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# bent

# CHIP TANNER

FROM GYMNAST TO PORN STAR



KEY WEST // CHER // KYLIE // VALENTINE'S DAY

# TAKE YOUR SEATS

This little list is just a selection of a few of the West End's greatest icons.

## 1) Oscar Wilde

Well I had to, didn't I? Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was a writer and poet who dedicated himself to the pursuit of beauty, art, and pleasure. His only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, stands as a moment to those noble pursuits and his plays, which were once considered so controversial, are now considered to be among the greats.



Wilde's *Salome* was banned in 1892 for the depiction of biblical characters on stage and his masterpiece, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, was seldom performed after the public humiliation of Wilde's arrest and trial for "gross indecency". This trial and others like it remain a stain on British legal history, an ugly but poignant reminder that it once was illegal for one man to simply love another.

When questioned about "the love that dare not speak its name" Wilde spoke defiantly and passionately, saying: "It is beautiful, it is fine, it is the noblest form of affection.

There is nothing unnatural about it...That it should be so, the world does not understand. The world mocks at it, and sometimes puts one in the pillory for it.

## 2) Billy Elliot

Not the character, but the entire show.



Billy Elliot is more than just a show, it's jaw-on-the-floor, life-affirming stuff. With music by Elton John and a staggering nine Olivier Award nominations under its belt, Billy Elliot has earned its place as one of the West End's best-loved shows.

But where does the gay icon bit come in? Step back and think about the plot of Billy Elliot. A young lad growing up in a northern mining town is different, the slightly feminine kind of different. Despite the protestations and shame of his working class family he succeeds in his endeavours, becomes a ballet dancer, and shows them all that anyone can be whatever the hell they want to be. In the end Billy's dad accepts

him and learns a valuable lesson about judging people based on stereotypes. Remind anyone of anything?

## 3) Noël Coward



The enduring image of Noël Coward is one of timeless elegance; a dashing gent in a silk dressing gown with a cigarette holder balanced gently between his fingers. He was a writer, an artist, a singer, a dancer, and an all-round star of the stage and screen.

Coward wrote 50 plays in a career that spanned six decades and has a West End theatre named after him. His plays continue to be performed around the world, often with impressive casts. A recent West End production of *Private Lives* starred *Sex and the City's* Kim Cattrall. Like many living in the early 20th Century, Coward never publicly acknowledged his homosexuality. He was not ashamed, he merely considered his private life to be his own business and believed that "any sexual activities, when over-advertised, are tasteless."

## 4) Matthew Bourne

The man behind the groundbreaking 1995 production of *Swan Lake* with an all-male company of swans, Matthew Bourne is a true Theatreland treasure. He is considered by many to be the UK's most successful choreographer and has three Drama Desk Awards, two Tony Awards, an Evening Standard Award, an Olivier, and an OBE to prove it.

He has choreographed for many mainstream West End shows including *Oliver!*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Mary Poppins*. However, it is his daring dance productions which have really earned him his place on this list.



His world-famous production of *Swan Lake* gave male dancers the opportunity to explore new roles which historically had been reserved for women. His ballet version of Edward Scissorhands invited a young, trendy audience into the sometimes stuffy world of classical dance and his upcoming *Lord of the Flies* dance drama aims to lift the stigma sometimes attached to young men working in the performing arts.

## 5) John Barrowman

Perhaps a strange addition to a list containing Oscar Wilde and Noël Coward, but John Barrowman is much more than just a dashing Time Agent and West End reality show judge.



The Barrowman has been performing in the West End since 1989, taking on roles ranging from Raoul in *Phantom of the Opera* to Zaza/Albin in *La Cage Aux Folles*. His unashamedly camp performance style is a delight in a time when the West End is awash with ex-pop stars taking themselves far too seriously. His roles in *Doctor Who* and *Torchwood* brought Captain Jack Harkness, an omni-sexual time traveller, into our living rooms. Playing such a character so boldly on a family show such as *Doctor Who* struck a blow to homophobia and snuck a message about acceptance in among all the lasers and spaceships.

For London Shows, companies such as [www.Show-and-Stay.co.uk](http://www.Show-and-Stay.co.uk) offer theatre and hotel deals. Great if you want to make the most of the capital and turn your visit into a full weekend.

# THE BEST MEDICINE TOUR

Direct from his own BBC2 series *The Stephen K Amos Show* and starring in BBC One's *Live at the Apollo*, Stephen K Amos is back on the road for 2011.

Following last year's hugely successful UK tour – where he played to 60,000 – Amos is back with his special brand of melt-in-the-middle comedy, to cheer us up, make us forget the doom and gloom and show what has just been medically proven, that laughter really is the best medicine!

Amos has charmed and entertained audiences all over the world with his easy, relaxed style, intelligent wit and honest warmhearted joie de vivre. The last few years have seen Stephen steadily become a household name – recently starring in BBC One's dance-

off *Let's Dance* for Sport Relief, appearing regularly on *The One Show* and *The Wright Stuff* (C5) and guesting on *Have I Got News For You* (BBC One), *Mock the Week* (BBC Two) and *Stand Up For The Week* (Channel 4). He has also developed a keen interest in food and cookery following his hilarious contribution to *Celebrity Masterchef* (BBC2) and BBC One's *Saturday Kitchen* and is now much in demand on the foodie circuit.

A gifted actor, Amos has impressed audiences and critics with his performances on stage, and screen, and 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 the Edinburgh Festival 2009, 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.



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# STEPHEN K AMOS

## The Best Medicine

"IF LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE THEN AMOS SHOULD BE PRESCRIBED BY THE NHS FOR HIS FORMIDABLE HEALING POWERS"

Bruce Dessau, EVENING STANDARD

### JANUARY

12	MAINDENHEAD NORDEN FARM	8.00pm	01628 788 997
13	MAINDENHEAD NORDEN FARM	8.00pm	01628 788 997
14	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD OLD TOWN HALL	8.00pm	01442 228 091
15	NEWBURY ARLINGTON ARTS	8.00pm	01635 244 246
16	COLCHESTER ARTS CENTRE	8.00pm	01206 500 900
18	CANTERBURY GULBENKIAN THEATRE	7.45pm	01227 769 075
19	EDMONTON MILLFIELD THEATRE	8.00pm	020 8807 6680
20	PETERBOROUGH CRESSET	8.00pm	01733 265 705
21	AYLESBURY WATERSIDE THEATRE	7.30pm	0844 871 7607
22	OXFORD NEW THEATRE	8.00pm	0844 847 1585
23	WARRINGTON PYRAMID & PARR HALL	8.00pm	01925 442 345
24	WOLVERHAMPTON CIVIC HALL	8.00pm	0870 320 7000
27	TUNBRIDGE WELLS ASSEMBLY HALL	8.00pm	01892 530 613
28	TORQUAY PRINCESS THEATRE	8.00pm	0844 847 2315
29	PLYMOUTH PAVILION	8.00pm	08451 461 460
30	BRISTOL COLSTON HALL	8.00pm	01179 223 686
31	CARDIFF ST DAVID'S HALL	8.00pm	02920 878 444

### FEBRUARY

1	SWANSEA GRAND THEATRE	8.00pm	01792 475 715
2	SWINDON OASIS	8.00pm	01793 524 481
4	HIGH WYCOMBE WYCOMBE SWAN	8.00pm	01494 512 000
5	BOURNEMOUTH PAVILION	8.00pm	0844 576 3000
6	DARTFORD ORCHARD THEATRE	8.00pm	01322 220 000
7	CARLISLE SANDS CENTRE	8.00pm	01228 625 222
8	MIDDLESBROUGH TOWN HALL	8.00pm	01642 729 729
9	PRESTON CHARTER THEATRE	8.00pm	08453 442 012
11	CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE	8.00pm	01223 357 851
12	IPSWICH REGENT THEATRE	8.00pm	01473 433 100
13	WOKING NEW VICTORIA THEATRE	8.00pm	0844 871 7645
15	BUXTON OPERA HOUSE	7.30pm	08451 272 190
17	DUBLIN VICAR STREET	8.00pm	0818 719 390
18	BELFAST WATERFRONT HALL	8.00pm	02890 334 455
19	BASINGSTOKE ANVIL	8.00pm	01256 844 244
20	LEICESTER DE MONTFORT HALL	8.00pm	0116 233 3111
21	HULL CITY HALL	7.30pm	01482 226 655
22	LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL	8.00pm	0151 709 3789
24	SOUTHEND CLIFFS PAVILION	8.00pm	01702 351 135
25	READING HEXAGON	8.00pm	0118 960 6060
26	ST ALBANS ALBAN ARENA	8.00pm	01727 844 488
27	ST ALBANS ALBAN ARENA	8.00pm	01727 844 488

### MARCH

1	PERTH CONCERT HALL	8.00pm	01738 621 031
4	SALISBURY CITY HALL	8.00pm	01722 434 434
5	SHEFFIELD OCTAGON THEATRE	7.30pm	0114 222 8777
6	BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL	7.30pm	0844 871 7650
8	LEAMINGTON SPA ROYAL SPA CENTRE	8.00pm	01926 334 418
9	NORTHAMPTON ROYAL AND DERGATE	8.00pm	01604 624 811
10	NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE	8.00pm	0115 941 9419
11	NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE	8.00pm	0115 941 9419
12	DERBY ASSEMBLY ROOMS	8.00pm	01332 255 800
16	NEWCASTLE CITY HALL	8.00pm	0191 2612 606
17	ABERDEEN MUSIC HALL	8.00pm	01224 641 122
18	GLASGOW KING'S THEATRE	7.30pm	0844 871 7647
19	CHELTENHAM TOWN HALL	8.00pm	0844 576 2210
20	MILTON KEYNES MILTON KEYNES THEATRE	7.30pm	0844 871 7652

### APRIL

1-24 THE MELBOURNE COMEDY FESTIVAL

### MAY

3	HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH HALL	8.00pm	01429 890 000
4	STOKE ON TRENT VICTORIA HALL	7.30pm	0844 871 7649
7	HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE	8.00pm	0845 130 8840
8	YORK GRAND OPERA HOUSE	8.00pm	0844 8472 322
9	NORWICH THEATRE ROYAL	7.30pm	01603 630 000
11	ISLE OF MAN VILLA MARINA	8.00pm	01624 600 555
12	COVENTRY WARWICK ARTS CENTRE	8.00pm	02476 524 524
13	COVENTRY WARWICK ARTS CENTRE	8.00pm	02476 524 524
14	SOUTHAMPTON GUILDHALL	8.00pm	02380 632 601
16	DUNSTABLE GROVE THEATRE	8.00pm	01582 60 20 80
17	DUNSTABLE GROVE THEATRE	8.00pm	01582 60 20 80

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22	SALFORD THE LOWRY	7.30pm	0843 208 6000
23	SALFORD THE LOWRY	7.30pm	0843 208 6000
25	BIRMINGHAM ALEXANDRA THEATRE	8.00pm	0844 847 2302

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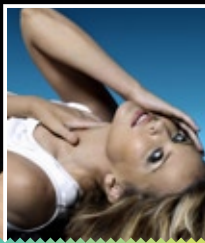
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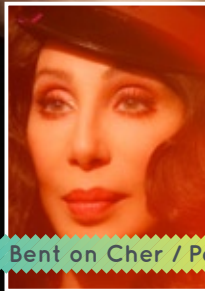
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Star of BBC2's  
 The Stephen K Amos Show

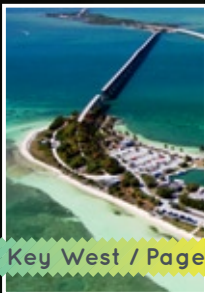
# EDITOR'S WORDS



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Now that we are well into 2011 many of us will be turning our thoughts to the warmer weather and anticipating a holiday in the coming months.

The fact that the recent court case concerning whether a 'Christian' couple, who owned a bed and breakfast, had the right to deny a same sex couple a double room for the night means that we can book a room now, here in the UK at least, and know we should be treated the same as a heterosexual couple. It was an absolute shame that it came to a court case to have a judgement tell those who feel the need for religion, that their beliefs, do not out-weigh the law. Unfortunately, the church (and I include most religions in this) have a tendency to put their 'faith' (and I use the term loosely) above the rights of everyone else... unless you subscribe to the same cult, dogma, creed or belief system as they themselves. The law says that a civil partnership is regarded as the same as that of marriage... and that's an end to it. As many people said at the time: "Peter and Hazelmary Bull (the owners of the B&B) were offering a service to the public by providing hotel accommodation. Everyone who provides services to the public should do so without discrimination. That's the law. People of faith cannot legitimately claim exemption from equality laws that apply to everyone else."

There is a very sinister re-emergence of the religious right and we must challenge its dubious claims wherever they appear. We must object most vociferously when laws and prejudice are used to pillory people for loving each other... and the reason for that prejudice is simply the fact that the two people who love each other are the same sex. What kind of religion bans anyone loving anyone? Makes a mockery of the phrase "God is love" doesn't it?

Meanwhile, in an interview with Gaydar Radio, TV host Jonathan Ross told listeners that his eldest daughter was a lesbian. He wasn't bragging, he wasn't outing her, it was just a matter of normal chat as he said that she regularly tweets about being a lesbian so it was well known and 'out there'. The interviewer asked how he would feel if his daughter brought a woman home. Jonathan replied: "Well... that's a question I've dealt with on a regular basis already and providing it's a nice woman, I'm thrilled." On the back of this 'revelation' I was asked to appear on local radio as they wanted to explore how gay and lesbians came out to their parents. I'm afraid I had to decline the request but it did get me thinking about how I broke the news to my mum that I was gay. Many (many, many) years ago I'd been seeing this lad, I was 25 he was 23, and it came to that moment when I wanted to introduce him to the only other people that meant anything to me. Alas, I wasn't very subtle. I said to my mum, who I was living with at the time, that I was bringing a friend home, he'd be staying the night and we'd be sleeping together. I didn't ask, I just made it a statement of fact as it never occurred to me that there would be any objections. I think my mum took all of three seconds to take in what I'd said and then her only comment was "O.K.". The relationship with my mum, my step-father, me and my boyfriend was fantastic and it was like we were the best of friends from the word go. I don't know if this approach would work for everyone but since that time, and until my mum's death, Colin, my partner was treated as one of the family and we never had a harsh word between any of us.

*Hugs, Gordon*



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**Publisher**  
Terry George

**Editor**  
Gordon Hopps  
08712 246 511  
editor@bent.com

**Advertising Director**  
Darrell Hirst  
08712 246 529  
darrell@bent.com

**Features Editor**  
Adam Lowe  
adam.lowe@bent.com

**London Editor**  
Simon Savidge  
simon.savidge@bent.com

**Designer**  
Stephen Lubbock  
designer@bent.com

**Photo Editor**  
Mark Hawkins,  
mark@bent.com

**IT Support**  
Chris Chrisostomou

**Finance Director**  
Ian Ellis

**Accounts**  
Louise Lee  
08712 246 516  
accounts@bent.com

**Publishing Director**  
Michael Rothwell

**Astrologer**  
Philip Garcia

**Cover**  
Chip Tanner  
www.randyblue.com

Contributors: Beyonce, Lee Hudson, Chris Amos, Jason Guy, Johan Volny, Les Lea, Darrell Hirst, Terry George, Adam Lowe, Alex Wiggan, Gareth Longstaff, Trevor Blakenship.

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**Bent Ltd.**  
APN House,  
Leeds  
LS11 8BP

Tel: 08712 246 511  
Fax: 08701 222 666

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# WHATS ON MANCHESTER



## VILLAGE ENTERTAINMENT

For anyone in the know, the place to be seen if you were visiting The Gay Village was Canal Street but times have changed and the recession has hit The Village hard and now the only place that any self-respecting gay should be seen is the so called "gay quarter" of Canal Street. That is the owner operated venues Churchills, Queer, Velvet and Taurus at the top end of Canal Street.

Queer Café Bar opened some 7 years ago and its rise to the top has been phenomenal. By day it's a place to catch up with friends, check your profile on the free internet/wifi or grab a bite to eat from the inexpensive but extensive menu but its at night that this venue really comes alive. Upstairs in Queer the soundtrack is contemporary dance with the likes of Alan Stevens and Aphrodite on the decks whilst downstairs in Glam Bar the music is most definitely pop. On the subject of Glam – watch out for some major changes to

the bar in the next month or so. The big mid-week night at Queer is their TRANNYOKE TUESDAY with drag queen Jessica Barge, if you haven't experienced this night – treat yourself!

You can't really write a piece about Queer without tipping your hat to the now legendary after hours event that is Mornin Glory. Every Saturday/Sunday from 4am til 10am this is one of those Manchester institutions that will rightly take its place in clubbing history along with the likes of The Hacienda, Danceteria and the like.

Ultimately, the success of a bar like Queer is that at different times of the day or night, it serves the needs of the people in The Gay Village. Serving great food in the day and great entertainment or music at night.

The venue can rightly claim to be "The Leading Gay Lifestyle Bar"



# TOP TEN

## UNEXPECTED VALENTINES DAY GIFTS

Every year at Christmas we get unwanted gifts. But what about on Valentine's Day? We thought of the most unexpected, inappropriate and poorly planned gifts we've received over the years for your delectation.

**10** A whip, chains and a gag, which of course he wants you to wear. And there you thought he was only interested in a bit of slap and tickle. The only solution is to go all dominant and make him wear the clobber instead.

**9** A second-hand DVD copy of Top Gun. Because it's his favourite film and now he'll have something to watch while he's round at yours. Yeah. Thanks.

**8** Bathroom scales. Because if you didn't think you were fat before, you do now.

**7** Enzyte penis enlargement pills. See above. See also number five.

**6** A battered copy of He's Just Not that Into You. To which the only good response is to batter him.

**5** A laminated copy of Sex for Dummies (Miniature Edition). We responded by shoving all 128 pages where fucktards take it best and pointing out the irony of him giving us a miniature edition. At least you can wipe it clean afterwards.

**4** Bald Guyz Head Wipes. I mean, seriously? Or were they intended for use around a freshly shaven ballsack, maybe?

**3** A Happy Meal. Some of us might look like we enjoy fast food a little too much, and we all love a good toy, but this week McDonald's were giving away Mr Potato Head when we really wanted Buzz Lightyear. Get it right!

**2** Sexually transmitted infections. There's nothing that smacks of commitment and fidelity like a bad case of the clap on Valentine's Day!

**1** The Moluccan Cockatoo. It's officially one of the noisiest birds in existence. It's also one of the most long-lived (at 80 years). So when the relationship is dead and gone, you'll still be clearing out crap from some shrill loudmouth who's always ruffling feathers.

# SEX WITH A GAY BENT

Terry Sanderson, author of such notable gay tomes as 'How to be a Happy Homosexual', 'The Potts Correspondence and Other Gay Humour' and a host of self-help books for us with that natural bent, has turned his attention to the famed ancient Indian guide to the art of love-making.

The mere utterance of the term Kama Sutra sends some people into a moral spin, worried about salacious depths of depravity, while other see it as a cultural and empowering guide to the sensual and erotic side of what comes naturally.

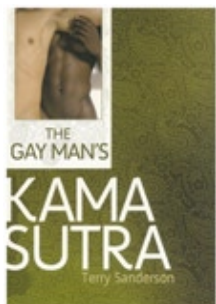
The Gay Man's Kama Sutra applies the art and spirit and intention of the original Kama

Sutra—the expression of uninhibited pleasure through sex—to the lives of twenty-first century gay men. It shamelessly encourages love and sex, pleasure and sensuality, uninhibited erotic indulgence and play. Visually stunning, it is accompanied by exquisite, sensual artworks from the original Kama Sutra, classic homo-erotic artworks, and tasteful instructional line drawings. The generously endowed artwork by Roger Payne (most of which we simply can't publish here) is worth the price of the book alone but whether you are in a long-term partnership, an open relationship, or are enjoying a life of sexual freedom, this book offers invaluable advice for a happy, healthy, and satisfying sex life. Every aspect of gay sex is explored—from blowjobs and masturbation,

to anal sex and fetishes. As you would expect from an author such as Sanderson you also get important issues such as finding a partner, emotional problems, info on tattoos and piercing and coverage of safe sex.

There is a lot to be said for experimenting with a new partner and 'busking' the sex. Letting it happen how it might is also fine but, it has to be said, a little info can help pave a way for a life of variety... and that, as we all know, is the spice of life.

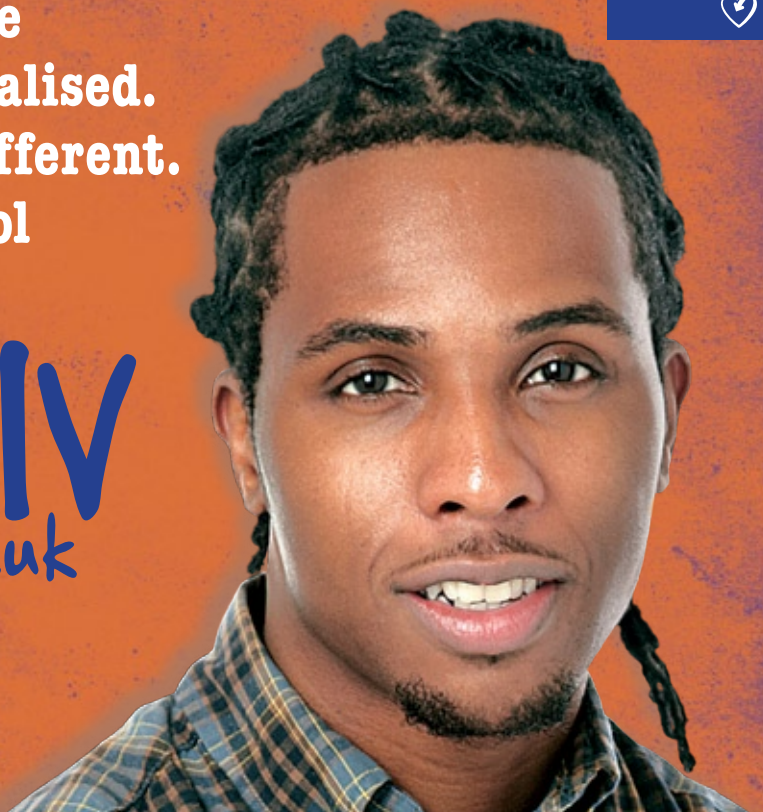
**The Gay Man's Kama Sutra**  
By Terry Sanderson  
£9.99 – Carlton Books



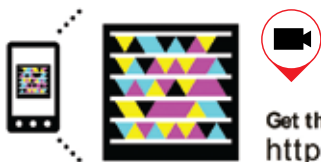
Now there's an HIV website just for me. Totally personalised. Totally private. Totally different. I can now take more control of my HIV.

myHIV.org.uk

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# LOVE, ACTUALLY?

A giant glittery card filled with sentiment, a selection of soppy love songs blasting out from the iPod docking station and a bunch of scented candles sprawled out across the top of the porn drawer; it must be that time again, it must be Valentine's Day! Twenty-four hours of unadulterated love, wrapped up with a big kiss and the guaranteed chance of some much needed bedroom athletics. Ah, perfect bliss. However on the flip-side often the truth is TWENTY-FOUR HOURS spent staring at your Hollyoaks Hunks calendar whilst screaming to the high heavens demanding to know why you are single?! Love it or hate it there are two ways to view Valentine's Day; the love-filled way that is perfect and magical and the way that many boys relate to, the way known as 'harsh reality'. Welcome to Valentine's Day, You'll learn to understand it.



## HOPED FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

### LOVE STORY:

Ah Valentine's Day, the ultimate day with which to express undying love for a superhot sexy guy. A day filled with romance, intimacy and passion that has love connections dating back to the writings of poet and author Geoffrey Chaucer.

### SAFE TEXT:

Writing intelligent, witty, yet naughty texts to tease and excite a hunk into the bedroom. Texts that are so cleverly written that they should be documented in the Official Gay Handbook Of Romantic Verses and used to teach other boys how to be cute little Cupids.

### GIVING:

Searching for the perfect gift for the best boyfriend... in the universe... ever! A search that is so intense that it involves cancelling a spray tan session and then looking high and low, long and hard, in order to make the most important man feel extra special, because he is worth every precious penny.

### EATING OUT:

Wining and dining the fella of your dreams over a romantic candlelit meal for two that includes flowers, chilled tunes and exotic aromas in a picturesque bistro. A night

that has been written on the calendar (in permanent marker) ever since the unsuspecting guy agreed to the date and is set to become the most sexy, yet intimate, event of the year.

### IN THE KNOW:

Being in love with the hottest guy in town and knowing exactly where you stand.

### BREAKING BARRIERS:

Love transcending all boundaries, including culture, language, social and religious beliefs to create the greatest love of all time between two soul mates of equal standing. The sort of love that makes all the other boys happy that you've found 'The One' at long last, whilst at the same time your happiness puts a smile on the face of even the most bitter of old queens down your local.

### MY ENDLESS LOVE:

Loving unconditionally.



## REAL VALENTINE'S DAY

### TRUE STORY:

Ah Valentine's Day, a constant reminder of a bunch of dead saints all named Valentine who were either interrogated, involved in paganism or executed; which is about as romantic as a night in reading The Da Vinci Code whilst Eastenders plays out in the background.

### TAKE A DIRTY PICTURE:

Receiving a dirty, yet crappy picture of some random guy's winkle, that was clearly intended for someone else of less discerning taste! Not only that, but a picture so disturbingly amateur that even cheap homemade porn sites wouldn't give it away for free and at times it looks less like a willy and more like a small root vegetable.

### RECEIVING:

Knowing that almost £1.3 billion a year is spent on cards, chocolates and novelty crap that could have instead been spent on iTunes vouchers, a shopping spree at Harvey Nics or downloading emo porn! Seriously, there's a lot of porn out there and £1.3 billion would certainly keep guyliner-wearing-emos gratifying for quite some time; especially with a superfast broadband connection.

### MAKING A MEAL OF IT:

Sitting with the other half in a cramped wine bar (next to the door), with a bunch of wilting Daffs in the middle of the table, whilst the greatest hits of Barbara Streisand gets stuck on repeat. Oh and there's no garlic bread or cheesy chips on the menu, no sparkling wine on chill and there's a distinct lack of mayonnaise sachets in the condiments tub.

### CONFUSED.COM:

Being in love with the hottest guy in town and convincing yourself you know exactly where you stand.

### MAKING BARRIERS:

Love transcending all boundaries, including culture, language, social and religious beliefs... until realisation has set in that you're never going to get more than a quick fumble around the back (of the pub, that is), because he's got a boyfriend who he says he loves

### HOPELESSLY DEVOTED TO YOU:

Loving unconditionally... after two bottles of wine, three shots of Cherry Sourz and a rum and Diet Coke

## BITES

## MORE THAN WORDS

Chocolates, flowers and balloons may have become the most popular ways to say "I love you" on 14th February, but when it comes to matters of the heart, there's a lot to be said for simply saying what you really mean. More Than Words can elevate your declaration of love to a typographic art form with their beautiful, fine art quality, vintage-framed canvasses and screen prints that spell out exactly how you feel. The range starts from £40

www.morethanwords.uk.com



## GREAT EXPOSURE!

The OBVIOUSLY men's underwear experience just got even better. This fantastic boxer brief has OBVIOUSLY's unique anatomical design. Instead of the standard pouch used for men's underwear,

the short has a clever pocket to secure your package separate from your body, keeping the crown jewels cool and comfortable.





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# BITES



## SLEEP STYLISHLY

Gingerlily gives the discerning gentleman a helping hand to create a statement look in the bedroom with its range of stylish, masculine bedding. From navy and grey reversible silk sheets, to the striking black Montague silk bedspread and crisp, cool silver tones of Dandy & Vienna, a well-dressed bed strikes the same note as a sharp suit.

A successful day stems from a good night's sleep. Gingerlily silk bedding is proven to encourage a rejuvenating, restful night's sleep.

[www.gingerlily.co.uk](http://www.gingerlily.co.uk)

## GUYS IN SYNC

The UK's only male formation team want to put same-sex dancing on the map

Guys in Sync are the UK's only male formation team and were put together 2 and a half years ago by Hadass Armon & Heather Gladding, a lesbian couple who run a gay and lesbian dance school in Islington. They invited members of their dance school to join the group along with other well known performers from the same-sex world of dance.

Guys in Sync want to appear on Sky's Got To Dance in order to put all male Latin dancing on the map, entertain and show the audience there are other aspects of ballroom and Latin dancing.

The group is made up of 12 very different males and the age ranges span four decades with a two of the guys in their 20's, then the others in their 30's 40's and 50's. For the members being part of the group is a great social thing to do and the rehearsals are filled with laughter and lots of camaraderie. When the joking around gets too much Hadass & Heather are there to keep them under control describing themselves as "miss whiplashes"; they comment "when we are training them they know we mean business"

**GOT TO DANCE** exclusive to Sky 1 HD and Sky 1

[www.sky.com/dance](http://www.sky.com/dance)



## MINI GAY BOYFRIEND

The first gay themed game to appear on the iPhone is available to download from the App Store now. Mini Gay Boyfriend has caught the attention of the world, selling in 22 countries in just two weeks. From Singapore to Panama, it seems gamers - gay, straight or just mini-curious - can't get enough of Mini Gay Boyfriend.

The game, which features nine separate challenges, starts by rewarding players for well-timed winks, precision hugs and perfectly placed kisses. But squeeze too tight, or give the wrong signals and things won't last.

**Mini Gay Boyfriend is available to download now for the iPhone and iPad (iOS 3.2 and above) from the App Store at a cost of just 59p.**



## LOVE POTION

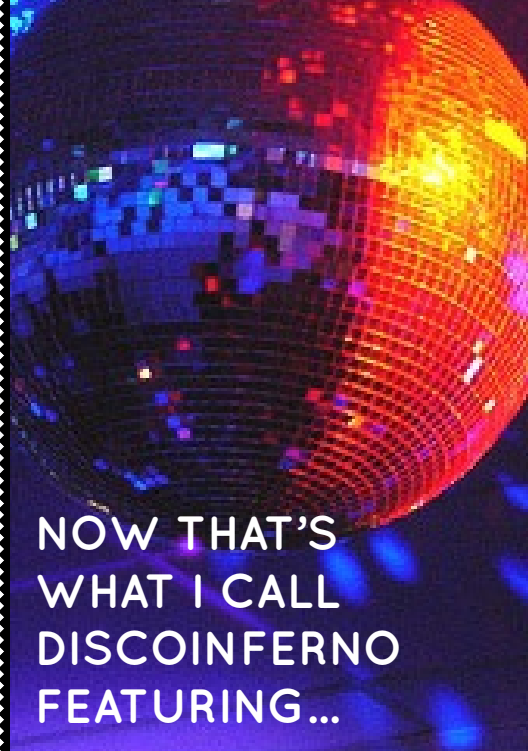
This special edition love tonic is just the thing to get hearts racing on Valentines Day for guilt free passion. Founder of Firefly Tonics Marcus Waley-Cohen admits "Love Potion is the single thing we are asked for more than any other edition". This tasty little aphrodisiac has been kept hidden for the last five years because people just got too frisky!

Love Potion is a saucy blend of Passionfruit, Blueberry and Jasmine with sensory botanicals Angelica, Chocolate and Damiana, all known for their aphrodisiac qualities.

The very limited edition range will be available from Harvey Nichols, Whole Foods, online at Holland&Barratt and other independent retailers until stocks last.



# WHATS ON MANCHESTER



## NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL DISCOINFERNO FEATURING...

**Each week Disco Inferno features a favourite artist but this month Monday nights will feature a favourite music genre.**

**Monday 7th February • The New Romantics**

These groups dominated the music scene in the early 1980's and continues to influence pop culture now. New Romantic bands such as Visage, Culture Club, Adam and the Ants, Ultravox, Duran Duran, Japan and Spandau Ballet had huge hits and tonight we take you back to the era of big hair and eye makeup - and that was just the boys!

**Monday 14th February • Valentine's Love Special**

Love is in the air tonight, whether it be love ballads or just love in the song title you can be sure of getting some serious loving from Dino.

**Monday 21st February • Soft Rock**

Featuring artists such as Queen, Bon Jovi, Whitesnake, Guns'n'Roses, 10CC, Bryan Adams, Peter Cetera & Chicago, REO Speedwagon, Toto, Foreigner, Fleetwood Mac, Starship and Journey. With shaggy dog style long perms, the 'big swing' strum of the guitar and more theatrics than your local amateur dramatic society, tonight we will take you on a trip to rock music's softer side.

**Monday 28th February • Almighty Records**

This is a record label founded in 1989, releasing their first single (Never Ending Story) in the same year. Producing mainly Hi-NRG and pop music, the label is best known for releasing covers and remixes of mainstream pop songs. Famously producing the "Queer As Folk" soundtrack, with a number of their own artistes including Abbadabra, Natalie Brown and Jackie O. We have teamed up with Almighty tonight to bring you a host of dance remixes that you just can't help but move to and also loads of giveaways from this fantastic record label.

# Experts In Pop

## Saturdays

ADMISSION

£2 B4 11.30pm  
£7 members • £8 guests  
£4 after 3am  
Free pass-out

The very best pop, dance & RnB from the Cruz residents

Almighty Donald, Rob James, Darren Leasley, Flash Tony

VS & Carlsberg bottles £1.90  
Premium doubles & postmixer £4  
Double Smimoff Vodbull £4.50

# NOW

THAT'S WHAT I CALL

## Disco Inferno

[cruz101.com/monday](http://cruz101.com/monday)



Monday 7th February

**Featured artist**

Visage, Ultravox, Adam & The Ants, Japan, Culture Club, Spandau Ballet, Duran Duran

**The 80's  
New Romantics**



Monday 14th February

**Featured artist**

Love is in the air at this Disco Inferno night for romance!

**Valentine's  
Special**



Monday 21st February

**Featured artist**

The lighter side of rock with artists such as 10CC, Bon Jovi, Bryan Adams & Fleetwood Mac

**Soft Rock**



Monday 28th February

**Featured artist**

Dance Floor Anthems from the campest record label in the business!

**Almighty Hit  
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[www.cruz101.com](http://www.cruz101.com) • Limited wheelchair access

# BEYONCE

## BEAUTY AND THE FREAKS

### REAR OF THE YEAR?

So he seemed quite clever. I knew from his pictures he'd be arrogant, and dare I say snobby. But I was up for that. I like a bit of a fight.

In all fairness I wasn't initially attracted to him, looks-wise. His pictures didn't do him justice, I guess. It was the banter I was interested in. There seemed to be a lot of that and I'm a person who likes to be kept amused.

He was selected as Rear of the Year contestant for some bar in the village last summer, but got drunk before the competition and so naturally things went tits up. Sounds like the story of my life. I thought, maybe we have something in common after all?

The first two dates went well. I'm normally a top but so was he, so I gave bottoming a try and so did he. We were horny but not filthy. We slapped each other about a bit, broke a bed, got carpet burns. Nothing terribly outrageous considering my track-record.

But then something changed. Maybe it was my honesty. I'm honest to a fault. Especially when the booze is flowing. Give me a cocktail and I'll admit to anything. Yes, I shagged your husband. Yes, I stole these sweets from a baby. Yes, I killed a man.

Maybe I should have pretended to be someone else? But the effort of being me is work enough. Being someone else as well would probably kill me.

He caught tonsillitis and cancelled our fourth date. Fair enough, I thought. You can't help illness So I went out instead for my Canadian friend's birthday. I drank absinthe. I was more wasted than Hiroshima after the bomb.

Then who should waltz into the club at 3am, wiggling the almost-but-not-quite Rear of the Year? Okay. So I flipped a little. It's been said I have a short temper. Especially when drunk. I've also variously been called demanding, hard-work, and a handful. I'm all of these things and more, I'm sure. Most gay men love a handful, though, and we all appreciate an honest day's work.

So when he flashed me his swollen, flecked tonsils, trying to prove his innocence, I slid off



# WHATS ON MANCHESTER



## FREAKSHOW

### Enough Clowning Around... We're Back For Good!

Freakshow seems to be nicely settled in their new home of Sub (below Cruz) after a couple of one off special events now under the belt the team are back each and every Saturday night to bring you the only show in town. Bringing their production, lasers and glitter to the most underground clubbing space in the gay village.

With their inimitable upfront soundtrack of chunky, fierce and tuff house from Djs

Nik Denton, Jason Guy, Gregg Holden, Lee Yeomans, Psyche, Lawrence Clark & Andy Mac For more info, photos, videos and DJ downloads go [www.clubfreakshow.com](http://www.clubfreakshow.com) or join the official Freakshow group on facebook.

**Freakshow**  
Each & Every Saturday  
11pm until 5am

@ Sub101 Princess Street, (below Cruz, please use Sub's door to the left of the Cruz101's main door).

and decided to pull some six-packed chav chicken from . . . Heywood, was it? After letting the boy bounce on me all night and all morning, I pulled myself from the sweat-sodden bedsheets and found a text from Mr Rear.

Okay. I'm sucker for the slightest whiff of an apology. I can hate you with all the anger in the world if you wrong me, but if you apologise I feel compelled to forgive. Why? Well, to be fair, anything anyone else has done, I've done worse. And I always apologise and am usually forgiven.

So fair is fair.

He asked me twice to meet up again for a drink. Explained he had been ill but was going back down south for a while and wanted to see his friends before he went. Okay, I thought. O-fucking-kay. I'll do it. No more grovelling.

So I met him. Everything seemed . . . alright. Good, even. We kissed, going just the right side of wild in the street, and I felt his cock stir. He blushed. Then he told me his room was a mess and he had an early morning. Which was probably a good idea, since I had an early morning too.

A few days later he wrote on my wall on Facebook, making a joke that I was common. At least I assumed it was a joke.

So he was still interested, right? Wrong. I guess he'd asked me back on another date because he just wanted to assuage his guilt. To end things on his terms rather than mine, most probably. Except, he never did really end anything. I never heard another word. Not a peep.

That definitely stoked my fires. Tip to guys: grow a pair of bollocks and tell me you're not interested. Even a text would do. Indeed, I prefer to be dumped by text. The city's murder rate stays down that way. But nada.

So I got over it.

I guess he didn't win anything, but he certainly was my Arse of the Year.



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# DANCE TRAX

By Jason Guy

We're already into the second month of 2011, but this year looks set to be a scorcher. Manchester's leading gay house night has now found the perfect home at Sub (below Cruz) in Manchester every Saturday (by far the most underground clubbing space in the gay village) and Federation are shortly to announce their new Manchester home. Can't wait! As usual, you can download my monthly podcast - simply search for 'Jason Guy' in iTunes or download directly from [www.jasonguy.podomatic.com](http://www.jasonguy.podomatic.com). If you'd like to see your track, club, or event featured here, contact me at [jason@bent.com](mailto:jason@bent.com).

**Yves Larock ft Trisha**  
**Milky Way (Millia Records)**

Any song that has the lyrics "I'm on a spaceship..." is going to catch my attention, as I can sometimes be a little bit of a sci-fi nerd. Swiss producer/DJ Yves Larock has delivered this thumping, driving juggernaut of a house track with vocals thrown over the top by tried, tested and now regular collaborator Trisha. Aimed directly for peak time dance floor destruction, this certainly hits the mark with its spaced-out, floating vocals and piano stabs. This deserves to be huge!



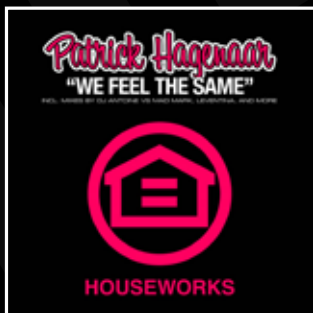
**Basto**  
**Gregory's Theme (3 Beat Blue)**

OK, this might sound a bit random, but this track was originally written as a classical homage to Hugh Laurie's TV character (Gregory) in House. Quite how it's transformed into a house track is anyone's guess, but it certainly destroys the dancefloor. This instrumental is a cross between a SupermartXe track and the type of house usually associated with the Swedish House Mafia. A great piano hook, key changes and an addictive, soaring melody. What's not to love about it!



**Patrick Hagenaar feat Jon Junior**  
**We Feel The Same (Houseworks)**

Already huge with the likes of Axwell, Freemasons, Tom Novy and Roger Sanchez, this release will hopefully get the commercial success it deserves this time round. After originally being released on on Michael Woods' imprint 'Diffused Music' and getting heavy support by the big boys, 'Houseworks' are now re-releasing 'We Feel The Same' with superb new mixes from Label honchos DJ Antoine & Mad Mark along with my favourite mix from Michael Woods. Progressive, uplifting and rocking.



**Yasmin**  
**On My Own (Ministry Of Sound)**

Having signed a record deal with Levels Entertainment and Ministry of Sound, this is Yasmin's debut single. She is undoubtedly one of most original new artists to come out of the UK for months, evoking memories of other UK music pioneers such as Massive Attack & Portishead. In reality, this is actually a hip-hop record, but if you head for the Steve Smart & Westfunk Mix you'll find this track turned into a driving piece of quality house music, with some of the catchiest vocals you'll hear for months. Definitely one to watch for 2011.



# WHATS ON LEEDS



It's getting increasingly busy at the Viaduct, Leeds as their continuing weekly stellar line-up has made some punters comment - "It's like the northern drag Palladium."

To prove their point, newcomer to Leeds but no stranger to the drag scene - the indomitable Peggy Wessex - arrives with her famous brand of off-the-cuff comedy and starts the weekend with her Friday night extravaganza featuring the Viaduct showgirls. Meanwhile, keeping the buzz going is the brilliant Scott Kelly (Backdoor Disco, Climax Sheffield) with camp, cheese and dance classics until the early hours.

There's no let up on Saturday either - as throughout the evening, Ricky Glass comperes the fantastic line-up offering his own take on... everything... including what you're wearing - be warned! Miss Carla Jackson

leads the Viaduct Showgirls, Raven Mandela and Roxy in tributes to Burlesque, Beyoncé, Tina, as well as a host of other superstars. The girls are ably supported by the Viaduct boy dancers, Guy, Christian and Matthew in their revealing little pants and gyrating smooth, toned bodies.

Sunday night sees Timmy J Wright hits the decks playing a selection of his and your favourites and keeping the crowd going until the last man standing. Every Sunday also sees a top line-up of drag queens, tribute acts or boyband wannabes leading to the Big Night Sunday (27th February) when Peggy Wessex brings her full comedy show to the Viaduct stage. On the 17th Feb make a date in your diary to have a mesmerising time as the Ingrid Adiva's Hypnosis Show hits the Viaduct. Look into my eyes not around my eyes into my eyes... and be there.



**SHOWTIME EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

**PEGGY  
WESSEX**

**RAVEN  
MANDELA**

**CARLA  
JACKSON**

**ROXXY**

**RICKY  
GLASS**

**MONDAYS**

**TUESDAYS**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**THURSDAYS**

**THURSDAY**

**17TH FEB**

**SUNDAYS**

*Kandyfloss* THE OFFICIAL PRE-HOMO PARTY

BIG BEATS, CAMP POP & DANCE 8 TILL LATE WITH TIMMY J WRIGHT  
CARLSBERG £1.50 A PINT / SHOOTERS £1 / ALL HOUSE DOUBLES £2

**CHILL OUT NIGHT**

**MOVIE NIGHT**

**MISS CARLA JACKSON DRAG DJ**

PLAYING HER OWN FAVOURITE TUNES, PAST AND PRESENT

**INGRID ADIVA'S HYPNOSIS SHOW**

EVERY SUNDAY DJ TIMMY WRIGHT & SHOWS FROM OUR  
VERY OWN MISS CARLA JACKSON, ROXXY AND GISELE

**BIG SUNDAY NIGHTS**

**APPEARING HERE**

**PEGGY WESSEX**

FULL COMEDY PERFORMANCE  
SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

**PEGGY  
WESSEX**

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**VIADUCT  
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# BITES

## RETURN OF LES TROCKS

The legendary Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo returns to the UK in 2011 with a new programme of Go for Barocco, Raymond's Wedding, a pas de deux and the company's signature piece, Swan Lake Act II.

Affectionately known as The Trocks, the company's 16 professional male dancers faithfully bring to life some of the greatest moments of classical ballet, displaying startling technique. Treading a fine line between high art and high camp, it is a fusion that celebrates both the beauty and the essential absurdity of classical ballet. The dancers perform en pointe in glittering tutus, combining a loving knowledge of dance with a wicked sense of fun.

Winners of the Critics' Circle National Dance Awards and the TMA Theatre Award, The Trocks' combination of pure comedy, extraordinary technical prowess and genuine love of ballet have made them a global phenomenon since they formed in New York in 1974.

The tour, presented by Dance Consortium, begins on Tuesday 8 March and runs until Saturday 16 April, for further information

please visit [www.danceconsortium.com](http://www.danceconsortium.com)

## TROY BOY

The Merry Opera Company brings lashings of sunshine this month to Highgate with its fresh and lively production of Troy Boy, Kit Hesketh Harvey's translation of Offenbach's La Belle Helene. It will then be touring Southern England until the end of the year.

The action has been transported to suburban England where the beautiful Helen's well and truly fed up with her very boring husband. So a trip to the local Greek restaurant and an encounter with the handsome waiter from Troy can only lead to trouble! In the blink of an eye they find themselves in Faliraki, and the rest, as they say, is history!

Director Kit Hesketh-Harvey, who is largely known for his work with Kit & The Widow and regular panel appearances on Radio 4's Just A Minute, has been adapting, writing and translating since 1988.

Upstairs at the Gatehouse: Highgate Village, London N6 4BD

Dates: 9th February to 5th March  
[www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com)



## SEE FOR FREE BEFORE YOU TRY

GayXchange, one of the UK's biggest gay chat companies announces its newest version of its iPhone application, since the launch over ten thousand gay guys have joined the service.

The new features include a first for gay iPhone apps, with FREE and simple to use opportunities to upload video and audio profiles, allowing the full use of the iPhone's multimedia capacity, and letting you see and hear the hot guys near you!

if you want to search further afield, the new unique 'expanding' map makes contacting guys in other towns that much easier.

Download the new app from the Apple iTunes store and see how easy it is to hook up with even more hunks than before.

The new self-searching GPS map allows you to choose from those users closest to you! Alternatively,

[www.gayxchange.co.uk](http://www.gayxchange.co.uk)



## WIN THIS!

Turn to page 62 for details

## CYBER SLICK

STORM's range of men's watches covers the complete style spectrum from individual pieces that often feature gadgets and other unique attributes, to very trendy and fashionable watches for style savvy modern men.

For a watch that is out of this world, STORM present the Saturn, a Special Edition timepiece with universal appeal. The Saturn provides a timeless masculine shape with 3 time zones and a date function. The face features a space-age design, reminiscent of orbiting planets, to keep you light years ahead in the style-stakes. Let STORM boldly take you into new fashion realms with the Saturn.

£129.99: In Black, Silver and Brown

[www.stormwatches.com](http://www.stormwatches.com)

To be in with a chance of winning this fabulous STORM watch just answer this simple question:  
What number is the planet Saturn in the solar system?







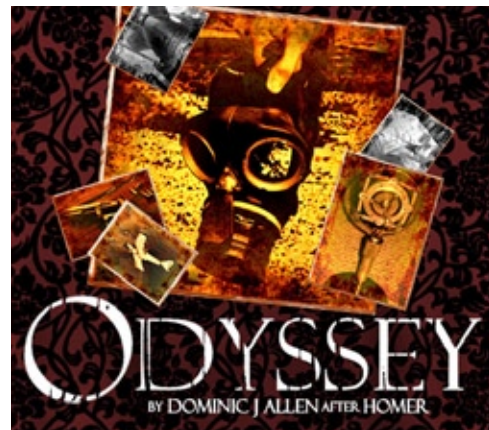
## MILLION DOLLAR

Inspired by the actual event, that took place on 4 December 1956 at Sun Records in Memphis, this ecstatic and engaging musical is a story of fame, friendship, discovery, divided loyalties, professional jealousy and incredible music as four of the music industry's most extraordinary talents, all in their creative prime, made music together for the first and only time in their careers.

This new West End musical, features over 20 classic hits including: Blue Suede Shoes, I Walk The Line, Fever, Great Balls of Fire, Hound Dog, Folsom Prison Blues and Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On, tells the electrifying story of the night in 1956 when Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis came together to make music and ended up making history.

**NOEL COWARD THEATRE - 85-88 St Martins Lane, London, Greater London**

**Opens: 28th February.**



## A UNIQUE THEATRICAL ODYSSEY

Journey backstage in The Lowry alongside a homeward-bound traveller as he seeks sanctuary from a post-apocalyptic nightmare in this haunting adventure. A legend of monstrous proportion explodes: fast, furious and inches away from the audience's eyes – this is storytelling in swift, breath-taking and exhausting form. Odyssey is a thrilling and original site-specific production that tests the boundaries of human persistence.

**The Lowry - 1st – 12th February**

**Pier 8, Salford Quays, M50 3AZ**

**Box Office: 0843 208 6000**

## BY JEEVES

Based on the stories of Bertie Wooster and his butler Jeeves by P.G. Wodehouse, the new tap-inspired show features 13 delightful songs composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber with lyrics by Alan Ayckbourn. It is as refreshingly English as a gin and tonic! When Bertie Wooster's banjo mysteriously disappears just as he is about to give a concert in a church hall, his quick-witted and unflappable manservant Jeeves suggests that he entertain his audience by relating the hapless romantic misadventures of his circle of high-society London cronies.

**Landor Theatre -70 Landor Road, London  
From 1st February**

**Box Office: 020 7737 7276**

**www.landortheatre.co.uk**



Now there's an HIV website just for me. Totally personalised. Totally private. Totally different. I can now take more control of my HIV.

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# ALBUMS

By Adam Lowe



**DROP THE LIME**  
**Enter the Night**  
28th February

Enter the Night is the debut solo album from Manhattan's homegrown, grassroots club king Drop the Lime. Visually, Drop the Lime looks as if he's stepped straight from the 1950s, a style which seeps through into his finely-wrought dance music. But he also takes as his inspiration UK sounds such as drum and base, two-step garage and grime, with a twist of Berlin house and techno. The result is a shuddering, smoky serpent of gang culture, late night youth and rebellious, hammering bass. Rockabilly and bass dominate, with Drop the Lime's trademark vocal growl, but instrumentals contrast nicely to reveal a breadth of experience.



**NEON TREES**  
**Habits**  
21st February

Neon Trees are a hot new rock band from Stateside. Debut single 'Animal' is still holding strong in the charts after a million sales. Eighties pop here collides with stadium-sized indie rock choruses. Punk and electro provide the backbone, but Neon Trees flesh it out with proper anthem energy. Somewhere between The Killers and Duran Duran, with lashings of U2 power and Bruce Springsteen charm, Neon Trees make their mark.



**PJ HARVEY**  
**Let England Shake**  
14th February

Let England Shake is PJ Harvey's eighth studio album, recorded in a Dorset church, on a cliff-top overlooking the sea. Lyrically there is a fascination with war, with conflict and tragedy, but without protest and always a return to the lives and landscapes of those affected. Musically there is a sense of magic firmly rooted in a British aesthetic, perhaps informed by Harvey's choice of recoding location (or vice versa). The melodies arrange vernacular riffs from across the ages, with a unique poetry tied to the vast history of these wet little isles.



**COSMIC GATE**  
**Back 2 the Future**  
7th February

Back 2 the Future is a retrospective remix of the tracks that shaped Cosmic Gate's own musical adventures. Examples include a to-the-minute trance overhaul of 'Exploration of Space' and an atmospheric, progressive retake of 'Fire Wire'. There is a wide-ranging and hypnotic selection of remix techniques on offer here, so whatever your poison, there's bound to be plenty to sate your dance music appetite.

# MUSIC COMPETITION



## THE ART OF THE 12"

From the original house of 12" excess, Zang Tuum Tumb, Trevor Horn and his Robot Orchestra present 150 minutes of rarities, vanities and mysteries.

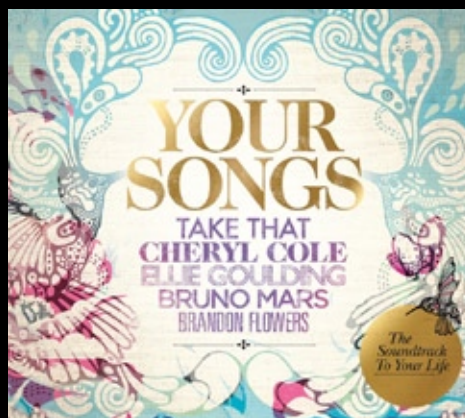
A year in the making, a celebration of the extended remix, for the footsteps and heartbeats of the connoisseur. Featuring the work of Propaganda, Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Art of Noise, Nasty Rox Inc., Act, Instinct, 808 State, MC Tunes, Glenn Gregory (Heaven 17), Andrew Poppy, Anne Pigalle, Art & Act and (Iomax-). This 2CD set is also peppered with a host of mini, hidden tracks. Because a remix doesn't necessarily always have to be

an extended remix. Where there's high technology, there can be nanotechnology. Like the extract from a previously unreleased piano interpretation of Act's Laughter, just to give us pause for breath amidst the selection of GIANT opening tracks.

£9.99 – ZTT Records

**To be in with a chance to win a copy of this fantastic CD just answer this simple question:**

Trevor Horn was a former member of which band – A. Buggles, B. Kajagoogoo, C. Ace



## YOUR SONGS

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listening in your bedroom or preparing for those Valentine's dates... tuck into Your Songs because they really are Your Songs!

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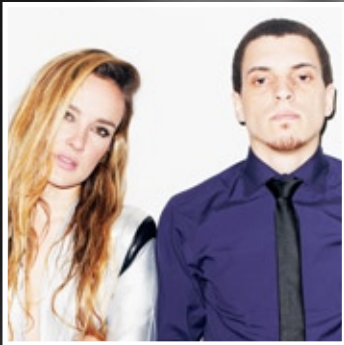
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# SINGLES

By Adam Lowe



**BREAKAGE FT. JESS MILLS**  
**Fighting Fire**  
28th February

Breakage's remixes and solo material have appeared in Zane Lowe's Hottest Records in the World List no less than five times in the last year, firmly establishing him as a new talent worth rooting for. Indeed, Zane played his remix of Clare Macguire's 'Ain't Nobody' three times in a row. This is an eclectic fusion of trance, progressive and dub step, wound tightly around the cinematic vocals of Jess Mills. The result is a punchy, club-friendly track best played at full volume.



**HADOUKEN**  
**Oxygen**  
6th Feb

It might be fair to say that Hadouken were a bit of a sensation at a number of festivals last year and I suspect that this lively and quirky piece of dance/rock will be jumped on by their fans for a bit of rhythmic headbanging. Folk may think they are from a new band from the darker reaches of Europe... well if you regard Leeds as that... then I guess you are correct! Always nice to see some originality... and this lot have it in spades.



**MAINI**  
**Let Me Do Your Time**  
28th February

Swedish electro dance artist Maini releases her new track in the UK this February. This tasty slice of Euro pop tastes of holidays and summer, and is the perfect way to get over those winter blues. Her crystalline voice glitters through the lyrics penned by poet Gary Cornman, with musical arrangements by pop-rock-dance producer Piyasiri. This sincere and inspired single is a perfect pop tune.



**RUBY GOE FT. POET NAME LIFE**  
**Beat Breaking Boy**  
7th February

Ruby Goe delivers a zesty slice of hip-pop, fusing urban sounds with a pop aesthetic. The track is written by DJ Ammo and DJ Poet, who between them have written Kelis' '4th July' and the Black Eyed Peas' 'Boom Boom Pow'. If that doesn't give you enough of an idea about how rockin' this track is, she also did backing vocals on Angie Stone's epic 'I Wish I Didn't Miss You'. Ruby goes for miles and then some. Check it.



**TALAY RILEY**  
**Sergeant Smash**  
Out Now

Talay Riley wrote Chipmunk's 'Oopsy Daisy' and last year topped the Radio 1 in New Music We Trust list four weeks upfront. He's now working with the producer behind Gaga's 'Telephone', a member of the legendary Darkchild, H-Money. Talay, then, is the sum total of the world's urban cream of the crop. 'Sergeant Smash' is fun, saucy and smooth, with an unforgettable chorus and a blend of the best in pop and urban beats.

# WHATS ON LEEDS



**Leeds' biggest gay student night, Homo @ Mission 2, has just unveiled a brand new DJing line up to coincide with the launch of its new House room, The Test Lounge. Resident mix masters, Chris B and Mark Park, will be joined by Miss B on the decks every week.**

Miss B is a Speed Queen veteran and has played at massive gigs including the world famous Glastonbury, so promises to bring some top quality sets to the city's gay scene. Every Monday she will be bringing her own special brand of vocal house to The Test Lounge, which is already proving extremely popular with the Leeds' clubbing crowd.

Those who still want to hear their favourite bubblegum pop, chart and retro will be able to catch it in the main dance room but now there is a new sound for regulars to enjoy. "The Test Lounge is perfect if you want those harder beats," says Miss B. "We launched the room in December and it's been rammed every week. It's set to get bigger and better within the next few months so make sure you're there every week to enjoy it."

Despite the changes, Homo will still be offering the same great value with all drinks at just £1.50 and entry costs at £3 before midnight. For more details, check out: [www.clubmission.com](http://www.clubmission.com)



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# KYLIE MINOGUE

## BACK ON TOUR

Back in 2002, Kylie Minogue embarked upon her KylieFever world tour– it was her 5th world tour and her biggest to date – breaking box office records everywhere, getting rave reviews and setting a new standard for pop concerts throughout the world. That impressive show was followed by Showgirl in 2005, Homecoming in 2006/7 and most recently by KylieX2008.

Unbelievably each tour has been bigger and more spectacular than the preceding! Now, in 2011, she's on the road again with a brand new world tour. Aphrodite-Les Folies Tour 2011 promises to break all previous records – the show is grander than anything you've seen to date! This incredible show was created by Kylie and William Baker, her long-time creative collaborator.

Rehearsals started in locations throughout the world before Christmas – Kylie is currently rehearsing with her new band in London; the dancers and aerialists are being put through their paces by not one but three top choreographers in Los Angeles; the tech crew are putting together the props and staging on the East coast in Pennsylvania and Montreal whilst the video team are furiously at work back in the UK. Phew!

The bespoke stage for the European leg of the tour (including UK) is the most technically advanced, complex and precision stage ever created for an arena. It features over a million moving parts, including 30 high impact water jets, rain curtains and fountains! The stage, alone costing over \$10million, was built by Tait Towers, the largest staging company in the world, responsible for building stages for the Rolling Stones, U2, Madonna, The Wall etc. etc.

Kylie said: "Rehearsals are well underway and the show is shaping up to be more than I could have wished for. All departments are doing a stellar job and the combined level of expertise is nothing short of mind blowing. My friends, Dolce & Gabbana have designed an amazing wardrobe for me. I'm overwhelmed with the love and talent that is going into this tour and I can't wait for my fans to be part of it!"

As anyone who attended any of the previous tours can attest – a Kylie show is not to be missed. Much more than a concert – a Kylie show is indeed a spectacular!

[www.kylie.com](http://www.kylie.com)



photos: William Baker

# BITES

## GAY BOXING SHOW

It's taken a while in finally organising but the first gay fight/club night is about to take place in London. The famous white collar boxing matches, where businessmen take on other businessmen in the boxing ring, has now got more than a slight pink tinge.

Club promoters, music moguls, porn stars and drag queens of all they survey are getting together to promote a night of boxing and music.

The team knew this would be something new and fresh so, the 1st ever Gay Boxing Show has now been booked and will happen on the 15th April at London's 'Scala' in Kings Cross.

With 'Love Child' running the official after party back to back with the boxing, 'Lovechild' DJ's and Dancers will take over the boxing ring. The 1st Fight is at 8.30pm

You will be entertained in between rounds with the finest models parading the ring with the round cards. Expect to see Johnny Anglairs, drag queen action from gorgeous Jessica Juicy and a few more to be listed.

[www.pinkcollarboxing.com](http://www.pinkcollarboxing.com)



## MR GAY WORLD

The Mr Gay World competition is under the spotlight because of a South African bid to hold the event in 2012. With all the anti-gay abuse and legislation from some of the most repressive regimes on that particular continent who seem overly keen to align themselves with the conservative right, it would prove a very controversial decision should it happen.

In an article in the Guardian it was pointed out that the current Mr Gay World is South African Charl van den Berg (pictured) and it is his success that has spear-headed the submission. Coenie Kukkuk, a Pretoria lawyer who is the director of South Africa's bid to host Mr Gay World 2012, said: "The event is not a modelling competition. Charl is a gay role model who gives courage to gays all over Africa and shows them their lives are about more than repression, torture, HIV and prison sentences. That message will be enhanced if we can elect the 2012 Mr Gay World on African soil, where the vast majority of governments are anti-gay and are currently hardening their repressive laws."

This year the Philippines are hosting the Mr Gay World competition and online voting starts on 14th February and after the final South Africa will find out if its bid was successful.

[www.mrgayworld.org](http://www.mrgayworld.org)



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# BENT ON CHER

By Alex Wiggan



**She's a style icon, an award winner, a trendsetter unafraid of wearing anything (or almost nothing) and she's had a string of hits longer than a pension day queue at the post office. She's no stranger to the flamboyant side of life, she knows what it's like not to fit in and her outlandish attire has caused many an eyebrow to raise and then drop off. No it's not the muffin bluffin' expert Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta aka Lady Gaga that gets a boy weak at the knees, the gal who gets gents trembling at the tibia is actually original dark lady Cherilyn Sarkisian/LaPierre/Bono/Allman, aka Cher.**

With just one name (legally changed in 1975) glamour-pop icon Cher has been belting out hits across the decades for so long now she's practically a pub jukebox. Famed for her daring

**“Ever since she stepped out of the shadows in the 1960s Cher has been the ultimate showstopper”**

and imaginative costume choices, Cher has transcended the boundaries of time, held back the onset of wrinkles and has done so with more decorative wigs than a fancy dress shop. She's the only female artist to have had a top ten hit in five consecutive decades from the 1960s onwards and she's been hitting headlines long before Lady G started strapping pork chops to her breasts in the name of fashion. If you want the sassiest showgirl, the brassiest babe and the most outspoken, most dynamic, most expressive star of them all, then Cher's the gal pal for you.

Ever since she stepped out of the shadows in the 1960s Cher has been the ultimate showstopper and over a career spanning forty-five years she's sold over 100 million records and weaved her way in and out of each era with more glitz and glamour than a drag queen's tiara. In the 60s she was a hippie, in the 70s a disco chick, 80s a rock rebel and in the 90s and beyond a pop princess. Along the way she's been married, divorced, married again and divorced again and has had a number of failed high-profile romances that have been echoed throughout some of her biggest hits. Some romances may have knocked her, others may have caused much heartache, but she's always remained strong by slipping on a fresh wig and taking to the stage ready for her next number. It's this gutsy attitude that has kept her ever the constant professional and made her one of the most dedicated divas of them all. Her farewell tour (don't worry she's still around) lasted for three years, which in gay years is practically a lifetime and her star status has seen her command the screen in films such as *Mask* (1985), *The Witches of Eastwick* (1987)

and *Mermaids* (1990). In *Mermaids* she even got it on with the ultimate bear, Bob Hoskins, which is nice work if you like 'em short and hairy! In her latest film *Burlesque* - she's

still showing more than is decent as she passes on her performing knowledge to the 'innocent' Christina Aguilera. She's also no stranger to the homosexual cause (her daughter Chastity came out as a lesbian at the age of 17) and she's been very vocal about the hardships us homos face. Of course this has given her countless gay points on the official Gay-O-Meter which has only increased over time thanks to her loveable self-deprecating humour and that fishnet ensemble she wore whilst straddling a cannon during the 'If I Could Turn Back Time' video. With more netting than the deck of an ocean trawler Cher not only rocked out in an outfit that looked like it consisted of two strips of electrical tape, she also gave drag queens the world over endless inspiration.

Without Cher there would have been no Rusty Dennis, no Loretta Castorini and no Alexandra Medford. There would have been no 'Half Breed', no 'Take Me Home' and no 'One By One'. Meat Loaf would have had to sing 'Dead Ringer For Love' solo, Jack from *Will & Grace* would have had no one to obsess over other than himself and Bob Mackee would have had countless dresses clogging up his rail. There would have also been no Cher fitness videos, no tattooed ass, no long running TV show with Sonny Bono and twenty-three countries would have been robbed of having 'Believe' as a number one song in their charts. Cher is like the big sister you always wanted and the fag hag that you just can't stand to be without, all wrapped up in high heels and a leather jacket. She's iconic, she's practically immortal and whenever she's near we're in ecstasy. Stars may come and go nowadays, with most abandoning their careers for quick distractions, but Cher was built to last and so for her as long as there's music playing the beat goes on.

## CHER & CHER ALIKE:

\* Cher kicked off her career as a backup singer, before releasing her first solo recording 'Ringo, I Love You' in 1964. It bombed. However being the ultimate professional Cher soon got over it and in 1965 she became an overnight sensation with Sonny Bono when the pair released 'I Got You Babe'. She was just 19 years old.

\* As well as sharing a musical career with husband Sonny, the musical duo also appeared together on TV programme *The Sonny & Cher Comedy Hour*. During the third season their marriage hit the rocks and they were divorced in 1975. Three days after the divorce was finalised, Cher married rock musician Gregg Allman, but then reunited with former husband Sonny for two more seasons of their show.

\* Whilst appearing on stage alongside Sonny, Cher disguised her nerves by directing putdowns at her husband. It worked and she soon became known for her sardonic humour.

\* Talk about having the ex-factor, as well as marrying Sonny Bono and Gregg Allman, Cher dated Warren Beatty, had a fling with Elvis and was romantically linked to Tom Cruise, Val Kilmer and Gene Simmons!

\* At the age of 17 Cher's daughter Chastity Bono came out as a lesbian and then in 2009 Chastity announced that she was a transgender individual called Chaz. In 2010 Chaz's transition to becoming male was made legal.

\* Cher is dyslexic and presumably wonders (just like everybody else) why the condition is so damn difficult to spell!



# BITES



Photo: Sony

## SPIDER-HUNK

For those unlucky enough not to have yet seen the pre-publicity pics from the latest Spider-man epic, new boy in tights, British actor Andrew Garfield, seems to have filled that spidery suit to perfection. Bye-bye Tobey and a big welcome to the guy who once referred to acting as like; "... just being a

whore - a prostitute for hire, which I guess is the most crass but maybe the most honest way to describe it." We're having a whip round in the office to see if we can afford him but meanwhile, the new movie from Sony is scheduled for summer 2012 release.... which seems way too far away.



## TORCHWOOD

The plot of Miracle Day is the most explosive Torchwood storyline yet. One day, nobody dies. All across the world, nobody dies. And then the next day, and the next, and the next, people keep aging -- they get hurt and sick -- but they never die. The result: a population boom, overnight. With all the extra people, resources are finite. It's said that in four months' time, the human race will cease to be viable. But this can't be a natural event - someone's got to be behind it. ER and Lie To Me star Mekhi Phifer will play Rex Matheson, a C.I.A. operative who joins forces with Captain Jack

and Gwen Cooper to fight a global conspiracy that reaches from Washington to Wales and the slums of Shanghai whilst Bill Pullman, best known for his big screen roles such as While You Were Sleeping and Independence Day will take on the role of Oswald Danes, a convicted child killer who survives his own execution to become the most infamous man on the planet.

This highly anticipated new series is set for July transmission.



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# CORRIE! FAVOUR



Jonathan Harvey, who is probably best known to gay theatre goers as the man responsible for the play *Beautiful Thing*, which was also made into a successful film, takes the writing reins for a new comedy play called *Corrie!* He's written over 100 episodes of *Coronation Street* so, when asked by the show's producers if he fancied the idea of writing something for the 50th Anniversary of the show, he jumped at the chance. When it was first produced at the Lowry - *Corrie!* was a huge success with audiences and critics alike and *Coronation Street*'s creator Tony Warren described the play as "an insider's affectionate romp through 50 dramatic years."

## How did you feel when you were first asked to write for *Coronation Street*?

I felt very excited. I'd been asked twice before but I'd always had something else on, a play or some TV like *Gimme, Gimme, Gimme*, so when they asked a third time I thought, they might not ask me again, so I agreed. When I started they were just doing the story about Todd coming out, so to join the show at a time that I personally found very exciting was great.

## Did they want a more 'gay' angle on that storyline?

No, no, it was already up and running and I just fortuitously arrived just as it was happening so, my first line was: "Sarah... I'm gay." So, no I wasn't brought in for a gay angle... and besides... there are enough bloody gays on the team they don't need me. (Laughs) It's the campest show in the world.

## You're obviously a fan of the show so who are or were your favourite characters?

My most favourite would be Blanche Hunt... Deidre's mum... I always enjoyed writing for her.

## When did you come up with the idea for a *Corrie* stage show?

I didn't come up with the idea... it was invented by ITV and Phil McIntyre the producer as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations. They asked all the writers on the programme if anyone was interested in doing it... I said I was and ended up getting the gig. So I can't lay claim to having engineered the whole thing.

## Isn't there just too much storyline over the 50 years to condense to just two hours?

There certainly is. I asked to see a list of the top 5 storylines from each year of the 50 years and reading that I saw the same names kept cropping up - which were Ken Barlow, Deidre and Gail Platt, so I thought they should be my main characters. I thought if I tell their stories and then pepper it with minor character who were major on the show, like Hilda Ogden, who was fantastic but never had a page-turning storyline, it was a matter of including their comedic scenes into the drama.

## Now the stage show has a very small cast...

Yes... there are five or six actors and there's about 80 parts... they are not from the TV programme but we will be having several different *Coronation Street* 'familiar faces' throughout the tour playing the Narrator.

## You have a great reputation for writing one of the most 'gay' plays ever - '*Beautiful Thing*', how do you feel now that it has become something of a classic and is performed all over the world?

I feel really proud. It's like having a child who's done well. I never thought in a million years, as I sat on my bed and wrote it, that it would still be performed all over the place 18 years later. It's an absolute joy that it has done so well.

## What was the reaction when it first came out?

Well, to begin the response was very, very lukewarm and the reviews were very mixed but just good enough for us to get a tour. Then the reviews were about 70% good and 30% crap but once we came into London, things changed and they were universally good. Some reviews have said it was a rose-tinted view of the world but, yer, I've had some letters from young gay people over the years... and still do via facebook... telling me how it has helped them come out... so that's nice.

## *Boom Bang-a-Bang* wasn't perhaps the stage hit it should have been (although we loved it) are you still a fan of Eurovision or are you now more of an X-Factor type of guy?

I like the X-Factor but I'm still a massive Eurovision fan. For my 40th birthday my friends and family clubbed together to send me to Moscow... so I went and saw the Eurovision Song Contest... so yes... I'm still a fan.

## Was it as good live as you hoped it would be?

It was brilliant... one of the best nights of my life... amazing... I cried when it started.

## Other than *Corrie!* What else new can we expect from you?

I've written another play called *Canary*, which is about history of gay people in Britain in the last 50 years, and the BBC have taken that up and might be making it into a drama series. Also, I've just got a book deal with a publisher for my first novel so, I'm keeping myself out of trouble but nothing, other than my *Coronation Street* writing, is definite.

*Corrie!* launches in Cambridge on the 10th Feb but then goes on a nationwide tour

For further info: [www.corrietheplay.com](http://www.corrietheplay.com)



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# BREAKING DOWN TO BE BROKEN IN!

They always say that brand new cars are best and that you should never rely on old ones!

Well, I've recently discovered that old cars can have their advantages – and in the most unexpected of ways! After all, they have breakdowns – and, as I found out last week, what looks like a big minus can quickly develop into a great opportunity!

## “He used and abused me - then complained afterwards!”

As you all know, I'm really in to cars. They're strong, big, full of power – and, like boys, they're even better if they're young and fresh! Unfortunately, the disadvantage of new cars is that they always seem to be at the garage being serviced whenever you need them – which helps explain why I was recently driving the old car that belongs to my neighbor rather than my own vehicle. As a result, I broke down right in the middle of “nowheresville”.

With the next village about 20kms away and with another 100kms to go before I reached my destination (Prague), I phoned the rescue service – courtesy of a sticker with all the helplines on it that was posted next to the steering wheel. Seems like this wasn't the first time the damn car had broken down!

I had to wait for about an hour for the service van to show, and when it did it didn't exactly fill me with hope. The van itself was arguably ten years older than the broken heap I was driving, whilst the mechanic was a fresh-faced, 20-year-old twink!

It was obvious from his questions that this guy didn't have a clue how to repair engines: Have you checked the fuel? Do you know what's wrong? Why, even my grandmother has more knowledge about the workings of the automobile than he did! As a result, all we could do was pick up the car and tow it back to Prague.

During the course of the drive I asked him why he didn't have any knowledge about cars – after all, it's a pretty vital aspect of being a car-mechanic! – and he explained that he'd jumped in for his brother, who was too busy with his girlfriend. He told me that he wasn't the slightest bit interested in technical stuff at all, and was just happy to take the opportunity to leave the flat he lived in because he couldn't stand the screaming of his brother's girlfriend whilst his brother fucked her.

I hate girls, he added – which was the very moment that my gay radar switched on!

He was about 20, slim and sporty-looking, with long brown hair and a bright smile of white teeth. Taking off his jacket I recognized a light air of eau de cologne; whilst his fingernails were clearly manicured and had no dirt in them at all – unheard of in a mechanic!

Time to make a move, I thought, as I explained that I was gay and am a gay porn actor – but that I was also totally interested in machines and cars. It was a comment that clearly got his attention, as he began to ask lots of questions about making porn movies, what it was like to fuck cute twinks on a set, and how big my knob is. It was obvious at this point that he was also gay, which only left the

question as to how I was going to shag him. After all, one glance at him told me that he was not the sort who would take kindly to just being told to shut up and open his ass so that I could fuck him!

This guy has a really big surprise for me, though. Just a few minutes before we reached Prague he pulled into a quiet parking lot, turned to me and said: “Let's do it now. This is the last quiet spot before we get into the city”. Believe me, he didn't need to make the suggestion twice!

What quickly became apparent was that this guy was a bit of a dab hand when it came to sex, with everything prepared in the back of his truck ready for the next fuck. There were blankets, towels, condoms, lube ... even a pillow. Why, it looked as if I'd suddenly been dropped into some sort of sex dungeon! Still, I wasn't going to complain.

This fellow was no beginner, that's for sure – in fact, he was a veritable sex machine. Wow! He even managed to teach me a few tricks that I'd never heard about before – and which I won't be forgetting in a hurry. What's more, the bitch had the nerve to tell me that he expected more from a porn star! He used and abused me – then complained afterwards! Still, there's no denying the fact that I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Needless to say, all this has made me think that it might be a good idea to start driving older cars instead of buying brand new ones, and that I should consider joining a car rescue service. After all, you never know when – or for what – you might need it.

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# FLIP FOR CHIP

## RANDY BLUE'S NEWEST STAR IS CHIP TANNER

By Trevor Blackenship

**When Chip Tanner first appeared on Randy Blue, no one expected he would cause such a stir. Sure, he has an adorable face, winning smile, and a body honed to tight muscular perfection from his years as a gymnast, but so do many of the Randy Blue boys. It was two things in particular about Chip Tanner that caught the attention of porn fans. His foreskin – deliciously odd for an All-American boy – and his declaration that he is 'mostly straight' while admitting to a curiosity for bottoming.**

We've heard it before, especially from the younger generation of guys who tend towards a more fluid view on sexuality than older gents. But Chip Tanner wasted no time fulfilling his curiosity, flexing his toes way into the air and throwing them over his head for Justin Blakely. Now that he's done the deed, has Chip Tanner's mind changed about what team he plays for? Is the gymnast stud stretching the truth or is he simply flexing his right to remain unlabeled?

### How did a seemingly innocent young guy like yourself find your way into porn?

I had a very sexually repressive childhood, yet I was always really horny. First I got into stripping as a way to break free from my repression. Soon enough, Howard Andrew found me on Youtube and got me with Randy Blue. Of course the money is great, but I wouldn't do it if it wasn't something I believe in. I'm all for sexual freedom as long as it's consensual.

### You said in your first Randy Blue film that you were straight. Is that your story and are you sticking to it?

Sexuality is so complex and complicated; I have a hard time putting a label on myself. It's not always so black and white as to simply say "straight, gay, or bi". I definitely have a preference for females, but I guess I'd call myself try-sexual at this point, because I like to experiment.

### Have you always been an exhibitionist?

Yeah, pretty much. I like attention so I can be an exhibitionist in both sexual and nonsexual ways.

### Was your film with Justin Blakely the first time you ever bottomed with a guy?

No, before that I bottomed with Chad Hollon and I did a flip-flop with Nicco Sky and Porter Wescott.

### In your first film, you expressed an interest in trying it. So was bottoming everything you thought it would be?

I had played with anal toys before

bottoming, so I had an idea of what it'd be like. I suppose it was pretty much how I imagined, a bit faster and rougher than how I play with my toys. (laughs)

### Would you ever do it again?

Oh yeah, I already shot two more bottoming scenes, one with Andrew Stark and one with Jarrett Rex. They should be on Randy Blue soon.

### Where did you grow up?

I spent most of my life in Fresno, California.

### Can you tell us any fun stories that may have hinted at a future career in porn?

I remember when I was 11 years old, I was masturbating and I put my wiener in a vacuum hose because I thought the sucking would feel good. I was right, it was totally awesome!

### You're not cut, which is unusual for an all American boy.

My parents simply thought it was a cruel and unnecessary procedure. I agree with them on that and am glad they left me intact. When I was born, circumcision was the norm in America, but these days it's actually becoming the norm for parents to leave their sons intact.

### A lot of uncut guys say that growing up, they were embarrassed of their foreskin.

I made a whole video on the topic and put it on Youtube. Basically, I was clueless about circumcision until I got to 8th grade. When people found out I had foreskin, some made fun of me, which confused me, so I did some research. With my newfound information, I had confidence and I told people that foreskin is natural and fun and there's nothing wrong with it. Most people actually listened to me and were really cool about it after that. So in the long run, having foreskin has been largely a positive thing for me.

### How long have you been training as a gymnast?

I got into gymnastics training when I was 16, so it's been seven years now.

### Do you have dreams of competing on a national level?

I'm largely self-trained and have no plans to do it competitively. It's basically just a hobby for me.

### What was your best apparatus event?

Everything I do is on the floor. I don't train conventional gymnastics. I basically train whatever I think looks cool which includes some elements from gymnastics, some from martial arts, and even some from breakdancing. Gymnasts have very flexible bodies but they rarely have flexible minds. They limit themselves to specific skills done in specific ways. I don't like to put myself in a box, I prefer more freedom of expression.

### You could have signed with any studio. Why RandyBlue?

When I was first offered to do porn, I didn't know much about the different companies other than that Randy Blue was one of the top paying, so that's originally why I went with them. Now that I've been working with them for about a year, I'm very satisfied with my choice. Not only do I get paid well, but the whole staff team is very professional and very cool, and I'm given a lot of freedom in my personal life. Many companies put restrictions on their models. Plus, I've met and have become good friends with some of the Randy Blue boys, so it's been great!

### Is there anything that you won't do on film?

Well, if love really knows no boundaries, then I guess I'll do anything!

### Would you date a porn star?

I don't discriminate, I just masturbate... in other words, sure, I'd date anyone I like, I don't care what they do for a living or what social class they belong to.

### If you were someone else, would you date you?

I've got a better question: If I could clone myself, would I date me? The answer is like totally! I've got a unique personality and a hot body, so why not? Plus the incest thing would be a sexy bonus.

### Besides a body of steel, what do you offer?

A body of rubber as well. In other words, I'm very flexible, oh la la! I've also got a quirky personality which I guess you either love or... well, you'll hopefully tolerate.

### Did you ever fool around with another gymnast on the pommel horse?

If by "pommel horse" you actually mean a thoroughbred horse and by "fool around with" you're specifically referring to a threesome, then hell the fuck ya I have! ...I should also mention I have a nutty sense of humor.

### What do you look for in a partner?

Anyone that's hot and horny! Besides from that, I guess I like someone that's into athletics like me and they'd definitely have to have a nonjudgmental personality if they're going to hang around me for any significant period of time.

### What would fans be surprised to learn about you?

I can jerk myself off using my feet. I guess that's not too surprising coming from me.

To see more of Chip Tanner, visit [RandyBlue.com](http://RandyBlue.com).







**“I wouldn’t do it if it wasn’t something I believe in. I’m all for sexual freedom as long as its consensual.”**

# NORTH KOREA

TERRY GEORGE TELLIN' STORIES



The travel bug got to me again recently and I found myself on a plane to China. It's one of those places that I really wanted to visit; see the Great Wall, take a look at that Bird's Nest stadium that served as the focal point of the last Olympic Games and to stand in Tiananmen Square where back in 1989 possibly the most iconic protest was ever staged. Then, a lone protester carrying his shopping stood in front of advancing tanks and stopped their progress. That image has never left me, or the results of that action, which made China a very scary and oppressive place to live but, as an outsider, I still wanted to see the spot where this unbelievably selfless act took place. However, these days things in China are changing little by little, opening up and letting foreigners and locals mix, exchanging thoughts and ideas... but only to a certain extent.

I've recently visited Cuba and was impressed by the people, who had nothing but still had an unbelievably Latin spirit of making the most of things...even if the county's leaders still seem a little paranoid and I thought that China would be much the same. It isn't. China is a very wealthy country and even has the obligatory McDonalds in the capital but despite the chilly weather, the people themselves were anything but.

However, I was given the opportunity to visit another 'closed' country, and, as it was on my list of 'must see' places, jumped at the chance of a trip into North Korea.

A flight from the Chinese capital Beijing to the North Korean capital Pyongyang had me all excited about just what to expect. With the thoughts of my Cuban visit still whizzing around my head I was expecting much the same but, in a display to show how open the place is, we had to hand over our iPhones in at the Immigration Department, to be collected on our way out. All our trips were pre-organised and it was very difficult to get any deviation from any planned visit. We didn't meet a single 'local' - they were around and 'working' but the feeling that everything was prearranged and totally for our benefit was all

pervasive. The excursions were in government vehicles, with government guides who were well versed in the 'brilliant' attainments of their glorious... past, present and future leaders. They seemed unbelievably proud of their vast monuments to the struggle the country has been through but the sad fact is that those monuments are the only visible sign of anything achieved in this dismal country. The hotel I stayed in was vast but had few other occupants. Even to my rather unsophisticated taste-buds the food was boring... and I spent a fortune at their local 'super-store' buying some produce. There was nothing there except jam, which cost loads but I was desperate to spread some on toast as a change from the noodles that seemed to be the only constituent of every meal. I also paid approximately \$25 for what I thought was yoghurt but tasted like goat's sperm... and I normally only pay \$4 for that (I joke - you are short of laughs in this country). When the guides were asked to change the itinerary, even in a minor way, it was almost impossible. I asked about taking photographs, even of people working out in the fields but it was suggested that I shouldn't and when asked "Why not" was told that the person 100 yards away in a field who probably didn't know of my existence "... might not like it." I

felt somewhat cheated as I like to meet the locals. I continued to be frustrated, like when I questioned our guide about taking photos he said there were absolutely no restrictions... yet there patently were. Even the soldiers turned their backs and hunched over hiding from my inquisitive but not imposing lens.

The North Koreans have in their constitution no laws against homosexuality but they also have nothing for gay people. It's not that it doesn't exist but it isn't acknowledged so gay people grow up with their feelings but have to subjugate it and marry someone of the opposite sex. Here's what the official North Korean site says:

[www.korea-dpr.com](http://www.korea-dpr.com)

"Due to tradition in Korean culture, it is not customary for individuals of any sexual orientation to engage in public displays of affection. As a country that has embraced science and rationalism, the DPRK recognizes that many individuals are born with homosexuality as a genetic trait and treats them with due respect. Homosexuals in the DPRK have never been subject to repression, as in many capitalist regimes around the world. However, North Koreans also place a lot of emphasis on social harmony and morals. Therefore, the DPRK

rejects many characteristics of the popular gay culture in the West, which many perceive to embrace consumerism, classism and promiscuity."

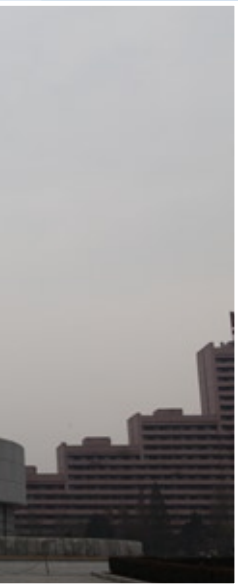
North Korea, officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, appears to be like many other countries that have democracy in their title... the least democratic places around. We weren't allowed to meet or even see past the organised itinerary of events, mausoleums, statues and tributes to the 'great' beneficent leader that was, is and always will be Kim Il-sung, who after his death, was declared to be the country's Eternal President. The North Koreans don't have an organised religion but an ethos that is called Juche, which teaches that "man is the master of everything and decides everything". Alas, it would appear that a man is master of everything and decides everything. Also, I never got to chat to anyone to find a different voice either offering approval or denial of this claim.

It was very strange returning to China. For all my misgivings about China and the oppression and secrecy I thought I'd find there it was like the most open society in the world compared to where I'd just been. I'm not sure if I'll ever return,

or even be allowed to, although I must say I'd missed the huge annual spectacular and colourful gymnastic display, an event that features thousands upon thousands of people.

Since my return I've spoken to a few people about my experiences and I've read about others who have visited this strange country. This year's I'm A Celebrity - Get Me Out Of Here contestant, and all round funny man, Dom Joly has written a huge amount about his experiences and I urge you to read what he says about the country... it is funny and very insightful.





**“The excursions were in government vehicles with government guides”**



# BOOKS



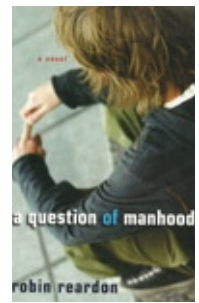
## PRIVATE MOMENTS

Bel Ami by Howard Roffman

First released in 2009—the book is a tender and intimate look on the world of young men, unaffected, touching and beautiful. The cheeky and seducing charm of the Bel Ami guys and the matchless style of Howard Roffman complemented each other brilliantly. The book became a bestseller right away. And since

people still love it so much, here's our special offer for you: **PRIVATE MOMENTS**—full of tenderness and vitality—in a new format: A little smaller, for a sensational low price.

**£29.99 - [www. Brunogmuender.com](http://www.Brunogmuender.com)**



**A Question of Manhood**  
By Robin Reardon

When 16 year-old Paul's world collapses after the death of his older brother who he has recently come out to, his life sinks into delinquency as his parents mourn and praise their dead son and make Paul feel he can do nothing right. Could the new boy that Paul has to train in the family business be his salvation... could he replace the brother he has lost?

A powerful and perceptive coming-of-age and coming out story of what it means to be a gay youth growing up with a knowledge that will not please everyone.

£10.99 - Kensington



**Huge 3**  
Edited by John Patrick

How big is too big? Can there be too much of a good thing? John Patrick will have readers up all night wondering if they can handle the men featured in this collection.

Grab plenty of lube, and you may want to bite down on something big as well because these men will make you scream... for more!

£13.99 - Starbooks



**Krakow Melt**  
By Daniel Allen Cox

Set in 2005 Poland dips into moral crisis as the Pope is approaching death and the soon to be president makes homophobic declarations - Radek, a bisexual artist and practitioner of the extreme urban sport parkour, is convinced that fire is a great stabiliser. When he meets the love of his life, a budding pyromaniac, the feelings of rage and sexual curiosity for each other they act in the name of freedom.

£11.99 - Arsenal Pulp Press



# TAKING ON A ROLE

Steve Callahan is rapidly making a name for himself as an actor dear to lovers of gay movies. He's appeared or starred in some of the best and most respected titles in recent years and his latest role is set to win him even more fans.

**In Role/Play your character is the older love interest... as a gay man does this development worry you... even a little bit?**

Not at all. In 2010 I got offered two of the best roles I've ever had. Besides Role/Play, which you mentioned, I was cast in a film called Abrupt Decision about a man who is fired from his job and goes through a mid-life crisis trying to figure out what to do with the next stage of his life. Both of those characters were really well written, complex men. As an actor, what a treat!

**Your character is that of a famous soap star who is straight in the show but has just hit the headlines for being gay... do you know others in the business who worry about this particular prospect?**

Absolutely. Unfortunately, Los Angeles is full of gay actors who are playing straight and afraid to come out of the closet. For me personally, I just can't imagine living my life any other way than completely authentically.

**I'm not sure if it's as a big a deal to be gay and famous here in the UK than it is in the US, or, as a particularly 'out' gay man yourself, do you see it differently?**

I don't know what it is like in the UK, so it wouldn't be fair for me to compare. But I can tell you in the US that we are in a time of change, where barriers of sexuality are changing. As public opinion and legal protections begin to change, attitudes in Hollywood are following.

**You've made several gay movies now, which was your favourite to work on?**

Each experience is so different and my favourite is always the one that I'm currently working on, so I don't think I could pick a favourite. So how about if I narrow it down to a few that have been special to me?

**Nine Lives** - I originated my character in the stage play complications that Nine Lives was based on. It was really exciting to tackle the same character twice, in two different mediums.

**East Side Story** - By far, this is the movie that I get the most fan mail about. People really love this movie. I knew we were making something really special when we were filming. I loved the cast and have such great memories. It was my first lead in a movie. The movie sat on the shelf for a couple of years, so it was exciting to see it become such a success after it finally got distribution. When it won the GLAAD award, I got to go on stage (along with Charo Toledo, the co-screenwriter) to accept. It was such a thrilling night.

**Role/Play** - What a magical experience! I had wanted to work with Guest House Films because I am such a fan of their films. Rob Williams (the writer and director) wrote such a smart script and gave me such a great character to play. But best of all, I got to act opposite Matthew Montgomery, who is not only my boyfriend in real life, but is also the most talented actor working in film today. I loved every minute of that experience.

**Abrupt Decision** - Paul Bright (the writer and director) offered me this wonderful, challenging character to play. The character is in all but a couple of scenes. I was really honoured that he trusted me with the part. It was the first time that I was on location filming in a different state (Texas) where I didn't know anyone before filming began. The script called for me to constantly be working with dogs, sometimes as many as a dozen in the scene. I really had a blast.

**Corpus Christi** - For four years I was part of the International Tour of the Terrence McNally play. We were filmed for an upcoming documentary called Corpus Christi: Playing With Redemption. The play challenges people to look at

homosexuality and religion. It is the most important thing I've ever worked on.

**Pornography: A Thriller** - I absolutely love this film. This is the movie that I met my boyfriend on, so it changed my life forever. So I guess this movie wins as my favourite because it brought Matthew into my life.

**Who, apart from your partner was your favourite co-star?**

James Brandon, who played Jesus opposite my Judas in the play Corpus Christi. We did the play for four years, starting as strangers and ending as family. We made magic together on stage and changed lives. His performance blew me away every night for four years.

**You've been asked to do sex scenes, fight, kiss... but is there anything you'd draw the line at?**

I've never done full frontal nudity. If it were just in the context of the movie, I'd have no problem. But we live in a very strange digital age where everything is captured forever. When actors do nude scenes, they are added to websites where people look at a single frame of the film and comment on actor's penis. That is just too weird for me. Just a personal choice that goes beyond my comfort level as an actor.

**Alternatively, is there a part you'd kill to have... or something you wish you were asked to do that no director or script has yet come up with?**

I want to do an action movie really badly. I'd also love to do a horror film.

**What else can we expect to see you in this year?**

2011 is going to be an exciting year for me. I have three films coming out: Role/Play, Abrupt Decision, and Corpus Christi: Playing with Redemption. For all the latest news and release dates, people can check out my website:

[www.SteveCallahan.com](http://www.SteveCallahan.com)

and join my Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/SteveCallahanActor](http://www.facebook.com/SteveCallahanActor).

## Role/Play



Two young gay men, both on the run from the tabloid press, meet in a Palm Springs resort in Rob Williams' new film Role/Play. When hunky soap opera star Graham Windsor (Steve Callahan) is outed as the result of a gay sex tape scandal, he seeks refuge at an exclusive Palm Springs resort. But quiet anonymity eludes him when handsome marriage-equality activist Trey Reed (Steve's real life partner - Matthew Montgomery) checks in to escape the fallout from his own bitter divorce. As an undeniable passion begins to sizzle between Graham and Trey, they force each other to confront their professional downfalls - and the firestorm each has created in the gay press.

**Out: 7th February - £15.99 - tla releasing**

**To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question:**

In which American state is Palm Springs?



# WIN THESE!

Turn to page 62 for details

## WORLD'S GREATEST DAD

In this dark comedy unpublished author Lance Clayton (Robin Williams) is a hapless single father who has let life pass him by and his dreams of being a rich and famous writer have dispersed into the reality of being a high school poetry teacher. Lance has surrendered to life and learnt to settle with second best. His only son Kyle is an insufferable teenager who won't give his father the time of day. Then, in the wake of a freak accident, Lance suffers the worst tragedy and the greatest opportunity of his life. He is suddenly faced with everything he ever dreamed of, if he can only live with the knowledge of how he got there.

**Out Now - Universal Pictures**

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question:

In which movie did Robin Williams play a 'female' housekeeper?



## Christopher and His Kind

Christopher and His Kind tells the story of the young and wide-eyed Christopher Isherwood (Matt Smith, Doctor Who) who escapes the repressive society of 1930's Britain and arrives in the decadent and politically unstable world of 1930's Berlin. A time of a thriving cabaret scene, Christopher is submerged into a thrilling and intoxicating gay sub-culture and a journey of self-discovery.



Based on Isherwood's autobiography and adapted for the screen by acclaimed playwright Kevin Elyot, this bold new drama follows the life, love affairs and heartbreaks of middle-class Englishman, Christopher in 1930's Berlin.

**Out: 28th February - £19.99 - ITV STUDIOS Home Entertainment**

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question:

Matt Smith plays which BBC TV sci-fi Doctor?

## Dare

Drama queen Alexa and gay geek Ben are best buds, but their friendship is put to the test when the mysterious and handsome Johnny is cast as the lead in their high-school production of 'A Streetcar Named Desire'. Johnny, who is seemingly attracted to them both, becomes ever more confused as to who he really wants. As sexual tensions reach boiling point, a fascinating love triangle closes in with electrifying results. Gradually, Johnny's sexual identity becomes unhinged, leaving Alexa and Ben to face up to their desires and accept that it takes more than just a truth, a dare, and a threesome, to get what you really want from life.

**Out Now - £14.99 - Peccadillo Pictures**

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question:

Who wrote 'A Streetcar Named Desire'? A. Tennessee Williams, B. Shakespeare, C. Russell T Davies



## MR. NICE

During the mid 1980's, Howard Marks had 43 aliases, 89 phone lines, and 25 companies trading throughout the world. Bars, recording studios, offshore banks: all were money-laundering vehicles serving the core activity of dope dealing. Marks began to deal during a postgraduate philosophy course at Oxford University, and with the help of drug pushers started dealing hashish throughout Europe and America in touring rock bands' equipment. The academic life began to lose its allure. From a South Wales upbringing to a lifestyle of smuggling consignments of up to 30 tonnes from Pakistan and Thailand to America and Canada, Marks had contact with organisations as diverse as the CIA, MI6, the IRA and the Mafia.

**Out now - DVD & Blu-ray - entertainment one**

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question:

What do the letters CIA stand for?



## HE'S MY GIRL

Director Jacques Zilbermann revisits the life of a French Jewish musician, Simon Eskenazy (Antoine de Caunes), who was first introduced to the audiences in his previous directorial feature Man is Woman (1998). The film opens at the point of Simon's life where everyone important to him in his life appears to be crossing paths, not always in the most pleasant of ways. He is under the pressure of deadline as he is supposed to finish his record; his mother is wheelchair-bound and shows up suddenly at his door with a suitcase and does not appear to plan to leave any time soon; he is utterly bewitched by the amazing and unpredictable, exciting Naim, a young Arab who seems to fit between the persona of a man and a femme fatale with incredible ease.

**Out: 14th February - £15.99 - Network Releasing**

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question:

What was the name of the sexy British TV series fronted by Antoine de Caunes?



## Lover's Guide 3D

Twenty years after the original The Lover's Guide exploded into the lives of the UK public, the ground-breaking guide is back with another no-holds-barred exploration of the pleasures of love-making. And this time it's in 3D!



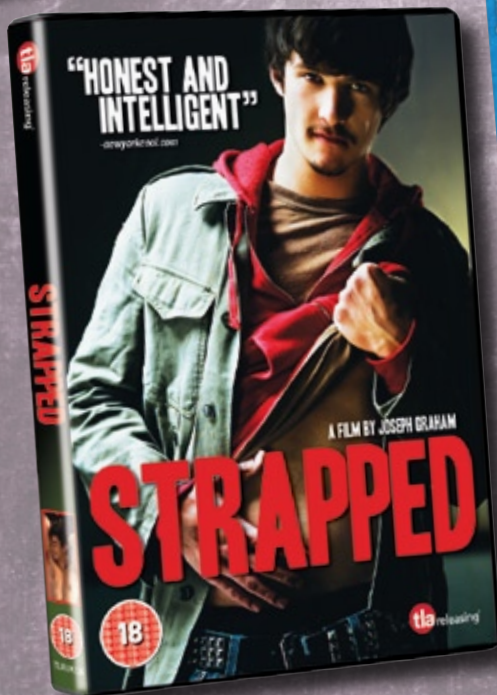
To mark the anniversary of the series which has brought adult sex advice firmly into the mainstream, the latest instalment has been created using cutting edge 3-D technology as the next stop in the sexual revolution. Here the audience is engaged with a never-before-seen sense of intimacy and massively richer viewpoint. Featuring the voices of Gemma Bissix and Jeremy Edwards and will take audiences to an altogether new level of love-making enlightenment. Straight but still fun.

**Out: 7th February - DVD & BluRay - Optimum Releasing**

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question:

How long ago was the original Lovers Guide video launched in Britain?

# SERIOUSLY SEXY



Available now on DVD at:  
**amazon.co.uk**

Streaming instantly at **tla**gay.co.uk!

# FILM

By Chris Amos

## THE FIGHTER Out 4th Feb

Christian Bale gives an Oscar-worthy performance as Dicky Ecklund a former boxing legend that squandered his talents and threw away his shot at greatness. Micky Ward (Mark Wahlberg), his half brother, is the struggling journeyman boxer who spent his life living in his big brother's shadow. The Fighter is the inspirational, true

story of these two brothers who, against all the odds, come together to train for a historic title bout that will unite their fractured family, redeem their pasts and, at last, give their hard-luck town what it's been waiting for: pride. A must-see film.



## SANCTUM Out 4th Feb

The 3D action-thriller Sanctum, from executive producer James Cameron, follows a team of underwater cave divers on a treacherous expedition to the largest, most beautiful and least accessible cave system on Earth. When a tropical storm forces them deep into the caverns, they must fight raging water, deadly terrain and creeping panic as they search for an unknown escape route to the sea. Shot on location off the Gold Coast in

Queensland, Australia, Sanctum employs 3-D photography techniques Cameron developed to lens Avatar. Designed to operate in extreme environments, the technology used to shoot the action-thriller will bring audiences on a breathless journey across plunging cliffs and into the furthest reaches of our subterranean world.



## I AM NUMBER FOUR Out 23rd Feb

Three are dead. He is Number Four. D.J. Caruso (Eagle Eye, Disturbia) helps an action-packed thriller about an extraordinary young man, John Smith (Alex Pettyfer), who is a fugitive on the run from ruthless enemies sent to destroy him. Changing his identity, moving from town to town with

his guardian Henri (Timothy Olyphant), John is always the new kid with no ties to his past. In the small Ohio town he now calls home, John encounters unexpected, life-changing events—his first love (Dianna Agron), powerful new abilities and a connection to the others who share his incredible

## MOVIE BUZZ

District 9 director Neill Blomkamp's next film Elysium is set 100 years in the future, will star Matt Damon, Jodie Foster and District 9's Sharlto Copley.

MGM has officially set a November 9, 2012 release date for James Bond 23 with Sam Mendes (Road to Perdition) set to direct and Daniel Craig set to return as 007.

It was recently confirmed Warner Bros. will pay the entire cost of the two instalments of The Hobbit, a price-tag that is expected to exceed \$500 million. Many of the original cast are returning including Elijah Wood, Orlando Bloom, Andy Serkis, Cate Blanchette and Sir Ian McKellen.

David Cronenberg has cast Robert Pattinson in the lead role of his upcoming film Cosmopolis. Pattinson will star as Eric Packer, a financial wunderkind who risks his entire fortune to bet against the yen on a tumultuous day. His deed puts him in the crosshairs for assassination in a drama that is a study of capitalism in a slightly futuristic metropolis.

Rhys Ifans stars as the 17th Earl of Oxford, Edward de Vere in Roland Emmerich's Anonymous, a pic that marks a slight departure for Emmerich from his disaster epics he's come to be known for. In Anonymous the story centres on the long rumoured theory that de Vere actually wrote the plays of William Shakespeare. The film has been described as something of a political thriller set against the backdrop of the succession of Queen Elizabeth I (Vanessa Redgrave), and the Essex Rebellion against her.

destiny. John (Alex Pettyfer) is an extraordinary young man, masking his true identity and passing as a typical student to elude a deadly enemy seeking to destroy him.





## NEVER LET ME GO Out 11th Feb

In his highly acclaimed novel *Never Let Me Go*, Kazuo Ishiguro (*The Remains of the Day*) created a remarkable story of love, loss and hidden truths. In it he posed the fundamental question: What makes us human? Now director Mark Romanek (*One Hour Photo*), writer Alex Garland and DNA Films bring Ishiguro's hauntingly poignant and emotional story to the screen. Kathy (Carey Mulligan), Tommy (Andrew Garfield) and Ruth (Keira

Knightley) live in a world and a time that feel familiar to us, but are not quite like anything we know. They spend their childhood at Hailsham, a seemingly idyllic English boarding school. When they leave the shelter of the school and the terrible truth of their fate is revealed to them, they must also confront the deep feelings of love, jealousy and betrayal that threaten to pull them apart.



## GNOMEO & JULIET Out 11th Feb

The greatest love story ever told, starring...garden gnomes? In *Gnomeo & Juliet*, Shakespeare's revered tale gets a comical, off-the-wall makeover. Directed by Kelly Asbury (co-director of *Shrek 2*) and showcasing both classic and original songs by Elton John including a duet with Lady Gaga, the film features the voices of James McAvoy and Emily Blunt as Gnomeo and Juliet, who have as many obstacles to overcome

as their quasi namesakes when they are caught up in a feud between neighbours. But with plastic pink flamingos and thrilling lawnmower races in the mix, can this young couple find a happy ending? The film is Brit made and has a great Brit sensibility to it. It feels good and worth the price of a cinema ticket.



## HOWL Out 25th Feb

The story of Allen Ginsberg's masterful poem and the subsequent obscenity trial that ensued, *Howl* weaves together 3 strands of the story: imagined interviews with James Franco as Ginsberg recounting his inspiration for the poem, the resulting court case and the poem itself, animated by

graphic novelist and Ginsberg collaborator Eric Drooker. The poem seemed especially outrageous in 1950s America because it depicted both heterosexual and homosexual sex at a time when sodomy laws made homosexual acts a crime in every U.S. State.

# TEN THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MATT DAMON

1. Was in a relationship with Winona Ryder (December 1997-March 2000).
2. Dropped 40 pounds for his role as a Gulf War vet in *Courage Under Fire* (1996).
3. Dropped out of Harvard 12 credits short of graduating to pursue his acting career.
4. Both he and Ben Affleck worked as extras on the film *Field of Dreams* (1989). At one point during the shoot, Matt took some blades of grass from the field as mementos for his father.
5. He is of Scottish, Finnish and English descent.
6. Named "Sexiest Man Alive" by *People* magazine in 2007.
7. Turned down the role of Harvey Dent in *The Dark Knight* (2008).
8. One of his first movie roles was a one-line part in *Mystic Pizza* (1988) starring Julia Roberts. Later, he starred with Roberts in *Ocean's Eleven* (2001).
9. Quit smoking after visiting a hypnotist in L.A.
10. Named Hollywood's "best value" by *Forbes* Magazine, with his films making \$29 (US) for each dollar he is paid (2007).



# PRIDE IN THE SUN



2011 is the 10th Anniversary of GAY PRIDE Maspalomas. To celebrate this unique Pride, on the beautiful island of Gran Canaria, this year, the festival is 10 days long.

Gran Canaria, a round volcanic island in the Canaries, middle of the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Africa, is the perfect place to enjoy Europe's annually first Gay Pride - WHY? It has the Sun, 345 days a year, glorious sandy beaches, ancient historical architecture and mountain villages, and lets not forget the men - oh the men. As Europe's leading Gay Tourist destination, Playa del Ingles in Gran Canaria is always swarming with men, but Pride brings an extra 100thousand !!! In recent years, there has also been an increasing Lesbian and Transgendered boom.

Pride starts with the Opening Ball on 6th May on the huge Terrace of the Yumbo Centre, followed by a dance session on Saturday leading into a retrospective show, featuring Hazell Dean, Angie Brown and Jose Galisteo. Sunday opens with the Lesbian Pool Party, including the Ms Lesbian Gran Canaria Competition, with DJ's, go-gos and acts including Jo Frances, Laura Harding and Patricia Kraus. Sunday has another free stage show in the Yumbo, the Island Night, featuring regular visiting acts to the island and local artists; Tania Alboni, Scott Dean, Eva La Diva and Wayne Newton.

Monday 9th May - sees a return to the normal Pride week with street entertainment by the Canarian Samba Band and the e-sensual dancers and acrobats.

Tuesday hosts the Camp Attack party fundraiser, Huge PARTY !!! It rounds off a day of PINK - Pink Tuesday is our Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Wednesday 12th is the official Giant Pool Party with Mr Gay Gran Canaria Competition - 1,000 men squeezed into their trunks at the Las Walkirias hotel. Thursday is AIDS Awareness Day ! Beginning with BLUE - Sponsored by RICKYS Cabaret Bar, Drag With No Name (Scott Burey) leads us through and afternoon of comedy shenanigans, followed by in the evening the ACES show, our Charity show raising funds for our local AIDS and HIV Charity.

Then the big 3 ! Friday 13th is the International Drag Gala Competition, Huge Prizes, Guest Stars; Soraya and Sam Solace. Saturday - Street Dragathon World Record Attempt, followed by the Huge Street Parade, Then the 10thousand people dance session followed by the final free concert; Tight Fit, Jo O'Meara, Adam Rickitt, Dunia, Junior, Danny Ullman, Carol Jiani, Ruth Lorenzo to name half ... more big names to be announced. Sunday 15th is the Closing Party - A huge Dance Session PARTY - Thousands squeezed into the Yumbo with top DJ's Zak Hadley, Johannes Naumann and Closing Pride will be Dani TORO and all the sexy e-sensual dancers.



# MASPALOMAS GAYPRIDE

## GRAN CANARIA

6 - 15  
May 2011

# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



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# KEY WEST

...AND THE DAY ELVIS KISSED ME!

By Gordon Hopps

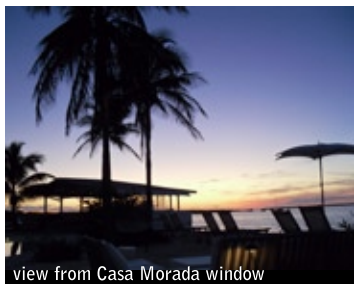
It was many years ago when I first went on a trip to Key West and I absolutely loved it.

The drive from Miami airport, down through Homestead and on to Highway US1, the Florida Turnpike, which takes you all the way south to the very end of this vast country is very exciting. Once on the Keys the journey down the a hundred and odd miles is most spectacular and, with Key West as the ultimate destination, the drive can be shot through so quickly that you miss out on some splendid experiences.

On this trip I planned a slower journey. Once in the car I drove down to my first stopping point in Key Largo to do something I'd always wanted to do - I booked into Dolphin Plus ([www.dolphinplus.com](http://www.dolphinplus.com)) and organised a chance to swim with these intelligent mammals. What an absolute treat. I spent an amazing couple of hours watching and then swimming with two of these ever-smiling creatures, Elvis and Nico. The lifted me, they splashed me and at one point... Elvis kissed me... a memory that will stay with me for a very long time.



So as not to rush my journey south or drive through the dusk (and miss all the astounding views as you go over the many interconnecting bridges) I stayed overnight at the wonderful Casa Morada ([www.casamorada.com](http://www.casamorada.com)) on the next Key down, Islamorada. Just off the main road,



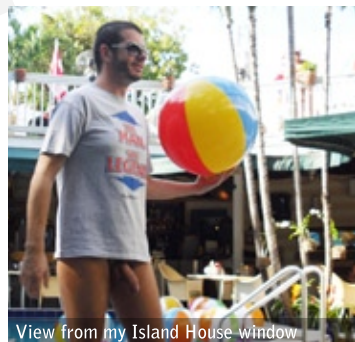
view from Casa Morada window

this elegant and up-market little complex opened up to the Gulf of Mexico for a truly wondrous sunset. It was like a view from the best tropical photo-shoot ever and I immediately fell in love with the place.

In the early morning sun I set off south and enjoyed the journey stopping off at various places of interest to see, or eat ... check them out on the travel guide as it is a great shame to speed past them without at least a look. Many people have waxed lyrical about Florida's Keys and I would also like to add my own accolade to the sheer architectural achievement of the way all these wonderful little islands have been linked together. Those early pioneers and later technical bods have produced something that would not disgrace being included in a more up to date version of the Seven Wonders of the World. Thanks to these bridges you're skimming high above where two huge bodies of water meet in a kaleidoscope of blues, greens and turquoise. Where little mangrove islands host birdlife and the crystal clear sea offers a chance to glimpse coral and a multitude of aquatic creatures... it's a lot to take in... so don't rush that drive to the southernmost tip of America.

When you do arrive in Key West you'll know... as you can't go any further without getting very wet. The place is, and has been, a playground for the rich and famous for many years. The likes of author Ernest Hemmingway made his home here, as did the playwright and all-round gay god, Tennessee Williams, plus all their sporting and film star friends. The place is a bustling tourist centre but still maintains many of its charming characteristics and for the gay visitor in particular is an ideal spot for a vacation.

There are many terrific gay owned and operated businesses in Key West, indeed, it is said that without its gay population, nothing would happen on this small, but influential, isle. There are many superb, award winning gay guest houses to chose from - all seem laid back and well equipped, some near to the action on the main drag, Duval Street, while other are slightly further out and more private in nature. There is a place for just about every taste and I booked into the 24-hour happening that is Island House ([www.islandhousekeywest.com](http://www.islandhousekeywest.com)) at the top of Fleming Street. This is an all-male complex with everything; gym, sauna, Jacuzzi's (inside and out), heated pool (that never closes), bar, restaurant, internet... and a video room for those who like to explore with their fellow guests. It's a clothing optional establishment but don't let that worry you, two minutes after I nervously arrived I was frolicking in the pool naked myself. The view from my window was also stunning. All the staff are friendly and very helpful; as they are in all



View from my Island House window

the gay resorts, so don't be afraid to ask them for advice, directions or to book your exciting gay activity. So whether naked or clothed... this is a terrific spot to start your Key West experience.

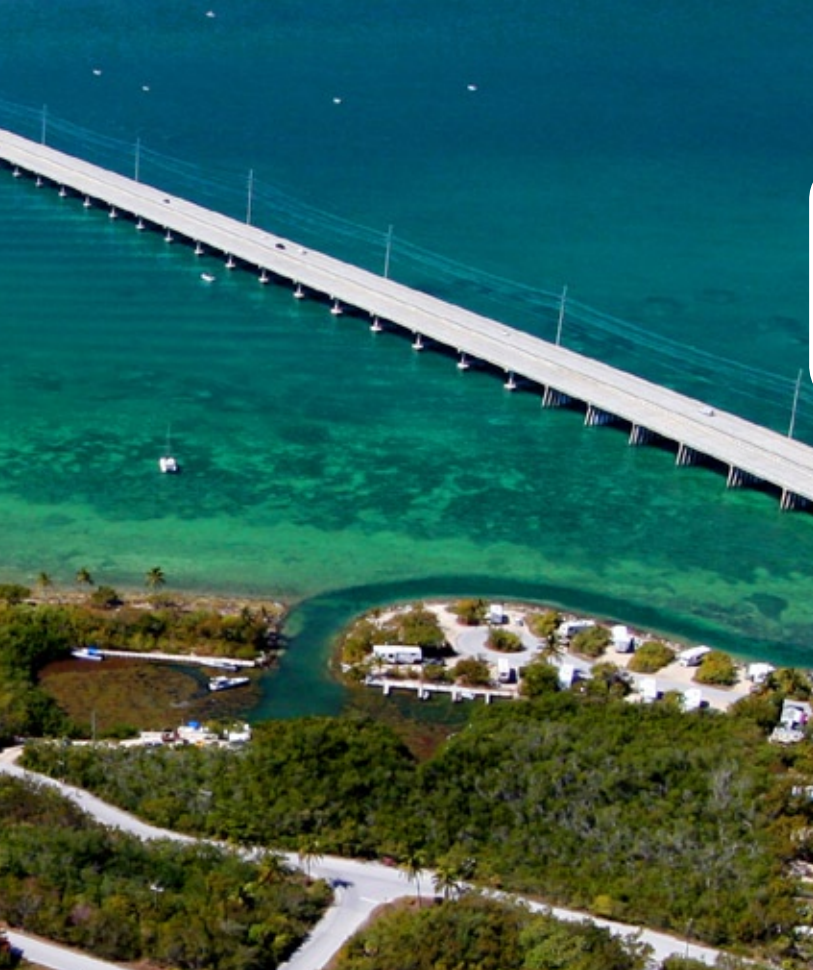
The marvellous thing about Key West is that it certainly caters for its gay guests. The gay only sunset cruise is wonderful to see, couples (and groups of guys) happily kissing and toasting each other's health while watching the sun go down. The same company - Blu Q ([www.BluQKeyWest.com](http://www.BluQKeyWest.com)) under the direction of Captain Steve and his crew - also organise gay snorkelling, sailing and island adventures (occasionally naked) should you want to stay with your own kind. The mood is always relaxed and fun and if you're lucky like I was on my trip, you may be accompanied by a couple of dolphin pods as you lazily sail around the bay. Being gay in Key West is the norm... so everywhere on this island it's OK to be gay... and although there are no specifically gay beaches, there are areas where all the boys go to toast their skin that lovely shade of brown. Just ask at the desk or get hold of a copy of the Gay Key West map ([www.gaykeywestfl.com](http://www.gaykeywestfl.com)) to get your bearings.

Along Duval are the main gay bars where drag seems to be very popular - Aqua and 801 - although you can escape the feathers and sequins at any number of watering holes that make up this hectic street... like the Bourbon Street Pub just across the road from 801.

Eating delicious food is also no problem whether you go local or international:

Perhaps an early morning breakfast at Harpoon Harry's - [www.harpoonharryskeywest.com](http://www.harpoonharryskeywest.com)

or try one of the best prime steaks I have ever eaten at Duffy's - [www.duffyskeywest.com](http://www.duffyskeywest.com)



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maybe an upmarket evening meal at Square One – [www.squareonerestaurant.com](http://www.squareonerestaurant.com) or Antonias [www.antoniaskeywest.com](http://www.antoniaskeywest.com) or the latest restaurant to receive rave reviews, Flaming Bouy Filet Co [www.theflamingbuoy.com](http://www.theflamingbuoy.com) - You'll never be at a loss for eating well in Key West - many of the restaurants are gay owned and run and it seems that there is a cute busboy or waiter to attend to your culinary needs.

Key West Pride – [www.pridefestkeywest.com](http://www.pridefestkeywest.com)

Key West Bear Fest - [www.keywestbearfest.com](http://www.keywestbearfest.com)  
Tropical Heat – [www.tropicalheatkw.com](http://www.tropicalheatkw.com)

Headdress Ball – [www.headdressballkeywest.com](http://www.headdressballkeywest.com)

Gay Spring Break – [www.gayspringbreakkeywest.com](http://www.gayspringbreakkeywest.com)

Bone Island Bare it All - [www.nakedkeywest.com](http://www.nakedkeywest.com)

Womenfest – [www.womenfest.com](http://www.womenfest.com)

An interesting fact that I didn't know was that Key West is actually a translation from Spanish-speaking people who used the term Cayo Hueso - it literally means "bone key" so a trip of the fun ghost tour ([www.ghostsandgravestones.com](http://www.ghostsandgravestones.com)) is a must.

To get a brochure and map telling you of all the things you can expect from this brilliant sun-drenched piece of heaven: [www.gaykeywestfl.com](http://www.gaykeywestfl.com)

My thanks go to all the staff at Florida Keys & Key West tourism and in particular Stephen Smith [www.keysvoices.com/lgbt/](http://www.keysvoices.com/lgbt/) for his organisation, help and friendship during my visit.



There are many other gay events, such as the weekly gay trolley ride but throughout the year the island also offers huge events that attract thousands and thousands of gay visitors.



# BLACKPOOL HOTELS

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the nice folk of this, still the seaside capital of the UK, are looking forward to greeting a host of visitors back to their town. There are tons of gay venues, b&b's and hotels that cater to gay visitors but the premier place to stay is the 3\* enjoyengland.com award winning Mardi Gras Hotel with its simple philosophy of comfort and entertainment, all at a reasonable price. Whether it is for

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# BRIGHTON HOTELS

## LEGENDS GEARS UP FOR SUMMER

From March Legends is gearing up for Summer with some great changes. First up is the return of food at Legends Bar.

Monday to Saturday there's a great new spring and summer menu featuring the best food you'll find on Brighton's gay scene. Coming back for the summer are Legends fantastic gourmet burgers and gourmet sandwiches but now they've added some great gastro pub style food. Legends chef also has some special surprises up his sleeve so be sure to check out their specials board every week. With lunch from as little as £3.50 there's sure to be something that will wet your appetite. Check out Legends website or Official Facebook Group for even more some special offers on food throughout March.

Also from March The Basement Club (below Legends) goes 7 nights a week. Legends 'Basement Club' has revolutionised late night clubbing for the last few years, the team at Legends have managed to somehow provide a totally FREE ENTRY clubbing experience for the four nights a week. Now due to customer demand they are extending this to full 7 with some fantastic drinks deals and new nights starting Tuesday 1st March. That's two floors of clubbing all week!

The guys at Legends are mid-way through a re-vamp of the Basement Club which includes a state of the art lighting rig

and video walls which looking at the plans and Legends past refurbishments this is going to be some of the most up to date technology on the south coast. Monday to Thursday there's a mix of new DJ's including some of the best new talent on Brighton's club scene.

All drinks will be just £2.50 all the time, quality brands all at great mid week prices Sunday to Thursday, and FREE ENTRY all week who can but quibble at that.

With a high specification venue and great drinks deals all served up by fantastic friendly staff the Basement Club (below Legends) seems to be the perfect place for a week night boogie. Join them for their re-opening night on Tuesday 01st March 2010 for your chance to win Lady Gaga tickets at the 02 from 11pm till 3am.

**Phew, with all this on offer there really isn't a better late night venue in GAY Brighton.**



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# NORTHERN STAR



*This month  
Geordie  
boy Gareth  
Longstaff  
takes us on a  
guided tour  
of Newcastle  
upon Tyne and  
what it has to  
offer...*

In the last decade or so Newcastle-upon-Tyne has more than successfully shaken off its reputation as a straight, macho and aggressive place where inebriated slag's fall out of taxi's and wide boys slurp on Brown-Ale in theme pub after theme pub. The city has always had a unique but somehow isolated identity, and Geordies have been accused of portraying themselves as an inherently tribal lot who are too far removed and out of touch with their Southern (and indeed Northern) neighbours. However, this has now changed; the notion of it still being 'grim up North' and the associations with deprived working class bigotry have gradually disappeared and it now sits comfortably a long side many of its well known Northern counterparts such as Manchester and Leeds to represent all that is emblematic of a post-industrial, cosmopolitan, edgy, vibrant and incredibly friendly gay city. Still to many of us it may seem a bit out of the way.

It is the last major port of call before you reach Edinburgh or Glasgow and it stands out in comparison to the other smaller and very local gay scenes in Sunderland and Middlesbrough. Surprisingly for a region so clued into regeneration, history and education even close-by tourist destinations such as Durham and York totally lack any real sense of gay social life and dare I say community! Paradoxically this is a great

thing for Newcastle in that it attracts a huge range of gay people from just about every walk of life (excuse the somewhat tenuous but nonetheless embarrassing Dire Straits reference). The young, affluent and huge student population help with this and a diverse range of local ghetto and the uber-cool mixes together; Cheryl Cole lookalikes strut the streets by day, and by night they gyrate next to bespoke aristocratic hotties from the University (Princess Eugenie studies here and resides in the nearby suburb of Jesmond).

In terms of the gay social and cultural life on offer there is something for all of us, although the main destination in the city is just west of the Central Station in an area that has gradually expanded to about 20 gay /lesbian venues. Known locally as The Pink Triangle, it follows the logic and power of the pink pound and ticks all of the boxes in terms of clichés and cliques as well as offering a cross section of alternatives. Locals and tourists tend to populate the bars, clubs and restaurants from Thursday to Sunday and the students call the city their own during the week, saying that everyone tends to mix and the once clearly defined pockets of gay and straight are bleeding into one another more and more; how far this is appealing or problematic is up to you and if you only want GAY you can certainly get it. For drag-queen camp and cheese try Eazy Street, Bank Bar and Switch which are packed to the plasterboard



with pretty boys, handsome men and often gangs of straight girls who have become disillusioned with what the mainstream bars have to offer them. Transient fashion trends and high-street chic are big news in this neck of the woods and recent developments in big brand stores and savvy little boutiques offer some of the most eclectic retail therapy in the UK. Fenwick menswear department for most designer labels and a shiny new TopShop really stand out as do locally run places like The End, Union and Leaf. Just 10 minutes on a shuttle bus and you are at the

Metrocentre which still lays claim to being the largest shopping centre in Europe so there are no excuses not to compete with the locals and look fabulous. Still, for those of us who don't always dress to impress and prefer Primark to Paul Smith and our diet coke with house special vodka rather than Sailor Jerry there are lots of bars that attract an interesting mix of queers and a very eclectic and still fairly discerning crowd. The oldest bar on the scene is The Yard which hosts karaoke and is often a starting point for both gay men and lesbians whilst others such as One, Twist and Heavens Above fill the gap of passing through for a swift one. The Eagle is



a bar which offers the bear and fetish crowd a sleazy and sexy time and there are dark rooms and a downstairs cruising space. Along with Number 52 Sauna next door and the



recently opened REM sauna on Blandford Street. It means if the beer gets you horny or your Grindr isn't working you are not far away from the next bit of casual fun. The main nightclub is The Powerhouse which



opens every night and packs in a couple of thousand over four floors and in November a brand new venue calling itself Boulevard will also open its doors; an unashamedly glamorous combination of cabaret, drag and burlesque this is demonstrative of just how far gay Newcastle has come and the direction it is headed in.

Activism and awareness are also part of the landscape and the help and network group Mesmac offers a huge range of support in relation to sexual health, mental well being and acceptance. Northern Pride also is the organised gay pride events all summer long in the city and the aim is to expand this so it is on par with much bigger and well known pride celebrations. Beyond the conventional gay scene some very tolerant establishments such as As you Like it and Mr. Lynch's in Jesmond and Hyem in Heaton are more chilled out and relaxed; great for food and in many ways less intense. Also just a 10 minute bus ride from the city centre pubs such as the Cluny and the Tanners go for a more bohemian and gig-focussed scene. Check out the Star and Shadow cinema (opposite The Tanners) which have regular gay nights and film showings, they also run a queer film collective club.

Bars such as The Forth, The Dog and Parrot, restaurants like The Salsa Café, Gusto, Café Paradiso and other newly established club nights such as the gay run POKE at The Kings Manor and Dragnet at the Cut are incredibly open, stylish and slightly less stereotypical in terms of their gay clientele. A jewel in the crown of gay Newcastle life which has welcomed the community for decades is The Tyneside Cinema and the splendid coffee rooms – a well informed, quirky and sexy crowd tend to be drawn to this space which offers another option to mainstream venues. So then, Newcastle does just what it says on the tin; there is very little in terms of pretence or elitism, instead you get an honest, warm and pretty unique sense of a city which demonstrates that far from being grim, it is, as any local would tell you, purely belta.

For more information visit -  
[Newcastlegay.co.uk](http://Newcastlegay.co.uk)



# FITNESS

It happens to everyone. All of a sudden a moment of motivation, determination and genuine desire to (really this time!) change your lifestyle will hit. For most people (like me) this feeling has to come and go many times before actually succeeding with the goal. It happens again and again because somewhere along the way, from all-consuming ambition, to actual results, the plan falls off track.

Over the years of training myself, and my clients, I've noticed the causes for not achieving goals:

## TOO AMBITIOUS

Is there really such a thing? YES! If you have never exercised and have been eating poorly, and then all of a sudden you vow to work out six times a week and eat nothing but chicken breast and vegetables, you will have a hard time sticking to the plan. For one thing, you will be very tired, sore and the sudden caloric decrease will make you cranky.

Instead of jumping to the ideal lifestyle, don't think you're wussing out by taking your time to get there. It's more beneficial to ease the body into exercise by giving the muscles a chance to "wake up," and screen yourself for injuries or limitations. I recommend changing your diet but don't become discouraged when everything else is healthy but you're not ready to pack a bean salad for lunch, and still picking up food court pizza. It will all come together eventually!

## NO CONSISTENCY

Having a plan is the only way to reach goals. It's like driving. You wouldn't try to find your way to a new place without a map, and just "wing it." You're not going to just drive in the general direction and hope you make it. By saying that you'll exercise three times a week but not dedicate a time and day to that workout, it won't take long before a week goes by and then, oh yeah right, I forgot to exercise!

Consistency develops habits. As human beings, we live around habits, rituals and routine.

Developing a positive routine is challenging at first, but once you get into it, you'll wonder how you ever lived without exercise. Pick specific days, times and duration to guarantee a regular schedule.

## NO RESULTS

Nothing is more demotivating than working your ass off and receiving no results. Anyone exercising will achieve quick benefits such as improved well being, lower stress and better sleep. However, most people are working toward a specific goal, and when this is not met, it's likely to quit before trying to determine the cause. There are many factors that could be stunting results: not working out hard enough, long enough, and eating too much or not the right foods. It could also be a simple matter of body composition changing and not seeing results on the scale, even though change is indeed happening within the body.

A fitness programme has an element of trial and error. It's important to try different things to figure out what works best for your body. Take measurements instead of judging progress on weight alone. If you still don't see the results you are looking for, hire a personal trainer and/or nutritionist to guide and advise along the way to your fitness success.

Keep At It!  
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Customers have been flocking through the doors in January taking full advantage of the special offers. February promises to be no different so check out Number 52's website or join their facebook group to see what is happening and make sure you call in soon. One offer that will be

available is every entry of £8 or over will generate a voucher allowing your next visit for only a fiver.

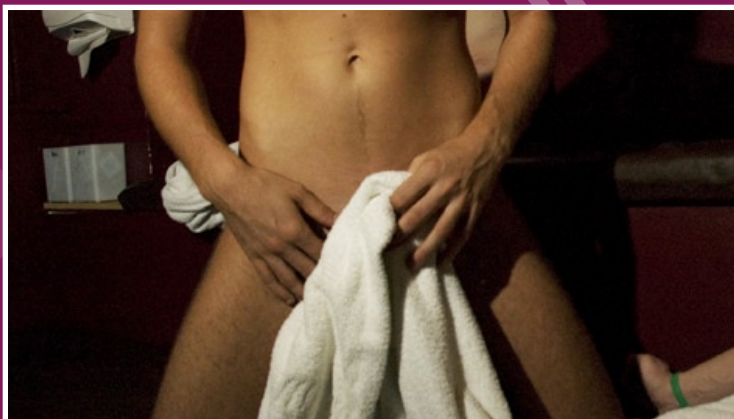
Number 52 continues to be the busiest and best sauna in the North East. We are open 24 hours every weekend so whether you're a local lad or a visitor to the city, there's no reason for you not to experience the HOTTEST venue in town.

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**t: 0191 2212189**

**e: [info@number52sauna.co.uk](mailto:info@number52sauna.co.uk)  
w: [www.number52sauna.co.uk](http://www.number52sauna.co.uk)**

**Number 52 Sauna,  
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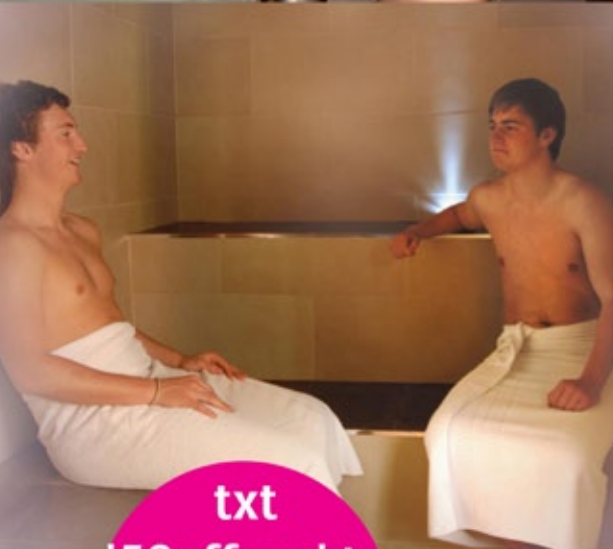
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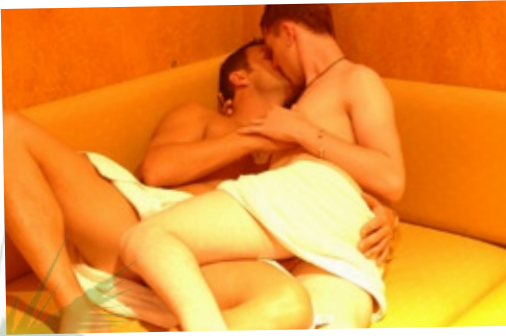
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# RULES OF A SAUNA

Try and keep small talk to a minimum; as we all know - Actions speak louder than words.

The chances of you finding the love of your life are minimal but it's fun trying all the different possibilities.

Do at least one good deed and let some old guy suck your dick - you never know when you'll need the favour repaying.



If you see a family member whilst cruising the sauna - don't worry - he's there for the same reason you are.

Don't believe anyone who says that the condoms available are too small and refuses to wear one... have you ever tried inflating one... they're huge.

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# ADVICE

## THAT FAMILY MOMENT



### THAT FAMILY MOMENT

**Once you have found that special somebody and are happy in the knowledge that 'this is it' often thoughts turn to whether to introduce him to your family. This can turn out to be either a monumental disaster or the most rewarding occasion you will ever go through. When that time comes, just make sure you are both ready... here's our check list.**

#### Is he ready to meet them?

Talk with him well in advance, reassure him and be absolutely sure both of you are comfortable with the idea and the potential outcome. Look out for warning signs that it might not be the correct time: hesitation, resistance or uneasiness. It may be an uncomfortable situation for both of you, so both of you need to be prepared and on the same page.

#### Have you given your family enough warning?

Talking about him and broaching the subject about a possible visit will give you an idea of the lay of the land. They may be OK with you being gay but to see that gayness in the form of a partner who you are bedding, might be a little bit too much. Tell them how much he means to you and hope that they will feel the same way. However, look for those warning signs (see above).

#### Don't just arrive with the boyfriend.

It might seem all well and good to 'be who you are' but to arrive with a boyfriend in tow and more or less demanding they accept him is a dangerous game to play with both the boyfriend and your family. You may have accepted that you're gay years ago, but for family it might come as a shock. Being caught off guard is not

a promising way for your family to meet the love off your life. That first impression may well be the one that sticks and dictates any future relationship between you all.

#### Get comfortable.

Don't forget, this is a huge event for all concerned so don't blow it by being overbearingly demonstrative, let everyone get used to the idea first before you start feeling your partner up on the sofa. Talk and involve him in the family chat, sharing a few anecdotes of your own in as humorous way... if at all possible. Let him volunteer to help in the kitchen, if he feels comfortable to do so, sell your partners good points but try not to make it all sexual... they may not be that interested in the fact he has a huge cock. Take it easy and integrate slowly.

#### If the whole thing looks like it's going tits-up.

Count your losses and have an exit strategy worked out. Have a 'safe' word or phrase that says... it's time for us to go and make then make your excuses and leave. Perhaps trying again at some other date.

#### If everything is going well.

It will be an emotional turning point for both you, your partner and the family... thank them for their acceptance. Even though it would be nice, you can't take acceptance for granted so enjoy the moment.

#### Meeting the family is a huge step but now it's your turn to meet his... are you ready?

### IS THAT DISCRIMINATION?

A campaign by the UK's leading advice agencies is helping people to become more aware of their rights as budget cuts and redundancies loom.

The 'Is that discrimination?' campaign helps people tackle unfair treatment and therefore protect themselves and others. Its Plain English award-winning guides and information can help people quickly and easily:

- Understand what discrimination is
- Recognise when someone might be discriminating against them
- Work out what their rights are
- Find out where to get help

Research shows that a third (32.8%) of those who have faced discrimination did nothing about it. But as Theresa Harris, 'Is that discrimination?' project manager, explains, many don't fully understand what constitutes discrimination.

"It's vital that people are aware of what counts as discrimination. If people don't feel confident in recognising unfair treatment as discrimination they won't take action to put a stop to it. We regularly hear from people who have suffered because they don't know what their rights are or how to enforce them."

The research, conducted by the Public Legal Education Network, also showed that:

Discrimination is a problem that people are least likely to know their rights on, or the procedures involved

Almost two thirds (64%) per cent of people with a discrimination problem who did nothing wanted to act but felt unable to

Only one in three people (37%) with a



discrimination problem obtained advice, and 17% handled the problem alone.

There are specific anti-discrimination laws protecting people from unfair treatment because of the following factors:

- Gender**
- Transgender**
- Marital status**
- Sexual orientation**
- Disability**
- Age**
- Race, colour, nationality or ethnic origins**
- Religion or religious or philosophical belief**

A range of information and guidance on dealing with discrimination is free to download online at [www.isthatdiscrimination.org.uk](http://www.isthatdiscrimination.org.uk)

### INFO FOR THE YOUNG

**Many teens already rely on their mobiles for social networking, downloading music and playing games. But more and more are now using them to access information, too.**

GoGetInfo is a pioneering mobile information service for young people that's responding to this need.

For the first time, sending a single text to a dedicated number will give them instant access 24/7 to confidential help and advice on one of the top 10 issues they're likely to face, including:

- where to get emergency contraception
- how to use a condom
- what to do if they're being bullied
- how to get help for self-harm

GoGetInfo works by delivering a package of practical text content, images and video clips to mobiles using WAP technology. Its makers have worked with technology partner O2 for two years in research and development.

All the topics have been extensively researched, with content provided, or checked and approved, by experts at the sexual health charities FPA

and Brook and leading youth charities including YouthNet. GoGetInfo has also consulted with the Department of Health and there's been feedback and detailed direction given by teenagers via focus groups.

The downloads are intended for young people of 12 and over. At the beginning of each download, users are asked to click on their age range before they can move on to the content: 12-13; 14-15; 16-18; or 18+.



### CRUISING FOR THE SEX YOU WANT

Do you find it difficult to approach men you fancy? If so, you're not alone. For lots of gay men, making the first move is scary – whether it's in a bar, club, sauna or a public place. Cruising online can be just as tricky. If you sometimes find it difficult to pick up men, or end up having sex you don't want, then look out for GMFA's latest booklet, 'Cruising for the sex you want'.

GMFA has included lots of tips on how to boost your confidence and develop your cruising skills. Staying safe and in control is important, so you'll find plenty of advice on talking about safer sex, asking for the sex you want, and saying no to the sex you don't want.

Matthew Hodson, Head of Programmes at GMFA, comments: "Cruising can be tricky for lots of men and sometimes they end up having sex with guys they don't really fancy – or having sex which isn't as safe as they'd like. We hope this booklet will help men overcome their fears when cruising, stay in control and stay safe."

'Cruising for the sex you want' includes advice on how to make the first move, start conversations, cruise online, and prevent the transmission of HIV and other STIs. There are also some comments from other guys about their experiences of cruising, some of which might be similar to yours.

**You can also download it online at [www.gmfa.org.uk/cruising](http://www.gmfa.org.uk/cruising)**



# BLAST! PROJECT

**Child sexual exploitation (CSE) and the sex industry is a topic that everyone seems to be talking about at the moment. Many people tend to think about girls and young women becoming involved in sexual exploitation and boys and young men are often neglected.**

The BLAST Project (part of the Yorkshire MESMAC Group of services) is a charity based in Leeds and Bradford supporting boys and young men who are being, or at risk of being sexual exploited. This includes young men who are selling sex and/or working as escorts.

The BLAST Project is one of very few services that works only with boys and young men and not only provides 1-2-1 support for service users, but also provides specific sexual exploitation training, aimed at professionals, with a focus on boys and young men. Since 2003 the project has provided sexual exploitation

awareness session to over 8000 boys and young men in Leeds and Bradford, supported over 250 boys and young men on a 1-2-1 basis and trained over 2500 professionals.

The BLAST Project is also planning to undertake research into prostitution/sexual exploitation in the Leeds area which will compliment the project's existing research "Men and Boys Selling Sex in the Bradford District".

[http://www.mesmac.co.uk/blast/research/blast\\_research.htm](http://www.mesmac.co.uk/blast/research/blast_research.htm)

To find out more about the BLAST Project you can visit the website at:  
[www.mesmac.co.uk/blast](http://www.mesmac.co.uk/blast)

You can also phone or text Phil, the project coordinator on **07921 372896** or email him at [p.mitchell@mesmac.co.uk](mailto:p.mitchell@mesmac.co.uk)



## Going live

Due to the greater acceptance of homosexuality (not a bad thing by any means) the numbers of people hitting the gay scene has declined. Add this to the fact that the economic climate has left us with all with a financial hangover and you get a state where the LGBT pubs and clubs are struggling and competing more than ever to survive.

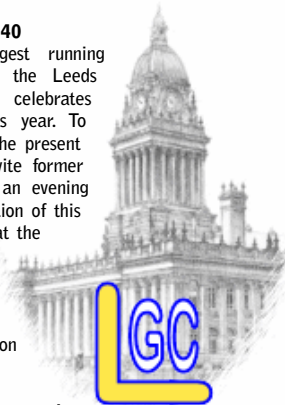
GayWakefield hopes to buck this trend and stop the fragmentation of Wakefield's LGBT community before it is too late. GayWakefield.com, Twitter, YouTube and Facebook hopes to bring the Gay community and Scene together in one place and under one banner.

**GayWakefield.com goes live 05.02.11!**

## Leeds Gay Community @ 40

One of Yorkshire's longest running gay social organisations, the Leeds Gay Community (LGC) celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. To celebrate this milestone the present committee is keen to invite former members and friends to an evening of socialising and celebration of this remarkable achievement at the Cosmopolitan Hotel, Leeds on Saturday 2nd April. Admission by ticket only will be £12. Further info is available on the website:

[www.leeds-gay-community.org.uk](http://www.leeds-gay-community.org.uk)



## BLAST Drop-in

- Are you a young man aged 18 to 25?
- Do you live in the Leeds or Bradford area?
- Are you selling/exchanging sex and/or working as an escort?
- Do you sometimes feel vulnerable and in need of support?

Running once a month in central Leeds and once a month in central Bradford the drop-ins provide a free, supportive and confidential safe space for you to meet others, share experiences, feel supported and get access to a range of services.

**Drop-in not for you? Chat to us on MSN Messenger. We will be online every Thursday from 5pm – 6pm**

**[blast@live.co.uk](mailto:blast@live.co.uk)**

**For more information about these services or for additional support contact the BLAST Project Coordinator, Phil Mitchell on 07921 372 896**

**Email: [blast@mesmac.co.uk](mailto:blast@mesmac.co.uk) / [p.mitchell@mesmac.co.uk](mailto:p.mitchell@mesmac.co.uk)**

**BLAST! is part of the Yorkshire MESMAC Group of Services.  
Registered Charity No: 1040407**



# LOVE TORPEDO

By Les Lea

Adrian has the biggest and thickest dick I've ever seen. Well I mean in real life, not some humongous thing that you see in some porn films that would scare the horses and make them feel inadequate. No... Adrian's is fantastic; straight, thick, hairless, un-cut and with a silky shiny bulbous head. He always knows how to show off his impressive bulge as his clothes fit him only to emphasise his groin. He's a good looking guy too but knows he has something special between his legs and, should that day come when his looks fade, his cock will always be there. He is so proud of it and likes to use it almost non-stop and, as his boyfriend, I can tell you that I get a great deal of work from its silky thickness. Mornings before he goes to work, evenings as soon as he comes in and nights before we drop off to sleep, his cock pushes and probes into each and every orifice, frantically reaching a friction induced climax that takes us both over the edge and near collapse.

He never gets tired of using it because he simply thinks that God has given him it for a reason and not to use it would be a sin. He is very definite in his ways. He knows what he wants and made it clear from the moment we met that he wanted me... and that I should be prepared for a sex life that rivals no other... and he wasn't joking then and still isn't. When we have threesomes, foursome or moresomes... I get off on the surprised look on whoever is on the receiving end of his terrific 'love torpedo' - my pet name for a thing that could cause a great deal of damage if not handled properly. I never feel jealous because I also enjoy the ideas he comes up with. I am proud of my boyfriend on so many levels and the fact that he always has enough energy to make sure I am satisfied is more than enough for me. Mind you, there are times when I could do with just a little less attention. Some weekends we

never leave the bed and I find out just how inventive, forceful, imaginative and vigorous he can be. Work on Mondays are often a butt clenching ordeal as memories of what we've recently done, and how often, have left me sore, stiff and with the impression he is still firmly stuck up there. Yes, his 'Love Torpedo' doesn't just leave others devastated; I am often in the same boat, damaged but limping along hoping to find a safe berth. I'm making him sound selfish but he isn't really, it's just that I have never learned to say no to him. He treats me so well, we get along brilliantly and in all honesty, I love his huge dick. I love the fact that it's mine when I want it so, I have to accept that my butt is his when he wants it.

When we're on holiday and he's sitting by the pool or lying on the beach, his packed but ancient Speedos are always an attention grabber. I've seen both guys and girls injure themselves while peering at that tell-tale bulge while not looking where they're going. Even if he's dozing in the sun, his cock has a life of its own; throbbing and squirming around under the thin nylon. It seems the heat encourages it to do amazing things; pushing the fabric up or out, often trying to escape the waistband, outlining its considerable mass and becoming a hazard to those who just can not believe their eyes. I once asked him why he didn't wear the more trendy baggy shorts to the beach and he just smiled: "It wouldn't be half as much fun." He knows that it can become a real talking point and we've been followed back to our apartment on many occasions. The girls get a polite brush off, while the guys get to try it out for size!

It could change some for ever but most will never forget their 'Love Torpedo' experience.



## Gay Chat

# 08715 223 033



real stories  
real tales

XXXX  
filth

- 09097 9051 00 A slender boys tender dick deep in yer throat (18)
- 09097 9051 01 Shop uniform comes off to reveal slim lads smooth cock
- 09097 9051 02 College lads tease sir wiv their cocks
- 09097 9051 03 Dirty old man fiddled wiv a lads cock (18)
- 09097 9051 04 Doc pulls boys undies down and gives him a boner (18)
- 09097 9051 05 Feelin a lads arse at work lead to more
- 09097 9051 06 Footie lads sent for early shower have sex instead
- 09097 9051 07 Gay porno gets str8 mates suckin dick
- 09097 9051 08 Groping u leads to hot sex at back of shops
- 09097 9051 09 Horny boy wants yer hot juicy dick (18)
- 09097 9051 10 I accidently banged me pool cue into a lads dick
- 09097 9051 11 I caught me mate wankin in me bruv's footie shorts
- 09097 9051 12 I got a boner watching me mate play fottie
- 09097 9051 13 I kissed me fuck buddy for the first time
- 09097 9051 14 I took wank mag off str8 scally & grabbed his cock
- 09097 9051 15 I wanked a scally thug to stop him deckin me
- 09097 9051 16 I'll take yer full length in me gob
- 09097 9051 17 Lads get well horny playin naked snooker in a pub
- 09097 9051 18 Lads let you carry on slammin after you've cum up ass
- 09097 9051 19 Luv me bird to bits but I luv havin sex wiv guys
- 09097 9051 20 Me and me bezzie mate got well gay while his bird saw
- 09097 9051 21 Me and u boners in the sauna
- 09097 9051 22 Me and u wiv stiff cocks in and out of our Calvins
- 09097 9051 23 Me Dads mate took me in from the rain and got naked
- 09097 9051 24 Me sleepin mates boner woz up against me arse
- 09097 9051 25 Naked college hunk wankin on top of desk for sir
- 09097 9051 26 Naked teenboy at the newsagents (18)
- 09097 9051 27 Naked wiv me str8 mate after a fottie game

- 09097 9051 28 Night of stiff cocks wiv me Mums boyfriend
- 09097 9051 29 Old man and teenage boy rub cocks together (18)
- 09097 9051 30 Phone slender teen and he'll try his new trunks on
- 09097 9051 31 Pothead woz off his face so I sat on it
- 09097 9051 32 Pretend bummin turns real for str8 mates
- 09097 9051 33 Pullin down ASDA lads uniform trousers
- 09097 9051 34 Rude boy luvs yer cock(18)
- 09097 9051 35 Rude boys swap speedos at the baths (18)
- 09097 9051 36 Scallies and moshers havin dick fun on a bus
- 09097 9051 37 Scallies kiss and copper gets hard-on
- 09097 9051 38 Scally gets his sweaty boner out on a crowded train
- 09097 9051 39 Scally in TJ Hughes smellin of cum
- 09097 9051 40 Scally mates find out they are both into cock
- 09097 9051 41 Scally pissed in a bottle and poured it over his dick
- 09097 9051 42 Scally removes baseball cap and the rest in shop
- 09097 9051 43 Sir likes naked boys wiv big dicks (18)
- 09097 9051 44 Sniffin teenage sweat between balls and thigh
- 09097 9051 45 Teenage dicks get stiff in changing rooms (18)
- 09097 9051 46 Till tonite it woz just about wrestlin fully naked
- 09097 9051 47 Wet naked guy sits on lifeguards lap at the baths
- 09097 9051 48 Wot happens when you get 2 horny teens in room
- 09097 9051 49 Wot I did after I got me wasted mate naked

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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.



## ARIES

(Mar21/Apr20)

Your love life picks up now. This will be due in no small measure to your irresistible charm and sparkling personality. If you've been uncertain yet hopeful about a current relationship, Aries your instincts will be bang on target. You may have had that certain special feeling that someone's going to play a big part in your life in the future and events this will confirm this to be true. If you already have a partner and there have been a few misunderstandings lately, this is an ideal time to patch up your differences.

## TAURUS

(Apr21/May21)

You're frantically busy during the first half of the week and in an odd sort of way, you will thoroughly enjoy this. When you eventually pause for breath you might suddenly remember something you've forgotten to do for someone. Because this will have been important to them, their disappointment could result in some sort of power struggle. The earliest opportunity you get to find a way to resolve this and make it up to them, the more harmonious life will be!

## GEMINI

(May22/June21)

If you and your lover aren't seeing each other as often as you normally do, you might feel you aren't getting your feelings across very well. Quick conversations leave you thinking so much has been left unsaid. You've always been good with words so why not write a love letter traditional style with paper and pen? Expressing all your thoughts and emotions through the written word will help you get it all off your chest and your lover will understand you better.

## CANCER

(June22/July23)

If a partner's complaining your relationship lacks spark, they're in for a big surprise. You're about to show them how romantic you can be! A heated argument could lead to a passionate encounter between the sheets or in the most unlikely place! You've always been imaginative and you will come up with some great ways to spice up your love life. A friend is moody and uncooperative these days but only because they envy your affair.

## LEO (July24/Aug23)

A loving partnership enters a new and more intimate phase. You've always valued our independence but you're also finding yourself being drawn into activities that will bring you closer than you have ever been to a certain special someone. You're in the mood to arrange a little surprise to demonstrate your true affections and your partner will be over the moon. Buying a lottery ticket or entering competitions could bring you good fortune.

## VIRGO

(Aug24/Sept23)

There's a problem that has been passed around from pillar to post. No one seems any nearer resolving it. That's why it is you who people are turning to now. They seem to think you

will know what to do. The good thing too is: you do! And very soon the matter will be resolved. Your partner and other loved ones have been feeling a little left out of late with you having been so busy. Arranging a get together this week will be just the boost your relationship needs to bring it back to life.

## LIBRA

(Sept24/Oct23)

You're in a right old muddle when it comes to your relationship and you can't quite see how or why you have got there. You may have ended up in a love triangle and you didn't intend for one relationship to grow so meaningful. Or some confusion has occurred between you and your lover and you have no idea what has caused the misunderstanding. As long as everything remains unclear, you will feel miserable. It's time for a heart to heart don't you think?

## SCORPIO

(Oct24/Nov22)

Facing up to home truths is difficult for many people and what you would rather do is hide your head in the sand when it comes to a certain issue. A close and loving relationship is getting rather complicated. You're getting out of your depth especially if it seems like your partner expects you to make a long term commitment you aren't yet ready for. Be honest, set matters straight and if they're prepared to go more slowly, the relationship just might have a chance.

## SAGITTARIUS

(Dec22/Jan20)

There's a lot of excitement in the air. Mental rapport with others seems to be almost telepathic. You and your partner or a close friend will instinctively know what the other is thinking. If you put your intuition to good use you may even be able to arrange something special for a loved one without them asking for it. Whatever your decisions concerning your career, everyone is behind you. You even have your boss eating out of the palm of your hands.

## CAPRICORN

(Dec22/Jan20)

Although you have plenty to do and it's going to be a squeeze to fit it in, there's a social get together being arranged that you won't want to miss. A contact you make while attending this function could help increase your chances for a successful conclusion to a long range enterprise. If you have a partner, take them along with you. Even if you aren't in the mood, be hesitant about crying out of activities that could help your future.

## PISCES

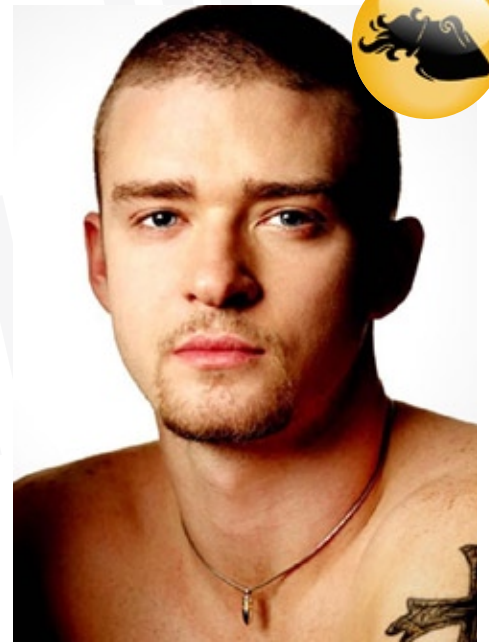
(Feb20/Mar20)

The only hitch in the smooth routine of your life is when an older friend or housemate tries too hard to influence your opinions. They seem set to continue meddling in your affairs and though it's because they care, it is starting to irritate you. If you would prefer to make your own choices and decisions, ask them politely to keep out of it. They may not like it but at least they will start keeping their thoughts to themselves!

## AQUARIUS

(Jan21/Feb19)

The chance to earn some extra cash may not be as appealing as it was when you first heard about it. The job you are asked to do will take up more of your spare time than you anticipated. If it seems like the effort won't be worth the pay, suggest someone else might do it instead. Commitments are starting to stifle you. Fortunately, others do understand your free spirit and those who love you will be giving you the space you need, this week, to do your own thing.



JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE 31/01

## CELEBRITY AQUARIUS

21/01 Geena Davis	05/02 Jennifer Jason-leigh
22/01 John Hurt	06/02 Bob Marley
23/01 Rutger Hauer	07/02 Ashton Kutcher
24/01 John Belushi	08/02 Seth Green
25/01 Alicia Keys	09/02 Mena Suvari
26/01 Bridget Fonda	10/02 Roberta Flack
27/01 Wolfgang Mozart	11/02 John Barrowman
28/01 Elijah Wood	12/02 Christina Ricci
29/01 Heather Graham	13/02 Robbie Williams
30/01 Christian Bale	14/02 Simon Pegg
01/02 Lisa Marie Priestley	15/02 Matt Groening
02/02 Shakira	16/02 Ice-T
03/02 Daniel Craig	17/02 Joseph Gordon-Levitt
04/02 Natalie Imbruglia	18/02 Matt Dillon
	19/02 Seal

## COMPETITION TIME

Send your entries to:

### Competition Time

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or: [comp@bent.com](mailto:comp@bent.com)  
(inc. name and address)

### Bent Magazine Prize Draw Terms & Conditions

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

9. There are no alternative cash prizes.

10. Bent Magazine's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
11. When you enter a prize draw, your details will be used to provide you with updates, information and promotions from Bent and other members of APN Ltd. You can opt out at any time by following the Unsubscribe link on the bottom of every email or by sending an email to [unsubscribe@bent.com](mailto:unsubscribe@bent.com) asking to be removed from our mailing list.
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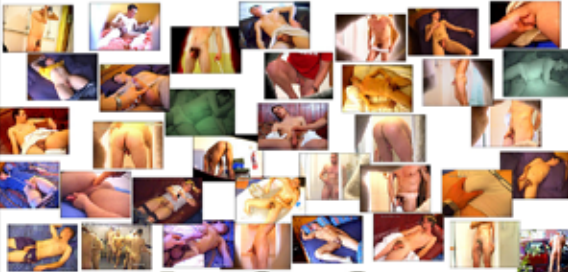
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