



Sasha Scarlett performs at CC's May 1 as part of the Superstar Divas Fourth Anniversary Show.

week, but eventually management opted to ditch the line-dance decor altogether.

"Slowly, that generation was getting older and not coming in as much, so it was filtered down to a point where it wasn't even worth having the country bar," says Pettit. The new building also featured an adjoining restaurant, the location of which now houses the most recent incarnation of the swanky Rainbow Room Lounge following a 2009 remodel.

"The new generation and the younger kids that were coming out, they weren't into the country. They may have been listening to it, but they're not going out to dance to country. So that's when it slowly progressed into a dance club, and we started going uphill."

The club was sold to longtime Adams Jr. partners Bruce Rice and John Houston in 2003. Depending upon your knowledge of Portland's gay bar/club scene, the rest of CC Slaughters' pioneering rise—along with those of Scandals and Silverado, the latter of which is also celebrating a silver anniversary, the former, 32 years in 2011—are pretty well known. Among its main attractions, CC's has played host for the last four years to the wildly popular Superstar Divas Drag Show on Sunday nights, essentially launching the careers of Bolivia Carmichaels, Honey Bea Hart and Miss Ginger Lee.

"When I first saw Bolivia walking around during the first block party, I was like, 'Who the hell is that?'" ribs Pettit. "That was seven years ago; now I couldn't live without her."

The club's eventual "no cover" policy having

been solidified a few years ago, CC's notched another crowd-pleasing success. Add to that the club's revolutionary text-messaging system, high-tech lighting and laser show, state-of-the-art 22,000-watt audio system and a live DJ seven nights a week and it's easy to see why the club has grown to one of the most revered LGBTQ destinations in the country. And for all its shapeshifting weekly entertainment—which Pettit oversees—the club still finds a way to welcome an impressively diverse clientele every night of the week—be it Trick Night, Superstar Divas, Hip-Hop Heaven or Flamin' Fridays.

"One of the drawing things with CC's is that we accept everybody," explains Pettit. "We're not a specific drag bar; we're not a specific lesbian bar. Anybody who comes through that door is welcome and will get the same service as anybody—as long as everybody remembers we're a gay bar and that's our roots, and will always be."

"We're hoping we're a starting point to say, 'Hey, we're equal at every level of race, gender, anything. We're all one in this family.'"

CC Slaughters celebrates its 30-year anniversary all summer long. Look for updates on Facebook at "Slaughters Portland," as well as online at ccslaughterspdx.com for special weekend events through August. The touchstone celebration takes place Saturday, May 21 from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., featuring adult star go-go dancers, gift baskets, DJ Robb and more.

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