the topic of medicine and our medical community. He stood up, frail as I had ever saw him, and nothing short of chastised the audience by demanding that they reach in their deep pockets and donate to drastically improve medicine in our local community. Passion in his tone of voice would be an understatement.

In 2013, the Rogers Foundation was established by Jim and Beverly Rogers and is one of the largest privately funded charitable foundations in the State of Nevada. Their mission is to transform the lives of children and young adults through art and education.

Jim Rogers also had a remarkable multi-million car collection that was stored at the Rogers Car Museum right here in Las Vegas. He was said to read magazines and articles about vehicles he was seeking to collect. He had a classic car as old as a 1915 Model T and his car collection grew to more than 230 vehicles, worth about 12 million dollars. After Jim's death in 2014, in which he lost his battle with cancer, the automobiles were auctioned off. Every penny went to the Rogers Foundation, right here in Nevada to help young children in our community.

To say Jim Rogers left a huge legacy in our local community, doesn't do his heirloom justice. He was the epitome of a giver and would encourage everyone he encountered to give back for the youth in Las Vegas and for bettering and improving our healthcare in Las Vegas.







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# Welcome Fall!

## From the Publisher's Desk

This season is always one of my favorites as the scorching summer heat dies down and sweater weather approaches, along with the holidays. As I sit and write this today, I find myself once again exceptionally grateful for all the blessings in my life and those I am privileged to share it with!

It's been a while since Real Vegas invaded Newport Beach, but we did again this weekend. Although Vegas has been, and always will be, my beating heart, hometown, and favorite city, I've always had a special place in my heart for Orange County! Since childhood, I've made it a point to take at least one yearly trip to Orange County to maintain some of our family traditions, like visiting Laguna or Newport Beach almost every summer or fall. Each trip brings a special nostalgia and renews my eternal love for the ocean!

With the recent announcement of the high-speed rail train project, Las Vegas locals will soon be able to travel to Southern California in just two hours and 10 minutes—twice as fast as the average road trip. The Las Vegas to Los Angeles high-speed electric train rail system is a \$12 billion venture that will have Las Vegas as a flagship station, with additional stops throughout California, including in Apple Valley, Hesperia, and Rancho Cucamonga, at speeds exceeding 186 miles per hour. This project is expected to significantly boost tourism between California and Nevada.

This fall issue features some of the most dynamic and dapper men of Las Vegas! From business owners and key executives to chefs, doctors, attorneys,

and entrepreneurs, the 2024 Most Magnificent Men of Las Vegas issue highlights extraordinary local men. We hope you enjoy learning about these remarkable individuals, their businesses, and their contributions to the community as much as we enjoyed reading the submissions and putting it all together.

Wishing everyone a fantastic fall and winter season, and a very happy holiday season to you and yours!



*Candice Wiener*  
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# The Art of The Blade: Why Barbering is Back in Style

Meet the Real Eduardo Gallegos

By Lissette Waugh  
lmi.edu

In recent years, the art of barbering has experienced a remarkable resurgence, evolving from a traditional craft into a dynamic and fashionable industry. Once considered a routine service, barbering has now become an essential part of modern male grooming, attracting a new generation of skilled artisans who blend time-honored techniques with contemporary styles. This revival is not just a trend but a reflection of a deeper cultural shift—one that values personal expression, attention to detail, and the preservation of classic practices in a fast-paced, technology-driven world.







From the precision of a well-executed fade to the luxurious experience of a hot towel shave, barbering has become a symbol of self-care and confidence, drawing in men of all ages who seek more than just a haircut, but a personalized grooming experience that celebrates their individuality. To gain further insight into this evolution, I had the opportunity to speak with Eduardo Gallegos, a renowned Las Vegas Barber who has built a stellar reputation working with celebrities and NFL athletes. Eduardo's expertise and unique approach to barbering offer a firsthand look at how this age-old craft has adapted to the modern era, becoming an integral part of the lives of those who seek not only style but also the confidence that comes with it.

**Lisette of L Makeup** - What inspired you to choose a career path in Barbering?

**Eduardo**- My journey into barbering began out of necessity and a deep passion. Growing up in a single-parent household, we couldn't afford regular barbershop visits, so I taught myself how to cut hair at a young age. By fifth grade, I was already pretty good at grooming my own hair. After high school, I joined the Navy, where I honed my skills further, becoming known for always looking sharp. I even started cutting hair for my fellow sailors, including my captain. This experience kickstarted my professional career, leading me to pursue cosmetology at Paul Mitchell School using my military education benefits. I wanted to be the most versatile barber, capable of serving all clients, regardless of background, and that drive eventually led to a world championship in 2017.



**Lisette of L Makeup** - What are the differences between a Barber and a Hairstylist?

**Eduardo**- The difference between Barbers and Hairstylists is quite straightforward. As a barber, I specialize in cutting men's hair and work with a barbering license. Hairstylists, on the other hand, typically focus on women's hair and work with a cosmetology license. Barbers often provide more detailed and precise edge work that you might not get from a hairstylist.

**Lisette of L Makeup** - What will a client experience when they sit in Eduardo's Chair

**Eduardo**- When clients sit in my chair, they can expect a little bit of everything. I bring high energy and high quality to every cut. I'm not just their barber—I'm also a therapist, a good listener, and someone who offers advice. My goal is to make them feel great and inspire others by being a positive example, showing that even those who come from the bottom can achieve greatness.



**Lisette of L Makeup** - Who are some celebrities and athletes you have as clients?

**Eduardo**- One of my biggest celebrity clients is Bad Bunny, who once paid \$1,000 for a haircut—the most I've ever been paid for a single cut. Athletes I love to have in my chair are Maxx Crosby from the Raiders and Caleb Plant, a middle-weight boxing title holder.

I thoroughly enjoyed my interview with Eduardo. In his free time, he stays active as a professional educator for Andis Clipper Company since 2018. He's also deeply committed to giving back to his community by attending charity events where he provides free haircuts for kids before they head back to school, especially for families who can't afford it. Eduardo understands the significant impact a good haircut can have on a child's confidence and does not want anyone to start school feeling embarrassed or bullied. His dedication to helping kids feel proud and self-assured is truly inspiring. As he puts it, "One of my favorite things to do is give back to the right people. It fulfills my heart. All glory to God, my Savior."





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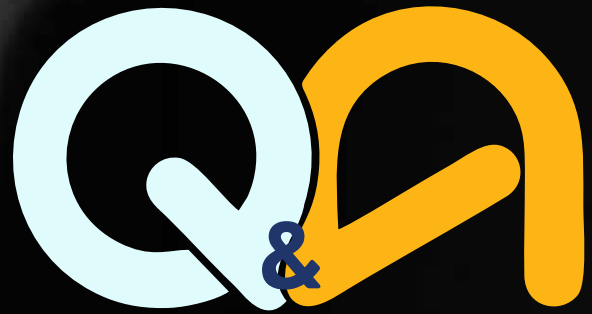
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## With the Real Perez Hilton

**RVM: What was your decision to move to Las Vegas, and how was it?**

**PH:** In 2018, I had the incredible opportunity to be the special guest celebrity emcee for Chippendales for eight weeks, allowing me to live like a local in Las Vegas. This experience opened my eyes to the city's unique lifestyle, such as the convenience of being home in just 15 minutes after work. Despite my wild past, I have grown to become more considerate, mature, and cautious with three children and my mother living with me. Moving to Vegas in January 2023 was a freeing and life-changing experience, breaking free from the fear that kept me in LA. I am grateful for the wonderful community in Las Vegas, where people are social and spontaneous. There's no shortage of activities to enjoy, especially with children!

**RVM: Did the move to Las Vegas go as you initially anticipated?**

**PH:** NO!!! It was a real challenge to sell my home in LA, and I believe in being straightforward about it. At the same time, I was also managing the construction of a house in Las Vegas. It's an experience that I won't be repeating, but ultimately, everything turned out well, and I'm truly thankful for that.

**RVM: How was your initial adjustment period after you moved here?**

**PH:** So hard. Moving is tough, especially with kids! There's so much to do – finding schools, doctors, dentists, and dealing with the DMV. Don't even get me started on that lol. It took time, but seeing my kids happy in our new home made it all worth



it. We love using our pool in Vegas, and we're enjoying more family time together. Plus, eating out has become a favorite activity, especially with my mom.

**RVM: Do you think most locals are aware or would be surprised to know that you have 3 amazing children and are a loving father?**

**PH:** I don't know if most locals know who I am. Vegas is a blank canvas and a fresh start for us! I even created a Vegas-specific Instagram handle, @lasvegasperez, for my Vegas audience.

**RVM: Your kids are so adorable and resilient. How did they adjust to living in Las Vegas? How are they doing now, and are they enjoying it since the move?**

**PH:** I am blessed to have happy, normal children! It's great having happy children. We've been coming to Vegas every year since they were born. It makes me happy that they're HAPPY!

**RVM: How do you feel about life in Las Vegas now that you've been here for over a year? We know you mentioned how awesome traffic is lol, and it is. But please tell us more about the quality of life in Las Vegas vs. Los Angeles.**

**PH:** Being in Las Vegas has truly been a game-changer! The REAL sense of community and strong values here are remarkable. LA doesn't hold a candle to what Vegas has to offer. I appreciate that Vegas embraces both red and blue, just like I do. The vintage vibes in Vegas are so my style. It's a city that exudes patriotism, and I love it. The locals here are always ready to lend a hand to the community - that's the kind of environment I thrive in. I'm a huge fan of the people and the city! The city recognizes and rewards hard work. If you're responsible and consistent, you're bound to succeed here. Vegas locals are reliable and honest, just like me. Even with my friends, I always show up and honor my commitments. I'm all about emulating the successful individuals here, like Bill Hornbuckle. What an inspiring success story. OH, and I LOVE the heat. It beats the cold any day of the week.

**RVM: You mentioned "the people and community," which we know is awesome. Has life improved for you and the kids now that you're settled?**

**PH:** Yes, I am excited for the future! I am more focused on projects and things I am trying to manifest into reality. I am exploring a restaurant concept that I am passionate about and well-prepared for. I'm passionate and prepared with an intelligent concept, mission, and name menu items. In the future, I am looking to partner with an experienced restaurateur. I also have a great interest in having a show in Vegas and love being on stage. The decision to move to Vegas was well





lifespan of an influencer is becoming shorter, but I continuously adapt to stay ahead of the latest trends. My "IT Girl" phase was in the past; I am now transitioning into my icon phase. It's truly rewarding that even after two decades, people still value and listen to what I have to say. News Nation recently invited me onto their show, and I'm grateful for the ongoing support.

**RVM: What would you tell people about "surviving" in life?**

**PH:** The key to success is setting the bar low for survival, then waking up and taking action. While surviving is good, achieving happiness is even better. By putting in the hard work, doing the heavy lifting, and being fully present, you can observe what's working and continue evolving. Last summer, I made a memorable appearance on the show "General Hospital," where I arrived early and fully prepared. That is important for your career and feeling good about achieving something. Happiness is attainable through focus, discipline, and consistent effort. I believe in persevering and forging ahead. Throughout high school, I coasted and was lazy. However, now I'm the complete opposite and more hardworking than ever!

“

**BEING IN LAS VEGAS HAS TRULY BEEN A GAME-CHANGER! THE REAL SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND STRONG VALUES HERE ARE REMARKABLE. LA DOESN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO WHAT VEGAS HAS TO OFFER.”**

**RVM: Why is working out so important for you?**

**PH:** I'm vain, but it's much deeper than just wanting to look good. It's important for my mental health as well. I know what it takes for me to be healthy: to eat healthy and stay active. I love working out and knowing that early in the morning, I've already accomplished multiple things. I go to the gym and bring the kids to school without distractions. I do group fitness classes like boot camp or spin because that's my jam.

**RVM: You're still in the spotlight after nearly 20 years, and we love your website and social media. How has it evolved since you started?**

thought out. While some people may not like that Vegas is becoming Hollywood 2.0, I personally appreciate it. I am excited about the new studio coming to Summerlin with Sony and how Vegas keeps growing. I am happy with how things are, and I am eager for more opportunities! I have an exceptional work ethic and believe that the Las Vegas community and government are receptive to entrepreneurs and new local businesses.

**RVM: Your mom is hysterical and so much fun. She has such a positive outlook and amazing energy. Yahoo News even wrote about her popularity. How is she adjusting to Las Vegas? She loves the casinos, lol.**

**PH:** Mom loves Vegas. She's happy here. Of course, as a mother, she is sad my sister chose to stay in LA, which I respect. But yes, she loves eating out and the slot machines!

**RVM: Your love for your audience and their return love for you is apparent. Can you tell us more about your audience and what makes them so special to you?**

**PH:** Yeah, I've dedicated 20 years to this work, and I've been fortunate to have a strong, loyal following. It's difficult to express the depth of their support. The





**PH:** I have been constantly evolving. At that time, I had no competition at all, NONE, not even from TMZ. Back then, celebrity magazines didn't post breaking news about celebrities on their websites, and I did. It wasn't easy, but the lack of competition helped me gain a lot of attention quickly. I continue to evolve on social media, through my podcast, website, daily live streaming, and other platforms. I also make TV appearances, act, host books, and focus on all these to ensure sustained success. Many people who found success only on YouTube are not around anymore. In 2014, they listed the top 10 mainstream YouTubers, and today, only one of those YouTubers is still relevant. I also love what I do, and entertaining people. In today's environment, it's important.



**RVM: How would you compare nightlife in Las Vegas to nightlife in Los Angeles?**

**PH:** Vegas is known for nightlife and service. LA is not. LA has last call about 1:30am. Personally, I prefer restaurants or once in a while a day club or a party brunch. Recently I had a friend in town and went to meet at the bar lounge about 11:30 and it was rough. Although I do like to dance.

I prefer Las Vegas for its nightlife and service, whereas Los Angeles is not as known for these. In LA, the last call is around 1:30 a.m. Personally, I enjoy going to restaurants and occasionally to a day club or a party brunch. Recently, when I met a friend at a bar lounge around 11:30 p.m., it was a bit rough because I have kids and a lot of responsibility, but I love to dance, so it was worth it.

**RVM: What are some things we can expect to see from you in the near future or goals that you are planning to focus on?**

**PH:** Collaborating with others in the community.

**RVM: Lastly, what does a REAL day in the life of Perez Hilton in Las Vegas look like?**

**PH:** I wake up early at 5:15 am so I can get to the gym by 6 am. Then, I go back home to take the kids to school and start a busy day. I create a lot of video content for social media. I've noticed that platforms like Facebook and Twitter tend to prioritize posts without links, photos, or videos to keep users engaged within their apps. So, I focus on creating more video content. I constantly check my direct messages and emails to see what's trending. Even though I'm always busy and exhausted, I'm extremely grateful for everything I have. In the evenings, I enjoy supporting local talent. For example, I like going to shows in Vegas such as Magic Mike, Chippendales, Thunder from Down Under, and many others. I recently went to support Murray Sawchuck's show, and I find it really enjoyable. Being a local, I appreciate the Las Vegas Strip, much like how some New Yorkers appreciate Times Square. I love the energy and atmosphere on the Las Vegas Strip, with all the tourists and people around.

**RVM: It's been a lot of fun interviewing you, Perez. Thank you so much for your time and incredible energy today.**



# REAL EATS

BY CHEF VIC

Happy Pumpkin Spice season to all our Real Vegas Magazine fam and friends! Even though this year it started in August as there's nothing like a pumpkin latte with a suntan lol. You figure the first month is EVERYTHING pumpkin spice, then it tapers out to a somewhat normal pace. Pumpkin spice toothpaste, cheerios, and bath salts should be on clearance by October 1st at Ross or TJ Max!

All pumpkin spice-o-rama aside, this is the time a year now where we can cut down on salads as well as summer foods to kick up the love for comfort cooking and eating. Whether





it's in your heritage or something you picked up along the way, or if you are a chef or a home cook wizard, We now get to unlock our inner holiday cooking skills. And when we go out to dine, we're reaching for some of the restaurants amazing fall and winter lineups. Plus, I must give love to Nevada Chefs for Kids! As this is the time of the year where they double down and make sure we educate and feed all our kiddos that need it! Be sure to visit us online at [Nevadachefsforkids.org](http://Nevadachefsforkids.org). I'm very proud of the organization and all we do for the kids in our community. I'm the President and let me tell you, we rock over there!

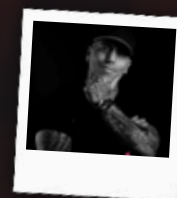
Fall and winter foods really brings back memories for me. And for someone like me being a chef from an ethnic family, I go within to find my inner home cook separating it from the chef in me. Not just for the holiday celebrations but for the entire season of the cooler weather. It's all about hitting home and revisiting those classic flavors. And it's not about eating unhealthily but adding the right seasonal bulk foods to your arsenal. Even simple meal prep with the use of root vegetables, sweet potatoes, yams, beets, and squashes can really satisfy your comfort food cravings from a healthy perspective. Roasting most winter squashes with cinnamon and nutmeg on it with some good fat butter and healthy oils would satisfy your sweet cravings but keep you in summer body mode. Meaning we are allowed to eat heavier, and it won't sacrifice our hard work from the summer if you followed a healthy regimen. I recommend you start dabbling into some of these fall and winter vegetables now, so by the time Thanksgiving comes and or your holiday celebrations, you will be the star of the show. These vegetables and good starches, have protein and will accommodate your meat proteins and all your main dish attractions. Plus, the health benefits are on high levels.

As far as where to dine – I recommend keeping an eye on and supporting your favorite restaurants as this is the time of the year where they will change things up on their menus and or add some amazing seasonal specials. This will give you a chance to be adventurous and shift from the staples you are used to eating upon your visits. And if you hear the words pumpkin and ravioli in the same sentence... You definitely need to dive right into that! You will thank me later.

Even though we will miss our Vegas style summer activities out here in the 702, us Vegas locals and those who visit love this time of the year because the fall and winter season has finally given us some reprieve from some of the hottest summers on earth! Sports and great television are in full effect, people and family get to spend more time with each other as the wonderful element of what's known as food – simply brings us all together.

I will leave it off like this... Let's enjoy this season before us. Let's recharge. Let's eat good. Let's have some fun with the people that mean the most to us. Let's help a friend. Let's help a stranger. And I'm looking forward to catching up with everyone in the new year as Real Vegas Magazine -Real Eats by Chef Vic will return in 2025 with some more hot restaurants to write about. And some amazing chefs to feature. This next year's lineup is going to be FIRE!

Much love to all – Have an amazing fall, winter and holiday season, and we will absolutely see you in 2025!





# Vegan in Vegas

## Keep On Truckin' with Simply PureLV



By Charles Karel Bouley II

A brick-and-mortar restaurant in any city, but particularly Las Vegas, can be expensive. That, coupled with that a successful restaurant needs to be in the right location to get foot traffic as well as drive-up customers means that many simply can't afford to take the gamble and open up. For some, they have a restaurant but then the expense becomes just too much, and they need to find another solution.

Enter the food truck.

Once reserved as lunch wagons and previously not seen for gourmet food, the era of the food truck has changed over the last decade. Now, world-class chefs and Michelin Starred restaurants operate them. They're mobile, you can bring the food to the crowd and the overhead is much, much less.

Vegan chefs have taken to food trucks, and it suits them extremely well. They can attend pop up events, festivals, and park near businesses that better align with their demographic.

Chef Stacey Dougan is thriving with her SimplyPureLV food truck. I first met her, and her killer Mamma Mia Lasagna, at the







container mall downtown. She had a small storefront there where she served her signature lasagna, incredible Mac-N-Cheese, and a variety of other dishes to tourists, locals, and a host of celebrities.

She closed there before Covid, but then got a food truck and brought her food back to Las Vegas with a bang. Now you can find her Mamma Mia Lasagna, Three Cheese Mac-n-Cheese, Nachos Grande, "Tuna" Chickpea salad wrap or BBQ jackfruit sliders with pineapple jalapeño sauce and a host of other goodies and specials all over the Las Vegas Valley and we're the better for it! Especially if she has her Southern Peach Cobbler with Graham Cracker crumble and vanilla Ice Cream.

The Simply Pure Food Truck was the first 100% Plant Based food truck in the state of Nevada. She started it with partner Michelli Kaltsas and it's their goal to be as environmentally friendly as possible, using locally sourced produce and crafting gourmet dishes all 100% vegan.

You can often find her at Lulu's All Vegan Vendor Market which is the only all vegan farmer's market in Las Vegas held monthly at Viva Ariva condos at 11055 Las Vegas Blvd. Lulu's Vegan also has a food truck and is another stellar choice for plant-based options on the go. SimplyPureLV even participated in the Super Bowl in Las Vegas as part of the official food service and was one of the few plant-based options.



Chef Stacey is very involved in holistic health and healing, a cannabis activist for healing and health and is dedicated to the health, well-being and stomachs of everyone in the Las Vegas valley and beyond. She has superstar clients as well as just regular folks that want the best vegan food trucks can offer. SimplyPureLV.com is where you can find menus, schedules and so much more and wherever she parks the truck, exceptional food is bound to happen.

It may take a little driving but finding one of the 10 food trucks that are plant based in Las Vegas is well worth it. Las Vegas had one of the fastest growing vegan communities in the United States, with restaurants and food truck springing up every few months. Now, these businesses face the same economic crunch that many in the field are encountering higher food costs, cost of doing business and beyond and we are losing some or they are beginning to expand their menus to include meat. Saffron, which was a vegan/vegetarian fine dining restaurant on Decatur now serves meat, and that's just sad really. We know from research that a plant-based diet is THE best for health, and the health of our planet. Having to regress serving a product that isn't good for people or the planet because of economics is just sad. That's why it's important to frequent places like SimplyPureLV, Lulu's and others as often as you can.

In the next issue, chef Herb Bae (da\_realvegangod on Instagram) has opened Jazzy Blu LV on Harmon for dinners Wed-Sun and we're going to go check it out!



To read more about these and other restaurants go to [veganinvegas.com](http://veganinvegas.com) and listen for reviews on **The Karel Cast** wherever you get your podcasts. Reviews are often featured at [youtube.com/reallykarel](http://youtube.com/reallykarel) so subscribe as well as [realvegasmagazine.com](http://realvegasmagazine.com) Send comments to [comments@veganinvegas.com](mailto:comments@veganinvegas.com)





# PARASOL CLINIC:

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Optimal Aging Expert,  
Erika Luren



There's a romantically posh feng shui to the marbled pink, white, and gold trellising of color that wraps the boutique clinic of Parasol Aesthetics, Dermatology & Wellness. With a feminine French feel, a nod to her favorite destination, Erika Luren, board-certified nurse practitioner and anti-aging and wellness expert, uplifts the minds and bodies of Las Vegas residents.

Erika has spent nearly two decades immersed in the science of maintaining youth and vitality in aging, with a focus on both the inside and out. Her first foray into entrepreneurship began after working 12 years in dermatology, where she tried the most expensive skin brands for free but felt dismayed at the results relative to their price points. This, along with a demand from older patients seeking trending ingredients with affordable price tags, led to the creation of Parasol Dermaceuticals. The skincare line was initially launched on Amazon and parasolderm.com and remains the foundation of Erika's personal skincare routine.

As she entered middle age, Erika's entrepreneurial spirit grew. She began rethinking the origins of beauty. Her experience taught her that beautiful skin comes from a healthy body, as reflected by our largest organ. As the adage goes, "The skin is

the window to the body." She realized that homeostasis of organ function, cellular processes, and hormones played a larger role in beauty and aging than what was traditionally conveyed in beauty lore. This insight fueled Erika's desire to delve deeper into the field, not only for herself but for others approaching perimenopause, menopause, and andropause. These ideals led to the creation of a space dedicated to anti-aging and beauty, culminating in the opening of Parasol Aesthetics,





Dermatology & Wellness Clinic in 2019. Here, Erika helps Las Vegas residents maintain their youthful glow.

At her clinic, classic cosmetic procedures like botulinum toxins, dermal fillers, PDO threads, micro needling, chemical peels, and lasers are offered, alongside two other specialties: dermatology and functional wellness. With her background as an entrepreneur and nurse practitioner, combined with a second master's in journalism and communications, Erika has also been featured as a medical expert in various media outlets, including television, radio, magazines, and public speaking events. Her expertise has made her a leading figure not only in cosmetics but also in dermatology, hormone balancing, medical weight loss, biohacking, and all things anti-aging.

"When you walk through the doors of my clinic, I hope it is a life-changing experience. My staff and I are here to make you feel comfortable and refine your beauty in a natural way. However, my greatest goal is to make you feel as amazing as you look, to walk with you down the path of health, and help you reclaim the version of yourself you once remembered," Erika Luren said.

Reclaim your youth with a consultation today by calling 702-560-6776!

**Erika Luren, RN, BS, MA, MS, NP**  
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# Holiday Home Organization

By Paula Lawrence -  
Inspired Closets



The holiday season is just around the corner—a time of warmth, gatherings, and celebration. But it is also a time when your home may begin to feel a bit chaotic. Whether you are hosting family dinners, welcoming out-of-town guests, or simply wanting to relax in a cozy space, a cluttered environment can dampen your holiday spirit. At Inspired Closets, we specialize in home organization, and we know how transformative a well-organized space can be. That is why we have compiled some expert tips to help you declutter and prepare your home for the holidays.

## 1. Start with a Plan

The key to successful organizing is planning. Before diving into any decluttering project, take a moment to assess your home. Walk through each room and identify the spaces that cause the most stress. Is it your kitchen that becomes crowded with holiday prep? Or the guest room filled with random items that have not found a home? Make a list of priority areas and set realistic goals. Having a roadmap will not only keep you focused but will also prevent burnout.

## 2. Declutter Room by Room

Decluttering can be daunting if you try to tackle the entire house at once. Instead, break it down by room or category. Begin with the areas that will be most frequently used during the holidays—your living room, dining room, kitchen, and guest areas. Within each space, assess every item. Does it serve a purpose? Does it bring you joy? If not, consider donating, selling, or recycling it. The more you let go, the more space you will create for what really matters—holiday cheer and quality time with loved ones.

## 3. Maximize Storage Solutions

Once you have decluttered, it is time to focus on organizing. Smart storage solutions can make a world of difference in keeping your space functional and clutter-free. Consider multi-functional furniture, such as ottomans with hidden compartments or shelves with baskets, to keep items tucked away. Utilize vertical storage by installing wall-mounted shelves in your kitchen or pantry for easy access to holiday ingredients. Clear containers or labeled bins are perfect for storing seasonal items, so you will know exactly where everything is when it is time to decorate.

## 4. Create a Guest-Ready Space

If you are hosting guests this holiday season, make sure they feel welcome with a cozy, well-organized space. Declutter the guest room by clearing out excess clothes, papers, or miscellaneous items that have accumulated. Make the bed with fresh linens and add a few thoughtful touches like a basket with toiletries, extra towels, and a note with Wi-Fi details. By preparing ahead, you will eliminate last-minute stress and allow your guests to feel right at home.

## 5. Simplify Your Holiday Décor

Holiday décor adds festive charm to your home, but it can also contribute to clutter if not managed properly. Before putting up new decorations, take inventory of what you already have. Do you really need five sets of string lights, or can you get by with just two? Store excess decorations neatly in labeled bins for next year and focus on choosing items that truly enhance your space. Sometimes, less is more—think minimal, elegant touches that add to your home's ambiance without overwhelming it.



The holidays should be a time of peace, not panic. By taking a little time to declutter and organize your home now, you will be able to enjoy the festivities in a stress-free, inviting space. A well-organized home is not about aesthetics; it is about creating an environment that brings comfort, relaxation, and joy to you and your loved ones. We always say, "Inspired days start in inspired closets."



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# 2024 Miss Silver State The Real Karen Tang



**K**aren Tang toured UC Berkeley as a child and when she expressed interest in attending, she was told that dream was too big for her. This fueled her to work even harder academically, while pursuing a myriad of extracurriculars. Not only was Karen admitted to UC Berkeley, but she was granted a scholarship to attend.

Karen Tang is an Operations Manager at Stripe. Currently, she is achieving management positions as a female in tech at companies like Google, Facebook, DoorDash, Stripe and has earned 5 Director Awards at Google for leadership. Karen is not just a beautiful person; she has career ambitions to continue shattering glass ceilings in the tech industry and achieve her goal of becoming a Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Karen has traveled to 25 counties and is a former Detroit Tigers MLB Cheerleader and Captain of Cal Cheerleading and stays active with hiking and yoga. She is challenging herself with new activities like golfing and hula dancing.



## Miss Silver State Pageants

Established in 2017 by Marissa Castillo, Miss Silver State Pageants is a space for contestants and clients to grow. It focuses on mindset and accountability to give each contestant a fulfilling experience. This program offers private training, group workshops, styling, stage time, and social media branding. Winners will have the option to continue to compete

at another pageant of choice or enjoy their reign as Miss Silver State, Miss Las Vegas, or Miss Southwest!

Miss Silver State Pageants is open to contestants ages 13-37. Teens must be 13-18 years of age by pageant day. Contestants ages 18-37 may or may not be married, with children, or have been married. They may also reside anywhere in the world.

The next pageant is November 10, 2024, at the Starbright Theater. Applications are being accepted till November 1, 2024. [misssilverstate.com](http://misssilverstate.com) Follow us on Instagram @[misssilverstate](https://www.instagram.com/misssilverstate).



Tianna Tuamoheloa, Co-Director and former Miss Silver State, and Marissa Castillo, Executive Director | Miss Silver State Pageants



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*If there's someone you believe deserves to be on this list for next year, please go nominate them online:*

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# FROM BELLHOP TO UFC KINGPIN: DANA WHITE

## REAL VEGAS 2024 MOST MAGNIFICENT MEN



Dana White's rise from humble beginnings to the pinnacle of the sports world is a story that embodies the spirit of Las Vegas—bold, resilient, and endlessly ambitious. As the President of the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), White has transformed the organization from a struggling company into a global powerhouse, with an estimated valuation exceeding \$4 billion. But his success isn't just the result of his business acumen; it's also deeply tied to the fighters who have helped him build the UFC into what it is today.

### Transforming the UFC into a Global MMA Powerhouse

When Dana White took over the UFC in 2001, the organization was on the brink of bankruptcy. Through relentless effort, strategic partnerships, and an instinct for spotting talent, White turned the UFC into a worldwide phenomenon. But it wasn't just the boardroom decisions that made the difference—it was the fighters who brought the drama and excitement to the Octagon. A prime example of this is when Dana brought in International Fight League (IFL)



Roy Nelson Gives Dana White a Gift After UFC 160







Heavyweight Champion Roy Nelson—me— to fight the iconic Kimbo Slice who was already a household name on **The Ultimate Fighter** (TUF) Season 10. My everyman look, charismatic personality, and undeniable skill played a pivotal role in making UFC's TUF 10 the most-watched season in the show's 32-season history.

### My Horn Toot!!!!

Winning Season 10 of **The Ultimate Fighter** was a turning point in my career. That season became one of the most watched in the show's history, showcasing my unique blend of talent, charisma, and relatability. With my mullet, unassuming physique, and knockout power, I was the kind of fighter fans could root for—an everyman who defied the odds and emerged victorious in a sport dominated by physical specimens. My appeal was universal, and it brought new viewers to the sport. If it weren't for Dana starting TUF with Season 1, he would never have expanded the MMA and the UFC's fanbase to new levels every year, solidifying the importance of TUF in the UFC's success.

Dana has often credited fighters with being the true stars of the UFC, and our stories, as much as our fights, are what made fans fall in love with the sport. I remember Dana once said, "Roy was one of the smartest guys on Earth," and that I was "a fucking genius," so I took a page out of his book and capitalized on the opportunity by making t-shirts. It's that kind of mutual respect and understanding of the sport and business that has kept the UFC thriving.

### Innovative Leadership and Risk-Taking

Dana White's leadership style is characterized by his willingness to take risks and push boundaries. Whether it was keeping the UFC going during the COVID-19 pandemic or orchestrating the Mayweather-McGregor boxing match, White has consistently demonstrated his ability to innovate and adapt. But it's also his eye for talent and his understanding of what the fans want that set him apart. By recognizing the value that fighters bring to the table, White has been able to build a brand that resonates with a broad audience.

In one of the most memorable promotional stunts in UFC history, Nate Diaz slapped Dana White during the lead-up to



his highly anticipated rematch with Conor McGregor at UFC 2022. The slap, known as the "Stockton Slap," was not an act of disrespect but rather a moment orchestrated by White himself to generate buzz for the fight. This incident highlights Dana White's willingness to go to extraordinary lengths to make a deal happen and keep the UFC at the forefront of sports entertainment.

### Expanding Beyond the Octagon

Beyond the UFC, Dana White has ventured into other entertainment fields, always with an eye on what could captivate an audience. His efforts to cross-promote and continuously evolve, such as hosting a UFC event at the Las Vegas Sphere or introducing new ventures like Power Slap and Thrill One Sports & Entertainment, demonstrate his versatility and broad appeal as a business leader. Yet, it's his work within the UFC, fueled by fighters and MMA legends, that truly cements his legacy.

### A Lasting Legacy in Las Vegas

Las Vegas has been at the heart of Dana White's operations from the very beginning. The city has benefited immensely from the UFC's success, with countless events held in Las Vegas driving tourism and economic growth. Dana embodies the dreamer's spirit of Vegas—the idea that if you take a gamble, you can win big. With the introduction of a state-of-the-art training facility for athletes, fighters like me who call Las Vegas home have only strengthened this connection. The city has not only served as the backdrop for the UFC's rise but has also been integral to the stories of its most beloved fighters.



### Conclusion

Dana White's journey from a bellhop to the President of a multi-billion-dollar enterprise is the embodiment of the American Dream. He took risks, faced countless challenges, and overcame them with sheer determination, helping make the UFC what it is today. For his transformative impact on the UFC, his innovative leadership, and his ability to recognize and elevate talent, Dana White is undoubtedly deserving of the title of one of **Real Vegas 2024's Most Magnificent Men**.

**About the Author:** Roy "Big Country" Nelson is a Las Vegas native and is a former 4x MMA Champion, UFC TUF Champion, Renzo Gracie Blackbelt, who now is partnered with Choice Life Care and their ambassador program.

For more information, please visit and follow: [roynelson.com](http://roynelson.com)

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## What is Ozempic Face?



With the increasing popularity of Ozempic and other GLP-1 (Glucagon-Like Peptide-1) medications for weight loss, "Ozempic Face" has become a popular term in the medical and aesthetic community. This term specifically refers to the effect of weight loss on one's face, rather than a particular effect from the medication itself. In the face and neck, it manifests as an increase in jowling, chicken/turkey neck, and hollowing of the cheeks. It is important to note that this class of medications do not specifically target the fat of the face and neck. What is more important is the increased rate and amount of weight loss these new drugs have proven to cause compared to weight loss drugs of the past.

### What are the Options to Treat Ozempic Face?

Non-surgical options include microneedling, PDO Threadlifting, and Dermal fillers such as Juvederm, Restylane, Sculptra, etc. Most of these treatments provide temporary or minimal results when it comes to addressing the global deflation of the face.

### Why is a Lower Facelift and Neck lift the best option for facial deflation of the face due to Ozempic and GLP-1 agonist drugs?

Due to the significant increase in laxity and sagging of lower facial skin and neck tissue from GLP-1 drugs, the most powerful (and semi-permanent) way to treat unwanted lax tissue is to physically tighten the lower face and neck. Non-surgical methods are not able to significantly tighten the underlying facial/neck muscles and skin.

### Can a Lower Facelift and Neck lift be performed under local anesthesia in patients who lost significant weight from use of GLP-1 Agonists?

A handful of surgeons are specially trained to perform cosmetic facial procedures, including a lower facelift and

neck lift, under local anesthesia. The overall risk of the procedure decreases significantly when general or IV anesthesia can be avoided. Recovery time typically is faster under local anesthesia. It is also cost effective, as there are no associated costs for a surgical center or anesthesiologist.

### When should I have my Lower Facelift and Neck lift after taking Ozempic?

It is advised that a patient should be fairly close to their ideal/goal weight before having a lower facelift with neck lift. Weight loss of more than 7% body weight can cause noticeable unwanted changes in the face. Thus, it is strongly recommended to be close to ideal weight (within 5%), when considering a lower facelift and neck lift in particular.

### Can I take have a lower facelift and neck lift while actively taking Ozempic or other GLP-1 Agonist medication?

It is safe to take this class of medication while having a Lower Facelift and Neck lift, especially when it is performed under local anesthesia. Many patients who have reached their goal weight continue to take GLP-1 medications for maintenance. These patients are the ideal candidates since they have reached their goal and hopefully keep their weight stable over time.



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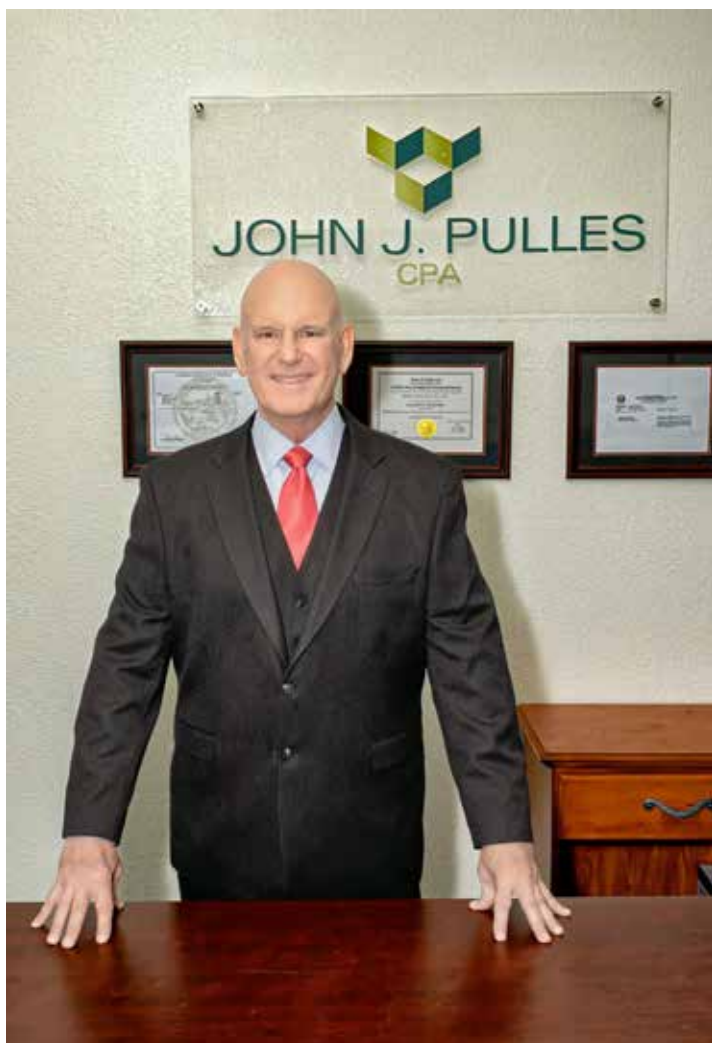
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Christian Purdie  
PHOTOGRAPHY

# The Artistry of Christian Purdie Photography



In the competitive world of photography, few professionals manage to distinguish themselves with the same level of artistry and innovation. Known for his dynamic and detail-oriented approach, Christian has become a respected figure in the industry, combining creativity, technical skill, and emotional depth in every shot.

## A Passionate Beginning

The photographer's journey began at a young age, fueled by a deep love for visual storytelling. Growing up in an environment rich with natural beauty and cultural vibrancy, he developed a keen eye for capturing life's fleeting moments. This early passion led to a formal education in photography, where he honed his skills and laid the foundation for a successful career.

His early career was marked by exploration and experimentation, trying out different styles and techniques. Each step in his professional development reflected a relentless pursuit of excellence. Establishing his own photography business was a significant milestone, marking the beginning of a journey that would lead to widespread recognition. Today, Christian Purdie Photography is synonymous with high-quality, evocative imagery that resonates with a broad audience.

## A Distinctive Style

One of the most defining aspects of his work is its distinctive style. This photographer is known for meticulous attention to detail, a mastery of lighting, and a deep understanding of composition. His ability to blend traditional and contemporary techniques results in photographs that are both classic and modern, appealing to a diverse range of tastes.

His portfolio is extensive, covering everything from portraits and fashion to commercial and event photography. Regardless of the subject matter, his images consistently convey authenticity and emotion. He doesn't just capture moments; he captures the

essence of the people and places within them. This storytelling ability through the lens sets his work apart from others in the field.

## Impactful Work and Recognition

In the realm of commercial photography, he has worked with a variety of high-profile clients, consistently delivering images that exceed expectations. His work has been featured in numerous publications and exhibitions, further establishing his reputation as a top-tier photographer. The critical reception to his work has been overwhelmingly positive, with many praising his innovative approach and technical expertise.

The impact of his work extends beyond just the commercial sphere. His photographs have a way of connecting with viewers on a deeper level, evoking emotions and telling stories that resonate long after the images are seen. This connection is what makes his work not just visually stunning but also profoundly meaningful.

## Looking Forward

As Christian Purdie Photography continues to evolve, there is no doubt that he will keep pushing the boundaries of his craft. Future projects promise to be as innovative and impactful as his past work, with a continued focus on capturing the beauty and complexity of the human experience.

Christian Purdie Photography is more than just a business; it is a testament to the power of visual storytelling. Through his lens, he captures life's essence, creating images that are both beautiful and meaningful. His work continues to inspire and captivate, leaving a lasting impression on all who encounter it.



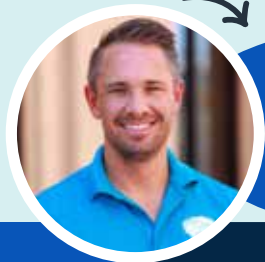


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**MICHAEL B. LEE, PC**  
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Mike is a life-long Native Nevadan with contacts to both Northern and Southern Nevada. He has substantial experience in the areas of car accidents / personal injury, commercial and business law, premise liability, insurance defense, and Appeals before the Nevada Supreme Court, Ninth Circuit, and United States Supreme Court. Mike won several judgments in excess of \$1 Million. Additionally, he has successfully defended / prosecuted countless cases involving commercial real estate/construction defect, wrongful death dispute, and Premise Liability claims.

Mike's trial experience includes both jury and bench trials in civil and criminal matters, and immigration removal hearings. As to Mike's dedication to the client, the reviews speak for themselves. Clients have consistently praised Mike for his dedication to them where he always provides them with honest advice. Moreover, he does not believe in overcharging clients or charging them for areas where they do not need an attorney. Mike believes that the attorney-client relationship begins and ends with honest communication, and he strives to meet this expectation since he values his role in the client's life.



**Congratulations to Michael Lee for being named a 2024 Most Magnificent Men of Las Vegas!**

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# VISIT VEGAS PLACES PODCAST – THE REAL COYAL HARRISON III

## Tell us about yourself – what is your background?

My name is Coyal Harrison III, host of Visit Vegas Places with Coyal. My podcast highlights guest who are business owners and entrepreneurs in Las Vegas. I also interview business owners around the nation on "Vegas Ventures Off" edition of the show. I write, film, edit and produce the content for the show. Feel free to follow us on any social media platform @visitvegasplaces - My background is a corporate trainer and operations manager. I love teaching and developing new skills for creators.

## Why did you get into podcasting?

To create a broader reach for business owners and entrepreneurs to be seen by locals, travelers and tourists that are not promoted in the Las Vegas mainstream media. I also found the opportunity in podcasting to teach and develop listeners to improve life behaviors and build the confidence to start their own business by inspiring them with constructive interviews and vital questions. I also dreamed of having my own Late Nite Show; so, podcasting was the cheapest investment to start my dream!

## How did the idea for the show come about?

I started reviewing food establishments in Las Vegas with my family to create content and share the good

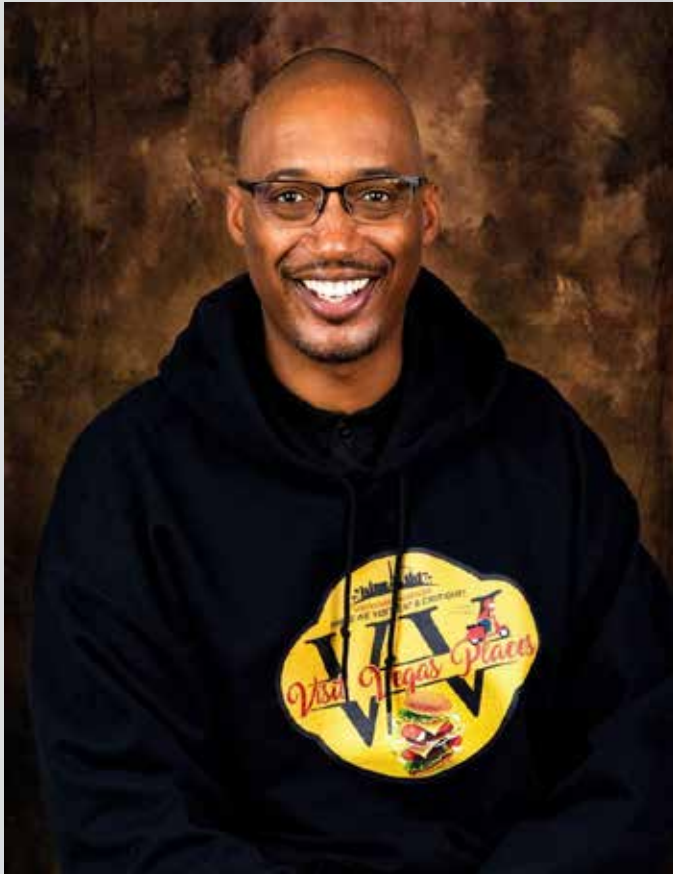
My podcast is about highlighting business owners and entrepreneurs in Las Vegas. I aim to ask questions my audience will learn from to gain wisdom and apply it to their own business or hobby. My guests not only promote their business but also provide best practices pertaining to the field their services are in. As a business owner myself I like to indulge in podcast shows that teach new skills or refresh you on habits and behaviors that lead to success.

Each episode features a Las Vegas business owner promoting their services while providing knowledge on how to enter the same field and key steps to take first. I also run segments of Vegas Ventures off where I interview business owners across the world.

"REAL VEGAS,  
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WITH REAL OWNERS"







news via Google Maps where we have over 40+ million views. While visiting the restaurants I became more familiar with business owners and chefs around the city. After hearing their amazing stories while creating content for them, I thought what I can create to be able to share their amazing stories to the entire world. That was the birth of the podcast!

#### **What do you hope listeners take from the show?**

Business owners/ Entrepreneurs will take away best practice and new ideas to building and running a business efficiently. Also find out what owners are doing in different fields. 2. Travelers will take away new establishments to visit when in Las Vegas and the story behind their owners. Whether they are locals or cross-

#### ***Testimonial for Visit Vegas Places:***

*"Coyal Harrison III, the founder of Visit Vegas Places is an authority and ambassador on all things Las Vegas. His online channel, Visit Vegas Places, is quite impressive. He has interviewed hundreds of movers, shakers, taste makers, creators, and business owners. His cool videos and podcasts showcase interesting people doing unique things. Having built one of the best resources online about Las Vegas, Coyal has very much become a cultural historian of what's happening in the town he loves and lives in."*

***Michael K. Stark - "Wall of \$100's"  
(Featured on Season 4 Episode 14)***

country travelers, everyone loves a "NEW GEM". 3. Tourists will take away the emotion of knowing the owner and feel connected through the show by listening & viewing content.

#### **What's been the biggest challenge for you?**

The biggest challenge for me is reaching out for help and trusting someone else will understand my vision of Las Vegas and the show. You cannot do this alone!

How can your listeners support your show?

We love our supporters who enable us to reach more business owners to promote to the world, you can support by leaving a review on any podcast streaming platform.

#### **Any future plans that you'd like to share?**

Be prepared as Visit Vegas Places goes video/live with new footage of behind the scenes with business owners and subscription access to footage with business owners who run businesses for the Las Vegas after hour clientele. Yes, Vegas after midnight! You will start to hear more constructive advice from Coyal as he shares some of his obstacles and best practices on how to overcome them during interviews with business owners.

**I started out reviewing restaurants in Las Vegas on Google Maps for business owners at no charge. While my family and I would go to the establishment we had planned out weeks prior to the visit, we would end up meeting interesting owners that would sit with us to give background stories on how their empire was built. After so many stories I thought, this should be shared with the world in some form or fashion. That began the birth of Visit Vegas Places with Coyal the podcast.**



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*Congratulations*

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# A New Era in Filmmaking Takes Flight!

In a bold move that's set to shake up the film industry, veteran filmmaker Chris Peschken is making headlines with the launch of his ambitious new project, Vegas Film Industries. With headquarters in the heart of Las Vegas, Peschken is on a mission to redefine what it means to make movies today—keeping it clean, family-friendly, and filled with heart.

That's right, folks—no nudity, no foul language, and no graphic violence. It may sound like a revolutionary stance in today's Hollywood, but for Peschken, these are the core principles that will guide his future film studio and production company. "We're bringing back the golden age of cinema," Peschken says, "but with a fresh, modern twist that resonates with today's audiences."

Filming some of the movies in 35mm analog film, taking inspiration from the classic film noir and the timeless movies of the 1940s and '50s, Peschken's vision is clear: human interest stories, top writers, actors, and directors, and a strong emphasis on storytelling over flashy CGI and excessive VFX. "Our films will be profit-oriented, but not at the expense of quality," he asserts.

The centerpiece of this grand plan? A colossal 90,000 square-foot warehouse in Las Vegas that Peschken is converting into state-of-the-art sound stages. With plans to finance and produce up to 20 feature films annually, Vegas Film Industries is poised to become a major player in the industry, both domestically and internationally. While most interior scenes will be shot in their Vegas studio, Peschken assures

that the company's reach will extend far beyond the Strip, embracing global production opportunities.

With production budgets ranging from \$1 million to \$3 million per film, Peschken is confident in his ability to deliver quality content at a fraction of Hollywood's typical costs. And while other studios might be drawn to Vegas for tax benefits, Peschken chose the city for its status as an international hub and its favorable, economically sound infrastructure and vast potential for future expansion.

Investors are taking note. According to Peschken, many backers come from outside the traditional entertainment industry, creating what he describes as a "pure financial backing environment." Using a nearly scientific approach to investments, his financial partners are committed to maximizing shareholder value while maintaining creative integrity.

But it's not just about dollars and cents. Peschken is also dedicated to giving back to the community by training the next generation of filmmakers, much like his mentor, the late Roger Corman. This commitment to nurturing young talent is at the heart of Vegas Film Industries' mission.

With a logo that proudly features Nevada's national bird, the bald eagle, Vegas Film Industries embodies freedom, strength, and sharp vision—attributes that Peschken believes will set the tone of his company.

Stay tuned as this exciting venture takes flight, promising to bring a new kind of approach to create cinematic magic.





## VIP TALKING ABOUT THEIR BELOVED PETS

SHARING THE ADVENTURES, THE CHALLENGES,  
AND WHY THEIR PETS MEAN SO MUCH.

By Ronnie F. Lee

AN INTERVIEW WITH

### ROBERT FERGUSON A.K.A. **FERGIE**

**Ronnie:** Robert Ferguson, AKA Fergie, give me a short bio and an elevator introduction about who you are and what you've done.

**Fergie:** Well, my name is Robert Ferguson, also known as Fergie. I've been DJing for 32 years. I'm originally from Ireland and started coming to the States in 1998. I have a residency in Las Vegas at Omnia Nightclub, Wet Republic Day Club, and Hakka-san Nightclub. I also play regularly at XS at the Wynn and still tour the world. At least twice a month, I go back to Europe. I also make music, have my studio set up in Las Vegas, and I am a doggy dad.

**Ronnie:** Tell us a little bit about your two dogs, starting with their names, their breeds, and how long you've had them.

**Fergie:** So, the first dog my wife and I got is a bully mix. We got him from the pound; he cost us \$90, he's 8 years old. His name is Ziggy Stardust, and he has quite unique markings on his face that are reminiscent of David Bowie's Ziggy Stardust. We wanted to get a dog from the pound and we specifically wanted a pit bull. When we went into the pound, it was very obvious that we could have had our pick of many. The reason



why we actually didn't go with a pit bull is because they were so angry, they seemed to be so mad at me. I hadn't even done anything to them but they seemed so angry, and I was worried about that. The funny thing is, they were fine with my wife and I was like, well that's OK for her but, you know, I live in the house too. I still wanted to get a dog and I liked the thought of saving a dog. The rescue called us up because a pit bull mom had three babies there. We went over to see them but by the time we got there, they had been taken. We were in the grass area of the pound and this little puppy, which we thought was a pit bull, kept running to us even though it had been taken by another person. He just kept coming over to us and the guy who was thinking about adopting him said, "This is awkward, I've just got this dog and he keeps coming over to you guys, do you wanna take him?" I'm like, 100%, so that's kind of how that happened.

**Ronnie:** So, he actually picked you.

**Fergie:** Yes, he picked us both. We were told he was a pit bull because his mom was a pit bull and his mom got taken in off the streets so we're like, oh brilliant, we can get a pit bull.

**Ronnie:** I've seen Ziggy, and if Ziggy's a pit bull and his mom's





a pit bull, then his mom probably got violated by a dachshund because he's a little guy.

**Fergie:** So, because we really wanted to be as caring parents as we could, we kind of let him grow up a little bit first before he went and had his DNA done. They said the father, and I would love to have seen this father because he must have been so confident to approach this pit bull bitch, but they said it was a Shih Tzu. My mind has kept me happy ever since, but yeah, there were a lot of different things going on in there.

**Ronnie:** You got a second dog too, right?

**Fergie:** Yes, we have a second dog, and he is a Great Dane. He thinks he's the size of the other guy, but he's not. His name is Zion Moon. He's a Merle Great Dane and he's 8 years old. There's about six months between them; he's younger. He's small for a Great Dane, about 120 lbs. He was tiny when we had to take him away from his mother at 8 weeks old, which is way too young for a big breed dog. At the time, they just said they had Great Danes, right? And they were like, "Must get rid of



this!" It was some weird advert, something that struck me about it. We picked him up on the 4th of July, but when I went there, I was shocked at how small they all were. They were basically like, "These have to go today, we don't want these dogs." So, we were like, "Well, we'll take him,". He was kind of sick for the first year we had him, and I think because he got taken away from his mother so young, he just didn't grow properly.

**Ronnie:** How did the two dogs get along?

**Fergie:** Unbelievably well. They're best friends. They do absolutely everything together. They still lay together, sleep together, stuff like that. Both are males, and we've neutered them both.

One thing we were never told was that long-bodied dogs with



short legs are prone to back issues. One day, Ziggy just couldn't walk. His legs gave out completely. I was actually on a plane traveling to the UK for a show, but my wife took him to a veterinary clinic. They kept him overnight and tried to treat him, but they didn't have an X-ray machine, so they couldn't see what was wrong. The next day, they told us he was deteriorating and that we needed to take him to a neurologist who would have the proper equipment. So, I got on a plane straight back to Vegas and met them at the neurologist's office.

The neurologist took an X-ray and then a spinal tap to see if there was an infection. It turned out he had something called a fibrocartilaginous embolism (FCE), a sort of stroke in the spine. It was completely random; there was nothing we could have done to prevent it. The prognosis was either he would recover or he wouldn't, and there was no way to know. We had to wait and see. Fortunately, Ziggy made a full recovery after a month of rehab and lots of tender loving care.



FOR FULL INTERVIEW PLEASE VISIT [REALVEGASMAGAZINE.COM](http://REALVEGASMAGAZINE.COM)

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