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bent

DJ HIFI SEAN
- His Own Man

LEGALLY BLONDE
REVIEW

Eating Out Star
CHRIS
SALVATORE

VALENTINE'S DAY
Speed Dating

UNIFORMS

- And why we love them!



A full-page photograph of comedian Stephen K Amos. He is wearing a dark blue pinstriped suit jacket over a white shirt, with the jacket open. He is gesturing with his right hand raised, palm facing forward, and has a slight, knowing smile on his face. The background is plain white.

FUNNY.. BLACK.. & Gay

We spoke to comedian Stephen K Amos back in August 2007 prior to his appearance at his sell out shows at the Edinburgh Fringe. Since then, the out and proud funny man has done pretty well for himself.

He's charmed and entertained audiences all over the world with his easy, relaxed style, intelligent wit and honest warmhearted / joie de vivre. The Feelgood Factor is designed to lift our spirits and look for the positive – just what we need in these gloomy times. Bursting with more fun, warmth, bonhomie and love than ever before, forget the credit crunch, just come and enjoy a man who is at the top of his game!

In the last couple of years Stephen has made a name for himself - appearing on *Have I Got News For You*, made his mark with a hilarious set at *The Royal Variety Performance* and triumphed on *Live At The Apollo*. His Channel 4 documentary *Batty Man* was nominated for a Bafta and he made it to the finals of *Last Comic Standing*.

A gifted actor, Amos has impressed audiences and critics with his performances on stage, and screen, and he has proved not only a gift for comedy but also for more serious roles. He was Sir Benjamin Backbite in RB Sheridan's farce *The School For Scandal* at this year's Edinburgh Festival – alongside Lionel Blair, Marcus Brigstocke and Phil Nichol. He has also starred in the critically acclaimed production of *Talk Radio* at the Edinburgh Festival 2006, directed by Stewart Lee and he appeared in the West End and Edinburgh run of *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, alongside Christian Slater.

Excitingly, Stephen has recorded his own comedy show for the BBC and a Simon Nye penned sitcom – also for the BBC but for the moment, these two projects are shrouded in mystery.

Stephen K Amos -
The Feelgood Factor

Hammersmith Apollo,
London – 26th -27th
February

BOUND & GAGGED COMEDY BY ARRANGEMENT WITH LISA WHITE AT *glorious* & IN ASSOCIATION WITH ITV DVD PRESENTS
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STEPHEN K AMOS

THE FELLGOOD FACTOR

OCTOBER

25 Worthing Assembly Hall 01903 206 206
 27 High Wycombe Mycombe Swan 01494 512 000
 28 Halifax Victoria Theatre 01423 351 158
 29 York Grand Opera House 08448 472 222
 31 Jersey Opera House 01204 011 110

NOVEMBER

1 Swindon Wyvern Theatre 01753 975 454
 1 Leeds Grand Theatre 0113 242 756
 3 Blackburn King George V Hall 01525 471 964
 4 Warrington Pyramid and Fair Hall 01925 442 345
 5 Birmingham Alexandra Theatre 0121 454 754
 6 Swindon Wyvern Theatre 01753 975 454
 8 Dartford Orchard Theatre 01892 471 588
 9 Derby Assembly Rooms 01323 357 801
 10 Lumbury Works Access 01223 357 801
 11 Oxford New Theatre 01865 801 717
 12 Perth Concert Hall 01738 621 031
 13 Reading 01189 606 960
 14 Reading 01189 606 960
 15 Reading 01189 606 960
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"Effortless comedy from one of the country's strongest stand-ups"

SUNDAY TIMES

"Amos is dynamite"

THE GUARDIAN

JANUARY

14 Swindon Wyvern Theatre	8:00pm	01753 975 481
15 Aylesbury Civic Centre	8:00pm	01296 401 009
16 Leamington Spa Royal Spa Centre	7:30pm	01927 414 118
17 Woking New Victoria	7:30pm	08700 606 645
18 Watford Palace Theatre	8:00pm	01923 225 671
19 Southend Cliffs Pavilion	8:00pm	01702 351 135
20 Blackpool Grand Theatre	7:30pm	01253 290 190
21 Carlisle Sands Centre	7:30pm	01228 625 222
22 Middlesbrough Town Hall	8:00pm	01642 729 729
23 Newcastle Journal Tyne Theatre	8:00pm	08444 939 999
24 Perth Concert Hall	8:00pm	01738 621 031
25 Aberdeen Music Hall	8:00pm	01224 641 122
27 Hastings White Rock Theatre	8:00pm	01424 462 288
28 Leicester De Montfort Hall	8:00pm	01162 333 111
29 Buxton Opera House	7:30pm	08451 272 190
30 Stoke on Trent Victoria Hall	8:00pm	08700 606 649

FEBRUARY

1 Glasgow Theatre Royal	7:30pm	08700 606 647
2 Salisbury City Hall	8:00pm	01722 434 434
3 Barnstaple Queens Theatre	7:45pm	01271 324 242
4 Barnstaple Queens Theatre	7:45pm	01271 324 242
5 Truro Hall for Cornwall	8:00pm	01872 262 466
6 Torquay Babbacombe Theatre	8:00pm	01803 328 385
7 Brighton Theatre Royal	7:30pm	08700 606 650
8 Bournemouth Pavilion Theatre	8:00pm	08445 763 000
9 Cheltenham Town Hall	8:00pm	08445 762 210
10 Yeovil Octagon Theatre	7:30pm	01963 401 384
11 Aldershot Princess Hall	7:45pm	01252 329 155
12 Dublin Vicar Street	8:00pm	0818 719 390
13 Belfast Ulster Hall	8:00pm	02890 334 455
15 Bristol Colston Hall	8:00pm	01179 223 686
16 Cardiff St David's Hall	8:00pm	02920 878 444
17 Swansea Grand Theatre	8:00pm	01792 475 715
19 Telford Oakengates Theatre	8:00pm	01952 382 382
20 Coventry Warwick Arts Centre	8:00pm	02476 524 524
21 Salford Lowry	7:30pm	08707 875 790
22 Liverpool Philharmonic Hall	8:00pm	01517 093 789
23 Dunstable Grove Theatre	8:00pm	01582 602 080
24 Ipswich Regent	8:00pm	01473 433 100

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY at 8:00pm
EXTRA DATE ADDED DUE TO PUBLIC DEMAND
SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY at 8:00pm
LONDON Hammersmith Apollo 08448 444 748

www.gloriousmanagement.com www.boundandgaggedcomedy.com



Stephen's eagerly awaited live debut DVD is OUT NOW

itv DVD hmv.com





TUFF PUFF
Page 43



MIRROR KICKS
Page 10



SPEED DATING
Page 23



HIFI SEAN
Page 12



bent

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EDITOR'S WORDS // Equality: The state of being equal

Equality seems a strange concept for an awful lot of people to comprehend yet the precept is very simple – We are all Equal.

Of course in George Orwell's literary classic 'Animal Farm' we know that once some achieve

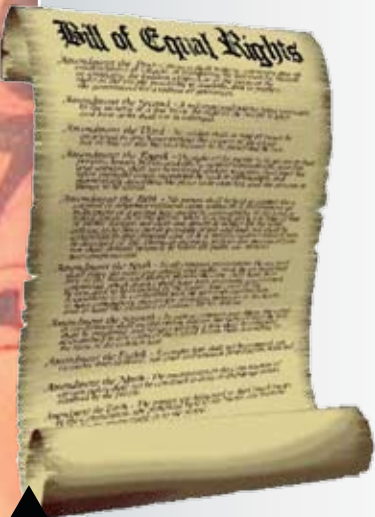
power the adage that 'we are all equal... just some are more equal than others' comes into being. Being more equal than others means we can feel superior, expect different (and better) treatment and that normal rules that exist for others, simply do not apply to those who are... more equal.

At the moment some groups within the Church of England feel that they should not be held by the law that states you cannot discriminate against someone's sexuality because they feel it goes against the Church's teachings. Apparently, Love Thy Neighbour was never a strong point with the religious bigots who now infest the church, dragging its already tarnished reputation further into the mire. We can only hope that these lunatics are in the minority but alas, I fear they are a growing group who want things their way... or no way. We see that in other religions where the extremist's views offer nothing but intolerance where "We are right and you are... evil" is the incantation. There is no doubt that power corrupts and religion, and its earthly representatives, love

that feeling of being in control, instilling fear and generally ignoring the principles of their own religion... often feeling they are taking some kind of moral high ground. History tells us that religion (and its zealots) has been responsible for some of the more lunatic reasons for war and hate - yet we seem incapable of having a secular society. Thankfully, some governments put all their people first (and I know this is a relative term) and keep religion well away from legislation. However, when legislation is old, corrupt and/or dealing with a historical and outdated law it needs to act but, and I ask this in probably unjustifiable hope... wouldn't a Bill of Equality for everyone solve that 'problem'?

A country like ours, with our history, our 'Mother of Parliament', our grasp of inclusion... yet we seem not to have a Bill of Rights or Equality for all our citizens... and that is a great shame.

Gordon



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A FUNNY THOUGHT

Bent's December cover boy Sam Worthington, who plays Jake Sully in the box office hit "Avatar", was filming test shots for a waterfall scene in Hawaii when a passer-by asked if he was working on a gay porn movie.

The Aussie actor happened to be wearing nothing but a g-string, fake animal ears and a felt tale. Sam said: "The guy rocked up and said 'What are you doing?'"

"I assured him it was a proper movie but when he didn't seem convinced I pointed out that the guy filming me was the famous director James Cameron.

"The guy looked over, saw Jim's rudimentary camera, looked back at me in the ears, tail and g-string the director had given me to wear and said 'Well, he's come down in the world since Titanic."



very much in the same virtual stylized way, the programme boasts a feast of gladiatorial hunks dressed in very little... and with enough blood and gore to satisfy all those who hanker after those delightful days of the Roman Republic.

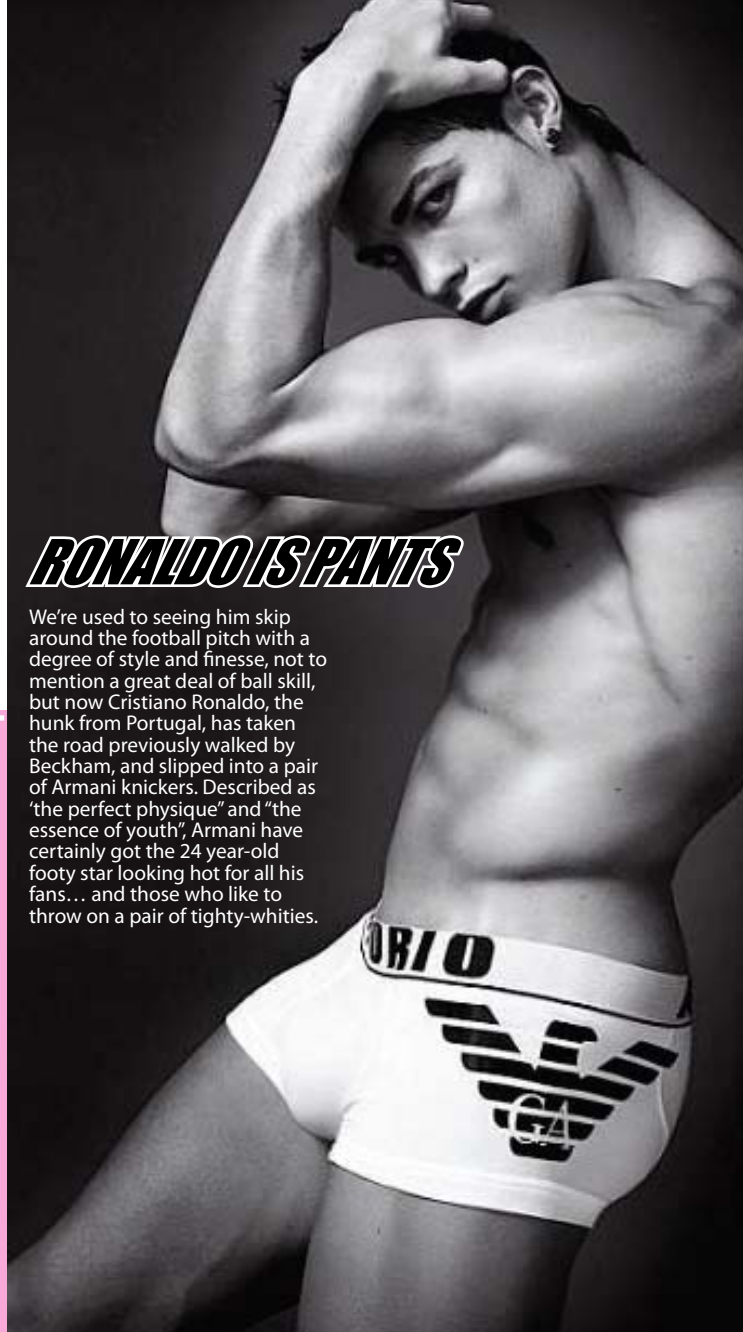
Spartacus is a soldier in the Roman Auxiliary who has been taken prisoner. As punishment for defying a Roman Legate, Spartacus has been sentenced to die in the gladiator arena. But after surviving numerous fights, his sentence is commuted and he has been sold as a slave to be trained as a gladiator. The programme, led by Aussie sex bomb Andy Whitfield, has only just premiered in the US and as yet, no UK TV channel has picked an option.

LOINCLOTHS AND HEADS COMING OFF

If you loved the movie 300 (and how many gay boys didn't take to those Greek hunks) keep an eye out this year for a new TV series from the US called "Spartacus: Blood and Sand". Filmed

RONALDO IS PANTS

We're used to seeing him skip around the football pitch with a degree of style and finesse, not to mention a great deal of ball skill, but now Cristiano Ronaldo, the hunk from Portugal, has taken the road previously walked by Beckham, and slipped into a pair of Armani knickers. Described as "the perfect physique" and "the essence of youth", Armani have certainly got the 24 year-old footy star looking hot for all his fans... and those who like to throw on a pair of tighty-whities.



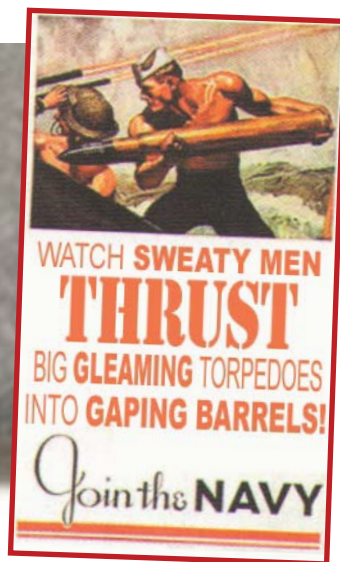
Dear Editor...

Skin tight lycra costumes, sequin embroidery, buff bodies and lots of ice. What do all these things have in common? ITV's Dancing on Ice. Once again we see the line up of 'celebs' taking to the ice to wow the country's population. Joining them on the slippery surface this year was, in my opinion, the very sexy Jeremy Sheffield, the openly gay actor who has stolen the hearts of many woman and gay men, over the years. We saw him strutting his stuff in outfits that left very little to the imagination and which just gives me a warm feeling in my 'special place'. But to my annoyance why on earth did they pair him with a female pro, why not a male pro? Or is ITV (or BBC's Strictly Come Dancing) not ready to set such a precedent within a couple of the campest activities around. I for one think, and I'm sure many others would agree, gay men should not have to be forced into such a predefined rule book.

Mark - Leeds



Photo: ITV



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www.gmfa.org.uk/positive

GMFA's HIV-positive gay men's website with information on:
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THE MODERN JOCK

The high street is set to be kicked into shape this season with sport-chic influences coming straight from the catwalk. From subtle, preppy looks to nautical accents, this look is all about block colours, simple lines and light textures.

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DRAG 4 U



Last month, the Metrodome Arena in Barnsley held their annual Drag 4 U grand final, which saw seven amateur drag queens throw on those sequins, stilettos and enough make-up to make sure Max Factor has a healthy profit for the year to give the public a night of campery and excess. The capacity crowd enjoyed the drama, the humour, the lip-sync and the originality of some terrific acts but when it came to choosing a winner there was only one who the judges unanimously agreed should walk away with the Drag 4 U crown. Miss Shurley from Wakefield had the crowd in the palm of her hand as she took the audience on a brilliant tribute to Shirley Bassey. She won a holiday for 2 in Maspalomas and the chance to perform at Sparkles Nightclub in Gran Canaria. Around £1000 was raised for the Terrence Higgins Trust charity and the entire event was captured on DVD. Anna Glypta was the supreme mistress of ceremony ably assisted by Miss Anja Bach and the organisers are already planning the next event in December.

Official Drag 4 U dvd:
GayPrideDVD.com

Photo: Darrell Hirst

BUM SPONSORS

gaypedia.com, the online travel information and community for gays and lesbians, has sponsored a straight German handball team HC Wemelskirchen.

The 14-strong male team now flamboyantly display the gaypedia logo on the back of their kit shorts. WC Wemelskirchen, led by

Daniel Dorrenbach says: "When we approached gaypedia about sponsoring our shorts we were sure they would say no as we are not a gay team. However, when they said yes, we knew immediately the most appropriate place to position the logo. We hope that this helps build the profile of handball and more gay and lesbian people get involved in the sport – and feel comfortable to join a team that isn't specifically gay."



MANCHESTER PRIDE GRANTS

Manchester Pride is inviting local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organisations, promoters and individuals to apply for grants of up to £500 from the Community Events fund to form part of this year's Pride events programme. The fund was established in 2009 to raise the diversity of events taking place throughout the ten day festival. Applications from community and voluntary sector organisations, registered charities and individuals wishing to organise events for the festival are particularly welcome.

The Community Event Fund can be used for the following:

- * Artists, performers or speakers fees
- * Travel for artists and performers
- * Marketing
- * Technical or projection equipment hire
- * Venue hire
- * Materials

Planned events must take place between 20th – 26th August 2010. Each application will be assessed by a panel of assessors made up of representatives from Manchester Pride. The closing date for applications is 8th March 2010. Applications should be sent to: Manchester Pride Community Events Fund, Manchester Pride, The Department Store, 5 Oak Street, Northern Quarter, Manchester, M4 5JD.

www.manchesterpride.com

QUEER CONTACT

In celebration of LGBT History Month 2010 Contact, Manchester is hosting Queer Contact, a week-long celebration of the very best in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual art and culture. Featuring spoken-word, cabaret, music and film.

Headlining the festival will be Manchester-favourite David Hoyle, who returns to Contact after the success of last year's anti-Valentine spectacular, with Forward Into Battle In The Name Of Love, a scabrous attack on sentimentality and co-opted emotion. Elsewhere HBO Def Comedy Jam star Reggie Cabico crosses the Atlantic to take part in Outspoken, a night of queer spoken word performance; Switchflicker Records present a night of cutting-edge music and there will be a special screening of FIT, Rikki Beadle-Blair's anti-homophobia film which was first developed as a stage play at Contact in 2007.

Contact Theatre, Oxford Rd, Manchester, M15 6JA.

9th–13th Feb, various times & prices
 Tickets & Info 0161 274 0600.
www.contact-theatre.org

Photo: Lee Baxter



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Photo courtesy of fitlads.tv

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ANYTHING GOES

Bleeding success and Zebra pants.

You may have heard the rather fantastic power chord version of Leona Lewis's 'Bleeding Love' by Mirrorkicks as it sends viral shockwaves across the net... and beyond. However, our interest in this indie/rock band is not just about the music but their charismatic front man Anil Kamalagharan. As one of a new breed of 'out and proud' gay singers he leads the band but, Bent wonders, does he also lead a new breed of 'out' Asian artists?

"Out Asian artists are very under-represented. In fact, I can't think of any at all? Asian artists full stop are massively under represented and often change their names and the way they look to 'fit in', which I can understand but find really sad. There's also always a risk of playing up to a cliché and going all faux ethnic and that certainly isn't something I want to do myself"

Anil has more to say on the subject of his own diverse culture.

"My dad was born in Malaysia to Sri Lankan parents and my mother is German. I was raised Catholic in the middle of South London so growing up there were some very strong and very conflicting cultural influences pulling me in different directions. I've found my feet more and feel more at home than ever, partly through Mirrorkicks. Culturally

I see myself as British and very much a Londoner. Being gay is still very much a taboo in many Asian communities, but I'm ever hopeful that people will become more tolerant and accepting. I'm forever having old Indian ladies trying to fit me up with their daughters!"

Mirrorkicks mean big business. The success of their addictively anthemic debut single, 'Turning Up', last year had audiences grappling for more on both sides of the Atlantic, and with their UK shows an immediate sell out, a US tour is being pursued for later this year. Now the follow up single, 'Anything', smashes the band into a vivaciously-effervescent new dimension of pitch and sound exploration. With vocals akin to an unlikely fusion of the grittiness of Sting and the heady falsetto-heights of Justin Hawkins, mingled with a sound that's reminiscent of The Boomtown Rats mixed with The Police, 'Anything' is deliriously exhilarating with a captivating grip.

"My dad was a closet Disco DJ and so I grew up listening to Gloria Gaynor and Abba. However, my three older brothers were seriously into heavy metal - Iron Maiden, Metallica, you know the sort of thing. There's something of both in my CD collection, but I've always been most drawn to strong female solo singers like Bjork, PJ Harvey, Ella Fitzgerald and Skin. Having said that, the music we make in Mirrorkicks is very different again and we draw on influences from all sorts of places - for example, our song Podium

was described as a juxtaposition of Anita Baker's Sweet Love and Soundgarden!"

Born and bred in South London and meeting at secondary school, Mirrorkicks are, Gerard De Waal, Edwin Pereira, and brothers Ingmar & Anil Kamalagharan. With a few star names as fans and the support of the likes of Razorlight what can be expected in 2010?

"Our next single 'Anything' is out so there'll be lots of partying, gigging and good times around that! We've already been play listed which is really exciting and had our videos on TV. Our debut album will be out soon after that. We'll be shooting more videos; so far we've had an animated video with little Lego versions of ourselves; been water bombed at Pinewood studios; had scenes in a scout hut in Godalming and have been surrounded by 50 cheerleaders (not just girls!). Steve Price will be directing a video for 'Be Allowed' in which I'll be transitioning from female to male, which should be pretty good fun. However, I'm struggling with learning to walk in heels... hopefully (fingers crossed) I'll have help from a very exciting female solo artist who'll be cameoing - but it's all top secret at the moment."

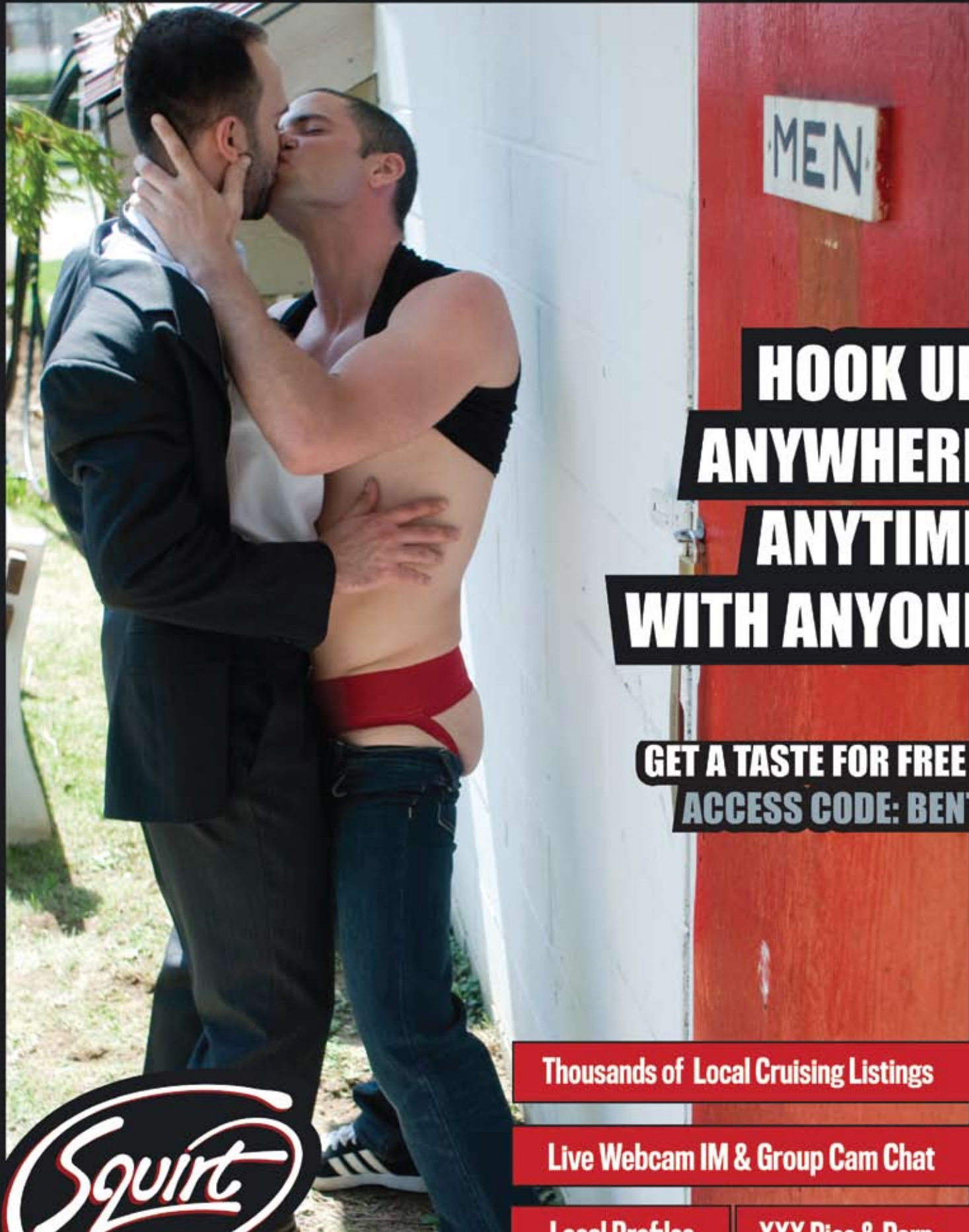
So, the Mirrorkicks phenomenon has begun and Anil had better get used to searching questions from both the tabloids and music press such as: What are your favourite brand and colour underpants?

"Ha! I'm definitely happiest when my pants are off. I do however have a very special pair of zebra print pants, which I save for gigs and weekends."

**Single: 'Anything' released 1st Feb - Fruit Pie Records
www.myspace.com/mirrorkicks**



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HIFI SEAN

by Jason Guy

Hifi Sean is one of the most forward-thinking DJs on the gay scene in the UK and this month sees one of his rare appearances in the North of England, for Freakshow at No1 Club, Manchester on Saturday 13th February. Word always spreads quickly when a club launches successfully and the word on Freakshow had already reached London based Sean. "I've heard some great things about the party and a few people put me forward as a guest DJ."

People come from afar to hear a Hifi Sean set, a great mix of grooves beats and sounds that you will likely not hear anywhere else as he avidly collects great house records and also uses his hit making production skills to drop many mixes made by him and special re-edits of tracks.

"Hopefully I can bring something a bit different and twisted to the dancefloor that they don't usually hear. I like to think what I play is my own brand of Psychedelic House Music" adds Sean. It sounds like the Freakshow faithful are in for a treat! "I'm loving that tech house is now starting to sample a lot of disco so you are getting a lot of twisted but funky sounds...which is totally my bag"

From his early days as songwriter, frontman and producer of the worldwide platinum selling The Soup Dragons who reached number 5 in the UK charts with 'I'm Free' in 1990, Scottish born Hifi Sean (Sean Dickson) has been pushing the boundaries of sound and music for many years .

After The Soup Dragons, Sean sunk himself into many DJ residencies in both the UK and Europe, taking dancefloors by storm. Recently he has been wowing the capital by playing in some of London's finest

gay parties. From the early days at Tonker, to Beyond at Area and Juicy at Fire. "One highlight that sticks in my mind is Juicy NYE 2009 which had the biggest explosion of pyrotechnics above my head at midnight... and I was right underneath playing away!"

"I also played at the Space Ibiza parties in London, which were great to do. I met a lot of the Space DJs who came over and heard new sounds. And then there was Hustlaball in London, which was wall to wall sexy beefy men. They went mental to my set, which is something I'll never forget!"

Which DJs does Sean currently admire? "I'm loving the DJ Producers 'Supernova' from Italy and '2000 and one' and my good friend Severino from Horsemeat Disco who I DJ back to back with, at a party we run called Our House. I admire any DJ who keeps the passion and tries to bring something a bit different to the floor... unique to themselves. DJing should be an extension of your personality and who you are."

You can find out more about Sean and download his podcasts at <http://tinyurl.com/hifiseanfacebookgroup> and <http://hifisean.podomatic.com>.

Information on Freakshow in Manchester can be found at www.clubfreakshow.com.

Sex Shoes is available now from all good download sites including iTunes and DJdownload. Find out more at www.retoxrecordings.com or search for the 'Petula Caesar' fanpage on Facebook.

PETULA CAESAR

and her sex shoes!

Sex Shoes... the house track that's been causing a storm in the gay clubs of Manchester, is on track to be a huge UK hit. From the moment I first dropped it to a packed Freakshow dancefloor I knew it was something special and it's all thanks to Manchester based DJ Thaddeus. He was the first to pick up on this track in the UK and immediately contacted Stinkiface Music (US record label) and asked to remix the track. And, rather cleverly I think, Retox Recordings, who he part owns, are also going to be representing the lovely Petula herself in Europe.

But how did Sex Shoes first come about? "Well, I was in a department store with a friend one day," Petula confides. "The store was going out of business, and I came across these very sexy shoes. They are described exactly in the song as they appear in real life "...4 inch high, red, patent leather, platform, sling back, with the open toe..." I had no money to buy them, so my friend brought them for me. A week later I was performing onstage wearing the shoes and out of nowhere I blurted out to the audience, "hey, do you like my shoes? These are my sex shoes!"

Petula continues enthusiastically. "After the show all these people came up to me to tell me about their sex shoes. When I got home from that show I wrote "Sex Shoes" as a poem. Six months later I recorded it with my producer, Mo-Rece, who went on to sign me to his music label Stinkiface Music shortly after. The original version that he created is a soulful house track with an almost retro sound to it, but Retox Recordings/DJ Thaddeus has transformed it into this cool banging electro track. I love it!"

Named after Petula Clark (in case you were wondering), Tula was born in New Jersey and grew up in an 'artsy' house. "I'm a writer, first and foremost. But being creative in general comes naturally to me.

My dad was a painter and graphic designer, and he wrote as a hobby. He also recited poetry to me from the time I was a baby. And there was always music and dance in our house too, so I grew up hearing every type of sound, and moving to most of it."

Tula is starting to use her work to champion women's sexuality issues. "So many women don't seek out relationships that allow them to explore or express their sexuality in a safe, healthy way. They don't feel that can successfully integrate their sexuality into the rest of themselves. It is important that women know they can be smart and sexy and talented and still command respect." Tula then adds, "Even a beginning house diva like me knows I'd be nothing without my devoted gay fan base. Sex Shoes was first popular in the underground gay clubs in my area; my friends would call me when they'd hear the deejays playing it. Performing in those places is always a good time; you get a great crowd that wants to enjoy you and have fun... as long as you're good!"

It's time for the interview to end and there's time for just one more question, so I go for the obvious one. Does she wear shoes for sex? "Yes," Tula smiles, "Sometimes it was even intentional."



With the unsurprising final demise of Essential, Freakshow in Manchester just keeps getting busier. Catch me playing on the 13th Feb (along with Hifi Sean for the Chine New Year) and the 27th, plus sets in Fibre in Leeds and more. There's also a new mix to download from www.jasonguy.podomatic.com. For more information on having a track, clubnight or DJ feature in Bent, please contact jason@bent.com.

TRACK REVIEW TOP TRACKS OF THE MONTH

▷ RICHARD GREY & MABOO INC VS TODD TERRY

Something's Going On 2010 (Subliminal) Another classic track gets a facelift! Returning once again to Subliminal, Richard Grey delivers another anthem for the peak time covering Todd Terry's classic 'Something Going On'. Originally a hit in the UK back in 1996, my tip is the Jose Nunez rework that keeps just enough of the amazing Jocelyn Brown / Martha Wash vocals.



▷ REMADY

No Superstar (Malestrom) Originally released a couple of years ago, this was a huge hit across Europe and had great reactions when I played it in Leeds and Manchester, but it was never the hit it deserved to be. Back, with a slew of remixes from the likes of Danny Dove & Steve Smart, Daz Bailey and Calverton, the original mix is still the best one. This catchy house / electro crossover (with just a little hint of Persia) grows until a real crowd pleaser.



▷ MARK KNIGHT V KOEN GROENEVELD

Put Your Hands Up (Toolroom) Two of Toolrooms hottest stars collaborate to bring you another club anthem ready to fuel the fire of the worlds discerning Djs. Head Honcho Mark Knight (who was responsible for the outstanding 'Downpipe in 2009) & rising Dutch champion Koen Groeneveld have joined forces to bring you Put Your Hands Up, a track that does exactly what it says on the tin; an energetic slice of tech goodness with a vocal chant screaming to Put Your Hands Up!



▷ TAITO TIKARO FT. VANESSA KLEIN

Addicted (Matinee Recordings) You pretty much know what to expect before you even hear this track, part 80s hi-energy, part Spanish progressive, part pop music - but the gays love it. Very much in the same vein as every other Matinee track, this powers along with the vocal talents of Vanessa Klein, telling us how she's addicted to everything. Head for Tikaro's Essence Mix, which sits just the right side of cheesy.



▷ MILK AND SUGAR

You Got Me Burning (Milk & Sugar Recordings) Milk & Sugar can do no wrong... Number one in the UK Upfront Clubcharts and Number 2 in the German Dance Charts amongst many other top rankings worldwide! As in their previous single (the re release of Stay Around) the Munich duo has skillfully intertwined their typical house grooves with the soulful voice of Ayak, who once again delivers a dynamic, energetic performance. A great house track, with a driving beat, a phat bassline, piano and a good hook.



ALBUMS

SINGLES



▷ DANIELLE SPENCER



Calling All Magicians
Out: 15th February

Danielle Spencer bears all the hallmarks of classic female songstresses like Celine, Regina Spektor and Eva Cassidy. She fuses pop with ballads, light with dark, and comes off as sophisticated yet otherworldly as David Bowie. That Spencer learned to play the piano at four is evident, as lyrics and music seem inherently fused together in her songs, with a degree of skill present in both that most modern pop singers don't even bother to aim for.

▷ ANIMAL KINGDOM



Two by Two **Out: 15th February**

Eerily melodic new single 'Two by Two' sees Animal Kingdom prepare us for the versatility of their debut album, Signs and Wonders. Whereas first single 'Chalk Stars' was an emotive pop number, 'Two by Two' is ethereal and thrilling. For fans of Snow Patrol, Vampire Weekend and Camera Obscura, this is top-notch stuff.



▷ MINISTRY OF SOUND

Running Trax **Out: Now!**

This funk-alicious 3CD-album is designed to keep you fit in all your post-Christmas voluminousness. Dance music is apparently the most beneficial at adding to endurance, and people apparently last 15% longer when

exercising to music (at Bent we're wondering if the same is true of sex). Running Trax has beatgrinding floorfillers from the likes of Arman van Helden, Freemasons, Eric Prydz, Dizze Rascal, Deadmau5, Fedde le Grand, Chicane, Sash! and Cascada. Definitely one for the gays, it seems.



▷ YOU ME AT SIX

Underdog **Out: 7th February**

'Underdog' is the first single from You Me at Six's sophomore album, Hold Me Down. There's a much more exuberant dynamic at work here than in their usually melodic recorded material. A quick search on YouTube reveals this is loaned from their live shows, where they really push the sonic boat out. This kickass song is full of energy without losing the musical dexterity You Me are known for, and marks a new direction for Hold Me Down.

▷ HIM

Screamworks: Love in Theory and Practice
Out: 8th February

HIM return with this hook-laden, tantrumping gothic album with big riffs, sinuous solos and epic choruses. Full of 80s influences, the guys have nevertheless moved from using synths to emulate real instruments to just using synths to sound like synths. This means a gloriously melodramatic sound programmed to sound filthy, colourful and glitzy as broken mirrorballs on the disco floor.



▷ FE-NIX

Swagga **Out: 8th February**

Though these girls definitely can't spell, they're the closest thing the UK has to the Pussycat Dolls now that the Sugababes is officially at a deficit of three original 'babes'. This dancy urban number comes hot on the heels of recent successes by Chipmunk, N-Dubz and Tinchy Stryder and shows that the MOBOs should be pretty popular this year. Galaxy's Steve Sutherland has labelled this Galaxy's Record of the Week and Radio1 have been all over this one. Being gay, we all love it too, of course, and just hope they can fill the void in our hearts left by Keisha and Mutya leaving our number one UK girl band.

▷ PETER GABRIEL

Scratch My Back **Out: 15th February**

The new trend for artists is, apparently, to reinterpret or cover each other's songs. In Scratch My Back, Gabriel covers Bowie ('Heroes'), Lou Reed ('The Power of the Heart'), Regina Spektor ('Après Moi'), Radiohead ('Street Spirit') and Arcade Fire ('My Body is a Cage'). The result is lively and fun, taking in a prodigious range of talents from various decades. If covers are your thing, this one's for you. Or if you work in a restaurant and the muzak is starting to grate, buy your manager this to put on instead.



▷ INGRID MICHAELSON

Everybody **Out: 8th February**

Infectious folk songs are Ingrid Michaelson's forte and she doesn't disappoint with this prime slice of advertising loveliness. If you hadn't noticed, her past singles have already been snatched by Old Navy and Grey's Anatomy for their TV commercials. This one will no doubt be on an advert for some jeans, some flowery perfume or a mobile network. Oh, we know she's half decent, but we also know there are marketing experts sat stirring some cauldron somewhere and creating pop potions to enchant the 18-35 bracket.

▷ GLOBAL SERIES 1

Michael Gray Vs Kid Massive

Out: 17th February

Global Series 01 is the first compilation in a new series to blend the work of label boss Kid Massive and producer Michael Gray. Prok & Fitch, Mike Polo, Remailax and Filth & Splendour are just some of the top-class dance names included in this double-CD album. There's a real mix of underground class and house legends which makes the compilation more than a 'who's who' of current dance music bestsellers.



▷ CHARLIE WINSTON

I Love Your Smile **Out: 22nd February**

Amelie star Audrey Tatou appears in the sultry video for Winston's latest lovey single, that comes just a little too late for Valentine's Day. Though Winston claims his childhood was like Fawley Towers, there's not even a hint of John Cleese debacle in this easy, smooth love song you'll love, your mothers will love and your faghags will adore. (photo: Stephanie Dray)



BIG MUSCLE remixed



Centaur Entertainment, New York's premiere dance music record label, releases "Big Muscle Remixed," from DJ Bill Bennett who was recently named the #1 leather DJ in North America by Instinct Magazine. Bill started his music career in the early 80's mixing music for his aerobics classes. It was the collective spirit of music and movement that served as the catalyst for his transition to the DJ booth, where he continues to use the power of music to help strip away the self-doubt that keeps us from being our fearless selves. Bill's first nightclub residency was in Detroit at COBALT, where on a typical Saturday night he would have the line to get in wrapped around the corner. Following his initial success in Detroit, offers for residencies at prestigious nightclubs around the US began to come in including SPLASH in New York and RICH's in San Diego.

Bill eventually partnered with the popular social networking website BigMuscle to present his second national club tour. Along with the tour came his debut album "Big Muscle Of The Rhythm," an unmixed promotional album that quickly established Bill as one of the country's top club and commercial DJs. Between his busy DJ schedule, Bill had also been studying music and refining his production skills in Seattle with Roger Fisher - one of the original guitarists from the 80's rock band Heart. Their collaboration served as inspiration for the unique sound they developed called "Circuit Rock." Bill's shift to production has lead him to a second album and partnership with producer Pete Masitti, who has worked with Shakira, The

Backstreet Boys, Van Halen and Hootie & the Blowfish.

The twelve track continuous mix "Big Muscle Remixed" features some of the biggest names in dance including #1 artist Suzanne Palmer, Inaya Day, Pepper MaShay, Thea Austin and Abigail. The first single "Breakaway" featuring Inaya Day was snatched up within weeks by SONY/BMG, and eventually landed in the Top 10 of the Billboard Dance charts. Bill then proved he was not a one hit wonder with a string of anthems that soon followed ("Fame," "Manhunt" and "Forever Young"), all reaching numerous world Top 10 charts as well. Bill has defined himself not only as a popular muscle DJ, but a writer and producer as well. His own collection of exclusive remixes appear alongside those of the talented remixers Edson Pride, Twisted Dee, Klubjumpers and Bryan Reyes.

Out 2nd February - "Big Muscle Remixed" - iTunes www.centaurmusic.com



MUSIC COMPETITION



CREAM - FUTURE ELECTRO

2009 was the year of electro influenced beats and saw the likes of David Guetta, Deadmau5 and Calvin Harris ruling the charts and airwaves, taking the sound to mass appeal.

Always the innovators, Cream grab the sound by the scruff of the neck and head into the electro age with Cream Future Electro, mixing up 2009's biggest tunes, crossover new music with a credible edge plus future anthems and heavyweight electro classics all spread over 3 CDs. Massive tunes include the likes of Deadmau5 with FML, DBN's remix of Sebastian Ingrosso Kidsos, The huge Let The Bass Kick by Chuckie, Crookers' fidgety remix of

Fever Ray's Seven, Cirez D On / Off and A1 Bassline's Get Hype Remix of Little Boots' smash Remedy. **Cream - Future Electro - New State Music**
www.cream.co.uk / www.newstatemusic.com

If you want to be in with a chance of winning this 3CD compilation, just answer this simple question: Calvin Harris had a No1 album with Ready for the _____?



LOVE SONGS

This 40 track, double album is full of current and classic hits including the massive No. 1 "Everybody In Love" from boy band of the moment, JLS. You'll also find huge hits such as Leona Lewis' "Better In Time", James Morrison's "Broken Strings" as well as legendary tracks from the likes of Whitney Houston, P!nk and Will Young. So whether you're feeling soppy, romantic or just want to perk up your music collection... Love Songs is ideal for Valentine's Day. **Out: 1st February - Sony Music**

If you want to be in with a chance of winning this double CD compilation, just answer this simple question:

Complete the title of this Whitney Houston classic "One Moment in _____"



BRIT AWARDS 2010

The BRIT Awards are pulling out all the stops this year and celebrating 30 years of existence in style! Not only do you get 40 of last years biggest hits but also an extra bonus disc crammed full of BRIT gems. The first 2 discs contain some belting hits from female superstars including Lady GaGa's phenomenal "Let's Dance". Not forgetting massive tracks from heartthrobs Robbie Williams with his smash hit "Bodies", Michael Buble "Haven't Met You Yet" and more. If that isn't enough to entice you, bonus disc 3 has 20 tracks from some of the biggest and best BRIT nominees and award winners of all time. **Out: 8th February - Label: Rhino**

If you want to be in with a chance of winning this triple CD compilation, just answer this simple question:

Complete the title of this Kelly Clarkson hit: "My Life Would _____ Without You"



JACKIE LOVE SONGS

With Valentines Day around the corner, we love nothing more than snuggling up with a great album of love songs to warm our hearts. Jackie Love Songs encompasses timeless classics that will recreate the butterflies of a new romance and echo the perfect bliss of intimacy. Let's Stay Together- Al Green, You're in my Heart- Rod Stewart and Your All I Need To Get By- Marvin Gaye & Tammi Terrell will get you in the mood for romance over and over again. **Out: Feb - EMI Records**

To be in with a chance of winning this 3 CD compilation of Love Songs just answer this simple question:

'Don't Go Breaking My Heart' was sung by Kiki Dee and _____?

COMPETITION TIME
TURN TO PAGE 78 FOR ENTRY DETAILS

SWAP, the leaders and innovators of mobile watch technology, announces its latest generation smart Watch and Phone, the Signature. This stylish wristwatch provides mobile communications via an unlocked tri-band connection. Users simply slot their own SIM card in and begin making and receiving calls as it operates with all networks, '3' being the only exception. The watch phone weighs 124g its dimensions are 24.8 x 49.2 x 15.2mm. **£349.99** www.s-w-a-p.co.uk



WORLD ON YOUR WALL

Super cool lifestyle website Caroline McGrath has added the stunning World Map Wall Graphic to its exclusive collection of stylish wall art. A brilliantly designed world map

is made up of lots and lots of small circles, and measures an impressive 115cm across by 60cm and is available in white, black, grey, pink, yellow, orange, dark red, gold, dark blue, green or silver. **£56**
Call for details: 01869 340 479.



HIBISCUS BEDDING

Now here's a soft and comfortable idea for bedding – Stitch Design Works have come up with this Hawaiian print motif available in three bright colourways. The duvet set of cover and pillowcase(s) are made from superfine 400 thread count cotton and fastened with traditional cotton buttons. To add to your sleep experience, they also have matching shorts in soft satin cotton to complete the ensemble.

£45 – Single duvet, £60 Double, £9 Shorts (+p&p)

www.stitchdesignworks.co.uk



JUST SPLENDID

ASUS recently unveiled the brand new ultra-slim Designo MS Series LCD monitors a perfect combination of exceptional style and great picture quality. Graceful design combines with leading quality components and ASUS Splendid™ Video Intelligence

Technology to deliver crisp fast visuals in Full HD 1080p, 50,000:1 contrast ratio, 2ms response time and an extra 40% in power savings. The unique spherical ring stand features Ergo-Fit Technology that lets the user adjust the monitor's tilt angle with just one gentle nudge of a finger. www.asus.co.uk



GAYDAR GIVES AWAY 99 PRIZES AND A PORN STAR!



Gaydar, the world's busiest gay hook-up site knows that love doesn't come easy (or cheap). So this Valentine's Day as credit card bills from Christmas are due and the misery of January mounts, Gaydar has the perfect solution – one hundred prizes to make Valentine's Day x-rated rather than overrated!

This Valentine's Day, Gaydar.co.uk is turning up the heat and giving members and guests the chance to win 1 of 100 x-rated gifts including an all expenses paid dinner date with a Eurocreme model, Will Jamieson, in London's West End. Other prizes including Fleshjacks - the latest in must have personal sex toys, Eurocreme DVDs (Police Boy, Jamieson's latest sexploit), Gaydar membership upgrades and every gay man's best friend... lube!

All Gaydar members and guests who log into Gaydar or GaydarMobile on Thursday 11th February 2010 between the hours of 8pm-10pm (GMT) will automatically be entered into the giveaway. Winners are selected randomly by an automated system and notified the following day by online message.

www.gaydar.co.uk – millions of men
www.gaydarmobile.co.uk – same men, on your mobile



PEP

Post Exposure Prophylaxis



PEP must be taken within 72 hours of possible HIV exposure. The faster you start PEP the more effective it is.

PEP should be available from sexual health clinics and A&E departments.

On occasion people do experience side effects.

PEP is not a cure for HIV

There is no guarantee that it will prevent HIV transmission.

Condoms and lube used correctly are the most effective way of preventing HIV transmission during sex.

Yorkshire MESMAC:
0113 2444 209

The Brunswick Centre:
01422 341 764

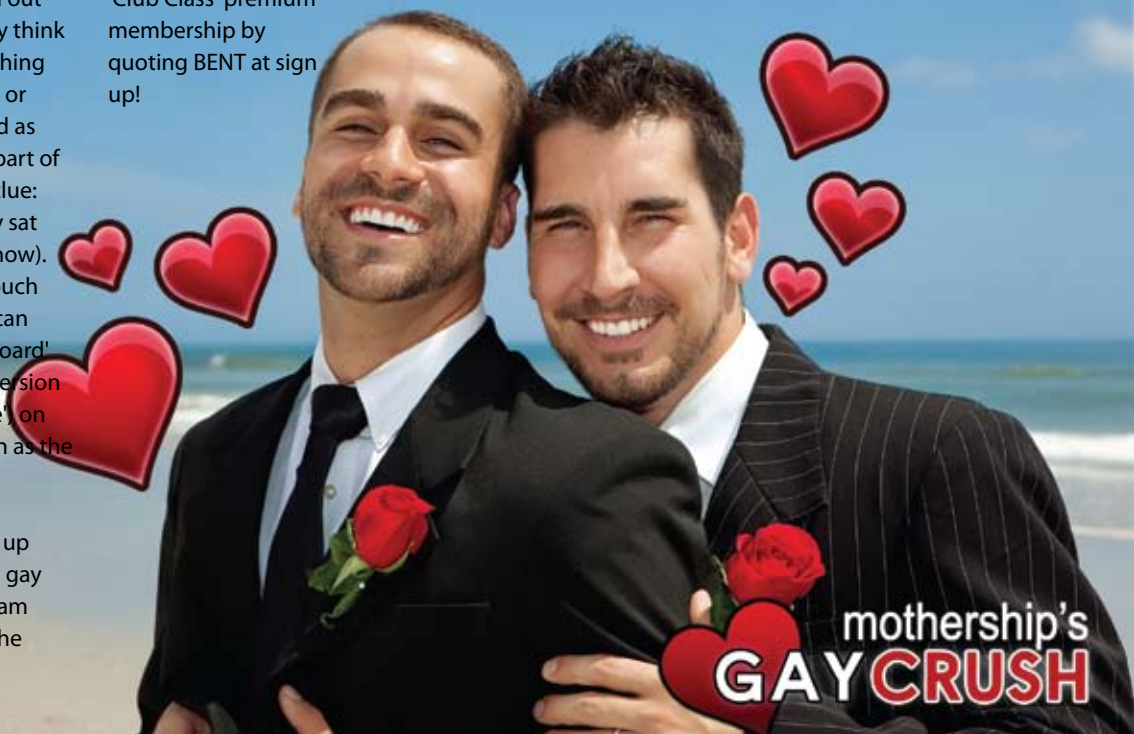
The guys at Mothership Gay Dating have just completed some lush enhancements to what has to be the most entertaining gay dating site on the net.

First up is Mothership's all new Gay Crush. In time for Valentine's Day, this fun tool is a way of letting other guys know you fancy them...and in the new version you can now select what exactly you like about them. Simply hit the Gay Crush button on their profile, and enjoy a totally different way of dating online. Mothership's gay forums have also received a make-over,

and are proving a big hit. You'll find topics as diverse as sex and football, 'Club 18-35' zones and even the ability to create your own polls! Find out what guys really think about sex first thing in the morning, or what they voted as their favourite part of a man's body (clue: you're probably sat on yours right now). Another nice touch is the way you can see 'Who's Onboard' (Mothership's version of 'who's online') on the same screen as the forums.

So, if you're fed up of the same old gay dating sites, beam yourself up to the

Mothership and experience a fresh, upbeat dating and networking site like no other. Best of all, claim 30 days free 'Club Class' premium membership by quoting BENT at sign up!



BEARD TRIMMER

Guys need never have unruly facial fuzz as the new Beard Trimmer CONNECTOR from Remington®, with unique USB connectivity means you can charge it ready for emergency stubble touch ups - just connect it into your laptop to

charge and you're good to go. At the cutting edge of design, this gadget has the high spec features you've come to expect like Titanium coated blades for superior cutting performance, nine comb length settings, pop up trimmer and stylish rubberized grips **£34.99** - available at Boots



BEAN2BED

Saggy, uncomfortable bean bags are a thing of the past with this new range of bean bags that is a chair, a recliner and a bed. It takes 30 seconds to convert from one to the other and looks pretty good in a variety of fabrics. (Featured is the double black cord - **£175**)

www.Bean2Bed.com

READY FOR TAKE OFF

Zeppelin Mini attains the same high standards in sound quality and design, but in a more compact form. It is reduced in size, not in sound, and has amazing volume levels for such a diminutive package. Key

new features include an updated docking arm, where the addition of USB connectivity allows Zeppelin Mini to bypass the analogue output stage of any iPod, providing access to the very best digital sound the player offers. **£299**

www.bowers-wilkins.co.uk



RELAX

Set in the Gemini Lodge Guesthouse, near Weston super Mare, where the kinky guest house owner has a habit of seducing his unsuspecting male guests, but the next morning blaming it on his supposed identical twin brother. Mix in a tarot reading fifty-something stoned houseboy and a metrosexual mechanic and the scene is set for a hilarious tale concerning post coital guilt, sexual compulsion and mistaken identity.

Warehouse Theatre
Digwall Road
Croydon
CR0 2NF
Box Office 0208 80 4060
12th March to 4th April
www.warehousetheatre.co.uk





mothership gay dating

mothership's
all new
GAY CRUSH
come and play!



FREE! 30 days club class*
quote 'BENT' at sign-up

*new members only, ends 10 march, 2010

www.mother-ship.com
gay dating like never b4



We Don't Object!

Something very pink and glittery has come from Broadway to London's West End in the form of 'Legally Blonde – The Musical'...

Now if you haven't seen Legally Blonde get the DVD pronto and maybe check you are gay, as it's one of the most brilliant and funny films... dah! So with a film that was such a big success and has such a following would Legally Blonde stand on its own two high-heeled feet? The answer is a resounding glittery yes.

If you don't know the story (and shame on you) this is the tale of pretty in pink Elle Woods (Sheridan Smith) a high school favourite and member of Delta Nu. A girl all about glamour and small dogs (think Paris Hilton but super nice) who is dumped by her boyfriend Warner Huntington III (super sexy saucy Duncan James) for not being 'serious' enough. So in order to get her love back she decides to get a degree in law... at Harvard with her Chihuahua 'Bruiser' too of course!!!

From the first lines of opening number 'Omigod You Guys' we were hooked by the hysterical lyrics and the pop beats, we don't know how anyone couldn't be immediately into it. Never before have we laughed so much, mainly at one of the songs built around the lyrics 'Is he gay or European', which has to be seen to be

believed. The song ends in a gay kiss between a pair of hotties who have just been dancing wildly - that alone could make this our favourite musical EVERRRR! Sheridan Smith is utterly wonderful as Elle Woods and no gay man could help but fall for her charms and her comic timing is just perfection... vocals and acting are just a sheer joy. A special mention also for Jill Halfpenny who can sing with the rest of them, which we weren't expecting, she is also hilarious as Paulette and makes the famous 'bend and snap' her very own.

If you want some escapism into a pink and fabulous world of high drama, high energy and high camp as well as leaving you on a giggly high... what are you waiting for, book your tickets now. We are so like totally going back again!

“ From the first lines of opening number 'Omigod You Guys' we were hooked... ”

Legally Blonde - The Musical is on at London's Savoy Theatre in the West End, www.legallyblondethemusical.co.uk

Photos: Ellie Kurtz

"HI MUM...IS MY SHIRT IRONED YET?"

Men in Manchester have had their softer side exposed after research of males mobile phone usage trends revealed that blokes from this area spend more time on the phone to their mums than any other region. The data also suggests that Northern males are more keen to keep in regular touch with

their mums than their southern counterparts as 7 out of the Top Ten cities are from the North. Those who took part in the study were asked to calculate the average time spent on the phone to their mum as a proportion of the entire time spent using their phone over a one month period.

THE TOP TEN MUM LOVING CITIES ARE;

1. Manchester, 58% of all time spent on phone is calls to mum
2. Leeds, 54%
3. Newcastle Upon Tyne, 52%
4. Portsmouth, 51%
5. Birmingham, 46%
6. Liverpool, 46%
7. Swindon, 42%
8. Grimsby, 41%
9. Aberdeen, 39%
10. Bradford, 38%

THE BOTTOM FIVE CITIES FOR SPENDING TIME ON THE PHONE WITH THEIR MUM WERE;

1. Glasgow, 4%
2. Luton, 5%
3. Coventry, 5%
4. Oxford, 6%
5. Cardiff, 7%

Research carried out by:
rightmobilephone.co.uk

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WE WANT ...

Judy Craymer, producer of the global film and theatre smash hit, *Mamma Mia!*, is to create and produce a new musical, under the working title *Viva Forever*, based on the songs of another world-wide phenomenon, *The Spice Girls*. This is not a tribute show, but it will harness the distinct personality of *The Spice Girls* to

create a musical that celebrates the energy and excitement of the biggest girl-band of all time. The global hit *Mamma Mia!* has played to a total audience of over 42 million and has taken over \$2 billion in the decade it's been running. There are currently more productions of *Mamma Mia!* playing around the world than any other musical, while *Mamma Mia! the Movie* is the highest grossing movie ever released in the UK and the highest grossing musical film worldwide.



NO PANTS

Now we think this is something every Bent reader could get behind... a day of being pantless. For the past seven years, national group Improv Everywhere has held an annual "No Pants Day" on which the group rides pantsless on the New York City subway system. This year's NYC event had more than 3,000 participants, according to the organization's

official Web site. Hundreds of commuters braved a wintry morning to ride the underground in just their undies. The event has since gone global with hundreds of commuters in Japan, Argentina, and Sweden all flashing their boxers, briefs and lacy knickers. OK, we could wait until the weather gets a bit warmer but let's all ditch those pants and let the air get to our...

LOS VIVANGOS - 7 HERMANOS

The UK première of the sensational new dance group that have taken the world by storm!

Join the seven Vivangos brothers for an evening of irresistible energy. Their unforgettable performances are a unique fusion of influences - combining authentic flamenco with classical ballet and a healthy dose of exuberant street-dance.

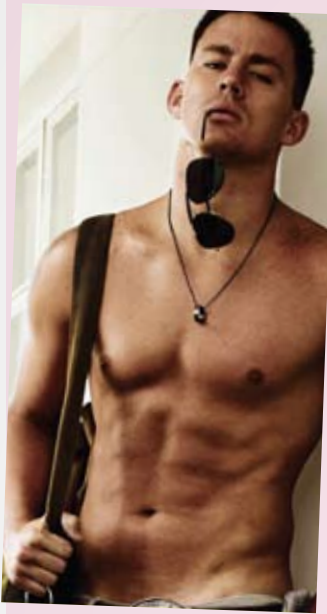
With years spent working out on stage, the brothers combine dance virtuosity with acrobatic prowess and an extraordinary sense of rhythm - throwing themselves into non-stop routines that embody the Latin temperament - while also revealing a more playful humorous side.

The Lowry, Pier 8, Salford Quays, M50 3AZ
Telephone: 0843 208 6000 **25th-26th-27th March** www.quaytickets.com



ManMade

- By Alex Wiggan



Got the extra large love heart card that plays a medley of Stevie Wonder's hits? Check.

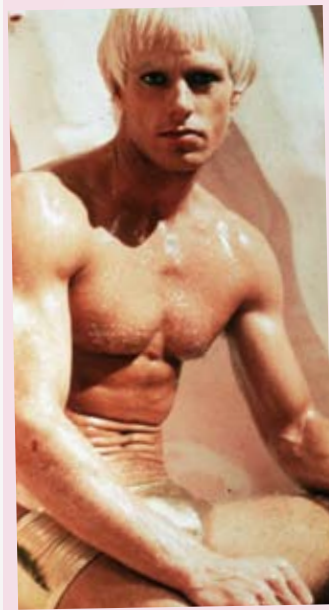
Got the cute teddy bear clutching the miniature bouquet of flowers with the words 'be mine' embroidered on its rear? Check.

Wearing the tightest shirt known to man, that has been dowsed in so much Joop the pure scent alone burns the eyes of anyone within a 1 mile radius? Check.

Now you're ready all that's needed for Valentine's Day is a hunk who ticks all the right boxes, possibly looks a little bit like Channing Tatum and knows how to show a boy a good time. Only problem is... although Channing Tatum clearly has the kung-fu grip and eagle eyes of a real action man, with Valentine's Day being the love-fest of the year, having exactly the correct hunk for the day is clearly more important than having just any old GI Joe Bloggs. It's not just about being picky, there are a lot of very attractive celebs out there and with each one splashed across magazines, or popping up in music videos flashing more flesh than a naked butcher, it's easy to want a man that's a little bit like all of them. In fact wouldn't it just be nice to have all

the bits of them you could ever want in one perfect package, just for that one special day?

Most times of the year the urge to craft the ideal guy can be suppressed quite easily, but come Valentine's Day and with love in the air, all those hidden desires about finding the perfect guy rush to the forefront of the mind. How good would it be then if Valentine's Day could be about stitching together a delicious decoupage dude, in some kind of craft frenzy? A bit of glitter here, a well placed bicep there, a sprinkle of imagination and the right



Franken-hunk could be just a few daydreams away. With the world of celebrity hotties and their chiselled good looks drip feeding the senses for the other 364 days of the year, it's not long before that stray thought about what to do with the bum of Christian Cooke, could be just the starting point. Well let's be honest, as ITV 2 seems to show his backside off constantly during episodes of Trinity, it's no real surprise that particular thought has clogged all the once useful parts of the brain. It doesn't stop there though,

because it might also be nice to have a guy with as many tattoos as Trace Cyrus; who also has the ball control of Fernando Torres, the humour of Ryan Reynolds and the facial hair of Emmerdale's Eli Dingle. If it's hard to imagine which member of JLS would offer the best value six-pack, then maybe it would be better off just making use of them all. Oh and if that's the case then whilst rooting around the pop world it would be worth throwing Usher in for good measure, as well as the groin thrusting talents of Olly Murs.

No longer is it a case of having a crush on just one celebrity stud muffin, there's now so many of them all offering something a little different, it's like a display of what could be potentially useful in any given situation. Want someone to speak a sexy language to fill in any silences during that romantic Valentine's dinner? Then Mexican movie actor Gael Garcia Bernal would be perfect. But need someone with a soft, caring and compassionate nature to hold hands with, on that moonlit walk home and maybe George from Rainbow would be the right choice. Being seen walking around town with a pink hippo might not be to everyone's taste, but no one else looks quite so fabulous in their birthday suite. There are just so many options it's almost as if there needs to be a special Valentine's X-Factor set up, to narrow things down a little into a set of twelve finalists to make up the perfect make-shift man. This way the best boys for the job could be made available so time isn't wasted debating if Ross Kemp or Jason Statham would be more suitable to offer a bit of rough and tumble. This Valentine's talent contest would need to move quickly, as if this is a once a year opportunity then there needs to be time left in the day to make use of the end result.

ON THIS VALENTINE'S...

10 THINGS NOT TO GIVE

YOUR 'SUGERBUM'...

1. A note that promises HUGS – that's just *too* pathetic

2. The thing he gave you last year



3. Better Sex book – it's like telling him he's useless in bed

4. Cock enhancer

5. Chocolates – unless you're a chubby chaser

6. A herb and spice rack (with herbs) that you *obviously* found in the post Xmas sales bin



7. A hand made 'Our Relationship' scrapbook – *so* Blue Peter

8. A tube of Love Hearts



A romantic meal at McDonalds

9.



10. Herpes



On Your Marks... GET SET... DATE!



We keep being told that we live in an instant society. We want things when we want them... and we want them now. Oddly enough, Speed Dating has been around for a few years now but has never really taken off to any great extent on the gay scene. However, in the last year or so it has picked up and seems an ideal way for busy people to meet other busy people. We sent one of the Bent team undercover to go and try his hand at speed dating with Pink Date...

It has to be admitted that before I went speed dating I

had some misgivings about the whole idea. I imagined a room filled with men over 50, yes that's right I completely stereotyped the whole process. So, when I arrived I was shocked to see that it looked like a room full of men who had simply graduated from G.A.Y. The room was filled with a mixture of men between 25 - 45, all shapes and sizes but all surprisingly good looking (yes shallow stereotyping again) and normal.

Once you have paid your £20 registration fee the nerves kick in, which become apparent as you all cluster at the bar (drinks not included) waiting for the whole process to start. I have to add here that the Pink Date staff were wonderful

and really make everyone feel as comfortable and as welcome as possible under the circumstances and they also get you in the right spirit of fun and friendliness. Before long it's down to the main event and you are split into two groups; one set becoming the sitters in their own booth, the others travelling from booth to booth. You get just three minutes to make an impression before the buzzer goes and you move on to the next booth.

You might not think that three minutes is enough for each person, you would be wrong. Apparently, within a minute you can make up your mind and I was surprised just how much information you can give

and receive in that short time. Also, with over twenty guys it is actually just long enough as you end up meeting a lot of people. I met some media people, accountants, doctors - a real mix and then it was time for a refreshment break before I knew it. People did seem much more relaxed after the first round and so, when the sitters and the travellers swap roles, the chat was a little more fluid. I was knackered by the end though but of course I stayed for a few refreshments afterwards. After all, it doesn't have to stop on the night...

The next day it's time to log on to the profile you have already set up on Pink Date to find out how many matches you had. Is

it bragging to saying I didn't do too badly? Will I be meeting any of the other? I have swapped a few emails and will take it from there but I will report back in due course. I would say if you have been intimidated by the thought of speed dating because of what you imagine it to be, don't... just give it a go and see yourself.

Our undercover explorer was at Pink Dates London meeting at The Shadow Lounge, it also runs events in Brighton and Manchester to find out more you can go to the Pink Date website (which should have just had its make over, if not its coming)

www.pinkdate.co.uk



GLASS HEART VASE

Fabulous with just a single flower or a small posy and sold as a pair. **From £17.95** www.nordichouse.co.uk

HANDMADE SOCK MONKEY

Each of sock monkey is one-of-a-kind with its own personality.

£32 Rainbow Stripes

www.hunkydoryhome.co.uk



POSTÉRIEUR VERS LE HAUT (BOTTOMS UP)

Since 1893, Maxim's has been a legendary place where one can dine next to a star, a tycoon or a princess, a fantastic place for amazing celebrations. So, if you can't be there, at least you can quaff a bottle of their finest, velvety champagne... in a rather splendid up market bottle.

Around £30



SPIEGELAU CHAMPAGNE SWEETHEART TWIN
£25 www.wineware.co.uk



bent on... **UNIFORMS**

From the sailor boy on Jean-Paul Gaultier's *Le Male* aftershave to the plethora of strippers dressed as firemen, police officers or doctors, queer culture has a particular interest in uniform... after all, we were responsible for the *Village People* weren't we?

We at Bent love a man scrubbed up for duty, but it wasn't immediately obvious why. So we sat down and had a think, then browsed the



net, than think some more. Unfortunately, there's much ribald humour and very little research into the reasons why uniforms get right up our flagpoles. Here's what we think (although, we're experts only in the sense that we watch a lot of porn in these offices as part of our job, and we do lots of 'research' on articles like this).

Army and naval uniforms more or less beg to be fantasised about. It shouts, young, healthy, spunky guys, all together with other lads just the same, in confined spaces. My god, a wet dream in anyone's book and one that I feel will need further research on my part. I shall be welcoming the boys home enthusiastically, and at every possible opportunity, this year.

Police uniforms have always been a favourite kink. Perhaps it's something to do with that

ages-old risk of getting caught down the local cottage; perhaps it's because police officers always make us feel like naughty kids; perhaps it's because we're too used to ingrained social guilt for getting our rocks off, so much so that we get a thrill from it. Gay sex is out in the open now (and we don't just mean open air), so it's less risqué. By throwing a copper into the mix, you can add a bit of spice.

Firemen are heroes in the Bonnie Tyler sense of the word. But their outfits are pretty ridiculous. That said, they sport a variety of hoses and useful, although admittedly perplexing, 'tools',



and their costume is rather reminiscent of rubber and bondage gear. Of course, they don't have the batons, but they have ladders so we don't even need to open the front door to let them in. A boy can just lie back in his bed and wait for his shag to climb in like Romeo with a hard-on and a helmet to polish.

I've always wondered, too, if grown-up boy scouts, hoping to relive childhood fumbblings in their tents with their peers, return to their uniform to tug a good rubber woggle round their neckerchiefs. Scouts love camping it up and the odd tent in their trousers is nothing their knot-unravelling fingers can't sort out in a myriad of interesting, dutiful ways.

School uniform, while a slightly dodgy one, is another favourite. Maybe those blazered boys in short shorts who flicked rubber bands at girls in school grew up to have their balls put in elastic bands whilst their masters or mistresses beat them with canes?

And footballers? I'm sure there's something to do with balls in there, as well as all those tight shorts and kinky boots. There's something about getting physical (with all that sweat and flexing muscle) that gets a gay guy going every time. There are very few of us who wouldn't jump at the chance of sharing an after match shower with a team of hunky sportsmen.

In the spirit of things, this Features Editor has agreed to dress in a gingham dress whilst the newest intern whips him with birch twigs. We suggest you give it a try.



19 FEB 2010

FOOTBALL
v.
HOMOPHOBIA



INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA IN FOOTBALL

The Justin Campaign, a campaign launched in memory of Justin Fashanu, the world's first and only out gay professional football player; is to launch an International Day opposing homophobia in football – Football vs Homophobia on 19th February. The day's intention is to raise awareness of the prevalence of homophobia in the world's favourite sport and to encourage national clubs to show their support for the cause by adopting the initiatives logo for the day and to include messages that support the cause and condemn the use of homophobic language and abuse in match day programmes.

Community football teams throughout the UK and

Europe will be showing their support for the cause by holding a series of football matches and fun events throughout the day under the banner of - Football v Homophobia. The Justin Campaign, as well as staging an opening ceremony in Brighton, will be sending their campaigning football team The Justin Fashanu All Stars to play in a football match in Norwich where Justin Fashanu began his footballing career.

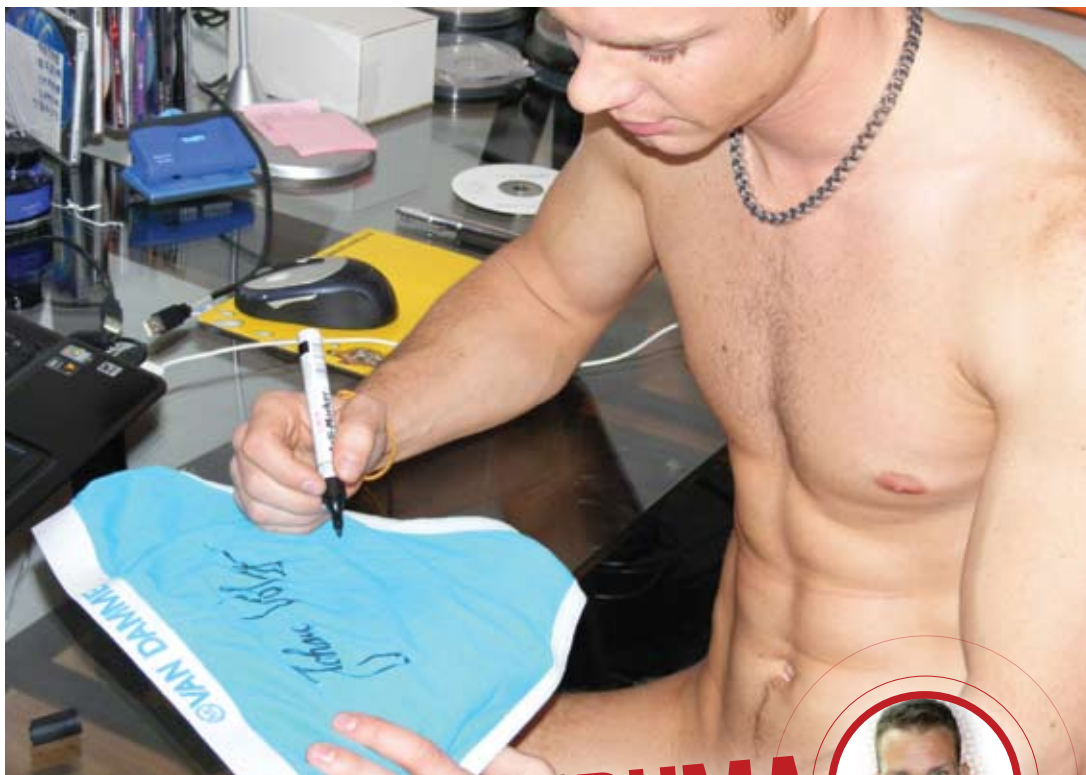
Any individuals, teams, groups or companies interested in supporting the initiative by hosting an event in their area can contact the campaign via their website www.thejustincampaign.com for support and promotional materials.



HOLD IT

The end of last month saw the revolutionary - A Day in Hand . A way of making the world a more liveable place: a revolution in which anybody, on any day, can be a part of. The campaign is designed to promote equality of respect for people who wish to hold hands with someone of the same gender in public. It launched on May 17th and is now featured in over 25 countries worldwide. By holding hands we visibly challenge stereotypes and

show we love and commit like everyone else. Anybody can take the day in hand. Holding hands with your partner or your friend, where you can, is about being true to yourself and to those you love. A Day In Hand is a project of Schools Out (which works for LGBT equality in education) and works in close collaboration with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans History Month to ensure generations to come understand that LGBT culture is integral to our society. www adayinhand.com photo:doesjeffknow



PULLING IN MY PUMA

- Pulling off my pants

There is still lots of snow here in the Czech Republic, but I'm already preparing for the spring.

First, I've booked some cheap flights to Gran Canaria for a few days in March. I have some friends in Maspalomas, so that guarantees me an apartment for free. Quite handy, actually! As such I'm hoping to enjoy a week of sun, sand and shags with cute, innocent twinks in the dunes! I really love outdoor sex – especially on the beaches!! Maybe it is because I am a top and don't care about the sand in the ass of my partner when I stuff him. Laugh!

In addition to this I have to look for a new car. I love my Ford Puma but the sad truth is that I need a replacement. After all, I use my car to drive several thousand kilometres every month, so I really need something more reliable and safer. That said, the Ford Puma is the best when it comes to picking up guys and shagging them in some dark alley right there on the seats!

Over the last few years I've pimped my car quite a lot: bigger wheels, a stronger engine, a sexy sound system, blue lights under the car and also blue lights inside. Oh, and not forgetting the special Recaro seats! So you can probably understand that the car is really special to me and I'll be really upset when it comes to

selling it. Nevertheless, my boyfriend completely ignored my special Christmas wish: a new black Porsche! Besides, I shall probably have to sell the Puma to get enough money to cover the first month's insurance on another car.

I can remember all the really horny things that have happened in my car – after all, it's here that I've shagged the cutest twinks in whole of the Czech Republic! For example, I had a very intimate "casting" with Julien Breeze in my Puma before I introduced him to my studio STAXUS, who immediately signed him up as an exclusive. Oh, and not forgetting Robin Few and Jimmy Call. Jimmy had his first ever anal sex in my car – with me as a top - whilst

Robin trained his now legendary oral skills in the Puma, with me and lots of other guys as his training material. What's more, I'm sure he's done lots of filthy things in my car without me even knowing seeing that he's rented the vehicle from me almost every week! No doubt the black carpet is soaked with spent cum! Fortunately, the seats are black leather so, are always clean and ready for hardcore action. After all, you can just wipe away the spunk with a wet towel!

So which car should I buy? To be honest, I've no idea. It needs to be sexy, strong, reliable and able to survive my sporty style of driving for a few hundred thousand kilometres. Did I mention that it should be cheap, too? I thought about an Audi, but this didn't exactly match the "cheap" criteria. In comparison, a Skoda's cheap, but not at all sexy. Besides, as a Czech I try not to drive a Czech car – I know how we Czech people work! In the meantime, if you're interested in buying a sexy car of a gay porn actor, which has been constantly used for a variety of "activities" then please call Gordon (the chief editor of Bent) or send him an e-mail. Maybe I'll even deliver the car in person ...

Right, now I've just stripped off my Van Dammes and I am sat here in the nude. Luckily the apartment is nice and warm as I sign these undies for the winner of Bent's "Win My Pants" competition. They will be in the post as soon as I can dig a way out of the snow. Meanwhile, thanks to all those who entered the competition I only wish I could send you all a signed pair... but then I'd have to wonder around naked... mmm... now there's an idea.

For more info, updates, downloads and streaming go to Johan-Volny.com



FITLADS3

Another rampant session of Fit Lads fun, featuring a third, ultra-delicious cast of high-octane Brit scallies, who (just like their predecessors) can't get enough of hard cock and hungry ass. If you enjoyed the first two spunk-fuelled sessions - brought to you by the dirty-minded imagination of director, Zack Hadley - then you really are not gonna be disappointed. Prepare to wank like never before!

Starring: Craig Freeman, Curt Richards, Damien Esco, Josh Ireland, Kai Cruz, Kris Denver, Romeo James **Director:** Zack Hadley www.fitlads.net





The awards serve as a comprehensive guide to gay and lesbian life throughout the UK, as well as honouring and celebrating the people, places and events that have most impressively impacted on the gay community over the past year.

A shortlist of finalists will be compiled within each category based on this first round of nominations. Each shortlist will then be put to a second public vote to determine the winner of each category.

Editor-in-Chief Tris Reid-Smith explains why it is important for the public to vote:

"PinkPaper.com's annual Readers' Awards are the biggest gay awards in Britain by far. They're a great way for you to thank those people who have made the last year a good one for you and a chance to win a prize yourself. You can nominate anyone you want and the best nominees will go through to the final vote, so it's completely up to you who wins."

This year's nationwide categories cover a range of topics including Best Bar or Pub, Best University, Actor and Actress of the Year, Employer of the Year and Top Brand.

www.pinkpaper.com/pp_awards2010.html

ROYAL MARINES FITNESS PHYSICAL TRAINING MANUAL

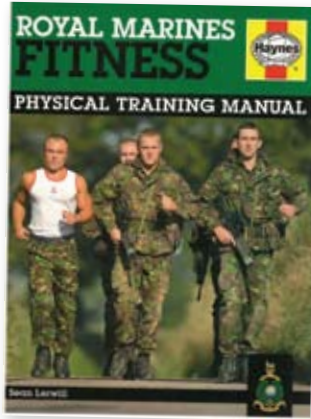
The Royal Marines are the Royal Navy's elite infantry fighting force and their coveted green beret, worn by all Commando-trained soldiers, is world-renowned. The physical training that all Royal Marines recruits undergo is part of what makes them who they are; challenging and demanding, yet also structured and achievable. Here, for the first time, is the official manual to show you in detail how you can mirror all relevant aspects in your own fitness training.

Written by Royal Marines Physical Training Staff at the Commando Training Centre

Royal Marines in Devon, this is your personal training programme. Packed with facts and step-by-step instruction accompanied by hundreds of colour photographs, Royal Marines Fitness

contains a wealth of guidance for anyone wanting to achieve a higher level of fitness, whether it's preparing for a marathon, losing weight or putting on muscle mass.

£19.99 - Haynes



DONCASTER PRIDE

In three years Doncaster Pride has grown from humble beginnings to an event that has been recognised as the "fastest growing regional Pride in the UK" with over eight thousand visitors to the one day festival in August 2009 - making it one of the city's largest one-off music and entertainment events.

Last year, as many will remember, Doncaster Pride was not been without controversy - thanks to a new incoming mayor, rumours of an end to the event were rife but eventually they proved unfounded. However, certainly the big news for 2010 is not only it is here to

stay but bigger, better and have has a brand new venue.

The Pride committee has announced that this year's event will take place on Saturday 21st August at Doncaster Racecourse.

Pride Chair Trevor Jones said "We are very, very excited about this move as it gives us the chance to develop and grow our event in what has to be one of the most prestigious event venues of any pride in the UK. The potential this move gives us is staggering - we have so many ideas and such a huge space to fill that this really is going to be something extra special for the people of Doncaster and surrounding areas"

The ambitious Doncaster Pride team - has a fresh new approach, a new logo as well as an amazing new website which will launch in the next week or so. The website sees brand new features including job advertising, a discussion forum and the ability to reach much more sectors of the community with messages and support that to date has never been available

Vice Chair Jen Dewsnap added "It's not just about a one off party anymore, we are now much more than that. We aim to represent and support the community locally and we can only do this by upping our game."

www.doncasterpride.co.uk



SKULL TEE

£35 Religion clothing stockist
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TALES FROM THE GODS

Strong, sexy and spectacular - the latest in animated male erotica.

To Love is Human, but to Fuck is Divine.

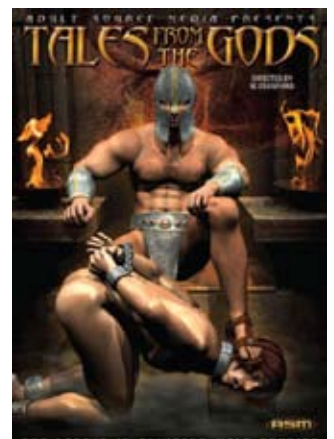
Take a journey through sexual history as 5 of Mythology's most powerful Gods tell tales of deviant sexual lust throughout the ages.

From the stunning spectacle of the Roman Coliseum, to the sultry and sweaty bath houses of ancient Greece. You've never seen hardcore animated action quite like this.

Ancient porn... just Greece me up honey!

Available from 2nd Feb - AdultSourceMedia

For more info and a preview trailer check out: www.talesfromthegods.com



TERRY GEORGE: TELLIN' STORIES



Mr Gay...

Just when you think things are getting better for gay people around the world, someone or something seems to pop up who think that the world will come to an end if attitudes change.

I was really saddened to hear about the problems in China for the organizers and contestants of the first Mr Gay China contest. Tickets for the event were sold out, but Chinese authorities shut it down just



one hour before, stating that the organizers didn't have the proper paperwork, even though they apparently did complete all the necessary forms.

Obviously someone somewhere got cold feet and in a country that has is so conservative (ironic really for a former communist country) they must have thought this was a step too far. This is a real shame though it would never have got so far under the 'old order' that's for sure. There are an estimated 30 million gay people in China, admittedly many of them still not having come out, mainly because attitudes are still slow to change there. Until 1997 homosexuality was still classed as criminal and it was seen as a mental illness until 2001. China had begun to make small advances for gay rights in the country and last month a state backed gay bar opened, there has been a Gay Pride event in Beijing and even a gay wedding has been reported despite it still being illegal. Things are changing so let's all hope that next year the ruling elite will not be so timid about letting

their people be free to express themselves with a fun competition.

When the first gay pageants were launched in this country it was on the back of a very hard fought gay rights battle. Gay people were angry at the way they had been treated in the past and were now demanding rights that had been denied them. A Mr Gay UK competition was, to many, a symbol of that struggle even if the contestants had little more to do than strut around in their underwear. When we took over the running of Mr Gay UK we just wanted people to have fun. We wanted every club in the UK to be able to have someone to represent them, and their customers, in a national fun event. Over the years literally hundreds and hundreds of nervous young guys have taken to the stage in heats and finals in an effort to win the title. In this country we now take for granted things that only a few short years ago we were not allowed to do or be, I can't imagine being faced with such difficulties as in China when I run the Mr Gay UK contest. Having to always look over your shoulder must be really worrying for contestants and organisers, plus having the financial pressures of refunding tickets etc. Although I do think it would make me more determined to change attitudes and break down the barriers.



"LET'S TALK SEX"

A new booklet from GMFA called 'Let's Talk Sex' is aimed at both HIV-negative and HIV-positive gay men. It includes information and advice on avoiding risks with casual partners and fuck buddies, coming up with a plan to stay safe in relationships and talking openly about safer sex with your partners.

Matthew Hodson, Head of Programmes at GMFA, says: "There is still no cure for HIV. Fucking without condoms with someone because you think they have the same HIV status as you may seem safe, but this is how most gay men become infected. It's easy to make the wrong assumption about a guy you meet in a bar, sauna or online - and it's just as easy to put you and your partner at risk if you are in a monogamous relationship. 'Let's Talk Sex' gives practical advice and information for all gay men, whether they are positive or negative, in a relationship or having casual sex."

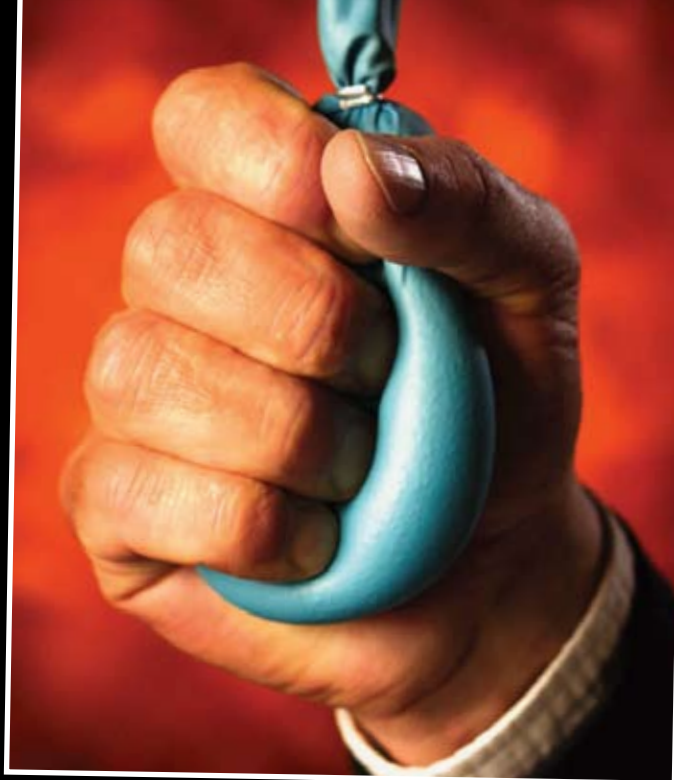
Roughly a third of gay men infected with HIV thought

that it happened while having sex with a regular partner. This is often due to couples abandoning condoms without being certain that both partners are HIV-negative. Even if both guys are HIV-positive, there are still risks to think about, such as contracting hepatitis C or a different strain of HIV.

The booklet includes advice for HIV-negative and HIV-positive men on how to stay safe with casual partners. About three quarters of gay men expect HIV-positive men to disclose their status before sex. However, only one in five HIV-positive gay men always tell their casual partners that they have HIV. If a guy you have sex with doesn't mention his HIV status, it doesn't mean he has the same HIV status as you. It just means he's chosen not to talk about it.

The "Let's Talk Sex" booklet is available for free in bars, clubs and other gay venues across London. It is also available to download from the GMFA website at www.gmfa.org.uk/talksex.





STRESS RELIEF

There are many people who suffer from stress on a daily basis. Our Armed Forces in Afghanistan is an extreme, while at the other end, some people can get stressed out over what to wear or have for lunch.

Stress can make us act in a volatile way, it can also render us useless, making even getting up in the morning a task of such enormity... it is best not attempted. However, there are some practical things that can be done to avoid some of those stressful day-to-day occasions.

Often, simply effective time management will help you get more done each day. If you are one of those who have no any organizational ability perhaps the following might help. Plan each day.

Make a list of what you have to do and then prioritize it and make sure those tasks are completed.

Do not get distracted or get involved in nonessential tasks.

Look at your list and see if there is anything someone else can do... then delegate.

Give yourself time to do a good job... errors from a rushed job are not beneficial to anyone.

Break large, time-consuming tasks into smaller tasks.

When working on one project give it your full attention; turn off your phone and leave your e-mail.

Get plenty of sleep, have a healthy diet and exercise regularly.

Take a vacation to rest and re-energize once the task is complete.

These are not the total answer to stress just perhaps some starter pointers.

IF YOU PRICK US, DO WE NOT BLEED?

3 out of 4 Gay and Bisexual Men Would Donate Blood If They Were 'Allowed'

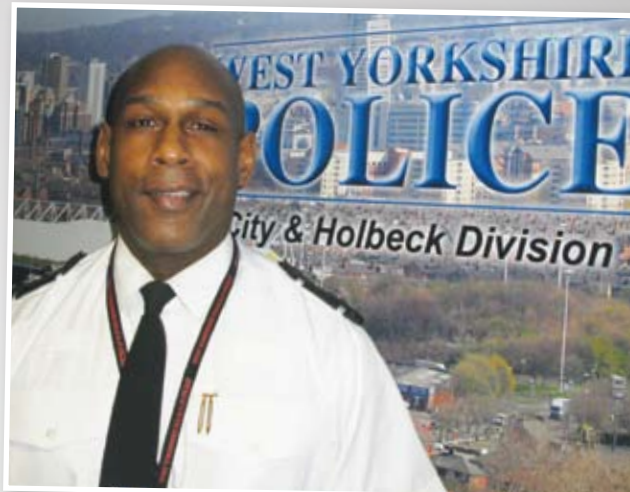
According to The National Blood Service, last year they received 2.1 million donations from about 1.6 million donors. Although that sounds a lot, it reflects only 4% of the population, giving two or three times a year.

The NHS needs a constant supply of 7,000 units of blood each day for hospitals across the UK, this equates to at least 2.5 million donations every year, leading to a deficit of 400,000 units of blood each year. Members of the free gay dating website ManCentral.com were asked if they would donate blood if they were not restricted by the policies of the National Blood Service. An overwhelming 77% of respondents said they would donate blood if they were permitted to do so. Of the 23% who said no, various reasons were

provided such as a fear of needles, previous blood transfusions or other family medical conditions such as CJD.

According to the National Blood Service any man who has had sex with another man is unable to give blood due to the risk of transmitting viruses such as HIV, HBV, HCV and syphilis during the 3 month 'window period' when tests can't detect these viruses in the blood. However this 'window period' is the same for everyone regardless of gender and sexuality. Interestingly, members of Man Central who admit to only sometimes practising safe sex were the least likely to agree to donate blood. This suggests that gay and bisexual men are intelligent enough to judge for themselves if they can safely donate blood.

ManCentral.com was launched in 2008 and has over 133,000 members



A SAFER LEEDS

The new Chief Inspector in charge of the Leeds city centre, Vernon Francis, has been speaking to the media about his intentions to police the area and in particular, the Gay Village in Lower Briggate.

With over 28 years policing experience CI Francis knows his beat. He has been involved in every aspect of the job, from being a beat bobby to leading the Drugs Unit and Shoplifting Squad. The ex-Rugby League player regards city centre safety as his top priority and offered some great words of encouragement to the city's gay venues.

"The Gay Village is one of the best and safest areas; relatively trouble free and well run."

He went on to say that he would have no objections to any gay venue or business that wanted to set up in the city and would look positively at such an opportunity. When questioned further about the likelihood of a designated liaison officer to work directly

with the gay community... he said that there were already officers who dealt in this particular area... but that he would be looking into the possibility of a specific position. He is a man who is passionate about everyone's right to be safe and takes all crime seriously, encouraging anyone who has suffered from homophobic abuse or violence to come forward and tell the police. "We treat this kind of attack very seriously... such reports aren't just added to statistics." He continued, "I know that these are very specific and worrying crimes and needs to be dealt with accordingly." Proudly he points out that CCTV coverage and his plan to have more high-visibility officers on the streets should make the city even safer. Chief Inspector Vernon went on to offer his full support to Leeds Pride, planned for the 1st August, and was more than willing, should he receive an invite, to get up and say a few words of encouragement.

www.westyorkshire.police.uk/npt

CONVICTION RATE IMPROVES

The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) second annual Hate Crime Report, published recently, shows that the conviction rate for homophobic hate crime has risen by ten per cent to 81 per cent in four years.

The figures show that, in this time, more than 3,400 people have been prosecuted for crimes involving homophobia or transphobia.

Keir Starmer QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, said: "The CPS regards homophobic and transphobic crimes as particularly serious because they undermine people's right to feel safe about, and be safe in, their sexual orientation. We are determined to play our part in bringing these offences to justice and supporting victims and witnesses."

The CPS Hate Crime Report 2008-2009 shows that the number of homophobic offences prosecuted

increased this year despite fewer overall cases referred by the police.

Mr Starmer said: "This report shows that our performance in prosecuting these cases has continuously improved over the past four years. However, we recognise that there is still room for improvement in the way we deal with homophobic and transphobic hate crime. For example, we want to do more to support victims of this type of crime and keep them engaged with cases.

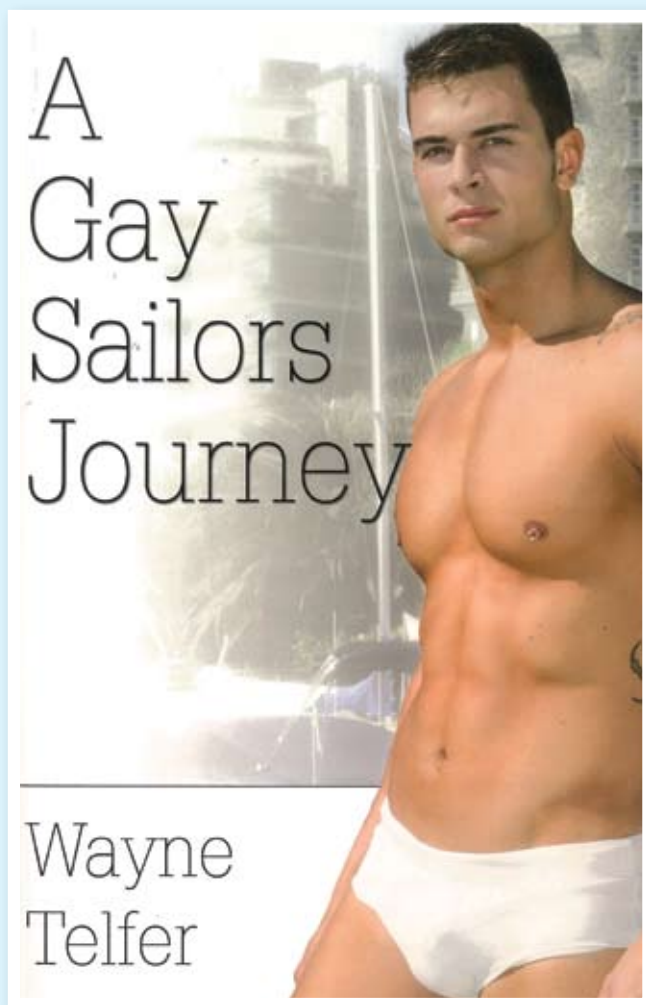
"People from all communities have a legitimate expectation to be protected from the prejudice and discrimination that are at the root of hate crime and the CPS is determined to play its part in doing this."

www.cps.gov.uk



Calling All Book Geeks!

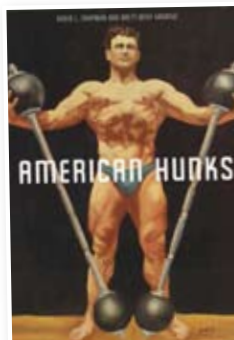
Our very own self confessed Gay Book Geek Simon Savidge is on the hunt for the Great Gay Reads of All Time. He needs your recommendations and input. You can go to greatgayreads.wordpress.com to see his journey through the highs and lows of gay writing. To email him with suggestions of your favourite gay reads drop him a line at greatgayreads@googlemail.com



A GAY SAILOR'S JOURNEY

By Wayne Telfer

There's nothing more difficult for a gay man than having to hide an integral part of their lives in order to pursue service to their country. However, Emmett discovers a great deal about himself while in the Navy and he's more than happy to pass on that knowledge to the many others who struggle with their homosexuality. **£12.99** – [Nazca Plains](#)



AMERICAN HUNKS

By David L Chapman & Brett Josef Grubisic

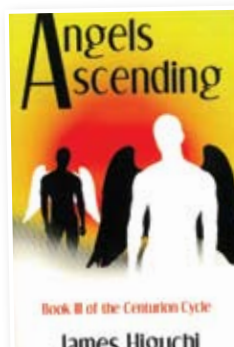
This is a fascinating collection of images depicting the muscular American male as documented in popular culture from 1860 to 1970. The book is divided into specific historic eras, including personalities such as body builder Charles Atlas, pioneer weightlifter Eugen Sandow and movie stars like Steve 'Hercules' Reeves and Johnny 'Tarzan' Weismuller. Images that are Homoerotic in every sense of the word. **£22.99** – [Arsenal Pulp Press](#)



HOS, HOOKERS, CALL GIRLS AND RENT BOYS

Edited by David Henry Sterry & RJ Martin Jnr

The only thing that the contributors to this book have in common is that they've exchanged sex for money. They're PhDs and dropouts, soccer mums and jailbirds, \$2,500-a-night call girls and \$10 crack whores... and everything in between This anthology lends a voice to an under represented population that is simultaneously reviled and worshipped.. **£11.99** – [Soft Skull Press](#)



ANGELS ASCENDING

By James Higuchi

After months of uncertainty Jason has found his true love in the man who gave him a second chance at life. Philip, the Centurion Warrior, and Jason's guardian and protector finally puts aside his doubts and picks the love of a bond's mate over that of a father figure. This is book three of the Centurion Cycle. **£10.99** – [Nazca Plains](#)



MEN AT WORK

By Christopher Trevor

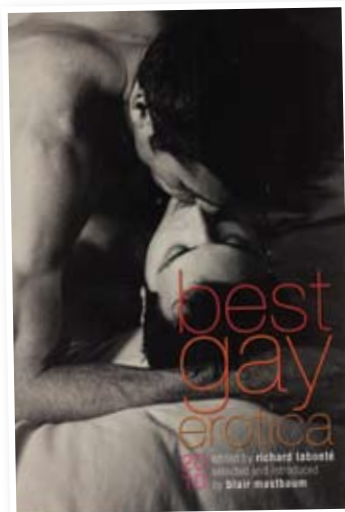
Who would have thought that tickling would be a fetish? For some it is more than that and they have to be on constant guard not to fall in with any sexy ticklish predicaments. I guess you'll have to read and see what happens to Major Timmy Backman who is at the mercy of some tickle fiend... it's awful! **£12.99** – [Nazca Plains](#)



HEROES AND EXILES- GAY ICONS THROUGH THE AGES

by Tom Ambrose

Demonised by the Church throughout the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, homosexuals became the scapegoats of society, constantly facing exile or a brutal death. In Heroes and Exiles the human cost of this long exile is told through the lives of the most eminent homosexual men and women in history. Some were artists like the wild living Benvenuto Cellini or the repressed Edward Lear. Others were poets such as Thomas Gray, W. H. Auden or novelists such as Henry James and A. J. Symonds. **£9.99** – [New Holland](#)



BEST GAY EROTICA 2010

Edited by Richard Labonte

The latest and boldest edition of the bestselling gay erotica series features 20 of the hottest and most well-written man-on-man sex stories to appear in print. From casual hook-ups to the highly charged street encounters to dark backrooms, the men in this collection let their lust and passion loose. **£11.99** – [Cleis Press](#)



Bent talks to **MARK SANDERSON**

Snow Hill is a brilliant thriller that takes you through the back alleys and side streets of the East End of London in the 1930's. It is a tale of murder and mystery that also looks into the under belly of the city, including the male brothels of the time (and some rather racy bondage) and how it was to be homosexual in that era. It's based on a gripping true murder and will have you turning the pages unable to put the book down. Simon Savidge chats to the book's author Mark Sanderson.

Your last book was a memoir, tell us all about that?

Wrong Rooms tells the story of my relationship with my Australian boyfriend, Drew, who died of skin cancer in 1994. Actually, not to put too fine a point on it, I kept a promise made to him and helped him die.

Was it difficult to put yourself so openly out there to the reading public?

I'd kept the secret for so long – the book was published in 2002 – that it was a

relief to get it off my chest. I didn't care what happened to me. I expected to go to prison but nothing has happened – so far. Unfortunately the hoped-for catharsis never materialised.

Do you feel that as a gay writer you are obligated to include gay characters in your work or to give something back to gay readers?

Absolutely not. However, being gay of course makes you more interested in gay themes. What could I possibly presume to give back to a gay reader? They're no different from any other reader. If a writer is any good they should appeal to both gay and straight people.

What advice would you give to young gay writers out there?

Write about what you know. As that old fool Polonius in Hamlet says: To thine own self be true. I always remember Peter Ackroyd saying an author should write at least four novels before having one published! I was too impatient and only wrote two (which are still, thank God, in my bottom drawer).

How did your latest novel come about?

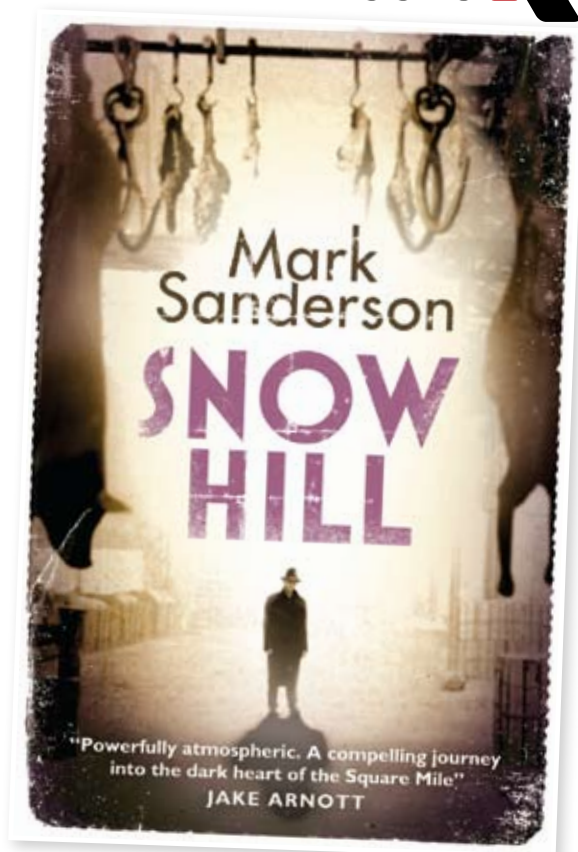
It is based on a true story told to me by the son of a cop who worked at Snow Hill police station in the City.

How do you get the atmosphere of 1930's London as you weren't there at the time?

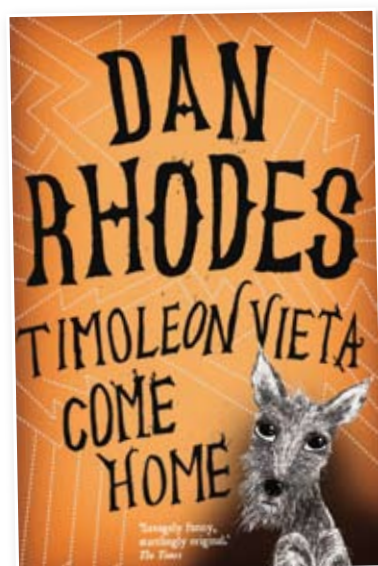
Reading books and newspapers written at the time, watching the movies of the period and studying street maps of the time.

Could Snow Hill be the start of a series?

What is next for Mark Sanderson?
Snow Hill is the first of a trilogy. I have to deliver the first draft of the second book, The Whispering Gallery, by the end of June and so far have not written a word of it. Don't let anyone ever tell you that writing is an easy way of life!



Mark's brilliant thrilling crime novel 'Snow Hill' is out now from Harper Collins and is available online and in all good book stores.



TIMOLEON VIETA COME HOME

By Dan Rhodes

Now here's one you don't want to miss, a re-issue of what could possibly be one of the funniest, off-beat stories around. We gays love our dogs don't we? Though what would happen if you lived a remote life of Italian exile? Where your only companion is the dog with the 'saddest eyes imaginable' and then a gorgeous, unknown stranger arrives one day who pays the rent weekly with the phrase 'It is Wednesday. It is seven o'clock. Give me your cock.' The only downfall of this perfect relationship is that he wants the dog gone. So what do you do... get rid of course. This is a novel of such a situation a dark, graphic, funny and shocking tale of one gay man and his dog. **£7.99** - [Canongate](#)



A QUEER FILM CLASSIC

From an ambitious new series of in-depth guides on classic films of interest to LGBT audiences comes the first three titles.

Law of Desire – is one of Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's most celebrated films; a tale of lust, love and amnesia - starring Antonio Banderas as an obsessive stalker.

Trash – Inspired by Andy Warhol and directed by Paul Morrissey this is a tale of a down-and-out heroin addict throughout his quest for more drugs and yet trying to maintain his troubled relationship.

Gods & Monsters – Based on the life of film director James Whale (Ian McKellan) it features the relationship between him and his young gardener (played by Brendan Fraser) as he recounts his lifetime experiences.

£10.99 each – [Arsenal Pulp Press](#)

CHOW DOWN

with Chris Salvatore



The Eating Out movies are such guilty pleasures with their silly plots and hot guys. The newest: Eating Out: All You Can Eat has a new and hunky gay star named Chris Salvatore. We caught up with this edible and talented young man to find out how filming went.

Were you a fan of the Eating Out series before you got the role?
I have actually never seen the other two movies before! I have heard about them though, of course.

Why do you think the films have gained such a cult following?
The films are both very funny and very sexy. I don't think you can go wrong with that combination!

Who was your favourite co-star to work with and why?
I loved working with Daniel Skelton who plays Casey. We really bonded on set and goofed off all day long. It was such a great time.

How did you find filming the sex scenes? Any embarrassing tales you could share?
It was kind of awkward at first, especially because you have to do it 30 times in a row! But after the second take all the awkwardness goes away - thankfully.

Who would be your dream partner for the ultimate on-screen hook-up?
That would have to be Bradley Cooper from The Hangover. He is so sexy!

Do you think it's a hindrance on a career in Hollywood to be an out actor?
No not at all. The only real hindrance is the close-minded individuals at television networks, close-minded agents, and actors who think it is necessary to tell other actors to stay closeted. It really is a shame.



DVD COMPETITION



EATING OUT 3: ALL YOU CAN EAT

Strap yourself in for the wildest, sexiest and most downright hilarious Eating Out yet. Just when the cute but geeky Casey is about to throw in the towel and give upon finding any man who is anything more than just an empty gay clone, he stumbles across uber-hot Zack - and his heart instantly melts. When hysterical friend Tiffani hears of this crush she devises a plan ensuring Zack will fall straight into Casey's arms or, more likely, unleash some real havoc!

Out: 1st Feb - £14.99 - TLA Releasing

To be in with a chance of winning this terrific DVD just answer this simple question:
When eating out, what do the letters BYO stand for?



IT'S ALL OVER TOWN

A touch of 1963 musical history with some of the big acts of the time - The Hollies and Dusty Springfield featuring in this helter-skelter musical romp around town. Comedy couple Lance Percival and Willie Rushton are our guides as we drop in to see the sites and the sounds of the beginning of Swinging London.

Out: 1st February - £15.99 - Optimum Classics

To be in with a chance of winning this terrific DVD just answer this simple question:
Nelson's Column is in which London Square?



DITA VON TEESE AT CRAZY HORSE

Join the über-glamorous and internationally renowned star of modern Burlesque, Dita Von Teese, in an intimate and brilliantly staged live performance at legendary venue: The Crazy Horse, Paris. The DVD showcases the entire Le temple du nu chic show, includes three of Dita's numbers; two uniquely created for this show: "Lazy" and "Tees'ing", and her ultimate classic "The Bath". The performances feature a cast of 19 dancers creating a subtle mise-en-scène where light and shadow mix to create the ultimate seductive environment.

Out: 8th February - £15.99 - Optimum Home Entertainment

To be in with a chance of winning this terrific DVD just answer this simple question:
Which river runs through Paris?



SETH MACFARLANE'S CAVALCADE OF CARTOON COMEDY

From the creator of Family Guy and the co-creator of American Dad, comes a brand-new animated series of pop culture parodies, skewed stories and fabulously filthy fun nuggets. Uncensored, uninhibited and unbelievably hilarious, Seth MacFarlane's Cavalcade of Cartoon Comedy is brimming with raunchy, twisted humour you can't see on television anywhere.

Out Now - £12.99 DVD - 20th Century Fox Home Ents

To be in with a chance of winning this terrific DVD just answer this simple question:
What is the name of the talking dog in Family Guy?



THE LITTLE GAY BOX OF BIG GAY LOVE (AND OTHER EMOTIONS)

Twenty five gay short films, over seven hours of acclaimed and award winning entertainment, all wrapped up in a little box! Whether your tastes lean towards romance, comedy or horror there is sure to be something in this compilation that either tugs on your heart strings or has you hiding behind the sofa! What all these short films have in common is love, whether it be mutual, hidden or... out of the ordinary.

Out: 8th Feb - £29.99 - Peccadillo Pictures

To be in with a chance of winning this terrific DVD box set, just answer this simple question:

Which famous gay actor starred as Gandalf in the Lord of the Rings movies?

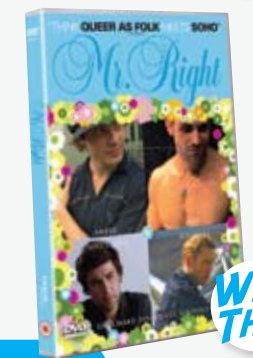


LONG WEEKEND

When a recently estranged married couple try to get away from it all on a camping trip to a beautiful and picturesque part of Australia's North Coast, their disregard for the forces of nature and the disintegration of their relationship lead to unforeseen problems. A remake of a 70's true Aussie horror cult classic and starring the 'man of the moment' Jim Caviezel. A highly effective shocker that topically pits man against nature in a deceptively beautiful setting.

Out: 8th Feb - 2 disc set £17.99 - Showbox Entertainment

To be in with a chance of winning this terrific DVD just answer this simple question:
What is the capital of Australia?



MR RIGHT

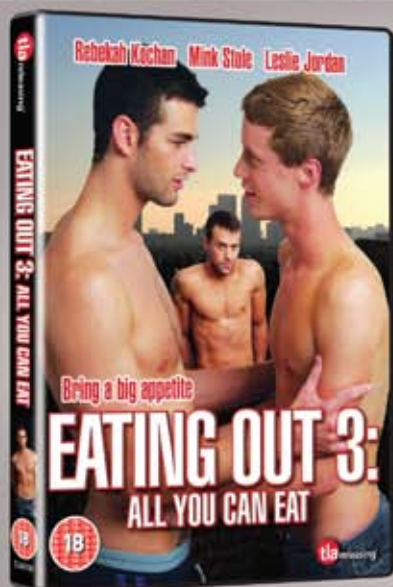
Harry hates being a TV producer and dreams of leaving his job to travel the world. He loves Alex an aspiring actor who is struggling to create an identity for himself as a performer. Rugby player William's nine-year old daughter is intent on sabotaging his relationships with new boyfriends, and he's finding it difficult to let Lawrence, a soap star, into his life. With a cast of handsome men and cute boys, Mr Right merges Hoxton cool, Metrosexual and gay style to create a savvy brew of Urban Queer Cool.

ut Now - £15.99 - Verve Pictures

To be in with a chance of winning this terrific DVD just answer this simple question: **Who plays Mr Bean?**



Sex, Romance and Comedy



"A fast paced delivery of one-liners with a conveyor belt of buffed to perfection man-candy!"

— Gaycelluloid.com

Strap yourself in for the wildest, sexiest and most downright hilarious *Eating Out* yet! Discover all the bawdy raunchiness plus an added dose of romance to deliver the most satisfying chapter of this series.

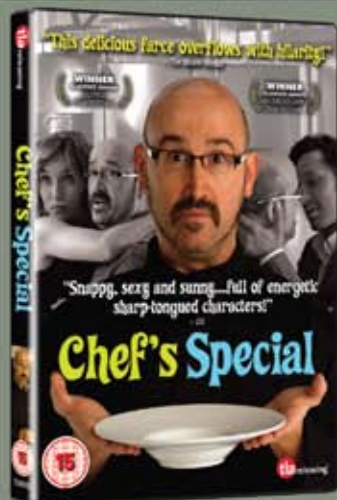
OUT FEB 8



"An extraordinary piece of filmmaking that truly moves you"

— GaydarNation

A stunning ode to the power of love, *Redwoods* tells the story of an already-partnered man whose love is tested when a mysterious drifter passes through his small Northern California town.



"High entertainment... with a la carte laughter"

— Variety

A steamy romance with a closeted soccer superstar, sexual competition from gal pal Alex and a hilarious reunion with his teenage son is threatening to push chef Maxi right over the edge in this sexy Spanish box-office smash!



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INVICTUS

Out: 5th February

Matt Damon gets his rugby kit on for Clint Eastwood's *Invictus*. The film tells the inspiring true story of how Nelson Mandela (Morgan Freeman) joined forces with the captain of South Africa's rugby team (Damon) to help unite their country. Newly elected President Mandela knows his nation remains racially and economically divided in the wake of apartheid. Believing he can bring his people together through the universal language of sport, Mandela rallies South Africa's underdog rugby team as they make an unlikely run to the 1995 World Cup Championship match.

MOVIE BUZZ

Simon Pegg will star alongside Andy Serkis (replacing David Tennant) in John Landis' *Burke And Hare*. They play the infamous 19th century grave robbers, William Burke and William Hare, who, when they start to run out of easily accessible bodies to sell to medical schools, turn to murder to keep their business running.

The role of Conan The Barbarian has been cast. His name... Jason Momoa. Best known for his role as Ronon Dex in *Stargate Atlantis*, Momoa beat off (steady...) the likes of *Supernatural*'s Jared Padalecki and *Twilight*'s Kellen Lutz for the part in Marcus Nispel's retooled version.

Martin Scorsese has chosen as his project, a 533-page children's picture book called *The Invention Of Hugo Cabret* to make as his next film, shooting this June. This book is about an orphan child, whose father was working to fix a Mechanical Man when he died.



▲ THE WOLFMAN

Out: 12th February

Inspired by the classic Universal film that launched a legacy of horror, *The Wolfman* brings the myth of a cursed man back to its iconic origins. Oscar winner Benicio Del Toro stars as Lawrence Talbot, a haunted nobleman lured back to his family estate after his brother vanishes. Reunited with his estranged father (Oscar winner Anthony Hopkins), Talbot sets out to find his brother...and discovers a horrifying destiny for himself. Hugo Weaving also stars as a suspicious Scotland Yard inspector named Aberline.



▲ A SINGLE MAN

Out: 12th February

A Single Man is the brilliantly crafted feature film debut of fashion designer Tom Ford. Set in Los Angeles in 1962, at the height of the Cuban missile crisis, *A Single Man*, is the story of George Falconer, a 52 year old British college professor (superbly played by Oscar hopeful Colin Firth) who is struggling to find meaning to his life after the death of his long time partner. George dwells on the past and cannot see his

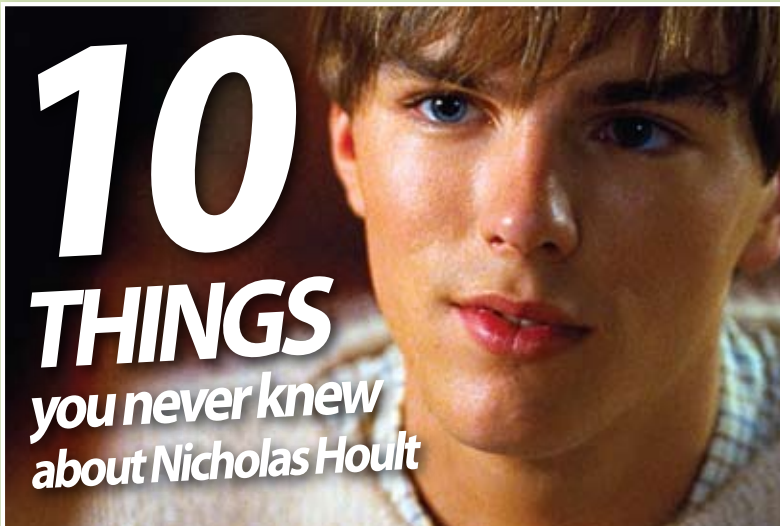
future as we follow him through a single day, where a series of events and encounters, ultimately leads him to decide if there is a meaning to life after Jim. George is consoled by his closest friend Charley (brilliant Julianne Moore), a 48 year old beauty who is wrestling with her own questions about the future. Meanwhile a young student of George's, Kenny (Nicholas Hoult), who is coming to terms with his true nature, stalks George as he feels in him a kindred spirit.



▲ THE LAST STATION

Out: 19th February

After almost fifty years of marriage, the Countess Sofya (Helen Mirren), Leo Tolstoy's (Christopher Plummer) devoted wife, passionate lover, muse and secretary—she's copied out "War and Peace" six times...by hand!—suddenly finds her entire world turned upside down. In the name of his newly created religion, the great Russian novelist has renounced his noble title, his property and even his family in favour of poverty, vegetarianism and even celibacy. After she's borne him thirteen children! A tale of two romances, one beginning, one near its end, *The Last Station* is a complex, funny, rich and emotional story about the difficulty of living with love and the impossibility of living without it.



1. He used to attend Sylvia Young Theatre School, a prestigious stage school in London.

2. Used to play the trombone and was a choir boy.

3. Was hit by a bus during filming of a TV stunt. The stunt called for Nicholas to be tied to a chair and suspended 20ft off the ground when he was struck by the double decker, which was supposed to stop inches from him. He escaped with a bruised head.

4. Had to attend an audition for *About a Boy* (2002) wearing his school uniform but, unfortunately, he forgot his shoes. He told reporters that he borrowed his mother's white shoes and coloured them in, however, the colour came off!

5. Was given a PlayStation, one of his character's jackets and his character's hamster by directors Chris Weitz and Paul Weitz after filming of *About a Boy*.

6. Gabriel Byrne gave him a watch at the end of filming *Wah-Wah* (2005), engraved with his name, just as his character did in the film.

7. Bought a bike with his earnings from *About a Boy*.

8. Although *About a Boy* marked his first leading role in a feature film, he has worked since the age of eight in film, television and theatre.

9. Despite his impressive film resume Nicholas is nominated for Orange Rising Star Award at this month's Baftas Awards.

10. The NSPCC (The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) last month announce Nicholas as its first ever ambassador for children and young people.

This month Nicholas who goes gay in Tom Ford's A Single Man, will also star in the upcoming summer blockbuster Clash of the Titans alongside Sam Worthington.

MOVIE
BUZZ

REVIEW
FILM

Sam Raimi and Tobey Maguire have left *Spiderman 4* and the franchise is getting a reboot. Marvel has just announced Marc Webb (*500 Days of Summer*) as the director of the next chapter in the *Spider-Man* franchise, set to hit theaters summer 2012. This is pretty sad and I can't see it topping or coming close to the popularity of the Sam Raimi films.

Oscar winning Sam Mendes is to direct the next installment of the *Bond* films. Mendes is a pro at handling emotionally wounded characters who chafe against authority figures. So will be interesting to see how this pans out. And it will be filmed in 3D.



▲ THE LOVELY BONES

Out: 19th February

Based on the critically acclaimed best-selling novel by Alice Sebold, and directed by Oscar winner Peter Jackson, *The Lovely Bones* centres on a young girl who has been murdered and watches over her family – and her killer – from heaven. She must weigh her desire for vengeance against her desire for her family to heal. Mark Wahlberg and Oscar winners Rachel Weisz and Susan Sarandon star along with Stanley Tucci.



▲ MICMACS

Out: 26th February

Jean-Pierre Jeunet (director of *Amelie*) latest surreal comedy drama, *Micmacs* centers on a character named Bazil (Dany Boon) who is the son of a bomb disposal expert who died in the middle of the Moroccan desert as a result of an explosive device. Years later Bazil is in a club and receives a stray bullet in the head. He survives but must live with the bullet wedged in his head, which causes some strange side effects. He loses his job and soon gathers a rag-tag group and sets out to take down the two weapons manufacturers, which caused his life's misfortune.



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I N T E R N A T I O N A L

UK's leading tour operator for gay and lesbian worldwide travellers, a member of IGLTA (International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association), and who offer a superb choice of destinations with some intriguing and exclusive gay resorts.



Club Mancha, in Gran Canaria, is a men only gay resort and is the closest gay resort to the Yumbo Centre... a shopping centre that blossoms into all things gay once night time comes. Each self-contained bungalow on the complex offers satellite TV and kitchen facilities, while the pool area has plenty of sun loungers and the Manhattan poolside bar. The resort is equipped with a FREE Wi-Fi internet connection with friendly and knowledgeable staff are there to offer advice on all that the island has to offer its gay clientele.

For those who like to have their vacation on the Spanish mainland there's a new gay destination on offer. **Vogue Beach Resort** - all the comfort of a beach front hotel resort with pleasant, personalized treatment. Situated on the Costa del Sol, just outside of Malaga, it is private, intimate and exclusive. The friendly and professional staff offer a warm welcome and the opportunity to relax and feel at home. It's just perfect for a weekend getaway or a holiday accommodation for relaxation and comfort with cozy atmosphere, modern facilities, and its very own style.

For more info and the complete list of services and destinations:
www.mantrav.co.uk



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IGLTA

LYON

Situated in east-central France, at the confluence of



the Saone and Rhone rivers, Lyon is a city in the region Rhône-Alpes – in between Paris and Marseille, both in terms of geography and size.

Strategically important since pre-Roman times, two Roman emperors were even born here: Claudius and Caracalla!

Lyon is proudly and rightly known as the French capital of gastronomy; and has also played a more-than-significant role in the history of world cinema: courtesy of Auguste and Louis Lumière!

Stay at the small, elegant Grand Hôtel des Terreaux (16 rue Lanterne; T: + 33 (0)4 78 27 04 10; www.hotel-lyon.fr/grand_hotel_terreaux/site_grand_hotel_terreaux.htm). Dine at typical central Lyon gastro gem Le Bouchon des Filles (20 rue Sergent Blandan; T: + 33 (0)4 78 30 40 44) to give your buds a thrill; or at superb Maison Clovis (19 boulevard des Brotteaux; T: + 33 (0)4 72 74 44 61), just south-east of centre.

Take in the hilly UNESCO World Heritage St-Jean and Croix-Rousse districts – the former being on the west bank of the Saone, dominated

by the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière and the 1894 “mini Eiffel” Tour Métallique de Fourvière. Across the river, enjoy the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon and Opéra National de Lyon; plus the expansive Place Bellecour, a little south. Maybe time your visit with the Contemporary Art Biennale (www.biennaledelyon.com), next due in 2011.

Lyon boasts too many gay bars and clubs to fully list, but you would do well to kick things off at L’Etoile Opéra (26, rue de l’Arbre Sec), warm things up at cosy club United (Impasse de la P’cherie), and raise the roof at Pinks (38, rue de l’Arbre Sec).

BORED OF PARIS?

Adrian Gillan heads south to sample the art, design, fashion, culture and scenes of three lesser-known gay-wooing Gallic gems: Montpellier, Lyon and Saint-Etienne.

Oft described as the “second gay city of France”, plus one of the largest student cities of the country, the capital of the Languedoc-Roussillon region – the hilly city of Montpellier – has a quarter of a million inhabitants, or double that if you take in the wider metropolitan area. A millennium old, it is situated 6 miles inland from the Mediterranean coast – on the aptly-named River Lez!

Stay at the well-positioned Mercure Montpellier Centre (218 rue Bastion Ventadour; T: +33 (0)4 67 99 89 89; www.mercure.com). Fine dine at modern yet informal Le Carré (3 place Saint Ravy; T: +33 (0) 4 86 46 50); classy Italian L’Arezzo (8, rue de l’Herberie; T: +33 (0)4 67 54 70 79); or atmospheric Divine et Sens (2 impasse Périer; T: +33 (0)4 67 54 12 30).

Take in the main Place de la Comédie with its 19th Century grandeur, hotels and theatre; the medieval old

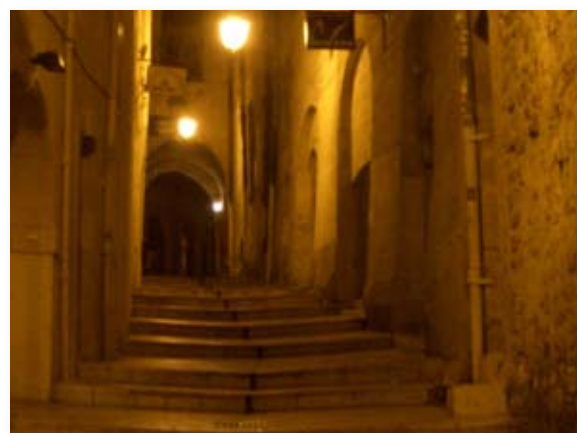
town warren of narrow hilly little streets around the Place des Martyrs de la Résistance; city high-point, the Place du Peyrou, with adjoining Triumphal Arch; Vegas-like, neo/pseudo-classical Antigone district; and Musée Fabre (www.museefabre.fr), one of France’s most visited art collections.

Montpellier has long-spearheaded the French gay rights movement, including recent national calls for gay marriage. Its 6th annual Gay & Lesbian Festival, Bleu Blanc Rose, is set to run in Nov 2010 (www.cch.asso.fr). Busy city-centre bars include Café de la Mer (Place du Marché-aux-Fleurs); and buzzing, dancy Heaven (1, Rue Delpech). Main club, Villa Rouge (www.myspace.com/villarougemontpellier) is a short drive out, open Thurs-Sat, midnight to 5am.

Whilst in the area, head a little south and east, down towards the Med,

for some fine small towns, beaches and resorts. Plage de l’Espiguette includes a gay-friendly naturist stretch. Secrets de Camargue (www.secretscamargue.com), is a gay-wooing 4* resort near Le Grau-du-Roi and Port Camargue, offering excellent facilities, plus rental units and tent pitches. Maison Méditerranéenne (3430 Route de l’Espiguette, Le Grau-du-Roi; www.maisondesvins-lespiguette.com) sells regional wines, foods and crafts.

Whatever you do, don’t miss out on the unique medieval-walled town of Aigues-Mortes. Lunch at its Café de Bouzigues (7 rue Pasteur, 30220 Aigues-Mortes; T: +33 (0)4 66 53 93 95; www.cafedebouzigues.com), a colourful eatery with large rear patio. Even sojourn at the classy Villa Mazarin (35 boulevard Gambetta, 30220 Aigues-Mortes; T: +33 (0)4 66 73 90 48; www.villamazarin.com).



MONTPELLIER

SAINT-ETIENNE



40 miles southwest of Lyon, also in the Rhône-Alpes region, Saint-Étienne is a small city in eastern central France, in the Massif Central.

Stay at the lofty Hôtel du Golf (67 rue Saint Simon; T: + 33 (0)4 77 41 41 00; www.hoteldugolf42.com) just outside centre. Dine at informal L’Absynthe Café (23 rue Léon Nautin; T: + 33 (0)4 77 21 28 80); or at cosy Restaurant l’Impala Lounge (4 rue Ruchelandière; T: + 33 (0)4 77 47 54 19).

Explore the largest urban European site realised by designer Le Corbusier (www.sitelecorbusier.com), comprising a stadium, church

and revolutionary housing block! Browse the Modern Art Museum (rue Fernand Léger, 42270 Saint-Priest-en-Jarez; T: +33 (0)4 77 79 52 52; www.mam-st-etienne.fr). Enjoy exhibitions at the City of Design (www.citedudesign.com).

Catch a show at the Opera Theatre, notably during its Jules Massenet Festival, celebrating this, the birthplace of the great composer. For more contemporary fare, check out Le Fil (20 boulevard Thiers; www.le-fil.com) – a state-of-the-art centre dedicated to electro and contemporary music.

Saint-Etienne is also awash with gay life and culture. Time a visit around the festival “Autrement Gay” (next due in June 2010 – www.myspace.com/

autrementgay); or visit the town’s Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, held at the Cinema Le France (8 rue de la Valse; T: +33 (0)6 29 43 01 20; www.festivalfaceface.fr), normally every November. Whatever, booze at Le Zanzay Bar (44 rue de la Résistance); and dance at Le Planet (17 rue Honoré de Balzac).

EasyJet operates daily flights from London airports to Montpellier and Lyon: www.easyjet.com

Useful websites: www.franceguide.com; www.ot-montpellier.fr; www.vacances-en-camargue.com; www.sunfrance.com; www.rhonealpes-tourisme.com; www.lyon-france.com; www.tourisme-st-etienne.com

freedom
collection from Thomson

Thomson Goes Gay

The bold stripes of the rainbow flag are brightening up Thomson's website with the arrival of its new holiday range aimed at the gay market. The Freedom Collection

Thomson's all-new Freedom Collection has a smart new e-brochure. Designed with gay and lesbian travellers in mind, it's the only collection of its kind to be offered by a mainstream tour operator.

Needless to say, all Freedom Collection holidays are ATOL protected and come with a full overseas service, but what does that mean? Well a hand picked Holiday Advisor to give you all the inside information on the local area such as best beaches, best nightspots and the local 'scene', but also to be there for you should things go wrong. The standout feature of the collection is the fact every single hotel, whether it's a budget base or a boutique bolthole, will have had the GayComfort seal of approval before our customers arrive.

GayComfort is an online accreditation program which means that frontline hotel staff have had special training to help strip out the awkwardness that often creeps into same-sex holidays, such as the moment when a same-sex couple check in and it is assumed that they would want a twin instead of a double. The GayComfort programme has been designed by Out Now, leaders in promoting gay and lesbian travel,

and is the only IGLTA recognised endorsement on just how gay friendly a hotel actually is.

Thomson Innovation manager, Philippa Morgan, says: "This is a hugely exciting launch for Thomson. There's definitely an appetite in the market for gay-friendly holidays that come with the security and peace of mind that only a big tour operator can offer."

Philippa continues: "The reason we've taken this approach is because research has shown that three out of four gay or lesbian holidaymakers actively search out hotels they believe are genuinely welcoming."

The hotels which include some Gay Exclusive properties are spread across seven 'pink' destinations, all of which have either well-established or blossoming gay scenes.

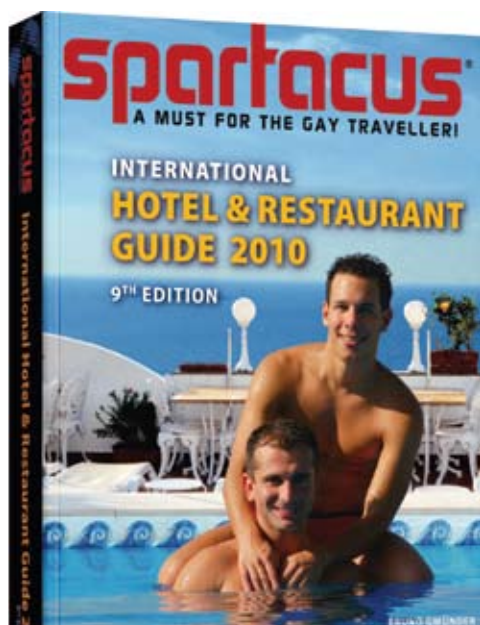
Plus, couples choosing the Freedom Collection can go one step further and organise their civil partnership through the tour operator. Thomson is offering same-sex ceremonies in Ibiza, with extras ranging from stretch limos to fire-swallowing showmen.

For further information on Freedom Collection holidays or to book, visit a Thomson or First Choice travel shop, call 0871 230 8777 or go online at: www.thomson.co.uk/freedom

SPARTACUS INTERNATIONAL - HOTEL & RESTAURANT GUIDE 2010: *A must for all gay travellers!*

Countless offers from discount airlines make it possible to travel the world even more than ever before. The editorial team collected information on 900 homo-friendly hotels, guesthouses and resorts as well as 125 restaurants in 55 countries all over the world and rated them extensively. Updated extensively and provided with comments, offering short and factual information to help you select the address which fits best to your needs. Seasons and opening hours, prices and addresses: This essential guidebook features everything worth knowing. It's high time for you to go on holiday again!

£14.99 – Bruno Gmunder



A Class Site

Recently launched is 60by80 a new online and mobile travel guide, aimed at stylish Gay Professionals with a taste for culture.

Profiling the best places to eat, drink, stay, see and do, 60by80 was Started by Michael Fuchs, founder of London cult newsletter Urban Junkies, and Stoytcho Vlaykov, formerly of Yahoo! Mobile in Europe, the new 60by80 travel guides aim to lose the stereotypes and preconceived ideas about gay websites and gay travellers, instead creating a stylish, design-conscious online destination guide, with an emphasis on both the quality of its listings, as well as the varied interests of its audience.

"Of course I'm interested in knowing where to find the cutest-looking men on a Friday night," says Michael, "but I also need to eat and sleep – and I couldn't care less if my restaurant or hotel has a rainbow sticker or not. But I do want to go somewhere nice."

The aim of 60by80 is to combine local, in-the-know reporting on places of gay interest, with complete coverage of the best hotels, restaurants, nightlife, sights and shopping on offer in a city – whether gay or straight.

www.60by80.com





SPECIAL OFFER

For those who may soon be travelling to Thailand and want to stay at the country's finest gay hotel and spa we have a terrific offer for you.

Mention Bent Magazine when booking at The Babylon and receive a special rate on your room.

There is accommodation for every pocket but why not try the fabulous Bvlgari Garden Suites for a touch of luxury you know you and your loved one deserve.

The ten additional and new "Bulgari Garden Suites" are self-contained units in three ranges (standard/large/deluxe) with one or two bedrooms, and sleep 1-4 persons.

Each unit has en suite bathrooms, quality bedding and sheets, safe, minibar, large flatbed TV, and Internet access

Each unit shares a common lounge area, with complimentary refreshments, maid service, and access to a private garden

Each unit is furnished in a unique

blend of minimalism juxtaposed with Thai, Burmese or Khmer antiques.

Each guest can enjoy a delicious daily breakfast, which may be eaten in the suite or in the main hotel rooftop cafe and have daily access to the sauna and spa.

www.babylonbangkok.com

SPAIN

READY FOR TAKE OFF

Just down the coast from Barcelona is the holiday resort of Sitges. For those who are not aware of this little gem of a town... it is as gay as any other place on earth. Popular with both the home-grown Spanish boys as well as those cute and gorgeous hunks from all over Europe, it launches its 2010 campaign this month for your Pink Pound (or Euro) with the 'Sitges Carnival'. That is just the start of the year's celebrations and events that promise to keep the bars, restaurants and beaches thronged with sexy visitors throughout the year. Early booking discounts are available.

Sitges Carnival 11th - 17th February
More info: gaysitgesguide.com



PHUKET



GAY PHUKET

One of the largest annual events on Phuket is set to get underway on February 25th - the opening day of the island's gay festival.

Taking place in the busy resort of Patong Beach, this event is a favourite among both gay and straight visitors to Phuket, with many of the locals also getting involved in the festivities. Visitors can expect four days of colourful parties and a real carnival atmosphere on the beach, where special cabaret shows and volleyball tournaments take place. As Phuket's most established tourist resort, Patong boasts a thriving gay scene as part of the area's famously eclectic nightlife. With Phuket Pride coming along at the end of March it seems that this part of Thailand is destined to be very 'homo happy'... so Phuket!





BABYLON

SAUNA & SPA – BED & BREAKFAST

The Babylon Bangkok is one of the world's top gay resorts, offering over 70 rooms, world class sauna & spa, first class gym and large swimming pool set in exotic tropical gardens.



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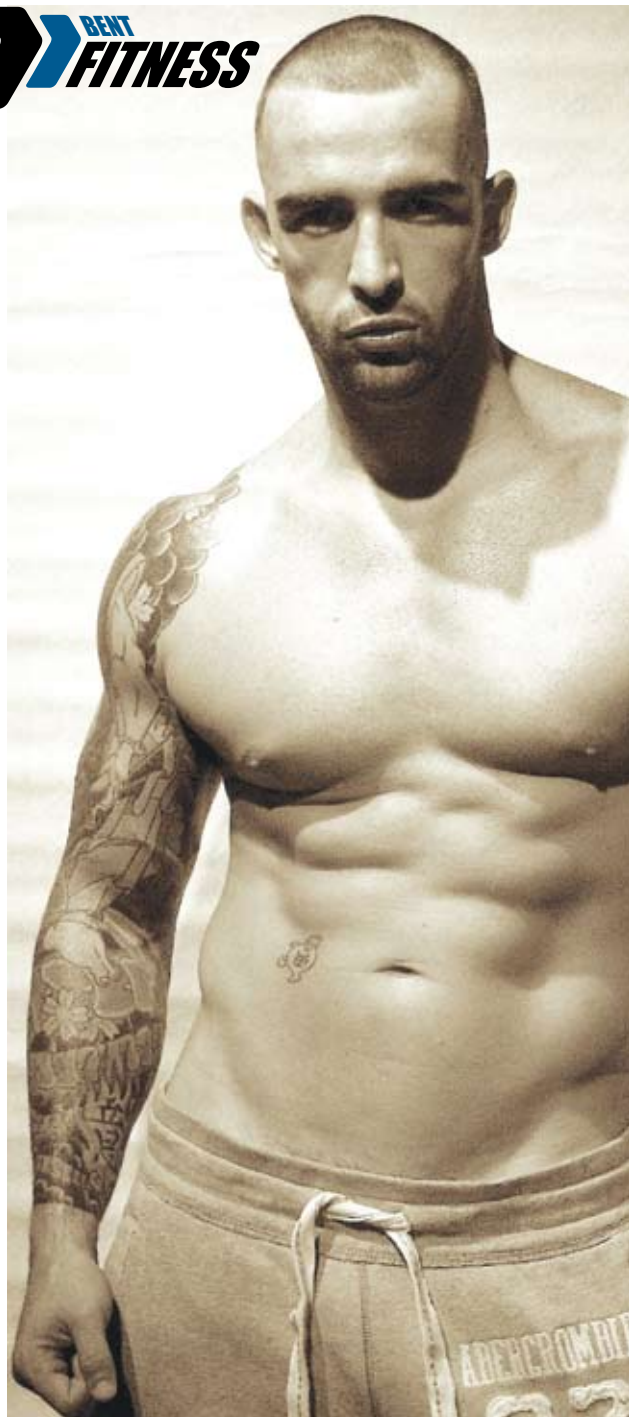
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Standard rooms from only 1700 baht!

- 1 NIGHTS STAY INCLUSIVE - 2 PERSON - BREAKFAST INCLUDED
- TWO DAILY SAUNA PASSES - FREE WIFI INTERNET

Quote 'BENT' when booking





TABATA INTERVAL WORKOUT

Hey everyone, I'm gonna tell you about one of the most popular interval workouts among Strength Coaches, PT's and Exercise Enthusiasts it's called "the Tabata Interval Workout".

It's a high intensity interval training method originally created by Japanese researcher Izumi Tabata. Put simply, the Tabata interval workout is one of the best cardio/metabolic conditioning workouts ever discovered because its simple to understand and easy to apply.

With only 8 minutes of cardio on any piece of cardio equipment (give or take) 2-3 times per week, you can turn your body into a fat-burning machine that will outlast all comers!

The original Tabata workout consists of the following:
 5 minutes of warm-up
 8 intervals of 20 seconds all-out intensity cardio exercise (treadmill, rower, bike etc) followed by 10 seconds of rest
 2 minutes cool-down

Now, you will need to gradually build up your ability to successfully complete the full Tabata without losing intensity, overtraining or puking every workout. Therefore, I never start clients out from day one doing the Tabata workout the way it is typically described above.

Many people don't realize it but, if you research the Tabata workout online, the original study conducted at the National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Tokyo,

Japan used highly-trained endurance athletes in peak physical condition.

Now, because most people are not highly-trained endurance athletes, it's important to utilize a progressive approach to increasing fitness level and work capacity to accommodate this workout. This is especially important when training power based athletes or working simply to improve overall fitness.

So, to help you train smarter, harder and safer, I'm going to provide you with a 12 week progression for using the Tabata Interval workout.

In the chart below, you will see figures that look like this – 10/20 x6.

The first number listed is the work (exercise) interval in seconds (ex: 10 = 10 seconds). The second number listed is the rest interval in seconds (ex: 20 = 20 seconds). The last figure represents the number of rounds you will perform of the given interval (ex: x6 = perform 6 rounds).

Put simply – 10/20 x6 = 10 seconds work / 20 seconds rest x6 rounds OK, now that you understand how to read the chart below. Here is my 12 week Tabata interval workout Progression.

- 12 Week Tabata Workout Progression – on any piece of cardio equipment
- wk.1 10/20 x6
 - wk.2 10/20 x7
 - wk.3 10/20 x8
 - wk.4 15/15 x5
 - wk.5 15/15 x6
 - wk.6 15/15 x7
 - wk.7 15/15 x8
 - wk.8 20/10 x4
 - wk.9 20/10 x5
 - wk.10 20/10 x6
 - wk.11 20/10 x7
 - wk.12 20/10 x8

Hope you enjoy doing it.

Good luck!

Contact: 07891037283
www.jarrettjames.co.uk
www.jarrettjamesbootcamp.co.uk

SONIC BOON

The newly launched Clarisonic makes looking after your skin as straightforward, fast and painless as brushing your teeth. The expert team has harnessed sonic micro-massage technology, creating a professional-calibre brush which oscillates at a sonic frequency of more than 300 movements per second. Because it is waterproof, it can be used in the shower. Just as you would with a toothbrush, you simply apply a non-abrasive cleanser or balm to the skin care brush and switch on. The brush works with the skin's natural elasticity to cleanse the face, neck and body, gently massaging dirt and impurities from the skin without harsh abrasion or the need for chemicals.

From £150 www.spacenk.co.uk



GYM BUNNY

With music being a proven motivator and helping us to boost our heart rate, energy levels and mood while at the gym. 'Gym Bunny - Essential Gym Mixes', have been created to guarantee nonstop motivation for every music loving exerciser, claiming to completely banish boredom while exercising!

The range has been developed by the World's Number One Leading Fitness Music brand – Power Music and retails at £7.99 from iTunes. It's easy to find simply search under 'Gym Bunny' or 'Power Music' and download.



I DOVE YOU

According to global research by Unilever many products for men are too harsh and drying, which is often interpreted as the product doing its job. New Dove Men+Care is the first ever skin care and anti-perspirant deodorant range from Dove to be formulated especially for men. Their body and face washes actively fight skin dryness and discomfort with Dove's ¼ moisturising cream and Micromoisture™ technology, resulting in skin that feels refreshed and comfortable.

The range starts at **£2.39** from most supermarkets and chemists.
www.dovemencare.co.uk

By Adam Lowe

TUFF PUFF

Some would say that sport is a traditionally masculine sphere, and that we, as de facto unmasculine men, therefore do not fit in. As a result, and with an obvious lack of knowledge as to what gay men like, they think that we have no place amongst balls, tackles, sweaty bodies and tiny little shorts. Which is funny, because that's precisely where I thought we belonged!

Whilst it's true that some of us may still shiver at memories of being the last person picked for the team, the Fitlads.net website alone proves our interest in locker rooms and sports gears. All sports have a gay following (for the reasons above) whether they want one or not. Cage fighting, wrestling, kick-boxing etc etc have a huge gay following and even though some of its stars actually court the gay fans, the impact of one of them coming out would be negligible because of the sport's profile. However, if the heavyweight champion of the world was to nail his pink colours to the mast, that would be a different matter altogether.

Of late, a few sports have seen headline grabbing declarations by some of their formerly gay closeted players, which many think can only be a good thing and perhaps a pointer to the future. Gareth Longley, the press officer for the Manchester Spartan Rugby team says: "Gareth Thomas, the Wales Rugby Union international came out recently and is the first player in the sport to do so. But with so many professional players both here in Britain and around the world,

the only gay in the scrummage. Research suggests that around 10% of the population is homosexual and with 15 players on each rugby union team, the law of averages would dictate that at least one person on each team is gay".

Meanwhile, over in Ireland last year, the media was stunned when Donal Og Cusack, a solid gold star in the macho world of Irish hurling also proclaimed himself gay... so, perhaps things are changing. However, the biggest game in the world, with the most successful league in the world, the UK Premiership has a surprising lack of out gay footballers, perhaps being all too aware of the tragedy of Justin Fashanu. But this doesn't mean they don't exist. Gay-oriented leagues exist across the world and amongst the big-name footballers we can assume at least one is a screamer. Of course rumours exist about a multitude of sportsmen but until one puts their hand up, while at the peak of their profession, and comes out not a great deal will change with the entrenched, and often endorsed, homophobia that exists. Some



they support. Where knowledge in the dressing room is one thing – once it becomes common knowledge, especially in a team situation, others are effected in some way. The abuse hurled from the football stands and sporting arenas around the world is perhaps the main reason why 'coming out' might be difficult for an individual.



to boot. Team games are all about supporting your sporting brother so, let's face it: the world of sport is one we rightfully belong in.

But Gareth from the Manchester Spartans insists all is not bleak: "There are of course many gay sports clubs around and gay and gay friendly teams seem to be cropping up everywhere. Rugby Union is no exception. The Manchester Village Spartans are one of over 30 amateur gay rugby union teams throughout the world. Last year, we celebrated our 10th anniversary, making us one of the longest established "gay rugby" clubs in the world. We play in an amateur "straight" league and play weekly with other teams who just get on with the game."

Rugby is, as we all know, highly homoerotic, with all those boys up close and personal, sharing baths and frolicking, naked, in the shower rooms. Swimmers have fantastic physiques to rival any Muscle Mary, and they shave their legs and chests

If we can't convince the mega sporting stars to come out... where ever they are... all is not lost at an amateur level. A quick search on the net reveals absolutely cornucopia of gay sports clubs; football, rugby, tennis, badders, swimming, running... the list goes on and on. There is no excuse for feeling left out of sport because you are gay, as these clubs and organisations are there purely for the love of the sport. However, there has, over recent years, been many huge gay sporting events so, if your competitive nature is strong, you can really show folk what you're made of on the BIG stage... to the admiration of your peers. After the event you can always auction off that sweaty jock-strap and make yourself a few quid.



managers and fans just could not cope with the very idea of a gay man being successful in a sport



More information can be found at www.villagespartans.co.uk or by searching Village Spartans on facebook. Photo (left): Getty Images



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Cruz Bar in the Yumbo
0034 928 764611

basement Sauna Guide



MANCHESTER • LEEDS • GRAN CANARIA

Basement complex the UK's leading Gay & Bisexual Sauna Group. Award winning venues in prime locations, offer a safe and friendly place to meet horny guys. The only UK sauna group that operates its venues 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Basement Manchester: Our flag ship, is set in the basement of a stunning Victorian mill building on the edge of Manchester's trendy northern quarter, just 5 min walk from the gay village and Piccadilly train station.

Basement Leeds: Purpose built just three years ago, on two floors in a railway arch just a few steps away from Leeds' gay scene and yards from the city's train station. Both venues offer the best in sauna facilities; with stunning lounges, fun wet zones and large cruising areas. www.basementcomplex.co.uk

Now with even more venues in Gran Canaria.

Basement Studios: World famous for being Gran Canaria's only resort dedicated to nudism and sexual freedom. A gated resort of modern pool-side bungalows with Jacuzzi, a bar cafe, outside cruise area plus much more on offer to our residents. Day guests... more than welcome.

Base Bar: Dance Drink Cruise: This is the Yumbo Centre's newest bar /club bringing you the top DJ's of the island and one of the largest cruise areas and not forgetting first class entertainment and fantastic value! www.basebargc.com

Le Leche: Our brand new terrace style lounge bar, this is a fresh and contemporary experience to watch the world go by as you relax and enjoy panoramic views over the Yumbo Centre. Open all day and through to the early hours... with a large selection of coffees and mouth watering deserts plus not to be missed... our fabulous cocktails. www.basementstudios.es



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Wet and steamy

WetWetWet Sauna is ideally located within the centre of Blackpool, being just a 2 minutes walk from the Gay Village and Blackpool North Train Station.

Our aim is to provide you with a quality experience, second to none in Blackpool, with all the facilities you would expect while offering you a safe, comfortable and relaxed environment where you can unwind and enter a world of relaxation and enjoyment.

Our 12 man Dry Sauna is a great place to get hot and sweaty and not just from the heat! It features comfortable wooden seating, allowing you to relax and unwind while your imagination takes you wherever you want to go.

Our bespoke Steam takes up to 13 guys, is hot and humid with a hint of Eucalyptus and sometimes gets very steamy! The bubbling Hot Tub is located within the decked garden area and enables you to lay back while being massaged by the powerful water jets.

Monday 11am until Late (Yes the return of the best way to start the week)

Saturday Noon right thru to Sunday 10pm (The weekend has never been so wet... for so long!)

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EARLY BIRD

7 Days a Week 12 Noon until 1pm
£5.00

STANDARD ENTRY

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BODY SCRUB TUESDAY'S

12 Noon until 12 Midnight
It's Steam Room Heaven!



CUM FOR A FIVER WEDNESDAY'S

12 Noon until 12 Midnight
£5.00

NAKED THURSDAY'S

12 Noon until 12 Midnight
Towels **MAY NOT** be used in the Steam Room, Dry Sauna or Upstairs Area on Thursday's.

TRIPLE XXX FRIDAY'S

12 Noon until 12 Midnight
Big Cocks, Bi-Sexual Men, Under 25's and all their admirers!



CHECK OUT OUR BRAND NEW INTERACTIVE WEBSITE



www.WetWetWetSauna.co.uk

5 further "tips" for the sauna...

- 1 Doing it for England is as valid a reason for doing it as any.
- 2 After you've been had by a dozen guys in the orgy room, you will never again convince anyone with your coy routine.
- 3 You can gain an instant audience by yelling "My God... I'll never get that up"
- 4 It is pointless to consider why guys who won't even talk to you at the bars are so eager to suck your dick in the Jacuzzi.
- 5 Never, Never, NEVER try to explain a gay sauna to heterosexuals



Get hung up at the Pipeworks

The Pipeworks in Glasgow is situated in a discreet location within easy walking distance of Glasgow's main gay venues. Inside you'll find excellent facilities maintained to a very high standard with hygiene and customer service being the top priorities in this establishment. The staff are welcoming and friendly. The huge 25 man stainless steel spa pool is the hub of this club and along with the 20 man dry sauna and 20 man steam room there's lots of space to get all worked up and sweaty. The Pipeworks also boasts lots of individual rest rooms, some for the more adventurous (prison cell anyone?), and some even fitted with their own plasma TV screens. The sling room, dark room and glory holes get their fair share of action

too. The internet cafe and TV lounge are always busy with lots of guys of all ages and with the newly extended weekend opening hours (open 'til 6am on a Saturday morning and then from 12:00noon Saturday right through until 11pm on a Sunday night) there is now even more time to explore, relax and unwind in this stylish and friendly environment.

For those wanting to visit during the week the 'Early Bird Special' runs from Monday to Thursday from 11.30am to 1:00pm when admission is only £9!

Pipeworks - 5-10 Metropole Lane, Glasgow
Tel: 0141 5525502



BELFAST

Jacuzzi | Solarium | Steam Room | Dry Sauna
Rest Rooms | Sling Room | Tea & Coffee Bar
Internet Lounge | TV Lounge

OPENING HOURS: Monday 12noon - 3am | Tuesday 12noon - 3am
Wednesday 12noon - 3am | Thursday 12noon - 4am | 24HR WEEKEND
Friday 12noon until 4am Monday

2-6 Union Street, Belfast Tel: 028 9023 3441

GLASGOW

35 Man Spa Pool | 20 Man Steam Room
20 Man Dry Sauna | 14 Rest Rooms | Sling Room
Tea & Coffee Bar | Internet Lounge | TV Lounge

OPENING HOURS: Monday 12noon - 3am | Tuesday 12noon - 3am
Wednesday 12noon - 3am | Thursday 12noon - 3am
Friday 12noon - 3am | Saturday 12noon - 3am | Sunday 12noon - 3am

5-10 Metropole Lane, Glasgow Tel: 0141 552 5502

NEW LOOK WEBSITE WWW.THEPIPEWORKS.COM LAUNCHING SOON

WHAT'S ON



END OF AN ERA

Manchester's Gay Village is mourning the sudden closure of its flagship gay venue Essential after ten glorious years. A facebook group set up to demand an official closing party has attracted over 2000 members with people posting photographs and favourite Essential anthems on the site. Owner Nigel Martin-Smith said "I have been blown away by all the messages of love and support I have received since the announcement was made. Ten years is a long time in clubland and it seems that a lot of people have fond memories of Essential and are genuinely upset that it has closed. We are of course giving the people what they want and throwing a big party to mark the end of an era on Saturday 6th February 2010. A big new club will be opening in the spring/summer of 2010 and whilst I will still be involved I will not be as hands on as I was in Essential as I am about to launch a big new boy band and that will take up a lot of my time. Queer Bar is unaffected by the sale of Essential and is open and as busy as ever".





THE END IS JUST
THE BEGINNING

SPRING / SUMMER 2010

VIA

bar - restaurant - club

Entertainment served on a plate

This year why not come and enjoy Valentine's Day with that special friend or lover at Via, the award winning bar, club and restaurant, at the very heart of Manchester's gay village and enjoy a superb romantic 3 course meal (choice of menu) for only £15.95.

After the meal the entertainment continues - Bop to Smilie Steve's 'Stars on Sunday' selection, with special guest, the brilliant, David Dale and a Tribute to the Stars of the Silver Screen.

Don't miss this great evening - call 0161 236 6523 to book a table
(There's a selected menu on Saturday 13th)

Via Canal Street, Manchester - where there's always a warm welcome waiting.

Photos by Darrell Hirst



VIA

bar - restaurant - club



St Valentines Day

Sunday 14th February 2010

3 Course Romantic Meal

served all day & evening £15.95 per head

followed by Smilie Steve's **STARS
ON SUNDAYS**

with the fabulous **DAVID DALE** appearing live

To book call: 0161 2366523

VIA 28/30 Canal Street, Manchester, M1 3EZ



VALENTINE'S @ CRUZ 101

It's time to shake off those winter blues and get loved-up as the Cruz team celebrate Valentine's Day with a week of sexy shenanigans.

Thursday 11th February BACK2BACK ALL SEXED UP!

Cruz 101 & Poptastic get hot and steamy between the sheets for a night of unbridled passion sexy fun. Cover your eyes as John Hamilton rips off his bodice in true 'Barbara Cartland' style and gives you the chance to win sexy Valentine's prizes in 'How Far Will You Go?' As ever on the main floor Poptastic's John Hamilton plays the trashiest pop, disco, dance & r'n'b while down in the depths of Sub Rob James plays funky & classic house. Plenty of drink offers are around on the night and every night.

Friday 12th February BIG PINK GAY FRIDAY

Miss Cara gets to the bottom of things (literally) in 'Sexy Knickers' where you could win more fantastic Valentine's goodies by showing just how sexy your undies are! More fun throughout the night where you can find your Mr Right with Miss Cara's Cruz'n'Cop and the best pop, disco, dance & r'n'b mixes you won't hear anywhere else played by Almighty Donald on the main floor. Rob James keeps it a bit harder down in Sub with dance & classic house anthems.

Saturday 13th February DRAMA QUEEN

Looking for love? 2 floors packed with a colourful spectrum of Manchester's Village People ensures there's someone for everyone. Make sure everyone knows what you're after – wear green for "I'm hot for it", yellow for "Not sure but if the right man comes along who am I to say no" or red for "No way!" Tony Woof plays on the main floor with pop, disco, dance & r'n'b anthems and Little Miss Natalie opens her box of funky & bouncy house, and vocal trance. Keeping the value for money going we're cheaper than most of the bars on Canal Street.

Sunday 14th February SUNDAYNIGHT SCREAMERS

Darren Leasley steps in for a one-off "Sexy Screammers Special" with his exclusive mix of, well, everything really! Challenge him to play your tunes – he doesn't bite (well only if you ask!) Great value night out only £3 admission or £1 with a voucher from the website.

Monday 15th February DISCO INFERNO

We love Disco and to round off Valentine's week there is no better place to find that perfect man than Cruz 101's Monday night disco. DJ Dino digs through his massive collection of 70's, 80's & 90's pop & disco classics. Almost 70's drinks prices!! For more info log on to www.cruz101.com



Manchester's favourite Gay Venue

CRUZ 101

Valentine's Week

*Join the Cruz team for a week of
valentine's mischief!*

Thursday 11th - Monday 15th February

Loads of fantastic drink offers & Valentine's surprises!

'Sexy Knickers'

**Show Miss Cara just how sexy your knickers are to win some
saucy Valentine's prizes!**

Sexy Club Transformation

www.drinkaware.co.uk

101 Princess Street, Manchester. M1 6DD. T: 0161 9500 101 F: 0161 2373 412 www.cruz101.com Limited wheelchair access

FREAKSHOW

Take a peak at Freak...

Freakshow has been building into the only place to be on a Saturday night. For those who love their music, this Manchester club night just keeps getting bigger and better than the one before. We at the Bent office can't seem to get enough of it and have been every Saturday this year so far

The Freakshow team celebrates the Chinese New Year in February... any excuse for another New Year's party eh! Special guest DJ HiFi Sean of Beyond and Fire fame takes time out of his busy schedule to join Bent Magazine's very own DJ Jason Guy on the decks on Saturday 13th February to mark the start of 'The Year of the Tiger'. Both Sean & Jason will be providing fierce house sets to whip what has become the best, most up-for-it crowd in any club we've seen in years into a frenzy.



Photo by Darrell Hirst

Freakshow
Every Saturday
11pm until late
@ No.1 Club
1 Central Street,
Manchester



Photos: tilllate.com

CLUB FREAK SHOW

TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE!

SATURDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

DJS BABY JANE, GREGG HOLDEN
& NIK DENTON

SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

CHINESE NEW YEAR'S EVE
YEAR OF THE GOLDEN TIGER

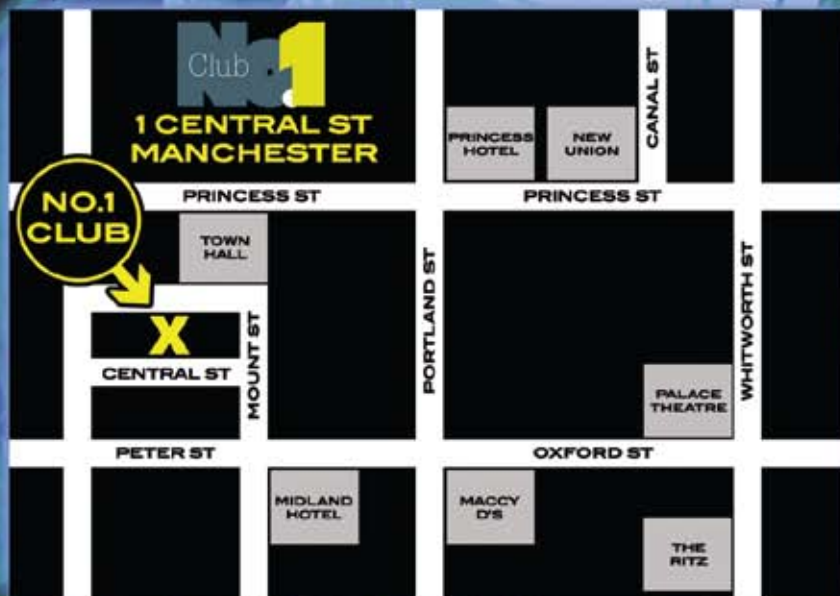
DJS JASON GUY
HIFI SEAN (BEYOND / FIRE)

SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

DJS LAWRENCE CLARK, PSYCHE
& BABY JANE

SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

DJS GREGG HOLDEN, JASON GUY
& NIK DENTON



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Life is just Poptastic

Looking back over its 14 year reign as the UK's most popular gay clubbing event, it's hard to believe that Poptastic came into being as a one-off event in the basement of Blooms Hotel in Manchester. Promoter and 'Mr Poptastic' Jon Hamilton wanted to offer an alternative to Manchester's house-obsessed, muscled-up Gay Village and hit on the unthinkable – a club night where Indie Kids and Pop Queens came together to dance, drink and get leathered while dancing their favourite tunes.

Since then the Poptastic brand has been franchised in clubs across the UK and built up a fanatical following way beyond the M62 corridor. The secret of the club night's success is simple - know your audience and give them what they want. Live acts, featured artists nights and terrific music make Poptastic the night to get excited about.

Make a note on the calendar for 14th March to help celebrate Poptastic's cheeky 14th Birthday celebrations at Club Alter Ego, Manchester.

Poptastic continues to grow bigger and better!

Poptastic is queer clubbing!

www.myspace.com/poptastic_uk



THE QUEER ALTERNATIVE AT THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE

Poptastic

Manchester



14TH BIRTHDAY

TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2010

DRINKS £1.90
excluding top shelf

Doors open 11.30pm - 5.00am CLUB ALTER EGO, 105 Princess Street, Manchester
www.poptastic.co.uk www.myspace.com/poptastic_uk facebook: poptastic - official

BLACKPOOL HOTELS

For years now gay men and women have been well catered for in the west coast premier resort, Blackpool. The clubs, the bars and the general atmosphere has us gayers flocking in our hordes for a break, or a couple of nights full of hedonistic fun. Thankfully there are a host of quality hotels and bed & breakfasts ready to accommodate our very specific needs and a quick look through the Bent ads will offer bargains, service and convenience to each visitor. If you're planning a staycation this year you need look no further than Blackpool for an unforgettable holiday – jam packed with things to do, folk to see and places to stay.



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2nd April

FOAM PARTY

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Easter Saturday
3rd April

fierce

DJ Paul Gregory
DJ Stuart Robinson

Easter Sunday
4th April

Open until 5am
Exclusive DJ Set from the Legendary

K-KLASS

+ LIVE PA: BOBBI

"Rhythm is a mystery" "Let me show you love"
"Gettin' Ready" "Finally"

Easter Monday
5th April

Gareth Gates

Live DJ Set



Flamingo

44 Queen Street, Blackpool. FY1 2AY. Tel: 01253 649151.
www.flamingoonline.co.uk www.facebook.com/flamingoonline



Leeds' two biggest gay nights, Back Door Disco and Homo, are launching into 2010 with a brand new resident DJ and tonnes of special offers. Internationally renowned mix master, Karl Lucas, will be joining scene favourite Scott Kelly on the decks every Monday and Saturday at Mission 2, one of the city's newest venues, opposite Bar Fibre.

Lucas has reached superstar status on the party circuit after running and playing at a string of some of the country's most successful gay clubbing brands. He's also made a name for himself on the box, by working closely with Peter Kay and featuring as a member of 2 Up, 2 Down in the huge spoof hit, Britain's Got the Pop Factor. Expect to hear a very unique and fun set, featuring

modern-to-the-minute pop mixed with retro classics.

Despite the changes, Homo and Back Door Disco still promise the gay inhabitants of Leeds one of the cheapest and best quality nights out. At Homo, they're committed to helping cash strapped clubbers party through the recession by keeping all drinks at the rock bottom price of just £1.50 and throughout February the club is giving away free entry before 1am. Just go to www.clubmission.com to print off a voucher and present it at the door.

BDD has also teamed up with premier venue, the Viaduct. Now customers can get a free pass into Back Door Disco every time they spend £10 or over on drinks at the showbar. For more info, check out www.backdoordisco.com



HOMO

EVERY MONDAY
@ MISSION 2

homo
10.30PM TILL 3.30AM
AT MISSION 2
NEXT TO THE VIADUCT
mission
2

**£1.50 ALL DRINKS
ALL NIGHT LONG**

**SCOTT KELLY
& KARL LUCAS**
POP / HOUSE / RETRO

ADMISSION : £3 B4 MIDNIGHT, £4 AFTER



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ENTRY**
WHEN YOU SPEND
£10 BEHIND
THE BAR AT
THE VIADUCT

**EVERY SATURDAY
LEEDS BIGGEST GAY NIGHT**

**DJS SCOTT KELLY
& KARL LUCAS**

Playing an irresistible set
of modern-to-the-minute pop and
commercial house

**NOW ALL DRINKS £2.50
ALL NIGHT LONG**



mission
2

MISSION 2
LOWER BRIGGATE, LEEDS.

mission
2

Terrace & Arena 2 - New entrance on Lower Briggate between
The Viaduct and Stone Roses bar.

the VIADUCT SHOWCASE

The Viaduct in Leeds sees a brand new management team but the quality of entertainment continues unabated as we bring you some excellent acts over the next few months.

Direct from her hugely successful run at London's star drag venue The Royal Vauxhall Tavern, we kick off our new monthly 'Big Sunday Night' show on 28th February with International drag artiste - Laquisha Jonz.

28th March sees the sensational 'Almost Pink' - who drove the crowds wild at some of last year's gay Pride events and has been dubbed 'the country's best Pink tribute act'.

Other acts include the brilliant and funny Titti Le Camp and the world

famous, Melissa Totten - and if you've never seen the real thing, she's the closest you'll ever get to watching Madonna live.

Saturday night and our funky and sexy go-go boys will be up and dancing on the bar... and throughout the week we can't forget our resident drag queens, the supreme entertainer Anna Glypta, the award winning Anja Bach, the sultry Miss Carla Jackson and last but not least the fabulous Roxy.

If you're in Leeds - you **have** to visit The Viaduct Showbar

For further details look us up on Facebook: 'The Viaduct show bar Leeds'

Melissa Totten



VIADUCT STOP PRESS VIADUCT STOP PRESS

KANDYFLOSS is the new Monday night pre HOMO party with music from 8:30pm till late & drinks from just £1! DJ Jonny & Anja Bach will be selecting the songs playing you hot new tracks, Kandy pop & your requests!

Don't forget, Fosters is just £1.50, House Doubles are just £2 & Delicious shots are just £1!!

It's free in all night and then you just take a few small steps to HOMO at our sister venue MISSION2 right next door!

See you Monday for more **Kandyfloss**

Photos by Darrell Hirst





the
VIADUCT

SHOWBAR

BIG SUNDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY WITH



LAQUISHA JONZ
International Comedy Drag

INTERNATIONAL DRAG ARTISTS & TRIBUTE ACTS

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MONDAYS *Kandyfloss* **NEW Pre-Homo Party**

Big beats, camp pop & dance
From 8pm till late
with DJ's Timmy & Jonny Boy

Fosters £1.50 a Pint
All House Doubles £2
Shooters just £1

TUESDAYS KARAOKE NIGHT

WEDNESDAYS CHILL OUT NIGHT

THURSDAYS DRAG ARTIST
MISS CARL JACKSON & GUESTS

FRIDAYS COLLAR 'N' CUFFS CABARET WITH
ANNA GLYPTA AND ANJA BACH

SATURDAYS DRAG DJ ANNA GLYPTA

SUNDAYS DRAG ARTIST ROXY & GUEST DJ

AWARD WINNING

88

BEST BAR NONE

BEST OVERALL WINNER

BEST PUB

2010 is here and The Viaduct's NEW Management Team would like to extend a very warm welcome with a brand new season of entertainment and shows

THE VIADUCT | LOWER BRIGGATE | LEEDS | LS1 4AE TEL: 0113 391 2741 VIADUCTLEEDSFACEBOOK



Holding Court

2010 is going to be a busy year at Queens Court. It is well established as one of the top destinations on the Leeds Gay map. Not only does it have some of the best nights out with a DJ every night of the week in the bar, it also serves the best food from its extensive menu every day from mid-day until 9pm and not forgetting the traditional Sunday Roast... on Sunday.

The drinks offers are also something to shout about with Happy Hour everyday between 5pm-8pm where all drinks are discounted from as much as half price.

Every Monday and Thursday the drinks are from as little as £1 from 8pm-4am.

Monday you have Miss Orry and Marky Mark playing the hottest tunes around.

Thursday you have Miss Orry and Amanda Hammond playing the music while our very own Chelsea hosts the evening adding her stamp onto proceedings until 4am.

Friday and Saturday the Bar plays host to dj Darren Sellers and Glen Battensby.

In our club The Loft each Friday it's just £2 door tax and all drinks are £2 each from mid-night till 5am. Saturday the Loft opens at 10.45pm with all drinks just £2.50 until 5am.

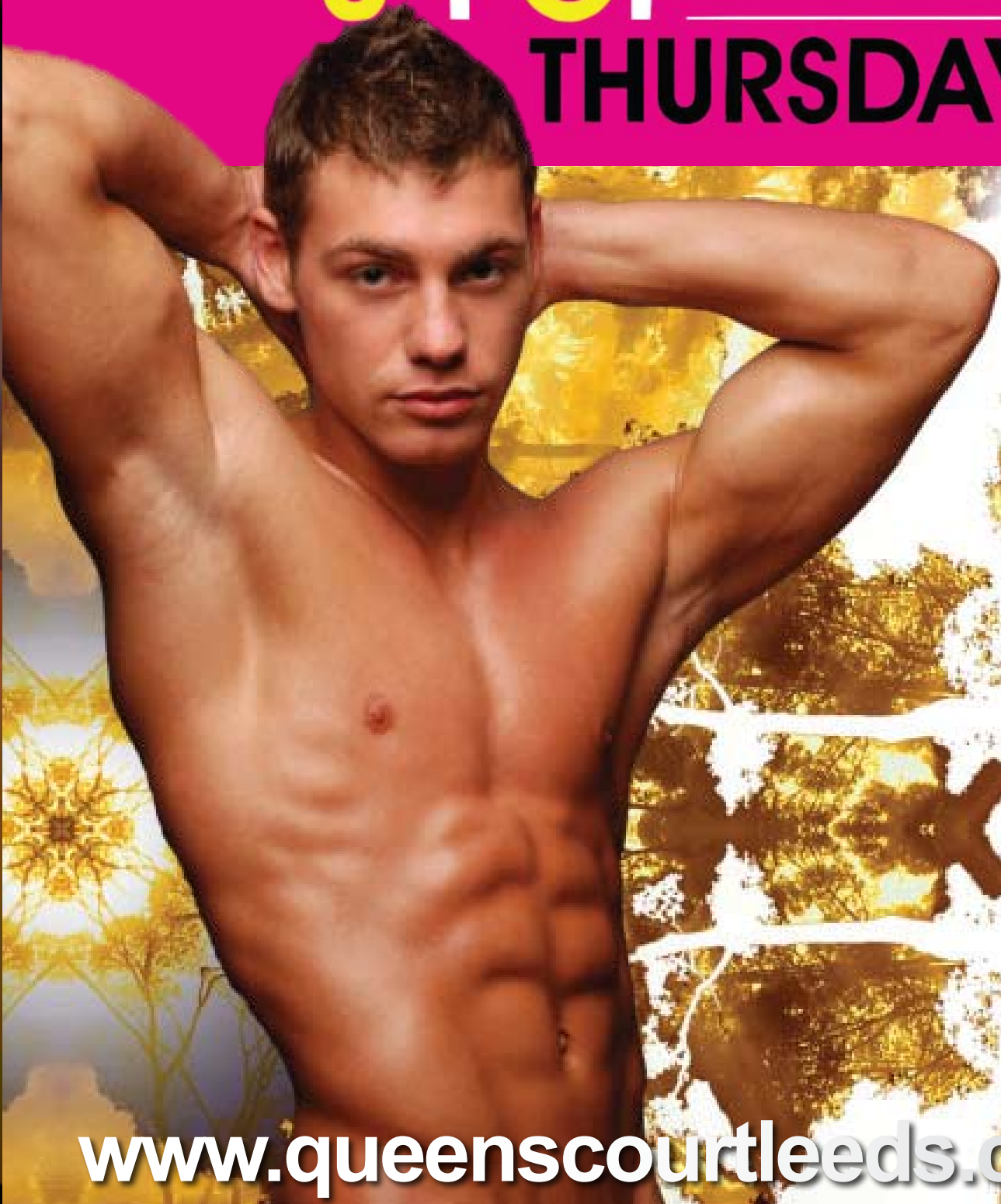
QUEENS COURT

the loft
QUEENS COURT



U-POP

THURSDAYS



www.queenscourtleeds.com

£1 Drinks

Double Spirit and mixer £2.50
Thursdays 8pm til 4am

The hottest place to be on Thursdays
with your hostess Chelsea

With Amanda Hammond and Miss
Orry on the decks all night!
£3 B4 11pm and £4 after.. ROAR

QUEENS COURT

the loft
QUEENS COURT

Queens Court Bar and the Loft Nightclub, 167-168 Lower Briggate, Leeds LS1 6NA Tel: 0113 2459449

The Village

NIGHTCLUB

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Bradford's newest purpose built gay club 'The Village' has finally arrived right next door to the already successful 'Bar Uber' the entrance is via the 'Uber Village Terrace'.

The club opened on the 30th January with the legendary 'Boy George' singing and DJ-ing for us. Watch this space for special appearances of 1st class icon celebrities! Every Friday DJ Daz from Manchester's Cruz 101 will be taking to the decks, with more name acts, celebrities, fire-breathers, jugglers and

many more surprise guests to come over the next few months.

Free Entry up to 11pm. You can get a ticket from The Sun or Bar Uber from 9pm, which allows you free entry till 11pm, £3 up to 12pm and £5 after that! You can then enjoy all three venues 'The Village', 'Bar Uber' and the 'Uber Village Terrace'.

It's lush, it's gorgeous and it's very, very new and sexy!!!!

Come along to see for yourselves at - 11 Barry Street, Bradford BD1 2AL

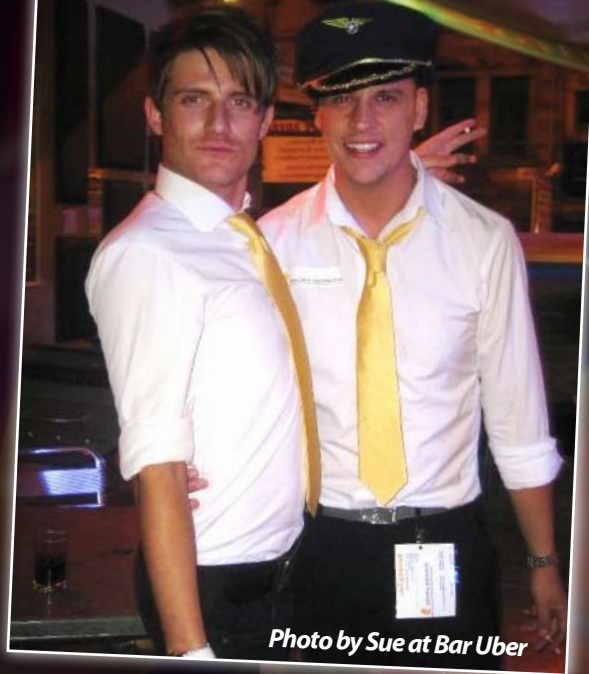


Photo by Sue at Bar Uber



Photos by Darrell Hirst



THE DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT WELCOME YOU TO...

The Village

NIGHTCLUB

THE DAWNING OF A NEW ERA
BRADFORD'S NEWEST GAY VILLAGE

PREPARE FOR ICONIC CELEBRITIES, 1ST CLASS DJs
SPECIAL THEMED EVENTS AND GUESTS

IT'S LUSH, IT'S GORGEOUS AND IT'S VERY, VERY NEW AND SEXY!!!!

OPEN 10PM TIL LATE THURSDAY,
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

VILLAGE HAS ALSO SIGNED AS A RESIDENT DJ DAZ FROM CRUZ 101 (MANCHESTER)

11-17 BARRY STREET, BRADFORD, BD1 2AL

tel: 08456 434340 www.thevillagebradford.com Become friends with The Village on [facebook](#)

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BRINGING STYLE, SASS AND FUNK
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playing the very best in FUNKY HOUSE and DANCE!



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Become friends with Bar Uber on [facebook](#)

THE NEW UNION @ THE SUN

It's an exciting time at The Sun, Bradford's gay scene is growing and evolving and The Sun is the cornerstone and bench mark for Bradford's Gay nightlife. It provides the cream of Bradford's entertainers, giving away big cash prizes regularly, together with the best dj's playing all your favourite tunes old and new.. it's all topped off with great value drinks offers and promotions 7 day's a week. Plans are well underway to bring back the hugely successful 'Sun's Got Talent' and this year it will be

bigger and better than ever. So, get exercising your vocals and you could be walking away with a big money prize and a chance to record a track in a studio session. Whatever day you decide to pop in you are always guaranteed a warm welcome from the team!

The New Union @ The Sun is Bradford's Original and still the best gay party pub!
124 Sunbridge Road, Bradford.
Tel: 01274 737722

Photos by Darrell Hirst

Stars shine at THE NEW UNION WAKEFIELD

The third Saturday of the month is now Saturday Night Live @ The New Union Wakefield! The fabulous Melissa Totten got the new monthly night of to an amazing start as she performed the best of Madonna's hits to a packed up for it crowd. This exciting monthly event will see a mix of tribute acts and celebrities taking to the stage. Already confirmed for February is the fantastic Soraya Vivian, performing her Hed Kandi, Clubland and Fierce Angel - hits including the amazing "If You Could Read My Mind". In March, Kyla Porter, "Almost P!nk" will be bringing her amazing P!nk

Tribute show to the stage! Kyla is the closest you will get to P!nk - without being the girl herself. In April 80's Diva Hazell Dean will be making her eagerly awaited return to Wakefield. Further acts will be announced soon in Bent and of course via The New Union Wakefield's facebook group. If you are not already a member search for and add "The New Union Wakefield Official Facebook Group" to be the first to hear details of the forthcoming acts as they are confirmed.

The New Union, 2 Almsgate, Wakefield. Tel: 01924 378215



Mon

BOGOF

2-4-1 On
Selected Drink

Tue

**Dame Judy's
Quiz & Bingo
With Free
Supper**

Wed

**Free Pool
From 7pm**

Thu

**Open The Box
With
Marigold
Addams**

Fri

**Thank Frock
It's Friday
With The Best Drag
Entertainers Around**

Sat

**Show Time
Madness & Mayhem
With
Missy Mincin &
Special Guests**

Sun

**Camp Karaoke
With The Infamous
MarkyMark
+ 2-4-1 VK's &
Free Shots For Singers**

**The Original & Still The Best Gay Party
Pub In Bradford Open 7 Days A Week**

The Big Weekend Price Crash

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Every Fri, Sat & Sun In Feb From 7pm

The New Union @ The Sun

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Candy

During 2009 Candy was at the very forefront of the game bringing you high profile celebrities, such as Will Mellor, Philip Olivier, Coronation street cast members and not forgetting the outrageously camp Cheeky Girls and the fabulous brother & sister duo Same Difference.

2010 is promising to be even bigger & better with acts such as the fabulous boy/girl group Scooch flying your flag

and the unmissable bubble of fun Sonia, with many more celebrities making an appearance throughout the coming months.

With an enviable long standing reputation of bringing you the finest entertainment and a bumper choice of Cabaret and dance music spread over a luscious 2 floors you know Candy is the place to be, not forgetting our Fabulous February prices (check out the main ad for full details)

Photos by Darrell Hirst



Fridays

Selected Shots £1 & Selected Bottles £1.50 All Night Every Friday!

Fri 12th & 26th Feb
DJ Scott Kelly & DJ Timmy Tease

Fri 5th & 19th Feb
DJ Timmy Tease & Marigold Addams

FREE ENTRY B4 10.30pm
Just £3 After, Open 'til 3am

www.ClubCandy.co.uk

Saturdays

Sat 27th Feb
SCOOCH LIVE!

Shots from £1.20 & Bottles from £1.70 Every Saturday!

with Rosie Cheeks, Marigold Addams & DJ Timmy Tease

FREE ENTRY B4 10.30pm*
£5 After, Open 'til 4am
(*excludes selected special events)

Candy Nightclub & Bar
Sackville Street, Bradford BD1 2AJ

2 floors of music every Friday & Saturday!

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COME ON VACATION

By G Alexander

The temperature was in the 80s as I sipped my beer and looked out onto the calm blue Mediterranean. It wasn't yet full season so the beach was relatively deserted but, as I gazed down below me, I saw an absolute vision. Laid out and snoozing on the sand at the water's edge was a young guy obviously enjoying the sun's warming rays. He was perhaps late teens or early twenties and his already olive coloured skin told me his ancestry wasn't from the Scandinavian countries. He exuded youthful healthiness and the fact that he appeared quite good looking as he slumbered made me take more than just a passing interest in this young man. His gorgeous, evenly muscled brown body was made yet more desirable by the coating of sun-oil that emphasised each mound and bump of his relaxed torso. The image reminded me of some superb shots I once saw on a calendar of a famous porn star, except this guy seemed so natural and, in many ways, far more erotic. A pair of shiny red swimming trunks neatly covered his genitals but it was interesting to see that while the lad dozed, his dreams became reality as his cock visibly pulsed under the silky sheen of the tight fabric. I was completely absorbed in every curve of the lad's body. Each sculptured mass of his taut but trim muscles glistening under a sheen of sparkling beads of sweat glinting in the sunlight.

I saw the man who looked after the ski-jets also taking an interest. He wasn't bad looking himself, perhaps ten years older than this lad and equally as trim. His wet baggy Abercrombie & Fitch flowery boardshorts just clinging to his firm arse, while his broad smile was a fantastic welcome to any potential

customer. In my mind I conjured up images of these two together, wrapped in an oily, sweaty embrace but as these thoughts were playing havoc in my own shorts I concentrated back on the scene in front of me. The slow rise and fall of the sleeping lad's chest seemed to be as at one with the surroundings as much as I was.

I got my camera out and decided I'd like to have record of this entire scene. I took several shots. A yacht floating in the stillness, a seagull circling overhead, the ski-jet man working on an engine but always returning to the fantastic image lying tantalisingly just below where I sat. Everything was so calm, the waves hardly lapping the shore at all, the air seemingly only filled with the buzz of insects. I think I was as relaxed as I ever could be... until I heard a different sound. I looked down at the slumbering figure and after a few restless moments a sudden shudder brought the young man awake. He shook himself from his sleep to the sudden realisation that a damp patch was spreading across those wonderful tight red nylon briefs, made even tighter by the not inconsiderable bulge his pulsing cock made. He looked tentatively around but didn't notice me above him with my camera still poised, quickly got up and rushed into the sea to swim away his embarrassment. Thank God for Digi cameras as I had managed to capture each orgasmic moment: from the lead up, to the eruption and watching his cute tight arse rush into the sea. A memory I keep returning to on my computer and one I watch them over and over again. Taking pleasure in doing precisely what I wanted to do at the time, remembering the heat that the lad produced in me then and as his image on the screen was still doing now.

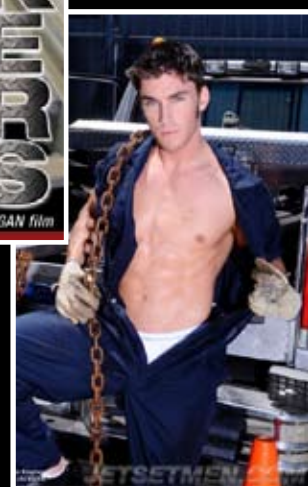
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IN WITH THE
GUYS**

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TO 89885**

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Car Jackers

Car Jackers is the brand new release from JetSetMen and is the debut of 24 year old sex machine Hayden Stephens. The newest exclusive to the JetSet family, Hayden is stunningly handsome, with ocean blue eyes and a ripped muscled bod. He's got a thick, 8"+ cock and he's versatile! Car Jackers is also the first film co-directed by the Jet Set duo: Chris Steele and John Tegan.

£29.99 [Hot House Video](#)

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10P

PER MIN



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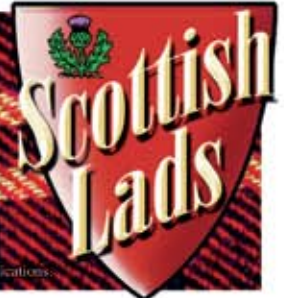


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IN

LEATHER

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BENT HELP & COMMENT

Find more out about Simon or message him your problems at www.myspace.com/simonsavidge

SIMON SAYS...

Dear Simon

I am dreading Valentine's Day this year as I don't have a boyfriend and can't really see one turning up within a month. There is so much pressure to be with someone and be out spending the night with that special person. I don't want to be a gay man's version of Bridget Jones getting blind drunk and singing all by myself alone. What is your advice?

John, Newcastle

Dear John

I think the best advice I can give you is to get a group of your single mates and go out and have a big old gay night on the tiles. I think staying in, if you aren't in the mood to be home alone, is an utterly pointless exercise but then so would be brooding in a bar by yourself. So call up all your single mates - male and female - and go and have a good old boogie. Or you could give speed dating a try or something like that, we have a feature on that this month.

Dear Simon

I have been with my husband for five years now, though only married for one. He has suddenly announced that what he would really like to do for Valentine's Day is have a threesome and it has left me feeling a bit confused and bewildered. I was under the impression this wasn't what was going to happen to our relationship, it's made me wonder if he isn't satisfied with me. He says it would be a one off and I want to make him happy, could this be a slippery slope and become the future of our relationship? *Jude, London*

Dear Jude

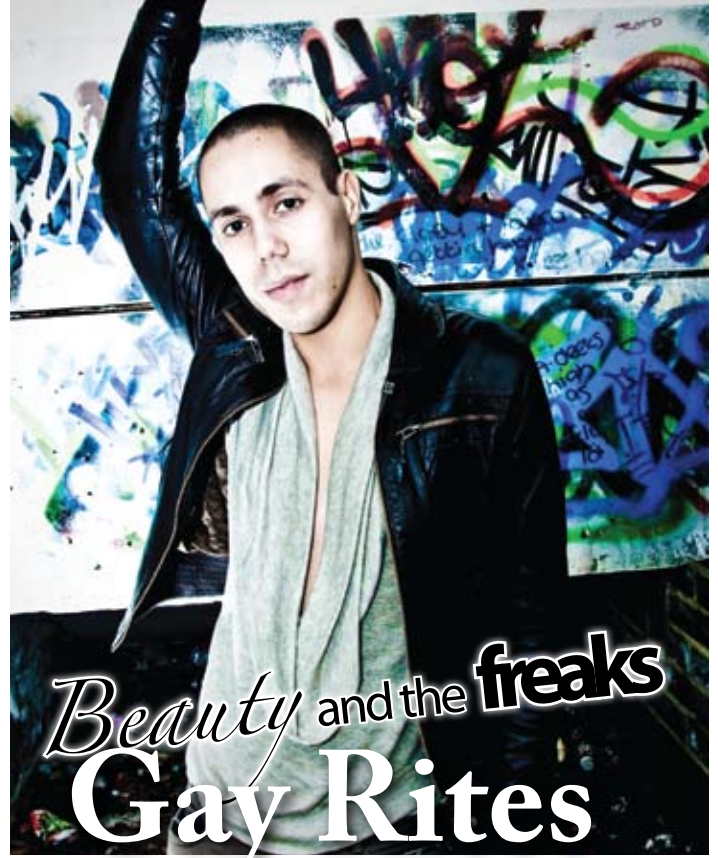
Hmmm, if you're really not keen on having a threesome then you need to say so to your husband now. It could easily be that he thinks this would be a 'one off bit of fun' however, if he knows that you don't feel comfortable doing it I am sure that he won't want to. Also remember this suggestion doesn't mean he is bored with you, it could just be something he thought that you would find fun. Have a chat with him, that's my advice. Just one pointer... see if he had anyone specific in mind as the third person... if he does... you really do need that chat.

Dear Simon

The price of Valentines winds me up. How can I do something special for Valentine's within a decent budget? All my friends are booking hotels, or going to the most expensive restaurants and booking huge bouquets of roses and the like. What happened to just sending a card? *Dave, Leicester*

Dear Dave,

I think that there is too much hype around Valentine's Day, look at the pressure several of you are under. I am of a mind that you shouldn't only do special things on Valentine's do it whenever. If you want to do something special I wouldn't say sending a card is the best option. I would cook their favourite meal, get their favourite pudding, favourite DVD, some candles and then give them some mind blowing sex, job done!



It's a been a funny few months for gay folk...

We've had a rugby player come out as gay. We've had a tabloid columnist effectively say Stephen Gately's homosexuality killed him (as though his cock leapt to his throat and throttled him). We've had proposals tabled in the House of Lords to allow gay couples to marry in churches, synagogues and mosques. But there's also been an increase in the number of reported hate crimes against gay men (either more gay people are reporting the crimes or the number of people being attacked, abused and discriminated against is increasing). A man was found with over 50 nail bombs in his house after being inspired by the Soho Bomber. And straight people are taking over local gay clubs to point fun at the trendy gays.

We're at a crisis point in relations between the gay and straight worlds. Either we'll gain further support (Jan Moir caused such a backlash in favour of civil partnerships and the gay lifestyle) or the lunatic fringe will become more militant and decide to

blow us up when they've had a few too many Aftershocks down at the local 'poof pub'. Hopefully it'll be the first option and not the latter. However, the end of 2009 and the beginning of 2010 does seem to be a key point in gay history, for better or worse. What's even more shocking is that maybe I'll have a date for Valentine's Day this year. Unfortunately, it's not Iris Robinson's boy-toy 21 year-old. But if Attitude get their way, he may appear on the front cover of a gay magazine soon.

In what I see as a pre-emptive strike in the war against the BNP homophobes and their ilk, I say we mass together and kidnap him like the goblins snatching a princess in some Mediaeval fairytale, to take to their underworld king (in this case, a queen). We'll either keep him on the mantelpiece as a rather lifelike ornament, or we'll ransom him back to the straight world at the cost of all our gay liberties. I'm sure there are enough old queens, either in Parliament or sat around watching This Morning, to pay for his release. Maybe that's how we'll win the War Against (anti-gay) Terror.

ECSTASY

This is often called the original designer drug because of its synonymous relationship with rave culture in the early 90s. Clubbers took ecstasy to stay awake and dance for hours. The effects take about half an hour to kick in and tend to last between 3 to 6 hours, followed by a gradual comedown.

The effects

An E gives people an energy buzz that makes them feel alert and alive. Ecstasy makes people feel in tune with their surroundings - sounds and colours are more intense. Users often feel great love for the people they're with and the strangers

around them. On its own, it's not a drug that makes people violent. Lots of people feel chatty on E. (These chats don't always make sense to people who aren't on an E).

Purity

A big problem with Es is that they're rarely pure. They can be cut with amphetamines (like speed), caffeine and other substances because it's cheaper to produce. Some of the new man-made drugs like PMA and 4-MTA can be passed off as E's. Their effects can be very different or they may take longer to kick-in with a risk of the user double-dosing to

compensate (risking double the side effects).

The risks

Physical side effects can develop that include: dilated pupils, a tingling feeling, tightening of the jaw muscles, raised body temperature and the heart beats faster. Short-term effects of use can include anxiety, panic attacks, confused episodes and paranoid or psychotic states. There's no way of telling what's in an E until you've swallowed it. So, there may be negative side effects from other ingredients in the tablet.

If you have a problem or are worried about a drug's effect, talk to Frank:

FRANK

0800 77 66 00 talktofrank.com



THE CONFESSION LINE



Dial **09097 90 51** then the **EXTENSION** of the confession you desire

- 01 I banged my pool cue into a lads d**k then rubbed it better (18+)
- 02 I caught my mate w**kin with mi bruv's sweaty footy shorts on his face
- 03 I got a boner watching mi mate playing footy & his filthy dad saw me
- 04 I kissed mi f**k buddy for the first time while he was deep in me!
- 05 I'll take yer full length in mi gob. Hold the back of my neck & force me!
- 06 I grabbed the w**k mag off the str8 scally and grabbed his c**k (18+)
- 07 I w**ked off a scally thug to stop him from deckin me
- 08 Lads get well horny playing strip snooker in the crowded pub (18+)
- 09 Hard hung lads let you carry on slamming after you have c*m (18+)
- 10 I luv mi bird to bits but I luv having sex with guys, love to get f**ked!
- 11 My mate took me in from the rain & pulled my wet trackies off (18+)
- 12 Me & my bezzie mate had fun while his bird watched. She loved it!
- 13 Mi sleeping mates boner was up against my arse (18+)
- 14 Me & you get our boners out in the sauna and have some hot fun
- 15 Naked college boy w**king on the top of his desk for sir (18+)
- 16 Newsagent gets a shock when a naked 18 y/o walks in to get papers
- 17 Old man & teenage lad rub their c**ks together till they cum (18+)
- 18 I'm a slender teen and I'll try my new swimming trunks on for you (18+)
- 19 Rude scally lad loves c**k. He'd love to get down on his knees (18+)
- 20 Lads swapping their speedos in the local baths (18+)
- 21 Nasty scally lad gets his 7 inch cock out on the bus & gets blowy (18+)
- 22 18 year old chav guy gets his sweaty boner out of the crowded train.
- 23 Scally pissed in a bottle & poured it over his sleepin mates d**k!
- 24 Fit f**king scally lad strips off in the off license (18+)
- 25 Sir got mi mums boyfriend to spank my ass at college (18+)
- 26 I love skinny lads with big fat c**ks (18+)
- 27 Slender bloke with donkey d**k loves whipping his c**k out in public!
- 28 Wet tongue under a guys stinky foreskin for a sweaty cheesy taste!
- 29 I love sucking lads big d**ks n getting my lips round it!
- 30 Sweet hoody points hit rock hard c**k at me in the urinals! (18+)
- 31 Teach me what you want to do with my sweet c**k
- 32 Hot teenage lad will lick your tight arse (18+)
- 33 Shop boy loves going commando at work (18+)
- 34 I love the feel of a lguys smooth shaved c**k & balls
- 35 Was watchin my mate play footy when his dad made a move on me.
- 36 I let two blokes watch me get a boner at the urinals
- 37 Hottest thing I ever saw was two guys pissin down an alley
- 38 Mate, you're my fantasy f**k & I'll tell you everything I wanna do to you..
- 39 Rude boy gets his c**k out for a w**k on the bus. (18+)
- 40 Mate get yer hand up the leg of mi footy shorts
- 41 Wrestling with my fit mate gets me c**k rock hard
- 42 Oh yeah! Love a young guys d**k deep in my throat
- 43 Dirty old man fiddled with 18 year old lads hard d**k.
- 44 The Dr pulled my pants down to see my hard c**k
- 45 Uniform off to reveal his hot body and big d**k & balls.
- 46 Oh yeah! It feels good to have it sucked
- 47 After the footy game antics...

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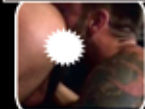
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OVERALLS



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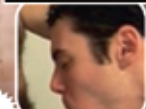
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5 WAY SUCK



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FACE FORCED



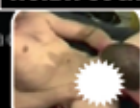
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ASS CUM



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HORNY SUCK



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GREASED UP



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SPITROAST



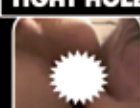
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Philip writes detailed monthly travel horoscopes in addition to his existing content of weekly love & gay horoscopes, daily horoscopes and weekly & monthly in depth scripts for phone lines.



Celebrity Horoscopes and Psychic readings at: www.philipgarcia.com

AQUARIUS (Jan 21/Feb 19)

Friends and loved-ones couldn't be more cooperative these days. Support for your ideas, beliefs and goals has never been stronger. Plans you never expected to see the light of day are now set underway. You half suspected your partner or another loved one to try to talk you out of an adventure that seems made for you and the good news is: they will be behind you every step of the way. An exuberant start to the month is just a foretaste of the excitement that is to come.



CELEBRITY AQUARIUS

- 21/01 Geena Davis
- 22/01 John Hurt
- 23/01 Rutger Hauer
- 24/01 John Belushi
- 25/01 Alicia Keys
- 26/01 Bridget Fonda
- 27/01 Wolfgang Mozart
- 28/01 Elijah Wood
- 29/01 Heather Graham
- 30/01 Christian Bale
- 31/01 Justin Timberlake
- 01/02 Lisa Marie Priestley
- 02/02 Shakira
- 03/02 Daniel Craig

- 04/02 Natalie Imbruglia
- 05/02 Jennifer Jason-Leigh
- 06/02 Bob Marley
- 07/02 Ashton Kutcher
- 08/02 Seth Green
- 09/02 Mena Suvari
- 10/02 Roberta Flack
- 11/02 John Barrowman
- 12/02 Christina Ricci
- 13/02 Robbie Williams
- 14/02 Simon Pegg
- 15/02 Matt Groening
- 16/02 Ice-T
- 17/02 Joseph Gordon-Levitt
- 18/02 Matt Dillon
- 19/02 Seal

ARIES (Mar21/Apr20)

Aries (Mar21/Apr20) Someone is putting a lot of time and effort into pleasing you and yet you know this relationship just isn't going to be. You can't help it if you don't feel the same for them and despite appreciating their interest, you know friendship is only as far as it's going to go. Any mixed messages you give out will only prolong their pain. It might be best to tell it how it is and spend some time apart over the weeks ahead, just to give this person time to heal.

TAURUS (Apr21/May21)

Joining a friend at an event that's more 'their thing' than yours would be better than staying at home and feeling lonely! It could even be you will meet someone there who will change your life. So don't grumble when someone suggests you should make more effort to be sociable. If you already have a partner and you aren't seeing a lot of each other these days, do something about it. There's plenty going on socially over the month ahead and you really don't have to feel unloved unless you want to.

GEMINI (May22/June21)

The next few weeks are great for taking a look down new avenues. Getting involved in exciting activities and fresh schemes will feed your restless spirit. If you're single, taking up a hobby on their ideas will pave the way for you to broaden your horizons. It will be when trying something new or visiting faraway places that you're likely to discover a new romance that transports you to places out of this world.

CANCER (Jun22/Jul23)

Either you or a loved one has taken on too many outside commitments. You feel you could get more from your relationships if only you had the time. This is why, over the weeks ahead, you should scale back on your professional and community interests. You will never get the love and companionship you need and deserve if relationships aren't nurtured. The sooner you sort out your priorities, the sooner you will feel happier with your social life and love life.

LEO (Jul24/Aug23)

Emphasis remains on your partnership affairs. You're going through a sensitive phase and more likely to sense tension in others. This helps you encourage people to deal with issues that lie at the root of their problems. If there's a new recruit to a group you're involved in or a new face on the work scene, you could do a lot to make them feel welcome and at ease. A close relationship gets a boost from an unusual, sexy suggestion. Over the next few weeks you will achieve an ambition that's close to your heart.

VIRGO (Aug24/Sept23)

It's not easy to hand over a job to someone who's less capable than you but they have to learn somewhere. You can always keep a discreet eye on their progress. Anyway you need to delegate in order to take the pressure off yourself; you can't do everything even if you'd like to. You might feel as if you're running out of

energy in which case think about taking regular breaks along with a herbal iron supplement. Over the next few weeks a colleague will become more friendly and flirtatious: make of it what you will!

LIBRA (Sept24/Oct23)

Ask what you can do for someone who is clearly struggling and they'll be so grateful this could be the start of a beautiful friendship. You should be ready for a wonderful few weeks ahead. As well as feeling on top of the world, your happiness rubs off on those around you. This is a great time for branching out and doing things for the first time. You can't resist all the invitations coming your way and you might set yourself up for some exciting challenges ahead.

SCORPIO (Oct24/Nov22)

A new lover knows how to play your body like a musical instrument; they pluck the strings and you make beautiful music together. If you share the same emotional and spiritual wavelengths, so much the better. Quality moments shared with your mate over the weeks ahead will help bind you firmly to each other. This makes your romantic future look more secure. Life is looking good now and there's no harm in wanting a good life. Don't you deserve all the happiness you now find?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov23/Dec21)

It won't bother you unduly when plans at the start of the month start falling apart and things go slightly wrong. You will shrug your shoulders and get on with whatever needs doing anyway. Other people aren't as flexible and over the weeks ahead, they may need help adjusting to the changes being made. Several new and interesting people might suddenly enter your life and if you've been looking for romance, you could now be spoilt for choice!

CAPRICORN (Dec 22/Jan20)

The sooner you admit that you deserve to see some of your dreams come true, the faster it will occur. Dare to pursue your deepest longings, these next few weeks, and stop telling yourself good things never happen to you. Throw yourself into new challenges and you can rest assured those who matter are taking notice. You are making the right impression and once you make a start towards a special goal there will be plenty help along the way to give you an encouraging nudge forward if ever you run out of energy.

PISCES (Feb20/Mar20)

Your boss or a senior colleague isn't coming across as being entirely fair and impartial these days. If you aren't happy with their decisions, take your grievances to a higher authority. You feel like a change but instinctively know the time is not quite right to do anything specific. If you can't afford to move, think about redecorating your abode to make it feel brand new. Developments over the weeks ahead bring fresh energy and inspiration to you on the home front.



COMPETITION TIME

Send your entries to:

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6. Proof of delivery or email will not constitute

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