

bent

Issue 158 March 2012

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ANGELO
NO FASHION VICTIM

STUART ANDREW MP
JUST HAPPENS TO BE GAY

COME TO THE CABARET
SCOTTEE AND PAUL L MARTIN

ME TIME
VISIT A SPA



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Next Issue
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MRGAYUK

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FOR MR GAY UK

2012

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Keeping a promise.

Samuel Kneen, or, Mr Gay UK as he is now known, has kept his promise to donate part of his £2000 cash prize to his favourite charity. The Terrence Higgins Trust received a personal cheque from Sam and a further £100 was donated at a special fundraising event at The Pulse in Cardiff, the club where he won his heat in the competition.

Sam says, "I had loads of fun on the night. Myself and a few THT staff, including Wayne Curley, did the rounds through Pulse, asking people to kindly make a small donation to the charity. We helped raise another £100 for the charity, I was so proud! We had a few drinks and it was a laugh, everyone got really involved. I'd like to thank Pulse and Mr Gay UK for all their continued support, and I aspire to do the gay community proud!"

The Terrence Higgins Trust (<http://www.tht.org.uk/>) was one of the first charities to be set up in response to the HIV epidemic and has been at the

forefront of the fight against HIV, and improving the nation's sexual health, ever since.

Joshua Hall, Services Manager at Terrence Higgins Trust Cymru, said: "We are very grateful for Samuel's donation. Not only does it help raise funds for people living with HIV locally, it will also help raise awareness around the wider issues of HIV. One of Terrence Higgins Trust Cymru's aims is to raise the awareness among the general public that HIV still exists but that it can be prevented."

Plans are already underway for this year's Mr Gay UK contest so, if you are interested in holding a heat, or sponsoring the best known gay pageant in the UK, please get in touch with the team.

FAIRYtales

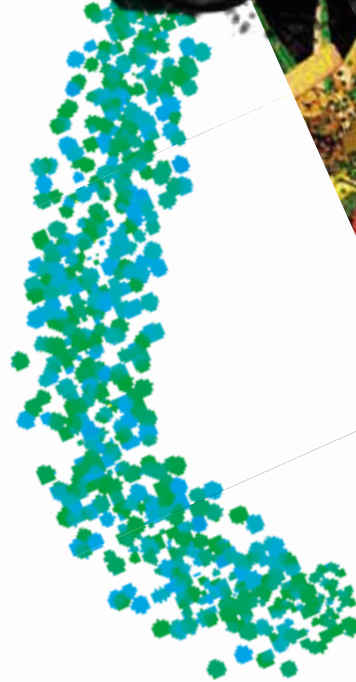
by Allan Christian Hansen

SOMETIMES I JUST LONG TO BE BACK IN THAT CLOSET



Narnia

Pride Ball set to be the



Pants
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Are you a confident everyday guy?

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ianreedphotography.com

www.pantsHQ.com

image by ianreedphotography.com

It's all about being yourself, having fun, living life, loving everything about yourself and showing off your best bits. Pants, Manchester's premier men's designer underwear store is now recruiting for their Everyday Guys campaign 2012.

The men's underwear industry is awash with images of guys with the perfect male form, über fit bodies and six packs. But we all know real life isn't like that. So last year Pants launched its Everyday Guys campaign as a way of proving that you don't need to be gym buff to look great in the right underwear.

They recruited a small team of "everyday guys" off the streets of Manchester and put them through professional photo shoots. Images from the project then formed the basis of the company's marketing material in the North West and on their website www.pantsHQ.com.

The project was a big success, receiving a massive amount of support from the public. Darren Bevan, the company's Operations Director said "We were trying to show that it's not all about having the perfect body - everyone can look great in the right underwear. After last year's project we received lots of feedback from people saying how refreshing it was to see "normal" guys instead of gym buff bods. So we have decided to do it all over again this year".

Reckon you have what it takes? Pants are looking for people with personality, confidence, a fun and cheeky, positive and professional attitude that aren't scared of the camera. The final line up of guys will be selected at a recruitment event in Manchester in April, and will be rewarded.

So, If you think you have what it takes and aren't afraid to bare all then email guys@pants.uk.com to register your interest and receive more information.

the biggest and best yet!

Organisers of the Pride Ball in Birmingham, established as one of the UK's biggest annual LGBT fundraisers, are expecting the 2012 event to be the biggest in its 16-year history.

Over 1,000 diners will be in attendance at the star-studded charity evening, which will feature performances by a host of celebrities, including Stacey Solomon - the 2010 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here! winner and former X Factor finalist - '80s pop legend Sinitta, and award-winning tribute artist Vicky Jackson. The event will also feature a Harvey Nichols fashion show with 10 of their hunky male models

The event, which boasts a three-course dinner and an 'Oscar'-style awards ceremony, takes place at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham on Friday 23rd March 2012. The Pride Ball is a charity

fundraiser for local HIV/AIDS and LGBT organisations, and in the last three years alone has raised a grand total of over £50,000 for the charities.

Organiser Martin Monahan commented: "The 2012 Pride Ball looks set to beat all previous records, and it will undoubtedly be another complete sell-out. The line-up of artists performing on the night is going to be amazing. I'm confident it will be our best Pride Ball yet."

Mr Monahan added: "I would encourage anyone who hasn't been before to come along this year. I think it will surpass everyone's expectations."

The Pride Ball takes place at the International Convention Centre on Friday 23rd March. Tickets and tables can be purchased online at www.prideball.co.uk or by contacting Jo on 01743 281712.

5 easy ways to please your man

1. Tell him he's a God
2. Suck his dick
3. Assume the position
4. Get a friend to come and play
5. Make him a sandwich



Dermot O'Leary to be 'catch of the day'

An opportunity to spend the day sea fishing with Dermot O'Leary, before cooking up the catch of the day together in his Brighton restaurant Fishy Fishy, is among the lots on offer at the return of Terrence Higgins Trust's Lighthouse Gala Auction. Sponsored by Prudential plc, the annual event will see an exciting range of items and 'money can't buy' experiences - including dinner at The Goring with Downton Abbey creator Julian Fellowes and a black cab both of which go under the hammer to raise funds for the HIV and sexual health charity.

This year, the auction will include stunning artworks by Tracey Emin (who has donated one of her famous neons), Antony Gormley, Alison Jackson, Michael Craig Martin, and Rachel Whiteread. Luxury holidays to Los Angeles and the Maldives, a supporting artist role in the final series of Poirot, and a private screening of the new James Bond movie Skyfall on the same night as its London premiere are just a few of the other lots on offer. Monday 19th March from 6.30pm Where: Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1Y 6QT

Rugby Tackles It

The RFL has launched a new game-wide 'Tackle IT' Equality and Diversity programme, which aims to increase awareness of issues such as racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination and prejudice within Rugby League. The 'Tackle IT' campaign features seven promotional posters and a promotional DVD which will be made available to all professional and community clubs in the UK. The campaign sees the RFL become the first UK sports governing body to produce a resource that simultaneously tackles and celebrates all six key equality strands of; race, sexuality, gender, disability, age and religion. RFL Chairman Richard Lewis said: "We are committed to making Rugby League one of the most open and friendly sports in the UK and

the Tackle IT campaign is the latest step aimed at ensuring we can achieve that goal."

To view the 'Tackle It' DVD visit <http://www.therfl.co.uk/equitydiversity/tackle-it>



BEYONCE

RESPECT (JUST A LITTLE BIT)

We're all very aware that the world of celebrity isn't the real world. We already know their world is very different to ours. They have mountains of money, hordes of hoes and piles of possessions. But they are also, for people who are usually meant to be creative, very straight. There are very few A-list gay celebs. No, let me correct that: there are very few out A-list gay celebs. Statistics alone tell us 3-14% should be queer (depending on whichever statistician you care to believe). And yet two recent events have served to reveal the real lack of queer faces among those we're supposed to idolise.

While watching the BBC3 documentary *Britain's Gay Footballers*, which covered the tragic suicide of Justin Fashanu after he came out as the first and only gay professional footballer, it reminded me that there still aren't nearly enough gay sporting heroes. We have Gareth Thomas in rugby, and Martina Navratilova in tennis, but there isn't a single queer footballer.

Then there were Peter Tatchell's comments about Whitney Houston. As he recalls, Whitney had a lesbian relationship in the 80s, but was forced (whether because of her religious and ethnic background, the music industry or general attitudes at the time) into a doomed relationship with Bobby Brown later, which may have been responsible for her later substance abuse.

The response was almost exactly as I'd expected it. There were those who claimed posthumous outing was disrespectful. Partly because the dead deserve their privacy, but mostly, I suspect, because saying someone might be gay is a terrible thing in itself. There were those who jumped up and down while saying Whitney was indeed happy with Bobby (yeah, right!).

More troubling are those who simply rolled their eyes and said (or thought), 'Those queers always want to claim everyone for their own'. As if looking for our own heroes and role models is such a bad thing. As if assuming everyone is straight is somehow far more acceptable than assuming even a few people are queer.

It's no secret that several high-profile celebrities have, over the years, been fingered (excuse the pun) as being one of us. Besides the headline-grabbing, paparazzi-whoring of Madonna and her ilk, there are few celebrities willing to show any hint of queerness. And those who do



Photo: www.whitneyhouston.com

make it clear they're being transgressive—that they're simply playing a role to shock us. Remember Brit and Madge's pseudo-lesbo kid?

Tracy Chapman's former lover, Alice Walker, has spoken publicly about their relationship for years. It's not a very well kept secret. And yet, Tracy still hasn't officially come out. Jodie Foster was in the closet for years, as was Elton John. Queen Latifah, Luther Vandross and even Billie Holiday have also been called queer. It seems coming out is even more taboo among those black queers in the spotlight, but gayness strikes wherever humans are in the world, whatever colour or creed.

Of course, I still have friends who swear blind Tom Cruise is gay (seriously, though: the straights can have him!), and that Bryan Adams is bisexual. Heck, even Eddie Murphy and Shakespeare have been called queer. I don't believe all of it (although, Bryan Adams and Shakes-queer convince me), but whether these celebs are gay or not is missing the point.

We're looking for queer faces precisely because we don't see any. It's such a salacious topic precisely because most celebrities who are queer refuse to come out. And it's silly: when the US repeals Don't-Ask-Don't-Tell, the UK allows civil partnerships, and every other person in soapland is gay, you'd think the world of the A- to Z-listers would follow suit. But it doesn't.

Perhaps Whitney was bisexual, or even lesbian. Perhaps she wasn't. But I'm putting my money on at least one of those mentioned above being queer. The law of averages almost seems to demand it. And until the people we, as a culture, put on a pedestal are willing to be honest, and are willing to reflect us—all of us—we're going to keep on looking and asking, whether it's a comfortable question or not.

So maybe it is disrespectful. But so is telling me I can't have heroes of my own.

COME TO THE CABARET

In his quest to delve into all things theatrical, Adam Lowe attempts to pose some half-serious, vaguely philosophical questions and gets some very interesting answers indeed ...

SCOTTEE: EAT Y (... and keep on e

Scottee is trashy, funny and camp. He's also a vocal advocate of fast food and a committed 'fat femme'. He has performed at some of the world's most prestigious galleries and theatres, including Tate Britain and Tate Modern, ICA, Whitechapel, the Royal Festival Hall, and the Royal Opera House. He has broken limbs, been questioned by Police and lost countless pairs of high-heels in his queer determination to please and challenge his audience. His brash, clumsy and obnoxious approach to performance has left them confused, annoyed and amused. Live artist, clown or showoff—whatever you think of Scottee, he probably won't care!

Scottee, you're always so busy! Can you tell me what you're up to at the moment?

Everything! I'm genuinely excited about everything I am working on. The next 12 months will see me encouraging fatties to get onstage, exposing my fetish of 1970s television personalities, trying my director's hat on for size, making a community radio show about why old people should be on the airwaves, and experimenting with what makes a good party trick—all this slapped together with a plethora of festivals, regional towns and charity shops! Exciting!

What on earth is Light Art? Can you explain this to me, please?

I invented light art because I was frustrated that I didn't fit in and didn't adhere to the rules of either light entertainment and live art. Both come with their own politics and rules, and I wanted to



OUR HEART OUT (eating!)

create a genre that best described the work. I like to make engaging, fun, accessible and pretentious work that's bold and brash but never takes itself too seriously. Thus Light Art was born and I'm happy to lead the revolution.

Who are your influences? Who can we blame for your relentless, full-fat assault on the art of performance?

Most people usually think Leigh Bowery, Franko B, Divine, John Walters, etc—but they would be wrong. Although I love the all of the above, my references are as bipolar as me: Hattie Jacques, Dawn French, Dick Emery, Vic & Bob, Tommy Cooper, Les Dawson, Chris Morris, Lily Savage, Beryl Reid, Frankie Howerd, Kenneth Williams, Fenella Fielding, Pauline Quirke, Victoria Wood, Julie Walters, Black Lace, Michael Barrymore, Gail Tuesday, Mrs Mills, Mollie Sugden, Kathy Burke, John Inman, Bruce Forsyth, the Roly Polys—need any more? They are usually working classes, entertainers from the telly pre-Britain's Got Talent.

Do you think there's something quintessentially British about camp?

Yes. I think the British public have had a long obsession with camp! From Shakespearian actors to Little Britain, we enjoy bold characters showing off. Being camp is averted in the gay scene. We are afraid of it. To be effeminate is fine in an entertainment context, but our sexual fetishes revolve around the illusion of masculinity. Being a fat femme in a world where 'no fats, no femmes' is the du jour of homosexuality obviously only encouraged me to become more outré,

and thus Scottee was born. I wholeheartedly embrace my campiness and encourage other femmes to do the same!

Why do you think some forms of queerness are considered more desirable than others?

I think this is largely to do with the image of homosexuality we actively embrace. Our magazines, icons and ideals are fronted by airbrushed pecks of perfection, which encourages a culture of body-fascism that clings to the gospel of PhotoShop. When editors attempt a glance at plus-size queers, it's often masked with muscle bears to make it more palatable. But I don't think I'd feel happier, more included or more accepted with a magazine cover that embraced body difference.

Cultural change is further up the agenda than what you stick on the cover of a magazine.

I fell off a stage during a curtain call at the Roundhouse and split my head open and broke my wrist.

If you were on death row, what would your last ever meal be?

This will typecast me, but I really enjoy a good cake! Kooky Bakes makes amazing cakes, but if you're in the mood for heavenly brownies head over to Paul A. Young—the man is a chocolate witch!

What's the most unexpected thing that's happened at a show?

I fell off a stage during a curtain call at the Roundhouse and split my head open and broke my wrist. I climbed back up and took my bow! It's given me the reputation for giving my all and not caring for the outcome. It really hurt.

And which acts do you think our readers must see before they die?

Bryony Kimmings: she's like a girl version of me with less lipstick.

Amy Lamé (and her new show Unhappy Birthday): it's a riot and she shares my love of charity shops!

Jonny Woo: I've learnt a lot from Woo. He's like the Madonna of light entertainment—always making new work and trying out new ideas.

Bourgeois & Maurice: I think young people would call these my 'homies'. We started at the same time—made some ugly work, made some lush work—but their shows are always wonderful.

Dickie Beau: he has a knack of bringing you to tears by just moving his lips. Go see him!
Ryan Styles: another friend who makes fantastic visual work that only encourages you to try and do better, she's always raising the bar.

Scottee's brand new show **Camp** (a mixed bill show of camp clichés, television re-enactments and game shows) will be on at the **Roundhouse** as part of **CircusFest 2012**. The festival as a whole runs between **28th March and 29th April**, and **Camp** will be on each **Saturday of the festival**.

His beauty pageant with a difference, **Burger Queen**, will be held on **1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March** at 7pm at the **Royal Vauxhall Tavern**. Tickets are **£7**, or **£11.99** with burger and chips! The search to find the perfect porker has begun - who will become **Burger Queen 2012**?

Scottee is **Artistic Director of Eat Your Heart Out** performance collective.



EXCESS ALL AREAS

Paul L Martin is an international cabaret performer, producer, TV personality and founder of Excess All Areas, an entertainment agency that represents a wide variety of talent including, tribute acts, look-a-likes, cabaret performers and burlesque dancers. Paul is currently one of the judges on Sky Living's Bigger Than . . . series. The show follows contestants who want to make it as their favourite celebrity look-a-likes. It airs every Wednesday at 9pm and each winning contestant is signed up to Paul's agency.

What does cabaret mean in the 21st Century? Why does it still excite people so much?

Cabaret excites me because it is a very raw and direct performance style; the act always deals directly with the audience and what is happening in the room, breaking down barriers between the two and offering an opportunity to really engage with one another. It also seems to be more inline with our current attention spans and budgets: given the choice of forking out £65 to sit in the dark silently for two hours to watch a musical, or paying £15 to see a cabaret whilst seated at a table drinking, maybe eating with friends and having a quiet chat—I know which one I would choose.



Cabaret is a tricky word that comes, for many of us, with memories of dodgy singers performing in front of a slash curtain in a Spanish hotel bar, singing to a tape deck they are pressing 'play' on themselves. But it's not all like that I promise!

The current cabaret scene in London is full of extremely talented performers ranging from musical comedy acts to burlesque troupes, from jugglers to ventriloquists. My agency Excess All Areas represents many of these performers and our website Excessallareas.co.uk also has a listings page for the entire world of live cabaret, burlesque and circus events open to the public.

Who are your influences?

I got into cabaret via musical theatre, for which

I trained at drama school. I was working as a waitress in a cocktail bar (well, nearly!) when two drag queens from Madame Jo-Jo's came in for lunch. We got talking and a week later I was a showgirl in the nightly cabaret. Funny how things turn out!

After my apprenticeship there, I went on to run my own weekly cabaret show called Trinity's for seven years around the West End, before I finally hung up my heels and started crooning and compering as a bloke. These days, after 21 years of working in the industry, I put all those contacts to good use working as an agent for other performers and advising performers on how to improve their act and further their careers. I'm also passionate about getting recognition for cabaret as a genre in itself and have been involved in several campaigns to get magazines, festivals and ticketing agencies to do just that.



How does cabaret interact with or influence the idea of 'camp'?

Absolutely never felt there was any connection at all, but let's give it some thought. I suppose there might be something inherently camp about speaking directly to the audience and reacting to whatever happens in the room (a waiter drops a tray of glasses, a cabaret artiste will not ignore this happening!). But then, wouldn't we be saying stand-up comedy was also camp?

It depends if it's done in high-heels or not, I guess? Cabaret can certainly be very . . . 'theatrical'.

I dunno. Some cabarets are camp, yes. So are some bin-men. Perhaps bursting into song is camp—I've never thought so! Tra-la!

I asked Scottee this, too, and I think that we, as Brits, are drawn to camp. It forms part of our culture—from TV to music to film. Do you agree?

I think that camp is often seen as quintessentially British because of Carry On films and pantomime. That's if we're talking about theatrically camp as opposed to gay camp. People have very different views of what camp means, just like they do the word cabaret. I think that's the link. God, this is hard. Next question!

Sorry, Paul! Well can you tell us about a time you were particularly camp?

Do you remember the Des'ree song 'Life'? It had a terrible rhyme about seeing a ghost and a piece of toast . . . Well a long time ago, when I was a drag queen called Trinity Million, I was running a weekly cabaret on a boat on the Thames. For the finale one week we lined up twenty toasters along the front of the stage, and the rest of the cast toasted and buttered bread and served it to the audience, whilst I sang that song on a loop. I've also lip-synched in front of 13,000 people whilst dressed as Nicole Kidman in Moulin Rouge. The speaker above my head was bigger than my flat!

So tell me: if we were to get a grip on what modern cabaret is all about, who would you recommend we see?

I'm afraid my role as creator and producer of the London Cabaret Awards precludes me from making such statements any more, on the grounds that people follow you around Sainsbury's shouting 'FIX!' and throwing feather boas at you. The best I can suggest is that you check out all the nominees that our independent judging panel chose for the inaugural awards that look place last month, at londoncabaretawards.co.uk. That would be a good start. What I can say is that the current scene owes a tremendous debt to acts like the marvellous Fascinating Aida, who've been at this

lark for 28 years and taught many of us how to do it. Go see them before their hips give out.



NEW STAGES: HOT THEATRE AND CABARET WITH QUEER THEMES

The Royal Vauxhall Tavern has plenty for lovers of all things theatrical! Check out their regular (and highly popular) events such as S.L.A.G.S / CHILL-OUT, with live cabaret from the DE Experience; Amy Lamé's literary salon Duckie; and The Big Bingo Show. New additions include Myra Dubois presenting SING OUT LOUISE! on the last Wednesday of each month. Scottee's Burger Queen returns to the RVT in March. More details at theroyalvauxhalltavern.co.uk.

In Manchester, Queer as Fringe launches in March, to fill the gap left by the apparent demise of Queer Up North. The festival features new short plays by the award-nominated Vertigo Theatre Productions (OUT; Rage; M; Die, Mommie, Die!), the critically-acclaimed Dream Avenue Productions (Dream On, Celluloid) and the innovative Pink Triangle Theatre (Show One). Six 15-minute gay plays will be presented in one night, from comedy to drama. The writers featured include Lloyd Eyre Morgan, Craig Hepworth, Paul Burgess, Adele Stanhope, Joe Gosling and Stuart Crowther. More details at queerasfringe.vertigotheatreproductions.co.uk/

Wed 28 - Sat 31 March sees Mancunian poet Dominic Berry take his show Wizard to Contact Theatre. Inspired by Berry's own experiences of anxiety attacks and the mental health system, Wizard combines comedy, fantasy and imaginative theatre in a quest to find magic in even the darkest of places. When an agoraphobic wizard shares his world of tea loving carpet goblins and a zombie-slaying dish rack with a neighbour from the flat above, three days of magic change both their lives forever. Friday 18th May and Saturday 19th May see queer heroine Amy Lamé return to the theatre with her fantastic show Unhappy Birthday. More details at contactmcr.com.

MUSIC

ALBUMS
Adam Lowe

PHOTEK

DJ-Kicks



Jungle and drum 'n' bass legend Photek helms the latest mix by !K7. Crossing club-friendly genres throughout, this long-player features work by Photek himself, as well as Hot Toddy, Marco Effe, DLX, Sepalcure and Kromestar. Photek aims for an epic sound, and with this stunning mix, he certainly achieves it.

26th March

THE CIVIL WARS

Barton Hollow



The Civil Wars' debut album reveals a raw, unique talent with sparse, heartbreaking melodies and equally restrained voices. Add blues, folk, Americana, country and classic into a pot, add gothic American South, and strip back all the fat. The result is Barton Hollow: understated, brooding and intimate conversations over haunting music.

5th March

NAVAJO YOUTH

Heavy Heart



This EP from Navajo Youth is panoramic pop with touches of electronica from the 80s and today. With cadences of Passion Pit, Imogen Heap, Erasure and Patrick Wolf, this EP welcomes you to the stylish dark-side of popular music. Navajo Youth, in just four tracks, manages to do what many acts spend years trying to achieve: an edgy, clever aesthetic with mainstream appeal.

12th March

SCARLETTE FEVER

The Great Expectations EP



The Great Expectations EP sees Scarlette unveil a new, rawer sounds, with fresh interpretations by Ash Howes (Texas) of live favourites 'Hour of Sunshine', 'Cheatin' Man' and 'Good Day'. There's a stripped-back aesthetic, with a peppering of old school rock 'n' roll. Widescreen ballad 'Good Day' rests easily alongside Motown-influenced 'Cheatin' Man', and the result is effortless, accomplished and addictive.

11th March



A Bright spot in Bolton

The Cotton Tree is run by a gay married couple of 5 years Richard and Steve. They have been running the pub for 7 months and early on decided to turn the pub gay as there is only one other gay pub in Bolton. Steve has had many years experience in serving the gay community, as he once owned a gay hotel in Blackpool. The bar now offers two large function rooms and a well staffed main bar, which attracts a terrific cross-section of age groups from twinks to the more mature.

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Spartacus

It's great to see the return of the sexiest show on TV. Thankfully, I don't mean The Big Fat Gypsy Wedding or The Only Way Is Essex, I mean those sexy, near-naked, rebelling gladiators wearing leather thongs in Spartacus – Vengeance. It was thought that after the untimely death of its original star, Andy Whitfield, that the show would lose some of its brooding sexuality but his replacement, fellow Antipodean Liam McIntyre has slipped into his own leather undies with muscular aplomb. Liam has enjoyed a diverse career in theatre, television and film, since beginning his acting career in Ireland as the lead in a production of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure." His credits also include "12 Angry Men," "Proof," "Twelfth Night," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Much Ado About Nothing" and "Macbeth: Rearisen," which

won the Green Room Award for best independent production. His television credits include his role as Sergeant Matt Connor in the Australian series "Rush," as well as Bradley Hewson on Australia's longest running drama "Neighbours." McIntyre made his U.S. debut as Bell Captain Lew in HBO's Emmy®- and Golden Globe-nominated hit "The Pacific." Spartacus is still surrounded by a group of hunky death deliverers, all of whom you wouldn't mind being on the end of their particular sword, but the only criticism I have about this violent, sexy and visually stunning piece of television is... that the series just isn't long enough. I find myself, late at night (or when I have any spare time) watching and re-watching my muscular hunks over and over again... and I'm damn sure I'm not the only one.

Spartacus – Vengeance is on Sky 1

THE HOUDINI EXPERIENCE

Prepare to be amazed and astounded. For the first time ever, international illusionist extraordinaire, Hans Klok, will bring his astonishing new show The Houdini Experience, to London's West End this month.

Described as 'chilling, thrilling and breathtakingly amazing', Hans Klok, his Divas of Magic, dancers and a troupe of world-class variety acts that will dazzle any audience... young or old.

Commenting on his epic new production, Klok, who is regarded as the world's fastest magician, said: "Let me take you on a journey into another world; a fantasy world, a world full of mystery, where the impossible becomes possible and where you experience one surprise after another."

Combining sensational illusions, daredevil stunts and extraordinary tricks, The Houdini Experience, pays homage to one of the world's greatest magicians and escapologists and comes to the capital some 100 years after Houdini himself made his London debut.

The Peacock Theatre
London

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www.sadlerswells.com

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GEO LOCATION



MUSIC

DANCE TRAX
Jason Guy

Exciting news on the next 2 Federations to hit Manchester. Easter Sunday sees the return to the mighty Sankeys and then on Bank Holiday Sunday 6th May Federation presents Menage A Trois at Menage A Trois @Factory (formerly Paradise Factory). You can catch me playing at both, along with a guest set over in Dublin for St Patrick's Day weekend at the amazing Kitchen Nightclub. Find out more at www.clubfederation.com. As usual, you can download my monthly podcast filled with feel good, uplifting house - simply search for 'Jason Guy' in iTunes or download directly from www.jasonguy.podomatic.com.

If you'd like to see your track, club, or event featured here, contact me at jason@bent.com.

LIQUID KAOS FT KIRSTY HAWKSHAW

Back In Time - You Better (Toolroom Records)



Toolroom Records breaks new ground once again courtesy of the legendary drum and bass double act Liquid Kaos. Teaming up with one of the most distinctive voices in dance music and a number 1 selling artist in her own right, Kirsty Hawkshaw. Now, I know what you're thinking... drum and bass? But included on the remix package is an amazing remix by Swedish star John Dahlbäck provides an amazing electro/tough house mix. One of my favourite tracks of the year so far.

JEAN CLAUDE ADES & DANIEL FALKENBERG FT YOAV

We All Are Dancing (Swing Records)



Jean Claude Ades or JCA, as his loyal supporters call him, is an established house producer originally from Italy and label head of Swings Records. The label re-launches this year with this smooth house number with an infectious rolling bass line combined with melodic and uplifting vocals courtesy of Yoav (world renowned singer-songwriter who's worked with the likes of Beck and R.E.M.). Head straight for the Sharam Jey Remix with its deep bass lines, that is ready to destroy any dance floor it's played on.

DAVID JONES AND AZULI

Miami '12 Mix (Azuli Records)



In a break from the norm for this column, here's one of the best compilations I've heard in ages, courtesy of David Jones. DJ, label boss and producer behind some of the biggest selling club records of the last few years, he's established himself as one the major players in the game of upfront house music. Azuli Miami '12 brings together the cream of 30 upfront club cuts. It's impossible to pick out all of the many highlights, but tracks worthy of mention include David's brand new remix of Kris Menace 'Discopolis' and Robbie Rivera & David Jones 'Dopeness' (Club House Mix). Play it loud!

MARC VEDO & BOY GEORGE FT DESI SLAVA

Kalino Mome (VG Records)



Most people who know me, know that tech house usually bores me to tears, especially if you go to a club and that's all that's played... but this is a little gem. Marc and George team up again with this chunky tech infused scorcher which comes gift wrapped alongside 4 dynamite re-works! Already seeing massive international exposure from a number of headliners such as Oliver Lang and Antoine Clamaran.

Federation Underground...

Federation this year plans on delivering special one off events every Bank Holiday Sunday each with a distinct flavour and style at a different venue!

Kicking off the Easter holidays Federation returns to the legendary Sankeys.

Federation is taking you to Underground NYC, so all aboard the express train to a night of pure hedonistic excess and a nitty-gritty underground vibe like only Federation can.

Sankeys will again host three rooms of music...

We invite you to get down and dirty under the lasers with bass thumpin, chunky upfront house in the main room with DJs Gregg Holden, Jason Guy & Nik Denton. For sheer 'hands in the air' hedonism, DJs Dylan Jeffers & Lee Yeomans bring back the Federation Classics to Spektrum upstairs, whilst those who like to chill and relax join us in the bar for a cool mix of New York style

Electronic Disco with DJ Trafford Lovething or on our very own private beach out on the huge outdoor terrace.

Tickets are available online from www.ticketweb.co.uk

AfterFed...

This year the Federation DJs are teaming up with the Aftershock residents to create AfterFed the best Afterhours since the legendary Manto Breakfast Club. So head on over straight after Federation to Sub101 the villages best little underground venue the perfect setting for part two of a night of nitty gritty shenanigans hosted by Manchester two most loved events. Exclusive joint tickets that get you into both Federation & AfterFed are available from Clone Zone, Cruz101 and online from ticketweb priced £17!

Next Event...

On Bank Holiday Sunday 6th May Federation present Menage-A-Trois @Factory (Formerly Paradise Factory). This event is not to be missed and will hold a lot of nostalgia as Paradise Factory was the gay mecca for Manchester clubbing in the golden age of clubbing and has not held a gay event since it's breathe taking refurbishment where the club was guttered, redefined and updated with all the latest in sound and lighting. Not only that but with three rooms of music Federation will be giving you a brand new sound to one of the floor - We here at Bent can't wait for this.

For more info go to www.clubfederation.com or search for the official club federation facebook group.

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NEXT **FEDERATION** EVENT... FACTORY (FORMALLY PARADISE FACTORY)

Ménage à Trois

BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY 6TH MAY

FACTORY
FORMALLY PARADISE FACTORY

251

112-118 PRINCESS STREET, MANCHESTER M1 7EN

Angelo represents a new direction for pop music. Taking lyrical inspiration from ancient mythology and transforming it into irresistible modern pop-dance anthems, Angelo proves that he's not just a pretty face. His latest single 'Narcissus Drowned' represents the brains behind pop; articulate, attractive and undeniably addictive. Bent caught up with this sexy young superstar at his recent performance for London Fashion Week.

The voice of an Angelo

How important do you think the link is between fashion and music?

It's probably overly cliché to wax poetic on the synergy between music and fashion (and conversely fashion and music) because they are so intrinsically linked. Music is sort of an aural documentation of the times we live in, in as much as what we wear, (or fashion) can be a visual representation. Imagine watching a movie or period film about a certain era without the inclusion of the music or fashions of the day? It wouldn't read as a depiction or a recreation - the audience would could never be whisked away without it. You can't ignore the impact an artist like Gaga has on bringing couture (and concept) to the masses. She's engaged an entire generation into the world and theory behind design... For London Fashion Week I've worked with a brilliant designer Jeffrey Michael on creating an original composition for his debut collection. The song "Polyhymnia" (feat. MONKIKER) blended both the concept behind his collection - and my own personal mythologies together...to create a really lush aural landscape. If music is the soundtrack of our lives (as they say) then fashion is the movie.

You seem just as at home in a suit as in shirt and jeans, do you have a preference?

In fairness (and I'm not being cheeky, just honest) - If I really am at home, I'm not wearing very much at all. A well made suit will sharpen out one's silhouette, but it can also be very

confining. I don't like feeling constricted, so I'm very picky about what I wear. I guess I'm more of a jeans and shirt sort of guy, but that can get boring. I dress according to my mood.

Is fashion all about dressing up... and can you be fashionable in anything if you look right?

Fashion can be as much or as little as you'd like it to be. Most people treat it as an extension of their personality, but I think that's a trap.

If you put too much emphasis on what you're wearing (or worse WHO you're wearing), you're fortifying a façade. You become a cardboard advert with no personality or style of your own.

Individuality doesn't mean you have to go against the grain. As long as you are comfortable with who you are - you can wear anything. Confidence is the best fashion sense, the rest is Tom Ford.

Born in San Diego California, Angelo first cut his teeth performing at a very young age. A third generation musician, he quickly abandoned instruments to explore his natural talent as a vocalist. Trained by his mother (a world class Contralto) and in the shadow of his grandfather (who worked with jazz greats Nat King Cole, The Dorsey Brothers and Johnny Mercer) Angelo carries a legacy into his own unique pop sound.

Tell us a bit about your music.

Pop music with lyrics that will either make you think, forget or make you want to go drinking, heavily. That's what I hope at least. I like to inject a little bit of poetry into what I do - but

ultimately it's electro-pop music with a little ass shaking soul. This album is as personal as a diary, so it's a little scary putting that out there - but with all the remixes and the natural evolution of my sound - things are definitely moving into a more serious Dance genre.



Since moving to New York where do you hang out and who with?

I live in the East Village and I love my neighbourhood, but I do venture out. My favourite haunt is Eastern Bloc which is a bar conveniently located down the street from my apt. My friend Brian has willingly dragged me up to Hells Kitchen...recently, not sure if that's really my scene. My sister is also in the music biz, so she and I go to a lot of concerts. I try and keep my claws sharp when it comes to other performers. .

Your single 'Narcissus' is out at the moment in a collaboration with Marco Ovando... any future plans for similar couplings?

Narcissus Drowned is the title track from the album, it also features remixes from some amazing DJs and remix artists (Buzz Junkies, Buffetlibre) - the lyric in the song is all about duality...and living in NYC presents a bit of a double life. There is the life you live with your friends, at the gym, picking up your dry cleaning - and then there is the flash, the nightlife, the Pop-life. When I thought about how to capture that essence I tapped Marco to see if he would want to collaborate. Marco is sort of the king of NYC nightlife photography, but there is something very raw but editorial in his style. We decided London would make the best canvas for the Narcissus Drowned video, we're bringing a little bit of NYC to the London Nightlife. I think both Marco and I have decided that there will be a narrative follow up to the "Narcissus Drowned" video, so - no promises, but if it happens it will be epic. I will also be working with another photographer on another video from the album this spring, we're just in the initial storyboarding but I'm excited about that as well.

Away from music what do you like to do?

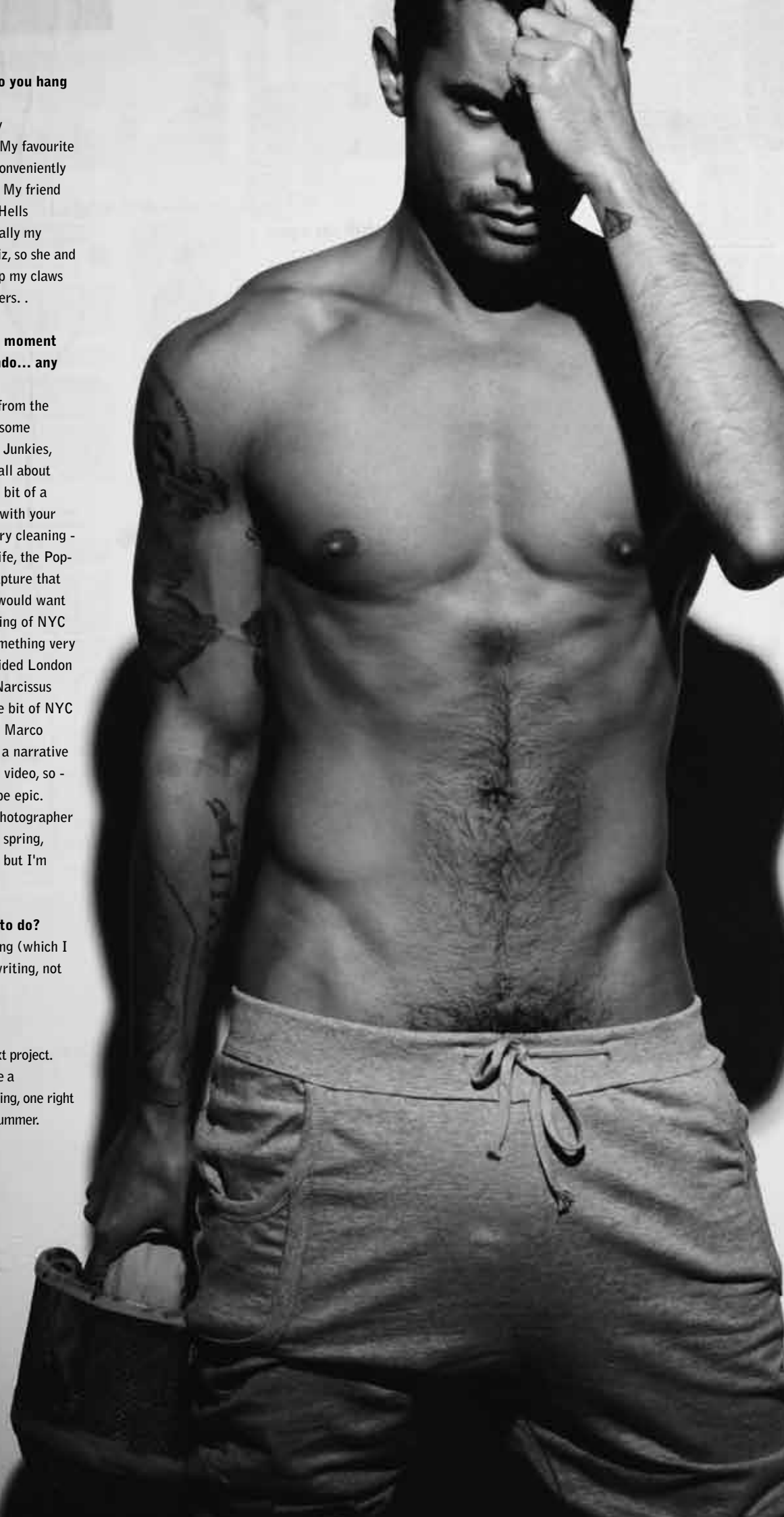
Travel. If I could live my life travelling (which I sort of do) I would. Reading. I love writing, not just music. Tattoos.

What is your next project?

I have already started recording my next project. After the album comes out, there will be a slaughtering of new dance tracks releasing, one right after the other... it's going to be a hot summer.

www.hearangelo.com

Photos: Eric Scot



Courtyard Parties 2012

The 'BITCH IS BACK' and this year's summer Courtyard Parties promise to be bigger and better than ever! We have tweaked the line-ups and gone mental with the production so expect the same amazing atmosphere but this year on steroids!!!

DJ's spinning the metal disks this year are Alex Simmons, Dale Castell, Rob Tissera, John Marshall, Stuart Robinson, Christian Appleby, Nik Smith and Glen Battensby.

Put these dates in your diary:
Sunday 8th April (Easter Sunday)
Sunday 6th May (May Day) Sunday
3rd June (Queens Jubilee) Sunday
26th August (last bank holiday of summer)

2pm-Midnight @ The Courtyard
between Fibre & Queens Court.
Admission is £3 before 4pm/£5
after.

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MUSIC

SINGLES

Adam Lowe



ELOUISE

One part pop diva one part little voice, Elouise is a vocal tour-de-force. Now with the best creative team around her and an ever-growing army of fans, this exciting new star embarks on her first national tour with her hit show Little Belter. Working alongside Steve Anderson (Kylie Minogue, Westlife) and Terry Ronald (Girls Aloud, Danni Minogue, Cheryl Cole), Elouise originally created the show for her residency at the iconic London venue Madame JoJo's. A celebration of the legendary artists that have inspired her to find her own voice, Little Belter is an unforgettable musical journey which sees the incredible Elouise take on show-stopping melodies and epic torch ballads made famous by the likes of Barbra, Bassey and Judy, mixed with exhilarating arrangements of more contemporary songs. Proving that despite her tiny frame Elouise possesses the kind of singing voice which earned her the Little Belter nickname from childhood, the show is a funny, smart, sequin-spangled memoir, with Elouise recounting tales of growing up, her inspirations and why, ultimately, she could not do anything but sing.

<http://www.littlebeltershow.com/>

WorldPride

While East London is gearing up for the Olympics and Buckingham Palace prepares for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Soho is preparing for its own moment in the global spotlight – WorldPride 2012.

Registration for walking groups and floats to take part in the Parade is now open and with communities from around the world entering this year spaces are expected to be filled quickly. Headline sponsor Smirnoff has already confirmed it will be entering a show-stopping float in this year's line-up. The annual call for volunteers to help out in the run-up and throughout the festival is also now open. Pride London is a charity run entirely by volunteers without whom we couldn't stage the largest un-ticketed event in Europe.

London has been chosen to host this year's WorldPride parade which means the celebrations will be bigger, better and prouder than ever. The LGBT community from across the globe is expected to descend on the city for two weeks from 23rd June – 8th July for a festival of art, culture and campaigning culminating with the Parade through central London on Saturday 7th July.

www.pridelondon.org www.facebook.com/pridelondon

Twitter: @pridelondon

photo: Pride London/One Sunny Day

LOVERUSH UK FT. BRYAN ADAMS

Tonight in Babylon



Celebrated house duo Loverush UK team up with (allegedly) bisexual rock star Bryan Adams to create this future club classic. Armin Van Buuren, Ferry Corsten and Benni Benassi have all championed this one, and it's already set to zoom straight to the top of the dance charts. The powerful blend of Bryan's signature vocals with Loverush UK's killer beats makes this a sure-fire winner.

Contact: chris.latham@umusic.com

5th March

BELLERUCHE

Stombid



A three-minute, dual vocal-line, tempo-shifting oddity, Belleruche's latest single draws from the same cabinet of musical references as their earlier work, but moves into newer, riskier territory. Clipped drums and swells of looped feedback make this a darkly distorted pop song.

Its sub-bass impetus grabs your attention and runs away with it, suggesting great things to come from upcoming album Rollerchain.

26th March

DAMN JAMMAGE

She Drowned



Having made their name demonstrating a bizarre mix of melodious punk-folk and explosive oddball blues, this release sees the band once again defy convention. Bouncy, whiskey-soaked and gothic all at once, this single is led by the bone-shattering baritone of Danny Rapsallion, with contrasting angelic vocals from singer/pianist Jasmine Daniels.

19th March

STOOSHE

Love Me



Subversive pop minxes Stooshe prove they're still as filthy as a darkroom in Vauxhall with their latest single 'Love Me'. Replete with aggressive cool, defiant sass and a delicious hook, 'Love Me' is tight and naughty. Rapper Travie McCoy (of Bruno Mars' 'Billionaire', but don't hold it against him) adds a burst of masculine energy to offset the onslaught of female mischief, but frankly the girls shine with or without him.

5th March

Under New Management

Traditional home cooked food served 7 days a week- look out for our great value, **ALL NEW menu coming soon!**

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5-7pm on selected bottles, pints and spirits at outrageous prices

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Thursday- Karaoke with free shot for every singer

Friday and Saturday- Watch this space for an **ALL NEW** line up

Sunday - Lunch menu only 6.95 for 2 courses!

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New Union Wakefield Under New Management!

You may have already heard but the NU Wakefield is undergoing a major transformation!

Back by popular demand are Vinni and Paul- firm favourites from when the NU first took Wakefield by storm. Watch out for brand new twists on the traditional quizzes and karaoke and watch out for new, exciting events- with new, state-of-the-art technology, coming soon!

Traditional home cooked food served 7 days a week- look out for our great value, ALL NEW menu coming soon!

Every day 'HAPPY HOUR' 5-7pm on selected bottles, pints and spirits at outrages prices

Tuesday- Quiz night with fantastic drinks offers and prizes

Wednesday- Free pool with buy one get one free on selected bottles plus other surprises!

Thursday- Karaoke with free shot for every singer

Friday and Saturday- Watch this space for an ALL NEW line up

Sunday - Lunch menu only 6.95 for 2 courses!

Huddersfield's NO.1 Underground Event!

Dawn Chorus was born in 2006 and has fast become a late night clubbing experience not to be missed. With big name guests and friendly intimate surroundings, the Dawn Chorus soundtrack includes the best in Upfront House, Electro, Electroline & Jackin provided by the weekly residents, Ryan Blyth, Simon Mann & Richie G. It's whatever you want it to be. It's an expression of people getting together and having FUN. WE aim to give you the best experience in afterhours partying.

Dawn Chorus has two rooms to experience; The Conservatory and the The Box Room. The Conservatory caters for the House side of things and The Box Room plays Upfront Electroline/Electro & Jackin' House.

Get on it, Get involved. You're here for a good time, not a long time.

Dawn Chorus is a weekly event running @ The New Union, New Street, Huddersfield.

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**NEXT COURTYARD
CHORUS
SUNDAY 6TH
MAY**



MARCUS COLLINS

Having wowed audiences with his unique sound and style in the latest series of X Factor, Marcus Collins is set to entertain us once more with the release of his debut single 'Seven Nation Army'. The cover of the classic rock track originally by The White Stripes features Marcus' distinctive smooth vocals.

He says: "I've always been a fan of the original version and hope people like my take on it. I'm also happy to be releasing my debut album. I've worked on my music every minute possible since I came out of the show and can't wait for everyone to be able to hear it."

Marcus has written a number of tracks for the album, of which friend and mentor Gary Barlow is executive producer. The X Factor finalist has also been in the studio with Brian Rawling (David Bowie, Kylie, Girls Aloud). As well as his original tracks, the album will feature three stand out covers including the single; 'Your Love Is Lifting Me Higher' by Jackie Wilson – one of his best performances on X Factor; and 'Tightrope' by Janelle Monae who is a huge inspiration to Marcus.

Fans can catch Marcus perform live as he hits the road on the X Factor tour throughout March and April.

The single 'Seven Nation Army' is out 4th March with the album 'Marcus Collins' out on 12th March

www.marcuscollinsmusic.com



KATY PERRY SPECIAL EDITION

Global pop superstar Katy Perry has announced that she will release a special edition of her double-platinum certified album Teenage Dream . As well as her hits it also features three brand new songs as well as versions of "E.T" featuring Kanye West, "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)" featuring Missy Elliott, and a moving acoustic version of "The One That Got Away". None of these alternative versions have ever been available on a physical CD until now. Also included on The Complete Confection is a 7 minute Tommie Sunshine megamix featuring all six No.1 hits.

"This is the complete story of Teenage Dream. It was an incredible honor to tie the King of Pop's Billboard Hot 100 record, but I'm moving forward and had a few things left to get off my chest. So this is the complete special edition of my album for my fans," states Katy.

www.katyperry.com



ARISE ZACK KNIGHT

Zack Knight, British born of Eastern descent is the UK's newest "homegrown" multi-talented singer, songwriter and producer. At 21 he is finally ready to unleash his electrifying debut single All Over Again, it is the first track to be released from his highly-anticipated debut album which will be released later this year. Zack's Pop/Electro fused sound is mainly influenced by the likes of Michael Jackson, Usher, and Tiesto. All Over Again is instantly catchy and promises to be one of the hottest dance floor fillers this year..

Single out: 25th March on Prestige Records.

www.ZackOfficial.com



Anniversary Celebrations

Middlesbrough gay scene has been revolutionised since March 2010 as this month **blu** celebrates its second birthday.

The venue and management team received a number of awards for best venue in the Tees Valley Pin Awards and were accredited Best Bar None 2011 in the nightclub category. In January the venue, with support from many partners including Bent magazine, secured a late license and is now open til 4am on Friday and 4.30am on a SaturGAY!

Spring & Summer looks set to be fantastic with a very special comedy night on 22nd March and the regular Lip Service - all girl events - running alongside our regular weekly offers. If you haven't popped up or down to Middlesbrough in a while, it's worth a visit!

See our facebook page "blu middlebrough"

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 LIVE ON STAGE



& A BEST MAN WITH A HUGE GIFT FOR EVERYONE!

Duchess Davinya Host & DJ, Penni Trallon, Daisy Diamond, Paige Turner, Jenni Talia, Poppy Ma Cherree, Gash Tash, Barbra Cardi

Bridal Party 8pm - 11pm Service 11pm - 12am Honeymoon & Reception 12am - 3am

HOSTED BY TESS TICKLE & DUCHESS DAVINYA
 Open till 4.30am | Last entry 2am
£4 @ Jump available in before 11pm!

PLUS A BOUNTIFUL BUFFET OF BLU GOODNESS

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 DJ MATT NEVIN & GUESTS
 COMMERCIAL DANCE, POP & R+N-B
 £2 ENTRY AFTER 11PM



SATUR-GAY
COMMANDO PARTY
 31 MARCH 2012 21:00 - 04:30
 LAST ENTRY 2AM
 SQUADRON LEADER TESS TICKLE
 DISCO SARGEANTS MATT NEVIN & DAVID BOURNE



Lip Service

28.03.12
 22:00 - late
 Boro's only all girl night
 DJ Lindsey Stephenson + GIRLS EXPOSED!



Ethan Bourne

A couple of years ago UK porn company Eurocreme had the idea of forming their own boyband, clever named 'Boy Banned'. They didn't knock the world of pop apart but they did play well on the gay circuit performing at many gay pride events here and in Europe. Ethan Bourne was one of the four who made up this all singing, all dancing, all pretty cute looking pop experience but now he wants to break out on his own. Ryan Houston got the chance to pose a few questions.

How did it feel for you when you got signed to be part of 'Boy Banned'?

It was a surreal feeling getting the record contract with Boy Banned. I didn't think it was real at first and then it all happened so quickly, the gigs, music videos, photo shoots and stuff, I had such an exciting time. We were always laughing and joking, and the best part was that I got to spend it with some amazing guys who I continue to be close friends with today.

As a band you performed many gigs, as well as at numerous Prides, what was the best gig for you?

We did some massive gigs to thousands of people but I always enjoyed the intimacy of club gigs, being able to interact with the audience. I think my 'best' was probably Benidorm Pride, not because of the performances themselves but the fact it was practically a lad's holiday out there with the guys and management - there are some stories from there that I don't care to repeat. Let's just say it was just an epic few days!

Having admitted you have a passion for LGBT, do you think that is something that is necessary for your fans to know?

The LGBT side of this year is really important to me, being part of a boy band meant I kind of had to play it down for the PR side of it, but I kind of disagreed with that. Now I've been given more independence and support with my new management, I think it's important to be who I am, be true to myself and show people what I'm about as opposed to something contrived or produced. The LGBT work I'll be undertaking come from a passion to support people who've not had the opportunities I've had. I've been so lucky and I think it's only fair I try and help other people through hard times.

What first got you interested in the music industry?

I loved playing my organ in my bedroom, and although that makes a fantastic euphemism, I do actually mean an electric organ that I first learnt to play on. Since I was young, song writing came to me as a natural way to get things off my chest. Whether it was issues at school or relationships, I just sat writing a song and got it off my chest. So, I've always done it as a means of relaxing. I was also part of a drama group and did TV and theatre work, so I was always interested in singing and acting and all these elements just naturally coerced me into music!

You are now working with a new manager to produce something new for Spring, what can fans expect?

I'm really excited about the spring portfolio, and I feel lucky to have been given the opportunity to work on my own songs, as they're really personal to me. I see my songs as basically a diary recording every low and every high over the past few years. I've been releasing little excerpts on my YouTube (EthanBourneMusic) and my twitter (@EthanBourneUK) and I'll be releasing some of the produced tracks nearer the time of the showcase, so I can't wait to show them to all my fans.

Photo: Equinox Features 2012



Super Sonique

Gay UK based DJ/Producer Paul Morrell teams up with Brit & Ivor Novello Award winning artist Sonique for their forthcoming single "What You're Doin'".

Sonique shot to fame as lead vocalist of 1980s electronic dance band S Express, racking up a series of top 40 hits including "Theme from S Express", "Hey Music Lover" & "Mantra for a State of mind", before embarking upon a highly successful solo career. In 2001 Sonique scooped a series of prestigious awards including

Best British Female at the 2001 Brit Awards ceremony, fighting off fierce competition from Dido, PJ Harvey & Sade. At the 46th Ivor Novello Awards that same year, Sonique also won the "International Hit of the Year" for her single "It Feels So Good", from the number 1 album "Hear My Cry", which also featured the tracks "I put a spell on you" and "Sky".

In 2009, Sonique was diagnosed with Breast Cancer, and underwent three operations, including intensive chemotherapy in order to finally beat the disease. "It's all good and they've given

me the thumbs up... so I'm just trying not to hang on to that whole thing now," said the 41-year-old.

2012 marks Sonique's return to the dance music industry, as she teams up with close friend and fellow DJ/Songwriter Paul Morrell. Morrell, whom was recently recognised by Ministry of Sound club night "The Gallery" as the UK's "Best Breakthrough DJ" has been making waves on the dance scene for sometime, with a string of successful remixes and collaborations.

Out: 26th March on Tidy Trax

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challenge 25
drinkaware.co.uk

Trendy yet traditional



Denim and chino specialists MQT (Masters of Quality and Traditional) are back with a classic raw collection with a hard yet contemporary edge. This season's collection sees brave designs manufactured with innovative details with variations of the drop crotch and tapered styles being a key look. Distressed washes, light-weight twill cotton fabric and twisted seams put the stamp on this MQT Spring Summer 2012 collection. Prices start from **£65 up to £80**
Stockist: 0207 4366753

Just Different



This fragrance is a reinvention of the classic, fresh, masculine Fougère fragrance type. Drawing inspiration from the fundamental contrasts within the metropolitan environment, which the HUGO man inhabits, it is characterised by the unexpected fusion of different ingredients, combining fresh coolness with soft, underlying warmth. HUGO - Just Different brings together an innovative blend of notes to produce a surprising new scent that leaves you invigorated, curious and ready to see things differently.
£48 -Eau De Toilette (150ml)
www.thefragranceshop.co.uk

The Eyes Have It

Bulldog, the UK's first and largest natural skincare brand for men, is launching an amazing new Eye Roll-On product aimed at reducing puffiness (around the eyes, cheeky) and the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles. It's full of natural oils, essences and extracts but contains no parabens or synthetic fragrances.
£9.99 for 15ml and is available from Boots.
www.meetthebulldog.com



VitaMan Massage Pack

VitaMan has created a new DIY Massage Pack featuring its natural face and body oils and creams, combined with an innovative Soy Body Candle. Great for a home spa retreat or to use in the spa hotel room to continue the benefits of a VitaMan Spa treatment, the Massage Pack is a relaxing, soothing kit featuring the very best of VitaMan's Australian Native plant extracts. So for a night of romance or just to help each other relax and de-stress from hectic lifestyles, this DIY Massage Pack means you can complete a face and/or body massage for you, your partner or anyone in need of some instant TLC.
£51
www.vitamangrooming.co.uk

To be in with a chance of winning one of these massage kits just answer this simple question:
 Which one of these is a name for a type of massage?
 A, New Zealand.
 B, Swedish.
 C, Portuguese.



Pony Trekkers

The classic Pony Topstar silhouette first appeared in 1975 and was originally released in NBA team colour-ways, in both leather and suede. To celebrate the company's 40th Anniversary they are going back to their roots for their inspiration for the future.
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www.pony-europe.com





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Stuart Andrew: An MP... who happens to be gay.

By Gordon Hopps

There are definitely more and more high profile gay MPs in Parliament these days. One of the new brand, and newly elected members of Parliament, is Conservative Stuart Andrew representing Pudsey, West Yorkshire who won the Labour held seat back in May 2010. He won it with the public knowing he was gay and he himself is very vocal about the subject having left the Tories when he was younger to join the Labour party because of their direction on gay issues. However, that liaison was short lived and he returned to the Conservative fold after a short period.



Being originally from Anglesey in North Wales, your background isn't that of a typical Tory... so where did Labour fail you?

Whilst the Labour Party was a lot better on gay issues at that time, my philosophy was more about being a Conservative really. My view is, having been brought up on a council estate, that if you give people the tools to build lives for themselves they often do it really, really well...

and I saw some good examples of that on my council estate.

That's why I'm a Tory.

What's a typical day for an MP?

There isn't such a thing actually, because it's such a varied job and I'm just learning all about it really.

When I'm in London there's stuff going

on in the chambers – from question times to debates on bills going through and you need to take part in those. Also, while I'm there I try and take up the campaigns that affect my constituency. When I'm back in the constituency, it is still just as varied. Like today I have this interview with you, then I go off to Pudsey Market for one of my surgeries, then over to Trinity and All Saints College to be quizzed by the students there, then a couple of meetings with individual constituents and then I'm speaking at a dinner this evening. They are long hours 8.30am to 11 at night.

The Gay Marriage Bill is soon to be debated in Parliament and some reckon that there may be over 100 MPs who are against it but you say it should pass through without much opposition. Why?

The reason why I think the bill will go through is because it's not going to make it compulsory on the churches to provide gay marriage

Just through talking to people in parliament. There are people, and I actually respect this, who have deeply held religious views, and who don't want to support it, and that is absolutely fine. The reason why I think the bill will go through is because it's not going to make it compulsory on the churches to provide gay marriage - what they are really doing is stopping the state from interfering. So, it's up to the individual churches to make that decision. So, if they want to provide that service they can. I think that the total number of MPs in favour will be higher

than those voting against it. We're moving away from a civil partnership and bringing in a religious element and that's where it is different. I think if this was compulsory, I don't think you'd get it through Parliament. We've come a long way, and I give credit to the Labour Party here, and the fact that we are talking about

Gay Marriage at all is a big thing.

Has it been handy for the Tories to be in a coalition with the Lib Dems because they have been able to take away all the flak from the unpopular government policy changes?

I think in fairness when I go around the constituency I take my fair share of flak. The fact is the coalition I think has been a good thing because we do actually get the best of both parties' policies and bring those in. However, I wouldn't say it was only the Lib Dems who are taking the flak. I know from my colleagues that it is tough, we have some very difficult decisions to make and people do want to know why we have to make them.... And they do bring us to account.

How difficult is it to go along with your Party's policies, even when you don't actually agree with them?

That is tough at times and I think that what you have to do is choose your battles wisely. However, the way I tend to do it is not to go on College Green and do interviews on television and in papers and be critical from the sidelines. I try to meet the minister concerned and try to change things from behind the scenes and I have found that is far more effective... and things have changed. They have listened and things have altered.





Now I've seen the poster saying that Life's Better Under The Tories, did you have anything to do with that?

He looks at me quizzically – so I show him a copy. Laughs – No I didn't. I had nothing to do with that. (Laughs) I'd like to say it is me... but... it's one of those fun things that the promo people at LGBTories occasionally come up with.

The Labour MP and Shadow Minister Chris Bryant has recently said that the Stranger's Bar in the House of Commons is getting like any bar in Rupert Street, that is, very gay indeed. Is he correct?

There's something about politics that does attract many gay people... in fact I always noticed that in the Conservative Party, when we had our conferences, that they attracted many gay people. He's slightly going over the top... and knowing Chris as I do... it was slightly tongue in cheek but it is a bit of a joke that goes around Parliament... yes.

It is important that we engage in political life as well, it's not just about going on Pride marches.

Still on the subject of Mr Bryant, when he was lambasted in the Red Tops for having a Gaydar profile and a rather exotic image of him in his knickers... did you feel for him, think...mmm I like what I see... or quickly get rid of your own links to these online community groups?

This happened before I was elected so I wasn't there at the time. I think people talked about it in brief passing...

Briefs passing?

(Laughs) I don't think anyone was that bothered.

When are we going to see you on Have I Got News For You – not a place where MPs usually do well, although some have made a great career move by guesting on it?

I don't think they'll want someone like me, they want someone far more high profile.

All you have to do is say something silly in Parliament and you're on aren't you?

The thing is that there is a fun side to the job but there is also a very serious side so, when I raise something in Parliament I want it to be taken quite seriously. That's why I have often said I don't want to be known as a gay politician I want to be known as a politician who happens to be gay. Why do we need that stamping on us? I want it to become the norm rather than... there's something different about them so let's

point it out. We don't say that David Cameron is the straight politician so I want it to become so equal that actually it doesn't matter.

You have this busy lifestyle... what do you do to relax?

Very little time to relax, it is difficult finding the time, and what I am beginning to realise is that I have to start to get a bit better at managing my diary but I am a bit of a workaholic. I enjoy the job, working long hours but when I do get that break I suppose it's just socialising with friends and a drink down the local.

How long have you and your partner Robin been together?

Ten years.

How did you meet him?

Funnily enough, I was working for a hospice over in Blackburn. One of the nurses had a twin sister who was involved in trying to be the British entrants for The Eurovision Song Contest, and Robin was the one who was organising that team. He is a massive Eurovision fan.

Who Isn't? Isn't it par for the course, being gay and liking Eurovision?

He's a bit of a fanatic. We have a chest full of all the videos of the contests going back... well... his knowledge of it is actually quite scary.

So any plans to go to Eurovision?

We've been. We went to Latvia in 2003 and decided we'd spend a week there... that was a bit of a mistake... as there wasn't a lot to do. However, the night itself was phenomenal. We decided to go with our Union Jacks, being as patriotic as possible, but it was the year that Jemini performed... and as soon as they got on stage, we knew it was going to go badly wrong. We were very tempted to dump our flags and pick up a Norwegian flag instead but we didn't, we stayed loyal. After the event, wherever we went, because we still had our flag, people were shouting... "Great Britain, no points" and laughing, so not a great experience.

Do you have a mission statement for a gay audience?

It is important that we engage in political life as well... it's not just about going on Pride marches. It is being part of the political system and I say if people have an interest in it, regardless of which party, then get involved because we do need more representation. It's not going to happen unless people volunteer. I've been involved in politics for over 20 years and compared with what it used to be like to now there's a huge difference and people would be welcomed.

www.stuartandrew.com



Home Alone

Thank you so much for all the letters and messages, which you've been sending me over the past few weeks and months. It seems that you've rather enjoyed the little reports and sex-tips that I've given you over the years. Why, even my editors have been surprised at the level of success!

Many of you guys have also asked me how you can have fun when you're home alone – and what you need for a nice evening by yourself when you're in bed (or on the sofa). Well, apart from some strong arm muscles, a nice big hand and some lube (or if you want the

basics – spit), you don't really need that much. Don't use any grease or oil from your kitchen – and under no circumstances use the butter from your fridge or the salad oil that you have somewhere on your shelves. The result would be injuries, allergies and/or infections; and in some cases it will even destroy latex. Instead, just spend a couple of quid and buy some quality lubricant. Of course, this begs the question: water or silicon-based? Online stores offer a large variety of tried and tested products, but we professional adult entertainers always prefer the silicon lubricant, which glides better and lasts long. The down side is that it tends to stain more, and that these stains are quite hard to shift. Why, I've lost count of the number of expensive silk and linen items I've lost due to mindless, animalistic sexual activities!

In addition to using your own hands there's also a lot of mechanical toys which I like to use. My number one toy is most definitely the legendary Fleshjack – a kind of wank device that's available from www.Homoactive.com. It's basically a tube made of gum with an opening in the form of a mouth or an ass, into which you put your hard cock and start pumping and rubbing.

The feeling is quite unbelievably realistic – it's almost like being inside a tight, warm twink ass, if you know what I mean! So when my boyfriend's bum isn't available I always like to use a Fleshjack. As a special gift to myself I bought the transparent ICE-Fleshjack, which allows me to watch my cock as it moves inside the tube and gets a nice massage in the process.

That's a very pleasurable extra little kick!

To be frank, though, I'm not a big fan of plugs and dildos. Maybe it's because I prefer the real thing, but a lot of my friends really like to use these intimate plugs. They wear them for hours, either to stretch themselves in anticipation of cock later in the day, or just simply for the exciting and erotic feeling in their bum. I remember many occasions in the past when I had dinner with friends, wondering why they had been sitting so nervously on their chairs – before I realized that they already had a plug inside, stretching them in readiness for the ensuing bed sessions!

Dildos, in comparison, are less

discrete and less handy, due to their sizes. In addition, you always look a bit more clumsy using one if you're not experienced in handling them. For those who want to use one on their own I always recommended dildos with suction, which you can stick on the floor leaving you with both hands free for more important action. To be honest, however, I never really enjoy them on their own – though when they're handled by some cute partner it's a completely different story altogether! Indeed, I remember lots of joyful moments in the company of a twink and a plastic toy! Talking of plastic, the artificial smell of these toys, especially dildos, is always a big turn-off for me. Sadly, it's something you just have to put up with; and in the middle of some sweaty, energetic session it's something you don't really notice. Trying to disguise the smell by putting perfume on it is a definite no-no! The perfume could cause injuries inside your bum. Neither should you use anything other than professionally tested toys, including vegetables. I'm told that carrots, cucumbers and bananas are all very popular, but even if you're a vegetarian they should be strictly avoided!

Another toy that's pleasurable to use either on your own or with a partner is a cockring. I'm not talking about the old-fashioned and rather un-sexy gum-rings, but rather the modern, futuristic rings that feature some pre-installed prostate massagers. Once you've found out how to handle and wear them without injuring yourself – and I agree, this can take a little time – these toys can provide you with a lot of fun and bring some distinct pleasure to your sex-life. Unfortunately, however, these items aren't cheap and are not made for everyday use; but they're definitely hot for a special kick, and make a great present for anyone who says that they've seen

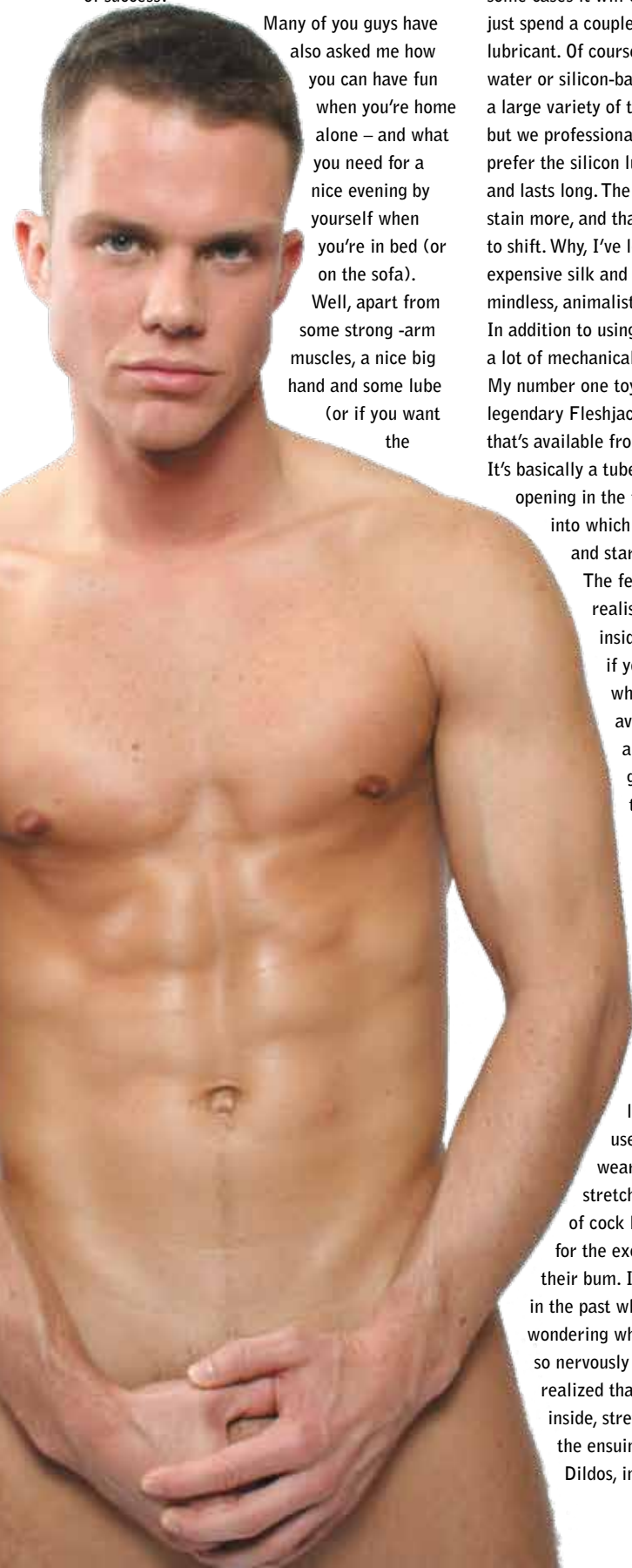
Ice-Fleshjack



and done everything already.

But let's be honest. The best instrument made for solo fun is the good old hand, together with a shameful and horny imagination! It certainly did the job for our ancestors for hundreds of years, so it can't really be wrong for us today. Of course that's not to say that it can't be improved – perhaps using a hot porn DVD from STAXUS, with me as an actor in the leading role! In short, a nice wank is still the fastest, cheapest and most reliable option when you don't have a willing man next to you.

Enjoy **Johan**





FANCY A SHAG?

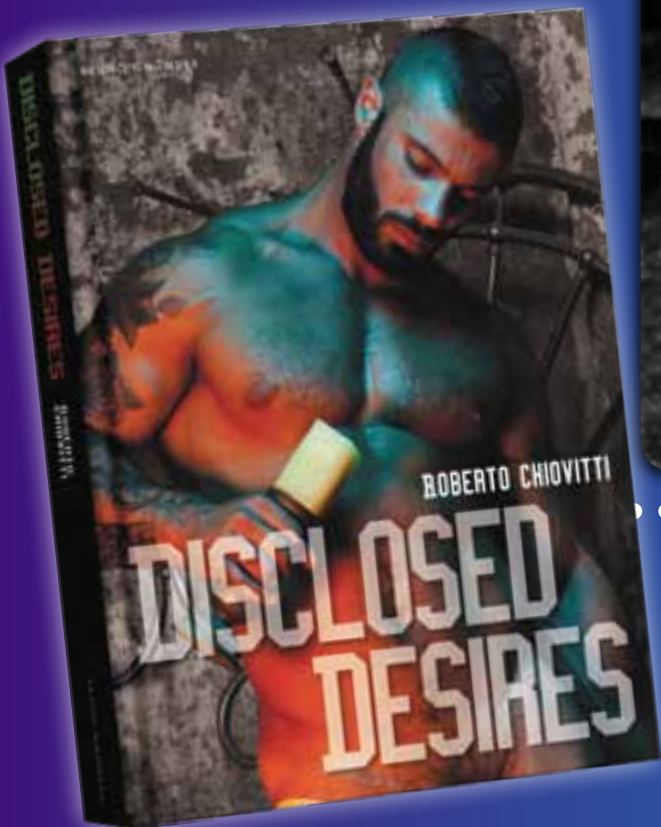
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REVIEW



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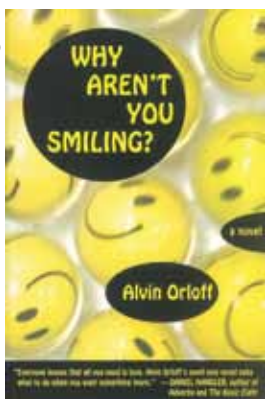
By Roberto Chiovitti

Roberto Chiovitti dedicated his first photo book to the dark side of desire. The enthralling images in *Disclosed Desires* tell tales of lust and pain, of dominance and submission. These images are rough and dark, but Chiovitti's works also have a very elaborate approach: The pictures

WHY AREN'T YOU SMILING?

When 14 year-old Leonard decides to quit being a dweeb and instead joins the Burnouts, his 'good boy' persona is abandoned as he embarks on a comically painful journey of self-discovery through his unconventional friendship with Rick, an older Jesus-freak barefoot hippie. Set in the 70s when love was all around and cults were all the rage.

By Alvin Orloff
Manic D Press



MIRROR TWINS

Jake and Kyle are partners and lovers who were both abused as children. To others, they seem happy and content with their careers and their lives but underneath their successful exteriors, the damage remains and their wounds fester. The lovers follow an unconventional path via a BDSM circle to redemption and recovery.

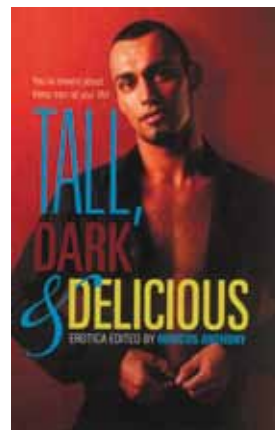
By Charlie Piersol
Starbooks



TALL, DARK & DELICIOUS

Featuring the hottest writers in gay erotica, these stories will have readers thinking twice about their 'type' and make them pursue a more diverse array of men. These guys hold their own in the boardroom, bedroom and beyond, exuding sex appeal as no one else can.

Edited by
Marcus Anthony
Starbooks





DESIRES

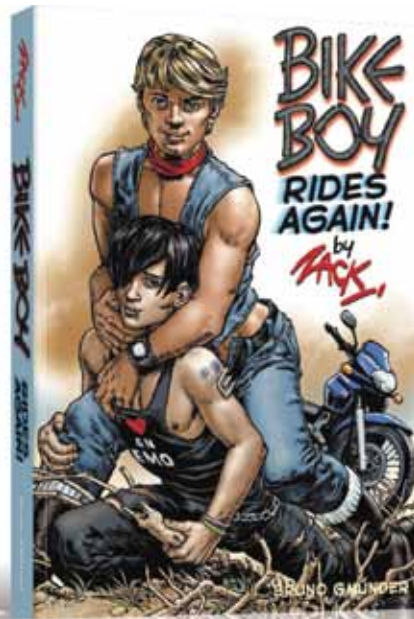
are cleverly staged, provoking and unusual. With his focus on the different variations of sexual fetishes, he takes up one of the most important trends of the last years to develop his very own language.

Bruno Gmunder

98 WOUNDS

As the gay majority surges into the mainstream, a social construct has emerged depicting 'Good Gays' and 'Bad Gays'. Endless mythmaking goes into dehumanising the Bad. Barebackers, poz seppigs, meth-users, sexual libertines and fetishists have been blamed, shamed and disdained. In this book of tautly conceived imagery either all should be damned, or all saved.

By Justin Chin
Manic D Press



BIKE BOY RIDES AGAIN!

A second spring for Zack! In the 70s his lustful and imaginative work was published in many gay magazines and last year saw the release of Bike Boy, a collection of extensively recoloured stories, which became a bestseller right away. It really was no surprise since Zack is not afraid to let all his fantasies become reality on paper, no matter how explicit they are. With Bike Boy Rides Again! he once again gives us a masterfully drawn and stunning new volume of sexy and randy adventures, two of them completely new and unreleased.

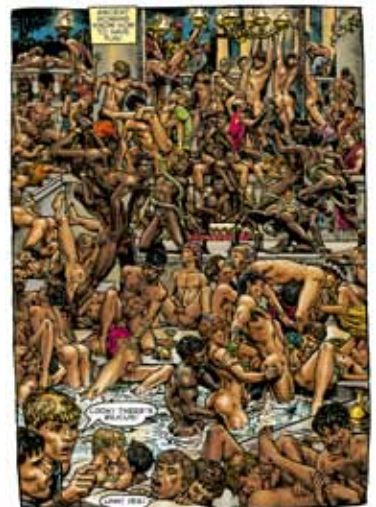
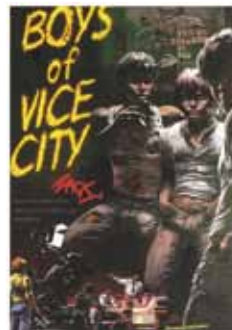
By Zack
Bruno Gmunder



BOYS OF VICE CITY

Gil Graham wanted a job in the movies, but when he enters the offices of James Rosen, one of Hollywood's toughest new-style movie producers, he gets more than he bargained for. Gil soon discovers that he has a lot of what the hunky young men working on the film want and before long he's giving it to them every way they want it. This lusty and carnal tale takes place on the set in Rome... a city of history and vice.

By Roger Kean and Zack





Now You Know

By Christopher Walker

Christopher Walker was born on an army base not long after Apollo 11 returned from the moon. Since graduating university (College of Wooster), where he studied English Lit, Christopher has lifted heavy objects at a fine arts auction house, mixed Bloody Marys at a Chicago bar, and for the past fifteen years raised millions for charities in the United Kingdom and United States. He lives in Brighton, England, in a narrow house by the sea.

Why make the narrator gay? Is it important?

It made sense. For a start, I thought it would be something for me to try writing as a young, gay British man. I could have tried writing more as a young woman, but the voice always kept slipping round to a boy's. Also, because I knew M was going to be a superhero, it made sense to have something of a homoerotic relationship between the young narrator and the older neighbour and protagonist. You see it – or at any rate something similar – everywhere in comics.

The Great Gatsby has influenced me more than any other novel. I knew that I wanted to use the narrator living next door to the mysterious and secretive protagonist. I didn't want the narrator to be perky or creepy. I thought: a crush. When you've got a crush on someone, you pay attention to everything they do. You can watch without being sinister.

Why did you choose Steven Fry as the silent listener?

How many people, do you imagine, would choose Steven Fry to be a dinner party guest or their confessor? It has a lot to do with his personality, or how we, who don't actually know Steven Fry, perceive him. Brainy, patient, kindly, witty, inquisitive, trustworthy – and very much human.

There's a good deal of violence in Now You Know. Is this an accurate portrait of how you see London?

There is a good deal of violence, and yet I don't see it as a particularly violent book and yet it is sort of how I see London. I had to envisage how it would be for a younger man. Not a day goes by when there isn't a story in the news about violent acts committed on (and by) young people. I don't think, as a rule, young people are violent but, if you listen to what young people have to say, you do get a picture of the static threat of violence – something that can crackle up without warning.

www.acornindependentpress.com

Charlie is a bored, gay, urban teenager with a scratch card obsession, an electronic tag and a crush verging on hero worship on his next-door neighbour. He is confused as he explores his sexual identity and feels guilty that his Dad left because of he couldn't handle a gay son. Charlie lives in South London, and recounts his memories of one summer when crime soared and a mysterious vigilante rose from anonymity to conquer all. Young criminals were rounded up, hunted down and de-hooded as the media speculated wildly as to who the vigilante could be. Charlie claims to be the only one with the real story and he tells it to Stephen Fry. Part mystery, part coming of age, part exploration of an audacious grasp for celebrity, Now You Know, is a powerful and striking novel.

Bent Review

A violent look at an unruly London caught in the grip of gangsta fear told in a unique, page-turning way.



Win
These

DVD
RELEASES

CAPRICE

Out: 5th March

Doris Day plays Patricia Fowler, a spy hired to work undercover at a cosmetics company to discover a new formula that the firm is planning to market. But it soon transpires make up is not the only product they're selling, the company is involved in an international drug-smuggling ring and Patricia finds herself doing battle with ruthless agents. She joins forces with fellow spy Christopher White (Richard Harris) as the pair take on evil genius Stuart Clancy (Ray Walston). This 1960s spy spoof keeps up the laughs and suspense right to the very end.



Complete the title of this Doris Day hit song – Move Over _____?

LOVE NEVER DIES

Out: 12th March
Entertainment

Yes, it is the follow-up to the hugely successful Phantom of the Opera and we pick up 10 years after his disappearance from the Paris Opera House. The Phantom has escaped to a new life in New York where he lives amongst the screaming joy rides and freak-shows of Coney Island. In this new electrically-charged world, he has finally found a place for his music to soar. All that is missing is his love - Christine Daaé. In a final bid to win back her love, the Phantom lures Christine, her husband, and their young son Gustave from Manhattan; to the glittering and glorious world of Coney Island... not knowing what is in store for them...



Who wrote the music for Love Never Dies?

GAME OF THRONES: The First Season

Out: 5th March

Combining a mythical kingdom with a generation of family feuds, bloody war, treachery, murder, lies and lust, Game of Thrones has defined a world so unique, complex and compelling that any preconceived notions of the genre fall away. It has created an accessible fantasy epic for the small screen, which became the most watched show on Sky Atlantic this year. The drama follows kings and queens, knights and renegades, liars and noblemen as they vie for power in a land where summers span decades and winters can last a lifetime. Powerful families are engaged in a deadly cat-and-mouse game for control of the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros. As betrayal, lust, intrigue and supernatural forces shake the four corners of the Kingdoms, their bloody struggle for the Iron Throne will have unforeseen and far-reaching consequences.



Game of Thrones was shown on which UK TV channel?

THE AWAKENING

Out: 26th March

The film is set in 1921, in a post-war England where many of the bereaved seek solace in spiritualism. Haunted by the death of her fiancé, we meet Florence Cathcart who is committed to debunking supernatural claims, using methodical and rational explanations. When she is asked to visit a boarding school in the countryside called Rookwood – to investigate the alleged sightings of a ghostly young boy – she feels compelled to take the job. Once at the school, she sets to work, laying traps and gathering scientific evidence. Gradually secrets begin to unravel and the mystery surrounding the ghost appears nothing more than a schoolboy prank. As Florence is set to leave, however, she experiences a chilling encounter that defies all reason.



For a chance to win a copy of this DVD, just answer this question: World War 1 lasted from 1914 to which year?

EATING OUT - THE OPEN WEEKEND

Out now on DVD & BluRay

So you thought the Eating Out series couldn't get any sexier? Couldn't get even more outrageous? Think again! Zack and new hot boyfriend Benji need a vacation and where could be better than a hot, all-male resort in Palm Springs? They decide that if they are gonna head out to Palm Springs perhaps they should also open their relationship – just for this one weekend, of course. Although Zack is less than thrilled with the idea, he is eager to keep his new beau happy and, after all, his sex-drive is as vociferous as ever! It should go without saying that they're heading for a vacation abounding with fit men, jealous exes and, well, tonnes of sex!



For a chance to win a copy of this DVD, just answer this question: Palm Springs is in which State in the USA?

THE RUM

Out: 5th March

This tells the increasingly unhinged story of itinerant journalist Paul Kemp (Depp). Tiring of the noise and madness of New York and the crushing conventions of late Eisenhower-era America, Kemp travels to the pristine island of Puerto Rico to write for a local newspaper, The San Juan Star, run by downtrodden editor Lotterman. Adopting the rum-soaked life of the late 50's version of Hemmingway's lost generation, Paul soon becomes increasingly obsessed with Chenault, the wildly attractive Connecticut-born fiancée of Sanderson, a businessman involved in shady property



What is the capital of Puerto Rico?



Director - Andrew Haigh

How did you come to cast Tom Cullen and Chris New?

We met with loads of people, individually and in pairs always looking for some kind of spark that would translate on the screen. Tom and Chris had that from their first pairing. The rehearsal period was very short, only a week or so and we spent most of that time just getting comfortable with each other, honing the script and improvising around it. Apart from the obvious things such as good acting, I also think that chemistry on screen comes from what happens off screen, from the tone of a shoot. If the right atmosphere exists on set you hope when the camera is turned on, a certain mood will persist.

You've worked on films that don't have gay themes and created some that do - what keeps you interested in gay characters and the issues they face?

If you watch most gay themed films you would assume that the only story worth telling was about 'coming out' or repressed love but I wasn't interested in that. I wanted to tell a story about how people deal with their sexuality after they come out. I wanted to tell a story about how people deal with their experience, especially how people respond to the weight of being different, of not fitting in. I was interested in whether a person chooses to let their sexuality define them, and if so, then how. I also think that as society has progressed, new concerns and struggles have emerged and I wanted to explore a little of that too. Of course I think it's worth saying that you don't need to be gay to be struggling with issues of authenticity and self-definition, and of course at the heart of Weekend is a story of two people falling for each other. This, obviously, has very little to do with being gay.

On a Friday night after hanging out with his straight mates, Russell heads out to a nightclub, alone and on the pull. Just before closing time, he picks up Glen and so begins a weekend - in bars and in bedrooms, getting drunk and taking drugs, telling stories and having sex - that will resonate throughout their lives. A one-night stand that becomes something more - an unconventional love story between two young men trying to make sense of the world they live in.

Out: 19th March - Peccadillo Pictures



For a chance to win a copy of this DVD, just answer this question: Complete the title of this Calvin Harris hit - "Ready for the _____"?

THE EROTIC FILMS OF PETER DE ROME

Out: 26th March

In the late 1960s and early 1970s British-born New Yorker and unsung hero of gay underground filmmaking Peter de Rome produced a number of explicit, painstakingly crafted Super 8 films each of which took the viewer on an immersive sexual journey. In 1973, eight of these films were brought together as The Erotic Films of Peter de Rome producing one of the finest cinematic examples of the intersection of artistry and eroticism, in the tradition of Andy Warhol and Kenneth Anger. Now released on DVD for the first time, these extraordinary films are accompanied by a new BFI documentary, additional short films and a comprehensive booklet with new essays and film credits.



Soho used to be the seedy side of which European capital city?

MACHINE GUN PREACHER

Out: 19th March

Drug-dealing biker Sam Childers (Gerard Butler) emerges from prison, seemingly intent on returning to his boozy, violent ways. Following a trip to East Africa and after witnessing horrifying violence atrocities, he embarks on a life-changing mission as the machine gun-wielding protector of refugee children in war-torn Sudan leaving his best friend Donnie to take care of his wife and daughter. Sam leads dangerous armed missions deep into enemy territory, which has explosive and gripping consequences.



What is the name of East Africa's highest mountain; A, Kilimanjaro. B, Etna. C, Ben Nevis?

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FILM

REVIEW

Chris Amos



The Hunger Games

Every year in the ruins of what was once North America, the nation of Panem forces each of its twelve districts to send a teenage boy and girl to compete in the Hunger Games. Part twisted entertainment, part government intimidation tactic, the Hunger Games are

a nationally televised event in which "Tributes" must fight with one another until one survivor remains. Pitted against highly-trained Tributes who have prepared for these Games their entire lives, Katniss is forced to rely upon her sharp instincts as well as the mentorship of

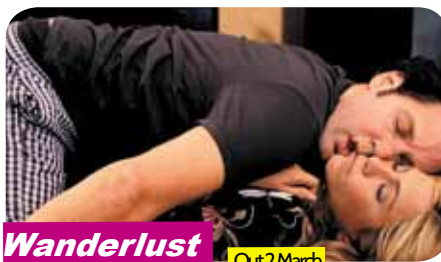
drunken former victor Haymitch Abernathy. If she's ever to return home to District 12, Katniss must make impossible choices in the arena that weigh survival against humanity and life against love.



We Bought A Zoo

Out 16 March

Acclaimed filmmaker Cameron Crowe (Jerry Maguire, Almost Famous) directs an amazing and true story about a single dad (Matt Damon) who decides his family needs a fresh start, so he and his two children move to the most unlikely of places: a zoo. With the help of an eclectic staff, and with many misadventures along the way, the family works to return the dilapidated zoo to its former wonder and glory. Very over the top with emotion and clichés but all the same We Bought a Zoo is feel-good.



Wanderlust

Out 2 March

Paul Rudd and Jennifer Aniston star in Wanderlust, a comedy from director David Wain (Role Models) and producer Judd Apatow (Knocked Up) about a couple who leaves the pressures of the big city and joins a freewheeling community where the only rule is to be yourself. George (Rudd) and Linda (Aniston) are an overextended, stressed out Manhattan couple. After George is downsized out of his job, they find themselves with only one option: to move in with George's awful brother in Atlanta. On the way there, George and Linda stumble upon Elysium, an idyllic community populated by colourful characters who embrace a different way of looking at things. But will the change of perspective cause more problems than it solves?



John Carter

Out 9 March

Leaving animation behind, Academy Award-winning filmmaker Andrew Stanton (Wall-E, Finding Nemo) brings the classic novel John Carter to the big screen. The film tells the story of war-weary, former military captain John Carter (Taylor Kitsch), who is inexplicably transported to Mars where he becomes reluctantly embroiled in a conflict of epic proportions amongst the inhabitants of the planet, including Tars Tarkas (Willem Dafoe) and the captivating Princess Dejah Thoris (Lynn Collins). In a world on the brink of collapse, Carter rediscovers his humanity when he realizes that the survival of Barsoom and its people rests in his hands.



BFI LONDON LESBIAN & GAY FILM FESTIVAL

The 26th London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival takes place at London's BFI from 23rd March to 1 April 2012. The full line-up can be found at www.bfi.org.uk/lgff

The Opening Night film on 23rd March Cloudburst is Thom Fitzgerald's Cloudburst. Starring Oscar-winning actors Olympia Dukakis (Moonstruck, Steel Magnolias) and Brenda Fricker (My Left Foot, Home Alone II) as a pair of septuagenarian lesbian lovers, the film is an unpredictable, heart-warming and romantic road movie. On A Ledge out on 3rd Feb.

es

Out 23 March



MOVIE BUZZ

There will be a prequel to I Am Legend based on Richard Matheson's novel. Will Smith is scientist Robert Neville, who in the first film was believed to be the last survivor on Earth following a terrible virus that either wiped out the population or turned them all into mutants.

Zorro is coming back to the big screen this time titled Zorro Reborn and apparently instead of a period piece the film will remain a western, but will be set in a desolate and post-apocalyptic future with echoes of both Sergio Leone and No Country for Old Men. Gael Garcia Bernal will star. |

Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts will star alongside one another in an adaptation of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning darkly comic play August: Osage County.

Guillermo del Toro is set to direct a new adaptation of the classic tale Beauty and the Beast with Harry Potter star Emma Watson in final negotiations to star as Belle. Andrew Davies, who co-wrote the recent The Three Musketeers adaptation with Alex Litvak is set to write the screenplay based on a treatment del Toro will write himself.

Darren Aronofsky is eying Russell Crowe to play the lead role in Noah. The film is said to be "an edgy retelling" of the story from the Bible's book of Genesis in which God, saddened by the wickedness of mankind, sends a flood to destroy all life on Earth, but before he does he instructed Noah to build a great ark and on it he saves his family and two of each animal species.

It is now simply too good to be true, Charlie Kaufman's blistering Hollywood satire (and musical), Frank or Francis, has gained big names including Jack Black, Nicolas Cage, Steve Carell, Kevin Kline, Catherine Keener and Kate Winslet, Elizabeth Banks and Paul Reubens (Pee Wee Herman).



21 Jump Street

Out 3 Feb

In the action-comedy 21 Jump Street, Schmidt (Jonah Hill) and Jenko (Channing Tatum) are more than ready to leave their adolescent problems behind. Joining the police force and the secret Jump Street unit, they use their youthful appearances to go undercover in a local high school. As they trade in their guns and badges for backpacks, Schmidt and Jenko risk their lives to investigate a violent and dangerous drug ring. But they find that high school is nothing like they left it just a few years earlier and neither expects that they will have to confront the terror and anxiety of being a teenager again and all the issues they thought they had left behind.



Bel Ami

Out 9 March

Based on the novel by Guy de Maupassant, Bel Ami chronicles the rise of penniless ex-soldier Georges Duroy (Robert Pattinson) through the echelons of the 1890s Parisian elite and is a tale of ambition, power and seduction. Also starring Uma Thurman, Kristin Scott Thomas, Christina Ricci and Colm Meaney. Bel Ami is A timeless epic with a modern twist. A Dangerous Liaisons for a new generation.

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Hot in Ottawa!

It may be winter in the Canadian capital, but Ottawa's history, culture and men leave Adrian Gillan all in a sweat!

First sighted by French explorers in the early 17th Century, settled (largely by Brits and Irish) since the early 19th Century and made capital of the Canadian Province by Queen Victoria in 1857, grand old 'Ottawa' – named after a local native tribe – is now an 800,000-populated political and cultural hub with a fab gay scene.

You should definitely consider flying direct with Air Canada, not least on account of its rightly-acclaimed Executive First product and refurbished fleet, boasting – amongst many other things, quite apart from access to those famed Maple Leaf airport lounges – lie-flat beds that fully recline at the touch of a button, and can even deliver an in-seat massage!

TO STAY

Settle into National Historic Site, the gay-wooding Fairmont Château Laurier (1 Rideau Street; T: +1 613 241 1414; www.fairmont.com/laurier). Just opposite the Parliament Buildings, centrally welcoming PMs and kings (plus queens of all sorts, including Elton John) since 1912 (cue centenary celebrations), this luxury landmark hotel's imposing limestone edifice – complete with turrets like a French château – self-proclaimedly "reflects the confidence, dignity and style of Canada's capital". Once you've taken in the wealth

of surrounding sights, enjoy its Heritage Gallery (historic hotel photos) and newly restored Art Deco pool and health club. Or gorge at one of its superb eateries – not least Wilfrid's Restaurant, off the lobby; or Zoe's Lounge – especially famous for its exciting selection of highly filling afternoon teas!

TO SEE 'N' DO

Beneath "The Château", the 5-mile long Rideau Canal (www.rideauheritageroute.ca) – a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and North America's oldest continuously operating waterway, built 1826-1832 – freezes over at winter (late-Dec – early-Mar) to produce the world's largest naturally frozen ice rink. The canal and emerging town's history is detailed in adjacent Bytown Museum (www.bytownmuseum.com).

Explore the buzzing ByWard Market (www.byward-market.com) neighbourhood, likewise mere steps from the Fairmont Château Laurier - one of the oldest and largest farmers' markets in Canada; as well as now being Ottawa's premiere entertainment district, filled with fab galleries, restaurants, clubs, bistros, coffee shops, boutiques and food retailers selling fresh, local produce.

The spectacular National Gallery of Canada (www.gallery.ca) is one of the country's finest art museums and the permanent home of the world's most comprehensive collection of Canadian, including

Inuit, art – also boasting peaceful inner gardens and

courtyards. Dig the giant bronze spider outside in the plaza! Enjoy a panoramic city view from lofty Nepean Point, just behind the gallery. Tour Parliament Hill (www.parl.gc.ca/vis) - Canada's seat of Government - taking the lift up its Peace Tower for fab 360-degree views. Also view the nearby Supreme Court of Canada (www.scc-csc.gc.ca), where same-sex marriage was debated - and won!

Just west of the Parliament Buildings, the unsettling and moving Canadian War Museum (www.warmuseum.ca) is a lively memorial to Canada's proud military past - from the earliest days of New France to current-day actions - featuring large exhibits like tanks and planes, plus a stunning collection of war art, not to mention the infamous (and notably unreliable) "fruit machine" gay-detector that ruined many a life!

The castle-like Canadian Museum of Nature (www.nature.ca) has recently celebrated its 100th anniversary with a grand renovation. The Canadian Museum of Civilization (www.civilization.ca) is Canada's largest and most popular museum, offering a thousand years of Canadian history; the world's largest indoor collection of totem poles; and the magnificent Canada Hall and First Peoples Hall! Don't miss its utterly amazing children's section too!

Notable Ottawa winter festivals include Winterlude and Christmas Lights Across Canada.

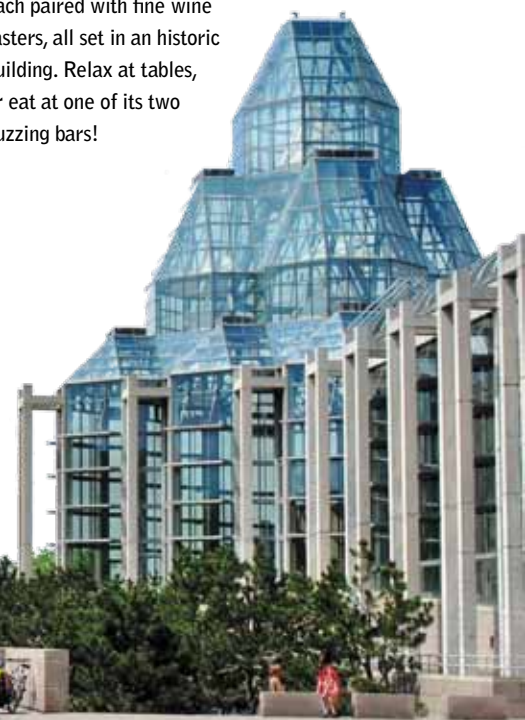
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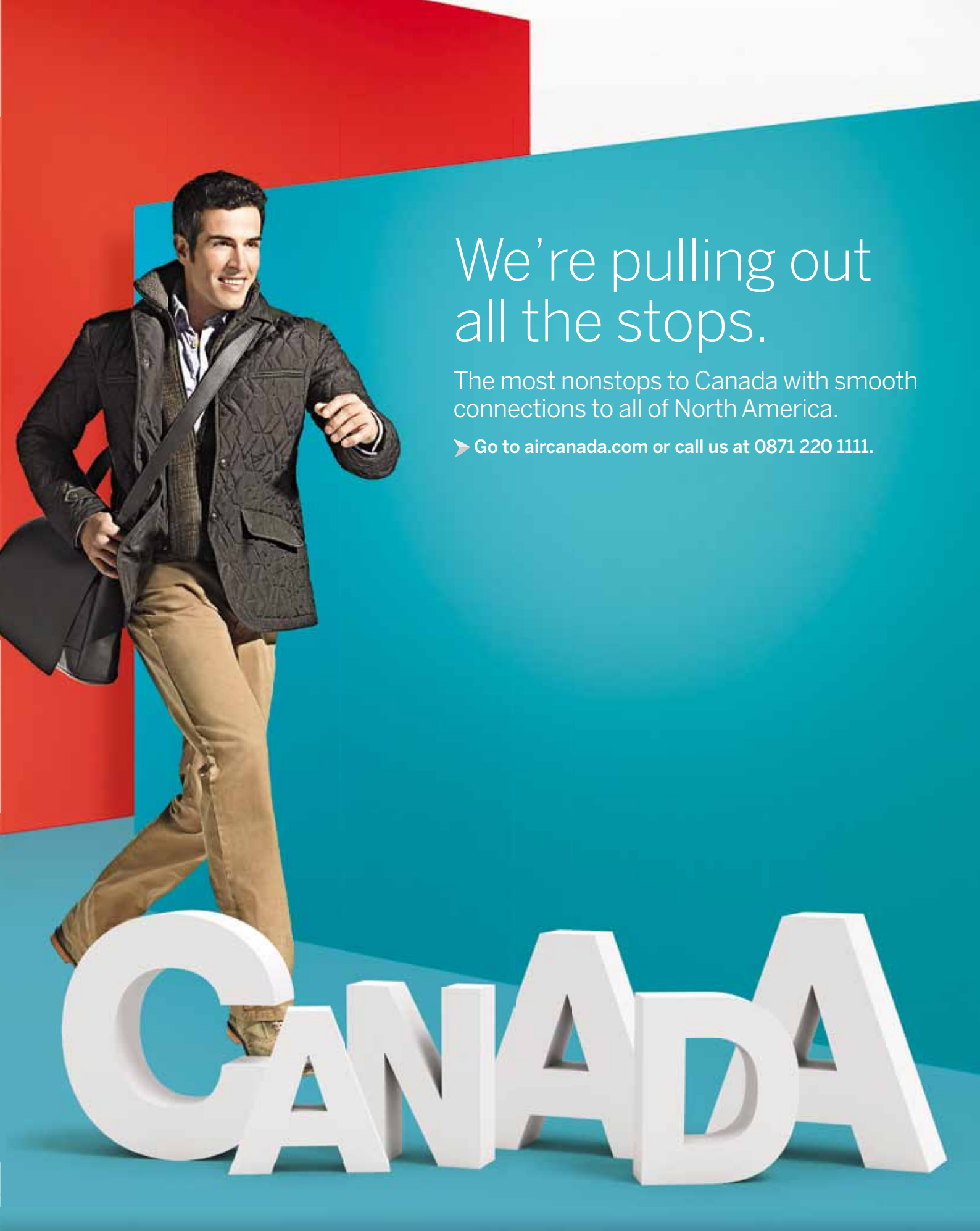
The Buzz Restaurant & Lounge (374 Bank Street; T: +1 613 565 9595; www.thebuzzrestaurant.ca)

Cosy, friendly, buzzing bistro in the heart of Ottawa's gay village.

Play Food & Wine (1 York St, ByWard Market; T: +1 613 667 9207;

www.playfood.ca) – Casual yet ambient and chic eatery majoring on small plates, each paired with fine wine tasters, all set in an historic building. Relax at tables, or eat at one of its two buzzing bars!





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Ottawa

TO BOOZE 'N' BOP

Apart from a couple of fab venues in ByWard Market, Ottawa's gay scene is primarily clustered in a compact 'Village' (www.villageottawa.com) along and around Bank Street - now clearly marked by a series of rainbow flags and new signs.

Top tips include:

Hump @ Mercury Lounge (56 ByWard Market Square; T: +1 613 789 5324;

www.mercurylounge.com) - Studenty ByWard Market crowd, every Weds eve!

The Lookout Bar (41 York St; T: +1 613 789 1624; www.thelookoutbar.com) - Trendy/young, in the ByWard Market - notably men's night on Thurs; women's night on Fri; and drag night on Sat.

Swizzles Bar & Grill (246B Queen St; T: +1 613 232 4200; www.swizzles.ca) - Bias-free Bank Street area bar!
Centretown Pub, a.k.a. CP (340 Somerset St W; T: +1 613 594 0233) - Stalwart of 30 years, just off Bank Street, with a slightly older crowd.

Edge Club & Lounge (212 Sparks St; T: +1 613 237 2284) - Bar/club for the young, just off upper Bank Street.
Flamingo (380 Elgin St; T: +1 613 288 9243; www.theflamingo.ca) - Ottawa's main gay club, with tad older crowd than The Edge.

Steamworks for Men (487 Lewis St. @ Bank St; T: +1 613 230 8431; www.steamworksformen.ca)
After Stonewall (370 Bank Street; T: +1 613 567 2221) - LGBT bookshop.

Venus Envy (320 Lisgar Street; T: +1 613 789 4646; www.venusenvy.ca) - Adult toy shop.

Ottawa's week-long Capital Pride Festival (www.capitalpride.ca) is held every August.

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Air Canada offers more daily flights from the UK to Canada than any other airline, with 84 non-stop flights per week to eight major Canadian cities scheduled this summer. The airline will operate five flights per day to Toronto and daily services to Ottawa, Montréal, Calgary, Vancouver, Edmonton, Halifax and St John's. UK customers can also take advantage of convenient connections to destinations across the United States, the Caribbean and Latin America via Air Canada's hub, Toronto Pearson International Airport. Find out more at www.aircanada.com or call Reservations on 0871 220 1111.



Beauty

and the beach

By JD Van Zyl

Hedonistic party nights, sun-drenched beaches and the most gay-friendly destination

Mykonos may have spent most of its life eclipsed by its holier neighbour (in Ancient Greek history the island was dismissed as little more than Delos' brothel), but in modern-day Greece there are no guesses who the crowds favour. Ironically, to a large extent exactly because of its love of worldly pleasures.

During the sunny months of June to September, throngs of gay guys make their way to the Greek island's shores along with ferryloads of straight visitors. And although this means crammed beaches, high prices and packs of tourists jostling the main town's maze of cobbled alleyways, you'll be hard-pressed not to fall under the spell of this Aegean gem.

While the sun's up, Mykonos is all about the beach. A number of brilliantly remote beaches dot the northern coast, but most gay visitors' compass will point keenly to those in the south instead. This is where you'll find Paradise Beach and, more importantly, Super Paradise Beach, one of the most famous gay stretches of sand in the world. Recently nearby Elia Beach,





on in the Aegean by a mile. You really needn't do a lot of digging to see why gay guys still flock to Mykonos in their droves.

exploring the island.

Ancient Greece was no stranger to sexual indulgence and hedonistic lifestyles. And although modern-day Mykonos isn't the bordello it once was, the island's nightlife is still legendary. No newcomer to the gay scene, the island's first gay club opened some 37 years ago. Pierro's recently moved to a venue next door to its original address, but it remains as buzzing as ever.

There is no defined gay quarter as such on Mykonos, but a healthy smattering of rainbow-flying bars are scattered near the water's edge in the old harbour. These include Porta, especially popular for starting the night; Jackie O', one of Mykonos' newer additions and known for its drag shows; and Babylon, next door to Jackie O' and offering the same effervescent atmosphere. The sheer number of gay visitors to Mykonos is staggering, and during the summer months these bars get absolutely packed with guys spilling out into the surrounding alleyways.

Keen on something a little racier? Then head

to nearby Ramrod with its hunky dancers. If the go-go boys' gyrating leaves you a little hot under the collar you can always blow off steam at the island's most famous church, Panagia Paraportiani on the waterfront – a regular witness to rather steamy after-dark cruising. For some proper pounding beats you'll have to head out of Mykonos Town. If you're after serious clubbing, Cavo Paradiso near Paradise Beach still reigns supreme. Not only does it boast jaw-dropping ocean views, but its turntables are regularly spun by the Who's Who of the DJ world, from David Guetta to Tiësto.

Similar to many Latin countries, the Mykonian nightlife doesn't get rocking until well after midnight. In fact, Cavo Paradiso doesn't even open its doors until 2am and the club's mixed crowd only really lets rip shortly before the first rays pierce the Aegean horizon. As far as living it up with reckless abandon is concerned, the original playground of the Greek gods remains hard to trump.

Mykonos Top 10

1. **Sunset drinks at Elysium** – This gay hotel's poolside bar is the place to enjoy a cool Cosmo while admiring the setting sun.
2. **Shopping it up in Mykonos Town** – Home to a wealth of first class shops, Matogianni Street is the heart of Mykonos chic.
3. **Sunning yourself at Elia Beach** – A must-visit beach, regardless whether you prefer tanning in the buff or not.
4. **Dinner at Mamacas** – A trendy all-white setting and fresh take on traditional Greek favourites has made Mamacas a firm favourite.
5. **Saddling up a scooter** – Without a doubt the most fun way to explore the Aegean gem, especially its remote corners.
6. **Visit Delos** – The mythical birthplace of Apollo, this UNESCO World Heritage site is steeped in ancient ruins (which includes two enormous stone penises).
7. **Going big at XLsior** – Hardcore clubbers should plan their Mykonos trip around this massive week-long gay party romp.
8. **Pay your respects at Pierro's** – The foundation of Mykonos' gay scene, Pierro's remains an institution nearly four decades on.
9. **Chilling in Little Venice** – Sip on a chilled Chardonnay at The Piano Bar in the island's most scenic neighbourhood.
10. **Milling around** – Originally used to grind flour, the 16 windmills dotting the island remain Mykonos' quintessential trademark, and definitely warrant a visit.





Me Time

By Lee Hudson

There is nothing I like better than to be pampered. I absolutely love being the centre of attention but having to do nothing but 'be there'. Leaving my body in the hands of a professional, and letting those well trained hands go to work manipulating and caressing my body is the ultimate way of spending a few well-chosen hours. It's true, just a short time being pampered in a relaxing environment can do wonders for rejuvenating the mind and body, and if you tie it in with a complete weekend of 'me' time, so much the better.

I took myself off to the Verbena Spa in Helmsley North Yorkshire for a bit of basic pampering. I'd promised myself an Anne Semonin Bubbling Mud for Boys treatment and could hardly wait to experience what I hoped would be a muddy pleasure. I filled in the questionnaire to make sure

I wasn't allergic to anything, stripped off to my

shorts and put myself into the capable hands of Philippa, a therapist with over 9-year's experience in massage and beauty techniques. She talked me through what would happen over the next hour or so and I felt at ease at letting her get on and do what she did best. That is, putting a stressed out me into a state of total relaxation.

We started with a lovely warm towelling of my feet, followed by a brief but thorough massage of my toes, heels and instep before those winning fingers moved further up my legs. My back was massaged with botanical oils and here you can choose between a firm deep tissue massage or a simple, gentle easy-going body rub (although I would suspect that there is more to it than a simple rub down). I went for the firm massage, which included using forearms and elbows that got into those knotted areas without much trouble and then came the Bubbling

Mud treatment. I was wondering if

I would be immersed in a deep bath of hot bubbling mud but fortunately, this was all very gentle and not messy at all. Marine

mineral mud is spread on foil and you just lie back into it and let the 'bubbling' concoction do its work.

The reactions within the mixture make it heat up slightly and you hear a 'crackling' 'bubbling' sound as you further relax and let



Philippa continue with her massage of the arms and neck. She uses a couple of warm stones on the pressure points to finish off the proceedings.

The Verbena Spa offers all kinds of treatments from products that are world famous and do not compromise on quality. While you wait in the relaxing surroundings for your treatment, you can make use of the heat experience - aromatherapy room, steam room and sauna or take advantage of the outdoor heated pool or the hot tub. The other big advantage of this spa is that it is attached to a wonderful hotel, The Feversham Arms, itself quite famous in the area for its facilities and award-winning restaurant. This is where the pampering turned into sheer indulgence as I thought I'd deserved to take my 'me time' to the limit and enjoy all that was on offer. The Feversham Arms has 33 individually designed rooms, which are well appointed with the emphasis on taste and luxury. The restaurant is noted for its fine food, clever chefs and a fantastic 'taster' menu where you get to try out some of the latest creations from the kitchen. The village of Helmsley itself is an eclectic mix of individual boutiques, antique shops, galleries and tearooms and the trails around the place

are fantastic for those who like to walk and enjoy the peaceful countryside. However, according to historical documents, the village of Helmsley hasn't always been such a peaceful backwater. At the height of its prosperity as a weaving centre in the seventeenth century, the loom operators were famous for "their thirsts, their songs and their leather breeches."



Accounts of the local fair in those times suggest it was an event that was fraught with fist-fights and drunkenness. Thankfully, although lads in leather breeches would have gone down OK, I wanted relaxation and not a robust defence of my honour. The Feversham Arms offered that most elusive of destinations one that combines good quality food, with great accommodation in a relaxing and friendly environment.

www.fevershamarmshotel.com
www.verbenaspa.com



H2O - refreshed

After a fantastic year at H2O, we decided to spice things up a bit. On the 2nd January we closed our doors for 12 days for a massive refurb!

Work had already started throughout December to mark the way for our big finish.

Many hours were spent over the closure to bring you a sauna that was up to date, stylish and modern.

Many times we thought we wouldn't get finished but through the hard work and determination we got there!

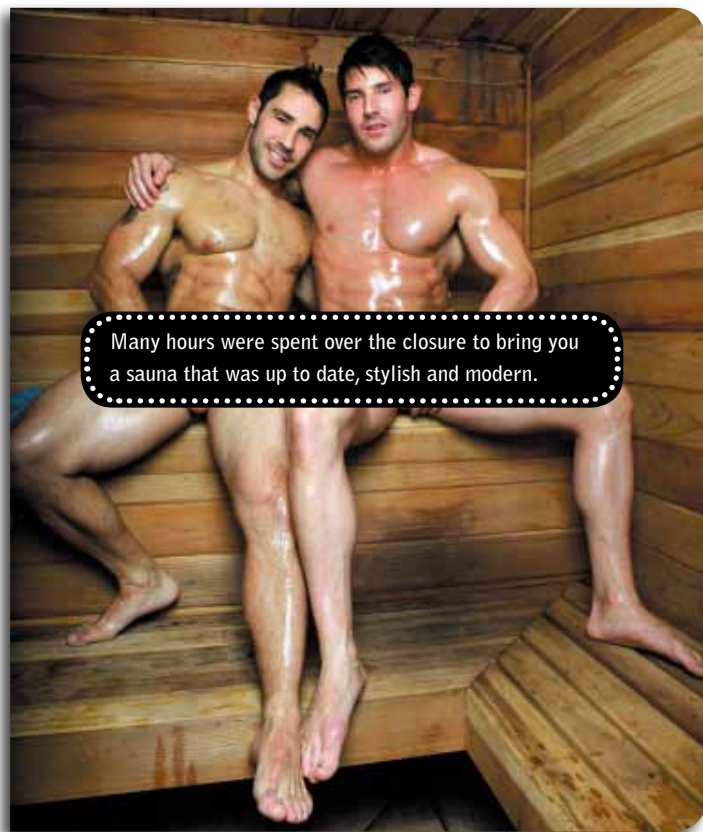
If you haven't already been to H2O since we re-opened then you are missing out. The new areas are:

- New cinema room
- Well-being @ H2O room brings you a vertical 235watt Sun bed, waxing and massage service.
- New walk area downstairs, includes new fetish room with a sling, fisting bench and 6foot cross.
- New mini maze leading to a 2nd sling for the guys that like to be on show
- King size bed with own TV
- 3 Glory Hole cubicles
- Jacuzzi area stairs been replaced to be more user friendly

We are going from strength to strength and will bring you more things throughout the year. We are currently doing a theme night on every 1st Thursday of the month for TV's, TS's and their admirers; this runs from 8pm till Mid-night.

Once again, we would like to thank all of our customers for helping us get to where we are today.

H2O Management would also like to give a massive thank you to all the staff and other guys that helped us through the refurb.



Many hours were spent over the closure to bring you a sauna that was up to date, stylish and modern.



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By Raj Singh

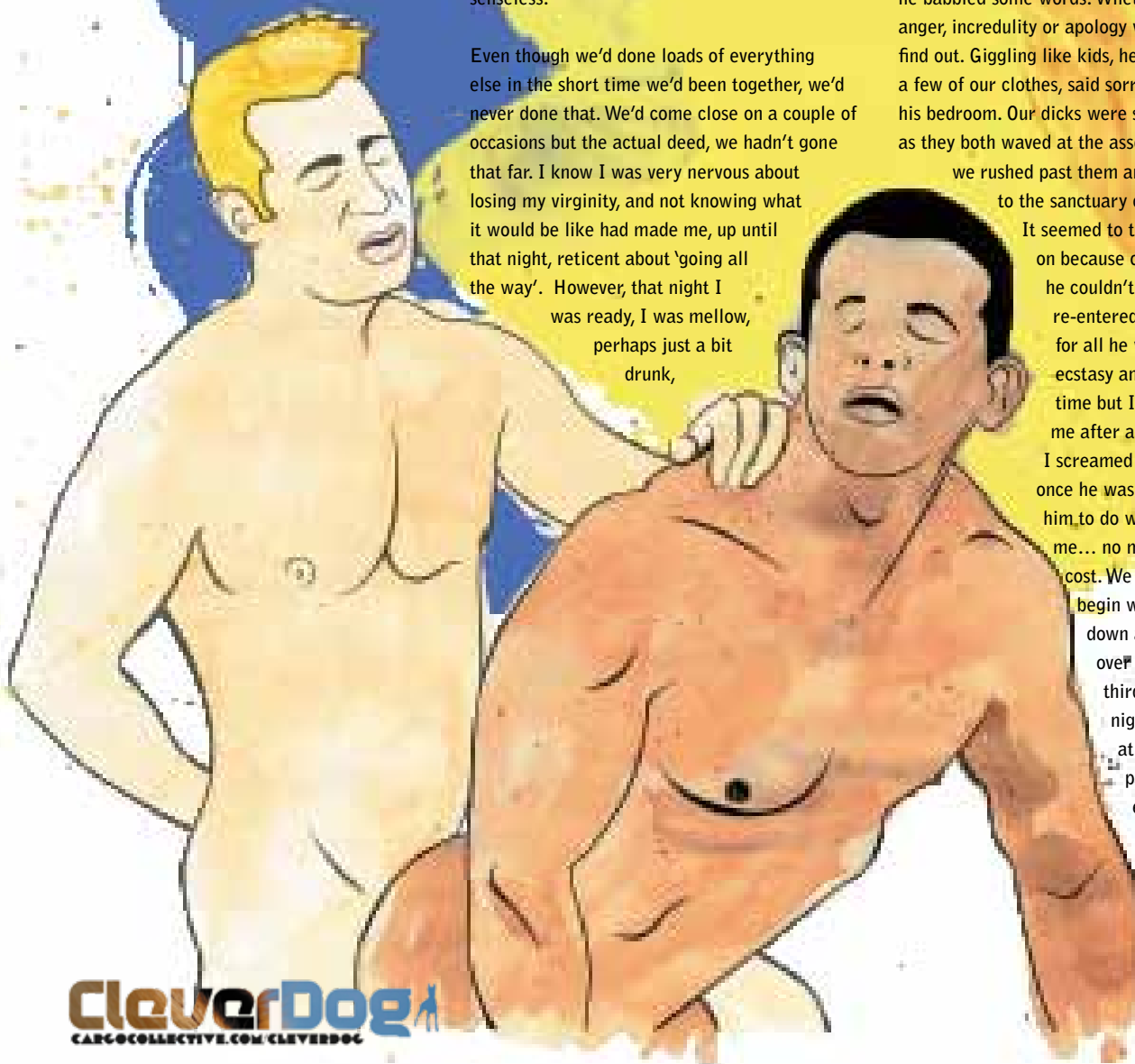
This happened over the recent festive period. I was at my boyfriend's place getting down to it on the sofa while watching a horny porn DVD. We'd already filled ourselves with the festive spirit as a couple of bottles of wine were empty and we'd started on a third. It was our first Christmas together so we were really excited about being with each other and in all truth, we couldn't keep our hands to ourselves, especially as finally, after all the family responsibilities and time with friends, we were alone. We'd enjoyed all the preliminaries, you know, kissing, cuddling, sucking and had come to the conclusion it would all be so much better if we got completely naked. We had also decided, in a moment of festive high jinx, to do whatever the guys on screen were doing, so my jeans and new D&G undies (a present from him) were lying in a heap at the bottom of the flashing Christmas tree. The coloured lights and TV screen being the only illumination in the place made it all very sexy. My boyfriend Mark has an

incredible body and I just love to see him in the buff. I'd had him all but naked fairly early on as I had been dribbling rivulets of my wine over various parts of his firm body then slurping it off... much to his enjoyment. The man is an absolute God. Blonde, blue-eyed and 6 feet of sporting perfection... almost the opposite of me. I'm dark; dark hair, dark eyes but he seems to like that difference... I know I do. He plays all manner of sports and that's how I met him a couple of months ago when I joined the pub team he plays footy for. We hit it off straight away and I fell, like a sad teenage girl lusting after Justin Beiber, for this hunk in his well fitting shorts. He's just so bloody horny... I even get a stiffy when I think I'm gonna meet him, so when we do get it together, which hasn't been that often enough for me, I go a bit crazy. This was going to be my real Christmas present, total and unashamed wild sex. He was going to get the thing we'd never tried before, which was, for the first time, I was going to let him shag me senseless.

Even though we'd done loads of everything else in the short time we'd been together, we'd never done that. We'd come close on a couple of occasions but the actual deed, we hadn't gone that far. I know I was very nervous about losing my virginity, and not knowing what it would be like had made me, up until that night, reticent about 'going all the way'. However, that night I was ready, I was mellow, perhaps just a bit drunk,

and it had been on my mind all through that Christmas festivities. I wanted it to happen and I wanted it to be Mark, my hero and the sexiest man alive, to do me the honour. We were both as hard as nails in anticipation and his cock was thicker than mine and looked fantastic and scary at the same time. My lips had done the preliminary warm up and now we were both about as ready as we'd ever be. So, there we were, both naked in the living room. He had me strategically bent over the sofa, had lubed up my tight, but desperate, bum hole and had slipped on the condom ready for a long deep and ferocious session. He'd just shoved his cock up my ass when his flat mate walked in with a bunch of his mates and caught us naked and me screaming like a banshee on pain and ecstasy. I was shocked by the quick way his dick had penetrated my slicked buttole but there appeared to be more shock on the faces of the guys looking at us. The poor surprised guy in the doorway hadn't know his flat mate was gay so his mouth hung open and he babbled some words. Whether they were of anger, incredulity or apology we didn't wait to find out. Giggling like kids, he pulled out, grabbed a few of our clothes, said sorry and legged it to his bedroom. Our dicks were still as hard as ever as they both waved at the assembled guys before we rushed past them and up the stairs to the sanctuary of his bedroom.

It seemed to turn my boyfriend on because once on the bed he couldn't wait and quickly re-entered and screwed me for all he was worth. It was in ecstasy and pain at the same time but I loved Mark taking me after all this time. I'm sure I screamed and moaned but once he was inside all I wanted him to do was make love to me... no matter what the cost. We went at it hard to begin with before slowing down and taking our time over the second and third orgasms of the night. I was surprised at how soon the pain passed and I could enjoy the sexual thrill of my hunk of a man filling me with his Christmas present. One thing for certain, I'll never forget that first time.



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Is there more than one way to be gay?

When you come out as gay, no matter how easy you find it, you have already broken the cardinal rule of straight society: namely that you should shag girls and not boys. Having broken the big rule, you are now free to break all of the others and live your life as you choose, although you could be excused for thinking otherwise. Convention dictates that all gay men are promiscuous, that we all love Kylie, Madonna and/or Lady Gaga, that we're sparkling conversationalists, always equipped with a witty or bitchy put down and that we may be a little bit, well, camp. As the latest issue of FS argues, whilst each of these may be true for many members of the gay community, they are far from being intrinsic features of our sexuality. Matthew Hodson of GMFA, who publish FS,

comments: "Being free from the conventions of straight society means that we have the freedom to create ourselves in whatever image is most appropriate for us, whether or not that conforms to any gay stereotype."

FS magazine is available for free in gay venues and GUM clinics across the UK or can be viewed at www.gmfa.org.uk/fsmag FS magazine is now also available to download on your iPhone, iPad or Android device for free. Visit www.gmfa.org.uk/fsapp for more information.



Broken Rainbow UK

Broken Rainbow UK is the only UK-wide charity working with lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and trans (LGBT) people experiencing domestic violence. Trans people can now call and speak to a trans helpline worker on Tuesdays 1-5pm and all helpline staff are having trans awareness training. The new service is also being widely advertised to LGBT people across the UK.

Jackie Fernandez, Broken Rainbow's chief executive said: "We are excited to launch a new dedicated service for trans people across the UK. Broken Rainbow UK encourages any trans person experiencing violence from their partner, ex or family to take that brave step forward and contact us in confidence"

Max Zachs, one of the stars of Channel 4's My Transsexual Summer, stated: "I know that as queer people we are already working hard to reclaim the streets. If you need to, now is the time to call and make your home safe as well"

If you are experiencing violence or are worried that someone you care about is then call Broken Rainbow on 0300 999 5428, email help@brokenrainbow.org.uk and check out our web site www.brokenrainbow.org.uk



Men's Makeup UK

Back up caution and hello vanity! There's a new breed of man soon to be stepping out onto the street. Men, who look extraordinary, feel great and who certainly don't settle for second place in the race to becoming ultimate seducers.

There's also another side to the story of makeup for men. The slick gentleman - the subtle guy who wants to stand out in a completely different way. These aren't the men who attend gigs and are desperate to cling onto their teenage 'grunge' looks with the use of makeup.

These guys are filling up offices, bars and swanky clubs and are meeting the growing demand society places on them to look their best, day in day out. These 'new men' use men's foundations, concealers and bronzers amongst others products to achieve subtle, flawless and masculine complexions without eyebrows being raised.

From gym memberships, haircuts and new clothes - the number of men paying closer attention to their appearance is gathering momentum. Male grooming spending crossed the £1billion mark in 2010. The fact is that make-up for men is just the next step for your everyday fella and his grooming routines.

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HOROSCOPES

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Aries

(Mar21/Apr20)

An overheard phone call or email you weren't supposed to see could give you information ahead of when you receive it through the usual channels. Prepare yourself for opportunities that will help you further your own interests. You're uncharacteristically quiet these days, probably because you're so focused on succeeding in certain aims and determined to get it right. Over the weeks ahead, a new friend could prove to be a better companion than old ones, in some unexpected sort of way!

Taurus

(Apr21/May21)

Why feel ashamed because you want more freedom? You've always been trustworthy and responsible but taking responsibility for a vulnerable friend or partner is starting to restrict you. Health problems can be related to a lack of happiness or contentment. If you've bound to someone who needs you, just taking a few days off will help lift your spirits. If a relationship is too stifling, make the month ahead a time to breakaway from anything and anyone that makes you unhappy.

Gemini

(May22/June21)

With your thoughts on far horizons you will be unusually decisive in sorting out your life over the weeks ahead. You're thinking in terms of relationships, career and job satisfaction and maybe even education. Any problems you've recently had with a workmate or neighbour will be resolved due to your amazing communication skills. You're feeling as if life is too short to bear a grudge and everyone seems to be benefiting from your positivity.

Cancer

(June22/July23)

Hurt or resentment that lingers from the past should not be what blocks you from taking up new future opportunities. You've always been sensitive but you're annoyed with yourself for allowing other people's beliefs and opinions about you to colour your decisions. How many know the real you? Over the month ahead find ways to follow your own preferences. Joining groups that might help not hinder your progress can be useful but being more self reliant will ultimately help resolve your difficulties.

Leo

(July24/Aug23)

Doubts, fears and complications rooted in your childhood can be overcome. It is time to sever ties of the past that are holding you back either emotionally or professionally. Team up with like-minded people who understand you and who will help support you in the future. Sharing a mutual interest with a neighbour could prompt you to get involved in different social circles. It will be like-minded people who help lift your spirits and make you feel good about yourself now. Money and the need to earn more won't make your problems disappear; in fact it could amplify them!

Virgo

(Aug24/Sept23)

There's an urgent need to make some changes in an amorous union to keep this relationship going. You and your partner don't want to part but passion is waning due to your constant squabbling. Over the weeks ahead you should avoid topics you can't agree on and suggest

doing fun things you love to do together.

If you aren't sure about how to approach someone you feel attracted to, get a conversation going then ask for a date. Be prepared to work at keeping your relationships fresh and fizzing.

Libra

(Sept24/Oct23)

If you are working, you're likely to feel a lot happier about your career situation than you have done recently. Your boss and others you work with will appreciate your dedication and perseverance over the next few weeks, as well as your creative talents. Now is a good time to ask for a more interesting job or promotion if the possibility exists. Just don't push yourself too far. You also need to devote a little time to your personal interests and a current romance. Remember that your career is not the only avenue to fulfilment!

Scorpio

(Oct24/Nov22)

People you're with both at home and at work may feel slightly inadequate when sharing tasks with you. This is all due to your need to get everything perfect every time. You aren't blaming others because their work doesn't come up to your high standards but they feel as if you are. These next few weeks, try to be more tolerant and to praise others for their strengths. Humour them along and they'll surprise you by what they can do when they don't feel under so much pressure.

Sagittarius

(Nov23/Dec21)

With so much going on in your life, there will be times when you don't know whether you're coming or going. Expect a hectic few weeks ahead with many successful moments. Just one word of caution and this is a reminder of things that are simmering on the back burner. These may be projects connected to your home. It's important that you don't neglect ongoing projects for the sake of new ones. Try to keep a balance between past and current responsibilities and how these tie in with your future aims.

Capricorn

(Dec22/Jan20)

It won't matter where your place of work is, whether you work from home, travel around or in an office because wherever you are, you will be involved with other people. Over the weeks ahead a feeling of comradeship will exist when everyone will be pulling together to bring a special task to a satisfactory conclusion. People in high places will take your ideas seriously so be sure to get your facts right before speaking your thoughts out loud!

Aquarius

(Jan21/Feb19)

Over the weeks ahead, in all matters, you need to stand firm for all your beliefs and values. Some people may class you as a rather permissive individual but actually you have solid thoughts about romance and love. Maybe you don't express your emotions in public, but with the right person at your side, you'll be as faithful as the rest. If you're single, your dream lover could well be around the next corner. If you're attached, what you and your partner get up to in private is no-one's business but your own.

Pisces

(Feb20/Mar20)

Dreams feature strongly in the heavens, indicating a powerful desire to fulfil lifelong wishes. Meditation will help you focus on your goals. Even so, care will be necessary, over the weeks ahead, if you aren't too upset someone close by looking as if you're deliberately avoiding them. You may not realise how hurt they are when you turn down an invitation they really want you to accept. These next few weeks you will need to find a balance between pursuing your own desires and other people's need for your company.



James Blunt 22/2

Celebrity Pisces

20/02 Ivana Trump	07/03 Rachel Weisz
21/02 W.H. Auden	08/03 Freddie Prinze Jr.
24/02 George Harrison	09/03 Juliette Binoche
25/02 Sean Astin	10/03 Prince Edward
26/02 Johnny Cash	11/03 Rupert Murdoch
27/02 Elizabeth Taylor	12/03 Jack Kerouac
28/02 Vaslav Nijinsky	13/03 Adam Clayton
01/03 Ron Howard	14/03 Michael Caine
02/03 Daniel Craig	15/03 Michelangelo
03/03 Jean Harlow	16/03 Jimmy Nail
04/03 Chastity Bono	17/03 Kurt Russell
05/03 Rex Harrison	18/03 Vanessa Williams
06/03 Betty Boo	19/03 Bruce Willis

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1. The prize draws are open to UK residents aged 18 and over.
2. No purchase is necessary.
3. Only one entry per person is allowed and multiple entries will result in an entrant being disqualified.
4. The deadline for receiving entries for the competition is the last working day of the magazine's month.
5. Winners will be notified within 28 days after the competition closes.
6. Proof of delivery or email will not constitute proof of entering the prize draws and no responsibility will be accepted for lost, corrupted, delayed or mislaid entries.

7. The winner(s) will be the first valid entry drawn at random.
8. Bent reserves the right to substitute the prize for another prize of equal value.
9. There are no alternative cash prizes.
10. Bent Magazine's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
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