

On the cover:

Cristian Caminero & Roman Lucarini photographed by Darron L Whitsett in Buffalo, NY. May 2023.

They wear a hat & trench coat by ORTTU, boots by Coach, glasses by A-Morir, gloves by Under Armour, and briefs by Versace



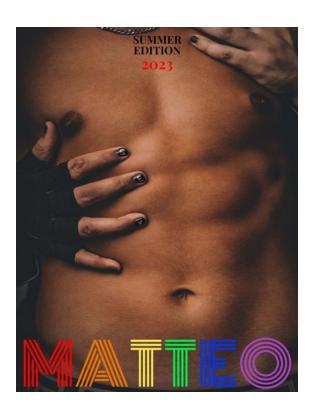












FROM THE EDITOR

When I first started thinking about the Summer issue back in February, I wasn't sure exactly what I wanted to do. I thought about doing another classic edition of the magazine like the past issues but I quickly decided that I had to do something for Pride. With this issue I wanted to be bold, unapologetic, and authentic, as this is not the time to be shy or polite about standing up for your community. It makes me so happy to see all of the progress that we've made as a society, and how much more accepting and safe the world is for queer folk and LGBT+ youth, than it was when my parents were growing up. It's an even better time to be a member of the LGBTQ+ community than when I was growing up not even 20 years ago, but make no mistake, the fight is far from over. This year has shown us that we, unfortunately, still have a long way to go on the road to equality. Our beautiful community has recently been under a constant barrage of damaging legislation and hateful attacks from our government officials and neighbors alike. We must continue to fight as we always have, until every LGBTQ+ person in America and in the world feels safe and supported to live their authentic lives! I hope that you enjoy this issue full of queer art, models, photography and business, as much as I enjoyed putting int together! Happy Pride everyone!

> XOXO, Roman



MASTHEAD

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Roman Lucarini by Darron LW cont.

Neil Harper by Roman Lucarini. Page 16.

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Zach Berbary (Twenty Six.) Pages 14 & 15.

The former Cathode Ray was a pillar of the LGBTQ+ community in a city that doesn't have a ton to offer, as far as queer spaces are concerned. In September of last year, Zachary Berbary and his friends purchased the building and reopened it under a new name. Now named Twenty Six, after its address on Allen street, the classic bar is back to business as usual, giving the community a safe place to have fun and be themselves.

Roman: So you guys fully renovated this place right?

Zach: Absolutely, it was fully gutted. Eleven layers of floors, brand new plumbing, new electric, and we re-did all of the bathrooms.

Roman: And what made you guys want to buy this place?

Zach: So three of the four of us actually worked here for a long time. And the fourth one had been drinking here since they opened back in the late eighties. We knew that the previous owner wanted to sell, and it had been on the market for a long time. The price was a little too high and then he started to come down because he was getting older, and we pulled the trigger. We just re-opened in April and it's going good.

Roman: How has business been since opening?

Zach: Really great. The support from the community has been outstanding. Everyone's been giving us really good feedback. We try and keep our ear to the to the community and we tell them to let us know if there's anything that we can do better, to make it more inclusive and to make people feel more comfortable. Just seeing all the queer kids dancing on the weekends is awesome and we still have our hardcore, old school "Happy Hour" crowd. So it's been a really great time.

When we have our DJ's on the weekends, it's definitely geared more towards the younger generation. But it's been very diverse. It's been lovely seeing more Trans folk and more women, which wasn't a thing before we took over.

Roman: How is the competition with what's offered on Chippewa street?

Zach: I think we offer a very nice alternative to a dance club on Chippewa. I personally haven't been inside of a dance club in years. That's not really my vibe. We offer a nice, inclusive space. It's not too big, but it's not too small. There's a variety of music and there's variety of people



The owners of Twenty Six. Photographed by Roman Lucarini in Buffalo, on May, 24th

We offer a nice alternative to people who might not want to deal with the stress and drama that you get over there.

Roman: Was it important for you guys top keep this place open as a pillar of the queer community here in Buffalo?

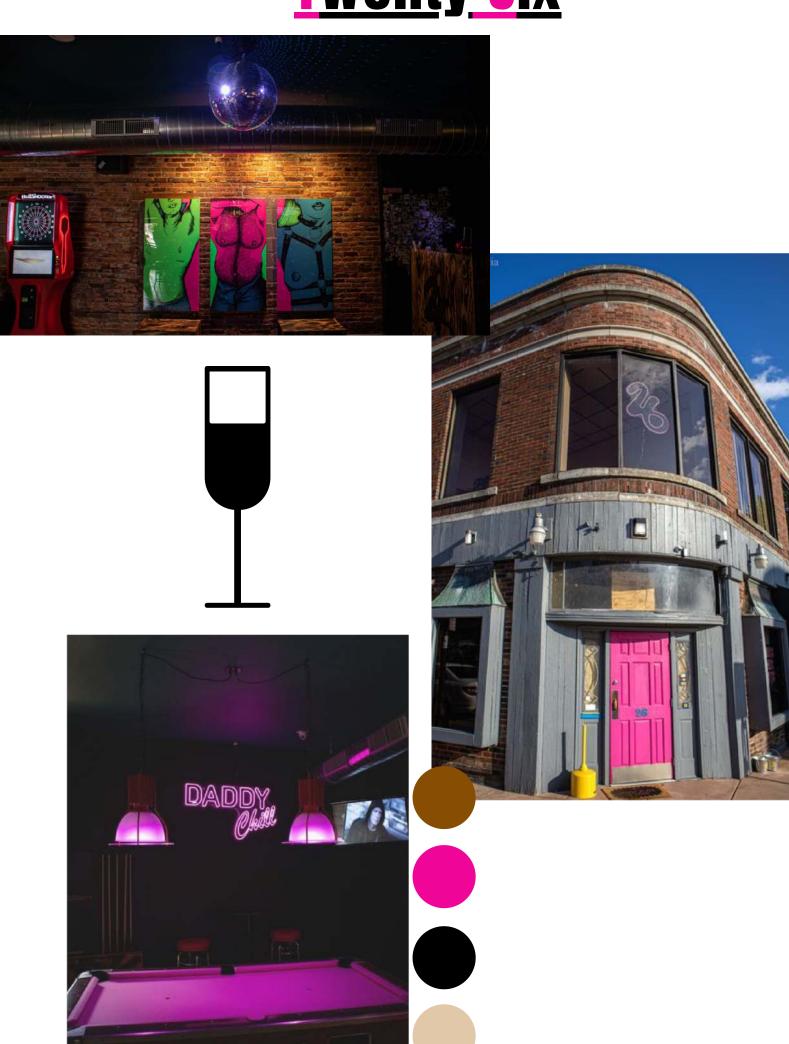
Zach: Yeah, I think it really was. A lot of people have actually told us that they were really happy that we got it. I think this place, this building itself, means a lot of things to a lot of people, myself included. While it wasn't the first gay bar that I ever went to, it's really where I found my own after I came out of the closet and really blossomed into the person that I am. I was born and raised here (in Buffalo.) It's been an honor to keep this place going because it's still important to have a space for us to be and to feel safe at so that we can just be who we are and not have to worry about anything else. It's been like breathing fresh air back into like the queer scene and into the city itself because a gay bar hasn't really opened up here since the nineties.

Roman: Yeah especially with the owner of Club Marcella saying it was no longer a "gay club."

Zach: Yes, that was disappointing. I just think it's important for people to know that this is a safe and inclusive space for everybody, and we are always open for suggestions. We're always trying to make it as good of an experience as we possibly can.

Located at 26, Allen street in Buffalo, NY,
Twenty Six is open Monday through Sunday from
1pm to 3am. Follow them on Instagram
@twentysixallenstreet.

Twenty Six

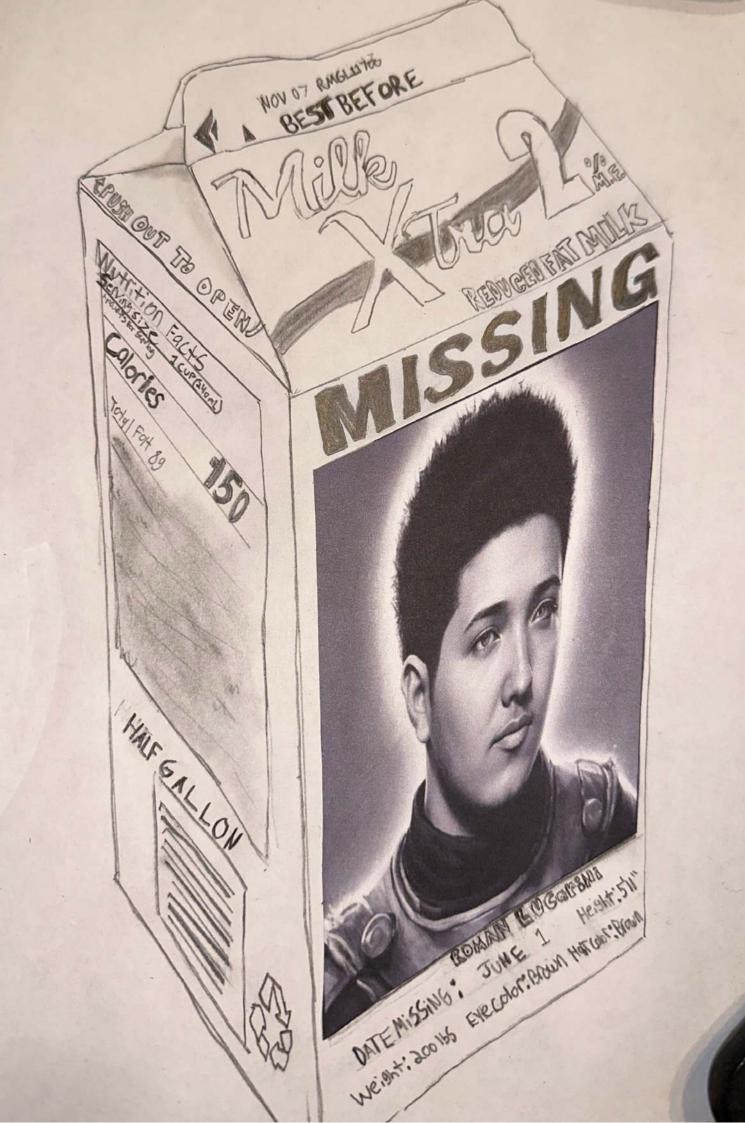


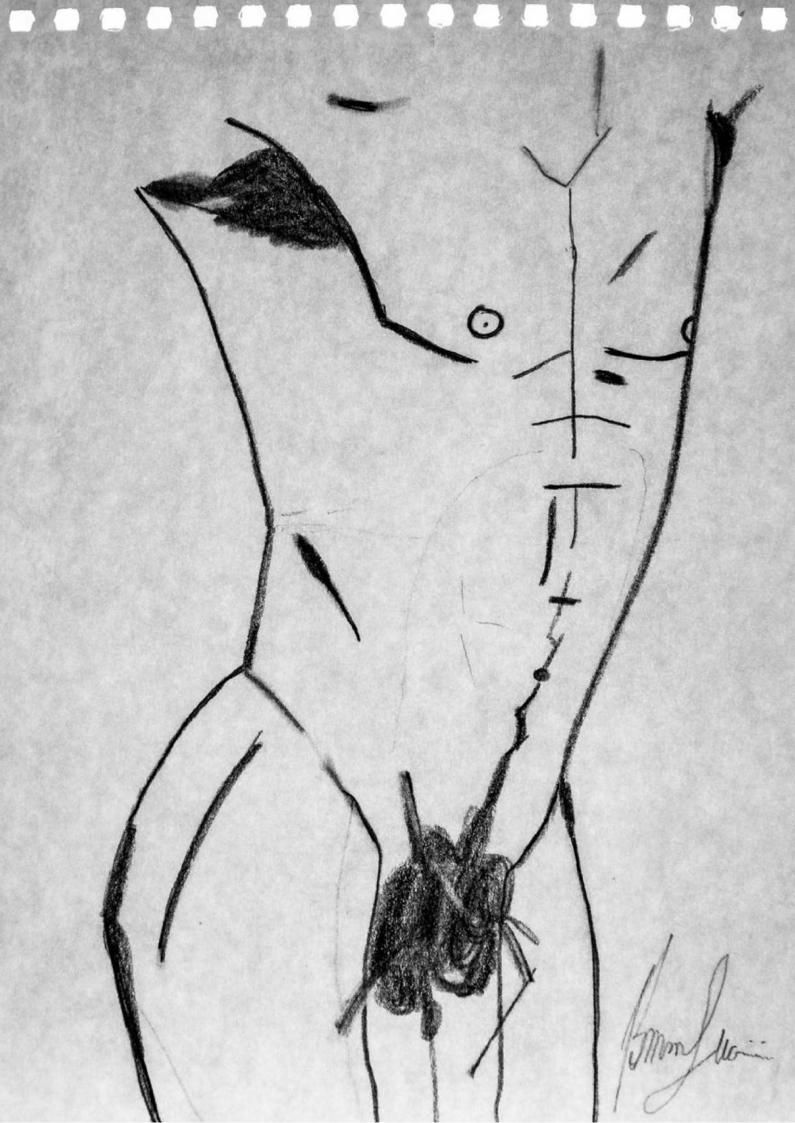
















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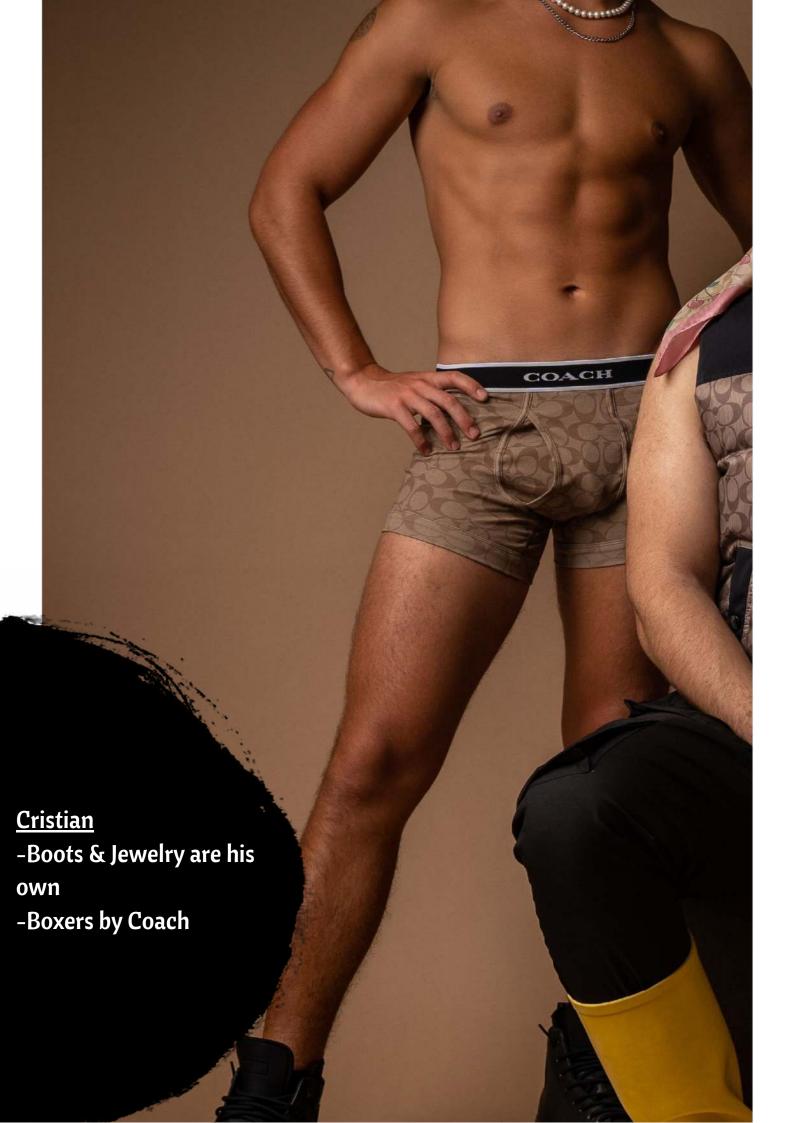




























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Niagara Falls, NY