

DHM

Desert Heat Magazine



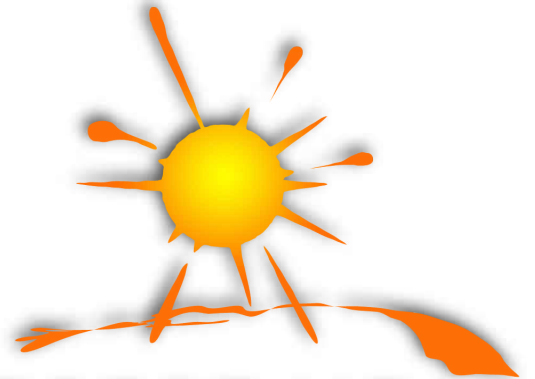
All Men Are Beautiful!
IML 2024 | Special

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Editor/Layout
John Kranz
desertheatmagazine@gmail.com

Publisher
Desert Heat Images
desertheatimages@gmail.com

Submissions
submissions@desertheatmag.com



DESERT HEAT MAGAZINE

**Cover Photo: Jamal Herrera-O'Malley,
International Mr. Leather 2024**
by Desert Heat Images
desertheatimages.com

For further information please contact:
desertheatmagazine@gmail.com

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A very special thanks to the executives, staff, and all the incredible volunteers who work tirelessly and with much effort to put on an incredible event! Everyone deserves a thanks for making it such a great yearly event!

Contributors

Profiles by Sarge
(sarge@profilesbySarge.com)
Joseph Stevens
(jstevens60660@yahoo.com)
Benji Douglas



All Men Are Beautiful

PHOTIC

Male Photography



DH
desertheatimages.com

Ramblings from the Editor

Leather. Sex. Friendship. Camaraderie. Harnesses. Brotherhood. Jockstraps. Beginnings. Boots. Endings. Changes. All things that most of us think when we are contemplating another year of the IML competition winding up. And if you've attended the event, how could you not think of at least some of them? I mean, at the very least you're surrounded by hot men in leather for the entire weekend. There is something to be had for everyone at an IML competition, if you just put yourself out there and enjoy it, embrace it.

There are plenty of naysayers circling their wagons to find something wrong with the competition. Their favorite person didn't win or they don't think IML is inclusive or any number of other things they feel they know better regarding one of the, if not THE, world's largest leather competitions. But why the bashing? Why the circling? What do they think they can accomplish by doing it? Are they trying to take it down? End an era? And for what reason. So that those that DO enjoy it can no longer do so? I guess the real question is what are they missing in their life that they have to try to ruin something for people who enjoy it.

Now that's not to say that IML couldn't grow or improve. Hell, everything needs to do that or it eventually stagnates and goes the way of the dinosaur. And the staff at IML does it's best, within the confines it is given, to try to grow the contest. They try to make it a better experience each year. Yeah, shit goes wrong. Things happen that aren't always foreseeable. But then the staff learns and grows from those experiences. Isn't that how any organization grows?

And enough with that negative horseshit. I am here to tell you that IML was a lot of fun. I saw pups mixing with old guard leather, more corsets than I have ever seen at leather event, ran into

quite a few old friends, made some great new friends, had some pretty great photoshoots (btw, if you hadn't seen it yet, the June Issue of DHM featured it's first FTM cover model, shot at IML, and I'm fucking stoked!), and got to photograph King Dwarf (those of you who know, know!) who will be on a very near future cover of DHM. It was a great fucking year at IML for DHM!!

And I would be remiss for not congratulating Jamal Herrera-O'Malley for taking the title of International Mr. Leather 2024. He is going to be a great representative for the organization. Also, congratulations to Steven Crespo for getting 1st runner up and El Bandito for getting 2nd runner up. What a hell of a team! I also want to throw a shoutout to Sarge for always being there for DHM and keeping the Magazine involved with the Contest. If you haven't seen it yet, he gave us a great feature for this Issue, so check it out.

As a plug for the contest, this year was a handful for all the volunteers. They didn't get enough this year yet somehow they pulled off a pretty damned good event. The reason I am bringing this up, if you have time next year, volunteer. This Contest is what it is because of the endless dedication of the staff and volunteers. If it weren't for them, there would not be an IML. They are also looking for people to fill positions that are vacant due to people moving on to other adventures. Check with the staff to see if you might be a right fit for those positions. And if you don't have the time or inclination for either of those, at the very least run in your local competitions and compete in IML next year.

As always, thank you for your continued support!!

John

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IML CLASS OF 2024





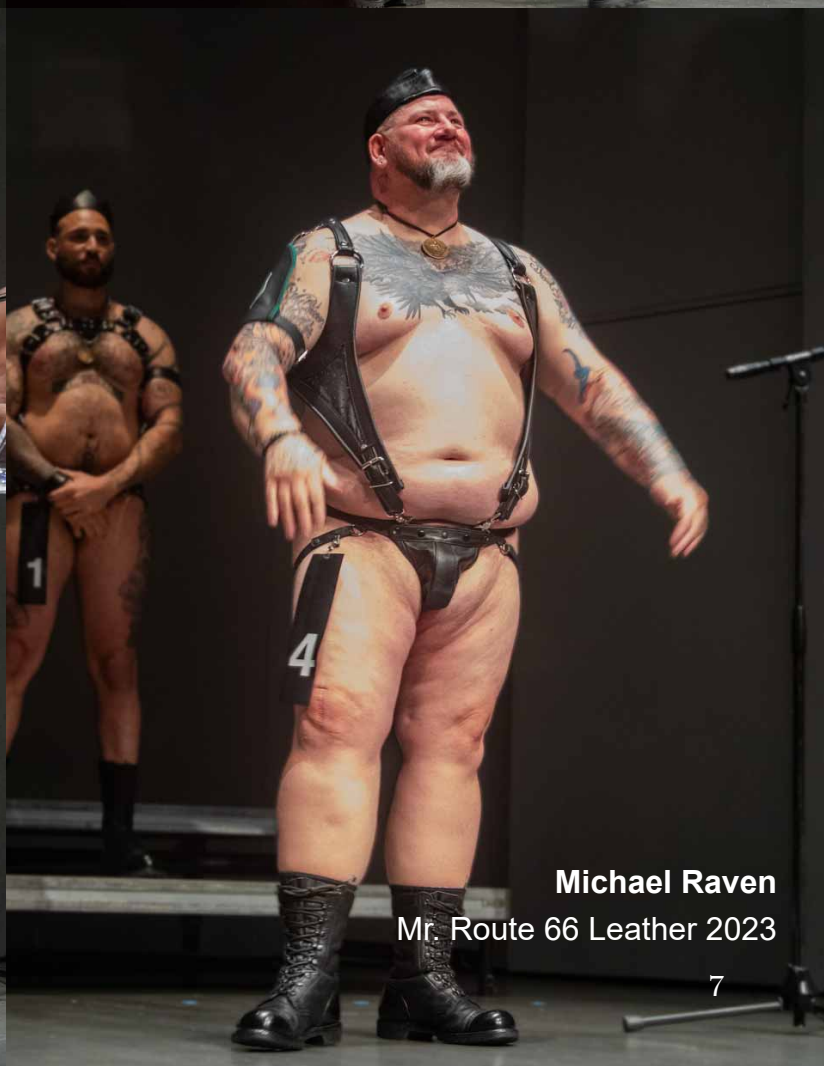
LTJ Reads
Mr. Austin Eagle 2024



Jesus Lopez
Mr. RGV Leather 2024



Tony Vega
Mr. GayDays Leather 2023
IML Class of 2024



Michael Raven
Mr. Route 66 Leather 2023



Master David
Mr. Classic Leather 2023



Dr. Michael Zito-Govert
Mr. New Jersey Leather 2023



Mr. Gattoso
Mr. Colombia Leather



Tom Keller
Mr. Leather Europe 2024

IML Class of 2024



Spencer Adam
Mr. Powerhouse Leather 2018



Master Cat Artemis
Mr. Alamo City Leather 2022 & 2023



Mirotto Markov
Mr. Leather Berlin 2023
IML Class of 2024



Sir Charles
Mr. Fire Island Leather 2023



Kevin Hamby
Mr. Firedancer 2022



AJ Michigan
Mr. Michigan Leather 2024



Georg Luschgy
Mister Leather Norway 2022



El Bandido
Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2024
IML Class of 2024



Jesus Cuerobotas
International Leather & Boots Spain 2023



Daddy Andy
R&J Leather Bear Pride



Daniel Lil' Daddy Bear Mason
Chicago Leather Ambassador
IML Class of 2024



Jack Keegan
Mr. New England Leather 2024



boy Beacon
Mr. Texas Leather 2023



Tyler Lansdell
Mr. Twin Cities Leather 2024



Moshiel Newman Daphna
Mr. SoCal Leather 2023



Jimmy Gale
Mr. Louisiana Leather 2024



Brandon Rinati
Mr. Missouri Leather 2023



Matt Fuerst
Mr. Cleveland Leather 2023



Thaddy Kewal Maravillas
Austin Person of Gear
IML Class of 2024



Keron
Mr. Mayhem Leather 2023



Fire Daddy Ken
Mr. Mid Atlantic Leather 2024



Jerry Ringuette
Mr. Providence Eagle 2023



Aaron Piccirillo
Mr. Bolt Leather 2024



Bacilio Mendez
Mr. San Francisco Leather 2023

IML Class of 2024



Coach Jura
Sydney Mr. Leather 2023



Oscar Uvillus-Condor
Mr. Palm Springs Leather 2024



Miller
Mr. Iowa Leather 2024
IML Class of 2024



Poptart
Mr. Atlanta Eagle 2023



Eric Holland
Mr. Eagle NYC 2024



Larry Minutella
Eagle LA Mr. Leather 2024



Scott Hieger
Mr. Hidden Door 2023



Vanas Pup
Mx Maryland Leather 2024
IML Class of 2024



Voudou Onyx
Leatherman of Color 2024



Norbert Gisinger-Daubenberger
Mister Festish Gran Carnaria



David Smith
Mr. GNI Leather 2023
IML Class of 2024



Nacho Geraige
Mr. Leather France 2023



Steven Crespo
Mr. Eagle Wilton Manors 2024



Lord Thunderknight
Mr. Mayhem Leather Bear 2023



Vince Jay
Mr. Chicago Leather 2024



Jeff Brewer
Mr. Leather Colorado 2023

EML Class of 2024



Mark Calkins
Mr. Barracks 2024



Maxwell
Italian Fetish Man of the Year 2023



Austin Kent
Mr. Phoenix Leather 2023
IML Class of 2024



Boot Pup Cobalt
Mr. Buckwood Leather 2023



Jamal Herrera-O'Malley
San Francisco Eagle Leather PUP 2024



Leatherman Will
Mr. Ramrod 2024



Anthony Leather
Mister Evidence Leatherman 2023



Sir James
Mr. Ohio Leather 2023
IML Class of 2024



Rod Owens
Southwest Leather Cub 2023



Boy Cody
Mephisto Leathers 2023



Jordan
Mr. Connecticut Leather 2024
IML Class of 2024





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Profiles by Sarge!

Miguel

Torres

Contestant
Coordinator



Bill

Stadt

Executive
Director

5

THINGS I LEARNED AT IML THAT HAVE (ALMOST) NOTHING TO DO WITH LEATHER OR SEX

BY BENJI DOUGLAS

You're not still having boring old vanilla sex, are you? That's for amateurs. True lovers of naked fun-time are like explorers, venturing out into the world in search of a bold frontier of sexual adventure. Last weekend in Chicago, thousands of such happy people gathered for International Mr. Leather, an annual convention for sexy garb and friendly schmoozing.

We traveled to IML last weekend to check out the scene, tweak a few nipples, and strike up a conversation with the assembled throng of nearly-naked men. We thought it was just going to be a raunchy hookup scene — but surprise! While there's certainly plenty of sex to be had, there's so much more to IML than sex.

1. Leather Conventions Are Like Adult Summer Camp (Very Adult)

One of the first things we discovered at IML is that, like summer camp, you get out what you put in. Hang back and hide shyly in your room and you'll have a boring time. Sneak off into the bushes with a friend, and you'll happen across some fun. And if you want to sidle up to some nerds and talk about comic books, you'll find yourself able to do that as well.

We made this discovery on the first night of the

convention, loitering around the hotel lobby. In every direction there were guys in jockstraps, in pup hoods, and leathery harnesses, and it looked like the only reason anyone was there was for penetration and ejaculation. But then we heard a bunch of people — all of whom were wearing next to nothing — talking about the new Captain America movie, and suddenly we were deep in a discussion of comic lore. The next day, we met a lawyer at the leather mart, and made some chit-chat about some much-needed reforms at the Social Security Administration. And on the final day, we learned from a bootblack what kind of lotion was the healthiest for our leather couch.

Lesson learned: IML is whatever you want it to be.

2. Rope Burns Take About A Week To Heal

A lot of IML guys arrive a few days before the convention, or live in Chicago year-round. We got there on the Tuesday before festivities started, and stayed a full week. It was on that very first night in town that we saw some other early celebrants at a bar: dressed up in their leather harnesses, they were gabbing about plans for going to the competition. Most were gesticulating and happily holding beers, but one couldn't because he was bound up in rope with elaborate knots. It was pretty hot.

Fast-forward one week to our last day in Chicago. We went to the same bar and happened to run into the same group of guys. Most were now wearing normal street clothes, but the one who'd been tied up was shirtless. And he had very faint red bruises along the sides of his body that matched the knots we'd seen a week earlier. He explained that he was tied so tight that the rope left red marks, and he was marked as a rope slut for the entire duration of the conference. And that made him delighted.

3. The Leather Community Has Deep Respect for Sobriety

We've been to a lot of conventions, but we've never been to one that paid so much attention to sober living (the men at the bar notwithstanding). There were regular groups in the schedule to meet up and talk about being off booze and other substances. There were multiple mentions of recovery groups during the leather competition. And many of the men we met spoke openly about going to AA or rehab or detox.

What's up with that? Maybe kinky people are more open about sharing experiences that other people might be too embarrassed to discuss openly. Or maybe the leather community is more susceptible to addiction for some reason.

There's also the possibility that for some people, leather has taken the place of less healthy communities. For all the shortcomings of drinking and drugging, at least it's something that you can do with other people. When a person gets clean, they might be looking for better ways to meet people, aching for new companionship. That's something the leather community provides.

4. Anyone Can Be Mr. Leather

One of the few structured events of IML is the actual International Mr. Leather competition. Men from all around the world work their way up through a pageant system that's very much like Miss America, and then finally stand on stage in

Chicago to compete for the title of the world's best representative for the community.

Increasingly over the last few years, the contestants have been fascinatingly diverse. Men of different ages, races, and economic advantages all compete; and during this year's competition, the stage was graced by contestants, guests, and judges of varying gender expressions and abilities. There was a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence sitting in the front row of the audience. Behind her was a guy in sports gear and a diaper.

You might think of just a generic tough-guy leather cop when you imagine Mr. Leather, but that's certainly not the case anymore. There are still no women competing in the Mr. Leather contest, but it might some day change, too.

5. Leathermen Are Super Cuddly

Sometimes cuddling leads to sex, and sometimes it's nice to just have a really long hug. We've never seen so many arms around shoulders, embraces, and heads leaning on shoulders as we did over this Memorial Day weekend. Who'd have guessed that beneath the gruff exterior, the cigars and bears, and the police uniforms, there might be a big soft huggy teddy bear?

As it turns out, a lot of leathermen are naturals at nurturing. Pups seem to have learned this lesson better than anyone else — we saw lots of dudes in dog collars on all fours, rubbing their heads against the legs of sirs so that they could get scratched behind the ears and tummy rubs. At the end of the night, some tired bears lounged in a cuddle pile against a pillar in an upstairs lobby. And when the crowded parties forced everyone to press together, nobody complained.

So sure, you can go to IML looking for the best sex you've ever had, and more power to you. But if that's all you find, you're missing out on a lot of the very best experiences.

This article was originally published on Queerty.com on June 4, 2016. You can check out the original at <https://www.queerty.com/5-things-learned-impl-almost-nothing-leather-sex-20160604>



IML46

Contest 2024

Images by
**Joseph
Stevens**
Photography















Gary Wasdin

Billy Lane





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Featuring
**MATTHEW
MOODY**

2nd Runner-up
IML 2023



Photography by
**PROFILES
BY SARGE**

Being Moody



















EMCEE

Lance Holman





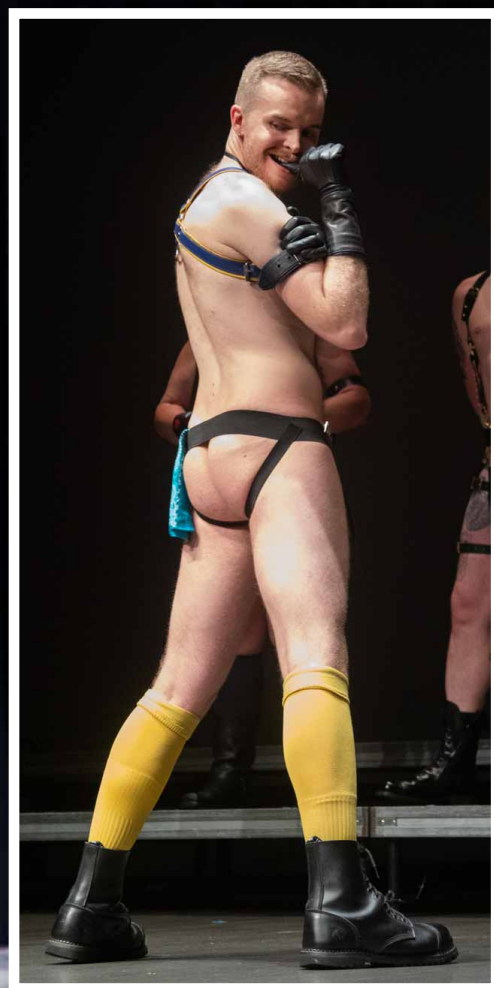
2024

TOP

20

Tom Keller

Mr. Leather Europe 2024



Spencer Adam

Mr. Powerhouse Leather 2018



Georg Luschy

Mister Leather Norway 2022



El Bandido

Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2024



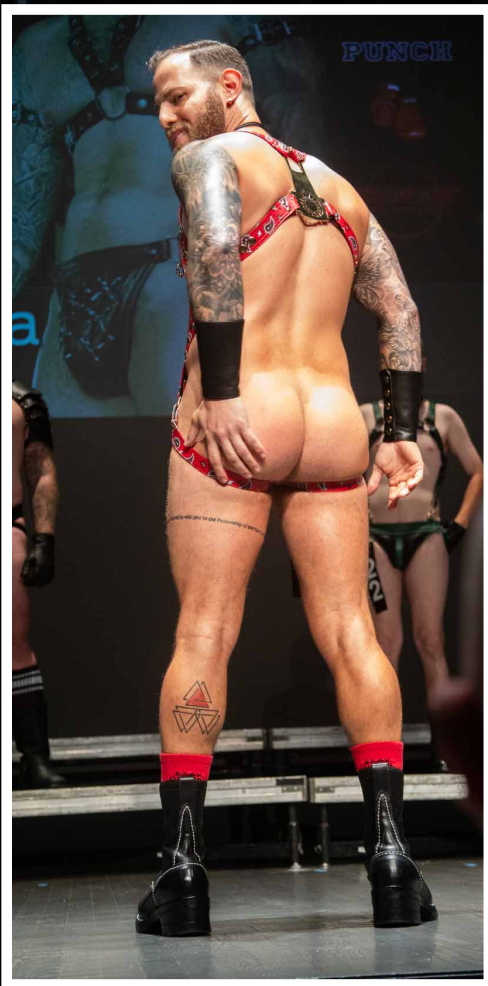
boy Beacon

Mr. Texas Leather 2023



Moshiel Newman-Daphna

Mr. SoCal Leather 2023



Jimmy Gale

Mr. Louisiana Leather 2024



Matt Fuerst

Mr. Cleveland Leather 2023



Thaddy Kewal Maravillas

Austin Person of Gear



Fire Daddy Ken

Mr. Mid Atlantic Leather 2024



Bacilio Mendez

Mr. San Francisco Leather 2023



Coach Jura

Sydney Mr. Leather 2023



Oscar Uvillus-Condor

Mr. Palm Springs Leather 2024



Poptart

Mr. Atlanta Eagle 2023



Larry Minutella

Eagle LA Mr. Leather 2024



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Vince Jay

Mr. Chicago Leather 2024



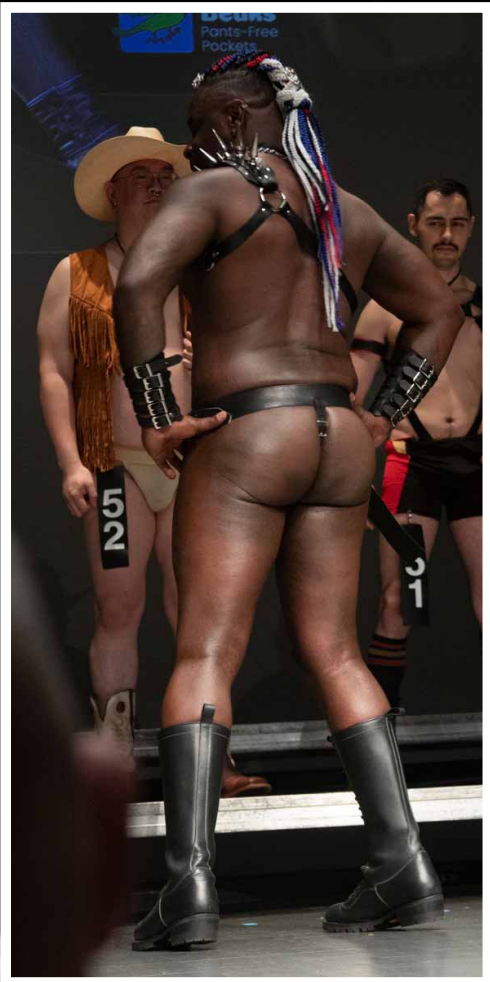
Jeff Brewer

Mr. Leather Colorado 2023



Jamal Herrera-O'Malley

San Francisco Eagle Leather PUP 2024

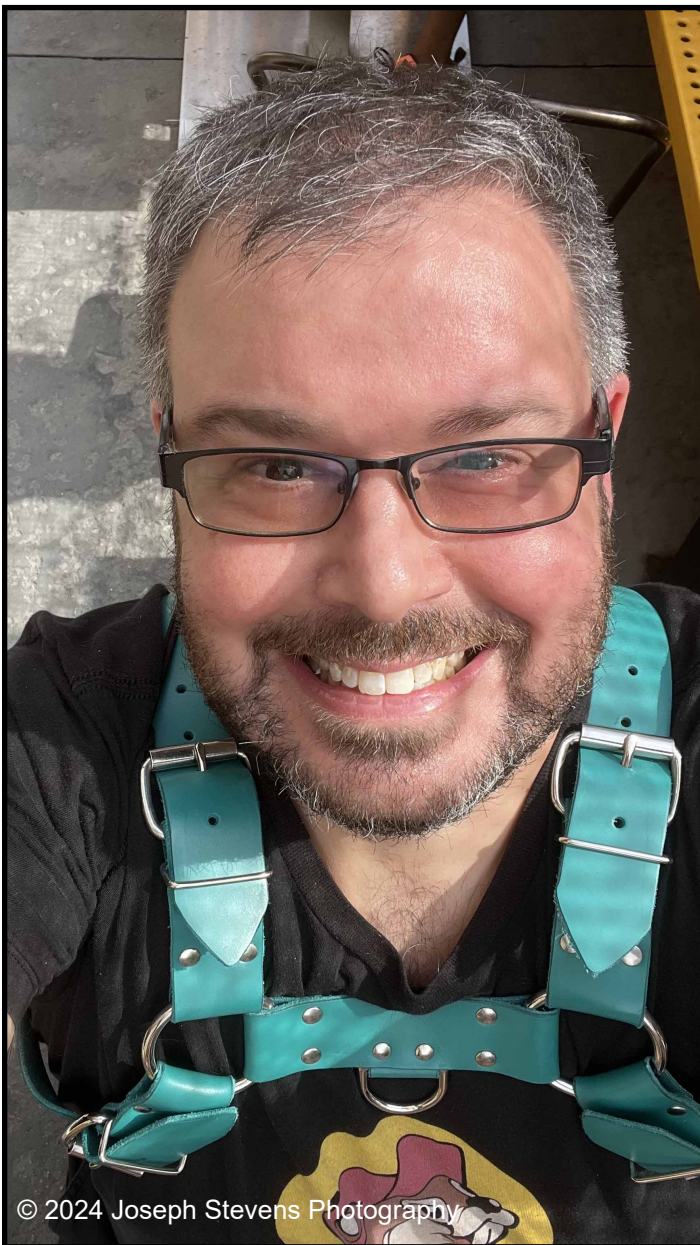




Turning the Lens

Photographer Interview

Meet the very talented Joseph Stevens of Joseph Stevens Photography



© 2024 Joseph Stevens Photography

After the pandemic, IML started back up full steam ahead. I was lucky to have been able to go back and start photographing at the event. During that first year, I had the pleasure of being introduced to a shy, humble, very personable guy, Joseph Stevens, working as a freelance for the Windy City Times newspaper in Chicago. At first, I wasn't sure what to make of him. He seemed almost standoffish. Later I came to understand that he was more shy than anything. And after that first year back, I saw what a great talented photographer he was.

Well, the second year came, Joseph and I ran into each other and I realized again what a great talent this man is. I am lucky at this point to be able to call him a friend. Trust me, if you can find the time to make friends with him, you want to. He is an incredible soul.

Luckily this year, the third year, I was able to get him to do an interview for this special Issue of the Magazine. It gives you, and me, a bit of an insight into what makes his noggin' tick.

Tell us a bit about your personal life:

I am an out and proud gay man that has lived in Chicago for twenty-three years. I grew up in the suburbs of Northwest Indiana in towns like, Dyer, Hammond, and Merrillville. I graduated from Merrillville High School in June of 1999.



How did you develop an interest in photography?

I have been a photographer since the beginning of my Junior year in high school, where I learned to develop my own black & white film and print photographs in the darkroom. I continued photography classes through my Senior year, in addition to, becoming a photographer for the high school newspaper and yearbook.

Do you have any formal training?

I went on to study photography and film and video at Columbia College Chicago, where I received my Bachelors of Fine Arts in Photography with honors in 2007. I took a wide range of photography classes, from Foundations of Photography I and Darkroom I, where I furthered my black and white darkroom printing skills, to Advanced Color Photography, Large Format Darkroom Printing, 4x5" View Camera, and Experimental Techniques where I learned 19th century printing processes, like Cyanotypes and brown prints, to high resolution digital negative scanning and large format digital printing.

From your point of view, what makes a good picture?

To me, what makes a good photograph is capturing how the light hits the subject, but I think the framing of the image is by far the most important part of

making a good photograph.


What got your started photographing at IML? How long have you been doing it?

I began doing photographs at Jackhammer, a leather/fetish bar on the Far Northside of Chicago in Rogers Park, as their event photographer, which then lead to me being asked to do freelance event photography for a gay nightlife magazine called, Nightspots, owned by Windy City Times. After some time, Nightspots was absorbed into the Windy City Times newspaper, where I continued doing event photography, including doing photos at IML in 2014, however, what I consider my full introduction to IML was when I was asked to do photography coverage for the newspaper in 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023 & 2024.

Speaking of photographing at IML, what do you find the most challenging? Are you comfortable with approaching men in the crowds at the event?

The most challenging part of shooting photos for IML is capturing moments as they occur in real time and just learning to go with the flow. I do find it difficult sometimes to approach people and ask them if I can take their photo, but having the camera does actually make me a little bolder and more outgoing.

Continued on pg 92

A close-up photograph of a man with a full beard and tattoos. He is wearing a black leather blindfold over his eyes and a gag in his mouth. A silver ring is in his nose. He has a black collar with a silver padlock around his neck. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

BOUND FOR FUN

Featuring
BOURBON

Photography by
DESERT HEAT IMAGES







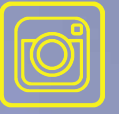














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A WHOLE LOTTA

**SHOWING SOME LOVE,
AND THE BACKSIDES,
OF THE MEN WHO
WHO DIDN'T MAKE
THE TOP 20**









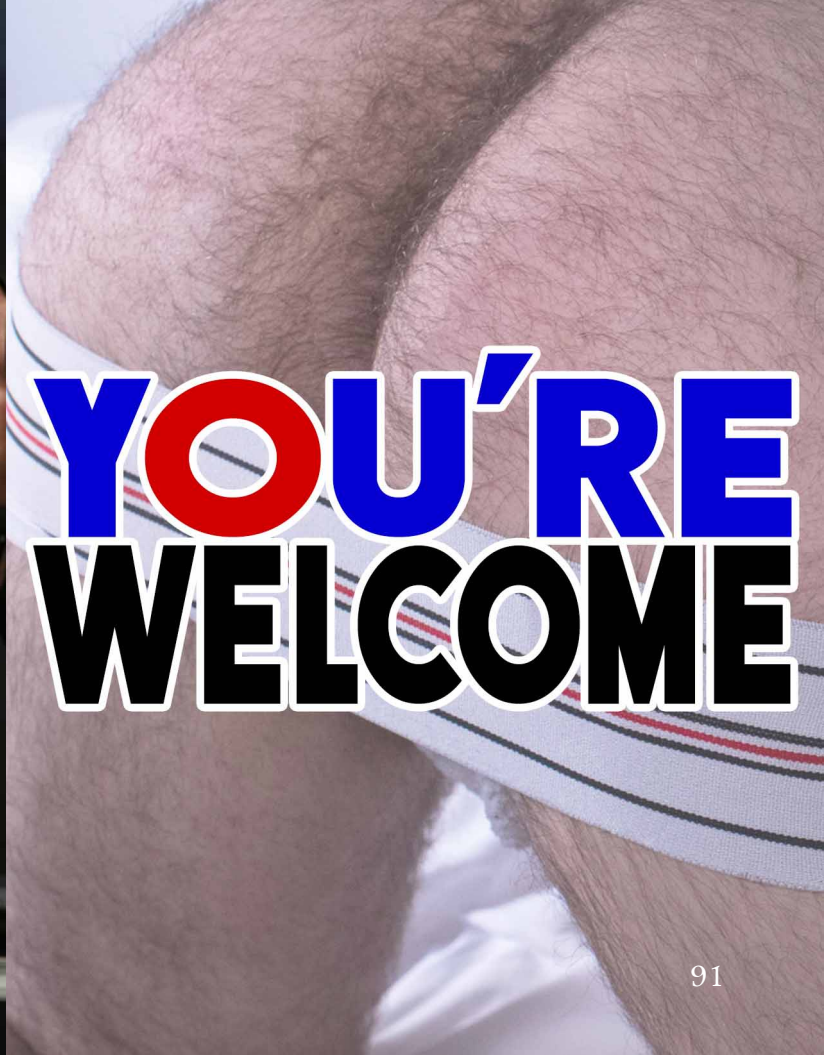












Continued from pg 69

Do you photograph other things besides IML, professionally and personally?

Personally, I also enjoy photographing abandoned buildings and places, old cemeteries, neon lights, stained glass windows, homoerotic male nudes, and long exposure photography on the dance floor at Jackhammer. Professionally, I have done photography for various leather and fetish events, like Mister International Rubber (MIR), International Pup & Trainer Contest (IPTC), Midwest Pup & Trainer Contest, Illinois Bear Contest, and Chicago Fetish Weekend.

Have you ever modeled before? If so, what was your biggest take-away from that experience?

I have modeled in the past for an artist boyfriend, and my takeaway from that experience was just to try to be comfortable in my own skin and not be so self conscious.

In your free time, what kind of pictures do you like to shoot and which ones do you avoid?

I really enjoy shooting candid event photography and capturing the moments as they happen. I usually try to avoid studio photography, unless I have an assistant or two to help me set up lights.

If you could with anyone, who would you like to work with most?

If I chose to work with anyone, it would be my high school photography teacher, Janet Anderson, because she helped build the foundation of photography that I am standing on today.

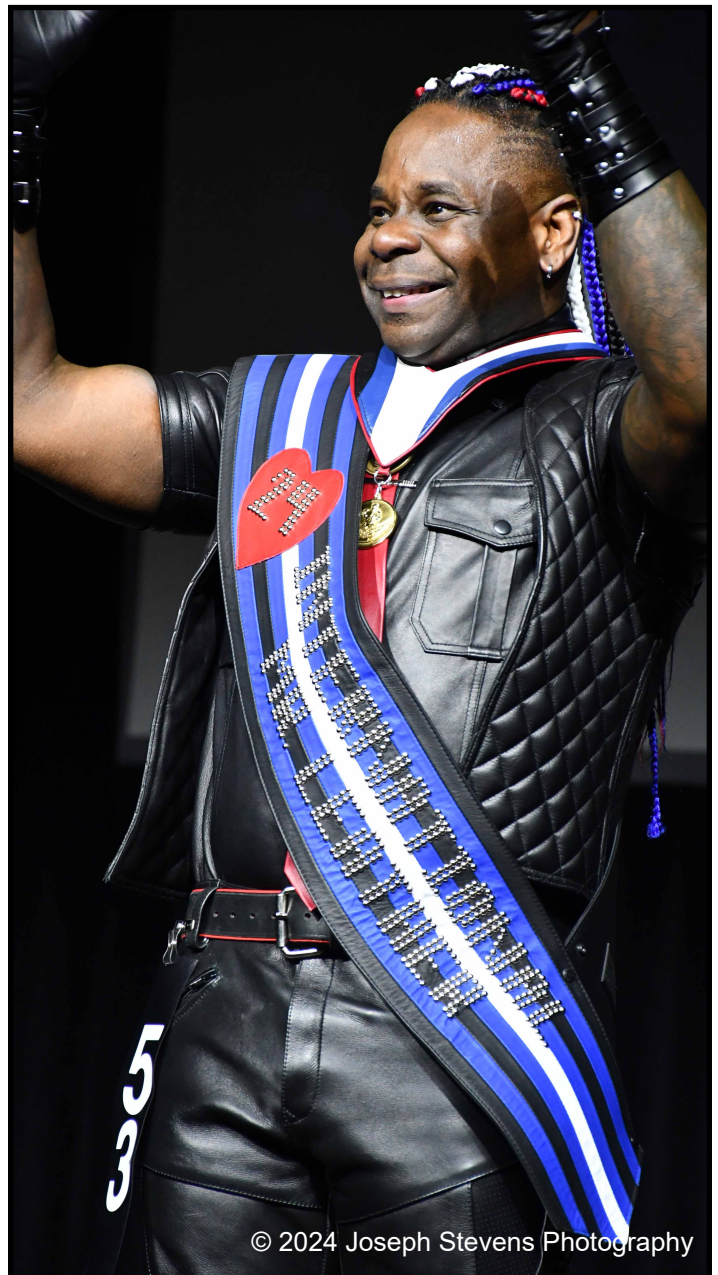
How can our readers find your work online? And what's next for you? Any upcoming shoots or events you'll be attending?

Readers can find my work online at windycitytimes.com. Upcoming events for me this year, include the Chicago Pride Parade, the Illinois Bear Contest and Chicago Fetish Weekend in July, and Mister International Rubber in October.

Thank you, Joe, for taking the time to answer these questions and give us some insight into your photography. I look forward to seeing you next year at IML or perhaps sooner in Chicago.

Joseph has some wonderful leather/kink/fetish photography out on the net, if you are so inclined to look at it. All you have to do is check out his social media presences.

If you want to follow Joseph on his socials:



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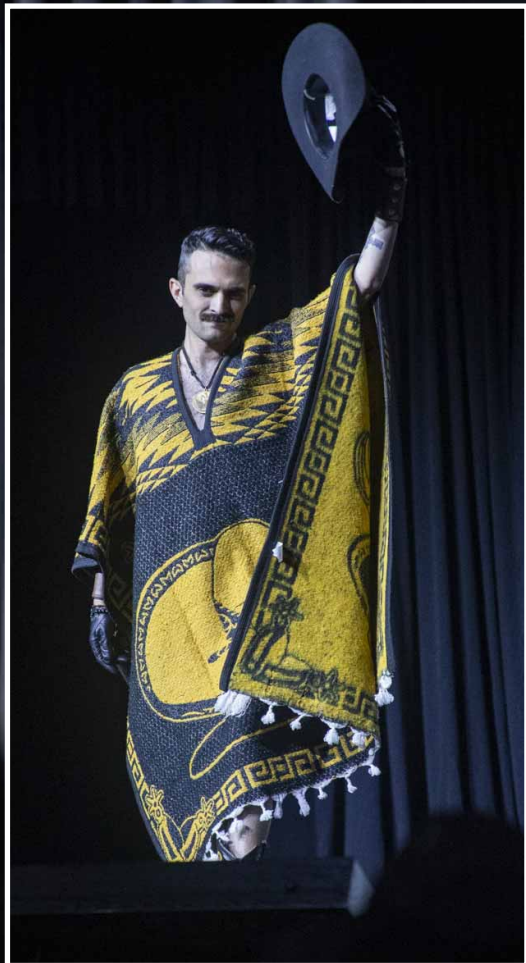
2024

IML TOP 3



El Bandito

2nd Runner Up IML 2024



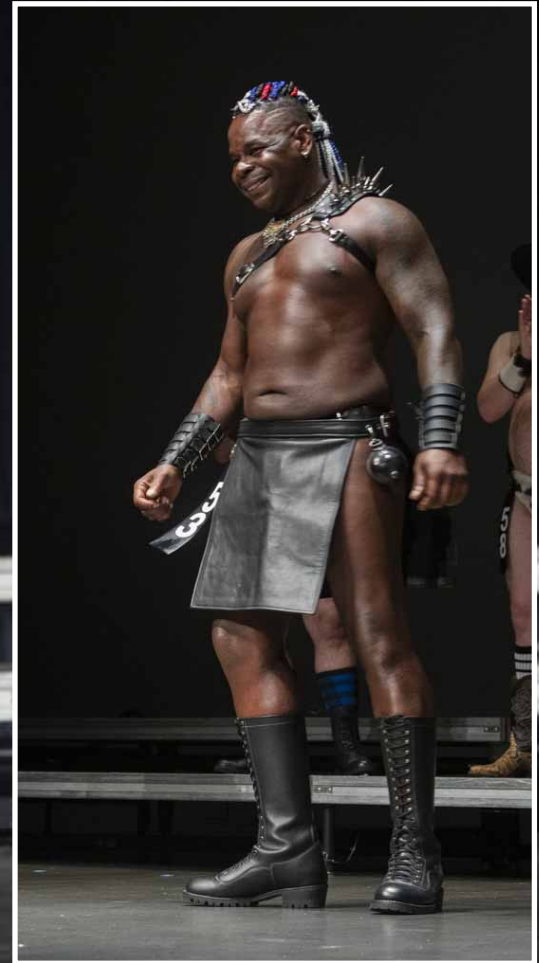
Steven Crespo

1st Runner Up IML 2024



Jamal Herrera-O'Malley

International Mr. Leather 2024





THANK

YOU



SARGE

Without this incredible man, DHM would not be involved with IML!

