

Gay City^{NEWS}

Broadway Golden Girl

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05/29/2008

I just returned from New Orleans, where I attended the annual Saints and Sinners alternative literary festival, featuring a plethora of queer writers from all over the country. A group of gay and lesbian journalists were hosted by the divinely gay-friendly Harrah's, put up at their posh new hotel on Poydras Street, and wined and dined night and day with a near-obscene lavishness at incredible restaurants like Brennan's, Grand Isle, Besh Steak House (the Louisiana shrimp with Jacob's andouille, cream cheese, and grits was heavenly), Bambu, and a beautiful just-opened Ruth's Chris.

Why is it that all NOLA haute chefs are not only geniuses in the kitchen but succulently cute, as well?

The city is as gorgeous and fun as ever, but still recovering, and I again urge you all to trek down there and give up some love - and much needed tourist dollars.

My trip was capped off with a visit to Houmas House, possibly the most exquisitely preserved Southern plantation mansion in existence. Filled with painstakingly culled historic treasures, surrounded by dreamlike moss-hung gardens, and replete with a world-class restaurant, Latil's, and bar enchantingly located in the garconniere (small buildings where teenaged boys were sent off to live until marriageable), it is really a must-see. Added bonus: It was the location where "Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte" was filmed and don't you know all of us gay scribes just had to stand on the balcony and shriek "Get off mah property!" at hapless bystanders in our best Bette Davis tones.

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