

bent

ISSUE 149 // JUNE 2011 // MAG.BENT.COM

**JAMES
MCAVOY**
BEING AN X MAN

**MASPALOMAS
PRIDE**
FUN IN THE SUN

**FRANKIE
KNUCKLES**
GODFATHER OF HOUSE

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48
hours

In Liverpool

Friday

1pm – Arrival at Liverpool Lime Street. From here it's only a short mince to base2stay.

1.30pm – Arrive at base2stay. Dump the bags, freshen up and make ourselves presentable.

2.00pm – Lunch at Lunya. Liverpool's multiple award-winning Catalan restaurant is a fusion deli and restaurant, located in a beautifully converted 18th century warehouse in Liverpool One on College Lane (by Habitat and Waterstones). Lunch deals include three tapas dishes and bread, or a three-course set menu with a drink, both for under £10.

3.00pm – Shopping at Liverpool One. Everything from All Saints to Henri Lloyd is located at Liverpool One, so any gay will have a field day. Make sure you keep an eye on liverpool-one.com for the latest discounts and offers available to shoppers. Students are also reminded to carry their NUS for discounts of up to 25% at selected retailers.

6pm – Check in properly at base2stay hotel. Grab a complimentary Fairtrade coffee or two from the Nespresso machine and head up to your room to get ready for dinner. At this point it's worth organising breakfast for tomorrow morning. The hotel doesn't have its own kitchen to keep costs down for guests, but Franklins @ FACT offer a cooked breakfast box for less than £6. Alternatively, Lunya will deliver a continental-style breakfast for £5. Compared to the price of most hotels' own breakfasts, this is a steal. Breakfast will be delivered to your room any time up to 11am.

7pm – Dinner at Bem Brasil. Bem Brasil is a traditional Brazilian churrascaria de Rodizio restaurant. The idea is that you pay a fixed fee and enjoy the continual dining experience. Fresh cuts of meat are prepared at the open-plan barbecue and carved at your table, with beef, lamb, chicken and pork served throughout the day. Make sure you try out their barbecued cinnamon pineapple as an excellent palate cleanser at the end.

8.30pm – Back to the hotel to get ready. Now's the time to try out all those new outfits you bought throughout the day. Once you've plucked and preened yourself, and maybe had a quick disco nap, it's time to head out.

10.30pm – Drinks at Lisbon. Lisbon on Victoria Street is a great starting point for your queer night out. This traditional pub has a magnificent oldschool ceiling and a friendly atmosphere.



11.30pm – Dancing at The Navy Bar. With its colourful lighting, cute staff and cheap drinks, The Navy Bar makes a perfect next stop on your tour of Liverpool. Add to that the best mainstream dance and pop classics, and you won't be able to get off the dancefloor!



base2stay Liverpool

base2stay is a new concept in hotels. The idea is simple: there are no hidden charges and because the hotel is stripped of all the services and extras you don't use anyway, the prices are kept as low as possible. But it manages to do this without skimping on the things you really do want: free wi-fi, 30 mins of free local and national calls, full air-conditioning and luxury surroundings.

base2stay is different from most hotels in that it has neither a hotel nor a bar to swallow up the budget of unwary travellers. Instead it has a free Nespresso machine in the spacious reception lounge, a vending machine with high-street prices instead of the inflated hotel minibar prices charged elsewhere, and selected discounts at local bars, restaurants and retailers.

There is also a compact kitchen unit in every room, making it perfect for clubbers wanting a pad to crash on a night out in a new city, businessmen and -women who don't want to pay £20 for room service, and couples wanting a city break without the fuss.

The upshot is there aren't hoteliers pestering you every five minutes, and you can spend what you want, when you want.

Housed in a 19th Century industrial complex, which was once a printworks, a cork warehouse and an engineering works, the building has been revamped by Liverpool architects Austin-Smith Lord while maintaining certain original quirks, such as the exposed brickwork, ironwork and timber trusses recovered from earlier 18th Century ships.

Rooms are spacious, elegant and stylish, with a prevailing designer aesthetic dreamed up by French expert Clarissa Nadler. The hotel itself is almost a gallery, with specially commissioned art by local creative Ronald Diennet, who created no less than 525 pieces for base2stay.

Prices start from just £49 per room per night, up to £149 for the luxurious Secret Garden Suite, with its own private terrace garden and two floors to sleep up to five people.

www.base2stay.co.uk



1am – Camp clubbing at the G-Bar Showbar. On Eberle Street, G-Bar is a much-loved local venue with spangly drag queens, a young crowd and an up-for-it attitude. The Showbar features drag DJs Lavinia, Whitney Wide-On, Sian and Doreen Kumkwik spinning out the best camp trash in Liverpool.

3am – Afterparty at Bitch Disco. Fridays see Bitch Disco roll out the big guns downstairs in G-Bar. Resident DJs include Neil James, Wayne Cuddy, Davy Kidd, Andy Matthews and Andy Mac, with house, tech, electro and G-Bar classics. Vodballs and shots are ridiculously cheap at just £1, with bottles starting at £2. What more do you need? The club is open till 5am, which will give you plenty of time to party.

Saturday

10.45am – Wake-up call from reception. Time to throw on a dressing gown and stick the coffee on before the breakfast arrives.

11am – Breakfast from Franklins @ FACT. Time to tuck in to your cooked breakfast!

12pm – Head to Albert Dock. The walk will take fifteen to twenty minutes and will give you a bit of fresh air too.

12.30pm – Visit Liverpool Maritime Museum. Absorb yourself in a bit of culture and check out the histories of slavery, piracy, smuggling and war in Liverpool. The museum features its own exhibition on gay men at sea, including a brief section on the gay language Polari.

2pm – Lunch in the Museum Dining Rooms. Surprisingly, the museum's fourth-floor restaurant appears in the Michelin Guide's top ten eateries in Liverpool. Food is only served from midday till 5pm, specialising in lunch and afternoon tea, with a menu



devised by Gordon Ramsay's old friend Nigel Paul Smith. Alternatively, with Gusto, PanAm, Blue Bar & Grill, Circo Bar & Restaurant, Portico and more all located at the Albert Docks, you can take your pick from where to eat. base2stay offers guests special 20% off vouchers for selected restaurants, including a couple of places at the docks. Just ask at the reception which offers are currently available.

3.30pm – Afternoon treat at the Funky Shake Bar. If you're not already full up on cakes and clotted cream, why not pop into the Funky Shake Bar and try a shake or a healthy smoothie? Everything from Revels to a Toffee Crisp can be blended into a delicious (if very fattening) milkshake. There's also a wide selection of traditional sweets and candies.

4pm – The Yellow Duckmarine Tour. Hop on this converted WWII amphibious landing craft, which departs every 15-30 minutes. Tickets are available from the Anchor Courtyard at Albert Dock, although it is recommended you book tickets in advance and double check the departure and arrival times. The Yellow Duckmarine Tour skirts the city for half an hour, before the legendary 'splashdown', where the Duck takes to the water for the remainder of the journey.

5pm – Head back to base2stay to freshen up. You can relax, take a shower, and take advantage of the free wi-fi. Or else you can sit back and read the complimentary copy of Lern Yerself Scouse (Scouse Press) included in your welcome pack.

7pm – Dinner at Puschka. Puschka is a gay-owned quality bistro located on Rodney Street. You can expect tasty starters such as cream of cauliflower soup with truffle oil and gruyere straws, hand-dived scallops with cauliflower puree and black pudding, or potted Southport shrimps, crab claw, mace butter and toast. Mains include fine cuts of steak, Gressingham duck, pollack fillet and wild mushroom and thyme pudding. The truffle mousse, crème brulee and rhubarb and oat crumble make the perfect finish.

9pm – Drinks at The Curzon. The Curzon is Liverpool's cruisiest bar, but has a great atmosphere to visit with friends. An open-mind is a must, but you'll get to experience a genuinely friendly and welcoming bar experience.

11pm – Drinks at Pink. Known in Liverpool for its infectious radio adverts, which both entertain and annoy in equal measure, you're sure for a camp good time at Pink. Check out fabulous DJ Brenda as she works the crowd into a bubbly pink froth of gayness.



1am – Clubbing at Garlands. Garlands is legendary across the country as one of the UK's premier gay-friendly clubbing destinations. Like Federation or the Hacienda back in the day, Garlands is known as a no-holds-barred nighttime spectacular, where everyone mixes without attitude, whether gay, straight or undecided. Armies of fabulously dressed drag queens and entertainers prowling Eberle Street and lure you into their palace of clubbing excellence. Expect bright colours, a vibrant crowd and the best music in Liverpool on any weekend. There's always a queue, but good things come to those who wait, and you won't be disappointed!

Sunday

11am – Checkout from base2stay. As with their 'Arrival Base' deal, however, you can also book a room for just an hour or two later on in the day with their 'Departure Base'

12am – Brunch at 3345 Parr Street. 3345 Parr Street is a lounge bar and restaurant, housed inside the famous Parr Street recording studios. As such, expect a bohemian flavour and a creative crowd.

1pm – Wave bye-bye to Liverpool!



Page 34
James McAvoy



Page 31
Knickers Galore



Page 24
Frankie Knuckles

Editor's Words

'FIRST MAN CURED OF HIV' – such a headline of course caught my eye as I perused the various websites the other day. This was not a vaccine breakthrough but a stem-cell treatment that has had surprisingly good results. Of course this doesn't mean that we can all start shagging around irresponsibly but it perhaps means that help may soon be available for the 6+ million victims of this dreaded disease.

Meanwhile, straight, and very adorable ex England rugby union star Ben Cohen (yes the sweetie who donated his jock-strap to a gay auction) has been leading the way in the campaign to stop bullying and tackle homophobia... especially in sport and schools. He's touring the USA and the UK with his Ben Cohen Stand Up Foundation, where he will visit gay and gay friendly sports institutions raising awareness and speaking out against what he sees as the sad lack of support on these issues from most sports stars and regulators.



In an interview with this month's Attitude magazine the world's only openly gay footballer, Anton Hysen, says others in the closet should not worry about fans' reactions. The Swedish star, 20, came out earlier this year, declaring that it was "f*cked up" that no other players had done so. "I really don't think it's a big thing," he said. "I mean, of course it's brave but why should it be brave?"

I think that it will take a whole host of gay sport stars to all come out at once, tell those detractors to "Go fuck themselves" and just get on with it. They may need to challenge homophobia with a bit more zeal but it shouldn't be left to gay-friendly straight sportsmen to do all the bloody work... as much as we appreciate their efforts.

A bit of good news... if it is indeed good news... is that the Ugandan government has put the brakes on their hateful bill to ban homosexuality thanks to international condemnation from around the globe. According to leading activist Peter Tatchell that is except for one august body... the Commonwealth. "The 54 Commonwealth member states comprise one quarter of the UN membership and one third of all humanity." He writes in a piece for the Guardian. "Forty-six of these Commonwealth countries still criminalise same-sex relations in all circumstances, with penalties including 25 years jail in Trinidad and Tobago and 20 years plus flogging in Malaysia. Several countries stipulate life imprisonment: Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Uganda, Tanzania and Bangladesh. These 46 homophobic Commonwealth countries account for more than half of the 76 countries in the world that still have a total prohibition on homosexuality."

I don't know about you but I'm getting pretty fed up with our Government nodding in the direction of LGBT rights but doing pretty much nothing about it when they get the chance. They should be aggressively challenging the leader of the Commonwealth, which surprisingly isn't the Queen but The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Kamalesh Sharma, and insist that he acts against those within this elite band of countries to stop invoking laws to the detriment of their own citizens.

Here's a thought to the PM and his Deputy, David and Nick; stop promising that you are going to give your mate the best blow job ever... but never really going through with it. Because, in the end, neither of you will ever know just how good it really feels!

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Next Issue // 28TH June

Distribution and Availability
08712 246 524

Clubs & Bars
Distribution
Dale Express

Bent Ltd.
APN House,
Leeds
LS11 8BP

Subscription
Tel: 08712 246 524
Web: mag.bent.com

Basic annual rate:
UK £36.00
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+44 113 3449524

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Image by Jaime Sylla. Benches by Leo Asemota.

BE SWITCHED ON

As LGBT people we've all faced discrimination. Within our own community some of us also feel excluded because of the colour of our skin. A divided community makes us all weaker.

Embrace diversity in our community.

To hear the stories of our rainbow spokes-models, go to www.gmfa.org.uk/SwitchedOn

Charity No. 1076854



Big Up is the volunteer group working to improve Black gay men's health. To volunteer for Big Up, or any other GMFA group, or to make a donation, visit www.gmfa.org.uk or call 020 7738 6872. For more information on HIV, AIDS and safer sex for gay men, visit www.gmfa.org.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED

Manbears

By Simon Savage

Goldilocks would have had a field day if she had happened across Manchester's Canal Street for the first May Bank Holiday weekend as it turned into a sea of bears and cubs and then became a furry fuzz.



Now on its 14th event the 'Great British Bear Bash' has become a must visit for bears, cubs, otters and their fans from across the globe. Men from all over the UK, Europe, America and even further afield revelled in the four-day long event from the opening 'friendly welcome' at the REM Bar.

As well as the club nights, including the opening 'Navy' themed party at the Ritz on the Friday night, there were endless amounts to do during the daytime. Many opting for a special Beary few hours at The Basement Sauna before cooling off at one of the

weekends highlights - The Pool Party (which sells out every year). Think a rather camp and delightfully hairy bear soup.

Other highlights included a cabaret show, talent search and dance troupe at The Birdcage, barbecue in Sackville Park, and bear themed nights at several of the bars with particular mention going out to The Eagle.

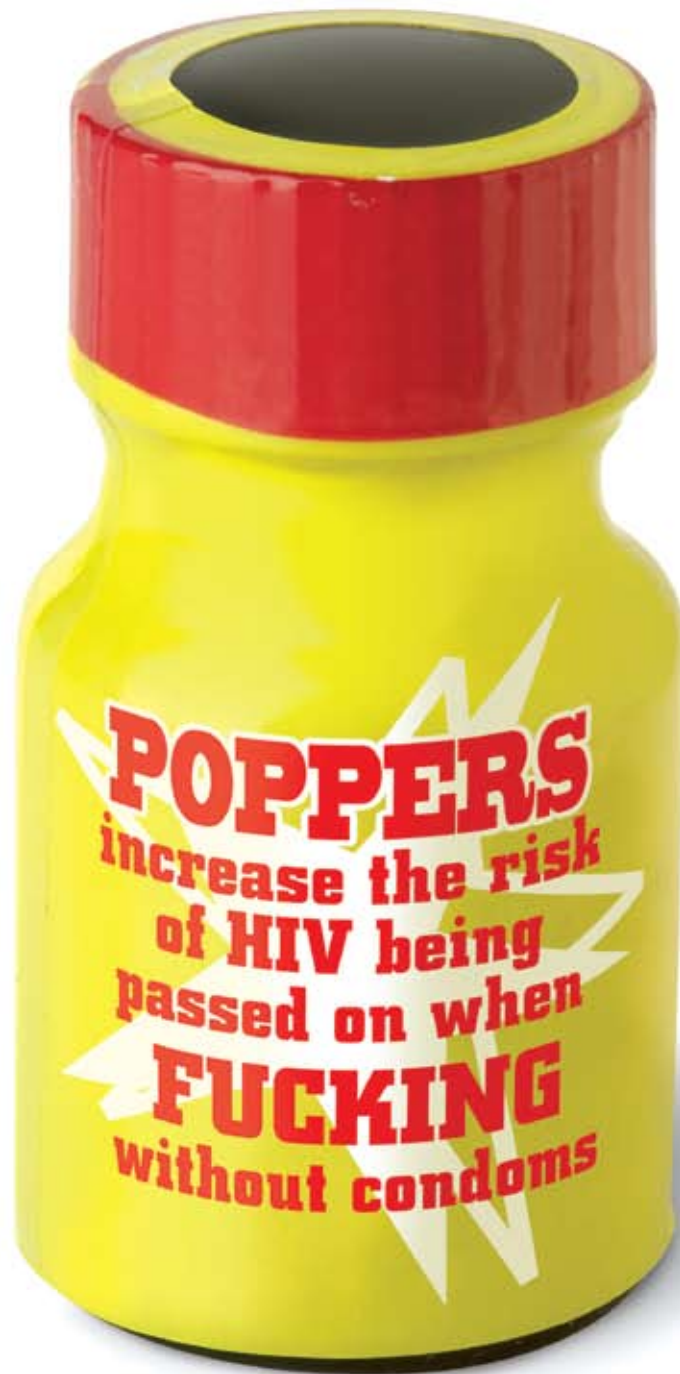
Legends played host to the clubbing with the infamous Foam Party (less attire the better) on the Sunday night as a fond and frothy farewell!

A brilliant event all in all and one that needs to feature heavily in any bear or bear lovers diary! We can't wait till next year... and if you can't either... there is always the Pre-hi 'bear' nation event in the Autumn.

For more information visit: www.manbears.co.uk

Photos: www.Bearpix.co.uk





Poppers make blood vessels in the arse expand. This can make it more likely HIV is passed on if a negative man uses poppers when being fucked by a man with HIV. Condoms greatly lower this risk.

For more on how HIV is passed on and how poppers increase the risk, visit chapsonline.org.uk/biology or call THT DIRECT > 0845 12 21 200



Bites

Transform

The landscape of art is shifting... has shifted, the way in which people want and choose to interact with the cultural offerings of their city is changing. West Yorkshire Playhouse is responding to this ongoing evolution with TRANSFORM, a programme of work which will take place throughout the building. Working with Artistic Director Ian Brown and the Playhouse's new associate producer Amy Letman, TRANSFORM curators Alan Lane and Kully Thiarai have created a season of work that has hitherto not had much of a place in the Playhouse's programme. From a new durational piece by internationally renowned artist Chris Goode to Geraldine Pilgrim's 15 minute performance; From Lemn Sissay's one man show to The Red Room's installation and performance in which everyone can get involved, each work investigates how theatre can be transformative.

To celebrate the beginning of this new strand of programming for West Yorkshire Playhouse, the cafe and bar will be transformed into, SMOKE AND MIRRORS, a Cabaret on Saturday 18 June. Designed by installation artist Shanaz Gulzar the event will include performances from The Wau Wau Sisters, Bourgeois & Maurice (Beth Ditto is a big fan describing them as absolute filth), Company FZ and close-up magic from Tim Sutton. The WYP promises a fortnight of theatrical difference, ingenuity and above all... entertainment.

West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds 6th – 18th June

Box Office: 0113 213 7700

www.wyp.org.uk

Photo: Tom Jef

LADY GAGA - Strange and Beautiful

The Fabulous Style of Lady Gaga
By Laura Coulman

With 'Born This Way' destined for a long stay in the album charts the plethora of books about this particular enigmatic popstar continues to grow.



Back in 2005, struggling songstress Stefani Germanotta – half-crazed from hunger and one bad trip – reinvented herself as Lady Gaga, a fearless, attention-craving alter-ego determined to write and wear whatever she pleased. Once unleashed, Gaga's arsenal of eye-catching, jaw-dropping looks changed the face of pop culture forever, inspiring reverence and revulsion in equal measure, and helping to make her one of the most influential celebrities on the planet. This book pays tribute to her own unbridled form of self-expression, showcasing each of her most compelling looks – from glinting space suits to frothy lace fancies to glitter-bone corsets to blood-stained ensembles fresh from the abattoir. Lavishly illustrated with more than 150 colour photos, Strange and Beautiful reveals the concepts, clothes, directors and designers that help Lady Gaga push fashion to its very limits.

£14.99 - Plexus

Quality listening

Pioneer continues to strengthen its lineup in the DJ market with the release of the HDJ-500T with included microphone cord; a new model designed for home DJing. The HDJ-500 headphones give a clear middle and low range for more accurate drum kick and snare sound monitoring, essential for DJ mixing. The HDJ-500T can now be utilized in even more situations, the standard flexible coil cord is for DJing whilst a new straight cord with a microphone allows for on the go hands-free talking when



listening to music on a mobile phone.

www.pioneer.eu/uk

Next top model Competition



Following last year's success, Manchester Pride is today re-launching 'Pride's Next Top Model'.

This competition aims to find two models (one male and one female), who will appear in the festival's marketing campaign for 2012.

Prizes include: Two VIP passes to Manchester Pride's Big Weekend and the chance to be the face of Manchester Pride's marketing campaign. Winners will also receive copies of their photos for portfolio use.

Will Hadfield from Manchester and Emma Speed from Liverpool won the competition last year.

Commenting on her win, Emma Speed said: "We got to lead the parade with Sir Ian McKellen and it was just exhilarating. It was an experience I will never forget and I would most definitely recommend it to others."

Will Hadfield said: "I was completely shocked to win, and of course really excited! The whole experience was amazing."

The competition will run until Monday 18 July with application forms available at www.manchesterpride.com.

Early Bird tickets are now available for Manchester Pride's four-day Big Weekend, which runs from Friday 26- Monday 29 August, cost £15.00 plus booking fee and are available until 30 June. From 1 July tickets will cost £20.00 plus booking fee. Tickets can be purchased at www.manchesterpride.com or at various venues around the city.

FAIRYtales by Allan Christian Hansen



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App Store

SINGLES | By Adam Lowe



ALEX GAUDINO FT. KELLY ROWLAND
What a Feeling
Out Now

R&B has gone out of fashion with music buyers. Kelis knows it, Snoop Dogg knows it and Kelly Rowland definitely knows it. After working with David Guetta on two smash hits, and now having two UK number ones under her belt, she's turning to another dance legend, Alex Gaudino, to hit the charts again. Gaudino is best known for 'Destination Calabria', which long ago became a clubbing anthem. The collaboration is inspired. Gaudino and Rowland slow down the tempo right down, instead offering a euphoric summer vibe perfectly suited for parties on the patio. This lacks the gusto of 'Commander' and the elation of 'When Love Takes Over', but nevertheless achieves something transcendent and sublime.



JILL SCOTT FT. ANTHONY HAMILTON
So In Love
27th June

Jilly from Philly, the star of HBO/BBC's The No. 1 Lady's Detective Agency and winner of three Grammy Awards, returns from the success of The Real Thing: Words and Sounds, Vol. 3 with her new album The Light of the Sun. 'So in Love' is the first single from this album with her new contract at Warner. 'So in Love' is classic Jill, with laidback grooves, mellifluous vocals and neo-soul sass. While 'So in Love' doesn't reach the intoxicating heights of 'Love Rain' or the free-flowing jubilation of 'He Loves Me (Lyzel in E Flat)', it's threaded with a real sunshine funk that's guaranteed to put a smile on your face.



CALVIN HARRIS FT. KELIS
Bounce
13th June

The woman whose frothy dairy products bring the boys to the yard is in the capable hands of Calvin Harris this time, as she continues down the road of dance deliciousness. 'Bounce' is a sexy electro house track with heaps of attitude and that smoky Kelis flavour. Calvin Harris' production work is smooth and sophisticated, riddled as usual with 80s touches, but sounding overall like a thing of the present rather than the past. This will be a good year for both Calvin and Kelis.



JASON DERULO
Don't Wanna Go Home
20th June

Jaaaaasooooon Derrruuuulo teams up with the Fliptones for his latest chunk of infectious urban pop. This track is an unabashed escapist jaunt into summer, and is radio-friendly but of course totally disposable. Expect Jason to pop up in shades at every festival going and to be played to death on the radio (he's the ninth most-played artist on British radio). This is one for the teeny-boppers.



Whats on // Manchester

Take That hit Manchester

It's definitely time to shine as Gary, Jason, Howard, Mark and Robbie make their triumphant return to their home town of Manchester, with a monumental 8 tour dates at the City of Manchester Stadium over 2 weeks. Starting on Friday 3rd June 2011 and covering 2 weekends, Cruz 101 will be taking you on a journey through their musical career from the meteoric rise of the 90's, to Robbie's departure and the eventual split and then on to the triumphant come back and now the return of

Robbie. With nearly 2 decades of hits, numerous best-selling albums including the fastest selling album of the century and countless sell out tours under their belts, these guys have dominated the charts. On Monday 6th June DJ Dino and the Disco Inferno team will be giving away loads of Take That cd's. With summer season in full swing there is no reason to miss this fantastic event for all Take That fans.

Aftershock

Manchester's ONLY weekly gay house night continues this Saturday at Sub101, below Cruz, providing the perfect hide out for the sexiest clubbers and the hedonistic house lovers in the city. Aftershock residents Nik Denton, Gregg Holden, Ross Homson, Dusty & Darren Bewsher deliver the soundtrack of chunky upfront beats to keep you

dancing until the early hours. Launched in May Aftershock is fast becoming the only place to be seen on a Saturday night. Check out our photo galleries from the past couple of weeks on our facebook page or visit:

www.clubaftershock.co.uk



MANCHESTER'S BRAND NEW GAY HOUSE NIGHT



AFTERSHOCK

Every Saturday night / Sunday morning
12am - 5.30am from Saturday 7th May

Aftershock residents on rotation
NIK DENTON • GREGG HOLDEN
ROSS HOMSON • DJ DUSTY

Saturday 14th May
DJ ZACK HADLEY



HOSTED IN SUB 101

Entrance to Sub at the side of Cruz, Major Street

101 Princess Street, Manchester. M1 6DD. Limited wheelchair access

ALBUMS | By Adam Lowe



BEDUK
Electric Girl
6th June

Sophie Barker is probably best recognised as one of Zero 7's vocalists, appearing on album Simple Things' breakaway hit 'In the Waiting Line'. However she's also provided vocals for The Egg, Groove Armada, Grooverider, Robin Guthrie (Cocteau Twins) and Muki. Her sophomore solo album (discounting one album for kids), sees Barker more plaintive than before, with a stripped back aesthetic and light production. There are Motown licks, hints of Joni Mitchell and encroaching trip hop elements that reveal a soulful but independent singer/songwriter hitting her stride.



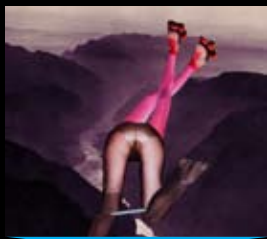
SOPHIE ELLIS-BEXTOR
Make A Scene
6th June

Sophie Ellis-Bextor's latest album cements her status as the British queen of dance-pop. A strong opening sets the tone: somewhat edgier, but with a firm eye on the dancefloor. It's clear that Sophie knows the game, and on this album she has a stellar list of collaborators that reads like a dance who's who. Highlights include the Greg Kurstin (Ke\$ha, Kylie, Lily Allen) collaboration 'Revolution', Calvin Harris-helmed 'Off & On' and her Freemasons hit 'Heartbreak (Make Me a Dancer)'. In Make a Scene Sophie displays a versatility that is both welcome and refreshing.



ADVENTURES IN DUBSTEP & BEYOND, VOL 2
Joe Muggs
6th June

Ministry of Sounds presents the second instalment in the floor-shuddering, body-juddering Adventures in Dubstep & Beyond series. But Joe Muggs delves beneath the wobbling bass synonymous with the genre and proves that dubstep has its connoisseurs and artists as well as any other type of music. Filthy beats quiver through the assortment of tracks, with stalwarts like Zed Bias, Hatcha, Terror Danjah and El-B, bringing together the latest and greatest dubstep in one place. Whether you're new to the big fat dirty monster that is dubstep, or you're a fan eager to sink your teeth into a primer of who's who on the scene, this is the album for you.



NO SURRENDER
Medicine Babies
20th June

Underground NYC club masters No Surrender release their second album: a torrent of hip-hop, synth-pop, soul and indie-rock. This genre-ending sound is produced by former Tricky muse, Constanza Francavilla, and Euro team Radioclit, responsible for MIA and Santigold. Frazzled with feedback, blurring with synths and greasy, grimy slick to boot, this is a beefy electro album with clipped beats and more panting than a Eurocreme porn shoot.

THE SOUNDS
Something To Die For
6th June

From the opening track 'It's So Easy' this power quintet from Sweden offer a heavy progressive electro-rockbeat that grabs the attention. I would suspect that if this manages to get the airplay here in the UK the album will prove itself and get the band the recognition they deserve. Keep an eye out for the name The Sounds, as they are the sounds of the future. Tight, melodic and catchy with more than a hint of head banging rock... and not before time.



FM BELFAST

What type of gay mag would we be if we couldn't bring ourselves to mention a band that has no problem stripping down to their undies during their performances?

FM Belfast is not really a band, it is a community, a force, a friend. You should not treat them as yet another buzz-worthy mp3 clamouring for your attention; you should treat them as a potential friend or lover, a welcome addition to your life that accepts you for who you are, and wants you to be more of it. Who are they, though? For the past four years, Icelandic electropop group FM Belfast have been perfecting the art of reading an audience and connecting with it,

using their steadily growing skills to hone a music that catches easily, yet runs deep; an art of performing that can—and usually does—induce unique and euphoric states in large crowds of people, or just in your headphones. It is harsh and technical, warm and embracing and organic, thoughtful and giddy and cool and inclusive. FM Belfast's is a carefree, light-hearted empathy with balls and vigour, an almost aggressively welcoming party.

To see the band in their pants go to www.vimeo.com/21480001

Out: 3rd June – Don't Want To Sleep – Morr Music



OUT AT THE SEASIDE



Photo: ITV

Over the past couple of years, Pride Torbay has established itself as a friendly, fun and funky event, which really showcases the stunning natural beauty of the 'Rainbow Riviera.' This year, the LGBT festival which runs from Thursday 28th to Sunday 31st July is set to be the most ambitious yet and coming to you live in glorious 3D (well everything else is these days!).

More than a dozen events will be taking place across the four days including an audience participation cinema screening of The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert (get working on those frocks!), an outrageous musical theatre boat party aptly named 'Showboat', a barbecue pool party, a pink picnic, themed pub and club nights, a gay history and heritage walk and the premier of a brand new gay play called 'Swallow Your Pride.'

A unique Rainbow Walk takes place on the Saturday morning

(30th July) and participants are asked to choose one of the six colours of the gay rainbow flag and wear something of that colour. A human rainbow flag will then be formed, taking walkers to the flagship event of the whole weekend – Pride in the Park. Star names on the line-up include Joe McElderry, Diva Fever, Jill Jackson and The DreamBears.



This looks set to be the biggest event in the entire south west, so come and join us in sunny South Devon.

For full details and tickets visit: www.pridetorbay.org



Llandudno gay night

For a while now North Wales has been bereft of any gay night life to talk about but that has changed now that there is a regular weekly event at The Washington. Tutti Fruity is every other Thursday and is a lgbt night with resident DJ Miss Wanda Why. Each Thursday will be a different theme and will consist of silly games the best tunes and drink promotion. It's a good night out for the fun lover in you... and should you be holidaying in Wales this summer... they'd really love to see.

The Washington, East Parade, Llandudno.

Tel: 01492 877 974

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BOY BANNED **Jill Jackson**

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JUNE 30th HALF WAY TO CHRISTMAS PARTY
JULY 14th FEMALE STRIPPER
JULY 28th LIVE CABARET ACT
AUGUST 11th DR'S & NURSES NIGHT
AUGUST 25th PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT (£100 JACKPOT)
SEPTEMBER 8th MALE STRIPPER
SEPTEMBER 22nd LIVE CABARET ACT
OCTOBER 6th FEMALE STRIPPER
OCTOBER 20th HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR
NOVEMBER 3rd BUMFIRE NITE SPEICAL
NOVEMBER 17th PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT (£100 JACKPOT)
DECEMBER 1st LIVE CABARET ACT
DECEMBER 15th CHRISTMAS PARTY SPECIAL
DECEMBER 29th WANDA'S SWOPSHOP OF UNWANTED GIFTS

washington nights Llandudno
Washington Nights, LL30 1BE Llandudno, United Kingdom

DANCE TRAX

With Jason Guy

Federation is returning to Leeds over the summer with two huge outdoor summer garden parties planned – you can catch me playing my trademark uplifting house at both of them – full details at www.clubfederation.com. As usual, you can download my monthly podcast – simply search for 'Jason Guy' in iTunes or download directly from www.jasonguy.podomatic.com. If you'd like to see your track, club, or event featured here, contact me at jason@bent.com.



Serge Devant ft Taleen
3 AM Eternal (Ultra Records)

Serge first came to my attention with his debut track 'Addicted' that I first heard dropped at Beyond in London (which I then proceeded to play the following week at Manchester Federation followed by a hundred requests of "what's this track?"). This time round, Serge is resurrecting the KLF classic '3AM Eternal' with a brand new energy, while successfully capturing the aura of its time. The track builds intensity through its huge anthem breakdown, which showcases KLF's vocals and delivers us into pure 80's bliss with a twist. Serge says about this track, "I kept the best part of the song, which is the break of the track with female vocal singing 'KLF' and catchy dial tones that are very recognizable." Amazing reactions from the first play.



Richard Durand
Explode (Black Hole Recordings)

If you're going to make a progressive/trance track, then this is how it should be done in my eyes. Taken from the album 'Wide Awake', this is not normally something I would like... but it falls more into the tough house category for me. 'Explode' is a beautifully climatic, charging piece of house music, with a deep bassline and long synth chords. Throw in some some beautifully sung lyrics (albeit passed through a vocoder) from vocalist Kash and just watch the dancefloor explode. It's been on repeat on my iPod for days now.



Bingo Players
Cry Just A Little (3Beat)

Now, this track shouldn't really work. In fact, it should be god awful but there's something about it that means I can't stop playing it. Take a sample from Brenda Russell's 1988 hit 'Piano In The Dark', give it a funky baseline and... well that's about it, but it works. Originally created as a bit of a piss take in 2004 and called 'Daval!', it's been dusted down and given the 2011 treatment. Olav Basoski also gets in on the act too, with a tougher, more driving remix full of strings and piano stabs – perfect for the Federation crowd. Be warned though "On no, gave up on the riddle... I cry just a little" will be lodged in your head!



Donati & Amato
Like An Angel (White Label)

The last time we heard from the very cool Italian duo was with one of my favourite tracks of last year, their collaboration with ATFC entitled 'Thrill Me'. 'Like An Angel' is in fact a much more progressive affair than that which we are used to from D&A. Instantly catchy, in a non-cheesy way, this track destroyed the floor when I first dropped it at Federation over Easter. Pick of the mixes here come from Andrea Bertolini who delivers an uplifting vibe that literally bounces along with the sound of summer. Fingers crossed for the sun to go with it, eh?

-HOT-

Meet 24 year-old Romanian, INNA - Europe's latest dance-pop sensation.

How would it feel representing your country next year at Eurovision - is it important and are you proud?

I'd love to represent Romania next year at Eurovision but I don't know exactly how if I will have time. My schedule is pretty hectic nowadays. We'll see next year...

What can fans expect from your album 'Hot'?

Summer music, a lot of tunes that will keep you on the dance floor! I'm telling you this: if you're thinking of throwing a party, you need to have this album.

As this is your first studio album are you worried how fans will take it or are you confident that it's for everyone?

The album "Hot" has proven its strength in many countries. I know that British people are not easy to please but I hope I'll gain their sympathy. I'm eagerly looking forward to its release to see how it's doing. Also, I can't wait to perform in the UK!

'Hot' will be released by 3 Beat records on 13th June

While you may not know her name already, you will certainly have heard her chart-topping club anthems 'Amazing', 'Hot' and current UK top 20 single 'Sun Is Up'. **Ryan Houston** tracks the busy lady down to find out more.

How did you first get into music and why?

I always wanted to be a singer, since I was little, thanks to my mother and grandmother. Every Sunday, they took me to church with them to sing in the church choir. I started taking singing lessons and performed at many youth festivals. Later on, before becoming INNA, I tried my luck with a pop-rock project, I released a couple of tracks that were unfortunately unsuccessful. Then my producers, Play & Win, composed my life changing track, "Hot".

How does it feel to be being recognised as not just a Romanian sensation but Europe's latest dance-pop sensation?

It feels extraordinary! It's really wonderful to see people from different countries having a great time on your music. I'm living my dream and I'm really grateful to all my fans for their amazing support.



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FRIDAY 1ST JULY (AFTERNOON)

Karaoke with DJ Keiron 2PM until 6PM

£50 CASH PRIZE

FRIDAY 1ST JULY (EVENING)

Claire
Our Guest

LISA SCOTT LEE

and Stella Artois

CHEAP DRINKS FROM NOON UNTIL 7PM

ADMISSION £3.00 FROM 9PM

OPEN UNTIL 3AM

SATURDAY 2ND JULY (AFTERNOON)

Paul Grant (Male Stripper)
with Captain Ginger

SATURDAY 2ND JULY (EVENING)

Our Special Guest

TINA COUSINS

with DJ Keiron

CHEAP DRINKS NOON UNTIL 7PM

ADMISSION £3.00 FROM 9PM

OPEN UNTIL 4AM

SUNDAY 3RD JULY (AFTERNOON)

Stella Artois 2:30PM until 7PM

Angel (Male Stripper)

Diane Lee Carol (Vocalist) 8PM

Donna Reid (Vocalist)

Chelsea Stevens (Vocalist)

Our Guest

ANDY SCOTT LEE

FREE ADMISSION

CHEAP DRINKS NOON UNTIL CLOSE

OPEN UNTIL 3AM



Claire



Paul Grant



Diane Lee Carol



Donna Reid



Chelsea Stevens



Stella Artois



Lisa Scott Lee



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MARDI GRAS



PRIDE WEEKEND



Donna Reid



Joanna Shorrock



Irene Silva



Stella Artois



Chelsea Stevens

FRIDAY 10TH JUNE (AFTERNOON)

Karaoke with DJ Keiron

£50 CASH PRIZE

FRIDAY 10TH JUNE (EVENING)

Angie Lang (Vocalist)

Our Special Guest

NICKI FRENCH

CHEAP DRINKS NOON UNTIL 7PM

ADMISSION £3.00 FROM 8PM

OPEN UNTIL 3AM



Nicki French

SATURDAY 11TH JUNE (AFTERNOON)

Joanna Shorrock (Vocalist)

Staxx (Male Stripper)

Donna Reid (Vocalist)

Irene Silva (Vocalist)

SATURDAY 11TH JUNE (EVENING)

KEVIN SIMM

(Formerly of Liberty X)

CHEAP DRINKS NOON UNTIL 7PM

ADMISSION £3.00 FROM 8PM

OPEN UNTIL 5AM



Kevin Simm

SUNDAY 12TH JUNE (AFTERNOON)

Stella Artois 2:30PM until 7PM

Angel (Male Stripper)

SUNDAY 12TH JUNE (EVENING)

Diane Lee Carol (Vocalist)

Chelsea Stevens (Vocalist)

Jan Brett (Vocalist)

Jennifer Ball (Vocalist)

Jo Little (Vocalist)

Aquarius Vocal Duo



Diane Lee Carol



Jan Brett

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BEYONCE

BEAUTY AND THE FREAKS

Suck My Sour Grapes

We've all heard of the saying 'sour grapes'. It comes from one of Aesop's fables. A fox, seeing some grapes on a branch, wants to eat them. When he realises the grapes are too high for him to reach, he convinces himself the grapes must not be ripe yet, and thus they're 'sour grapes'. The moral of the story is that when we don't get what we want, we often convince ourselves we never wanted it in the first place.

Men are exactly the same. If you dump a guy, or reject him, how often do you hear him turn round and scream (in his campest voice), 'Well I never wanted you, anyway!'

Recently I had this exact same experience. But this guy, not content with being dumped and bitching about it, decided to make it his business to tell everyone about his sour grapes. Apparently I'd chased and fawned and begged all over town and he'd turned me down at every stage.

Of course, dear. This fox doesn't go for grapes anyway (I'll just stick to the wine). But if that makes you feel happy, then whatever.

I took the adult, decidedly non-Beyoncé approach, and ignored him. However when I finally ran into him some eighteen months later, having encountered approximately two dozen people who'd heard his sensationalised version of events, things got stranger.

He strutted over, full of aggression, and I braced myself for a bitch fight. I was about ready to take my earrings out and tear myself off a weave, when he dropped a bombshell. This was the kinda bombshell Glenn Close would make if she could get hold of the bunny rabbits.

Would I consider dating him again, he asked. Yes, I know. The insanity of it. Clearly the sight of my grapes hanging from the branch (whether allegedly sour or not) is enough to get any man drunk.

But in the face of this blatant masochism I had to ask myself, was he possessed by the spirit of Colleen Rooney—willing to go back for humiliation again and again and again?

Needless to say, my answer was no. But the fact he even asked told me two things:

1. Men will never cease to surprise me (or themselves) when it comes to their desperation.
2. Nobody can resist the charms of Beyoncé's booty.

So remember boys, if you diss me all over town, and then have the audacity to ask for more tang afterwards, I'll have just one thing to say to you:

Suck my sour grapes!

Gaga Triumphant

American business and general listings magazine Forbes has come out with its annual list of the top 100 most powerful celebrities. For the past umpteen years the top spot has been reserved for talk show host Oprah Winfrey but zooming in to that exalted position is none other than the equally unassuming Lady Gaga. According to Forbes editor Dorothy Pomerantz told Reuters: "She can use Twitter and Facebook to work the 'little monsters' into a frenzy that leads to record sales and media attention. She's the best example of how celebrities will need to manage their careers in the coming years."

Gaga has well over 30 million Facebook fans and was the first celebrity to reach ten million followers on Twitter. She not only sings about and supports gay rights she frequently uses social networking to spread awareness on these issues.

The Top 5

- Lady Gaga
- Oprah Winfrey
- Justin Beiber
- U2
- Sir Elton John

Music Competition

Win These

Turn to page 62 for details

All Gone Ibiza '11

Mixed by Pete Tong & Felix Da Housecat

Following hot on the heels of spring's 'Future Underground' album, Pete Tong joins forces with Felix da Housecat to release 'All Gone Ibiza '11'. It brings together the hottest club tracks that will soundtrack the White Island and beyond this year, including tracks and remixes from Azari & III, Guti, Marco Carola, Stacey Pullen, Tong & Rogers, Boys Noize, Digitalism, Stephen Bodzin vs Marc Rombo, and many more. The album also includes two exclusives from Pete, with his new track 'Dawn' and the Tong & Rogers mix of 'The World Is Beautiful' by Rony Seiklay.

2011 has been one of Pete Tong's biggest years to date. In March, he held his Miami Pool Party (with Hawtin,

Luciano, Joris Voorn, Riva Starr and others), he celebrated 20 years on Radio 1 in April, and this month he announced a 6 month residency in Las Vegas. Add to all this his constant touring, production work, remixes, music supervision, film scoring, and a weekly Radio 1 show, and he's without question the busiest man in dance.



Out: 6th June

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

Where in the USA has Pete announced a 6 months residency?

Pacha – Ibiza Chillout Classics

Drawing on a selection of bona-fide Balearic beats, horizontal chillers and re-works of classic tracks, this is this summer's essential downtempo chillout mix. 20+ years of beach lifestyle and afterparty relax mode - Pacha has a remarkable pedigree for bringing the best for that stress-free, easy at home, relaxing on the balcony, tripping in the garden or coming down from a festival high moment. From blissed-out tunes to pre-party anthems this 3CD compilation is set to chill even the hottest clubbers

and electronic music fans.



Out: 23rd June – New State Music

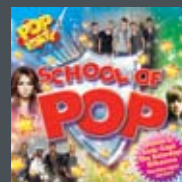
To be in with a chance of winning a copy of the 3CD collection, just answer this simple question:

Ibiza is part of which island group?

School of Pop

School Of Pop features top ten tunes from all your favourite popstastic acts including X Factor heartthrobs JLS (Love You More), Jennifer Lopez with her smashing number one hit Get On The Floor, Justin Bieber with his unforgettable hit Baby and the new queen of pop Rihanna (Only Girl). More chart toppers include Cheryl Cole (Promise This), Lady Gaga (Born This Way), and The Saturdays (Higher). With these speaker busting anthems, this album is bound to be a burning hot chart sensation!

This fun-packed album also includes behind-the-scenes videos! Out Now - UMTV

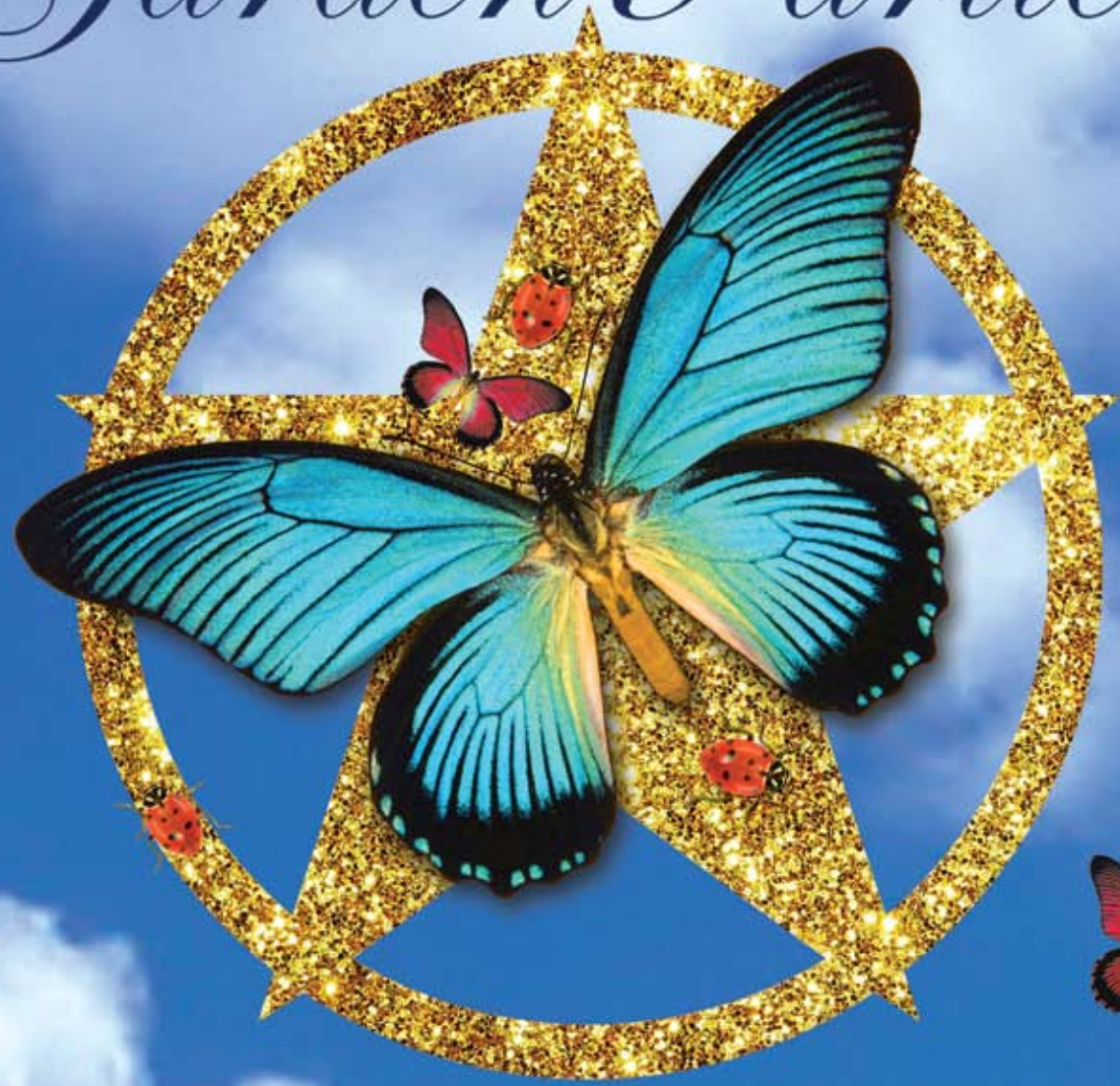


To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this CD just complete the title of this Jessie J hit: Price ___?





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gaydar.co.uk

FROM PUSSYCATS TO THE WOLVES

By Ryan Houston



Kimberly Wyatt is a former member of the girl super group, Pussycat Dolls, an experience she described as 'the best Boot Camp for the music industry' she could ever have hoped for.

The Dolls made her a star, but she's proving to be just as strong without the band, and has embarked on her own solo career. After taking a spot as a judge on the hit reality dance show 'Got To Dance', she's taking a move back into the music industry with the help of Spencer, a talented producer, songwriter, and MC, who has emerged as one of LA's hottest-tipped producers. Together they form Her Majesty and The Wolves.

What has life been like for you since leaving Pussycat Dolls?

K: It's been two years of intense soul searching, challenges and hard work. The transformation has been empowering as well.

How was Her Majesty and The Wolves formed?

S: Kim and I met through a mutual friend when she was working on her solo project. And from there we became fast friends!

You guys have been described as a mix between Swedish House Mafia and Calvin Harris by the British press. If you had to compare yourself to other artists who would it be?

K: Those are two incredible artists to be compared to and we believe we are both inspired by them. We'd say our group is very unique but other comparisons are the Black-eyed Peas. Spencer on the other hand believes that a more urban theme fits the band better. Other artists we would compare ourselves to would be a Jay-z or Kanye West because we believe in our work ethic, and we're very passionate about our music.

Kimberly, do you enjoy working with people who aren't like you; does this give you a chance to improve your performance?

K: You can always learn something from every experience and opportunity whether it's good or bad. I love creative people, they inspire me.

Who inspired your music and you yourself?

S: What inspires me is Daft Punk, Tribe Called Quest, SHM, Calvin Harris, Duran Duran, and Kanye West.

K: I'm inspired by female vocalists like Sia, Ladyhawke, Robyn, Florence and the Machine, I feel inspired by DeadMau5, Swedish House Mafia, as well as Tim Burton, Vivienne Westwood, Cirque du Soleil, Busby Berkeley, and Paulo Coelho.

Kimberly you have appeared as a judge on Got To Dance and have worked with volunteers to teach them how to dance as well as so much more, have you missed the music industry? Do you feel you're a singer, a judge, a teacher or a dancer? Where does your heart lie?

K: Teaching and judging is my purpose in life. It's an outlet to share my experiences as a dancer in hopes that I can help them on their own journey. But working with like-minded, positive, creative people that support my crazy visions and creating art with purpose is where my heart lies the most. I don't think I am one thing, I feel that I'm a passionate artist that loves to create the things that live inside my head.

With the release of your hotly tipped single 'Stars in Your Eyes' and the anticipated release of the album '111', what makes

Her Majesty and The Wolves different?

S: What makes us different is that we have approached pop music in a very theatrical way. Where the music sets the stage to allow the listener to be part of an experience where our live show will be like going to a play. But the music is more familiar to progressive house. Readers should buy the album 111 because it is a musical journey through mystic lands with raves and wolves and hints of Little Red Riding Hood!!

Why call the album '111'?

K: 111 has become a sign in my life that constantly reassures me of my path, my journey, and where I'm headed. When Spencer and I met to talk about becoming a duo I got in my car behind Spencer's and saw my sign, "111", on his license plate. That's when I knew it was meant to be.

But it's not all about numbers is it..?

K: Spencer and I can geek out over music like nobody I've ever met. He's so incredibly intuitive and has a great ear for incredible cool sounds, which never lets me down...We want to do something innovative and creative in the music industry. The music industry is kind of dying, but we could recreate a new standard and a new way of doing things within it. I've never felt this free and creative.

S: The eventual stage production will resemble something like 'a Lady Gaga show in Ibiza'.

Album '111' out 13th June - Chime Entertainment/PIAS

www.hermajestyandthewolves.com

Queens Court, Fibre & Mission present the huge Leeds Pride street party



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SUNDAY 7TH AUGUST

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LEEDSPride 2011 LIGHT

CASCADA

'Miracle,' 'Everytime We Touch,' 'Truly Madly Deeply,' 'Evacuate The Dancefloor;' these are just some of the essential dance anthems courtesy of German based trio Cascada. They are songs that have transcended the underground and translated into monster chart hits across Europe, with recent UK number one hit 'Evacuate The Dancefloor' beating even Michael Jackson to number one on the week of his death.

Now, Cascada will release a Greatest Hits package, 'Original Me' packed with all these hits singles, and more from their three platinum albums. In addition to the hits, 'Original Me' will also include a completely new album of fresh material, recorded during the last year. One of these new tracks, 'San

Francisco', will be the album's first single release.

A perfect summer anthem, 'San Francisco' evokes the biggest Cascada hits of recent year while injecting a shot of 2011 electronica. Aimed at continuing the band's winning streak of chart domination, the song is the perfect bridge from the hits of the past to the new material on 'Original Me.'

Out: 6th June - Single

'San Francisco'

Out: 13th June - New

album and Greatest Hits

'Original Me'



Not in the least bit ambiguous

Alan A. is a young, gay singer and songwriter based in London who has, over the years, produced an interesting blend of sexually explorative, witty, satirical, yet sharp-edged pop music.

Originally from France he moved to London in 2004 before travelling to New York and Montréal to record his first e.p. Ambiguity, but returned to London last year to work on the promotion of his music, and start performing. Alan has a pleasant, if raw edge, to his vocals in which his Gallic roots can still be detected. While many love songs provide just about enough dose of sadness or sweetness to soothe you into a gradual lull, Alan A. grooves his way in with more rumbling undertones of threesomes ("Pleasure"), major upheavals ("Depression"), or the frustrating dilemmas of sexual identity ("Come Over").

Alan A. confidently struts his cheekiness through his songs, encouraging people to embrace their individuality. Roll-up, Listen-up and Enjoy!

www.alan-a.com

Aussie artist is a Dane

If you're looking for a sure bet on a pop artist destined for big things in the UK and the USA, Dane Rumble is your man. Signed to the Ministry of Sound label over in Australia he has been nominated for a staggering 6 NZ Music Awards and winner of "Best Male Solo Artist," Dane has soared into the new decade with multiple hit singles under his belt, the most recent of which "Takes Me Higher" went straight to #1 on iTunes as well as the New Zealand Music and Video charts. Though thrilled with the reception of his music, Dane is no stranger to the industry, having spent a number of years in the phenomenally successful hip-hop outfit Fast Crew. Opening for the likes of Missy Elliott, the Black Eyed Peas and D12, was a dream come true for the music-obsessed Kiwi lad who grew up listening to his step-dad's beloved and battered vinyl collection.

Breaking out in 2009 from hit hip hop crew Fast Crew, Dane embarked on a new solo journey – swapping hip-hop beats for his own distinct cutting edge sound. He openly admits it was a risky, and scary, move. The results, of course, speak for themselves! In just 12 months, the enigmatic artist who has an ear for a killer melody has written and produced some of the most infectious tunes to reverberate the airwaves in recent years. It is Dane's instinctive sense of what makes a song a winner that has continued to drive his solo career; as well as the overwhelming response he's had from those who matter the most – the listeners

The single – Cruel out 20th June

www.danerumble.com.au



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mission 2

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The Godfather of House

By Adam Lowe

Frankie Knuckles is the founding member of Dance music's hall of Fame. Known as one of the world's Greatest DJ's and re-mixers who has played in the worlds' most famous clubs; the Warehouse, Paradise Garage, Sound Factory, Roxy, Ministry of Sound. He's a living legend idolized by gay and straight dance music lovers alike.

Today he is better known as The Godfather of House and it is widely accepted that his style of DJing, selection and the appeal of the Warehouse, which gave house music its name.

Frankie, you've been on the scene for a very long time. Indeed, you're often credited with starting the house scene in NYC. In your opinion, how has house music changed since the 80s? What new changes do you particularly like?

Technology has made it easier for anyone to make House Music now. Correction, technology has made it easier for anyone to make House Tracks. Credible House Music tends to be more song oriented. However, with the advent of the current technology I like the idea of DJs all over the world being on the same page (musically) and, the convenience of not having to schlepp my entire

vinyl collection around the globe. You've also DJed at innumerable venues over the years. Where was your favourite gig? Where would be your dream gig in the future? My favourites gigs were obviously the lengthy residencies I held at clubs like; Continental Baths, NYC (1972-1976), Us Studio TheWarehouse, Chicago (1977 - 1983), Sound Factory Bar, NYC (1991-1997). My dream gig would have a DJ booth that has the look and feel of my living room and, the dance floor would be open-air on a beach like Ku-Da-Tah in Bali with lush tropical breezes and beautiful people, families and their children enjoying the atmosphere and the music.

If you were just starting out now as a new DJ, who would be your 21st Century influences and why?

There are a few... Danny Krivit (because of his history and incredible

record collection), The Shapeshifters (because of their vast technical expertise and romantic sensibility for great songs), Frankie Feliciano (because of his deep emotional approach to production) and the list goes on.

Do you think house music is more commercially viable in Europe than the States? Why do you think this might be (or not)?

House Music is more commercially viable in Europe. As a matter of fact, it's more commercially viable practically everywhere else in the world. House Music in the USA is more like the bastard stepchild of the music business. Why? In Europe there's a great desire and sensibility for dance music with great energy and passion. The rest of the world follows

The UK & Europe when it comes to commercially viable dance music. How has the download revolution changed modern music? Has it changed the way people DJ?

Absolutely! It's made it easier for me to carry a greater part of my record collection without the weightiness of 2 full bags of vinyl. For those laptop DJs all they have to do is show up, plug and play. And again, the technology has basically put every DJ around the world on the same page musically, making it possible for audiences that don't travel to be on point with all the new songs and tracks.







Whats on // Leeds

Foamy

The Summer season has arrived at Mission 2 in Leeds. Its Monday gay night, Homo, will be throwing a series of big events over the next few months, starting with a foam party on Monday 6th June. Clubbers can come to party in their Speedos and swimwear and get dancing to the very best in bubblegum pop and chart whilst the club fills with foam. There will be prizes from door whose extraordinaire, Gisele Batrice, for the best outfits and all drinks will be

just £1.50. As usual party goers can pick up £3 entry before midnight. Each Monday at Homo, Mission 2 will also be fundraising for Pride on Sunday 7th August so don't forget to give generously each time you come to the club. Homo will be teaming up with sister night, Back Door Disco, to host the official after party.

Go to club clubmission.com

GAY, GLITZ AND GLAM?

Things are certainly hotting up for Leeds LGB&T Pride on 7th August. Local venues are busy raising cash to make sure that Yorkshire's largest Pride event remains the free, fun and friendly event that people from across the country have come to know and love.

This year's glitz and glam themed event is following the successful and unique format of previous years. A massive main stage and rally on Millennium Square kicks off the proceedings from noon until 3pm. Whilst keeping tight lipped about the final line-up a number of local and national acts have been the event would not be complete without the glamour of Yorkshire's own Dame Shirley Bassey experience.

Tom Doyle for the Leeds Pride planning group says, 'We will be announcing more acts closer to the event, Leeds Pride and it's media

partners are in negotiations with some fantastic headliners, and not just that we have the stars from the bars; our local venues will be putting up the best cabaret that the country has to offer - watch this space for more information.'

At 3 o'clock the parade sets off through the city streets ending at the Gay quarter in Lower Eastgate. This year's Pride will have a tinge of sadness for many who knew Darrell Hirst, Vice Chair and a leading light of Leeds Pride since its conception. Darrell passed on earlier in the year - but his memory lives on with a special trophy going to the best float mechanical or walking on the parade already dubbed Darrell's Campester Cart, there certainly promises to be much vying for this most coveted of awards.

www.leedspride.com



Fishy Fundraising

Let me introduce you to Sushi, the lonely little goldfish that is the latest member of the team at Leeds' bar Fibre.

His job is to help raise funds for the city's gay pride event on the 7th August and for every £500 raised the sweet little fella will get a mate. So, not only will your kind donations be going to a terrific cause, you'll be helping this swimming hero (he could be the aquarium equivalent of David Walliams) gain a few friends. You can follow his exploits on Fibre's web site and facebook pages and of course,



he's there in person, or maybe there in fish, at the bar for those who wish to hob-nob with a 'sea' list celebrity. Fibre hope to raise £10,000 and in so doing get Sushi 20 new friends.



the
**VIADUCT
SHOWBAR**

★ **AUGUST** ★
LEEDS LGBT PRIDE WEEK



DAVE LYNN



★ **KANDI KANE BAXTER** ★



LAQUISHA JONZ



FRIDAY 5TH
HOSTESS
PEGGY WESSEX



SATURDAY 6TH
HOST
DANNY CHER BAILEY



SUNDAY 7TH
BRAND NEW SHOW

PLUS LOADS MORE SPECIAL GUESTS



Maspalomas

Pride

Photos: Grizz

We at Bent are always up for a bit of a 'do'... and when the particular 'do' on offer is in one of our favourite holiday destinations we never need much persuading.

Maspalomas Pride in Gran Canaria is one of those events that grows and grows each year. Last month it celebrated its 10th Anniversary with over a week of events that attracted estimated crowds of 60,000 happy homos. There's no doubt about the increasing popularity of this particular location as visitors from all over Europe flock to this hot and friendly island off the coast of Africa for one hell of a party.

Not surprisingly, with the sunny weather being almost guaranteed, the boys and girls make the most of the opportunity to wear as little as possible. However, those that do dress to impress sparkle and twinkle in the sunshine as their colourful and glitzy costumes dazzle any passer-by. Not that you get many people innocently passing by as the entire island seems to get involved with its lively guests to make the event so special. Twinks, bears, hunks and drag no one and no age is left out

as kids with their families, whether that is mum and dad, dad and dad or mum and mum, were encouraged to dress up and enjoy the fun. Even dogs had their own fashion show in this all inclusive festival of friendly excess.

The mega merchandising arena, better known as The Yumbo Centre, gets transformed most nights into a gay playground as this is where most of the gay bars, clubs, saunas and restaurants are situated. Over Pride they set up a huge stage, produce shows, choreograph fantastic routines, there are sexy fashion displays and have acts from all over the world performing, which on the final day on this occasion ended in just one huge bubble bath. Foam was pumped over the huge, sparsely-clad audience as they danced and whooped with the sheer delight of being in amongst such a crowd of like minded people who knew how to party.

Congratulations to the organisers, the inhabitants of Gran Canaria and the 60,000+ visitors who made this one of the most enjoyable events in the entire world pride calendar.

Next Maspalomas Pride 7th - 13th May 2012





Gay Pride Calendar 2011



JUNE

1-12	EuroPride – Rome
3-12	Oxford Pride
11-12	Blackpool Pride
17 June - 3 July	Pride London Festival
17-26	Dublin Pride
18	Gloucestershire Pride
18	Calderdale Pride – Halifax
25	Swansea Pride



Pride 2011 Festival sees the Gay Photographers Network launch its second annual exhibition!

The Gay Photographers Network is delighted to announce details of its 2011 Exhibition entitled *More Guys Hanging*. Following on from the success of last year's show, we are again proud to be part of the Pride Festival and this year the show will be hosted at the prestigious Strand Gallery, 32 John Adam Street, London WC2.

The Exhibition, which will be opened by actor and singer Toyah Willcox, will this year feature over 40 photographers (professionals and talented amateurs) displaying work covering a wide range of genres from portraits to cityscapes, abstracts to landscapes, nudes to reportage, and includes work by published photographers, Dean Stockings, Zach Burns, Gaz, and Leigh Carter as well as images from David Cook and Neil Young who have recently had solo exhibitions in the capital. The photos exhibited will be available for sale with prices to suit all pockets but there will be an opportunity to win limited edition prints in a charity auction/prize draw held over the course of the week to raise money for the Disabled Photographers Society and London Friend.

More Guys Hanging will be at the Strand Gallery, 32 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6BP

Monday 20th Press/Private view (by invite) to be opened by actor and singer Toyah Willcox!

Tuesday 21st to Sunday 26th June (Tues – Sat 11:00 – 19:00 / Sunday – 11.00 – 14.00)

JULY

2	Pride London - Parade and rally
8-10	Bourne Free – Bournemouth Pride
8-12	Sitges Pride – Spain
9	Lincoln Pride
16	Bristol Pride
16	Northern Pride – Newcastle-upon-Tyne
23-30	Belfast Pride
28 -31	Pride Torbay
30	Norwich Pride
30	Hull Pride
30	Nottinghamshire Pride - Nottingham
30 July-7 Aug	Amsterdam Gay Pride

AUGUST

6	Liverpool Pride
6	Cotswold Pride - Cheltenham
6-14	Brighton and Hove Gay Pride - Parade and park party
7	Leeds Pride
19-29	Manchester Gay Pride - Parade 27
24-28	Foyle Pride – Londonderry N.I.
27	Cornwall Gay Pride - Truro

SEPTEMBER

3	Leicester Pride
3	Mardi Gras - Cardiff





Skin 7

Manchester Gay Skinhead Weekend is now in its 7th Year and takes place from 24th - 26th June. The action kicks off at the Eagle on Friday night, moving on to the ever popular Alert!

Saturday sees a SKIN ONLY afternoon in the Rem Bar (Show Bar) on Canal Street, followed by the Eagle later on Saturday evening and into the small hours. After a relaxing breakfast meet at Taurus on Sunday the action moves on to the Basement Sauna for Sauna Skins and then ends up with farewell drinks back at the Rem Bar.

This year sees the addition of the exciting new Strictly Stomping competition where the winner will walk away with fantastic prizes as well as the opportunity to see themselves on the promotional material for the 2012 skin weekend. Register at www.promo729.net before the 5th June.

Manchester Gay Skins is a not for profit group and all profits go to MGS nominated charities.

For full details visit www.oi-skinhead.com



Bites

World Series... 9

Weighing in at only 1.32 kgs and only 17mm thick, the Samsung Series 9 notebook's sleek design and display does not overshadow its raw performance. Equipped with Microsoft Windows 7 and the 2nd generation Intel Core i5 Processor makes it extremely fast and powerful. It's also perfect for gaming and social networking. 4GB memory, Turbo-boost 2.0 technology, super bright display, SSD and webcam the Series 9 is the must have gadget of the moment.

£1,299

www.samsung.com/uk



Boys will be boys

Combining elements of art, sport and music, men's clothing brand The Northern Boys Club create a striking range of T-shirts for the summer. Inspired from the days when men were men and sport wasn't affected by politics or the weather, The Northern Boys Club use imagery and designs that symbolise and recapture those good old days.

£29.99

www.thenorthernboysclub.com



Back in the old school yard

For those of a certain age, school just wouldn't have been school with carrying a satchel but now, this truly iconic British bag, is set to be a fashion statement for both men and women for the coming season. With an endless portfolio of colour pop options, print designs, fabric finishes, shapes and styles and the ability to create bespoke designs we have got what it takes to create a stylish fashion

forward twist on a classic must have accessory. Zatchels are colourful, camp and come in different sizes.

£76 - £122

www.zatchels.com



NO KNICKER KNOCKERS HERE



It would appear that there is no let-up in the desire for new designs in men's underwear. It seems every month new and exciting brands and products appear, as if by magic, in competition to cover our little (or not so little) treasures.

Once we got the hang of colour then all hell broke loose and we demanded more, which is exactly what we got. So, now a man's 'undies draw' is packed with all manner of sexy, sheer, sensible(?) bits of fabric that send so many of us into paroxysms of delight. There is something to suit all tastes from the almost invisible pouch to the heavy union suit and plenty in between. The number of underwear blog sites proves just how popular this subject is and how we really cannot get enough of these fabulous garments.

One of the most popular sites is - www.underwearfanatic.com have a look... or even create your own.

Meanwhile, South American brand Pikante has finally landed here in the UK. So, what are our first impressions of the Pikante range? I think it's fair to say that Pikante have released some exciting, extreme, sexy and damn good value men's underwear. Coming from the same stable as Clever Moda gives Pikante a good underwear pedigree. **See Above**

Confessions of an underwear fan...

By Les Lea

I love features in the press that show me the latest trends in underwear styles. I love the sexy images, displaying the most recent item to its best advantage by some horny model. Over the years that I've been collecting underwear I have enjoyed every fad, colour, fabric, design... and plan to continue to do so.

With my extensive collection, I regularly arrange my own little 'festivals of pants'.

I could go on but you get the drift. My motto is - Enjoy your pants... then let others enjoy them with you.

Share your ideas with Les:
c/o editor@bent.com

- 1 Pink Week – just wear the one colour (could be any colour)
- 2 Shiny Week – wear only silky, shiny or satin
- 3 Kiddie Week – only brightly coloured pants with cute little designs
- 4 White Week – make me feel virginal for 7 days
- 5 Boxer Week – only boxer shorts
- 6 Retro Week – fish out from back of the draw my oldest undies
- 7 Army Week – camouflage undies – if you can find them
- 8 Jock Week – not just for the gym
- 9 Fetish Week – all those strange but sexy items made from weird and wonderful materials
- 10 Lycra Week – not just for bike riding



NO KNICKER KNOCKERS HERE // TRUE BEAUTY



Jock Boy

Trust Gregg Homme to add a spicy twist to the classic Jockstrap design. I almost don't need to write a review about the Gregg Homme Boy Toy Jock; I can sum up all the information you need in a few short words: It's from Gregg Homme (so you already know it's going to be great); it's a sexy wet look Jock, and it forms part of the new Gregg Homme Boy Toy (or is it BoyToy?) collection. That's pretty much all you need to know.

£36

www.deadgoodundies.com

XTG

XTG Underwear GymBoy Brief is a low rise brief with a soft contrast elastic waistband. The body of the brief is made from a ribbed white stretch cotton and has contrast binding at the front pouch and legs. Made from 90% cotton and 10% spandex.

£22

www.banglads.com



Getting a boner

Alexander McQueen Bone Print Brief - In keeping with the designer's penchant for skulls, this pair of unique briefs takes inspiration from Alexander McQueen's signature motif and eye catching bone print.

£60

www.underu.com





◀ Block Colour

High Quality - High Impact Björn Borg is well known for their playful, vibrant and daring underwear range, with imaginative patterns in various different colour combinations. The new collection is perfect if you are looking for both high quality and high impact underwear.

£39 - available from Selfridges

Bluebuck

The Bluebuck man is confident, strong and unashamedly masculine, and has largely been ignored by menswear designers... until now! Bluebuck understands this man. Understands that self-confidence is more attractive than self-obsession. That is why Bluebuck's underwear delivers quality, comfort, fit and the feel of designer underwear without the over-fussy styling and unsubtle 'designer branding'.

Available in a vast range of colours (well, white and blue) and an enormous range of styles (brief, trunk & boxer), this underwear appeals to a man who is 100% masculine, but not macho; who takes care of himself, but doesn't obsess over his looks; who is into sports rather than spending hours in the gym; who makes choices based on substance, not image.

Briefs: £18, Trunks: £20, Boxers: £22
www.bluebuck.net



Kenneth Cole ▶

New York based fashion designer Kenneth Cole has recently launched his underwear range exclusively here in the UK. These striking pants feature fine, gauge, cotton-jersey technology for uncompromised comfort and fit and are only available from House of Fraser stores.

From £15-£18



Retro Brief

A pop inspired brief available in a range of bright block colours. Cut for extra comfort and fit, the Retro Brief includes button detailing and branded James Tudor waistband.

£22 - www.jamestudor.co.uk



Andrew Christian Air Jock

This modern take on a classic sports jock is proving so popular that the supplier has to work overtime to keep up with demand. The fabric and design are simply -Sexy, slinky, stunning, supportive and... did I mention so damn sexy?

£15.49 Comes in three colours Red, Black & Blue

www.shop.bent.com



Going K'Mando

Who would have thought that something so small and simple would be the 'fashion' phenomenon of this year?

Yes the world's first truly anatomical underwear engineered for men arrived with few thinking that this 'cock glove puppet' would go down so well with boys and sportsmen in equal degree. The K'Mando Strapless Pouch is self-supporting and designed to snugly fit your masculine anatomy perfectly. Its secret is the gentle way it cushions your equipment with a snap-closure and slightly padded soft fabric.

It comes in four colours and can be obtained from:
www.shop.bent.com
 or call: 08001385020



JAMES MCAVOY SHOWS HIS CLASS

by Pedro Caiado



The Scottish actor James McAvoy, star of the new X-Men First Class, talks about the new movie, his role and says, in an interview at the Dorchester Hotel in London, "This one had to be different."

Were you aware of the comic books before making X-Men First Class?

I was really aware of the comic books and the cartoon when I was growing up. I was about twelve-years-old and the show had shown up on Live and Kicking I think. I would make the mistake of watching that first cartoon... and then they'd make you wait an hour and fifteen minutes to show you the second half of the cartoon.

Why did you accept this role?

I think it was due to the chance we had to redefine the characters. It's not a reboot, like the latest Batman movies, but it's very much a prequel.

This character (Professor Xavier) was established in the comic books but also in the movies by another actor. Did you look at the actor or did you base your performance on the comic book?

Well, the comic book history is very different from all of the X-Men movies that have come before; even the cartoon to a certain extent. In the comic books my character is an American person and Fox decided to make that character English when they cast Sir Patrick Stewart. So, I had to go with the film. I watched the films and then, as this is a prequel, it had to be different and the franchise needed to be fresh. Also there's no point having that character played the

same way in a different suit because it just doesn't validate the movie. It has to be different. So I looked at Patrick and took a lot of notes but it was more about seeing something different. So, where Patrick was wise I would be foolhardy. Where he was chaste, I would be randy (laughter). By the end of three films, if we make any money, I will end up doing something that feels more like Patrick Stewart, but it was really important to start in a different place, but taking the cues from him.

Do you agree that there's a bullying element in the context of X-Men movies?

I think that one of the things that always runs through the X-Men movies is that they are about people who feel like outsiders. People who are upset about self-loathing perhaps, are afraid of themselves and want to be normal perhaps, or rejoice in the fact that they are not normal. This is one of the key elements in all of the X-Men stuff and I think that the screenwriter managed to put in there.

There a nicely humorous element towards the end of the film where you say that you might be bald when you get older. How do you think that that might be addressed. Maybe have a nice buzz cut?

Well, either he shaves it, or he loses it. In the comic books he loses it the day that his powers activate when he

is very young. We decided not to do that. Maybe it's a smart move in an origin story. We spend time in this movie explaining why he can't walk so we'll get to see why he loses his hair or shaves his head in a future movie. We've saved all that for then (he laughs).

X-MEN FIRST CLASS opens in the UK from 1st June



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As we take a peek at the scene over in the USA we come across a whole spectrum of out and proud musicians, artists and DJs who are prepared to take a stand over their sexuality and promote it in an atmosphere of ever growing conservatism and right-wing bias.

a stand against the industry. I, for one, am relieved that I have remained true to my principals. The freedom to express myself honestly is what makes me feel beautiful."

It used to be that being gay was a career killer. Is that not true anymore?

Today, an artist remaining in the closet is more of a career killer than coming out is. As artists, it is our duty to publically expose our diaries. If fans find out that we have been deceiving them, they will question the art form that is supposed to be our truth.

Is it easier for young artists to come out as gay today?

It is much easier. There is something of a revolution taking place in today's music industry. As a generation, we are taking a stand and fighting for our rights. Nothing is off limits.

How have releases like Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" and Ke\$ha's "We Are Who We Are" impacted the world's feelings about the LGBT community?

I started to tear up the first time I saw the video for "Born This Way." I could not believe that we had finally arrived. Many songs have danced around the subject without entirely bringing it home but Gaga's lyrics are so bold and her message is so clear. It's fantastic to hear the song playing on mainstream radio and television.

D Alexander has noticed a big change in the music industry since he began recording four years ago. In the beginning, producers tried to force him to become a mainstream pop artist. Fearing his music would lose its essence, D Alexander resolved to remain true to his artistry even if it meant never achieving high record sales. "I told the producers they can keep their money, cars, and chicks, just give me a mic and some glitter." He sees other musicians following a similar path. "Artists are finally taking



NEW YORK CITY'S TOP DJs

By Jimmy Newsum

Do you feel Elton John and Ricky Martin waited too long to come out?

No, it was a different time then. I commend their courage. The more closets that get cleaned out, the easier it becomes for us to be fearless.

What gave you the courage to stand up to the music industry suits?

I did it pre-Glee, way before it was popular to be out and proud. I used to feel lost and unsure about what I should write about. Once I figured out who I was, my musical mission became clear. Instead of worrying about what people thought, I began to write about everything I was feeling. Instead of keeping those private thoughts locked away in a journal, I brought them forth. They have been some of my best works yet. "Beautiful" seems to suggest that beauty comes with maturity. Beauty comes with honesty, most importantly honesty with yourself; the ability to be comfortable in your own skin. In a way, maturity plays a role in this discovery because it is ultimately life's hurdles that point our internal compasses in the right direction.

What do you hope fans take away from your music?

Art is indefinable. I hope my music will allow fans to take whatever they need to from it.

What should fans know about the next generation of emerging musicians?

We represent the future of freedom. We are the freak buried deep within the most conservative mind. That wild animal that erupts only when the lights are off and we are alone. We have to stop giving a shit about what people think. We are a generation of beautifully insane youth. Get ready for the takeover.



Beautiful happens to be the name of D Alexander's first single, on i-Tunes now.

www.facebook.com/dalexandermusic

Euro DJs reign supreme but when clubsters want to get down to some American beats, its NYC spinners they turn to. We have long known the power New York City DJs yield in breaking and making a record.

From the days when Madonna stepped to the DJ booth at Danceteria to hand Jellybean Benitez her "Holiday" track to the nights Junior Vasquez spun Whitney's "Step By Step" into an internationally beloved club anthem, NYC's DJs have long shaped what the rest of the world grooves to.

A new pack of spinners have emerged as today's leaders in NYC and like their predecessors, these DJs are tearing up floors and redefining the meaning of club music.



TRACY YOUNG

Spinning style:
House, Tribal, Progressive.

Hear her live in NYC at:
Splash.

"NYC is still the world's dance mecca because it's an urban metropolitan setting loaded with culture, fashion, the arts, music and film. Where else can you see a ballet, buy a two dollar hot dog, and pick up a pair of Loubitans after listening to a live quartet in the subway? All in a fifteen block radius. This is greatest city on the planet!"



HECTOR FONSECA

Spinning style:
NYC Tribal House with an international Flavor.

Hear him live in NYC at:
Best Buy Theatre (formerly Nokia), Pacha and special holiday events at New York's Matinee.

"NYC is still the world's dance mecca because the best of the best are here!"



EDDIE ELIAS

Spinning style:
Underground cutting edge beats with high energy vocals.

Hear him live in NYC at:
Club 57, Alegria and Verve @ Touch.

"New York used to be the world's dance mecca. Brazil and Ibiza have taken over. I am trying to bring it back."



ESCAPE

Spinning style:
High energy tribal and vocals.

Hear him live in NYC at:
Club 57 @ Providence and Verve @ Touch

"NYC is still the world's dance mecca because we are always ahead of the curve and everyone comes through this city to play."



Slipping in the Soap Awards

When a friend of mine invited me to the British Soap Award I jumped at the chance. It was being recorded in Manchester at the ITV studios right next door to the fabulous Coronation Street set.

Ahh, I had happy memories of this place because last year I had my famous (well for me) cameo role when Jason Grimshaw was crowned Mr Gay Weatherfield. Suddenly my mind was working overtime as I began to think that maybe, just maybe, this was all a trick to get me to the studios and present me with my own award for 'Best Extra in a Pivotal Scene'. I was even composing my acceptance speech... just in case. Alas, it wasn't to be and on further reading of the invitation it said that on arrival there would be crowds of people, an army of photographers and the obligatory red carpet... again my heart raced

with the idea of getting into OK Magazine... but the invite continued, our entrance was to the left of that and the rouge walkway was only for celebrities.

With hopes dashed for fame and a nice little photo in Hello the event itself proved a terrific pick me up as I rubbed shoulders with some of the most famous faces on TV. As you would expect with the Soap Awards it was like meeting old friends. As regular visitors to my living room via my large plasma screen as they were all so familiar, even if I'd never met them before. I had a £20 bet

with my friend Danny Miller, that he would win an award. He wasn't very confident and said he didn't think he was in the running but I insisted that the Best Actor category would be his. He was shocked, surprised and very happy when he was awarded Best Actor for his portrayal of Emmerdale's Aaron Livesy... and I was twenty quid better off.

Deservedly, Emmett J Scanlan picked up both Hollyoaks' only two awards that night - for Best Newcomer and Best Villain. It was great to meet up with Liz Dawn again although upsettingly, she seemed frail but

bravely gave the photographers every shot they asked for. Needless to say the place was wall-to-wall faces from Emmerdale, Eastenders, Corras, Hollyoaks, Doctors... the list of shows seemed endless. Even new kids on the block from 'The Only Way Is Essex' were mobbed by the paparazzi. A surprise guest was American hunk, and ex-Desperate Housewives eye candy, Jesse Metcalfe who was there to present an award. There is no denying he is an extremely handsome brute as just about every man and woman in the auditorium tried to flirt with him and get a photo... including yours truly.



BITES // JONNIES ON JLS

Jonnies on JLS

We tried to get an image of the guys wearing them... alas this is the one they sent... still, it's always nice to see this particular boyband.

As young people are beginning to think about summer holidays, JLS and Durex are reminding them to pack condoms along with sun cream and swimwear. Also they will launch



what is believed to be the biggest ever survey into the sexual habits of the 16+ population, with the chance to win one of 10 Ipads and several

opportunities to meet JLS. To enter go to www.duresxsurvey.co.uk. They are sold in Boots, Superdrug and Tesco.



Takeaway

Featuring former Bent cover star and one of the new breed of young gay actors from films like FIT and Kick Off, Stephen Hoo, plays the lead character Eddie Woo in this, the first British Chinese musical. Takeaway tells the story of Eddie - a constant dreamer who's juggling two girlfriends as well as working day and night in his father's Chinese takeaway shop. But he has a secret passion - an idol he's determined to emulate...Tom Jones. In fact, he's never happier than when he escapes his humdrum life to don the tight leather pants that transform him into the super confident star he really is.

**Theatre Royal
Stratford East - London
10 June - 9 July**

Box Office: 0208 534 0310

www.stratfordeast.com

2011 Damron Men's Travel Guide

By Gina Gatta

Just re-issued in time for the summer exodus to foreign climes, this little black book of gay travel is a useful addition to accompany you on your global experiences. With over 13,000 listings of restaurants, bars, clubs, cultural happenings, gyms, parties and special events... it could be just the lifesaver to make travelling easier and more rewarding. A handy-sized but thick volume covering loads of gay businesses and offering tips on local customs at your finger tips.



£17.99 - SCB - Damron



Tranny Bunny

By Alex Wiggan

So you like to glam it up from time to time between the weekly application of fake bake and those ritual face cleansing sessions you put yourself through; and who doesn't? Occasionally you'll slip on a pair of killer heels, some eyeliner, a little black dress and you'll head off into town. Now whether this is as a one off situation or it's a regular occurrence there's always that worry that some scene queen will stick a label on you that might not be applicable. But regardless of what feels comfortable to you there has always been one individual that has never let the opportunity to dress up like a lady bother him and likewise his gender switching antics have never bothered anyone else either. For some an afternoon decked out in drag can cause a few glares from those not accustomed to the flamboyant lifestyle, but for legendary animated icon Bugs Bunny, it's never been an issue. If truth be told it could be because he can deal with a putdown faster than Speedy Gonzales can zip past Usain Bolt, so he can stop any would be naysayers in their tracks. Of course it could also be because

Bugs has never once worried if anyone was questioning his sexuality even when he was puckering up with another chap. For the record Bugs is a heterosexual hare and as such (and by the nature of his species) he probably thinks about sex twice as often as the next guy. He may have reached the age of seventy-two, but existing solely on a diet of carrots has clearly worked in his favour as he's a bit of a silver fox (...erm rabbit) that still knows how to work a crowd. Over the years Elmer Fudd has tried desperately to get his hands all over him, Yosemite Sam has brandished his weapon at him on countless occasions and old queen Daffy Duck couldn't have become more bitter and twisted over Bug's popularity if he tried. The thing is none of those boys have ever questioned Bugs' dress sense, even if he looked fruitier than Carmen Miranda clutching a banana in the fresh produce section at Lidl. Oh there may have been the odd comment about him being a 'screwy rabbit', but Bugs' constant repetition of "What's up doc?" has turned the tables on them, putting any potential judgements that could eventually arise back in the opposite direction before they've started. It's been a simple trick deployed on many occasions but it's skilfully designed to

make the bitchy few think that the problem is with themselves and not Bugs. After all as bunnies go, Bugs has never been shy of flirting with all the boys and leading them on until they have forgotten that he's never going to follow through on his promiscuous promises. What Bugs has is the ability to be one of the lads whilst flirting with his sexuality to please himself and nobody else. He's never once bothered about what he's wearing and often uses it to his own advantage whenever the right situation to be clad in a bra and miniskirt arises. Over the years he may have toned down his need to get dressed up in drag (well he does have a girlfriend nowadays) but at the heart of this rebellious rabbit there is always the need to remain true to himself.



Images copyright: Looney Tunes/Warner Bros. Cartoons

Johan's Blog

Johan on Tour

As you probably know we're regularly travelling around Europe – and sometimes even the US! – to conduct our very sexy and extremely horny STAXUS ON TOUR shows.

www.StaxusOnTour.com

We do (almost) everything that you see us do on our DVDS, from signing autographs to performing double-fisting. It always depends upon the tastes and requests of the club owner. Mind, it pretty much goes without saying that I leave things like fisting to our specialists like Mike Cage – but I'm very good at signing, not to mention other things!

As you can imagine, we have a lot of stories to tell – some funny, some scary, some horny and some (sadly) quite boring! However, in the process of travelling all those thousands of air miles every weekend I've made a lot of new friends with these shows.

The irritating thing is that in some countries the shows we do are not even legal, with the club owners needing the official approval of the city authorities. In Greece and Spain no-one's interested; whilst in France and Belgium it's the law that we always use a condom (which we do anyway because we only do safe-sex shows). In Switzerland they don't even have any regulations for this kind of entertainment; and in Germany it's illegal to fuck on the dance-floor of a gay club, either as a guest or an artist. Indeed, it's not even allowed for someone to strip naked!

Dependant on the city, the required certificates cost between €50 and €350 per night in Germany, so it's only

understandable that some club owners don't bother with such technicalities and simply hope that no police or city officials turn up at their club during our shows. Nevertheless, you should never underestimate the authorities, who make it their business to read flyers and adverts that promote an occasion such as a "horny hardcore show by the STAXUS porn-stars"! As such, it's happened several times that a performance has ended not with a cum-shot, but with a police interrogation backstage. And believe me, not every police officer is a cute, blond, muscular 25 year old guy who'll shag you in the stairwell after arresting you. No, that sort of thing only happens in STAXUS movies! The reality is that most of them are tired, bad-tempered forty-somethings without the slightest sense of humour!

Of course, it always helps that we're Czechs, who can immediately forget all our English language skills, so we're not the slightest bit of help with any investigation.

A funny thing happened in Munich, where we were having some kind of striptease and wanking show in one of our regular clubs. We'd had some problems with the city authorities before, and the club owner had made sure that he'd had permission for our shows. As such, we did our show – including a cum-shot on the bar – and were somewhat surprised afterwards when we found the proprietor in discussion with the police again. It turns out that he now had problems because we did our show ON the bar and there was a chance that our cum might have dropped on some of the bottles. In addition, we'd thrown our underwear onto the shelves where the glasses are stored. All acts that are against the German hygiene laws, and subject to a fine ...

It's also interesting to see the different reactions of the audience. In Greece it's always quieter; in France they're always a bit shocked by the antics; and in the US they almost faint at the sight of a naked ass. The Germans, meantime, can be a little haughty; whilst in the UK ... well, you guys always know best!

In Britain it also happens quite often that some of the club guests want to physically participate in our shows. They even jump up onto the stage, pull off their shirts and their shorts

(sporting an already hard cock!) and want to start to join us. Of course, the management simply can't allow this – which is sometimes a bit of a shame because some of the guys are really quite cute and their cocks are unique. But what is it with these English lads? They're always really good fun, with the crowd going absolutely wild during the show; and there's no other country where people actually jump onto the stage and show their cocks. In addition, I see more hard cocks and fucking in the toilets in the UK than anywhere else in Europe. You British guys are a really horny, filthy bunch! But hey, I really like that!!

For booking enquiries of the STAXUS porn actors for clubs, shops and private events please contact via e-mail: carsten@staxus.com





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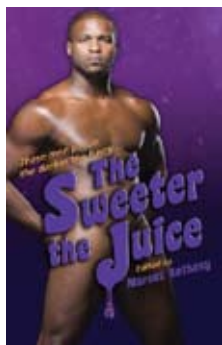
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Books

The Sweeter The Juice

Edited by Marcus Anthony

A hot new anthology featuring stories of men of colour and those who lust after them, from the hottest writers in gay erotica. These guys hold their own in the boardroom and in the bedroom. They have nothing to hide, hell they couldn't even if they wanted to as these are the crème de la crème who exude sex appeal.



£12.99 - Starbooks

The Big Penis Book – 3D

By Dian Hanson

OK, OK, I know it was only a matter of time, what with all the 3D frenzy that is happening in the cinemas these days, that someone would see an opportunity for a 'pop-up' book... that pops out.



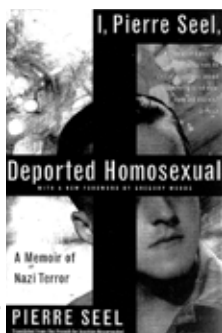
The original TBPB was a hit when it first came out and now with the added illusion of 3D (specs included) the book burst into another dimension. The images don't look distorted if you don't wear the glasses, it's just another fun aspect to peruse these well-built gentlemen and see where they're... er... coming from. The heavy 3D cover alone gets you in the mood and laid out on your coffee table top should be an interesting conversation starter.

£24.99 - www.taschen.com

I, Pierre Seel, Deported Homosexual

By Pierre Seel

On a fateful day in 1941 in Nazi occupied Strasbourg, 17 year-old Pierre was summoned by the Gestapo. This was the beginning of a journey that would transport him from the safety and innocence of his home to the horrors of a concentration camp. For nearly 40 years he kept his experiences secret in order to hide his homosexuality but ultimately, haunted by the past and the silence of others, decided to speak out, bearing witness to all aspects of the holocaust rarely seen.



£10.99 – Basic Books

The First Time – True Tales of Virginity Lost & Found

By Kate Munro

Losing our virginity... it happens to all of us... well nearly all of us but how did it happen for you? The author went on a mission to find out. She asked men and women – old and young – gay and straight – religious and... well... you get the idea. She was happily surprised by the candour in the answer to her question; the humour, the fun, then pathos and the way the whole experience has often shaped some people's lives.



£11.99 – Icon Books





POOLSIDE

Cool shades of green and blue dominate in POOLSIDE, but the main attention is directed towards those men who present their incredible bodies. Sexy and self assured they use the pedestal on which Henderson puts them. It's clear to see that Henderson loves his work and that he's proud on having the chance to work with some of the most attractive models worldwide. POOLSIDE invites us to grab ourselves a drink and sit down in the canvas chair. And, oh, the cool water just comes at the perfect moment, since every single model in this book is hot enough to set hearts on fire.

www.brunogmuender.com



NATURAL BEAUTY

This pictorial anthology is dedicated to the glory of the male body ... without revealing the most delicate details. After all, there's more than enough left to be adored: Immaculate bodies, brilliantly staged by photographers who are longing to show us true and timeless beauty. For in contrast to the female amenities the ideal of a perfectly formed male body has never changed in fine arts: A well trained body, a distinctive face, a pair of sexy calves and a tight butt, combined with alluring eyes that make you want to discover more.

www.brunogmuender.com



More
— and —
more

Gleeks



Win This
Turn to page 62 for details

The world seems to be going 'bonkers' over that special little club at McKinley High and the characters that make it so special.



Glee has become something of a phenomenon and catapulted its stars into the realms of 'superstardom'. Some of the cast had already established themselves on Broadway, while others, like Chris Colfer (gay Kurt) so impressed at the casting that the producers wrote the character just for him.

Meanwhile, we simply cannot get enough of all that singing and dancing. Downloads directly after each show not only give the Glee members hit records but their covers have also produced a re-ignition of interest in many acts who thought their careers might be on a downward spiral. They've topped the American Billboard charts and surpassed even The Beatles

record of the number of entries in the chart at any one time. While, here in the UK they continue with similar feats as in BBC chart after chart, they are filled with the very latest show-stopping number.

DVD, albums, live show and of course the brilliant TV show have all proved successful but the one thing that makes us Gleeks and Cheerio fans obsessive and excited is the prospect that eventually there will be a movie... so we can get thrilled all over again but on the big screen. Word has it that the producer signed up their stars to a three movie deal even though, as yet, no official production dates have

been confirmed. However, it was announced on 4th May, that Murphy and FOX (the producer and production company) are producing a concert film, Glee Live! In 3D!, featuring performance and backstage footage from the upcoming Glee Live! In Concert! tour.

Whatever happens we Glee fans can be happy in the knowledge that for the near future at least we can enjoy the brilliant singing of Rachel, Mercedes, Finn, Puck, Quinn, Santana, Kurt and Brittany on our TV... that is unless Sue tries to scuttle Mr Schu's ambition.

Glee Encore



Sure to hit the right note with fans, 'Gleeks' and 'Cheerios' can relive over 30 memorable Season 1 performances uninterrupted with this one disc DVD. Encore features the 'Glee' versions of a host of iconic numbers including Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'", Queen's "Somebody To Love," Kanye West's "Gold Digger" and Madonna's "Vogue"! Sing and dance along with the whole William McKinley High gang with your copy of Glee Encore, released only on DVD this summer.

Out: 6th June - £9.99 - Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment

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

What is the name of the character who is out to sabotage the Glee club?

West is West

Ten years after the multi-award winning first installment East is East, West is West follows the Khan family as they take on a mammoth journey from Salford to rural Pakistan. In a last attempt to make a good Muslim son of Sajid the youngest Khan, a bored and isolated teen, his father George decides to pack him off to their family in the Punjab, to the wife and daughters he abandoned 30 years earlier. Resolved to teach Sajid a lesson, the tables are turned on George when he realises it is he himself who has much to learn. Funny, colourful and wonderfully shot.



Out: 20th June – BluRay & DVD – Icon Home Entertainment

To be with a chance to win a copy of this fantastic DVD just answer this simple question: What is the capital of Pakistan?

Brotherhood

Dismissed from the army after allegedly making a pass at a fellow soldier, young Lars soon falls in with a gang of gaybashing neo-Nazis. Although the group are initially wary of this new figure, Lars quickly proves he is a fast learner and rises swiftly through the ranks – simultaneously developing closer bonds with the other members, especially the sexy Jimmy. It is soon apparent that the two are far more than 'blood brothers' and confronting these sexual longings threatens to jeopardise their very lives. This is not just a simple love story.



Out: 13th June - £15.99 – tla releasing
To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this DVD, just answer this simple question: Traditional German leather shorts are called: A, Leder Garten, B. Kurze LederHosen, C, Lederhandsonme.

Doing Time for Patsy Cline

Ralph is off to seek fame and fortune in Nashville. The young musician leaves his parents farm with just his guitar and a plane ticket, but fate intervenes when he encounters an unstable drug thief and his enticing girlfriend, Patsy. Ralph embarks on an incredible journey with one route leading to him being framed for drug trafficking and the other showing a future Ralph always dreamed of; fame, fortune and Patsy Cline. Doing Time for Patsy Cline is a winsome, witty comedy with a big heart.



Out: 20th June - £10.99 – Crabtree Films

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this DVD, just answer this simple question: In which state in the USA is Nashville?

Win These
Turn to page 62 for details

DVDS

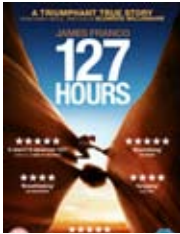
127 Hours

Aron is in the middle of a routine climb when a boulder suddenly becomes dislodged just above him crashing onto his arm and leaving him trapped in solitude inside a dark, isolated canyon. Over the next five days Ralston does everything he can to prolong his life while wrestling with hunger, thirst, flashbacks and hallucinations. This breathtaking film takes you on a journey through the mind of a man forced to come to terms with himself in the most extreme of circumstances. 127 Hours is a visceral, thrilling ride that demonstrates what the human mind can achieve when it chooses to fight for life.

Out: 6th June - Blu-ray & DVD - Pathe

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

Which of these implements do rock/ice climbers use: A, Crampons. B, Campons, C, Tampons



Sleep With Me

Joseph and Frank are the best of friends. Both are also in love with Sarah; a precarious, angst-ridden ménage a trios that is complicated still further by the marriage of Sarah and Joseph. Crafted by 6 different writers, this quirky love-triangle comedy also contains a memorable cameo from Quentin Tarantino as a film buff discussing the homosexuality of Top Gun with an entertaining "Go the gay way" speech!

Out: 13th June - £12.99 – Network releasing

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

Complete the title of this Quentin Tarantino movie – Pulp ____?



Henry's Crime

Henry (Keanu Reeves) gets an unexpected wakeup call when he becomes an unwitting participant in a bank heist. Rather than give up the names of the real culprits, he takes the fall and discovers his true calling. Having done the time, Henry reasons he may as well do the crime. Discovering a forgotten tunnel connecting the bank to a nearby theater, he recruits his old cellmate Max to aid in the robbery, all the while playing the lead in the theatre's current production where he finds himself falling for his leading lady, Julie.

Out: 6th June - Blu-Ray & DVD - Entertainment in Video on Rental

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

In the series of Matrix films what was the name of Keanu's character: A, Neo. B, Morpheus. C, Agent Smith

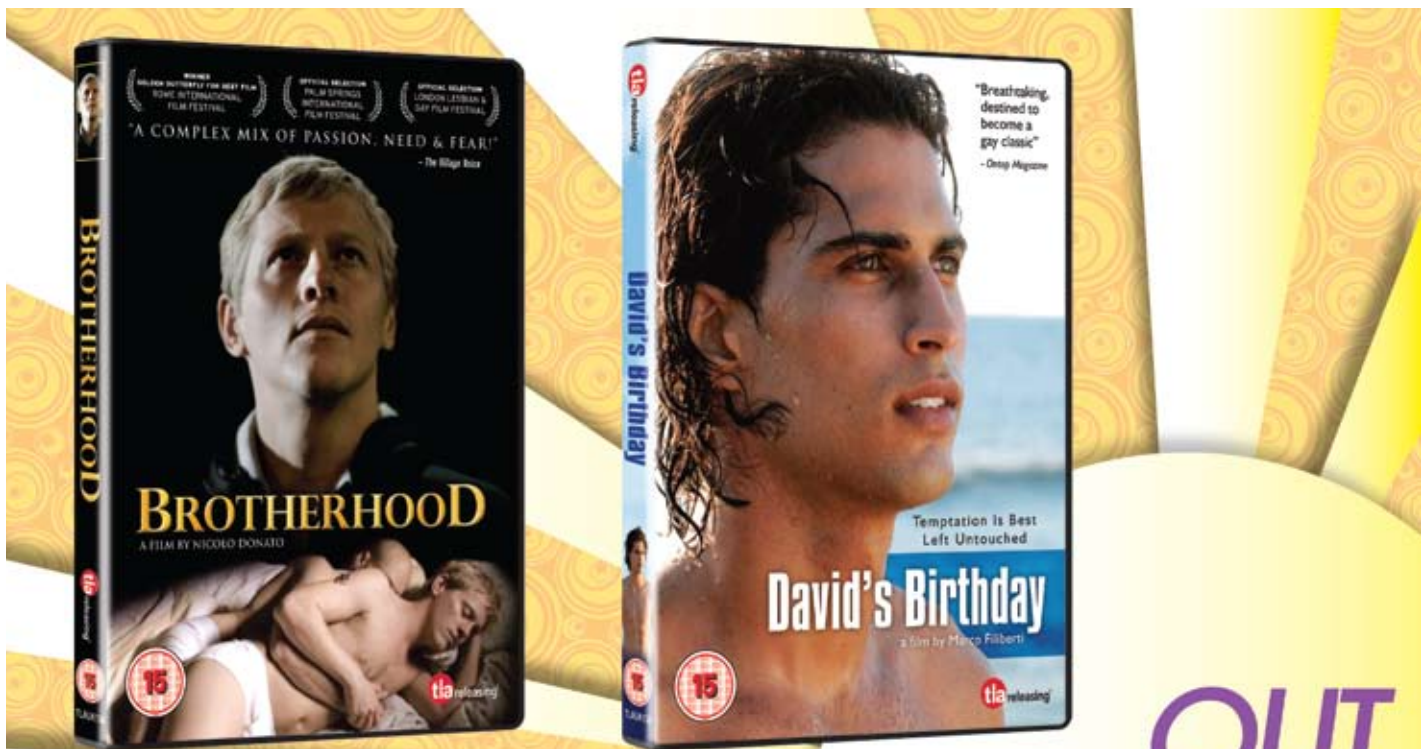
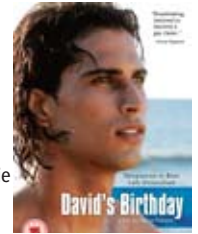


David's Birthday

A stunningly-shot and beguiling ode to the all-encompassing pull of desire, this movie stands out as an example of gay European Cinema at its most potent. Two married couples head out to the stunning Italian coast for an ideal holiday in the sun. With both Diego and Shanny, and Matteo and Francesca's relationship seemingly solid and unflappable, the group of friends settle in for a typically serene beach holiday. But when Diego and Shanny's young lithe son David arrives, it quickly becomes evident that it is not just the young girls on the beach who are drawn to his Adonis-like beauty.

Out: 13th June - £15.99 – tla releasing
To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this DVD,

just answer this simple question:
What is the capital of Italy?



Available now on DVD at:
amazon.co.uk

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**OUT
JUNE 13!**

Film

By Chris Amos



Green Lantern

Out 17th June

I have a massive crush on Ryan Reynolds and for me this is the most anticipated film of 2011. Harry who? Who cares. Green Lantern is the big box office hero of 2011. In a universe as vast as it is mysterious, a small but powerful force has existed for centuries. Protectors

of peace and justice, they are called the Green Lantern Corps. A brotherhood of warriors sworn to keep intergalactic order, each Green Lantern wears a ring that grants him superpowers. Hal is a gifted and cocky test pilot, but the Green Lanterns have little respect for

humans, who have never harnessed the infinite powers of the ring before. But Hal is clearly the missing piece to the puzzle, and along with his determination and willpower, he has one thing no member of the Corps has ever had: humanity.



Mother's Day

Out 10th June

A hot young cast make this worthy thriller a must-see. After a bank robbery gone wrong, three brothers head for home... only to discover that their mother lost the house in a foreclosure. The new owners and their guests, gathered for an ill-timed birthday party, become the brothers' unwitting hostages. Their mother and sister arrive, and it soon becomes obvious that

Mother will do absolutely anything to protect her children. In one terrifying evening, Mother brilliantly takes control of the situation and masterminds her sons' escape. Sides will be taken, secrets revealed, and sins punished as the hostages struggle to make it through the night.



Senna

Out 1st June

Okay, so I have a thing for Brazilians and fast cars, hence why I have included this. Senna's remarkable story, charting his physical and spiritual achievements on the track and off, his quest for perfection, and the mythical status he has since attained, is the subject of Senna, a documentary feature that spans the racing legend's years as an F1 driver, from his opening season

in 1984 to his untimely death a decade later. Far more than a film for F1 fans, Senna unfolds a remarkable story in a remarkable manner, eschewing many standard documentary techniques in favour of a more cinematic approach that makes full use of astounding footage, much of which is drawn from F1 archives and is previously unseen.

MOVIE BUZZ

Darren Aronofsky, after backing out of The Wolverine, is now eyeing a new project called Human Nature. The fifteen-year-old original script of a man who is cryogenically frozen and wakes up years later to a world in which humans have become pets of another species. George Clooney is attached for the lead role.

Director F. Gary Gray (The Italian Job) will return to the heist genre and bring Sam Worthington with him in The Last Days of American Crime. The graphic novel adaptation is set in a near future where the government plans to implement a form of legal mind control (Clockwork Orange, Minority Report?), making it impossible for its citizens to commit unlawful acts.

Queer As Folk's Charlie Hunnam has entered negotiations to star in director Guillermo del Toro's Pacific Rim. The film now appears on track to become del Toro's next feature, after Universal put the brakes on the Tom Cruise-led At the Mountains of Madness. Pacific Rim certainly brings the promise of more of del Toro's always imaginative critters, as it takes place in a future where giant malevolent creatures threaten to destroy the world.

Paul Thomas Anderson's (There Will Be Blood) untitled religious drama known around the web as The Master looks to be back on track. Philip Seymour Hoffman will star as a man who creates a new belief system (a la L. Ron Hubbard), while Joaquin Phoenix will play the alcoholic drifter who becomes his disciple.

Quentin Tarantino's Django Unchained may have a leading man. Will Smith has emerged as the front-runner to play the film's title character. The film is described as a spaghetti Western centering on Django, a freed slave who seeks to reunite with his slave wife, a journey which will see him team up with a German bounty hunter to take down Monsieur Calvin Candie, an evil plantation owner.



Kaboom

Legendary art-house director Gregg Araki's films are not everyone's taste. I love them. Kaboom doesn't disappoint. A hyper-stylized Twin Peaks for the Coachella Generation, featuring a gorgeous, super hot young cast, Kaboom is a wild and sex-drenched horror-comedy thriller that tells the story of Smith, an ambisexual 18-year-old college freshman who stumbles upon a monstrous conspiracy in a seemingly idyllic

Out 10th June

Southern California seaside town. Smith's everyday life in the dorms - hanging out with his arty, sarcastic best friend Stella, hooking up with a beautiful free spirit named London, lusting for his gorgeous but dim surfer room-mate Thor - all gets turned upside-down after one fateful, terrifying night after tripping on some hallucinogenic cookies he ate at a party.



Bad Teacher

Bad Teacher sees Cameron Diaz in the type of role we love her for. Some teachers just don't give an F. For example, there's Elizabeth (Cameron Diaz). She's foul-mouthed, ruthless, and inappropriate. She drinks, she gets high, and she can't wait to marry her meal ticket and get out of her bogus day job. When she's dumped by her fiancé, she sets her plan in motion to win over a rich,

Out 17th June

handsome substitute (Justin Timberlake) - competing for his affections with an overly energetic colleague, Amy (Lucy Punch). When Elizabeth also finds herself fighting off the advances of a sarcastic, irreverent gym teacher (Jason Segel), the consequences of her wild and outrageous schemes give her students, her co-workers, and even herself an education like no other. Good fun.



Bridesmaids

Producer Judd Apatow (Knocked Up, Superbad) and director Paul Feig (creator of Freaks and Geeks) bring us Bridesmaids. Kristen Wiig leads the cast as Annie, a maid of honour whose life unravels as she leads her best friend, Lillian (Maya Rudolph), and a group of colourful bridesmaids (Rose Byrne, Melissa McCarthy, Wendi McLendon-Covey and Ellie Kemper) on a wild

Out 24th June

ride down the road to matrimony. Annie's life is a mess. But when she finds out her lifetime best friend is engaged, she simply must serve as Lillian's maid of honour. Though lovelorn and broke, Annie bluffs her way through the expensive and bizarre rituals. A chick flick the gays are going to love too.

TEN THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT:

KYAN REYNOLDS



- Failed his high school drama class.
- Has a fear of flying since he once went skydiving and his parachute failed to open on the first attempt.
- In 2002, he badly injured his back jumping from a bridge in Zurich, Switzerland.
- Was offered the role of Xander in Buffy the Vampire Slayer.
- Loves riding motorcycles.
- Is the youngest of four brothers. Two of his three elder brothers are policemen.
- Was engaged to marry Canadian singer Alanis Morissette in 2004.
- His favourite city is Amsterdam.
- Was named the "Sexiest Man Alive" by People magazine in 2010.
- Gained 25 pounds of muscle for his role as Hannibal King in Blade: Trinity.

BE A STUD AT STUDLAND BAY



More info

www.ViceBournemouth.com

Bournemouth Pride this year is on Saturday 9th July. The event is called Bourne Free and has a Treasure Island theme, visit the web site for details:

www.BourneFree.co.uk

Good hotel advice:
GayAccommodationBournemouth.co.uk

For all the latest scene info and gossip log onto: GayBournemouth.net or search the many groups on Facebook.

With the excess of recent Bank Holidays, added to the rather splendid weather that arrived unannounced but was very welcome, it was decided that an extended weekend away was definitely needed.

by ChrisGeary.com

We decided to go camping at Burnbake Campsite, just around the corner from the nearby village of Studland, an area not far from the golden sand beach town on the south coast, Bournemouth. The place has everything you need for a few days away in the sun.

Studland Bay is the UK's biggest and best (some might say notorious) gay beach, a great place to hang out and have some seaside fun. It also allows dogs; my chocolate Labrador loves playing ball in the water so kept us entertained all day. Just remember to take lots of water and all the supplies you'll need for a day out as there are no shops nearby.

If you don't have a car don't worry, from Bournemouth train/coach station it takes about 30 minutes on the number 50 bus to get to Studland Bay, it's the 2nd stop after the Sandbanks Ferry. Then about a 20 minute walk through the sand dunes. It's a nudist beach so I guess you'd expect it to be a little out of the way. If you're offended by seeing lots of naked men with big dicks bobbing about, you certainly wouldn't like to get lost in those sand dunes! But once there it's perfect to relax and chill, without all the family and kids commercialism found on Bournemouth's main beaches. If you fancy some jet-skiing or banana boat fun (you know what I mean so stop sniggering), then put on your Speedos and walk further along the beach to Knoll Beach which has lots of activities, things to do and a shop.



The gay scene in Bournemouth is located in an area called The Triangle. The best gay bar is DKMY, others include: The Xchange, Branksome, Ventana and the Bakers Arms. Bournemouth's gay nightclub is 2930 The Triangle.

On bank holiday Sunday's there is a big new club night called VICE (formally called Bolts) at its new home V nightclub, an old converted church near the gay area. The venue truly is amazing, it's a great night, when we were there they had a live PA from Amanda Wilson and top DJ Lee Harris.



BRIGHTON

Pride in Brighton

Finally the weeks of waiting and speculating are over as Pride in Brighton & Hove announce a brand new partnership to host the Main Dance Tent at this year's Preston Park event on Saturday 13th August – The Last Night A DJ Saved My Life Foundation (LNADJ).

The Foundation, whose headquarters are based in Brighton and Ibiza, has been set up to harness charitable giving from the global dance industry and encourage DJs, clubbers, record labels, promoters and fans, worldwide,



to work together to raise awareness and essential funds for a growing number of international and local charity partners and good causes. Dance music fans can expect an exciting line up of local and national DJs alongside none other than The Godfather of British House Music himself, Danny Rampling who will be making a very special appearance.

www.brightonpride.org



Hello Dolly

'Dolly Rocket's Big Summer Party' comes to Legends & the Basement Club in Brighton every Friday this summer.



Hostess Dolly Rocket says "Expect a great party atmosphere with tonnes of fun and me of course!" Dolly will be giving away glasses of bubbly in her very own VIP booth in the Basement Club. Plus lots of fun and exclusive Dolly Rocket branded products so don't miss a chance to get your hands on a bit of Dolly's merchandise. Dolly also promises, 'FLASH' drinks deals every hour on the hour. So keep your eyes and ears open cause that is gonna be a lot of fun.

The USA also comes to the South coast as US DJ Bryan Craft flies in from Atlanta for new monthly pop/r&b night STATESIDE, every last Thursday at the Basement Club (below Legends).



STATESIDE brings some of the newest US tracks to Brighton for the first time plus a chance for spin master Bryan to play some of the classic tracks from his enormous collection. Expect a mix of rare US tracks, pop hits and classic dance tracks.

Legends & The Basement Club,
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book

Hot Spots!

By Les Lea



I remember the first time I ever sunbathed nude. It was when I was 26 years-old and visiting an American friend in New York and we went up to the Hamptons.

I wasn't sure if it was an official nude beach but there were as many people with swimming costumes on as there were without. I was nervous but loved the freedom of being naked on the beach but come the time to go home I found that the sun had done its worst, and I had stupidly not lotioned my bum (or my cock and bollocks) enough and I was very red and very stinging. For a couple of days I could hardly stand the idea of wearing anything next to my skin as even a pair of cotton shorts proved to be uncomfortable. I learned...

Images from:
<http://guyzbeach.tumblr.co.uk>

A few years later, when I visited the sand dunes in Masapalomas, I had no such trouble. My body was slaked with creams, oils and unguents (which is just as well on those particular dunes) and my body withstood the beating sun.

As I've got older I haven't felt the need to strip off to worship the sun, and in many ways I've developed a delight in seeing a deep tan line... but that is just another one of my many fetishes... which I can appreciate as much as an all over tan. Despite it being very popular with certain people I've never quite taken to the idea of a spray tan, or even stood in front of a tanning lamp, if I'm going to have a tan I want to get it 'au natural'.



There are many gay beaches around Europe but the nice people at Trip Out Gay travel have listed these as their Top Ten – hottest gay nude beaches:

1. **Farne Beach, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**
2. **West Street Beach, Laguna Beach, California**
3. **Fire Island, New York**
4. **Tamarama Beach, Sydney, Australia**
5. **Hippie Hollow, Austin, Texas**
6. **Elia Beach, Mykonos, Greece**
7. **Wreck Beach, Vancouver, Canada**
8. **Oval Beach, Saugatuck, Michigan**
9. **Little Beach, Maui, Hawaii**
10. **Black's Beach, San Diego, California**

You may disagree and have your own favourites but to check out what the site has to say about these places go to:

www.tripoutgaytravel.com/the-world's-top-ten-gay-beaches-for-showing-some-skin

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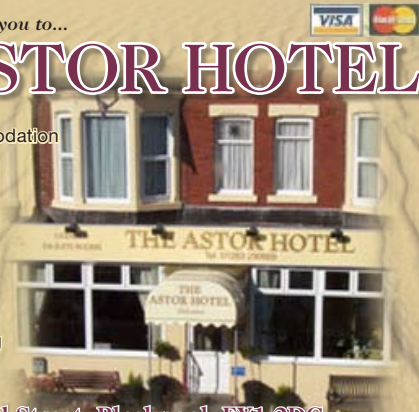
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My First Time



I was impressed with the item by Steve Markham in last month's Bent about his first time at a gay sauna as it brought back so many happy memories of my first encounter in such a place.

I was visiting a friend in the States and one night after we'd been to a Disco (well it was a few years ago now) he suggested we visit the local 'Baths' as he called it. I was slightly drunk but on a high from a great night out so agreed, on condition he didn't leave my side while we were there.

The place was absolutely buzzing with guys of all shapes, sizes and colour. Tiny towels wrapped around naked bodies only seemed to emphasise the sexiness of each owner and I began to want to see even more. Eventually we found ourselves in a very dark area where I lost my friend - it wasn't the place where you could suddenly start shouting out somebody's name, although there were plenty of other noises going on. My bum got pinched, stroked and patted, while my defensive towel proved useless as hands groped at my dick. I managed to find my way out of the gloom and into a communal area where more cruising went on and where a lovely dark, hairy-bodied Latino stopped in front of me smiling. I think he could sense my resistance to get involved but he suggested that a warm shower might help relax me. He wouldn't take my shaking head as an answer, so, I nervously followed him to those warming jets of water.

That was my undoing. Once the towels were off he liked what he saw and I was simply amazed at what he had between his legs. His slow, sexy soaping bringing his cock to a rather impressive state, which he came over and nudged up against my slippery butt cheeks. He taunted me with it for a few minutes before sexily suggesting we experiment more but in private.

That night I had the time of my life. Not only with my Latino friend, but once he'd finished (for the third time) with a series of other hunky men who happened to also be in the mood. By the time we were thrown out in the morning I'd lost track of all my partners but it gave me a taste for 'The Baths' from that moment on.

When I returned to the UK the local gay sauna was my first port of call and I've been a regular ever since.

Ian – Nottingham

Editor's note: If you have a 'First Time' experience you'd like to recount, send it to editor@bent.com



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Beauty

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We're told that stress can be a killer. From when time began lads have taken themselves in hand and found ways of relieving that stress on their own, with friends or sometimes with complete strangers. That glorious feeling of release is a wonderful experience but often the feeling is only temporary.

Stress, and stressing about stress can lead to all manner of physical and mental problems like; high blood-pressure, anxiety and depression, so we at Bent recommend that you try and avoid it. Although some say that stress can give you that edge in your job, others will tell you to just dump that pressure and chill out... and what better way than having a nice massage.

Now, not everyone has a willing partner or friend that they can call upon to give them that stress relieving massage. However, there is nothing finer

than having someone else take charge and give your entire body a head- to-toe relaxing rubdown. Many spas, gyms and sports clubs offer various treatments that will guarantee to relax your body and rejuvenate your mind... or at the very least give you a few glorious minutes of 'ME' time.

We see from surveys carried out that men are just as likely these days to pop into a spa and have some form of treatment, indeed, many spas have a programme of facials, body-rubs, deep-tissue massages that are geared at male customers, not that they still don't enjoy the pleasures of a pedicure or manicure when they are on offer.

A recent trip to one of the Esporta Health Clubs saw a day of exercise, weights, running and swimming topped off with some relaxing and body repairing treatments at its Tranquillity Spa.

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Opinion

Bareback Porn



Last year, Belgian researchers published findings which revealed that in Europe and the UK, the HIV epidemic is being fuelled by risky behaviour in young gay men.

It once again threw a light upon the modern gay lifestyle, and particularly our sex lives. It does so at a time when the most visual evidence of our sex lives – porn – is depicting ever greater amounts of bareback sex. Condomless fucking is apparently what we are choosing to buy and some companies, notably the San Francisco based, Treasure Island Media, have celebrated the bareback act and identity at a time of mounting concern around bareback porn.

The gay author and journalist Paul Burston is one of those who have made high profile protests in the media at the apparent acceptance of, and growth in, bareback porn. In 2009, he cited a mixture of personal and social reasons for seeking to avoid bareback sex and the risk of HIV transmission commenting that: 'In the long run, it's far healthier for [gay men] and far easier on the National Health Service'.

The playwright Jonathan Harvey, perhaps best known for Beautiful Thing and Gimme Gimme Gimme, includes a scene in his new play Canary in which a young man dismisses HIV as 'an old man's disease'; HIV is dismissed as something associated with another generation. Safe sex campaigners have found themselves in the midst of a catch-22 position. For years, the message has been "don't worry, HIV isn't the end of the world, it needn't stop you doing what you want to do". This message was borne of the need to encourage people into being tested and being treated. After all, once people do know their identity, the evidence is that this changes people's behaviour. Testing is therefore a key element in any strategy to reduce HIV infection rates. The trouble with this message is that people have listened, and more importantly looked around at the world they inhabit. It is not the 1980s. Men are not dying all around us. Whilst many of us might know friends or former lovers who are HIV positive, they are still alive and appear well.

For many, HIV doesn't look that scary. In a 'live for today' culture, talk of future drug resistance or cases of those who currently have drug resistance or other complications are easy to dismiss and all the while the safe-sex campaigners are telling us "don't worry, it's not the end of the world". Yet, changing tack and adopting a 1980's 'scare the crap out of everyone' route wouldn't work either as it would be located in the fears of the past rather than the contemporary realities. Screaming "you're all going to die" only works if people see people ill and dying.

Safe sex's focus on the whiter-than-white strategy of 'always use a condom' has also contributed to a dismissal of safe sex activity. How many of those people currently calling on gay men to 'always use a condom' actually mean that? Do they mean always during oral sex? Would that change with a long-term lover? What do you actually do? When the safe-sex advocate and Milk screenwriter Dustin Lance Black was revealed on Perez Hilton's blog in a series of sex tape stills getting fucked without a condom, he found himself at the centre of a media frenzy and was forced to make a statement saying: 'I apologize and cannot emphasize enough the importance of responsible sexual practices'. Media reports also began emphasising that the photographs were three years old and with his then boyfriend – confirming once again the notion of gay men strategising their safe sex practices (boyfriend = bareback OK, random shag = bareback bad) along with emphasising bareback as something historic, something gay men don't do anymore.

Yet it seems the contrary is true. Bareback seems to be of the now. The porn that seeks to record it, whether in the form of commercial studios or the amateur porn we are uploading onto sites such as XTube, does so as part of presenting the "authentic" contemporary homo. This is sex, not only as we want to have it, freed from the constraints of social obligation, but it's also documenting sex as we actually have it.

Whilst recent years have seen gay rights campaigns notably stripped of the sexual, bareback porn is a reminder that gay men fuck other guys up the arse. Not only that, but it re-associates gay men and homosexuality with disease at a time of significant legal and social advances in gay rights around the world. Its dominance at a critical time in the development of gay rights enables homophobes to cast gay men once more as degenerate and disease ridden.

Yet some in the porn world do share the concerns about bareback porn. Twinky porn actor Brent Corrigan has deployed his cute charms in a series of explicit and humorous safe sex videos for the Washington DC based campaign, FUK!T. This apparently has all the more potency as Corrigan is a 'reformed' barebacker, with many of Corrigan's early bareback porn films now voluntarily withdrawn from the market after he revealed he had forged identity documentation so that he could make the films under-age.

In 2008, the BBC's Newsnight programme revealed details of two DVDs which included footage based on a week-long shoot in which eight guys had bareback sex in various combinations. Soon after, four of the actors involved in the shoot were diagnosed as HIV positive. It was presented as a shock to the British bareback porn industry but in reality, was quickly forgotten. Other companies such as Treasure Island Media (TIM) and Hot Desert Knights celebrate bareback sex, although none more so than TIM and its titles such as Cumsloppy Buttholes, Breeding Season and Plantin' Seed. Its repeated depiction of the use of a Devil's Dick (a dildo of frozen semen) is arguably the ultimate extreme act of bareback sex.

For now, companies like TIM appear to be in the ascendancy, along with our HIV rates. Porn is understandably the easy target but the porn companies are reflecting our own sexual practices and desires. It may at times give us permission to unleash slutty desires and fantasies but it also records what were doing anyway. As long as we are not dying in droves, and (unlike many countries) continue to have access to free or affordable drugs and treatment, it is easy to cast anti-bareback campaigners as irrelevant.

Bareback porn remains controversial but whatever our apparent public discomfort, it appears that when it comes to porn, as well as our fucking, we're increasingly choosing bareback.

Chris Ashford is a Principal Lecturer in Law at the University of Sunderland where he teaches a course on Law and Sexuality as part of the law degree programme. He also blogs at:

<http://lawandsexuality.blogspot.com/>

Image: Snap Shot – Falcon Studios

Advice

THT freephone helpline

HIV and sexual health charity Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) has changed the telephone number of its helpline THT Direct to a freephone number, in an effort to make the service more accessible. The new telephone number is 0808 802 1221. It is free to callers from UK landlines and most mobile networks, and will not appear on telephone bills. The confidential service is available between 10am and 10pm on weekdays, and from 12noon to 6pm on weekends.

Advisers can answer questions on a range of topics, including: transmission of HIV and testing; accessing PEP; STI screening; welfare benefits and housing; discrimination; immigration; prosecutions for transmission of HIV; and reproduction, puberty and contraception. They can provide emotional support for those worried about their sexual health or who have concerns about living with HIV. They can also refer callers on to a wide range of THT services or other relevant organisations.

Calls to THT Direct are free from landlines and the following mobile networks: 3, O2, Orange, T-mobile, Virgin and Vodafone. Calls made from other networks may be charged, and will then be featured on an itemised bill. When calling, there are additional options to listen to recorded information, or to request to be called back in another language. Every call is handled confidentially, although some calls may be listened into or recorded for training purposes.

Additionally, the THT Direct service is also available by email (info@tht.org.uk), and THT also provides an anonymous online enquiry service, Sex Facts. Aimed at young people in particular, this service can be found at:

www.tht.org.uk/sexfacts





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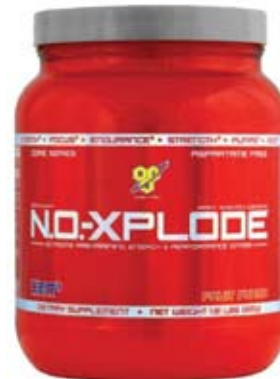
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They said I'd like it...

By Calvin

John said I'd like it. Even Evan, who I'd trust with my life, said I'd like it... but I didn't. Everyone on TV seems to like it and those people online seems to think it's just fantastic. But I didn't. I read advice that said "Start slow, take it mild, don't rush it... you'll soon get the taste for it." But I didn't.

One blog I looked at said that for his first time he wanted it to be the hottest thing he'd ever experienced. He thought that was the only way to rid himself of his own fears about trying it. I couldn't find anything on the net that was negative... apparently, everyone in the world loves it... so why didn't I? Was it the way I was brought up?

We were never that adventurous in our household and everything sort of stuck to a pattern. Same thing week in, week out. Nothing changed. My friends had marvelled at me when I'd told them that I'd never tried it. Michael had insisted there and then that he should be the one to introduce me to its delights but I had to tell him I just wasn't ready. He scoffed a bit and the nodding heads of my mates told me I was indeed the only one who'd never tried it.

After this 'declaration' of mine it began to be the only topic of conversation. "When would I eventually give it a try?" My friends were adamant that they wanted to help me, hell they were lining up to introduce me to its pleasures. In fact, they all wanted to be there... suggesting that we do it as a group. My mind boggled. I don't think they realised what they were asking me to do but I was encouraged that not one of my friends thought it was a bad idea; every one of them deciding that they should be there to see me through this 'ordeal' as I called it. You know 'One for all and all for one' type of thing.

So, after three weeks of constant badgering I agreed. My five mates, Michael, John, Biggie, Tom and Evan all agreeing a time and a place when I should try the very thing I'd been avoiding most of my life. I'd told them that I didn't like the smell but they just laughed and said it was the thing that got their juices flowing in the first place. Biggie said

that it was the raw smell that brought him out in a sweat in anticipation and told us about one of the hottest sessions he'd ever had. The others agreed and added comments about their own hot sessions but I wasn't too sure. However, I had now agreed, I had my best mates around me and in truth, if I was going to do it, there was no one I'd rather have to introduce me to the experience. I loved and trusted them all.

The day and time arrived. We bowled up at the appointed venue; an unassuming place, in a back street, the interior lit by candles that they said only added to the atmosphere. Michael said he'd availed himself many times of what they had to offer, the last time, six weeks ago had been his hottest experience ever... and again, whether it was the smell or just the fearful anticipation, I felt a little nauseous.

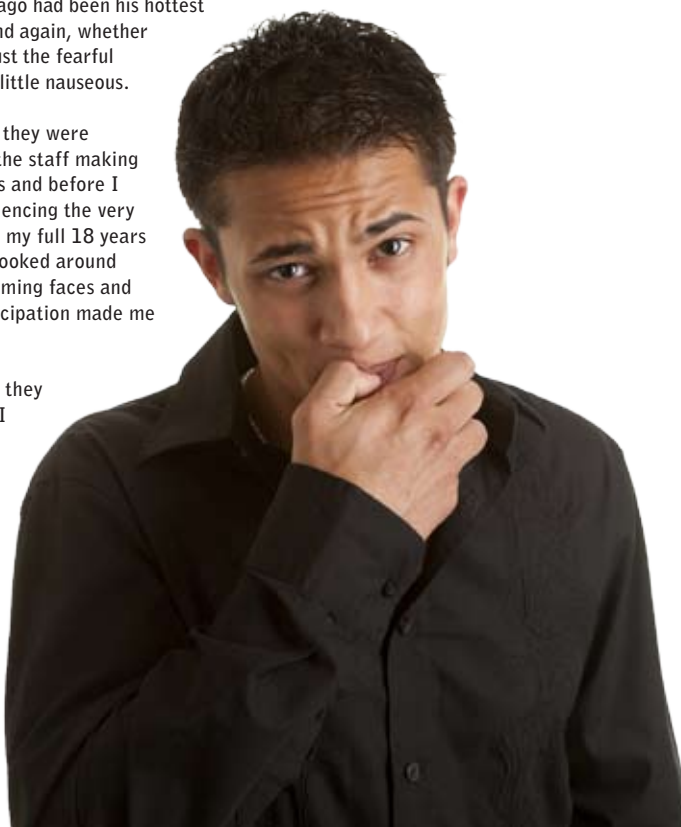
The lads knew what they were doing so chatted to the staff making all the arrangements and before I knew it I was experiencing the very thing I'd avoided for my full 18 years of life. Nervously I looked around the group at the beaming faces and excited looks of anticipation made me jump straight in.

Uuurgh. What were they trying to do to me? I tried to take it slow but it didn't help. From the very off I wasn't happy and wished I'd never approved of this terrible ordeal. Within moments the sweaty, smiling faces that surrounded me were encouraging me to take that final leap; to join in

with something that I could do regularly with my mates and not have to think about it.

Against my better judgement, and egged on by my friends I grinned and bore it, but I didn't like it. My friends were whooping in delight, saying how much they were enjoying it. How hot it was. I struggled with it but stayed until the end although by then I was sweating, bilious and had decided that I wasn't going to try it again... not even with my best friends.

I hadn't enjoyed my first curry, and I didn't think I ever would.



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Aquarius

(Jan21/Feb19)

Discussing a dilemma with someone who has his or her feet on the ground will help you see things more clearly now. A jealous friend is causing waves and it is becoming apparent they're trying to come between you and your partner. Conflicts in a close relationship have more to do with outside influences than whether or not you are compatible. You don't necessarily want to win an argument but you do want to feel your partner is listening and understands. A heart to heart will give you this reassurance.

Pisces

(Feb20/Mar20)

Indulge a partner's whims and they will love you forever. Even their ideas sound crazy it might be a lot of fun giving them a try. You could learn so much more about what makes you tick by letting go of your inhibitions. Over the weeks ahead relax and let yourself become more transparent. Be prepared to let other people in. Single? You could meet someone who acts as a catalyst in some way and who encourages you to do something you never dared think was possible.

Aries

(Mar21/Apr20)

You've been thinking about it for a while and are now ready to act on the idea of changing neighbourhoods. Your partner or a housemate may have to be jolted out of their lethargy; insist it is time for you both to move on. Searching for a new place to live will be exciting when it won't take long to find the perfect home for you. Even so, expect to spend a lot of money putting your own special touch to your surroundings!

Taurus

(Apr21/May21)

A rival will try to spoil your good mood; they will only succeed if you let them get to you. Over the weeks ahead let their comments roll right off your back. The more energy you put into your social life and staying in touch with people you love, the better you will feel. If you're single and lonely, very soon love will find you. Someone will be taking the initiative and getting in touch. Future anniversaries will celebrate a special event that takes place this month.

Cancer

(June22/July23)

A goal you really want to reach is closer than you think so don't give up; not now! You've been working hard and over the weeks ahead you will overcome the hurdle that's currently getting you down. Are you letting other people's comments influence your thinking? Their negativity could well lead you to expecting the worst. You should have more faith in yourself as it's not doing you any good to let other people upset you. These next few weeks you need to believe in yourself more!

Leo

(July24/Aug23)

You're more popular than ever these days! People can't get enough of you and you can't say no to all the exciting invitations coming your way. You're a regular social butterfly and you're loving every fun moment. Even so you won't disregard any interesting career or romantic opportunities you may meet, over the next few

weeks. A flirtatious colleague may try to make a move on you and since you've fancied them for some time you aren't likely to discourage them!

Virgo

(Aug24/Sept23)

Your social life and friendships could in some way be connected to your career over the weeks ahead. Either a friendly get together will introduce you to some useful business contacts or you could meet someone at a conference who becomes a firm friend. Romance could also result from such a meeting. You and a certain special someone will be spending more time together sharing spontaneous delights that only come through a truly compatible union.

Libra

(Sept24/Oct23)

It might feel as if you go over a few cliff edges over the weeks ahead and you won't believe how well everything turns out. More than once a difficulty will turn out to be a blessing in disguise. More than a few people will be surprised by the way you are so assertive and determined these days. Someone close is hankering for some of your attention. If you feel they're starting to lean on you too heavily, for once you will let them know you have other things to do.

Scorpio

(Oct24/Nov22)

Your agenda needs to be re-balanced so as to give yourself more time to spend with your loved ones. The aim is to ensure they are happy and if over the weeks ahead it means making a few sacrifices, you won't mind doing so. You're trying to tackle problems that are causing tension in your closest relationships and you're going the right way about it. An introduction to a friend of a friend will feel like it was meant to be. It will turn out you have a lot in common and you'll be adding a valuable name to your address book.

Sagittarius

(Nov23/Dec21)

A certain person is apparently doing their best to attract your attention. Friends have noticed so why haven't you? If you've been too busy to see someone is keen to get up close and personal, open your eyes. Over the month ahead you could get some fabulous opportunities through your social relationships. It will be easy to get on with people at this time even those you hardly know. Be wary of someone who will try to clip your wings or challenge your choice of friends.

Capricorn

(Dec22/Jan20)

Even if you aren't in the mood to socialise you could meet some wonderful people, this month, through making the effort to mix and mingle. A friend has something special to celebrate in which case, be prepared to put on your glad rags and join in. Cupid has a dart aimed in your direction so don't hide yourself away. If you're already spoken for, take advantage of these loving trends and whisk your partner off for a romantic weekend break.

Gemini

(May22/June21)

You will be rewarded tremendously by listening more than speaking over the weeks ahead. Mixing with an assortment of people will be inspiring. You could be motivated to join a club or society that stirs you in a way you've never been motivated before. New contacts will also help you further your career prospects. In fact by winning the affection of a leading figure you could gain entry into a privileged society. You're feeling restless these days and will be happier when out and about whenever you get the chance.



Morrissey 22/05 Celebrity Gemini

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 23/05 Joan Collins | 07/06 Prince |
| 24/05 Queen Victoria | 08/06 Joan Rivers |
| 25/05 Lauryn Hill | 09/06 Johnny Depp |
| 26/05 Lenny Kravitz | 10/06 Judy Garland |
| 27/05 Christopher Lee | 11/06 Gene Wilder |
| 28/05 Kylie Minogue | 12/06 Anne Frank |
| 29/05 Melissa Etheridge | 14/06 Boy George |
| 30/05 Mel Blanc | 15/06 Courtney Cox |
| 31/05 Colin Farrell | 16/06 Tupac Shakur |
| 01/06 Marilyn Monroe | 17/06 Barry Manilow |
| 02/06 Sir Edward Elgar | 18/06 Paul McCartney |
| 03/06 Tony Curtis | 19/06 Paula Abdul |
| 04/06 Angelina Jolie | 20/06 Nicole Kidman |
| 05/06 Mark Wahlberg | 21/06 Prince William |

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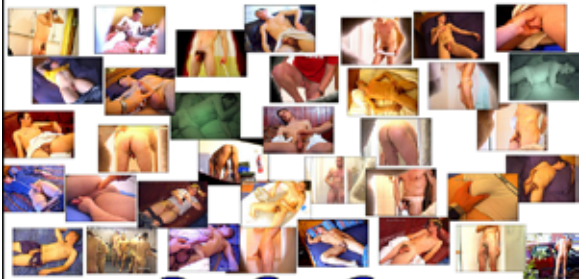
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