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DANCING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

BY MARC 'MOOSE' MODER



When she was Vanity

Just as the Grammy Awards started this year, Twitter exploded with news that Denise Matthews passed away way too soon at the age of 57. While Denise hasn't been a pop star since 1995, anyone with love for the peak era of Prince mourned hard for the woman they once knew as **Vanity**. Vanity teamed up with Prince (who wanted to name her Vagina) for the first half of the '80s as the leader of Vanity 6. After leaving him part way into the production of *Purple Rain* (to be replaced by Apollonia Koteri in film and in studio), Vanity went on to record two great, but flawed, solo releases for Motown. This week, we look at the music career of Ms. Matthews for the beginner and the fan. She remains one of the



most undersung of the '80s divas, going on to influence the careers and styles (in singing and fashion) of Rihanna, Beyoncé, Ciara, Peaches and countless others.

Her first and most popular release was the landmark *Vanity 6* album with singers Brenda Bennett and Susan Moonsie (originally called The Hookers, with Jamie Shoup on lead) and containing the hit song "Nasty Girl," the logical starting point on this journey. "Nasty Girl," with its scandalous *I need seven inches or more*, is the ultimate grind track for a house party or just a private dancer. While you're checking out this classic album, as diverse as any Prince CD of the

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BERLIN

Stardust presents Lucky Charms with Amanda Lepore, Thu., March 17.
Photos by Kirk Williamson



CHARLIE'S

Neverland's Gay Glow turns three, Sat., March 19.
Photos by Kirk Williamson



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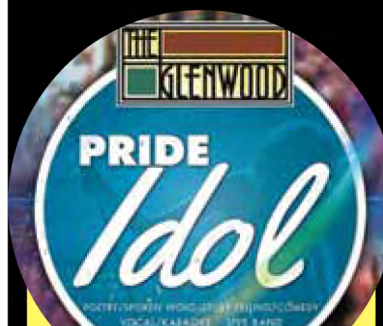
THE SOFO TAP

Blast off into OTTER SPACE, Sat., March 19.

Photos by Jerry Nunn

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR



Pride Idol: Premiere event

Wed., March 23, 8 pm

The Glenwood, 6962 N. Glenwood Ave.
First night of this 14-week competition, taking place each Wednesday and featuring poetry/spoken word, storytelling, comedy, vocal/karaoke and live band. Ultimate winner receives \$1,000 grand prize and will perform at this year's Pride North. Hosted by Marvin Ausby.



Windy City Cycling Club Easter Bonnet Party

Fri.-Sat., March 26-27, 9 pm
Sidetrack,

3349 N. Halsted St.

Imperial Windy City Court hosts this Easter Egg Fundraiser. The Easter Bunny will visit. Donate for an Easter egg and enjoy whatever treats you find inside! Proceeds benefit Vital Bridges and Autism Speaks.



Easter Brunch/Bonnet Contest

Sun., March 26, 11 am-3 pm
Scot's, 1829 W. Montrose Ave.

Don your spring finery for this annual Easter get-together. Brunch begins at the omelet bar at noon. Easter bonnet judging at 3. First prize is \$50 in Scot's dollars.

Photo of 2015 contest winners by Kirk Williamson

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Nothing Bundt Cakes

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Success is sweet, indeed.

Nothing Bundt Cakes (NBC; NothingBundtCakes.com) specializes in those desserts that were parts of our childhoods—but has expanded the sweets in several ways, including flavors and sizes. There are eight- and 10-inch cakes as well as tiered cakes, bundtlets and even bite-sized bundtinis—all in flavors such as red velvet, marble and chocolate chocolate chip, among others. (The flavor in rotation is peanut butter chocolate chip, and the samples at the door provide a delectable introduction to NBC.)

(Business partners Dena Tripp and Debbie Shwetz met in the late 1990s, starting Nothing Bundt Cakes as a side project. Now, there are franchise locations in almost 30 states.)

Recently, I talked with Erika Young, the owner/operator of the Chicago location at 1953 N. Clybourn St. (Like all other locations, it's cash-and-carry, so don't plan on pulling up a seat and lingering.)

"I was a global marketing manager for United Airlines and my business partner was out of town and he had gone into a bakery to see what the hype was all about," said Young about how she



Erika Young of Nothing Bundt Cakes.

Photo from Young

got involved in Nothing Bundt Cakes. "We consider ourselves foodies and went to one together. We tried, like, four different kinds—and that was it.

"I was inquisitive about the retail and I couldn't get it out of my head," Young added that they each did research on the company (without the other knowing)—and found that restaurant desserts came up short: "I just wanted more of that cake. So we looked at franchising opportunities, and here I am a year and a half later." She loved it so much that she bought the Chicago territory, and has plans to open more locations.

When asked if she has a personal favorite, Young cited the cinnamon swirl—but also said it depends on the time of day. "During the morning, it's probably cinnamon swirl or pecan praline or the carrot cake. Any other time, it's chocolate, chocolate, chocolate."

And responding to the question of what the company offers in this health-conscious age, Young said, "I feel I'm a great face for the company. I'm very fit and I take a lot of pride in my appearance. I work out four to seven days a week, and I eat what I want because I feel it's about balance." (Side note: Young is a lithe exercise fiend who recently took part in a "dryathlon," which consisted of running, cycling and rowing for 45 minutes each. So that's why it may look like she eats celery instead of cake.)

It's also good to keep in mind that Nothing Bundt Cakes covers practically every occasion, from holidays (note that Mother's Day is coming soon) to birthdays to graduation. Young cocked an eyebrow when I brought up divorce parties, an increasingly popular event—but added that Nothing Bundt Cakes could certainly customize a cake for that.

And don't look for Nothing Bundt Cakes to expand beyond those delicious bundts. Young said, "One thing I like about this company is that we do one thing—and we do it perfectly."

There's no argument here.



Photo by Andrew Davis



TOUCHE

Illinois Leather Alliance victory party, Sat., March 19.

Photos by Kirk Williamson