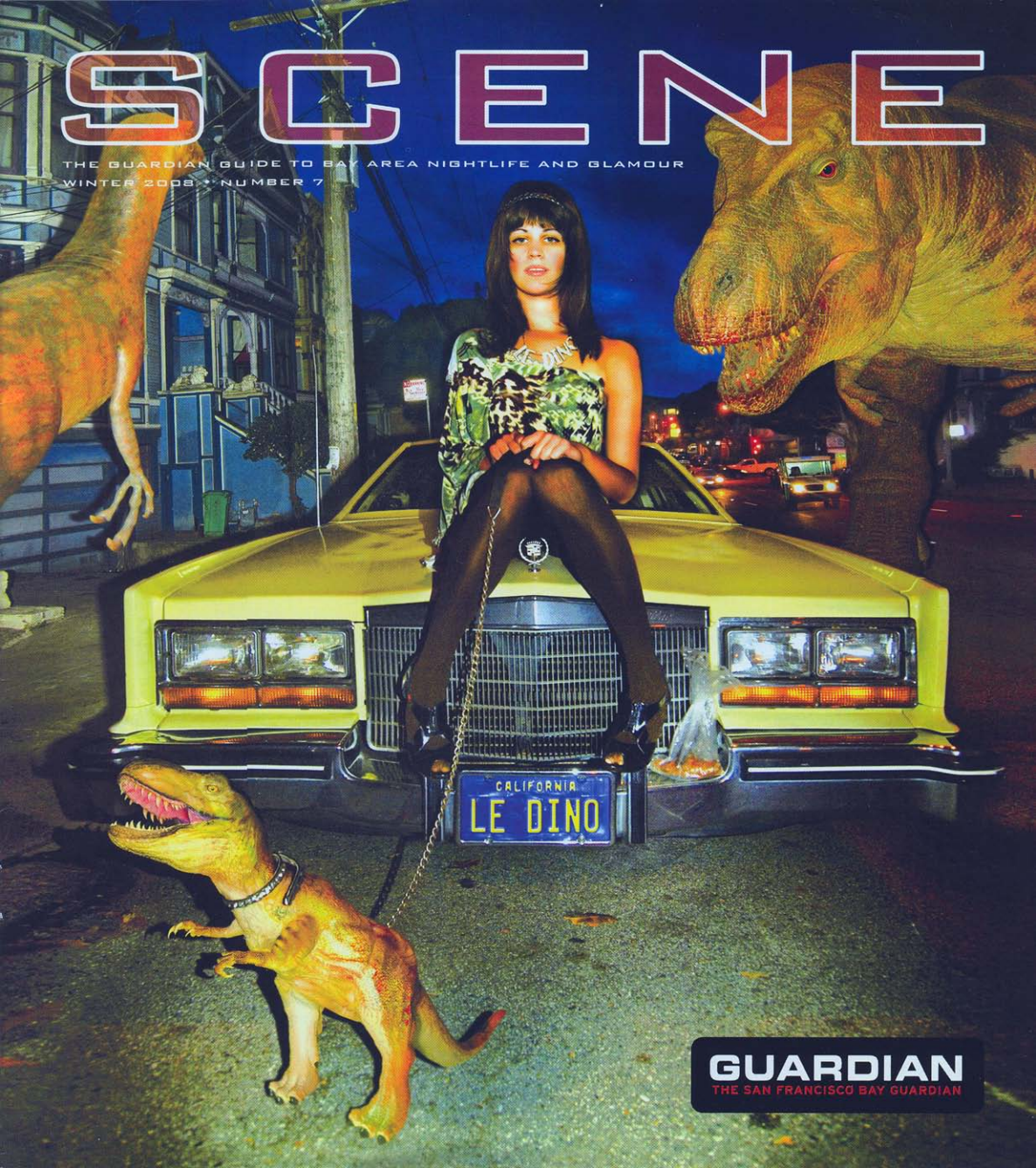


SCENE

THE GUARDIAN GUIDE TO BAY AREA NIGHTLIFE AND GLAMOUR

WINTER 2008 • NUMBER 7



GUARDIAN
THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN

The Hot Boxxx Girls: drag dynasty

Drag — you know you can never get enough of it, but can you outgrow it? Not if you're one of the Hot Boxxx Girls, San Francisco's official drag dynasty. The ever-elastic Girls range in age from the nubile 20s to the spry, lithe 70s — and every one of them titillates an audience of hipsters, bachelorettes, longtime fans, and curiosity-seekers every Friday and Saturday night at the wonderful Aunt Charlie's Lounge in the Tenderloin. Seriously, it gets sweaty.

The mesmerizing clutch of bedazzling entertainers has changed over time somewhat, but the current lineup — Vicki Marlane ("The Girl with the Liquid Spine"), MC Gina LaDivina ("The \$65,000 Silicone Wonder"), Aurora Styles, Daphne Deluxe ("The Wonder from Down Under"), Ginger Snap, Evita Minks, Bobby ("The Manly Stud"), and Collette LeGrande ("Cocktails") — combines old-school class with new-school sass, plus a few unexpected high kicks, to create a spectacle you're very unlikely to see anywhere else. It's oh so San Francisco, but also pretty cosmic in a way.

Founder Vicki Marlane, Aurora Styles, and Hot Boxxx Girls "handler" Adam B. responded to a few of our queries.

SFBG *Tell us a little bit about the show and yourselves.*

VICKI MARLANE The show used to be called "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," but then Gipsy left. I didn't care for that name, so I suggested "The Hot Boxxx Girls." The rest of the cast loved it. I'm 74. I've been performing 58 years now — going on 13 years at Aunt Charlie's.

AURORA STYLES Just to add to Vicki's comments, I think what makes us special is that age variety, which gives the show a wide range of musical and performance styles that span time. I came to the show eight years ago, around the same time that Gina the MC joined. When one of the spots became available, I snapped it up, and here I am today. My act has gone through so many changes; my life has, too, and will continue to. I love that I can share that all with the best crowds in town, and look forward to sharing more moments with them.

SFBG *What are some of your favorite showstopping numbers?*

VM My showstopping numbers are "Total Eclipse of the Heart" and "It's All Coming Back to Me Now," which is seven-and-a-half minutes long.

ADAM B. I have tons of favorites, from Gina's "Let's Get the Party Started" to Collette's "These Boots Are Made for Walking" to Daphne performing "Boobies." The girls are showstopping in other ways, too. Ginger is booty, booty, booty. Aurora's a soul diva! You never quite know how or when Bobby will make an appearance. And everyone wishes Evita, the baby girl, was their girlfriend.

SFBG *How do you feel about the drag scene in San Francisco right now?*

VM Why isn't there just one show bar with a real stage anymore? And some of it's all just thrown together, which makes my cast all the more special. We bring the class from the past. Fourteen years ago a certain entertainer said I was too old. I'm still here. The clothes, warmth, and friendly people set us apart. No drunks in the show!

SFBG *As drag legends, what advice do you have to impart to the next generation?*

VM It's such an old tradition that we have to keep up contact with the younger generation. My advice: "Love what you do."

AS My advice would be to not give up. There will be times you want to hang up the wig and call it quits. Acknowledge those frustrations and move forward. Keep entertaining, someone you entertain will offer you a gig, and your efforts will pay off. **SBG**

PHOTO: MATTHEW REAMER
INTERVIEW: MARKE B.

THE HOT BOXXX GIRLS
FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 10 P.M., FREE, AUNT CHARLIE'S
LOUNGE, 132 TURK, SF, (415) 441-2922.
WWW.THEHOTBOXXXGIRLS.COM

