

ROCKOn

MAGAZINE

KILLER QUEEN

A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN

CYPRESS HILL



&
renophil

ISSUE 80

WWW.ROCKONMAGAZINE.COM



GEAR UP
for Spring & Summer
*with **Truck Envy!***



Warmer Weather Means More
ADVENTURES!

75 E Patriot Blvd Unit 13 Reno, NV 89511

775.993.3700

TruckEnvy.com

ROCKOn

MAGAZINE

MARCH - APRIL
ISSUE 80

Q KILLER QUEEN

A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN

CYPRESS HILL



& renophil



Gina Adams
CEO/Publisher



RKW Designs
Design Director



Bill Kopp
Contributing
Journalist



Jason Kincade
Contributing
Photographer



Tony Contini
Contributing
Journalist/
Photographer

GINA ADAMS - CEO/PUBLISHER | 949.337.0246 | GINA@ROCKONMAGAZINE.COM

ROCK ON MAGAZINE 630 E. PLUMB LN, RENO, NV 89502

SOUTH -40-

775.800.9070

BAR GAMING
VR ROOM
HAPPY HOUR

*Delicious Food • Arcade
Fine Wines • Specialty Beers
Live Sports*



www.south-40-reno.com



If you're looking for Safety, reliability, resale value in an AWD vehicle, you need a Subaru from Lithia Reno Subaru!

New 2025
Subaru **SOLTERRA**
Lease for Premium AWD
\$219 Per mo. for 36
mos. \$2,995
due at signing

VIN# JTMABABA9SA094483. 2025 Subaru Solterra Premium AWD. Model code SED. MSRP \$41,045. Monthly lease payments of \$259. Total due at lease signing, \$2,995 customer cash, which includes first month's payment and \$595 acquisition fee. No security deposit required. Option to purchase at lease end, \$20,112.05. Lease end termination fee, \$300. On approved credit. Price does not include \$599 Dealer doc fee, taxes, and license fee. Lease based on 10,000 miles per year. Excludes charge for excess mileage over the 10,000 annual limitation. Offer expires 04/30/25.



LITHIA RENO SUBARU  **SUBARU**

www.LithiaSubaruReno.com

2270 Kietzke Ln, Reno, NV 89502 | 775.284.8000

Revenge MD



Expert Insights with July Reddicks: The Art & Science of Aesthetic Injecting Professional Background & Expertise

What inspired you to become an aesthetic injector?

With a background in performing arts, I developed a deep appreciation for beauty, symmetry, and expression. Combining that with my nursing experience in wellness and mental health, I saw firsthand how feeling good inside translates to confidence outside. My passion is helping patients achieve that confidence through aesthetics.

What training and certifications do you have?

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and am a Registered Nurse (RN), providing a strong foundation in facial anatomy and patient safety. My specialized training includes:

- **Aesthetic Injector Certification** – Expertise in neuromodulators (Botox, Dysport, Xeomin) and dermal fillers.
- **Thread Lift Certification** – Advanced training in PDO and PLLA thread lifts.
- **Laser & Energy-Based Treatments** – Certified in laser resurfacing, IPL, hair removal, and Ultherapy.
- **Medical-Grade Skincare & Microneedling** – Expertise in collagen-boosting treatments.
- **Ongoing Education** – I stay updated through masterclasses, industry workshops, and collaborations with top providers.

What procedures do you specialize in?

I love PDO thread lifts for non-surgical lifting and dermal fillers for instantly restoring volume. My unique specialty is labial fillers, which enhance comfort and confidence by addressing volume loss due to aging or postpartum changes.

Treatment & Safety

What are the most popular treatments you offer?

Botox smooths wrinkles, fillers restore facial volume, and PDO threads provide a non-surgical lift for women. Laser treatments improve skin texture, and labial fillers offer intimate rejuvenation. For men, Botox ("Brotox") softens lines while maintaining a masculine look, fillers and PDO threads enhance jawline structure, and under-eye fillers reduce dark circles. Hyperhidrosis treatments (Botox for excessive sweating) are also popular.

How do you determine the right treatment plan for each client?

I customize each treatment to be age- and lifestyle-appropriate, ensuring results that look natural and fit the patient's goals.

How do you handle complications or adverse reactions?

I conduct thorough assessments to minimize risks and provide 24/7 post-treatment support. I'm trained in complication management and always have emergency medications on hand. Follow-ups are scheduled for high-risk procedures to ensure patient safety.

What's your approach to achieving natural-looking results?

I focus on subtle, gradual enhancements that stimulate collagen and maintain facial harmony over time.

Industry Trends & Innovations

What's one treatment you think will become more popular in the future?

Labial filler! It's one of the best-kept secrets in aesthetics, and more people are starting to ask about it.

Are there any new technologies or techniques you're excited about?

Anything that delivers excellent results with less downtime excites me! The industry is evolving quickly, and I stay ahead by continually learning.

What are the biggest trends in medical aesthetics right now?

Ultherapy is growing for skin tightening, and neuromodulators are being used in new ways to subtly lift the lower face.



10605 DOUBLE R BLVD, RENO, NV 89521
MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:30 AM – 6 PM
(775) 983-5630
WWW.REVENGEMD.COM

Revenge MD

NEW

BBL Brazilian Butt Lift
with Injectables

NEW

Labia Fillers/Puffing
with Injectables

Book either of these 2 new services with

July Reddicks
and Receive

**25%
OFF**

WE ALSO OFFER

- *Dermal Fillers*
- *Lip Fillers*
- *Botox*
- *Dysport*
- *Xeomin*
- *PDO Threads*
- *Sculptra*
- *Kybella*
- *Weight Loss Programs*
- *Semaglutide Shots*
- *Tirzepatide*
- *B12 Injections*
- *Red Light Therapy*
- *Liposuction Lasers*
- *Weight Loss Injections*

FACIALS AND LASERING BOOK WITH WENDY FOR AN ADDITIONAL 15% OFF

CALL FOR SPECIALS



10605 DOUBLE R BLVD, RENO, NV 89521
[775] 983-5630 WWW.REVENGEMD.COM



CHAMPAGNE

Chocolate

Chatting About Champagne & Chocolate

By Bill Kopp

EVERYBODY LOVES CHOCOLATE. MANY PEOPLE LOVE WINE AS WELL. PUT THEM TOGETHER, AND THE RESULT IS SOMETHING TRULY SPECIAL. CESAR FAUSTO AGREES. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH CHAMPAGNE & CHOCOLATE'S OWNER-OPERATOR, ROCK ON LEARNED ABOUT THE FAUSTO FAMILY HISTORY IN CHOCOLATE, THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR BUSINESS, ITS EXPANSION INTO A UNIQUE RESTAURANT CONCEPT AND CESAR'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.



What inspired your grandfather to get into the chocolate business nearly 90 years ago?

He lived in Columbus, Ohio, and he wanted to make some extra income. So he got some chocolate recipes from a magazine. He started making chocolates and eventually got better and better. He showed his son, who eventually showed his son how to do it. It's become the family tradition. And we still have those original recipe cards; they're almost falling apart! I've had to transfer them over many times to protect them.

When did the family business move out West?

They moved to Reno in the '80s. They started the Washoe Valley location, which was our very first store out here. When it opened, the Health Department didn't have very much faith in us. They said, "Yeah, we'll come service you and [conduct] your inspection. But we don't see you guys lasting a year." That was nearly 40 years ago! We have a total of about 60 employees now.

Our original factory is still there, and it hasn't changed much. It still has that old, nostalgic look. We paint it once in a while to keep it looking fresh, but the second you walk in, you get teleported back in time. People who came there as kids come back now and bring their kids. So it's tradition after tradition.

You have several candy product lines. What makes each one special?

We have chocolate boxes featuring our traditional recipes. Our luxury candy bars are something that I've made my own. We start with our traditional cocoa beans, the same recipe from 1936.

And I've made an espresso martini flavor and a bourbon flavor; they're very popular. They're made from scratch, like all of our candies. From the caramels to the marshmallow; we even roast our own nuts.

Our peanut brittle is one of the thinnest; it just melts in your mouth. We've had companies trying to buy that recipe forever! But our most popular products are our truffles. They're hand-cut and hand-rolled. We make all of the fillings from scratch. The truffles sometimes don't all look exactly the same, because of the hand-rolling; we don't use molds. We don't put anything in plastic. And we don't use any dyes or preservatives, either. We've also started making freeze-dried candies. We put your standard candy – Skittles, Laffy Taffy – into a machine and freeze dry it. The end result is crunchy instead of soft. It's great! There's nothing we can't do!

You've started to offer gift baskets, too. How are they different?

I'm not speaking for everybody, but when I've received gift baskets, they'd be filled with a lot of random...stuff. One time I got dried oysters or something! I wanted to create something fun instead. I've paired our chocolate with wine from amazing local wineries. It's fun and aesthetically pleasing. And people will say, "This isn't going to sit in my cupboard. I'm actually going to eat [and drink] this!"

What led to your recent expansion?

As we kept growing, I wanted to start something totally different in Reno, so I called it Champagne & Chocolate.



It features our legendary and iconic chocolate that we've had since the '80s, but with a more modern theme, with new packaging. I love the elegance of the Jazz Era – The Great Gatsby and all that – so my packaging designs are inspired by that. And now Champagne & Chocolate has evolved into a restaurant concept. I've [built upon] what the family originally did: I wanted to amp it up, stay with the times and be relevant.

Tell me about the concept for your Champagne & Chocolate restaurant.

We started with Champagne & Chocolate retail in South Lake Tahoe; it's a 700-square foot store, selling chocolate and wine. But I wanted to take things a little farther, and the restaurant just opened last fall. It's got a speakeasy style. We have our chocolate, and we have an amazing wine menu. I like to pick winemakers who have really unique wines, and I'll pair chocolates with those. We have an eclectic food menu, too. You're here to have a good time, whether it's with friends, family, date night, girls' night out, whatever. It's not about "This wine doesn't go with that." It's about the stories behind the wine. I love it when people can't even pronounce the name on the label; we'll sit down, talk about it. At the end of the day, it should be fun.

What's your approach to events and live music?

We go with the flow, and we go with the times. I love newer artists who might not have built a big following yet. I'm all about supporting local artists; we introduce them and help get them out there. We really don't have a set rubric of, "You have to play this, you have to play that." We let the artists do their thing, and people love it. It's like a box of chocolates: You don't know what you're gonna get! But it's always creative, and it's always fun.

What has been the biggest challenge in getting Champagne & Chocolate up and running?

Well, we have a chocolate fountain that I custom designed, and it took three months to build. I'm very picky about details, from the way our drinks are garnished to what our forks look like. So for me, the biggest challenge was getting Champagne & Chocolate to look the way I want it to. And we're there!

Where do you see Champagne & Chocolate going in the future?

For right now, I really want to get the restaurant dialed in, and figure everything out. But I would love to take this concept to other places. Candy brings so much joy; it brings people together. Same with wine, same with good food. And we have all three of those things!



(775) 246-7333

550 W Plumb Lane Reno, NV 89509

Hours

Sunday - Thursdays 10am-9pm

Friday - Saturday 10:00-11:00PM

www.champagnechoco.com

WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES



**NEVADA
SUNSET
WINERY**

Enjoy locally handcrafted Wine from Reno's only Urban Production Winery! Located in the heart of the Downtown Reno Brewery District, allow Winemaker Kate Boyle MacDonald to host you for a 7-wine tasting, or simply hang out and enjoy a glass or bottle. Local beers also available, or try a delicious Wine Slushy! There's something for everyone in a relaxing, fun, and comfortable space. Winery tours available, as well as event space to hold your next party, team building opportunity, or family gathering. Come On In!

Phone 775-899-4027 | Address 415 E. 4th Street Reno NV 89512 | www.nevadasunsetwinery.com



Barbara Bolcavage Financial Services

Independent insurance professional under American Classic Agency, specializing in women and retirement planning. Co-founder of Women, Wellness, and Wealth Conferences, promoting financial literacy since 2009. Serving Middle America's families with life insurance strategies to protect income, eliminate debt, and build financial legacies.

443-253-3268 | www.Barbsbuzz.com



AROSA AESTHETICS

Arosa Aesthetics is where science meets luxury in skincare. Owned by advanced aesthetician Brandi, our spa specializes in corrective treatments like microneedling, chemical peels, and HydraFacial, delivering real, lasting results. Arosa is also home to a talented collective of independent beauty professionals, offering a range of expert services under one roof. Experience expert care with a spa-like touch at Arosa Aesthetics.

7485 Longley Lane #B 89511
775-477-2889
www.arosaaesthetics.com



Desert Horizon Behavior Services, founded in 2024 by Brittany Olsen and Alysha Sauer, is dedicated to providing compassionate applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy. Focused on fostering social connections and independence, they create a supportive group environment for children, teens, and adults. Their mission is to empower individuals and families through personalized care and innovative approaches, helping them thrive and reach their fullest potential.

Their website: deserthorizonbehavior.com (note there is no WWW. before it)
deserthorizonbehaviorservices@gmail.com
775-444-4878



**PUT IT IN
ORDER**

775-848-3350
www.putitinorder.com

Clearing cluttered spaces, organizing files, planning, and executing moves. I can help my clients determine what to keep, toss, sell and donate. We all have closets, cupboards, bedrooms, and garages that have items we have not seen, used or we've even forgotten about. Give yourself a new and well-organized space that you are proud of! Putting your things in order will eliminate stress, save time and money, and contribute to a happier, healthier home.

sfells@putitinorder.com
775.848.3350
www.putitinorder.com



Peaces4Paws is a dream of combining my two loves; jewelry and rescuing dogs. I create and sell beautiful, one of a kind, unique jewelry peaces and I donate a portion of all monthly proceeds to different animal rescues. I love taking something unwanted and uncared for and giving it a new life and a new home. I don't have a website yet, only Etsy and I will be at crafts fairs soon! I'm also co-hosting an animal event at Battle Born Tattoo on May 3rd, with two rescues present for adoption and proceeds going to the two rescues!

www.peaces4paws.etsy.com



Sweat Reno – Elevate Your Recovery

Sweat Reno is my passion project, driven by my athletic journey and dedication to recovery and wellness. With a degree in Exercise & Sport Science, I opened Sweat Reno in July 2021 to provide infrared saunas and cryotherapy for athletes, veterans, and those seeking deeper healing. As the sole owner and operator, I take pride in helping others feel and perform at their best.

Accepting FSA/HSA

www.sweatreno.com
775-384-9700

2303 S Virginia St #1, Reno, NV 89502



I am a holistic health coach and I help my clients reach their health and wellness goals with a focus on gut health, hormones and food sensitivities. I am also a breathwork practitioner that focuses on calming the nervous system helping with stress relief and sleep.

We have 2 Locations -
7689 S Virginia St. Suite Q Reno, NV. 89511

1273 W 7th St, Reno, NV 89503, USA
www.elevateinnerhealth.com



ABOUT TOWN DEB Food • Wine • Travel

AboutTownDeb, LLC - Connecting Communities Through Wine, Food & Giving Back

Phone: 775-741-2596
Website: AboutTownDeb.com

Sip. Savor. Support. Wine With a Purpose

Deb 6.5 Super Tuscan & The Grapefather – More than just wine, every bottle supports meaningful causes.

Giving back with every sip – Proudly donating to the

Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation to bring hope and support to families in need.

Let's raise a glass for good!



Black Hole Body Piercing is an award-winning, woman-owned body piercing studio that has been making Northern Nevada beautiful since 1994.

www.blackholereno.com
912 S. Virginia St. Midtown Reno NV 89502

210 SILVERLAKE ROAD RENO, NV

FOOD
RED ROCK
CAFE
& SPORTSBAR
SPIRITS GAMING



Y[°]UR H[°]ME AWAY
FR[°]M H[°]ME
GAMING, FOOD,
BEER AND
EVENTS

*Happy
Hour*
2pm-6pm
DAILY



**DJ
TRIVIA**
SIERRA NEVADA


**Studio
775 Reno**
Let's get creative



EMPOWERED VENTURES

By Melody Minx

I love it when my hometown garners accolades—it warms my little cockles. And Reno, the Biggest Little City, is about to be showered with them. This March marks the launch of a game-changer: a national, searchable directory of women-owned businesses. It's hard to believe something like this doesn't already exist, but here we are.

Enter Hindi Marciniak, the creator of this groundbreaking platform. After launching the quickly thriving Reno Women Owned Business Facebook group, she realized how eager people were to discover and connect with women entrepreneurs. "Members were regularly posting requests for women-owned plumbers, electricians, marketing professionals, and more—seeking businesses they could support personally," she said. But when she looked beyond Reno, she found a major gap: there wasn't a single, searchable platform to easily find and support women-owned businesses by city or ZIP code. So, like the pioneers who blazed the trail to our Truckee Meadows, she forged ahead and built one herself.

She brought on two powerhouse women to help lead the charge. Morgan Massie, with two decades of leadership development and coaching experience, and Nyla Allen, an expert in business management, holistic health, and community-driven leadership, joined forces with Hindi to create Empowered Ventures. Their first offering? The Women Owned Business Directory.

This directory is more than just a business listing—it's a catalyst for connection. "It doesn't just help women business owners find each other—it allows entire communities to discover and support them, fostering micro-communities of collaboration and economic growth," Marciniak explains.

The platform is incredibly user-friendly. Consumers can search by location, business category, or filter by attributes like "veteran-owned" or "Asian-owned." On the business side, owners can get listed for just \$5 per month, which includes contact information and a logo. For \$10 per month, they gain a complete landing page with social links, photos, and more.

"With over 14 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., this platform has the potential to give them one voice, one space, and one movement—a place where they can thrive, gain visibility, and access the resources they need to succeed," Marciniak says. The long-term vision? To make the site a hub for mentorship, education, and empowerment.

Reno has always been a city that values and celebrates women-owned businesses. Thanks to Hindi and her team, that spirit is about to go national. And that's something worth celebrating.

www.womenowned-business.com





LITHIA

HYUNDAI OF RENO

**2021 Jeep Compass
80th Anniversary
4WD Sport Utility**
#MT592858

\$19,998



**2020 Hyundai Elantra
SEL FWD 4DR**
#LH557484 **\$12,524**



**2021 Hyundai Kona
Ultimate AWD Sport Utility**
#MU619338A **\$20,684**



**2015 Honda Fit
FWD 4DR**
#FM760740 **\$11,750**



**2018 Toyota Prius
Four FWD 4DR**
#J3592255A **\$14,985**



**2021 Chevrolet Trax
LT AWD Sport Utility**
#MB323138 **\$15,410**



**2021 Nissan Rogue
Sport S AWD Sport Utility**
#MW663640 **\$16,487**



**2017 Lincoln MKZ
Select AWD 4DR**
#HR602056P **\$16,989**



**2018 Hyundai Elantra
Value Edition FWD 4DR**
#JU534604B **\$12,977**



**2020 Hyundai Kona
Ultimate Awd Sport Utility**
#LU506120 **\$19,680**



**2019 Hyundai Veloster
2.0 FWD 3DR**
#KU020040 **\$13,977**



**2021 Mazda3
Select FWD 4DR**
#M1324073A **\$17,850**



**2002 GMC Sierra
2500HD SLE 4WD Crew Cab**
#2F203025 **\$17,985**



**2021 Buick Encore
Preferred AWD Sport Utility**
#MB368941 **\$17,694**



**2018 GMC Acadia
SLT AWD Sport Utility**
#JZ224423 **\$21,800**



**2022 Chevrolet Equinox
LT AWD Sport Utility**
#N6109287A **\$19,491**



**2022 MINI Countryman
Cooper FWD Sport Utility**
#N3N40287 **\$21,588**



**2021 Nissan Murano
SV AWD Sport Utility**
#MC108957 **\$19,814**



**2021 Honda Civic
LX FWD 4DR**
#MH550885A **\$19,852**



**2023 Chevrolet Malibu
RS FWD 4DR**
#PF143202 **\$22,655**



**2021 Jeep Compass
Trailhawk 4WD Sport Utility**
#MT590677 **\$21,389**

Price does not include \$499 dealer doc fee, taxes, and license fees.



2620 Kietzke Ln. Reno NV 89502
LithiaHyundaiReno.com | 775.447.9111



Northern Nevada's #1
Upgrade & Exchange Dealer



**2022 Nissan Altima
2.5 S FWD 4DR** **\$17,977**
#NN382977



**2021 Ford EcoSport
Titanium 4WD Sport Utility** **\$17,977**
#MC424493



**2021 Jeep Compass
Trailhawk 4WD Sport Utility** **\$20,867**
#MT590899



**2021 Nissan Altima
2.5 SV FWD 4DR** **\$17,918**
#MN372646



**2021 Jeep Compass
Trailhawk 4WD Sport Utility** **\$20,995**
#MT590614



**2022 Ford Edge
SEL AWD Sport Utility** **\$21,977**
#NBA19771



**2021 Jeep Compass
Trailhawk 4WD Sport Utility** **\$21,750**
#MT591092



**2021 Mazda CX-5
Grand Touring AWD Sport Utility** **\$21,977**
#MO328912



**2016 Chevrolet Silverado
1500 LTZ 4WD Crew Cab** **\$25,900**
#GG244925



**2023 Hyundai Elantra
SEL FWD 4DR** **\$19,588**
#PH119549A



**2022 MINI Countryman
Cooper FWD Sport Utility** **\$21,467**
#N3N40294



**2014 Toyota Tundra SR
Double Cab 4.6L V8 6-Spd** **\$22,750**
#EX055098



**2021 Mazda CX-5
Grand Touring AWD Sport Utility** **\$21,977**
#MO330027



**2020 Chevrolet Equinox
Premier AWD Sport Utility** **\$23,500**
#L6153018



**2014 Subaru Forester
2.5i Premium AWD Sport Utility** **\$14,977**
#EH433078



**2021 Jeep Compass
Trailhawk 4WD Sport Utility** **\$20,995**
#MT590006



**2022 Nissan Altima
2.5 S FWD 4DR** **\$17,977**
#NN383104



**2018 Volkswagen Golf
Alltrack SE AWD** **\$24,804**
#JM759856A



**2022 Ford Edge
Titanium AWD Sport Utility** **\$23,850**
#NBA09006



**2021 Chrysler Voyager
LXI FWD** **\$20,500**
#MR568244

Price does not include \$499 dealer doc fee, taxes, and license fees.

ROCKOn
MAGAZINE

KILLER QUEEN

A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN

KILLER QUEEN: CRAZY LITTLE THING CALLED TRIBUTE

BY KILL KOPP

IN 2025, TRIBUTE BANDS ARE A MAJOR SEGMENT OF THE MUSIC INDUSTRY. FANS WHO PERHAPS NEVER GOT TO SEE THEIR FAVORITE CLASSIC ROCK BAND - OR WHO WANT TO RELIVE THE EXPERIENCES OF WHEN THEY DID - REACT WITH ENTHUSIASM WHEN A QUALITY TRIBUTE BAND COMES TO TOWN. BUT BACK IN THE '90S WHEN THE LONDON GROUP THAT WOULD BECOME KILLER QUEEN FIRST GOT STARTED, THE CONCEPT OF TRIBUTE ROCK BANDS HADN'T COME INTO BEING. A COMBINATION OF BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME, COUPLED WITH TALENT AND DEDICATION, SET KILLER QUEEN ON A COURSE THAT CONTINUES TODAY, THREE DECADES AFTER THEIR LAUNCH.

AHEAD OF KILLER QUEEN'S MARCH 23 DATE AT GRAND SIERRA RESORT AND CASINO, LEAD SINGER PATRICK MYERS RECOUNTS TO ROCK ON HOW HE WENT FROM BEING A STUDENT TO BECOMING THE ONSTAGE EMBODIMENT OF THE LATE GREAT FREDDIE MERCURY.

Tell me how you first got into the music of Queen and the larger-than-life personality of Freddie Mercury.

I'd been a Queen fan since about age 13, 14, I think, and I sort of cut my teeth on their music. I had played their songs at school, in concerts and things like that. But I never thought that it would become something, because back in '91, tribute bands didn't really exist.

In the winter of 1991, we were just students getting to know each other. We "got" each other through Queen and [David] Bowie, with a little bit of Led Zeppelin thrown in; they were the ones everyone seemed to agree were brilliant and had been really exciting in our lives. But we weren't thinking about it other than that just as a way of getting to know each other. We'd talk about which albums we liked, and all that sort of stuff; just general conversations about that sort of thing.

And then we got the news that Freddie was ill and then had died and it suddenly turned everything on its head. We were all in shock – a massive shock – because I stupidly hadn't even realized he was ill. I'd seen he'd looked a lot older and had seemed to be aging a lot faster than the rest of the band.

I knew he'd had his wild times, but it still never crossed my mind that he was going to be dying of AIDS. I just thought he was all right; back in the '80s he'd said in interviews that he'd been tested and he was fine. And I just assumed, "Oh, thank God he's all right then."

So I was completely blindsided by [his death]; we all were. And we started playing the songs to each other. There was a battered old piano in a laundry room, and we played the songs to each other; we'd start showing each other how each song went.

At the same time, that Christmas, I went home and was messing about with my mum's makeup kit. I had a beard that was only half grown and I wanted to color it in a bit with a mascara so I could go out and see my friends and pretend: "Look! I could grow a beard! How grown up am I, right?" I was only about 20 or something.

Just by chance, I was wearing a brilliant blue shirt with a polka dot red tie, which Freddie had worn in his last interview in videos. I hadn't bought them with the view of looking like Freddie; I just happened to have those things. And I was trying to dress up because it was Christmas.

So I had a combination of the mascara and the clothes. I suddenly thought, "Oh, look! I'm wearing stuff that Freddie did, and I've got a beard like Freddie had." So I pulled a "Freddie face" face in the mirror. That's the first time I'd ever done that, and I suddenly realized if I did that, my face could look like Freddie Mercury's.

I'd always been a vocal mimic and I'd mimicked people that I loved, so I'd mimic John Lennon and Paul McCartney and Elvis Costello and Bono and Lou Reed and anyone with a distinctive voice. And – though I found him difficult to mimic because he had a beautiful voice – I mimicked Freddie. And I thought, well, maybe...



How did that lead to the band getting going?

The idea of tribute bands was really only just starting then. At the time there was this one band called Bjorn Again that played the music of ABBA; they weren't even called a tribute band. But I went back to university and said, "Maybe we should do a concert" of Queen's music. So we got ourselves together, and we rehearsed and rehearsed. A friend of ours called Amanda said she wanted to make costumes for us.

And then bizarrely, we got offered this headline spot in the middle of London for our first ever show. I wasn't sure we were ready, but someone had passed a photograph of me to the venue's entertainments officer. He'd forgotten to renew his entertainment license, so he couldn't put on a major band like Nirvana or the Pixies or Blur or whoever was big at the time. So the only thing he could put on was a student band.

And I said, "Well, no one's going to come to a ball to see a student band!" He said, "They will do if it's a tribute band." But I said no. I didn't think we were ready. I was scared. And I wasn't sure people would like the idea of [a band] pretending to be Queen: Was it sacrilegious?

And then he said, "No, go on. I've got faith in you. Please give this some thought." So I gave some thought and said, "Yes, let's just do it, because I'm never going to get an opportunity like this again." I thought, "Even if we do one show, wouldn't it be great to do that one brilliant show in front of loads of students as opposed to trying to get a gig in a pub or something?" So that's what happened.



How did that show go?

That first gig took off, and the entertainments officer said, "I want to manage you." He booked us into big clubs like the Marquee, and he handled our marketing. He was very clever and savvy. And we were just shell shocked! This was like an abstract project, and it suddenly went from an abstract to "Oh, right, this is happening!"

Within about a year, we were in the West End; we had the first-ever tribute to anyone in the West End. There were musical shows – jukebox shows – but there wasn't a tribute band having their own evening where there was a concert. Then we were on national TV, and we started getting loads of work abroad.

And it kept on. It kept on growing and growing, and we started winning awards. Suddenly the arenas got in touch and said, "Would you like to come and play some arenas?" I didn't seriously expect it. So I just said yes. And then America got in touch. We played Red Rocks and places like that, and different arenas all over the world.

I've "just said yes" at strategic times in my life, and it seems to have worked out all right.

What makes Queen and their music special for you?

The lovely thing is to share all this with audiences that love the music. They're beautiful songs.

I think a lot about Queen as a band; not just Freddie. I think of their musicality, their personality and their sense of humor. I've never met them, and I don't know whether I ever will or not. But I've spent so much time in the company of their songs that those songs feel like friends.



WWW.KILLERQUEENONLINE.COM

*Your Vision,
Perfected*

www.rkwdesigns.com

**RKW
DESIGNS**

WHERE INTEGRITY CREATIVELY MEETS DESIGN
GRAPHIC DESIGN & MARKETING

775.287.4335





A HUGE

Thank You

to our Team and Wonderful Community
for Making SoL Cannabis the

BEST DISPENSARY IN NORTHERN NEVADA



STILL

Locally Owned

ALWAYS

Organically Grown

FOREVER

Grateful

SoLisBetter.com 775.451.7290

275 S. Hwy. 395, beautiful Washoe Valley

Keep out of reach of children. For use only by adults 21 years of age and older. Marijuana is legal under Nevada law; however it is prohibited under federal law. NV License No. D057



CYPRESS HILL MEETS RENO PHIL

When hip hop and orchestral music meet, sparks fly
by Bill Kopp

Founded in 1969 by Russian-born conductor Gregory Stone, the Reno Philharmonic – affectionately known as the “Reno Phil” – has become one of the region’s most prominent performing arts organizations. From its earliest days, the Reno Phil has focused on offering a program of music accessible to wide audiences. Its “pops” focus – bridging a traditional classical and orchestral approach with an emphasis on music that resonates for a contemporary audience – has resulted in a surge in the Reno Phil’s popularity. With an estimated listening audience of 55,000 the Reno Phil has a bright future as it continues into its second half-century.

The Reno Phil’s Associate Conductor Dr. Jason Altieri has a prestigious background all his own; he has conducted in every state but three, and has worked with the Hollywood Film Orchestra, London’s Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, the National Bulgarian Opera and many others. In addition to his responsibilities with the Reno Phil, Altieri is music director of the Atlanta Pops Orchestra as well as Teaching Assistant Professor at University of Nevada, Reno’s School of Music.

Cypress Hill is one of the most celebrated forces in hip hop. Founded in Los Angeles in 1988, the group has sold over 20 million albums worldwide. The four-man group – B-Real, Sen Dog, DJ Muggs and Eric Bobo – is recognized for its groundbreaking work in establishing hip hop. Three-time Grammy nominees, Cypress Hill has enjoyed widespread critical and commercial success for its hits including “The Phuncky Feel One,” “Hand on the Pump,” “Throw Your Set in the Air” and the 1993 smash “Insane in the Brain.” Drummer and percussionist Eric “Bobo” Correa has been a member of Cypress Hill since 1994. Coming from music royalty – his father was Latin jazz superstar Willie Bobo – Correa’s work demonstrates a mastery of a myriad of musical styles. Alongside his Cypress Hill duties, Bobo has been a member of Beastie Boys and industrial metal band Sol Invicto. Now in an inspired and revolutionary pairing, the Reno Phil and Cypress Hill are joining forces for a night of orchestra-meets-hip hop. Dr. Altieri and Eric Bobo share with Rock On the exciting story of how it’s all going down.

The first high-profile show Cypress Hill did with an orchestra was last July, with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. How did that idea first come about?

Eric Bobo: We worked up to that one. The very first concert was done with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, about a year prior to that. We did about four shows with other symphonies before we played with the LSO.
Dr. Jason Altieri: It’s funny to think that *The Simpsons* predicted all of this a few years back. It’s amazing how *The Simpsons* has managed to be soothsayers; they predict the future a lot.

There are early examples of Metallica doing this kind of thing, but now hip hop is really starting to take the ball and run with it using symphony orchestra, because it’s such a powerful medium. So why not blend them?





Bobo: We're not strangers to trying new things. When the whole thing first came about, it was through a series of tweets. It was going back and forth between our Twitter account and the LSO's: "What if we really did something? What if we really brought this Simpsons thing to life?" It got to the press, and they made a big deal about it.

What experience does the Reno Phil have with these cross-genre, hybrid type performances?

Altieri: The beautiful thing about the Reno Phil is that they can do just about any style you throw at them, from Mozart to Led Zeppelin to Cypress Hill. I myself have done a few collaborations; just recently, I did an Atlanta Pops Orchestra concert with Gucci Mane and Jadakiss.

What are the challenges in trying to combine what Cypress Hill does and what an orchestra does?

Bobo: The big challenge is to keep the essence of what Cypress Hill is about, how it can translate on stage.

We're known for giving a pretty energetic show. And I think that the [orchestral] arrangements add to the dark atmosphere that Cypress Hill tends to go at on albums like Black Sunday [1993]. We're able to get that essence, and I think that's what helped it to become what it is.

I come from a Latin jazz background; improvisation is a really big thing to me. Troy Miller created the arrangements; he comes from that kind of background, too. And he understands how to get that out of people. And I think it was important for the orchestra to really feel relaxed. The rehearsals were key. You know, if we went in there stiff, that's exactly how they were going to play.

Then Covid happened, so a lot of logistics were just a little too difficult at the time.





After Covid kind of settled down, we thought, "Well, let's try this, but let's do it with some other orchestras and then build up to it." And I'm glad that we did that, because the LSO is one of the most renowned orchestras in the world, and they are on their A-plus game. We had to be in that mindset.

When we came [to the Royal Albert Hall], they were kind of surprised that we were as prepared and hands-on as we were. That let them loosen up a little bit; they could have fun and not think, "Oh man, here we go. How is this going to turn out?" Everybody was ready to go right from Jump Street.

It's not just us doing our thing and them doing their thing, an us-and-them thing. It's really about combining it, letting each other shine, letting each other speak. You get the classical part of it, you get the hip hop part of it, and it all comes together. It's a meeting of the minds, a great experience. And I look forward to more of that.

Altieri: With all the different musicians in the Reno Phil, we all have our different ideas in approaching something like this. Usually it takes a conductor to keep one sound together. So we're all going to be doing something brand new, and it's really very exciting. We have to come in there with open minds and be ready to adjust quickly.

The real challenge is when things go a little bit off-kilter or not quite what we're expecting. I do my homework; I learn the charts as best I can. But that's the thing: you can learn the charts, but things can still get a little crazy. Yet all of us are able to adapt quickly. And some of the best music comes from the spontaneity of the moment.

Bobo: On tour, we do our regular shows, and we do symphony shows.

And to be honest, sometimes it's kind of difficult to switch back and forth: "All right, we're doing a normal set this week, and then in five days we've got a symphony show!" Because you have to really get into that mode: the way you play, the way you're thinking. So the whole thing has been a challenge, but it's been great.



Hip hop and other popular forms of music are about spontaneity, being in-the-moment. But orchestras work from sheet music and a planned program. How do you reconcile those different approaches?

Bobo: You have to be respectful to what they do and how they do it. You're in their house. We are lucky to be able to do this; not many hip hop groups can say that they performed with an orchestra. We like to make it a real combination, and with the orchestras and conductors that we've worked with so far, it's been just that.

Altieri: We blend using the forces of a classical or "classical symphony" with modern genres that may or may not have musical notation. It's trailblazing.

One of the things that I do as a conductor – especially as someone who specializes in pops – is that when I see the arrangements, oftentimes I will come up with my own ideas and tweak them. I might throw out some ideas to increase the energy and the overall flow. That's part of the fun; that's the way that art evolves.

Even with written arrangements for the orchestra, I'd imagine that spontaneity is baked into this collaboration.



It's not as if Cypress Hill and the Reno Phil will have days to rehearse together...

Altieri: We'll get together [before the concert] just to see if our charts line up with what [Cypress Hill] is doing. Because sometimes things don't quite line up like they should. So you've got to have somebody at the helm who can think on their feet and try to "right the ship" in real time.

That's part of the fun too: you don't really know [what will happen]. I've done some concerts where we've blended orchestral music with a DJ. Yeah. The DJ has his ideas of what he's doing, but those aren't necessarily notated. That was a real challenge, but it came off quite well. So I found out a long time ago, and it's now a little mantra that I use: "It's fun to be fluid."

Are many of the musicians in the Phil fans of Cypress Hill, or of hip hop in general?

Altieri: Absolutely! You can't live in a vacuum. Myself, I knew "Insane in the Brain" quite well. And in doing my research, I've gotten to know some of the other tunes too. It's gonna be a lot of fun collaborating with Cypress Hill.

Bobo: Oh, yeah! In all of the orchestras that we have played with so far, we've met Cypress Hill fans. It's not like they're these stuffy musicians. You have some who grew up listening to Cypress, yet they play classical music. And there are a few – OGs, I call them – who have been doing this kind of thing for years; they really appreciate this combination of hip hop and classical. And it's always cool to be able to sit down and talk with them.

There's a certain contingent of season ticket holders who come to everything. Do you think that the audience for this concert is likely to be primarily those people, or might it draw in people who have never seen or heard the Reno Phil before?

Altieri: You're asking the million-dollar question! The Reno Phil is always trying to branch out and find new audiences; that's always a goal.

But that's also the beauty of the art. We're trying to branch out into new avenues, and who knows? There might be some dyed-in-the-wool Beethoven fan who decides they want to check out a little hip hop and see what else we can do. Because that's really part of the excitement of music making. What we do with pops is suggest to people, "Hey, if you like that, come to listen to this and expand your horizons a little bit.

Is this collaboration indicative of the Reno Phil's direction going forward, working with more artists outside of the classical and orchestral idiom?

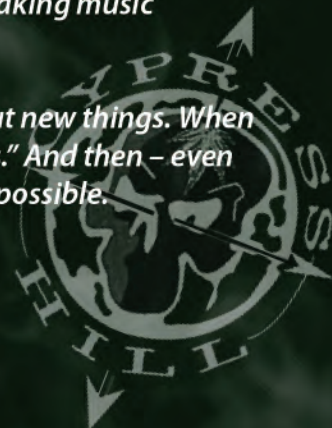
Altieri: The hip hop angle is a new one for us. But yes: we've done rock, and we've done country. In the summer we're doing a concert with a Beatles tribute band. Just a couple of months ago, we did "Nashville to Neon." That was a purely country and western show. There are starting to be a lot more orchestras tapping into the country music market. Those artists are saying, "Isn't it fun to have a symphony orchestra backing you up?" Because it's a powerful sound when you're able to put that many more colors into your show.

This whole collaboration highlights the idea of pushing boundaries, of trying new things. That seems to be a common thread that unites the Reno Phil and Cypress Hill.

Bobo: Yes, and in Cypress Hill we have a true brotherhood. We've kind of grown with each other. Back in the early days, everything was just so new. It was just, "Hang on! We're all experiencing this together!" As years have gone by, we've been able to maintain that brotherhood and still enjoy making music together. And we still enjoy being on tour together.

When we come together, everybody falls into their spot, and then we enjoy trying out new things. When we're in the dressing room, somebody might say, "Yo, this might be cool; let's try this." And then – even without a rehearsal – we'll try it at the show. If you're locked in like that, anything is possible.

Cypress Hill with The Reno Phil
Grand Sierra Resort, Grand Theatre
Friday, April 4, 2025, 8pm



cypresshill.com



renophil.com

ROCKON MAGAZINE

ADVERTISE WITH ROCK ON MAGAZINE



WWW.ROCKONMAGAZINE.COM



949.337.0246 | GINA@ROCKONMAGAZINE.COM

YOUR **TOP-RATED** TRUCK ACCESSORY **STORE**



SUSPENSION PARTS
TRUCK ACCESSORIES
CAMPER SHELLS
TOWING & HAULING



775.993.3700 • 75 E PATRIOT BLVD UNIT 13, RENO, NV 89511

VISIT US ONLINE: TRUCKENVY.COM



Annual Events 2025

JANUARY

Brew HaHa

FEBRUARY

Reno Onsie Crawl

Home and Garden Show

MARCH

Snowfest - Lake Tahoe Winter
Carnival

APRIL

Reno Jazz Festival

MAY

Cinco de Mayo Festival

JUNE

Reno River Festival

Street Vibrations Spring Rally

Great El Dorado BBQ, Brews &
Blues

Reno Rodeo

Carson Valley Days

JULY

Artown

Star Spangled Sparks

Biggest Little Wing Fest

Taste of Downtown - Carson City

AUGUST

Hot August Nights

Northern Nevada Dragon
Boat Festival

Burning Man Festival

SEPTEMBER

Best in the West Nugget Rib
Cook-Off

Virginia City International
Camel Races

Great Reno Balloon Races
Street Vibrations Fall Rally
Genoa Candy Dance Faire

OCTOBER

Great Italian Festival

Nevada Day Celebration
and Parade

NOVEMBER

Crafts for Christmas

DECEMBER

Reno Santa Pub Crawl

Sparks Hometown

Christmas

Christmas on the Comstock
39 North Pole Village

FOREVER GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

Kris Kristofferson

June 22, 1936 – September 28, 2024

An American singer, songwriter, and actor. He was a pioneering figure in the outlaw country movement of the 1970s, moving away from the polished Nashville sound and toward a more raw, introspective style. During the 1970s, he also embarked on a successful career as a Hollywood actor.



Shannen Maria Doherty

April 12, 1971 – July 13, 2024

An American actress. During her career in film and television, Doherty played a number of notable characters, including Jenny Wilder in *Little House on the Prairie* (1982–1983); Maggie Malene in *Girls Just Want to Have Fun* (1985); Kris Witherspoon in *Our House* (1986–1988); Heather Duke in *Heathers* (1989); Brenda Walsh in *Beverly Hills, 90210* (1990–1994), *90210* (2008–2009), and *BH90210* (2019); Rene Mosier in *Mallrats* (1995); and Prue Halliwell in *Charmed* (1998–2001).

James Earl Jones

January 17, 1931 – September 9, 2024

An American actor. A pioneer for black actors in the entertainment industry, he is known for his extensive and acclaimed roles on stage and screen. Jones is one of the few performers to achieve the EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony). He was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 1985, and was honored with the National Medal of Arts in 1992, the Kennedy Center Honor in 2002, the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award in 2009, and the Academy Honorary Award in 2011.



Shelley Alexis Duvall

July 7, 1949 – July 11, 2024

An American actress and producer. Known for her collaborations with Robert Altman and for playing eccentric characters, she won a Cannes Film Festival Award and was nominated for a British Academy Film Award and two Emmy Awards. Four of her films are preserved in the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress.

Phillip John Donahue

December 21, 1935 – August 18, 2024

An American media personality, writer, film producer, and the creator and host of The Phil Donahue Show. The television program, later known simply as Donahue, was the first popular talk show to feature a format that included audience participation.[1] The show had a 29-year run on national television that began in Dayton, Ohio, in 1967 and ended in New York City in 1996.



Liam James Payne

August 29, 1993 – October 16, 2024

An English singer and songwriter. He was a member of the English-Irish pop band One Direction, one of the best-selling boy bands of all time, alongside Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, Harry Styles, and Louis Tomlinson. Payne twice appeared as a solo auditionee on the British television series The X Factor in 2008 and 2010; in the latter, he was invited to join One Direction alongside fellow contestants, placing third and later achieving global success.



Fernando Valenzuela Anguamea

November 1, 1960 – October 22, 2024

nicknamed "El Toro", was a Mexican professional baseball pitcher. Valenzuela played 17 Major League Baseball (MLB) seasons, from 1980 to 1997 (except for a one-year sabbatical in Mexico in 1992). He played for six MLB teams, most prominently with the Los Angeles Dodgers, who signed him in 1979 and gave him his MLB debut in 1980. Valenzuela batted and threw left-handed, with an unorthodox windup. He was one of a small number of pitchers who regularly threw a screwball in the modern era.



Raquel Welch

September 5, 1940 – February 15, 2023

Welch first won attention for her role in Fantastic Voyage (1966), after which she won a contract with 20th Century Fox. They lent her contract to the British studio Hammer Film Productions, for whom she made One Million Years B.C. (1966). Although Welch had only three lines of dialogue in the film, images of her in the doe-skin bikini became bestselling posters that turned her into an international sex symbol.



Suzanne Somers

October 16th, 1946 - October 15th, 2023

Suzanne Marie Somers was an American actress, author, and businesswoman in the health and wellness industry. She played the television roles of Chrissy Snow on Three's Company and Carol Foster Lambert on Step by Step.



Subaru is rated #1 in quality for the price.¹ And, 96% of Subaru vehicles sold in the last 10 years are still on the road today.²

¹Compared to all other measured mass-market automotive companies in the 2023 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) surveys of customers rating their own automotive company's performance. The #1 rating is shared with one other automotive company. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index, LLC.

²Based on Experian Automotive non-luxury vehicles in operation vs. total new registrations for MY2014-2023 as of December 2023.



Scan QR code for \$1000 Off MSRP towards a new vehicle purchase!*

Example:
MSRP \$36,824
Dealer Discount \$1,000
Final Price \$35,824

*\$1,000 Dealer discount off MSRP on all new 2024 Subaru models. Example: New 2024 Subaru WRX Premium, VIN: JF1VBAH67R9817883. MSRP \$36,824. Dealer discount \$1,000. Final Price \$35,824. See dealer for details. Price does not include \$599 Dealer doc fee, taxes, and license fee. Offer expires 04/30/25.

LITHIA RENO SUBARU  **SUBARU**

www.LithiaSubaruReno.com

2270 Kietzke Ln, Reno, NV 89502 | 775.284.8000