

LA VIDA LOCAL

Birdman sued

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Birdman



Braxton

Birdman sure is a good sport — and beau. The Miami music mogul knows how to show his love and appreciation for **Toni Braxton**. The Cash Money CEO recently gifted the “Unbreak My Heart” singer with a 2017 Bentley Bentayga, reports *Uptown* magazine. Price tag: just around \$250,000. Can he afford it right now, though? TMZ reports Bird is being sued to the tune of \$3.3 million by unnamed musicians who allege their tracks were sampled on two of Cash Money artist **Lil Wayne’s** songs, “Certified” and “You.”

MEET & GREET

Wendy Ramos is bringing her one-woman clown show “Cuerda” to Miami’s Trail Theater Thursday and Friday nights. Safe to say, the performer has got her routine down pat, having done the show 74 times all over the world. After Friday’s show, Ramos will do an exclusive meet and greet, as well as chat with journalist **Miguel Durand**, with food and drink provided by Divino Ceviche. For tickets to Miami.com’s “Ocho por Noche” event, go to



Ramos

GETTING REAL

Lauren Foster knows how to close out summer 2016 in style. The onetime “Real Housewives of Miami” castmate reported on Facebook that while in Mykonos, Greece, last weekend she attended a party at Cavo Paradiso club, where fellow Bravo star **Erika Jayne** was performing while cameras rolled for the singer’s show, “Real Housewives of Beverly Hills.”



Foster

THE STYLE SCENE

Designer’s got serpentine style, and a celeb following

BY MARIA TETTAMANI
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There’s a new Miami-based designer sssss-slithering on the celebrity fashion scene. **Ximena Kavalekas’** python handbags can be found in the clutches (pun intended) of actress **Sofia Vergara** (pictured below) and singer **Sofia Carson** to name a few.

Launched in 2015, Kavalekas’ eponymous collection of **exotic-skin accessories** are the product of a lifelong passion. “For as long as I can remember, I always knew that I wanted to do something where fashion and art were involved — I always wanted to create conversational pieces.”

Born in Ecuador, Kavalekas lived and studied in Florence, Italy for several years. It was in *Firenze* where she honed her designing skills and was introduced to the art of tannery. “A lot of my creative and artistic expressions have spawned from those six wonderful years,” Kavalekas says of her inspiration.

Love and marriage brought her to the sunny shores of South Florida. Soon after settling in, her passion for custom-made handbags was reignited. In fact, her children’s school, Gulliver Academy, was integral in the collection’s success. Fellow moms fell in love with her unique designs, and the brand grew from a grassroots, word-of-mouth level.

“We are very fortunate to have our kids attend a school that is great, not only academically but also socially. It feels like a really big family. I am lucky to be part of that family, and have received support and help from almost everyone at the school,” she says.

The demand for her expertly crafted bags (especially her “box bag” style) has grown so much (hello, Sofia Vergara!), Kavalekas

recently opened a by-appointment-only showroom abutting the American Airlines Arena.

When not working with her clients or connecting with her Florence-based tannery, Kavalekas says, “I am blessed to say that my hobby is my work and my work is my hobby! However, things have been happening so fast, and I have been so busy that it does not leave me much time for a true hobby; but I do like to drink a glass of Prosecco or two here and there and just relax!”

Info: Ximena Kavalekas Showroom, 990 Biscayne Blvd., fourth floor, Miami; 305-905-3693; ximena kavalekas .com.



Ximena Kavalekas