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Ski culture has always lived at the intersection of performance, fashion, and freedom, but today, technology is redefining that crossroads in ways that feel straight out of the future.

From AI-assisted design studios to jackets that actively manage your body heat, modern ski-wear and equipment are no longer just about staying warm and upright. They're about precision, personalization, and purpose, with sustainability woven into nearly every layer.

On the apparel side, smart materials are quietly doing the heavy lifting. Adaptive fabrics now respond to body temperature and activity levels, dynamically adjusting insulation so skiers stay warm on the lift and cool on the descent, without constantly shedding or adding layers. Integrated heating elements in gloves, mittens, and boot liners have become slimmer and more efficient, powered by lightweight batteries with adjustable warmth levels that keep extremities functional even in bitter cold. Anti-microbial coatings reduce odor during long days on the mountain, while reflective textiles and built-in lighting elements enhance visibility during storm skiing or late-afternoon laps.

Sustainability has moved from buzzword to baseline. Brands are increasingly relying on recycled polyester and nylon, non-PFC waterproof treatments, and plant-based or low-impact insulations. These eco-conscious materials don't sacrifice performance; instead, they reflect a broader industry push to align high-tech innovation with environmental responsibility. Even membrane technologies, the unsung heroes of ski jackets, are being scrutinized more closely by consumers. Gore-Tex and eVent, for example, both rely on waterproof ePTFE membranes, but their philosophies differ. Gore-Tex's protective polyurethane layer prioritizes durability and warmth, while eVent's open-pore "direct venting" approach offers immediate breathability for high-output skiers willing to commit to more frequent care. The choice increasingly comes down to how, and where you ski.



Equipment, meanwhile, is undergoing its own intelligent evolution. Skis are lighter and stronger thanks to blends of carbon fiber and advanced composites that deliver stability and responsiveness without excess weight. Boots are becoming more personal than ever, with 3D scanning and printing technologies enabling custom-fit shells and liners that improve energy transfer while eliminating pressure points. Systems like BOA are replacing traditional buckles, offering micro-adjustable precision with a quick twist of a dial.

Perhaps the most dramatic shift is the rise of embedded intelligence. Wearable sensors now live inside boots, bindings, helmets, and backpacks, collecting data on balance, pressure, speed, and airtime. Paired with smartphone apps, this information translates into real-time coaching and post-run analysis, helping skiers fine-tune technique with the kind of feedback once reserved for elite athletes.

>>> MORE FASHION SKI TECH >>>

FASHION SKI TECH

Continued...

Digital coaching platforms, like sensor-based ski trainers, even deliver audio cues mid-run, turning the mountain into a live training ground.

Goggles and helmets have also become command centers. Augmented reality head-up displays can project speed, altitude, navigation, and performance metrics directly into a skier's field of vision, while adaptive lenses automatically adjust tint based on changing light conditions. Smart helmets integrate Bluetooth communication, music, and impact sensors that can trigger emergency alerts if a crash is detected. It's safety, entertainment, and connectivity rolled into one sleek shell.

Speaking of safety, innovation is making the biggest difference where it matters most, especially in the back-country. Avalanche airbag backpacks are now lighter and more ergonomic, inflating instantly to help keep skiers closer to the surface during a slide. Integrated GPS, motion sensors, and RECCO reflectors dramatically improve search-and-rescue response times. Helmets featuring rotational impact protection systems reduce the risk of brain injury, while flexible, impact-absorbing protective apparel provides serious coverage without sacrificing mobility.

All this tech-forward performance doesn't mean style has taken a backseat. In fact, ski fashion is thriving. Retro influences from the 70s and 80s are back in a big way, with neon colors, bold graphics, and one-piece suits sharing space with timeless black-and-white minimalism. Streetwear collaborations between technical outerwear brands and high-fashion labels continue to blur the line between slope-ready gear and everyday style, creating pieces that look just as at home in the lodge, or the city, as they do on a powder day.



Behind the scenes, artificial intelligence is accelerating the entire design process. Generative AI and 3D prototyping allow brands to test fits, materials, and silhouettes faster than ever, while data-driven customization tools help shoppers find gear tailored precisely to their body type, skiing style, and conditions. The result is equipment and apparel that feel less mass-produced and more personally curated.



Taken together, these advancements are reshaping the skiing experience. Real-time data empowers skiers to improve performance, smarter safety systems reduce risk, and interactive technology draws in a new generation raised on digital engagement.

Skiing may still be about gravity and snow, but the future of the sport is undeniably intelligent—layered with innovation, stitched with sustainability, and styled for a world where performance and personality go hand in hand.

- by Nate Daniels

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TRAVEL

WHAT IF YOUR VACATION Could Help Change Lives?

by: Mike At Night

The LGBTQIA+ travel agency recently unveiled "You Travel, We Donate", a first-of-its-kind initiative that quietly, weaves the idea of philanthropy, into every booking.

The concept is quite simple. Travelers book cruises, resorts, or global adventures through Pride And Passport as they normally would, and a portion of each trip is automatically donated to organizations supporting LGBTQIA+ rights, youth, and community wellbeing, at no additional cost to the traveler.

What's impressive is that it's not a limited-time promotion, or a checkbox at checkout. Giving is built directly into the company's business model. "Travel should be joyful, inclusive, and empowering, and now it also fuels real change," says the founder of Pride And Passport. "Every booking becomes an act of community support."

Donations are shared among three nationally recognized nonprofits: the Human Rights Campaign, which advocates for LGBTQIA+ equality and legal protections across the United States; The Trevor Project, the leading provider of crisis intervention and suicide-prevention services for LGBTQIA+ youth; and True Colors United, an organization dedicated to ending LGBTQIA+ youth homelessness through innovative programs and policy change.

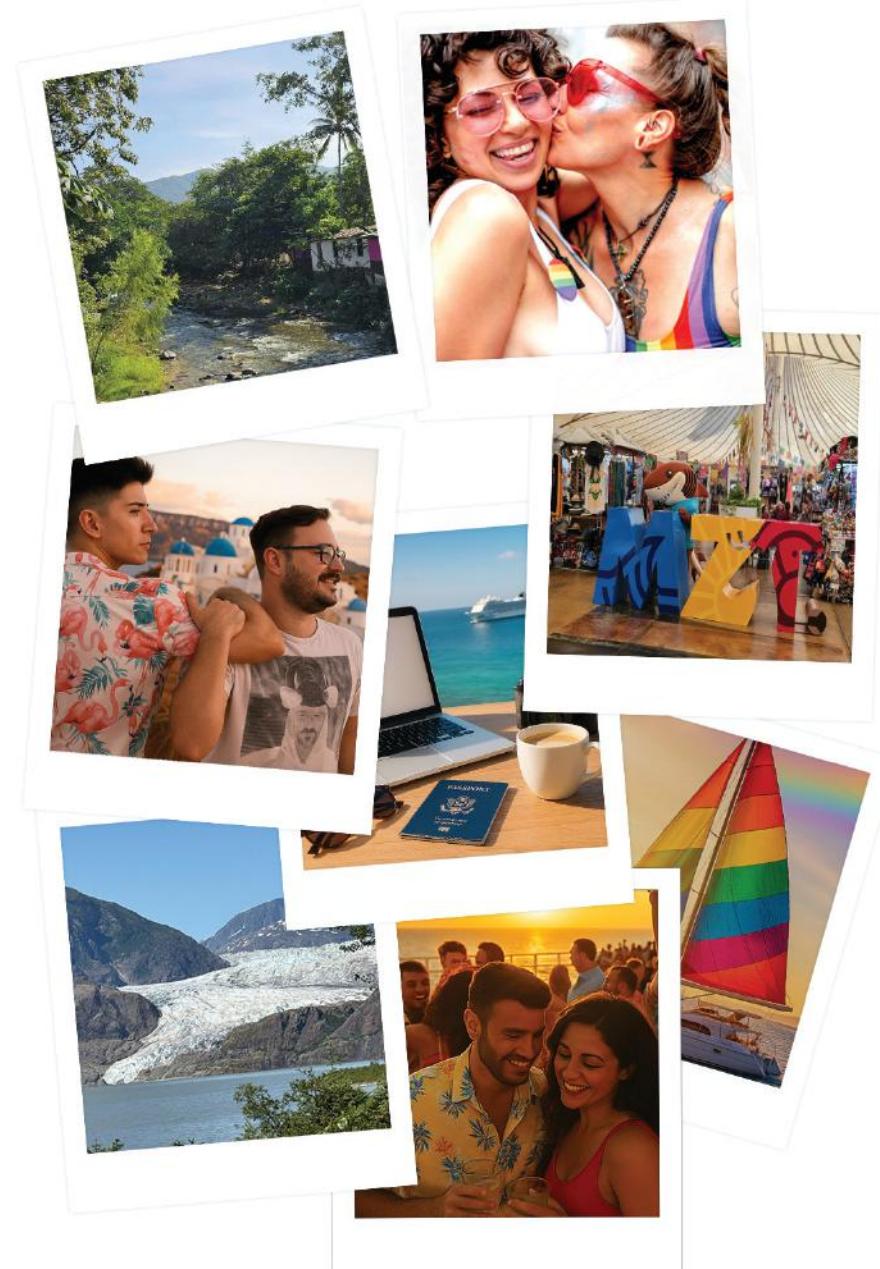
The timing of the initiative couldn't be more relevant. LGBTQIA+ communities continue to face disproportionate challenges, from higher rates of homelessness and discrimination to significant mental health disparities. In that context, Pride And Passport's approach feels both thoughtful and necessary. The message is as clear as it is compelling: when you travel with Pride And Passport, your journey doesn't end at the destination. It sparks change.

For more info. about "You Travel, We Donate" or to plan a trip, visit www.PrideAndPassport.com, or call Pride And Passport travel agency at 1-877-609-BOOK (2665), and tell 'em boiMAGazine sent ya!

In a travel industry often focused on indulgence and escape, Phoenix based Pride And Passport is asking...



PRIDE AND PASSPORT
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In CONCERT

JORGE SUAREZ "OUT 'N' ABOUT" COLUMN

Photos and Review, by Bill Hallquist

STEVIE NICKS didn't just play Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on December 10, 2025, she transformed it. What was supposed to be the final stop on her 2025 tour felt more like a gathering place, where memory, emotion, and decades of music collided in the best way possible.

When Stevie walked onstage, wrapped in her unmistakable black layers and backlit by moody, dramatic lighting, the reaction was instant. The room erupted. After more than 50 years in the spotlight, she still knows how to command it without saying a word!

Her voice, shaped by time and experience, sounded rich and grounded from the first song. There was no attempt to outrun the past or recreate old versions of herself.

"The Chain" landed with serious weight. Long tied to Fleetwood Mac's tangled history, the song felt especially powerful live. As the beat kicked in and the chorus rose, the crowd locked in, singing along instinctively. It wasn't perfect or polished, it was real, and that's what made it hit.

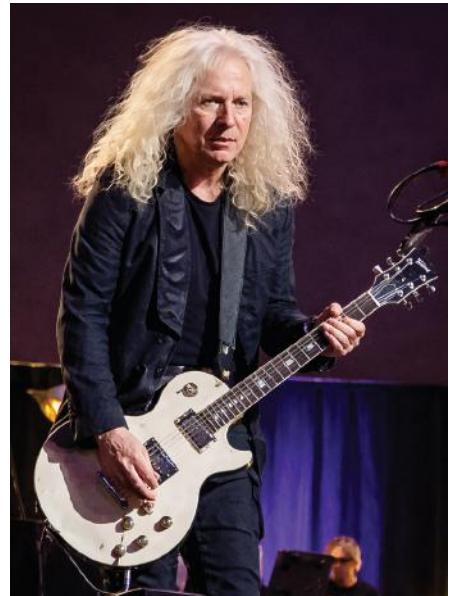
Then came "Rhiannon," and the room shifted. The performance felt almost ritualistic, like Stevie wasn't just singing the song but summoning it. The crowd swayed, completely pulled into the mysticism and mythology that's kept the song iconic for decades. Even now, it still casts a spell.

"Gypsy" slowed things down and turned the night inward. It felt reflective, tender, and deeply personal, Stevie looking back with clarity instead of regret. You could feel the audience connecting their own lives to the lyrics, the room growing quieter as every word landed.

And of course, "Edge of Seventeen" blew the doors open. Those opening notes sent a jolt through the crowd. Stevie delivered it with fire and confidence, standing tall in her legacy. It wasn't nostalgia, it was power. The audience sang along like it was a victory lap.

One of the most emotional moments came with her tribute to Tom Petty during "Free Fallin." Simple, heartfelt, and clearly personal, the performance felt like a shared moment of remembrance.

The crowd listened in near silence before breaking into applause that felt more like gratitude than noise.



Between songs, Stevie talked, really talked. Her stories were loose, funny, sometimes bittersweet, and never over-rehearsed. It felt less like stage banter and more like a conversation.

As the final show of the tour, the night carried extra meaning, but it never felt like a goodbye. It was clear everyone had witnessed something rare. Not just a great concert, but a moment worth holding onto.

Special thanks to South Florida DJ and nightlife veteran Bill Hallquist for attending the show and photos from this night.

>>> MORE OUT 'N ABOUT >>>

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OUT 'N' ABOUT

by Jorge Suarez

OUT OF THE PAST RECORDS

There are record stores you visit, and those you experience. Out Of The Past Records, on the West Side at 4407 W. Madison Avenue, is the kind of store that reminds you why music collecting isn't just about what you buy, but about how you feel.



I was fortunate to stop in awhile back while gathering photos and video for boiMAGazine, and what hit me first wasn't just the sheer amount of music, it was that this place matters. It matters to the neighborhood, the DJs and collectors who've been coming for years, including anyone who believes Chicago's music culture is something worth protecting.



During my visit, I met **Marie**, one of the owners, along with her granddaughter **Vanessa**,

and I also met some of the friendliest staff you could ever hope to run into, including Anthony and June. They weren't just "working the floor." They were welcoming people in, answering questions, pointing folks toward sections, and treating customers like regulars, even if it was their first time through the door.

That kind of warmth isn't an act. It's a tradition.

If you're looking for a trendy, minimalist boutique with a few curated bins, and a scented candle burning in the corner, this isn't like that.

Out Of The Past is proudly the opposite. It's a crate-digger's paradise, the kind of store where you'll think you've seen it all... and then you turn a corner and there's more.

People don't come here to rush. They come here to explore. And that's the magic: records you didn't expect to see, artists you haven't thought about in years, labels you recognize instantly, and deep cuts that feel like they've been waiting for the right person to come along.



The shop is widely known for old-school genres that helped shape Chicago's musical identity, blues, R&B, soul, jazz, funk, disco, plus plenty of other lanes depending on what you're hunting for.

Stories about Out Of The Past often describe it as somewhere customers return to again and again, not only to find records, but to see familiar faces, talk music, swap memories, and feel at home for a little while. And that's exactly the feeling I got during my visit.



When you first walk in, you're surrounded by soundtracks, but you're also surrounded by people who love those soundtracks, and that's a rare thing.



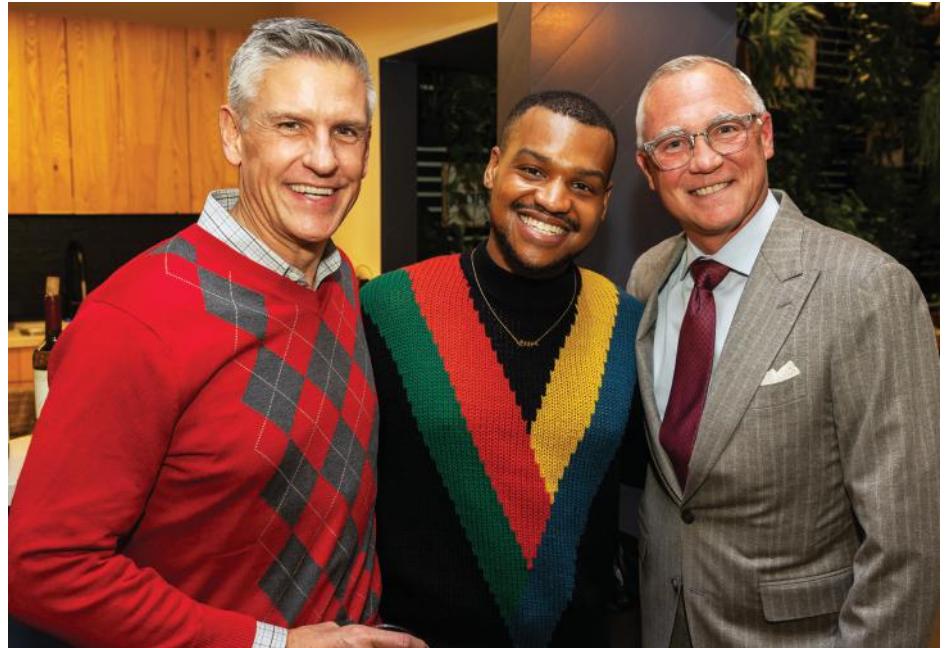
The year closed on a high note for Illinois' LGBTQ+ business

community with the 2025 Winter Soirée, a signature celebration hosted by the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois and the LGBT Business Foundation of Illinois. Held on December 17, 2025, the evening brought together business leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs, and allies under a powerful and timely theme: Unity in Diversity. The result was not just a party, but a meaningful moment of connection and reflection that captured the spirit of a community moving forward together.



Set against the backdrop of a year marked by growth, resilience, and collaboration, the Winter Soirée served as both a celebration and a pause—a chance to recognize achievements while looking ahead. Guests mingled with community and corporate partners, enjoyed live entertainment and uplifting performances, and explored a silent auction and community spotlight wall that highlighted the people and organizations helping shape Illinois' LGBTQ+ business landscape. With thoughtfully curated hors d'oeuvres, drinks flowing, and conversation filling the room, the atmosphere was warm, welcoming, and unmistakably optimistic. Photos from the December 17 event accompany this article, capturing the energy and elegance of the evening.

The theme, Unity in Diversity, resonated throughout the night. It honored the perseverance of LGBTQ+ businesses and professionals and underscored a simple but powerful truth: progress is strongest when built through collaboration and solidarity. The soirée wasn't just about celebrating the past year; it was about building momentum for what comes next.



Winter Soiree

As January 2026 unfolds, the Chamber has already shifted its focus to a new slate of networking opportunities, professional development programs, and community-driven initiatives designed to support members throughout the year. Those interested in upcoming events can find the most current information on the official LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois website. Special thanks to **Rick Aguilera** for providing the photos of the event!

by: Mike at Night

 **RICK
AGUILAR**
STUDIOS





Ask Char Q & A

Q I've had what I thought was good friend that unexpectedly friend stopped talking to me, and turned against me. When I finally cornered him, he said to my face "you were never my friend!" It hurt because never over the years he gave any indication of that. I'm confused, why would a friend, suddenly turn against me, without even talking to me?

A There is no doubt about it. Even a good, seemingly strong friendship can go sour. You ask what can cause a friend to suddenly "turn against you"? Friends and friendships can change in an instant due to a number of factors. Know that the reasons are usually about what is going on with them, and not what you are doing wrong in the relationship. Friends can "turn against you" because there is something happening for you that is making them feel jealous. Maybe you recently accomplished something that is making them feel insecure about themselves. Maybe their stated feelings about you and your friendship are really a reflection of a situation in their own life that they are projecting onto you.

To the friend that says you are no longer a friend, I would suggest a phone call, to the other, perhaps a handwritten letter. If nothing else, you will have made known your investment in them as people and as friends. You will be able to state your case and perhaps recapture a friendship or, at least, go out as the bigger person, with closure, and well-wishes. Be careful to monitor what you put in writing. Make it clear that you care now and in the past and you just want to clear the air and are willing to say goodbye or start over, whatever seems the best fit for you and your mental health.



Perhaps as you are writing, you may be able to see that there were behavioral patterns that were showing the potential for a friendship blowup, and blowout! Their may have shown behavior in the past that you missed, and clarity shows their narcissism and character flaws. By no means are you, or any of us perfect, but you are showing character as you seek resolution and, unfortunately, closure. Having an answer or even just being able to say your piece (or is it peace?), can protect your mental wellness. It's possible that the relationship had really just run its course. Were you hanging onto these friends because they had always just seemed to be there? Maybe the truth is that you just had changed, and there was just no longer a commonality match. Examine this. The changes for both may be positive for you, and the hurt is just that things feel different.

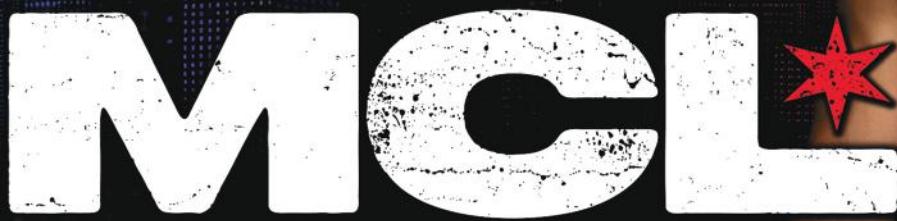
Ask yourself, is there someone in the middle of all this? Is there a negative force of influence in the mix? There is not much you can do about this, but you may feel better having figured it out. If this is the case, confrontation will only lead to denial, so let it go, and move on!

Let time be your friend. Give some time between the blowup and your response. That will keep emotions cooler. Plan what you are going to say. This will also keep things more even and directed. Make sure you are ready for rejection. Know that you may learn something about yourself that you are not prepared to hear. Let them know you heard them and intend to make some personal inventory or changes. If it's not going anywhere, let them know where you stand and that you accept the outcome, and wish them the very best. Be strong. Be courageous..

Cultivate the new. Find new people with similar interests and things in common. You probably already have a group of friends or acquaintances waiting in the wings who fit the bill just perfectly. Believe in your skill-set and good character. Hope this helps... Good luck; Thanks for writing!

- Dr. Charla Waxman

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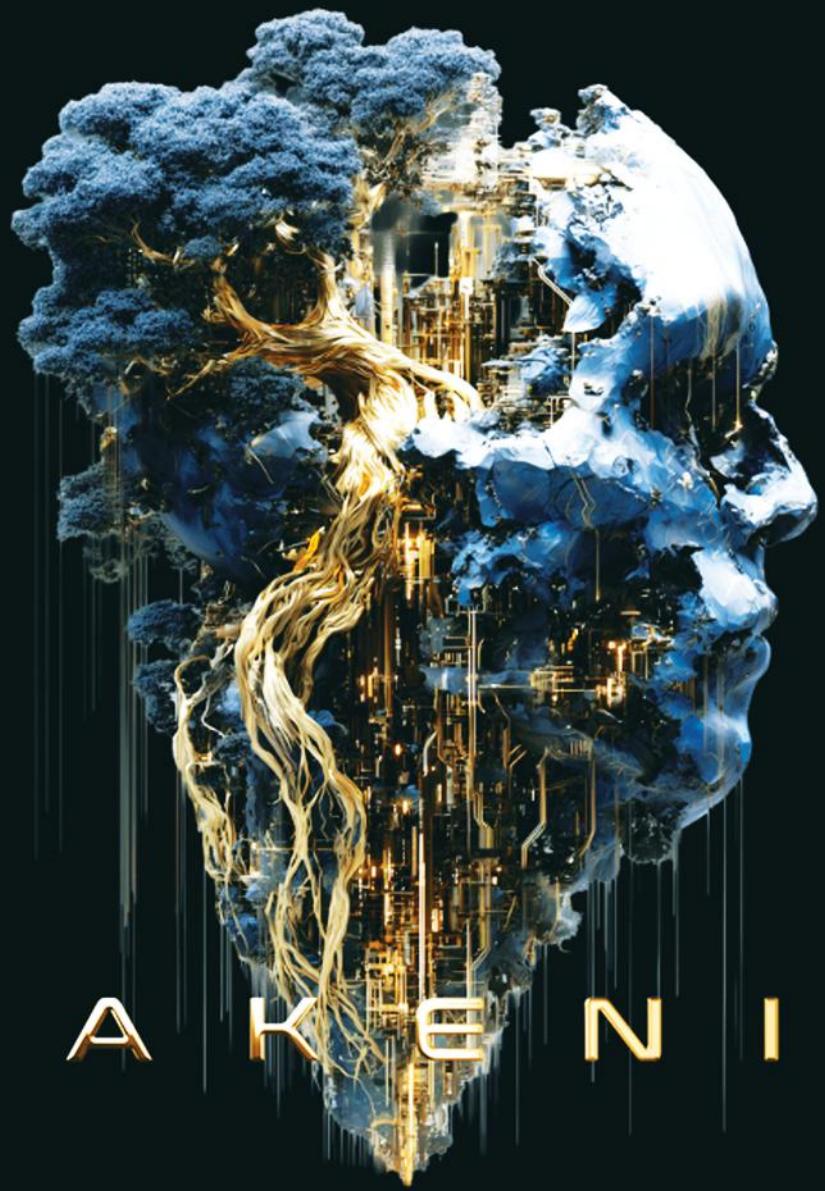


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by: Screamin' Rachael
Recording Artist, Entrepreneur, Publisher, Music Mogul, House Music Icon,
sometimes Controversial, with a dash of Opinionism for good measure.

COMMENTARY

The opinions offered in this column are "uncensored" and are intended for "open dialog" and "entertainment purposes" only. Use of this column not intended to replace or be a substitute for any professional, financial, legal, advice or any other professional service. The opinions or views expressed in this column are those of the columnist, and not necessarily those of anyone else.

Hello Readers, I want to thank all of you for following my column "Uncensored". I'm so happy that it's finally 2026. Oddly enough last year 'was the best of times, it was the worst of times", to quote Charles Dickens.

At the beginning of last year I suffered through some embarrassment, with Vince Lawrence's portrayal of me in his documentary "Move Ya Body", at its Sundance Premier... Well, he made me out to be evil and selfish.

I was slumping down in my seat, and acted like I didn't even hear my name when they called me up for the Q&A. To my surprise former Chicago Emmy Award winner **"Charles Little"** said afterwards, that "I was GREAT in the movie!"

Anyway, not too many people got to see it, since it never got picked up for distribution. I don't think there's even a "so-called" movie trailer, so I guess This evil QUEEN shall not be seen. *Oh Well...*

Just days after the **Sundance** faux pas, I suffered through a five hour surgery that led to months of painful recovery.

Next my dog **Mr. Big** passed away two weeks shy of his 13th year Birthday.

Then, one of the people that I considered to be one of my very best friends, turned on me completely. I'm not going to name them here, but this person that I considered a friend, told our music associate **Paul Donavan**, @gulfstreamrecords777, that **"I should not represent my own label TRAX, because I was white!"**

To close out the year, my apartment flooded. Thank God for **"State Farm Insurance"**. Anyway, I'll be living out of a suitcase until February while the damage is being repaired.

So, now that I told you all the "pour-me" sad tales of last year, and held my 2025 pity party, it's time to start telling you about everything that was good!

Despite not having a home, until the repairs are done, I'm residing at **The Embassy Suites**, in **Chicago**, and I really enjoy it here. I feel like **Paris Hilton**, except without the MONEY. Living at a hotel for a length of time is fun, especially when you're in a spacious suite... and my dog



Chi Girl is welcome here too! I've gotten to know many of the nice folks that work here. It's like having a new little family. Every morning I get to order a custom breakfast, and it's served with a smile! :))

TRAX Records, my label, turned 40 in 25'. That certainly was a wonderful benchmark. And to think, we topped off the year with a Grammy Nod.

>>> MORE Uncensored >>>

UNCENSORED

>>> *Continued* >>>

We didn't make it to the final round, but we got on the Grammy ballot, and so many of our fans and artists felt really proud. There are way too many people to thank for supporting us and also a huge heartfelt thanks to all the creatives who are part of "The TRAX Family".

When people recognize the label it's a win for **Chicago**, because the world knows us as the record company that is the original home of House Music. It's my kind of town, and I'm proud to say Chicago will always be my home.

Our family topped off the year in **Amsterdam**, at **ADE**, with fantastic performances, and the introduction of our stellar Trax vinyl Project "RISING AGAIN", featuring myself, **Joe Smooth**, **Spada**, **Jacques X Gregory**, **Kushgad** and **DJ Thad X**, produced by **Pi Rho**.

I was doing a concert with my friend of many years, **DJ Keoki**. Darla happens to be his manager, and she and her wife run an amazing musical empire together. Lea herself happens to be a vinyl DJ, who specializes in Trance, **DnB and Breaks**, under the moniker **DJ Lady L**. They introduced me to "Sugar D", whom they co-founded" **Popped Global Presents: The New Global Groove**. This is a world wide radio, and all around musical movement, rooted in rhythm, culture and unity, hosted and led by **Sugar D**, who I met in person, when these women



booked me for last summers "Camp Wankru Festival", in upstate **New York**. Sugar is 100% on her game, and I cannot thank her enough for introducing my DJ Mixes on **WBNY 91.3 FM**, **Rhythm Republic Radio UK**, and **Mix 93fm Los Angeles**. She also introduced me to **Russell Mayhew**, the iconic **London** based producer behind **South Circular Recordings** and **DogTrax**. To learn more about her, follow Instagram @queencitypopped.

As the year closed, we released "Funkdified" featuring the iconic Funk Master General **"George Clinton"**.

The Project was spear-headed by **Leigh Macneil**, and additional vocals by yours truly. You can hear it on all digital platforms, also this release is available on vinyl.



In 2025 I met some women that are a total inspiration to me. GOD, they are incredibly brilliant, movers and shakers, and all around the kindest and most helpful people I have had the pleasure to know!



Some of the very best things that happened in that year, began when I met the married couple **Darla** and **Lea Kogan**, at the **Winter Music Conference in Miami, Florida**. Follow them on Instagram @trinidadtraxx.

>>> **MORE Uncensored** >>>

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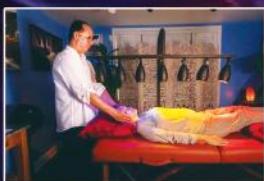
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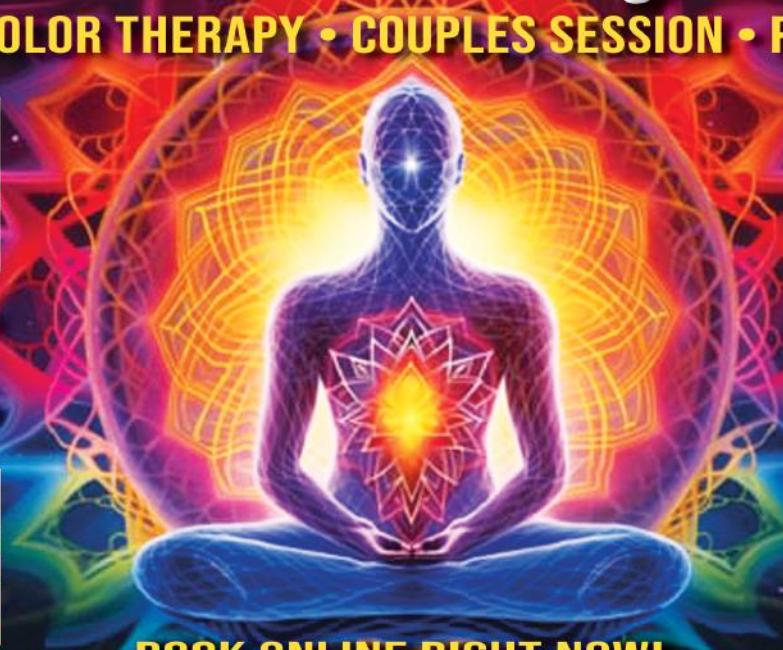
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Russell finished off my Christmas Eve by interviewing me on his **RhythmRepublic.live** radio talk show. This was my favorite ever interview! I spoke about so many people and topics that are important to me including: **Grandmaster Melle Mel, Afrika Bambaataa, Apache Ramos, Sugarhill Records, TC5 Crew, Rocksteady Crew, Crazy Legs, Louie Vega, Hip-House, The Trax Team** and so much more...



After writing this column and still having so much more to say about good times, I no longer think the **Charles Dickens** quote applies! I guess in thinking back about 2025, I can see that the good far outweighed the bad. Now let me give you a little preview of what's going on this year in 2026!

First off, thanks to the women I told you about TRAX is working on **Donna Summer's** last vocal recording! I can't even say how honored I am!

There are going to be mixes by fantastic producers including; **Joe Smooth, Zewmob**, and others. The track also features her nephew, rapper/actor, **Robert Grant** aka **O'Mega Red**. The title of the track is "Angel", and we all know Donna is one, right upstairs in Heaven.



I am also one of the stars in **Eric Spade Rivas** new up-coming film, along with **Michael Musto** and my partner in crime **Jason Chaos**, "**Scarface Resurrection**". In true to life form, I play a gangster from Chicago!

Guess who else might be making a star cameo? None other than the legendary actor "**Mickey Rourke**". At the moment, Rourke is on the verge of being kicked out of his home. His former friend **Sylvester Stallone**, had arranged some sizable fees for acting gigs, which were all turned down. Rivas's offer of \$1000 might just help to resurrect his career. Let's see if he bites?

Happy New Year to all and may this Valentine's Day bring you all the love that you desire!

- by Rachael Cain



GUERRILLA PRESS



Born out of Chicago's sharp-edged comedy scene and the city's long tradition of loud, opinionated civic conversation, **Guerrilla Press** is what happens when stand-up instincts collide with serious curiosity about the world. Founded in 2025 by Chicago comedians EJ Cameron and Nick Hausman, the independent media company has quickly carved out a space where political news, pop culture, and local storytelling meet punchlines, and where the jokes are never the whole point.



At its core, Guerrilla Press is a live, weekly podcast recorded every Sunday night at "The Annoyance", Chicago's world-famous improv comedy theater.

The setting matters. The Annoyance has always been a proving ground for performers who like their comedy smart, messy, and unafraid to poke the bear. **Cameron and Hausman** lean into that energy, opening each show with a Chicago-style, no-holds-barred take on the biggest political and cultural stories of the week before widening the lens with guests who actually shape the city, and increasingly, the national conversation.

What sets Guerrilla Press apart isn't just its comedic edge, but its commitment to spotlighting Chicago-area voices while keeping a finger firmly on the pulse of national and international news. One week might feature a congressional candidate navigating the realities of a modern campaign, another might welcome a beloved public television personality who knows the city block by block. The result is a show that feels deeply local without ever being provincial.

That mix has already attracted a lineup that reflects the show's ambitions. Early episodes have welcomed Illinois 9th Congressional District candidate **Kat Abughazaleh** (above photo), WTTW's iconic Chicago program host **Geoffrey Baer**, and 44th Ward Alderman **Bennett Lawson**, alongside special themed events like a "Civic Super Bowl", blending communal watch parties with live post-game commentary. The debut episode raised the bar immediately, pairing political conversation with a live performance from Chicago pop-punk band **Malort And Savior**.



The live experience is central to the project. Tickets are intentionally priced at \$10, and VIP options available for \$20, offering priority seating and a post-show photo with Cameron and Hausman.

Organizations like "Indivisible Chicago Northwest" may join the event, turning the theater into a place not just to laugh or listen, but to plug into real-world action during a pivotal election cycle.

If you miss the live show, the audio from Sunday's performance is released the following Monday on their podcast, which also serves as the hub for all audio content produced by the company. Beyond the theater walls, episodes and clips can be seen on YouTube, and other social media platforms.

Cameron and Hausman don't pretend that comedy alone can fix what's broken, but they understand its power to open people up, and make complicated stories feel human. More info at: Guerrilla-Press.com.

- by: Mike at Night



HELP SAVE THE IPAD / DEVICE ADDICTED KIDS!

Earlier this year, the [boiMAGazine](#) staff volunteered in helping upstart [ChicagoArtsCenter.org](#), a non-profit, 501c3 organization, **that's on an immediate mission to help combat post pandemic, smart-device addictions.**

These dependencies on smart-devices have impacted those growing up pre-COVID-19 era, mostly due to long-term mandatory lockdowns, forcing them to become co-dependent on computers, and devices, such as tablets, pads, smart-phones, gaming, etc.



Especially GEN-Alpha, effected the most who's now suffering from chronic, **excessive screen time habits, causing all sorts of physical, mental, and social disorders, including isolation!**

I'm sure you've noticed small children and teens on devices in restaurants, at the family table, or children that isolate themselves in their bedroom.

Currently, we're raising funds for programs designed to combat smart-device addictions, most effected among youth, Crucial programs to promote healthy activities, and be an alternative that instead, will have a positive effect physically, mentally and socially.

With your help, we can have an immediate effect by donating any amount to this crucial mission! **To donate by card today, go to: [ChicagoArtsCenter.org](#), or use the QR link below:**

SCREEN ADDICTION



SIDE EFFECTS

**MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES
PHYSICAL PROBLEMS
SOCIAL DISORDERS
ADHD - ATTENTION DISORDER
ADDICTIVE BEHAVIORS**

Thank You, -**MIKE**, [Chicago Arts Center.org](#) | 773-909-7245 (cell/text)

For more information and official 501c3 documentation, Contact: Mike@ChicagoArtsCenter.org

WINTER



SCHEDULE

MONDAY

ZUMBA 9AM-10AM
ZUMBA 5PM-6PM
SALSA 6PM-7PM

TUESDAY

SR. GOLDEN MOVES 9AM-10AM
WEIGHT TRAINING 5PM-6PM

WEDNESDAY

WEIGHT TRAINING 9AM-10AM
QI GONG 5PM-6PM
XCO LATIN DANCE 6PM-7PM

THURSDAY

SR. GOLDEN MOVES 9AM-10AM
YOGA 6PM-7PM
HIIT 7PM-8PM

FRIDAY

ZUMBA 9AM-10AM
WEIGHT AEROBICS 5PM-6PM
SALSA 6PM-7PM

SATURDAY

ZUMBA 9AM-10AM
LINE DANCING 10AM-11AM

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\$20 MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE FREE THE MONTH OF MARCH

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OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED JAN 1ST AND 20TH

"HEY SIRI" ???

TECH TRENDS

by Jack Sontos

The story of apple's Siri, and the sad ending of Siri!

WE SIRI'S ONLY GOOD FOR ONE THING, TO FIND YOUR iPhone BY CALLING "HEY SIRI, WHERE ARE YOU?" SIRI WILL RESPOND WITH "I'M OVER HERE!"

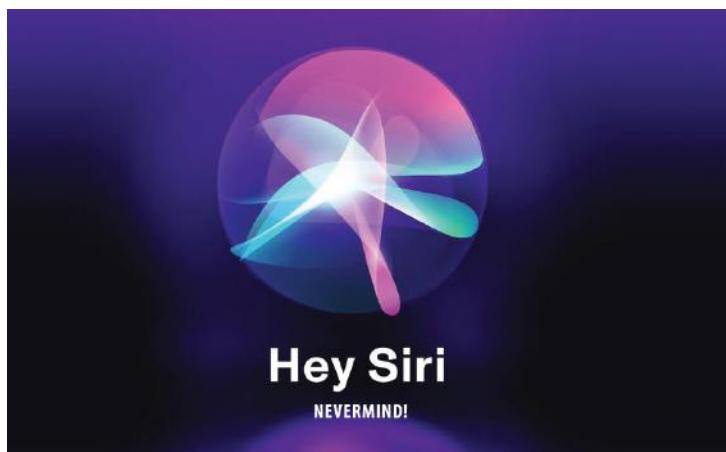
Siri will only dial a phone number for you if your iPhone is unlocked, so you may as well dial the number yourself, after unlocking your phone!

Siri was initially a groundbreaking independent AI project that Apple acquired in 2010. Its "sad ending" refers to its subsequent stagnation, where it fell behind competitors like Google Assistant, and Amazon Alexa, leading to widespread criticism, a major privacy lawsuit, and a tarnished brand reputation.

Siri originated from a U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) funded AI research project at SRI International called CALO (Cognitive Assistant that Learns and Organizes). In 2007, a startup called Siri, Inc. was spun off by founders Adam Cheyer, Dag Kittlaus, and Tom Gruber to commercialize the technology. The original Siri was designed as a powerful "do-engine" app that could interact with various web services like OpenTable and MovieTickets through natural voice commands.

After launching as an iPhone app in February 2010, it quickly caught the attention of Steve Jobs, who

orchestrated Apple's acquisition of the company for over \$200 million in April 2010. Apple integrated the assistant exclusively into its ecosystem, launching it as the flagship feature of the iPhone 4S in October 2011. Seen as revolutionary, it was the first widely available virtual assistant on a major smartphone.



The "Sad Ending" of Siri

The "sad ending" is not a definitive conclusion but rather a narrative of missed potential and a decline from market leader to a perceived laggard in the AI space.

Following Steve Jobs' death in 2011, many felt that innovation within the Siri team slowed down due to internal power struggles and a focus on Apple's stringent privacy standards that limited its capabilities compared to rivals. As Amazon's Alexa and Google Assistant entered the market, they offered more robust functionality, better smart home integration, and superior contextual understanding, leaving Siri feeling outdated and "embarrassingly dumb" by comparison.

>>> **MORE TECH TRENDS >>>**

Hey Siri

NEVERMIND!

Users often grew frustrated with Siri's inability to handle complex or multi-step tasks and its occasional misinterpretation of commands. The situation was compounded by a class-action lawsuit where Apple was accused of violating user privacy by inadvertently recording private conversations without a clear trigger command, leading to a proposed \$95 million settlement in 2025.

The brand name became associated with "vaporware" and a lack of progress, leading some within Apple's own ranks to call the situation "ugly and embarrassing".

Apple is currently working on a major overhaul, branded as Apple Intelligence, which aims to leverage large language models to make Siri more capable and conversational. Many of these advanced features are currently delayed, with a full debut potentially in 2026, as Apple attempts to rebuild the assistant's reputation and capabilities.

What are users biggest frustrations with Siri?

Users' biggest frustrations with Siri stem primarily from its lack of reliability, inconsistency, poor contextual understanding, and perceived "stupidity" compared to competing assistants like Google Assistant, and Amazon Alexa.

KEY USER PAIN POINTS INCLUDE:

The inability to understand context and complex tasks. Siri most often struggles with multi-step commands, or understanding the flow of a conversation, requiring users to issue commands in very specific, exact phrases. Asking for simple things like "What month is it?" has, at times, resulted in a failure to comprehend the question.

INCONSISTENT PERFORMANCE: A command that works perfectly one day might fail entirely the next, or produce an irrelevant answer, which makes the assistant unreliable for daily use.

POOR VOICE RECOGNITION: Users report issues with Siri misinterpreting words, especially with background noise, different regional accents, or varying pitch and phrasing. This can be particularly frustrating when using Siri hands-free (e.g., while driving).

UN-FUNCTIONAL AND "DUMB" RESPONSES: Despite years of development, many users feel Siri is only useful for basic tasks like setting timers or alarms. When asked more complex questions, it often defaults to a web search, rather than providing a direct answer, which is seen as a major failing in the age of advanced AI.

HOMEKIT AND APP INTEGRATION ISSUES: Users experience problems controlling smart home devices or using third-party apps, where Siri might turn off the wrong lights or fail to recognize a playlist in Apple Music.

PRIVACY CONCERNS: Past issues where Apple contractors listened to anonymized recordings, some of which were accidentally triggered, eroded user trust and raised significant privacy concerns for some individuals.

STAGNATION: While competitors have rapidly innovated with large language models, Siri has, until recently with the announcement of Apple Intelligence, felt stuck in the past, leading to general disappointment and a feeling that Apple has given up on the assistant.



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11 Gold-Medal Spanish Beauty
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10 92-Point Australian Red
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9 Rich Portuguese Classic
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8 95-Point Super Tuscan
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6 Award-Winning French Favorite
- 
5 92-Point Sicilian Nero d'Avola
- 
4 Luscious California Zinfandel
- 
3 90-Point Argentine Malbec
- 
2 94-Point Italian Primitivo
- 
1 Gold-Medal Bordeaux