

BITCHIN' PARADISE: The Saucy Season

by Kimberley Denney

It's January, the time when Key West's social season really kicks into full swing. I try to run the gamut of events, wine tastings and fund raising happy hours, but this month my social season has gotten off to an especially saucy start.

Saturday I attended my first Athena's party. Don't know anything about Athena? Well, besides being the ancient goddess of wisdom, there is a company called Athena's Home Novelties, and as luck would have it, we've got a Key West party hostess of our own!

As you might be guessing right about now, these are adult home novelties. Sex toys and more. It is obvious from the start that this company is not about you buying accessories to please your man. They educate you on accessories to accelerate the pleasure you and/or your partner (male or female) experience, but definitely with the wants and needs and...dare I say, practicality, of a female in mind.

Who would have thought of suction handles and foot rests fit for the shower? I haven't seen those anywhere on the internet. Athena's also sells twisted love ties that don't leave nasty marks your coworkers might question the next day. You can even find condom compacts (for a discreet night out on the town), and an adult toy chest or tiny toy box for those whose toys are spilling out over the night stand drawer. But maybe the most revolutionary of the items I was introduced to: the Sportsheet, which has velcro anchor pads that you attach neoprene sports cuffs to, and can be adjusted to suit your size.

I was bummed to have to leave the party early, but the hostess was kind enough to break and take my order privately—as she does for all guests—so I could get to my next event. Uh, yeah...I was just stocking up on scented soy candles (which happen to double as massage oil) and foot scrubs. Regardless of what you buy, she places your purchases in a discreet brown bag.

So email a few friends, put out some wine and appetizers, and let the fun begin! You could also do the same to prepare for the next event I was rushing off to attend: the Burlesque Holiday Extravaganza.

This was hands-down one of the most entertaining shows I've ever been to, and judging from the audience reaction, I wasn't alone. I'm a big fan of Key West Burlesque (and here's where my all-time fave, Marquee VonFister, gets a special shout-out), but this show kicked it up to a whole new level.

I'm still trying to figure out what that certain "je ne sais quoi" is with burlesque. Perhaps it's that all of the performers are hot, and their bodies come in every shape and size. And I mean, EVERY shape and size. And there they are, up on stage, doing a sexy striptease. Confident, classy, and captivating.

And for all you strip club addicts out there: trust me (and all the straight men that were sitting around me), less is more. As in, leaving a little something to the imagination is going to turn you on more than the action you'll get at a full-on nudie bar.

Be warned: once you go to a burlesque show, you are going to start fantasizing that you too can be a burlesque god or goddess. But first, you'll need an alter ego stage name. Unfortunately for you, these great monikers are already taken:

Lola LaFleur, Cheeky Derriere, Moana Amour, Tatah DuJour, Dirty Martini, Gigi LaFemme, Hot Toddy, Lux Lacroix...you get the idea. So dig deep within to capture and name your inner sex kitten.

Like me, you might even get so caught up in the moment that you buy tassle pasties during the show's intermission, convinced that in no time flat you will master the tassle twirl.

Now, you can google this signature burlesque move, and more, but why not just sign up for a class? Key West Burlesque's Tatah Dujour offers one-on-one instruction, or you can sign up for a six week Burlesque 101 Workshop (stay tuned, I'm working up the courage to sign up for the course in the name of investigative journalism).

Whatever your speed, if you want to book an Athena's party, just email Joanne Leger at athenasbyjojo@yahoo.com. She'll even book all-boy parties if you choose. And trust me guys, you'll definitely want to be in on this! Key West Burlesque has a Valentine's show just around the corner, and their largest show of the season, SPACE, is coming at the end of April. For more information on upcoming shows and class schedules, check out www.keywestburlesque.com.

The sexy shows continue!

I'll see you Friday at Christopher Peterson's Eyecons show at La Te Da, or Saturday at the Miss Key West Closetball Pageant at Bourbon Street Pub. And maybe, just maybe, I'll see you at Burlesque 101.