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JOHAN VOLNY**

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EDITOR'S WORDS

Last month seemed very unreal to me, what with Clonezone going into receivership, Boy George going to prison and my holiday Euro now being worth more than a £.

On my recent trip to the Canary Islands (am I gay or what?) it came as a bit of a shock that what was once a reasonably cheap place to eat and drink was now costing as much as most London bars and club prices. I'm sure this is a worldwide problem but our little British pound is looking particularly vulnerable at the moment and budgeting for an overseas holiday is getting more difficult... that is if you can afford it in the first place.

The possible end to Clonezone is a great blow to all of us who grew up when the company first started. It offered a terrific 'gay beacon', an out-and-proud motif that was certainly needed all those years ago. The company was the first in many fields and the guys behind it wore their heart on their sleeves as they pushed there secret and what was regarded by some "offensive and subversive" shop from behind locked doors and onto the high street. In many ways CZ was a victim of its own success, growing and developing new lines and stores around the UK but, as many big names and brands have found to their cost in recent months, the credit crunch can, and has, hit hard. I wish them well and hope that they still manage to keep Clonezone going in some form or other.

According to the judge, drugs played an important part in Boy George's downfall from Pop Legend to another number at Her Majesties Pleasure. Even George's defence barrister added: "He will not now very likely ever be permitted to perform in the U.S and Japan where he has a very, very significant fan base. The humiliation of this is going to live with him for ever."

Meanwhile, in America they are still having the 'gay marriage' debate, which of course might become more of an issue now Barack Obama is President, as he's already signalled that he is against gay discrimination. He's told the heads of the Military that the 'Don't Ask - Don't Tell' policy is not working and he wants to see a more positive take on gay and lesbian members of the armed forces. Meanwhile, the Pope has gone negative on gay marriage, condemning those who support it, which, he'll be pleased to know, the leaders of some African countries share his paranoia. Civilisation wont end but perhaps it would be a great move to let civilisation start.

Hugs
Gordon

And finally remember: Good judgment comes from experience; experience comes from bad judgment



BOYFRIEND

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Book your place online at www.gmfa.org.uk/national or call **020 7738 3712**.

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Leeds	Yorkshire Mesmac
Newcastle East	Mesmac North
Norwich	Ten

Saturday 18 April

CITY	AGENCY
Birmingham	THT Midlands
Cardiff	THT Cymru
Liverpool	Armistead Project
London	GMFA

Saturday 25 April

CITY	AGENCY
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Leicester	Trade
Manchester	LGF
Sheffield	Centre for HIV & Sexual Health
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RAPHAEL SOLOMON

TAKING OFF BIG TIME WITH MUSIC LOVING GAY AUDIENCES OVER THE POND IS 28 YEARS OLD, NIGERIA-BORN, FORMER MODEL BUT NOW WRITER/PRODUCER/PERFORMER RAPHAEL SOLOMON WHO KNOWS A LITTLE SOMETHING ABOUT LIFE, LOVE AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

Self-describing his sound as "pop with a Latin twist," the London transplant's music is based on those both basic and complex human emotions and experiences. Take "Sex With My Ex," for instance – the forthcoming first single from his debut album, *Beautiful Dancer*, now available on iTunes – which the artist penned after preparing a supper for, then seducing, a former flame.

"I planned the whole thing, like when you do when you're still in love with someone and you want them back," Solomon explains. "We didn't get back together, and instead of slashing my wrists, I wrote a song and gave it to myself as a Christmas gift."

Most of Solomon's songs, in fact – which he's been writing since the age of 7 – are steeped in similar soils. But it sort of comes with the territory, considering his background: born to Lebanese and Chilean, party-animal parents; relocating from one continent to another; and dating men and women while maintaining loving and sexual relationships with both sexes.

But the concept of love – or the lack thereof, on occasion – isn't just on what *Beautiful Dancer* is based. It's also on what the album was built. Especially when you consider that Solomon readily admits to "not having a penny to his name at times."

An independent artist through and through, Solomon financed the expensive studio time to record his record over a period of three years with jobs as a bartender, security guard and a male model. He recalls working as a retail assistant at a Harrod's department store too – where, he says, shoppers, on a daily basis, thought that having money was a warranty to talk down to people.

Rather than discourage him, this affluent attitude did just the opposite – it encouraged him to continue pursuing his passion while providing even more material to work with, the result of which is "Rich in My Heart," another of the album's grinding gems.

With all this talk of heartbreak, however, don't assume that Solomon doesn't have a sense of humor. He's not the kind of cat content with licking old wounds. Instead, he prefers to pick himself up, dust himself off, and – when he's not writing or recording those chapters in his life – have a little fun.

Just like the night he became the king of more than a few people's jungles.

"I once went onstage dressed as Tarzan, and 20 seconds into my number my loincloth came undone," he recalls. "That was a very memorable experience for both the audience and me!"

But, then again, maybe that faux pas was all part of Solomon's grander scheme: "To entertain, to be identifiable, and to be recognized as an artist who can be related to on a personal level."

www.myspace.com/raphaelsolomon



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Photo: Rehearsals @ WYP



COMPANY ALONG THE MILE

Blackpool may offer all the fun of the fair, but for some it is a lonely place where companionship can be paid for and home is a hotel room along the famous Golden Mile. Stella, a transvestite, and her paid companion George meet every Wednesday afternoon in Stella's Blackpool hotel room for sandwiches and a quick flick through the obituaries. Stella dreams of long walks, perfect memories and happy endings, George is nervous and unsure but has found an odd comfort in this curious arrangement. But when a series of tapping noises are heard at the window, followed by a single, mysterious knock at the door, this odd couple's unlikely relationship is turned on its head forever.

Arcola Theatre
2-21 February
www.arcolatheatre.com

The Lowry
26-28 February
www.thelowry.com



EVITA

Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's extraordinary musical Evita, which charts the rise of the wife of Argentine dictator Juan Peron, Eva, hits Bradford this month. Featuring some of the biggest hits songs ever written, including Don't Cry For Me Argentina, On This Night Of A Thousand Stars and Another Suitcase in Another Hall, this brand new production of the smash hit show truly promises to be the theatrical event of the year.

Alhambra
Bradford
16-28 February

FRAMED JENNIFER SAUNDERS



- Creator of one of the biggest fictional TV gay icons Edina Monsoon in the cult show Absolutely Fabulous coining the phrases 'sweetie, darling, sweetie' and 'buggery bollocks'
- She went to the Central School of Speech and Drama (oh darlings) where she met her future comedy partner Dawn French, both of them were originally completely uninterested in each other until they lived together... it happens to the best of us!
- She is the 26th biggest selling female British Export
- French and Saunders are one of the most successful comedy acts of all time and have brought us wonderful pastiches of all the gays favourites such as Jackie and Joan Collins' 'The Lucky Bitches', the hysterical Jodie and Jordan, The Spice Girls and of course Madonna, the latest rip off on the Still Alive tour was the highlight of the entire show.
- Like some of us gay men she is obsessed with the fantastic Sue Johnston, writing Jam and Jerusalem for her, combining another one of everyone's favourite obsession... crazy old ladies! We couldn't ask for more!
- She guest starred in the America's favourite sitcom Friends as Emily's (Ross's fiancée) step mother, where she completely stole the show from the rest of the cast without trying.
- She has shunned The Queen by turning down an OBE, but she has never given a reason for her refusal.
- She, like all of us, has admitted to having a slight obsession with reality TV and though would never go on a 'celebrity' based show has created the fabulous Life & Times of Vivienne Vyle, a take on the vile Jeremy Kyle, and how far people will stoop in order to go on telly. And of course the obsession with other people's dirty laundry!
- She has won endless awards for her work on television and film; most recently she won the award for Best Villain as the evil fairy godmother in Shrek 2. She also recorded the gay anthem 'Holding Out For A Hero', which fans actually signed a petition to get released... it didn't!



BY MARK HAWKINS

Broadcast Yourself

THIS MONTH'S TOP 3 - MUST SEE!!!

SCOTT MILLS TAKES A SPILL



uk.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEcq10Jy5vs

STEVE GUTTENBERG NAKED



uk.youtube.com/watch?v=5cC_UFf5NY

GERMAN ARMY MALE SHAVER AD



uk.youtube.com/watch?v=cW-H2WJ2NZ0



GETNETTED

1. <http://www.jockstrapcentral.com>

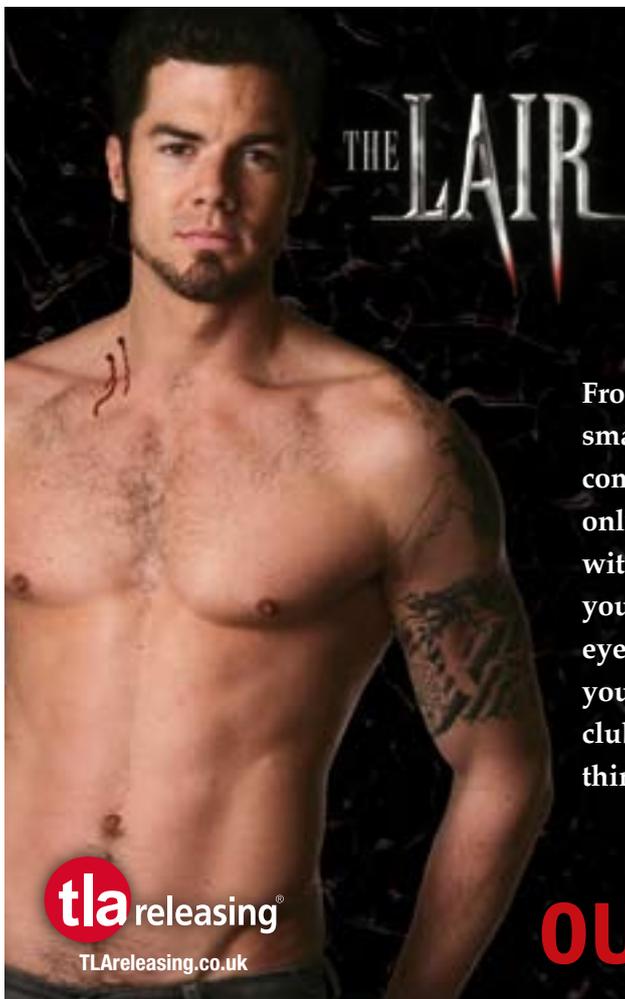
Jockstraps look and feel incredible so don't be afraid to wear them all day, every day! Shopping for a jockstrap has never been easier!

2. <http://www.upyerkilt.net>

Have you ever wanted to know what a Scotsman wears under his kilt? Page after page of pictures of real Scotsmen, who have accidentally revealed the answer to that age old question

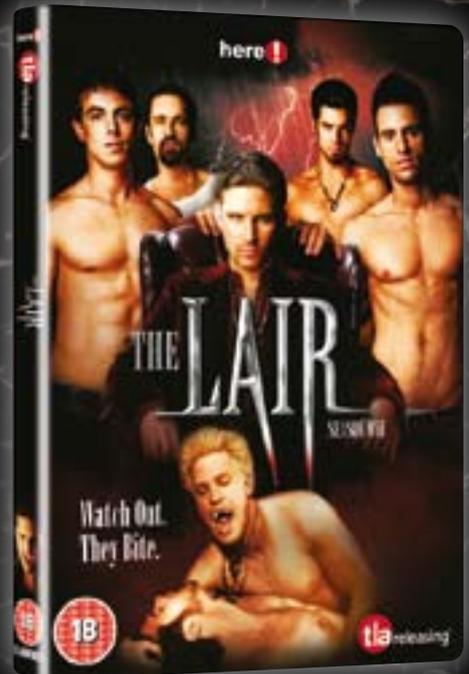
3. <http://www.sportlads.co.uk/>

Now in our 5th year! The biggest and best sports gear fetish site, featuring men in soccer kit, rugby, jocks, socks, trackies, speedos & more!



"Guilty of everything that a guilty pleasure is supposed to be... Jackie Collins-style horror fun!" - Gay.com

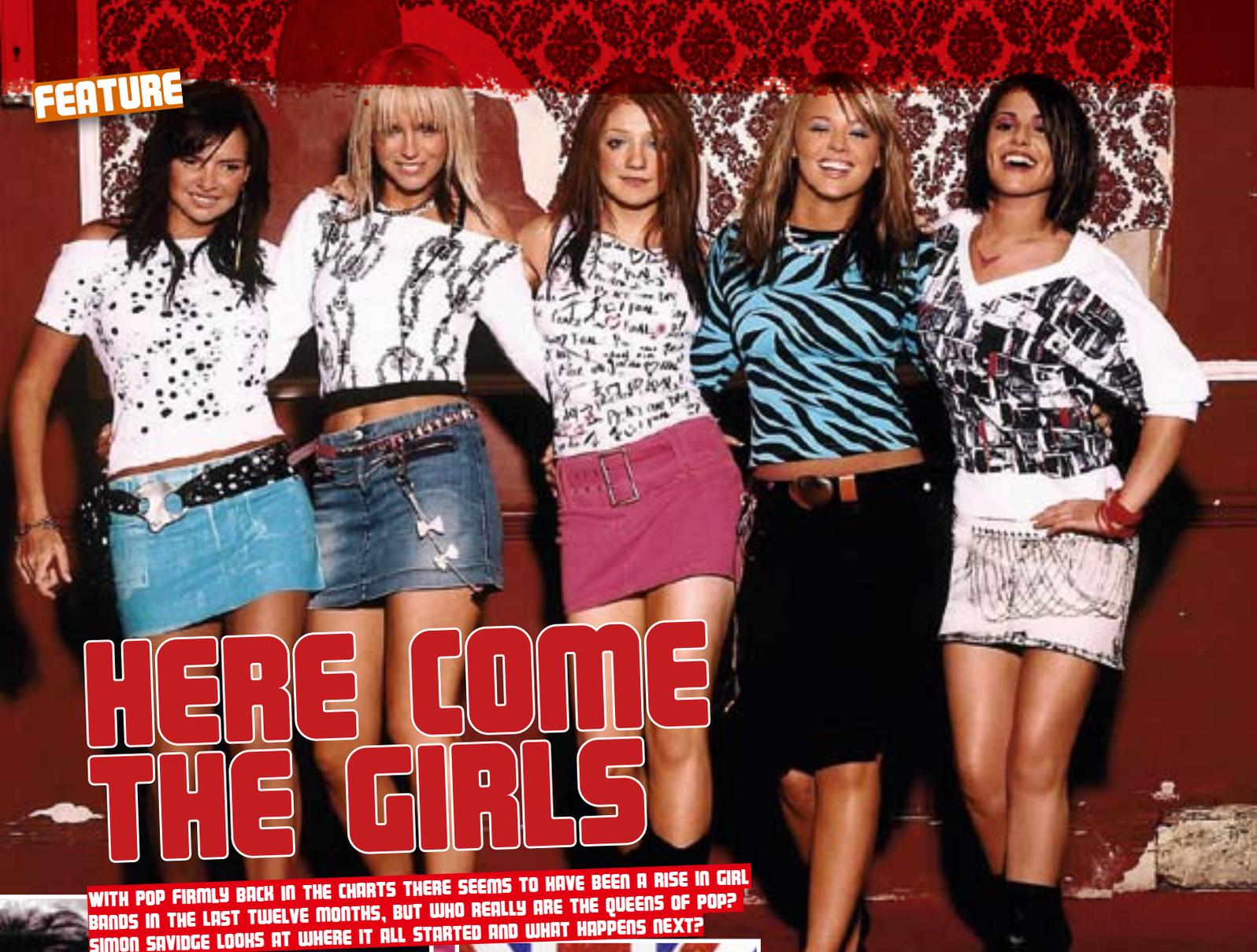
From the creators of the smash hit *Dante's Cove* comes *The Lair*, a male-only club populated with the sexiest guys you will ever lay your eyes on... but enter at your own risk for this club is run by blood-thirsty vampires!



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HERE COME THE GIRLS

WITH POP FIRMLY BACK IN THE CHARTS THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A RISE IN GIRL BANDS IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, BUT WHO REALLY ARE THE QUEENS OF POP? SIMON SAVIDGE LOOKS AT WHERE IT ALL STARTED AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



In a recent survey with One Poll - Girls Aloud were announced as the best girl group of all time with the shocking result that the Spice Girls came in second. This has left some forums in outrage with comments like "Girls Aloud have only come top because they are big at the moment" and "people forget the girl bands of the past and the gems that have been in our charts". Indeed some of this could be true as Atomic Kitten's Whole Again is the biggest selling single by a girl band in the last decade but who mentioned them?

Looking at Girls Aloud, what is it that we love about them so much now? Will they really be

remembered in decades to come as the biggest girl band ever or will it be The Pussycat Dolls or Sugababes? The answer is quite possibly yes. They have had 20 top ten singles, more than any other girl band of all time, and they seem like you could go down the pub and get wasted with them, especially Sarah, and have a right old laugh. But who will follow them if rumours that Cheryl is soon to do a Robbie are true... didn't everyone originally think it would be Nadine?

Girl bands are renowned for catfights and most girl bands don't manage to keep their original line up. People leave (Spice Girls, Eternal, Atomic Kitten, Bananarama,

The Supremes and Destiny's Child - its happened to them all) and some bands flourish to a degree. The Sugababes have thrived on change with blog site -PopJustice saying that; 'If all the members of the Sugababes were in a band they would surely be the greatest girl band of all time'. Sadly rumours of band-mate hatred seemed to have dogged the Sugababes and, with the added problem of some pretty dodgy single choices, maybe their demise could be imminent, which would be a great shame! Having said that I have high hopes for album seven and a bit of advice: Just get dark again girls, dirty dark electro and you'll be fine. But spats

are the infamy of girl bands as portrayed in the film 'Dreamgirls', starring Destiny's Child's very own Beyonce, being based on Diana Ross leaving The Supremes - the original girl band... or were they? Girl bands actually started in the Jazzy 1920s with such classic acts as 'Helen Lewis and Her All-Girl Jazz Syncopators' and the Vaudeville 30's bringing acts such as The Boswell Sisters (who The Puppini Sisters tried to replicate the style of yet singing modern classics by Blondie, Morrissey and Madonna) it was however the swinging sixties when girl bands took off properly with the original 'girl group' The Chantels (no they weren't from Essex and hadn't



been on Big Brother) followed by The Shirelles, The Ronettes, The Shangri-La's and of course the aforementioned Supremes.

In the 80's we had The Gogo's who split (and created a career for lead singer Belinda Carlisle), The Pointer Sisters, The Weather Girls (girl group is slightly stretched with that one) and the legendary, and homosexual's favourite, Bananarama who had bags of attitude and bags of hits. Who knew one of them would go off to make another killer girl group Shakespears Sister but who in the process, probably inspired the girl bands of the 90's like Shampoo, All Saints, Sugababes and of course

The Spice Girls. With The Spice Girls and 'Girl Power' a new breed of girl group was born, one which took over the whole world in a joyous array of colours, shouting, pouting and huge platform boots! Did anyone else have Buffalo shoes or was that just me? They also merged pop culture with merchandising like never before, lollipops, deodorant, chocolates, flavour of crisps, drinks everything had an added touch of Spice. Of course never officially 'splitting up' pissed of the punters but we were all eased with the Return of the Spice Girls just over a year ago. Not that it was done for money or anything! So with such a successful, yet short lived

comeback, why didn't they win? Maybe it is a case of Girls Aloud being 'current' or is it the fact that they are just bloody good? Can you name a bad Girls Aloud single? I can't.

If Cheryl Cole is to go solo what can we expect for her, the band and who will fill their shoes? The strongest contenders in our eyes are The Saturdays, they have a certain Spice meets Girls Aloud feel, its all very catchy, very colourful and you know as sweet as they look that something naughty is lying in wait, and with songs like 'Up!' and 'Work' we can see them being around for eons. However, with European girl bands like the amazing Monrose

and Queensberry (now here's a bizarre marketing ploy to even outshine Simon Cowell: Four albums were released in one week, each with a different combination of girls and which album made it to number one was the signed act - clever) and our very own Stonefoxx snapping at their sparkly heels. As for Girls Aloud's future?

I am sure we can expect autobiographies, TV careers (well done Cheryl getting in there early), solo attempts and of course stints on 'celebrity' based reality TV shows. We can't wait!

ADAM CLARKE

HERE AT THE BENT OFFICE WE ARE INUNDATED WITH COS AND PRESS RELEASES FOR LOADS OF NEW ACTS AND VERY OCCASIONALLY WE ARE STRANGELY DRAWN TO A CERTAIN ARTIST. ADAM CLARKE SENT US SOME PHOTOS AND A BIT OF A BIOG ABOUT HIS LATEST WORK AND WE THOUGHT HE WAS JUST TOO CUTE TO IGNORE... SO WE ASKED HIM A BIT MORE ABOUT HIMSELF.

Where were you born and how old are you?

I was born in 1989 at Hope Hospital in Salford. I am 19 years old, it's a shame I wasn't born earlier because I would have loved to have experienced life in the 1980's.

Tell our readers about your latest release

My latest release is my single 'Be With You' it was originally released in July 2008, but I had some really good remixes done by the Bassmonkeys, Daniel Thomas & Ian Simpson, plus others. I felt like the song needed a proper release with all the remixes, so I decided to release it on CD-Single and also again on iTunes. You can go to my website for information on how to get the single. I'm also currently working on my first album 'Dance Floor Addict', so by the time this interview is published it should almost be finished and ready to

release. The album is going to be a mix of dance, electro and R&B. I'm really excited about this project, I'm working with some really talented producers and I've got some brilliant tracks that I'm really proud of. The original release of 'Be With You' was received really well. It was downloaded quite a lot and picked up by various dj's in the UK and America, who used it in their sets.

Who or what would you say are your main influences?

My main influences have got to be artists such as; Prince, Marc Bolan & Madonna. I love flamboyant artists who aren't afraid to take risks and be themselves. I love artists who have their own unique style, I really love Lady Gaga at the moment, I think she's fab.

My dad always inspired me as well; I think I love music so much because of him. We would always listen to albums and he'd introduce me to so many different artists.

Are we going to see you out and about performing live?

This is something I'd really love to do, I've always thought about it and one day soon hopefully YES! You will see me out and about performing live.

What is your style secret?

Hmmmm I don't think I really have one, I don't like to follow trends and styles, I prefer to just wear what I want and when I want. I do love 80's inspired t-shirts though; you know the ones with 80's bands on and stuff. I like to get my own made to.

What's your all time favourite song?

That's a tough one because I have so many, but my top 3 would have to be; Madonna 'Erotica', Prince 'Purple Rain' and Shakespears Sister 'Stay'.

To find out more about Adam visit: www.myspace.com/adamjamesclarke and www.adamclarkemusic.com (it will be up running soon).



ON SHOW

After years of being frustrated with the restrictions in the standard design of men's underwear a new thought process was needed – the result is Big Boys Pants. The concept came about because the designer decided that guys have had their bits and pieces crushed inside badly designed underwear for too long, which leads to chaffing, readjusting and general ball-ache. Other styles were looked into and discarded, so a fresh approach was instigated: The ultimate design for comfort, appearance, enhancement, support and freedom all rolled into one pair of pants, allowing your bits and pieces to hang naturally and be supported. Finally after a few thoughts for a brand name (and a few drinks), it became clear that 'Big Boys' would be the most popular. Big Boys Pants aren't just for big boys though, every boy is a big boy in Big Boys Pants.

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ALBUM of the MONTH

Photo: Simon Emmet

► **LILY ALLEN**

It's Not Me, It's You
Released: 9th February

Lily seems to have been in the press recently for all the wrong reasons. With the release of her second album, the question on everyone's lips is, 'Has this affected her music?' Thankfully (or unfortunately, depending on where you stand) it hasn't, so there will be much more Lily about. This album is fun, tight and infectious, with her usual sardonic lyrics and moronic tunes. You'll buy it; you'll love it; you'll still hate her.

► **OH, ATOMS**

You Can't See The Stars From Here
Released: 2nd February

The Guardian has called these guys the folk-pop Ting-Tings, although I'd say they're neither as moronic nor as predictable. Everything from strings to banjos appears on this multi-instrumentalist album. The lyrics are tinged with 1930s tea dances, dead film stars, Victoriana and dodgy goings on, whilst the music is pop fringed with acoustic class.



► **FLEET FOXES**

Fleet Foxes: Special Edition
Released: 2nd February

Grunge started some twenty years ago in the US, and now the Fleet Foxes demonstrate how much has changed in that time. Fleet Foxes play what they call 'baroque harmonic pop jams', which belies their folksy, slightly intoxicated sound and carefully orchestrated vocal harmonies. Songs such as 'White Winter Hymnal' evoke the transcendent beauty of the spiritual with the pop tastiness of the Beach Boys. Stirred into this rock mixing pot is everything from English folk songs to the Byrds, providing a nice antidote to the commercial functionalism of 'cool' indie bands like Arcade Fire.

► **FIFTY PHANTOMS**

Revolutionism
Released: 9th February

This is a synthesis of indie and R&B which is at once incendiary and funky. Influences as varied as Daft Punk, Nina Simone and Led Zeppelin collide in this album, which perhaps heralds the beginning of a new musical genre. Their debut single, 'Last Night' is already popular on the club scene because of its fusion of genres, and with this album they hope to make their mark and stay put as genre-bending music-maestros extraordinaire.



3OH!3

YOU DON'T GET MORE GANGSTA THAN SEAN FOREMAN AND NATHANIEL MOTTE - TWO NATIVES OF BOULDER, COLORADO, THE NATION'S CAPITAL OF HIPPIES, HEMPWEAR AND HUMMERS.

They first connected when they discovered they had a mutual man-crush on Buck 65 (a Canadian who is on the radio over there) in their University of Colorado physics class, 3OH!3 have been packing out clubs with their hip-hop hardness, electro eroticism and 80s pop pabulum. Their Photo Finish/Atlantic records debut 'WANT' - which will be out in the UK later this year, and sees our heroes Nathaniel Motte and MC Sean Foreman unleashing tongue-in-cheek rhymes and beats that incorporate '80s pop, electronica, and crunk hip-hop to deliver a knockout punch. The recent single sold over 400K in the States making it a crossover smash. The album itself has done just shy of 100K, as well as selling over 820K individual album tracks. The duo's explosive live show, spiked with synchronised dance moves - whip crowds into a gang-sign-throwing, finger-licking frenzy- while the boys keep their tongues buried deep in their cheeks.

3OH!3's live UK debut supporting Katy Perry will tear up the following dance floors.

February

25th ACADEMY Manchester 0161 275 2930

26th - 27th KOKO London 0844 847 2258



BY JASON GUY



FORTHCOMING
RELEASES



TRACK of the MONTH



▷ CHRIS LAKE FT
NASTALA - IF YOU KNEW
(RISING MUSIC)

Quite simply the most beautiful house track I've heard in months. No, make that years. The sultry vocals from Nastala gave me goose bumps from the first listen. Combine these with an impossibly infectious piano riff and you have the perfect house track. I simply can't gush enough about this and if there's any justice it deserves to be one of the biggest tunes of 2009. Right - I need to listen to it again for the sixth time this morning. www.chris-lake.com



▷ GOLDEN GIRLS - KINETIC
(FLOORPLAY MUSIC)

Back for 2009, one of the biggest rave tracks of my youth, Orbital's Kinetic has been given an almighty overhaul by Brighton based production & DJ duo Prok & Fitch. My tip is head straight for the ATFC remix, a quality tough house makeover, with a funky baseline, while still retaining the original's "hands in the air" feeling. Seb Fontaine & Alex Blanco also produce a quality mix for the more progressive floors. www.floorplaymusic.com



▷ MICHAEL WOODS FT
INAYA DAY - NATURAL HIGH
(DIFFUSED MUSIC)

This has already topped every club chart going and received great support from the likes of Radio 1 and Kiss. Pianos are back with a vengeance this month and it's great to see soul returning to house music too. Inaya's perfect vocals help make this a perfect, peak time, hands in the air anthem that's going to stay at the front of my CD wallet for months to come. www.diffusedmusic.com



▷ DEAN COLEMAN - I WANT
YOU (YOSHITOSHI)

More pianos! They must be subconsciously on my mind this month when I picked my 5 favourite tracks. Dean Coleman (he's previously held residencies alongside Roger Sanchez and Deep Dish at Pacha in Ibiza) brings us a monster of a track. Combining lush piano melodies, a progressive beat and beautiful vocals. Another big room stormer! www.yoshitoshi.com



▷ EMMA DEIGMAN - TELL
YOUR MAMA (XXX)

More beautiful vocals with my final track this month. 19 year old Emma Diegman is destined to be a star, with her perfect, soulful voice. The single version of this track will be released on iTunes shortly, with the single and album out in April. However, if you can track down the Stonebridge Mix of this currently on promo, do so. Now! Funky, chunky and uplifting... get on a dancefloor now. www.myspace.com/emmadeigmanofficial

DJ OLIVER M

HE TOOK HIS FIRST STEPS INTO THE DJ WORLD BACK IN HAMBURG IN 1987 AND HAS NEVER LOOKED BACK! IN THE PAST 21 YEARS, OLIVER HAS PLAYED AT SOME OF THE BIGGEST CLUBS IN THE WORLD, FROM AMNESIA IN IBIZA TO SPACE OF SOUND IN MADRID. HE'S ALSO THE GUY RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THE GAY SPANISH SUPERBRAND MATINEE TO THE UK.

2008 must have been your busiest year ever, but what was your highlight?

Definitely the capacity crowd who came for the opening of my club night Revolver, which we are re-launching at the legendary Fridge in Brixton. Other memorable gigs were for the massive annual Circuit Festival in Barcelona and Space Ibiza last summer.

It seems that since Matinée exploded on to the London scene, everyone wants a piece of the European clubbing pie.

There has been some copy cat events being put on lately but Matinée has been in the business a long time and people can see the experience our DJs and the promoters have. Matinée has never been about cashing in to make a quick buck, but I guess when you are good in your field you will always have people copying you. I think since we introduced Matinée to London there has been a shift in the London club scene, for the better.

What's on the horizon?

We have amazing concepts in the pipeline for our regular Matinée parties on the second Saturday a month at the Colosseum and some massive Bank Holiday events where we going to use huge Theatre Style venues again to go back to our performance clubbing roots.

Federation alongside Matinée at Uni-Challenge 2008 during Manchester Pride last year felt the perfect combination. Will it return?

I would love to bring the brand back and it was a pleasure working with Federation. Gareth and his team are just amazing. I think the quality of Matinée and Federation mean they're the perfect match and I'm also planning to bring Federation to London soon as a "Revolver presents" concept.

Imagine you have this weekend off! How would you spend Saturday night?

It's been such a long time since I had a Saturday off but I would spend it with my boyfriend and our dog Duke on the Sofa in Front of the TV.

Every DJ I've met has at least 1 horror story to tell - what's the most embarrassing thing to happen to you while you've been on the decks?

That was when I started DJing 13 years ago. I had taken my first E and I passed out behind the DJ booth, broke all needles on the decks and my records. The club was packed with 2000 clubbers and the music just stopped and I was carried out. Very embarrassing

You can find out more about Oliver M and Matinée at www.djoliverm.com and www.evolvedevents.co.uk



DEFECTED, BUT PERFECTLY FORMED!



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT DEFECTED, ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED BRITISH INDEPENDENT DANCE LABELS IS 10 YEARS OLD THIS MONTH. FOUNDED BY SIMON DUNMORE & JANET BELL (2 FORMER EXECUTIVES AT AM:PM RECORDS) IN 1998, THEIR FIRST RELEASE WAS THE CLUB CLASSIC "CAN'T GET ENOUGH" BY SOULSEARCHER AND THEY'VE NEVER LOOKED BACK.

Almost 200 releases later and Defected shows no sign of slowing down. Take a look at their online schedule at www.defected.com to see how widespread the brand has become...from Barcelona and Bahrain via Singapore and then onto Brixton.

Just reading through their early discography is like a who's who of the clubbing world. Bob Sinclar, Sandy Rivera, Master at Works and Frankie Knuckles have all graced the label and helped them forge their unique blend of soul, funk and disco. A personal favourite here at Bent is Roger Sanchez' "Another Chance" (the vocals were sampled from a little known rock ballad called "I Won't Hold You Back" by Toto from 1982) which gave the label it's first UK number 1 back in 2001.

To celebrate their 10th Anniversary, Defected have brought together their biggest musical moments into 1 mammoth collection aptly titled Clubland Adventures - 10 Years In the House (Volume 1). It features 70 original and remixed classics from the past 10 years, as well as over 20 exclusives and special mash ups, spanning 5 CDs and will be available from the 16th February.

With a back catalogue of nearly 200 club classics, how do you choose a top 5? We asked Federation DJ Jason Guy to do just that. Oh... and justify his choices!

5. Junior Jack - E-Samba.

The infectious Latin flavoured club hit from the summer of 2003. My best friend found me lost in music on Speedqueen's dancefloor in Leeds to this... spinning round and round with sheer joy. 1 too many vodkas. Probably.

4. ATFC - Bad Habit

The follow up to the mighty 'In And Out Of My Life'. A perfect house track from the early 2000s with vocals from Lisa Millet. "I've got a bad, bad habit baby... baby it's you!"

3. Blaze ft Barbara Tucker - Most Precious Love

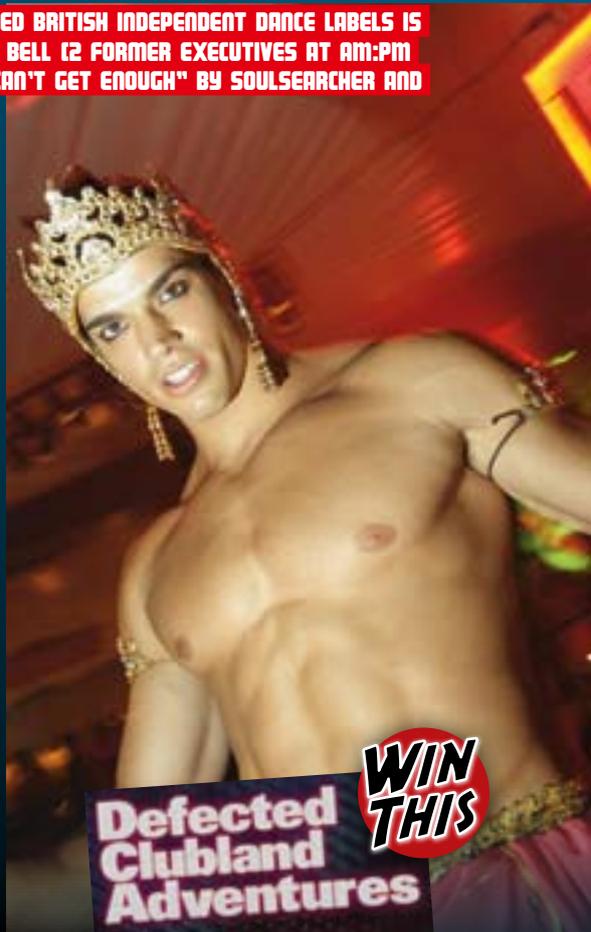
Funky house at it's finest. Rightfully won the Track Of The Year at the 2005 Annual House Music Awards. Originally appeared on the Keep Hope Alive album of which all the proceeds went to AIDS charities.

2. Martin Solveig - Rocking Music

More memories come flooding back. Whenever my boyfriend would hear this played in any club, if we weren't already dancing, we had to rush to the dancefloor. The best use of a guitar in a track. Ever.

1. Kings of Tomorrow - Finally

Sandy Rivera under a different guise. Responsible for my all time most memorable clubbing moment. Centro-fly nightclub, New York, 2002. Layo & Bushwacka drop their Love Story vs Finally mash-up for the first time. When the vocals kicked in the place erupted like nowhere I've ever experienced since. "Time marches on never ending...."



WIN THIS



We have 5 Defected Goodie Bags up for grabs this month. Each pack includes a copy of the new Clubland Adventures CD Pack, a fitted Defected T-Shirt and a Defected Lanyard. For your chance to win one of these 5packs, simply answer this simple question: **In which year the Defected label was born?**

COMPETITION TIME

Turn to page 74 for entry details



TERRY GEORGE TELLIN' STORIES

THE FAME GAME

A COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK, IN THIS VERY COLUMN, I TOLD YOU ABOUT A NEW UP-AND-COMING TV SHOW CALLED THE LAST VAN HELSING. ITS YOUNG STAR, CHRISTIAN COOKE HAD BEEN AT MY BAR CELEBRATING HIS BIRTHDAY AND WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS NEW SHOW.

Now re-named Demons, the fantasy/drama might already have you hooked. He plays Luke, the last in the Van Helsing line, who were the main hunters of vampires over the centuries, the programme has become a favourite of our Saturday night viewing. It's a sort of cross between Doctor Who and Hollyoaks I've already called him to tell him my thoughts and look forward to seeing him again in person soon..

God it was emotional". I didn't want to make Will cry again but felt I had to tell him that the lady who featured in the programme and the photo was suffering from cancer and has sadly passed away recently.

Appearing in Secret Millionaire and winning I Own Britain's Best Home has opened lots of doors for Michael and me. Our latest venture is a six-part series about our lives entitled '2 Queens in a Castle' on the Bio Channel, which starts on 6th Feb @ 9pm.

It was sad to read that Boy George had been sent down for 15 months for his involvement in imprisoning and attacking a male escort at his home. It brought back memories of the time I had Boy George locked up as well. Regular readers of this column will know Boy George and I go back quite a way. I used to book him as a DJ years ago for my club nights and there was one memorable time I put him up in my back-to-back house in Leeds. As there was no room left for me, I camped at my mum's house, and locked Boy George in - why I didn't give him a key, I don't know. Anyway, when he found he couldn't get out until I turned up to open the door in the morning, he went mad. It wasn't a deliberate thing as I only had one key and never intended not to let him out. Looking back the only way he would have got out would be the windows but seeing the latest photos of him, and the way he's ballooned out, it wouldn't be an option these days.

What a shame how he's gone down the wrong path and ended up where he is - different outcome and you become a different person. Hope he'll come bouncing back when he comes out of prison, which might make him re-focus. Maybe he should get back with Culture Club and start touring, go back to basics and make a go of it.

Oh yes... and keep away from drugs!



Photo: itv

Meanwhile, I thought I'd hit the big time when I started getting emails on Facebook from people who'd said they'd seen me in Heat magazine. So, I rushed out to buy a copy and searched through it but couldn't find it at first. Then finally, I saw the small picture, not much bigger than a postage stamp on the back page. It was of me on Secret Millionaire. The feature was an interview with Will Young and he'd been asked, "When was the last time you cried?" He answered, "I always cry. It was last night, watching the Secret Millionaire... I was weeping like a baby..."



MR GAY UK HEEY GUYS!

How's everyone enjoying 2009 so far? It's bloody freezing! It was colder than the Antarctic here in London the other day - can someone have a word! I've just started uni again so I'm getting stuck back in to everything, including the gym - I over indulged a tiny bit over Christmas and feel pretty crap haha, I'm slowly getting back into my routine and starting to feel better now though. I went snowboarding before Christmas it was amazing! We had over 7feet of snow, for boarders like me it was brilliant, ripping it up in all that powder. I had such a fantastic time, I was so gutted when I had to leave. My New Year's Eve was eventful! Me and my mates Gareth, Ruthy and Goose went out to a swanky club called Venedome and got wasted on free champagne and vodka - it was amazing! The ending to the night wasn't so great though as my friend Goose spewed in my toilet, my sink and in my bed. It really wasn't pretty. Thanks for that Goose! What else have I been up to? Oh yeah, I went into HMV the other day to get a dvd to chill out with, and the sale was on. Everything was £3 or £5 - I went a bit mental and ended up leaving with 14 dvds!!! Ooops. My bank account was livid - I'll be living off tinned tomatoes for a couple of months now. Right, I'm nursing a sore throat and a bit of 'man flu' so I'm going to go make another hot lemon and honey and watch one of my millions of DVDs haha. I'll leave you with a few things to do this year. Catch you all soon x

Things to watch in 2009...

I recently found this guy on the internet called Dr John Corvino and he's a Gay Moralist. So I bought his dvd and watched his lecture called 'What's morally wrong with Homosexuality?'. It's absolutely amazing! I was in hysterics. He discusses all of the arguments against lesbianism and homosexuality and makes a sterling, funny counter argument. I recommend it to everyone - especially people struggling with their sexuality and anti-gay individuals. You can get the dvd at www.gaymoralist.com - You have to see it!

Places to dine in 2009 (ha that rhymes)...

I went to Bath last week and had dinner in the new 'Jamie's Italian' restaurant. I was blown away - the food was absolutely superb. Seriously, the best place I've eaten out in in aaaaages! The service was excellent, the waiter was cute and the price tag was tiny - less than £20 for a drink, a starter, a main and a shared dessert - get in! If you eat out any where this year 'Jamie's Italian' is a must!

Things to do in 2009...

The legendary Miss Britney Spears kicks off her Circus world tour this year in New Orleans. The queen of pop is making one stop in Europe and guess what people? It's in the U.K.! She will be performing in London's O2 Arena on the 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 13th and 14th of June this year. This is the first time Britney has toured in the U.K. since 2004! It's going to be explosive you CANNOT miss it! Get your tickets now guys!!

P.s. You can now email me with any questions you may have about any issues you are struggling with - dino.mrgayuk@yahoo.co.uk

Have a wicked 2009!

Dino

FLEMINGS MAYFAIR THE OSCAR WILDE PACKAGE

THE OSCAR WILDE PACKAGE IS FLEMINGS MAYFAIR'S PREMIER PACKAGE FOR THE DISCERNING GAY TRAVELLER, BUT IMPORTANTLY WORKS EXCELLENTLY AS A VALENTINE'S DAY PACKAGE FOR TWO. CENTRED AROUND A NUMBER OF RUSTIC SERVICED APARTMENTS, THE DECADENT PACKAGE IS DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN PRIVACY AND PROVIDE A BALANCE BETWEEN FREEDOM AND SERVICE BY OFFERING, FOR EXAMPLE, SELF-CATERING FACILITIES AND ROOM SERVICE AT THE SAME TIME.



Each apartment also comes with a lounge/seating area stocked with fine chilled champagne, fruit and apple cordial. Wireless internet is available for an extra fee and a huge TV stretches across the wall.

Guests will also find a rather pleasing gift on their gargantuan king-sized bed upon arrival—in our case, a box of Army Red eau de toilette. The bed can also be replaced with two singles should a twin be required.

The bathroom is capacious, sporting both a bath and separate shower, with elegant marble fittings and, essentially for many gay men, a bidet.

Check-out time is a leisurely 12pm and the room will be cleaned twice a day unless you pop your 'Do Not Disturb' sign on the door.

The excellent concierge service also allows guests to book fantastic seats at any of the city's most popular musicals and theatre shows, with box and gallery seats usually available even when the shows have allegedly sold out.

Flemings Mayfair is an exceptional package, perfectly suited for loved-up couples or travellers searching for a bit of class.

The price per room per night is £295 plus VAT.

Located at 7-12 Half Moon Street, Mayfair, Flemings is opposite the Hilton and within walking distance (or a quick cab ride) of Soho, Piccadilly and Charing Cross. Travelling from Kings Cross or Euston stations is also easy, resulting in either a quick tube ride or a relatively cheap taxi journey. This places the hotel at the nexus of London's gay attractions, and makes it accessible whichever direction you're travelling from.

Guests staying in one of the luxury hotel rooms will receive a key to the private apartments entrance at the rear of the building, meaning travellers have a more discreet entrance available to them at any time of day. This entrance is also closer to the rooms themselves, making it far more convenient than crossing the lobby and climbing a bunch of stairs.

The apartments themselves come with a fridge stocked with all you need for a traditional English breakfast, with a range of breads, teas and jams alongside bacon and egg. The more continental amongst us can enjoy the complementary croissants and £20 stick of butter which come as standard.



TOP TEN WAYS TO DITCH YOUR MAN THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

1. Buy his father a Valentine's Day gift. He'll go nuts, get jealous, call you sick and throw you out. Or he'll ask his father to join you both and you can indulge in your father-son incest threeway fantasy.
2. Buy his father a Valentine's Day gift and sign it from him. Make sure his mother sees, and she'll disown him and you'll be single faster than you can say 'Oedipus'!
3. When he gives you a card signed 'love', laugh in his face and tell him your Brazilian boyfriend is on his way.
4. File your toenails into his coffee. Then sneeze in it. Then throw it in his face.
5. Time his coming home with your coming in the milkman's face.
6. Tell him you're straight. Get a chav girlfriend, move into her council house and give her six kids.
7. Have a sex change operation but don't tell him. Then when he goes downtown to give you a servicing, flash him your new girlie-pearl and watch his face turn green.
8. Sell his Steps collection to a 9 year-old Thai girl on eBay. For less than £5.
9. Cut off all his hair whilst he sleeps, dress him in women's clothing and leave him sleeping outside the doorway of Harrod's. When he wakes up, he'll have a heart attack. Problem solved.
10. Neatly pack away all his belongings and place them on the doorstep. He'll get the drift.



▲ RE-ENERGISE HIM THIS VALENTINE'S DAY!

The stimulating, revitalising Magnetic Vitality Chip makes this an unusual but exciting gift this Valentine's Day! When carrying the SEX-MAG Magnetic chip in the genital area (trouser pocket) special magnetic fields are produced, with a strong and deep effect (the magnetic currents can be measured at a distance of up to 15 cm) improving the blood and oxygen supply to this area. Permanently magnetised, it will last for an unlimited period of time, and can be carried for as long as the user wishes.

£14.95 www.magnetictherapy.co.uk

A DIAMOND IN WALES

THE LGBT EXCELLENCE CENTRE WALES IS A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND A CHARITY BUILDING ON AN EXISTING COMMUNITY GROUP THAT WAS RUNNING THE LGBT CYMAU HELPLINE, TO SUPPORT PEOPLE THAT IDENTIFY AS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) THROUGHOUT WALES.



The organisation is the youngest in the UK to receive funding from the newly launched Equality and Human Rights Commission to provide legal advice and representation to LGBT people around sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination.

The LGBT Excellence Centre Wales will be delivering a high-profile launch event this month in order to spark both strong public interest and catch the attention of politicians and policy makers across the UK. "Black & White - Not everything is what it seems", at Exit Club in Cardiff on 20th February. The Diamond Centre Wales has kindly donated two diamonds (a white and a black) to be used for promoting the launch event and to be used as give-aways for a competition launched on the night.

www.ecwales.org.uk

HOLDING ON FOR A HERO

Stan Lee, the man who turned Marvel into a household name and helped to create the likes of The Hulk, Spiderman and the X-Men has announced that he currently working on an hour long TV show for a new, gay super hero.

The character Thom Creed is a high-school basketball player who is forced to hide his sexuality as well as his super powers (although what kind of powers Creed will display has not been confirmed).

If Creed proves popular, then the programme will be made into a series and will also be released around the world.

The idea for a gay super hero was developed from the award-winning novel Hero by Perry Moore.

Moore says he wrote the book after being upset by a Marvel Comic in 2005. In X-Men: Age of Apocalypse #2, the gay super hero Northstar was killed by Wolverine. Moore believed that having one of Marvel's biggest superheroes murder its most prominent gay character sent the wrong message to readers.



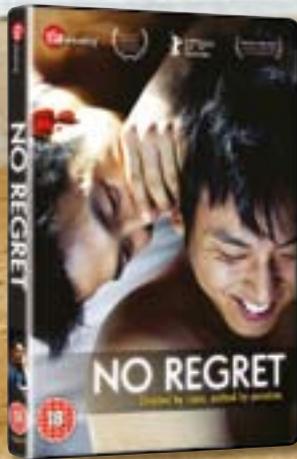
Image: Marvel Comics

"High voltage sex thriller!"

- *Gay Times*

Set in Seoul's sleazy rent-boy scene, *No Regret* is a startling erotic thriller, exploring the complexities and pressures of gay life in South Korea's burgeoning queer community.

OUT NOW



Winner of 14 film festival awards from around the world!

Refreshingly quirky and forthcoming, *Dorian Blues* contemplates the tortures of high school as Dorian, resident outcast and the butt of "fag" jokes, makes his way through the perils of adolescence.

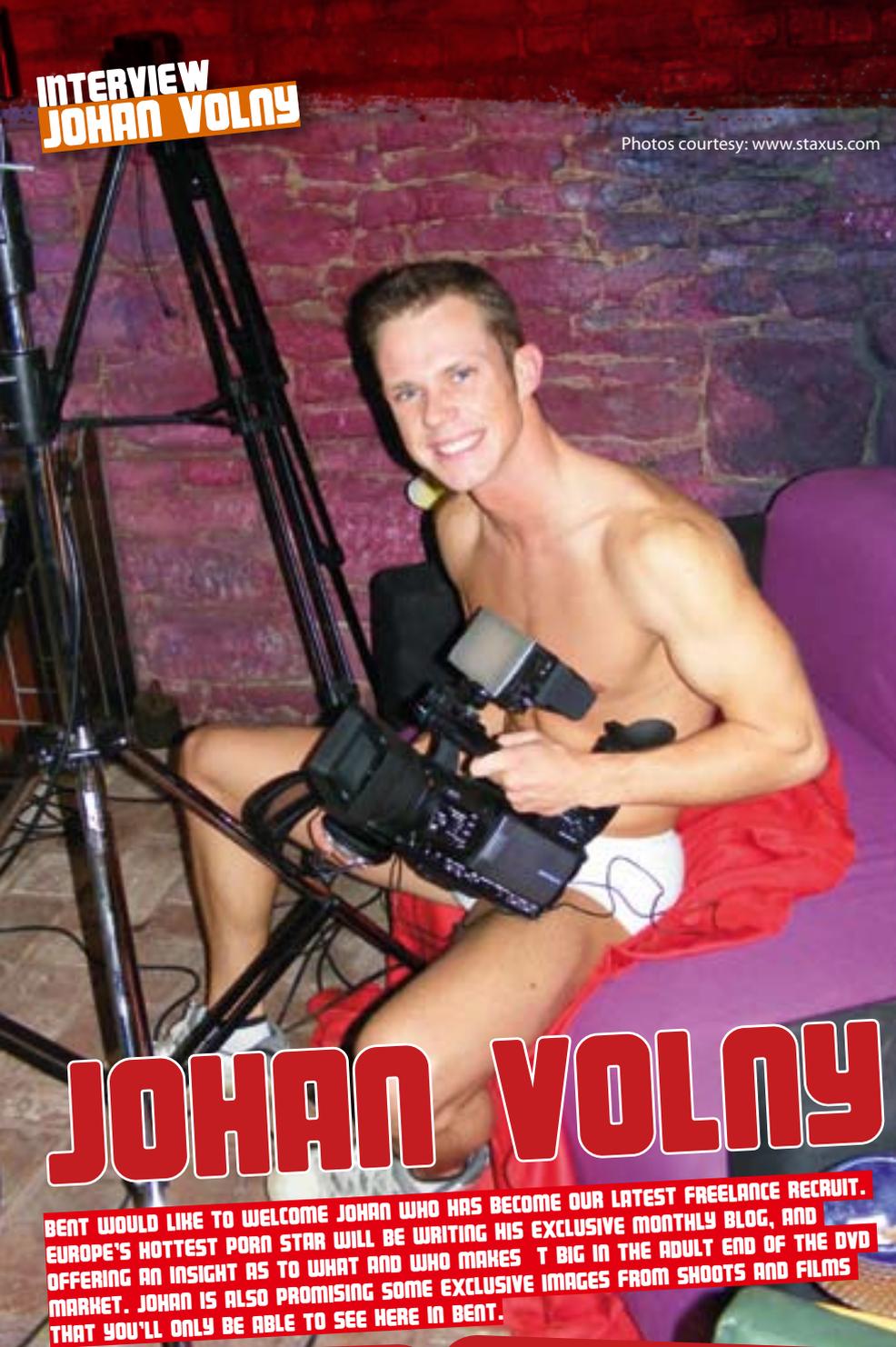
OUT NOW



amazon.co.uk

tla-releasing.co.uk

Photos courtesy: www.staxus.com



JOHAN VOLNY

BENT WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME JOHAN WHO HAS BECOME OUR LATEST FREELANCE RECRUIT. EUROPE'S HOTTEST PORN STAR WILL BE WRITING HIS EXCLUSIVE MONTHLY BLOG, AND OFFERING AN INSIGHT AS TO WHAT AND WHO MAKES IT BIG IN THE ADULT END OF THE DVD MARKET. JOHAN IS ALSO PROMISING SOME EXCLUSIVE IMAGES FROM SHOOTS AND FILMS THAT YOU'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO SEE HERE IN BENT.



Only 23 years old but already a worldwide porn superstar: Johan Volny was very innocent and shy when it all started...

Shortly after his 18th birthday he and his former boyfriend were sitting in his bedroom in his parents house in Jablonec (Czech Republic). They were browsing through a gay hardcore magazine when Johan's mate said: "Johan, you are much better looking than these guys in this magazine. Your photos should be printed here!"

Johan thought hard about these words and after a few weeks he was sending his first photos, taken by himself in front of the mirror of his parents wardrobe, to different magazines. Shortly after that the first photographer called and the first shooting followed. It started with underwear but later he progressed to nude pictures, then some with an erection. His cute face, trained sixpack and his 23cm long dick soon had admirers from all over Europe. So it was no surprise that almost every gay hardcore studio wanted to sign him and Johan could choose the best offer.

Bent asked Johan what it was like being a famous porn star.

"Most people think that the life of a 'gay adult entertainment performer' is easy but don't you believe it... it is totally different to anything else. OK, I've just returned from a sunny two weeks holiday in the south but my life is mostly full of work - and Sex. For me Sex is work - and work is sex (physical sex). More or less I am paid per orgasm or cum-shot. And that's hard work... (laugh) but I do love it..."

When was your first time with a man?

"16. It was with my fitness trainer in the gym. I really fancied him - all muscles, strong and fit. So one day after the training he followed me in the locker room where we did it. So he became my fuck-buddy and personal trainer for a few years."

What kind of sex do you prefer?

Oral with a guy

Top, bottom or versatile?

Versatile

How many movies have you made?

More than 40... (laugh!) I just like making porn movies. It is so much fun - and so horny.

What are your good points?

I am a polite and funny guy.

Your bad habits?

I'm sure I don't have any!!!

What's your personal motto?

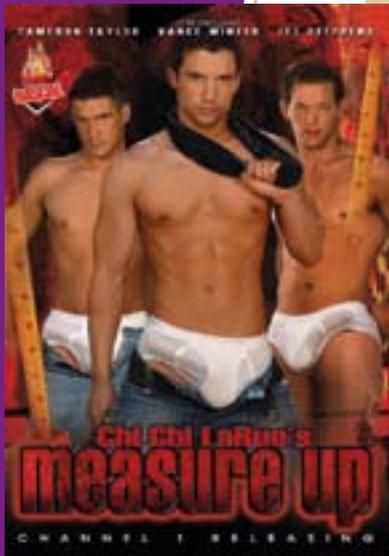
Just be happy!

What can we expect from you this year?

"I am planning some new and important projects. I will report about these (and much more) here in the Bent magazine. So you can get a nice glimpse of my sex, work and private life - directly from the source. And of course with some very private and exclusive pictures."

So stay reading Bent for all the latest info from Europe's premier porno cutie.

Meanwhile, you can check: www.johanvolny.com



CHI CHI LARUE'S MEASURE UP

As always, that fine lady with an eye for the best package in the store invites you to inspect her latest roster of guys to see if they Measure Up. With such a collection of well endowed studs including: Vince Winter, Josh Vaughn, Cameron Marshall, you know from the off-set that you're going to get your monies worth... inch by every thrusting inch and pound for every hot pounding. The guys are keen to lick, suck and ram either indoors or outdoors so let your fantasies run wild... I think these guys will measure up pretty well!

Available from Prowler Stores



BLUE RECRUITS IS AN ESTABLISHED ADULT RECRUITMENT AGENCY BASED IN EUROPE AND THE UK.

Targeting Men & Women between 18-50 who are seriously interested in featuring in adult movies, photoshoots, advertisements, product modelling and extra's work (body doubles) and where no previous experience is required.

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If you're interested email your details to: jobs@bluerecruits.com

DO YOU WANT TO BE A PORNSTAR?



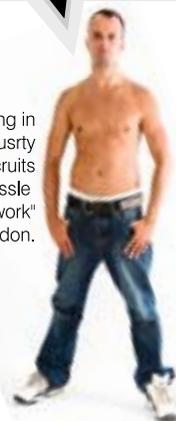
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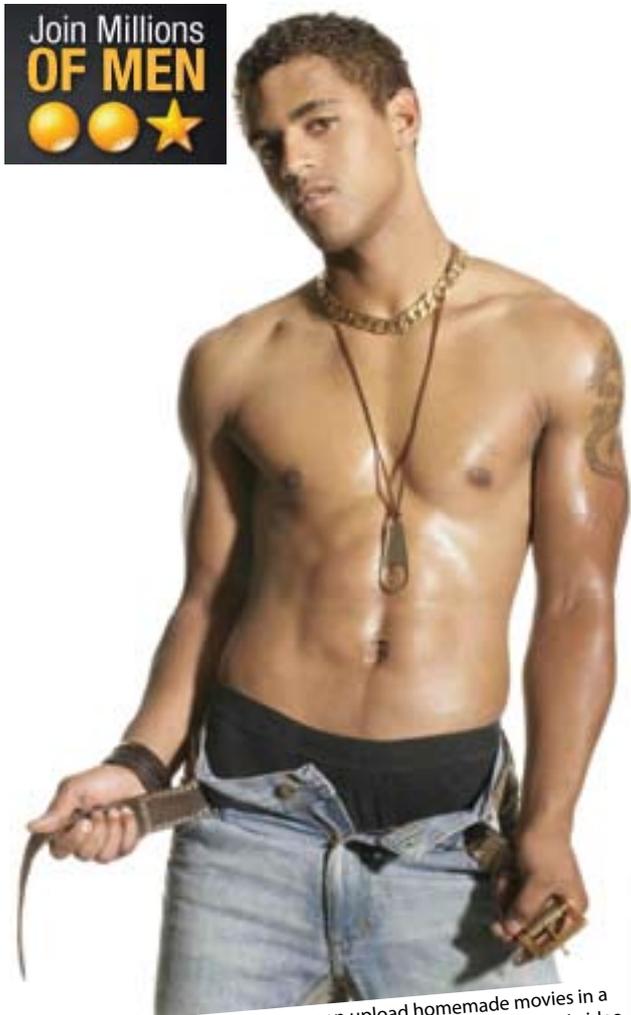
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 Admin team: admin@bluerecruits.com

"I'm now working in this exciting industry thanks to Blue Recruits and their hassle free network!"
Richard, London.



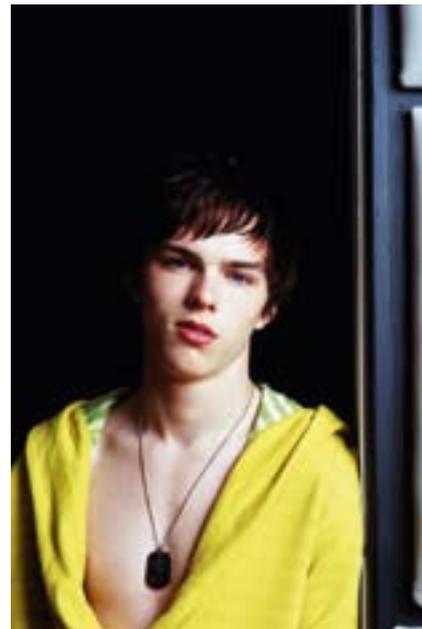
GAYDAR SUPERSTAR

FOLLOWING FROM THE HUGELY SUCCESSFUL AND POPULAR SEX FACTOR COMPETITION IN 2008 WITH OVER 46,000 PHOTO UPLOADS AND 21 MILLION VOTES, GAYDAR MEMBERS CAN NOW SHOW OFF THEIR BEST ASSETS OR SIMPLY WAVE AND SAY "HELLO" TO MILLIONS OF MEN WITH VIDEO PROFILES.



Those wanting to play Spielberg can upload homemade movies in a few easy steps with the system accepting a number of standard video formats including Windows Media Files, MPEG, AVI and DIVX. Content is moderated by members and nothing is off limits as long as it's legal and doesn't infringe on copyright. Gaydar has also announced sponsorship of a short film titled 'Academic' by James Martin Charlton. Academic looks at online relationships and how opposites do attract, sometimes disastrously. The short features former star of Eastenders, Nicola Duffett and ex-army turned model / presenter, Chris Kenna who happens to be gay. Camera, lights, you decide the action!

FROM SKINS TO THE WEST END



Nicholas Hoult - Tony in E4's acclaimed drama "Skins" - is to make his West End debut alongside an all-star cast in the first West End production of William Sutcliffe's "New Boy". The runaway hit of the 2000 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, "New Boy" went on to a sell-out tour of the UK and a London season at the Pleasance, before transferring to Off Broadway and Melbourne, Australia. It's the simple story of a school boy crush, the power and devastation of which so many of us have experienced and then filed away under 'adolescent phase' without perhaps confronting chemical attraction that defines friendship. Mark starts the sixth form knowing that this is his last chance to impress - to be more popular, more obnoxious, the best informed about gynaecology. The mesmerizingly good-looking new boy Barry, seems to be having trouble making friends. Everyone is afraid of him. He could be the perfect ally in Mark's mission to enhance his social status and finally get a shag...

New Boy
Trafalgar Studio 2 from 17th March - 11th April
14 Whitehall
London
Box Office: 0870 060 6632

NEW WHO



DESPITE ALL THE PLEADING, DAVID TENNANT ANNOUNCED HE WAS LEAVING DOCTOR WHO 'ONCE AND FOR ALL'... ALBEIT... AFTER SEVERAL 'SPECIALS' THAT WILL SEE HIM IN THE PART UNTIL THE END OF 2009.

Apparently, the pressure to announce his successor was so great, and the public interest so intense, that the dear old Beeb was forced to reveal his replacement early. The new Doctor, and the 11th to take on the role, is to be 26 year-old, relatively unknown actor Matt Smith... a sort of cross between the lead singer in an emo band and that drunken chap from Black Books, Dylan Moran. The blogs and chat rooms can't seem to make up their minds about how he'll play with the 10 million viewers the show regularly gets, with everything from derision to hope, about the producers choice. We wont get to see him in action until 2010 so perhaps the whole thing is a bit of a none event.

BOY GEORGE JAILED

Photo: TerryGeorge.co.uk



Singer and highly rated club DJ Boy George, who was convicted of falsely imprisoning a male escort in his flat in Shoreditch, east London, has been jailed for 15 months.

The 47-year-old, who was charged under his real name George O'Dowd, was found guilty in December of handcuffing male escort Audun Carlsen to a radiator and beating him with a chain during a drug-fuelled photoshoot.

Judge David Radford told the former Culture Club frontman he was guilty of "gratuitous violence" and went on to say that O'Dowd's drug-fuelled actions were "premeditated", "callous", and "degrading" which "traumatised" his victim.

Mr Carlsen testified that he was manacled to the bed, but managed to escape and ran from the flat wearing only his boxer shorts, trainers and a pair of handcuffs.

CLONEZONE

The news that one of the world's largest gay retail chains has gone into administration came as a great surprise to everyone. In a statement from Clonezone's shop in Leeds the shop manager Jon Bishop says: "The sudden closure of Clonezone Leeds has come as a major shock to everyone, especially the staff. We received a visit on Tuesday 13th January at 4.00pm, and by 4.45pm the shop was closed. It was all over so quickly, and to be honest it's still all a bit of a blur."

Alongside their 10 nationwide retail stores Clone Zone operate a mail order firm that has recently seen them operating a massive internet sale but despite this, with the current credit crunch and the low value of the £ the firm has found themselves with "insurmountable financial difficulties".

At the time of going to press – the future of Clonezone was still unclear.



Photo: Darrell Hirst



PEP

Post Exposure Prophylaxis



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

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

On occasion people do experience side effects.

PEP is not a cure for HIV.

There is no guarantee that it will prevent HIV transmission.

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

Yorkshire MESMAC:
0113 2444 209

The Brunswick Centre:
01422 341 764



FOOTGAY

Recently, a group of 11 people were charged with indecent chanting following a match between Portsmouth and Tottenham Hotspurs. What in fact they were doing was shouting homophobic abuse at Sol Campbell, who now plays for Portsmouth but who used to be the Spurs captain. Such chanting is prevalent around most grounds in the UK and it is to the Football Association's credit that they took some of Peter Tatchell's advice to bring out a DVD condemning such acts, which can be shown in schools. Some football manager's are convinced that they have no homosexual players on their team and even that homosexuals could not play at such a high level as the Premiership or Italy's Serie A. However, an Italian man has claimed that up to 30 top-flight footballers have paid him for sex. In an interview on TV station La 7 the man, who plays football in the lower leagues, claimed:

"I have about 30 clients who are footballers and I would say that a dozen are Serie A and national team players - several times I have been asked to take part in group sex sessions. They all know I am a footballer as well but they like me because I am discreet."

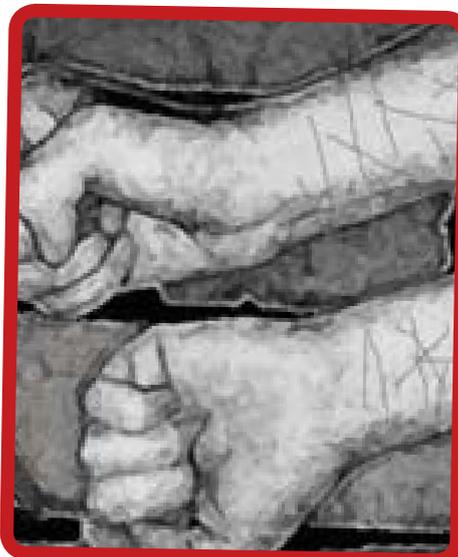
The third division player turned rent boy, who identified only as Victory, claimed he is paid 1500 euros (£1300) for his services, but did not name any of his alleged clients.

Having said that, until a high-profile player does come out, the delusions that it doesn't exist and that it is a 'manly' sport, only played and enjoyed by heteros will, unfortunately continue.

SUPPORT FOR SELF HARM

Self Harm is a growing problem among young people in the UK, with recent research showing one in 15 are self-harming. The problem is common among gay, bisexual, and transgender men and women, who have been identified as a vulnerable group. A new, unique, online resource for young people affected by self-harm has been launched in response to increasing rates of self-harm in the UK, as identified in the report of the National Inquiry into self-harm among young people 'Truth Hurts'. The Inquiry found that one in 15 young people in the UK had self-harmed, and identified a need for 'much better web-based information on self-harm. In response, youth mental health charity 42nd Street, youth homelessness charity Depaul UK and online communications charity YouthNet, have worked with a group of young people affected by self-harm to create a 'place' online where other young people (aged 16-25) can access high quality information, resources and support on the issue.

The new resource is hosted on YouthNet's guide to life for 16 to 24-year-olds, www.TheSite.org/selfharm



GMFA

the gay men's health charity

CRUISE WITH CONFIDENCE

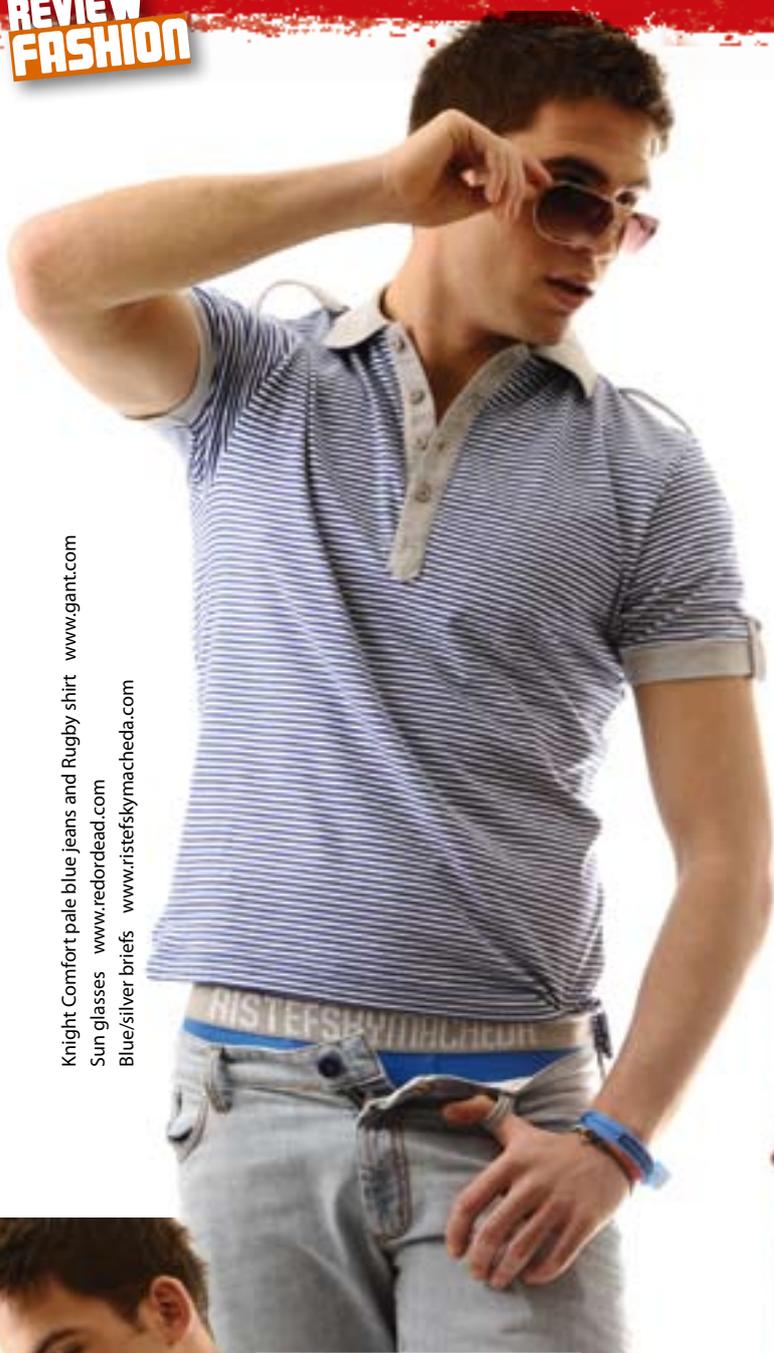
Cruising for sex can be a tricky business. Some gay men seem to be able to walk into a bar, walk straight up to the person they fancy and leave with them at the end of the evening. Other guys spend the whole evening trying to pluck up the courage to speak to somebody and end up either going home alone, or going home with someone that they don't really fancy. Thanks to GMFA's Confident Cruising course, which will be delivered for the first time in cities across England and Wales, anyone can learn to be a confident cruiser and take control of the sex they have. The one day course is designed to help men approach the men that they like, whether they meet in bars, clubs, saunas, cruising grounds or even online. All of GMFA's courses and workshops are free of charge to participants but places are limited and must be booked in advance. To book a place, go to www.gmfa.org.uk/national or call 020 7738 6872.

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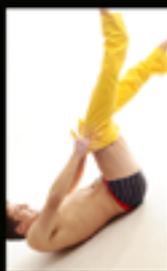
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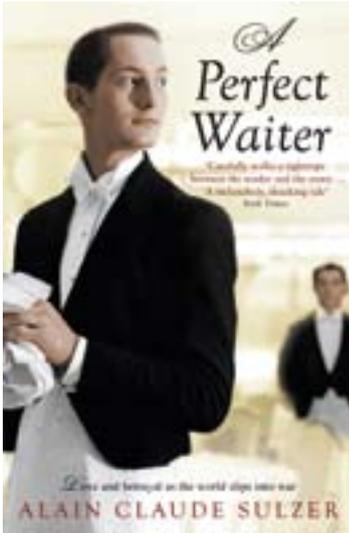
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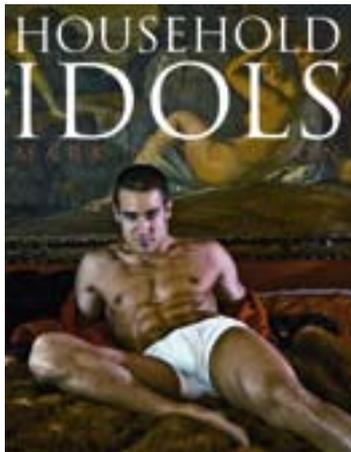
Our very own self confessed Gay Book Geek Simon Savidge is on the hunt for the Great Gay Reads of All Time. He needs your recommendations and input. You can go to <http://greatgayreads.blogspot.com> to see his journey through the highs and lows of gay writing. To email him with suggestions of your favourite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



▶ **A PERFECT WAITER – ALAIN CLAUDE SULZER**

This is a unique novel that looks at love and how it can border on obsession. Ernest is work obsessive, he never really speaks to his family, bar his cousin Julia, and isn't particularly friendly with any of his co-workers he likes to keep his life a solitary one. Out of the blue he receives a letter from a lover from his past, Jakob, who changed his life forever and who he hasn't seen for 30 years. What follows is quite a sad and desolate study of love. From when they meet, Ernest is uncontrollably taken with Jakob to the point of nearing obsession and when they do become lovers he becomes like an addiction. However we know from the start that suddenly Jakob left what we don't know is why. Not quite a gay 'Remains of the Day' but think along those lines.

£12.99 - Bloomsbury



▶ **HOUSEHOLD IDOLS**

By Mark Henderson

The modern day interior gets a relaxing, sexy and self-confident makeover, complete with silk cushions, Ming vases and marble showers. Perfect, well-built bodies blend exquisitely into their surroundings and provide us with fresh, new decorating ideas. Henderson catapults us into a dream world full of opulent settings right out of a Hollywood props room, enticing and intoxicating our senses. Unattainable models before a homey backdrop turn the kitchen, broom closet and garden into a setting of sensuality and sexual attraction. These men languishingly lounge in every room, shamelessly showing off their Grade A beef qualities.

£39.99 – Bruno Gmunder



▶ **THE THING HE LOVES**

By Exterface

Back in July 08 Bent introduced many readers to a new French artistic phenomenon Exterface. Inspired by advertising, by desire and by life itself, Exterface is a pair of artists who create sexually charged frescos—homoerotic, kitschy and rife with discrepancies. Intoxicatingly heady scenes, fascinating in their complexity, are bathed in sultry colours, so superlative in their execution, it's impossible to imagine them more vivid. The images may appear at times unreal and artificial; however, they speak to our innermost desires.

£12.99 - Bruno Gmunder

'AGATHA CHRISTIE WITH ADDED COCK'

JAMES LEAR IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST SELLING GAY EROTIC AUTHORS OF THE MOMENT, SIMON SAVIDGE CAUGHT UP WITH THE MAN BEHIND JAMES LEAR (NO PUN INTENDED) RUPERT SMITH TO TALK PUBLISHING, PORN, AGATHA CHRISTIE AND GOLDEN COCKS WITH WINGS.

How would you describe a James Lear novel to anyone who hasn't read them?

(Laughs) Maybe I should warn them there is a lot of sex in them. I like there to be at least an orgasm a chapter really. Therefore, they are full of sex but also full of plot, characterisation and humour. They are proper novels and I think that is why they have done well, they have a literary content plus naked men having a good time.

Now your latest novel 'The Secret Tunnel' is Mitch Mitchell's second outing, what made you want to bring him back?

The success of The Back Passage pretty much, this is my fifth book and until the fourth, they sold well but The Back Passage just flew off the shelves so I thought they like this. I think it's because it combines Erotica and Crime...

Like you have said in previous interviews "Agatha Christie with cock"...

(Laughs) I adore Agatha Christie... but I think she was a bit short on cock. I read a lot of her when I was younger and Conan Doyle I loved, he is a true genius. In addition, there are some serious homoerotic undertones in Sherlock Holmes, especially if you have a dirty mind.

How do you research a James Lear novel?

Ha, ha, ha by a lifetime of having sex and lots of it. Not murdering people though, the sex is practical and the murder is all theory. I also enjoy writing both as unlike some books the sex is always part of the plot and so is the murder.

Will Mitch Mitchell be back like a hunky Miss Marple/Poirot?

I hope so, I already have an idea for a fun vehicle for him in the future, the

next James Lear book won't be a Mitch Mitchell novel, it will be something stand alone which I am not telling anyone about until its written (laughs) because even if I say so myself its just too good. It is based on a very famous precedent from English literature, I will leave you guessing.

Now obviously you are Rupert Smith, will there be more Rupert Smith books coming in 2009?

Yes, I do, I have a new novel called Man's World, which is set in gay London today, and in gay London 50 years ago, so I am excited about that. At the moment its so hard for gay authors, I don't begrudge the likes of Patrick Gale and Sarah Waters but I do think publishing houses think with those big sellers they have got the gay and lesbian section covered. Gay people read straight books why do publishers think straight people won't read gay work?

Can you tell us about your huge golden phallus?

I can, it's an Erotic Award in the shape of a massive penis with beautiful wings. The awards have been going for a number of years and they honour people who have achieved stuff in all areas of erotic arts from filmmakers to prostitutes, writers etc, etc. I was particularly thrilled I won it because they are aimed very much at heterosexual erotica so I felt blessed.

'The Secret Tunnel' is available from Cleis Press now in all good book outlets. For more information on James Lear visit www.myspace.com/jameslearfiction for more information on Rupert Smith visit www.rupertsmith.org.uk

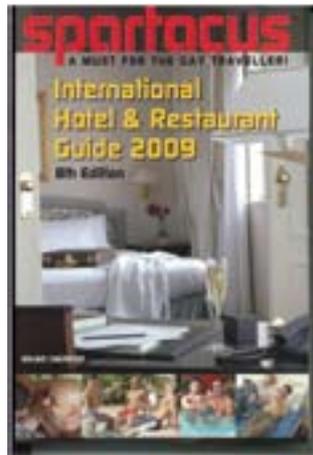


▶ **COME AGAIN - VOL 2**

Edited by John Patrick

The boys in these stories truly do come again and readers will do the same as the hot action develops and those 'special' feelings take over. Contributions from some of the best homoerotic short story writers around today and as a special bonus, an erotic novella by Ken Smith entitled *The Intruder*.

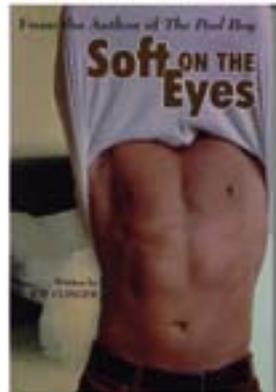
£10.99 – Starbooks Press



▶ **SPARTACUS INTERNATIONAL: HOTEL AND RESTAURANT GUIDE 2009**

It does what it says on the tin. Now in its 8th edition, a comprehensive guide and a must for all gay travellers.

£12.99 – Bruno Gmunder

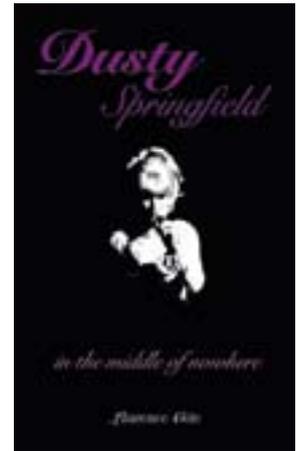


▶ **SOFT ON THE EYES**

By RW Clinger

18 year-old Texas cowboy Dakota Strong is in for the hottest summer ever at his Uncle Ted's. At the urging of his friend, the teenager agrees to star in an amateur porn video. Also in the mix are a hot cop called Jinx, a supermodel and the boy next door – who just happens to be soft on the eyes... are they capable of surviving such a steamy, naughty summer?

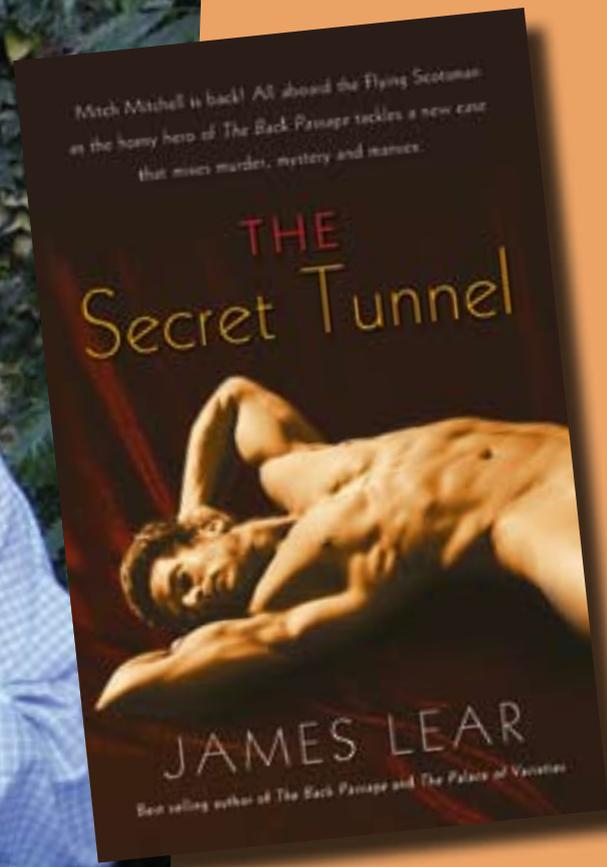
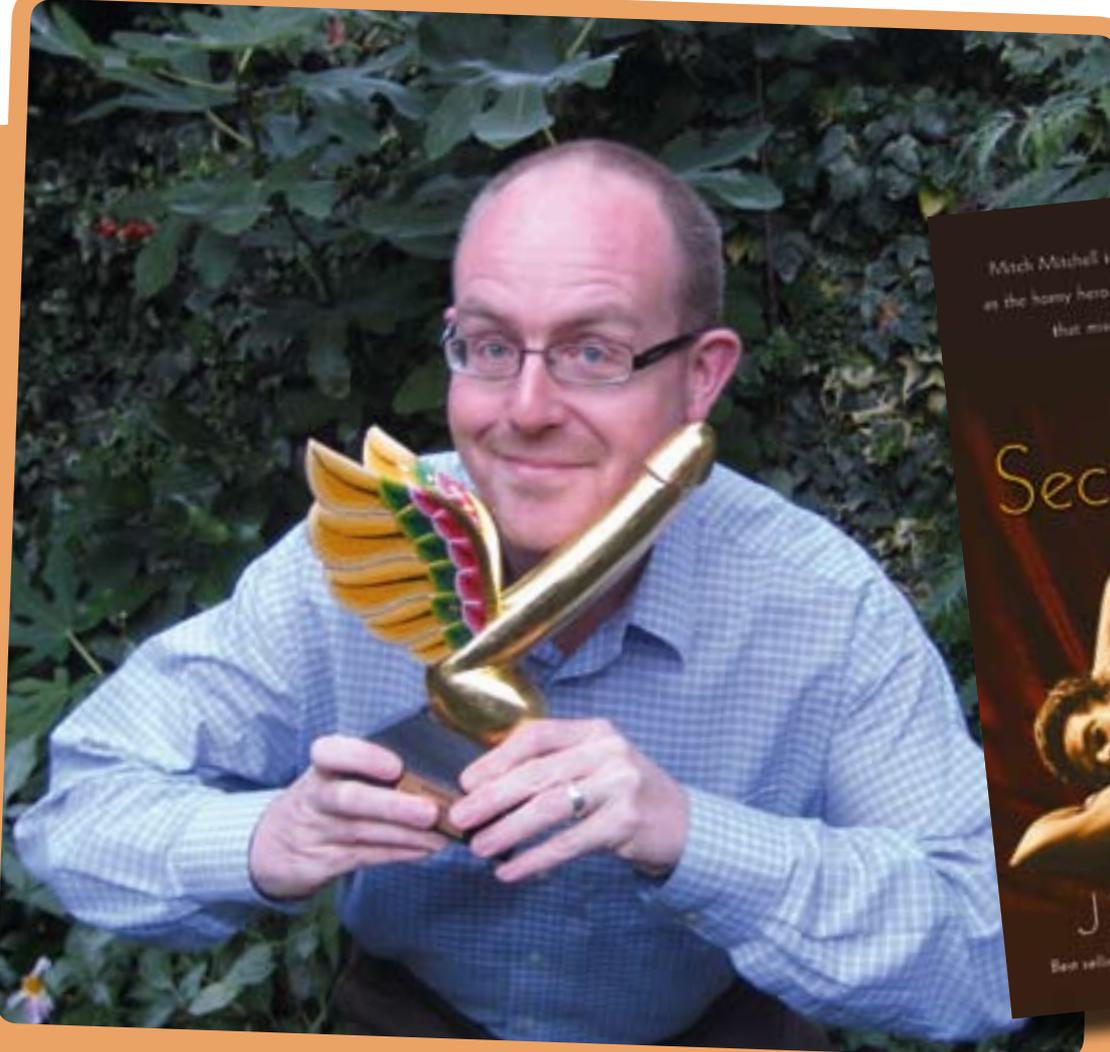
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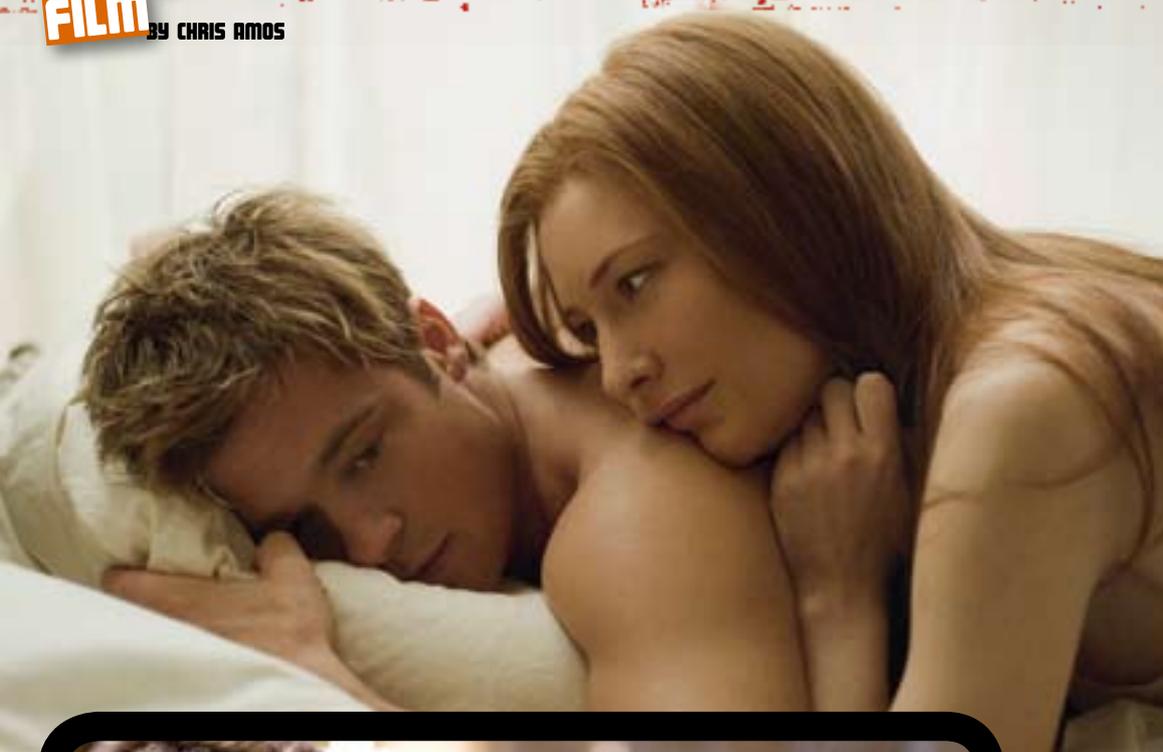


▶ **DUSTY SPRINGFIELD - IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE**

Soul, sequins and social change: Rather than being just a biography about a tragic pop heroine, Laurence Cole's book explores how the star contributed to popular culture through her disregard for social divisions and norms. Cole skilfully draws upon Dusty Springfield's music, appearance and celebrity, setting these against the musical and social background of the times to chart both her career and her changing role as a cultural icon.

Out Now - £14.99 - Middlesex University Press





◀ THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON

Out: 6th February

"I was born under unusual circumstances." And so begins *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, adapted from the 1920s story by F. Scott Fitzgerald about a man who is born in his eighties and ages backwards: A man, like any of us, who is unable to stop time. We follow his story set in New Orleans from the end of World War I in 1918, into the 21st century, following his journey that is as unusual as any man's life can be. Superbly directed by David Fincher (*Fight Club*, *Se7en*) and starring Oscar-worthy performances from Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett with Taraji P. Henson, Tilda Swinton, and Julia Ormond. Benjamin Button is a superbly crafted epic tale of a not so ordinary man and the people and places he discovers along the way, the loves he finds, the joys of life and the sadness of death, and what lasts beyond time. A masterpiece and the best film of the year.



JAMES FRANCO OPENS UP ABOUT SEAN PENN KISS

Film hunk James Franco and Hollywood legend Sean Penn star as gay lovers in award-winning bio-pic *Milk*. At a press conference held in London to promote the movie, James revealed all about the kiss.

Sean Penn texted Madonna to tell her about his screen kiss with Franco - but only to complain about it, James joked.

The actor, who plays the partner of Sean Penn's character Harvey Milk in the film *Milk*, has said previously that Sean sent a text to his ex-wife saying "I just popped my cherry kissing a guy. I thought of you".

But James played down the news that Sean had told all to Madonna.

"I don't think he wrote that he enjoyed it, I think

he was complaining about it," he said.

Asked what kissing Sean on screen was like, James said: "It was fine, it was good."

He added that it was important for him to learn about the story of Milk - who was the first openly gay man to be elected into major public office in America.

"I grew up in Palo Alto which is 45 minutes way from San Francisco (where Milk lived) and I was born in 1978 the year Harvey Milk was assassinated and when I heard about the movie I did a little research... and I was shocked and sad that nobody had told me anything about Milk.

"It was kind of crazy that growing up in the area that I wouldn't know anything about him," he said.



▶ DOUBT

Out: 6th February

It's 1964, St. Nicholas in the Bronx. A charismatic priest, Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman), is trying to upend the schools' strict customs, which have long been fiercely guarded by Sister Aloysius Beauvier (Meryl Streep), the iron-gloved Principal who believes in the power of fear and discipline. The winds of political change are sweeping through the community, and indeed, the school has just accepted its first black student, Donald Miller. But when Sister James (Amy Adams), a hopeful innocent, shares with Sister Aloysius her guilt-inducing suspicion that Father Flynn is paying too much personal attention to Donald, Sister Aloysius sets off on a personal crusade to unearth the truth and to expunge Flynn from the school. Written and directed by John Patrick Shanley based on his own play, the dialogue is razor sharp, which the actors clearly relish this and giving incredible performances.

MOVIE BUZZ



◀ ANVIL! THE STORY OF ANVIL

Out: 20th February

A hit at last year's Sundance Film Festival, *Anvil! The Story of Anvil* has subsequently gone on to pick up awards around the world. *Anvil! The Story of Anvil* stars real-life members of the band, Steve "Lips" Kudlow and Robb Reiner. As 14 year-old school friends, they promised to rock together forever. Their band, Anvil, went on to become the "demigods of Canadian metal," releasing one of the heaviest albums in metal history, 1982's *Metal on Metal*. But Anvil's career took a different path - straight to obscurity. Picking up on their story 26 years later, director Sacha Gervasi (writer of *The Terminal*), who worked as a roadie for the band when he was 16, uncovers an achingly touching and often hilarious account of *Anvil!* is much more, an incredibly raw, candid, heartbreaking and truly inspirational story.

Heath Ledger had a miserable time on the *Brokeback Mountain* set - because director Ang Lee treated the late star like an "alienated prop", according to the film's producer James Schamus. In an Entertainment Weekly magazine tribute piece - marking the first anniversary of Ledger's death - Schamus explains, "During casting, rehearsals, and pre-production, Ang (Lee) is like the warm, wise, cuddly daddy bear. The minute he yells 'Action' on the first shot, the actors become alienated props he kind of puts up with... It's tough on actors." Meanwhile, it has been revealed Heath was film bosses' first choice to play Spider-man.

Former *Ally McBeal* star Portia De Rossi reveals she and her wife Ellen De Generes went meat and dairy-free late last year, admitting she and her wife have been working towards becoming vegans since their very first date.

Actor Chris Noth is convinced plans for a *Sex And The City: The Movie* sequel will come to fruition - because studio bosses are eager to cash in on the box office success of the first film. Noth's on-screen love interest, Sarah Jessica Parker, confirmed in November there will be a follow-up to the hit big screen adaptation of the longrunning U.S. TV show - after the first movie grossed over £275 million last summer.

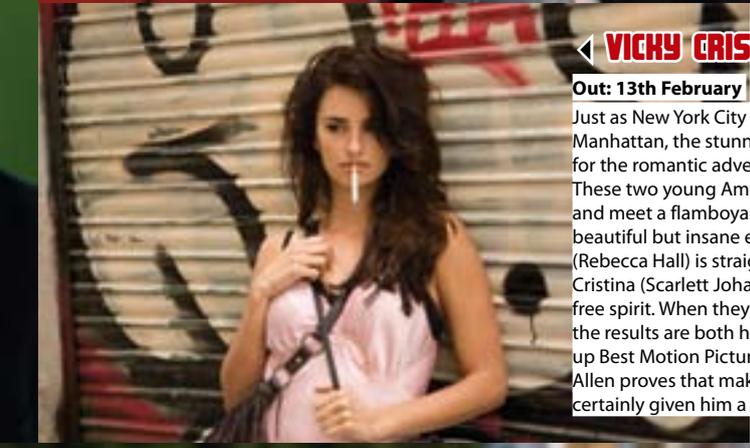
Bosses of medical drama *E.R.* have left the door open for George Clooney to make an appearance in the show's final episode. Clooney starred as Dr. Doug Ross from 1994 to 1999 in the long running series. And now the show is coming to an end after 14 years, TV executives hope Clooney will make time in his busy schedule to stop by and make a surprise cameo in the two-hour finale, which is planned for March.

Hairspray creator John Waters has been forced to scrap plans for a new children's movie - after studios rejected it. The filmmaker last year announced his plans to make a kids Christmas movie starring Johnny Knoxville. He described the film, to be titled *Fruitcake*, as "Little Rascals on acid". But the movie has been axed, and Waters is blaming the economy, and unpredictable studio executives.

Lesbian TV drama *The L Word* is set for a prison-based spin-off, featuring former Bond girl Famke Janssen. The final season of the show premiered last month in the U.S., but producers are already planning a follow-up show.

Star Trek veteran George Takei has jumped ship and will voice a role in *Star Wars* TV spin-off *The Clone Wars*. The *Heroes* actor and British reality TV star will portray nuclear warlord Lok Durd in an upcoming episode of the animated sci-fi series. He tells TV Guide magazine, "I was cast as a grotesquely obese guy in Disney's *Mulan*, and now again in *Clone Wars*. I just love the way the new (George) Lucas animation technology makes my fat jiggle."

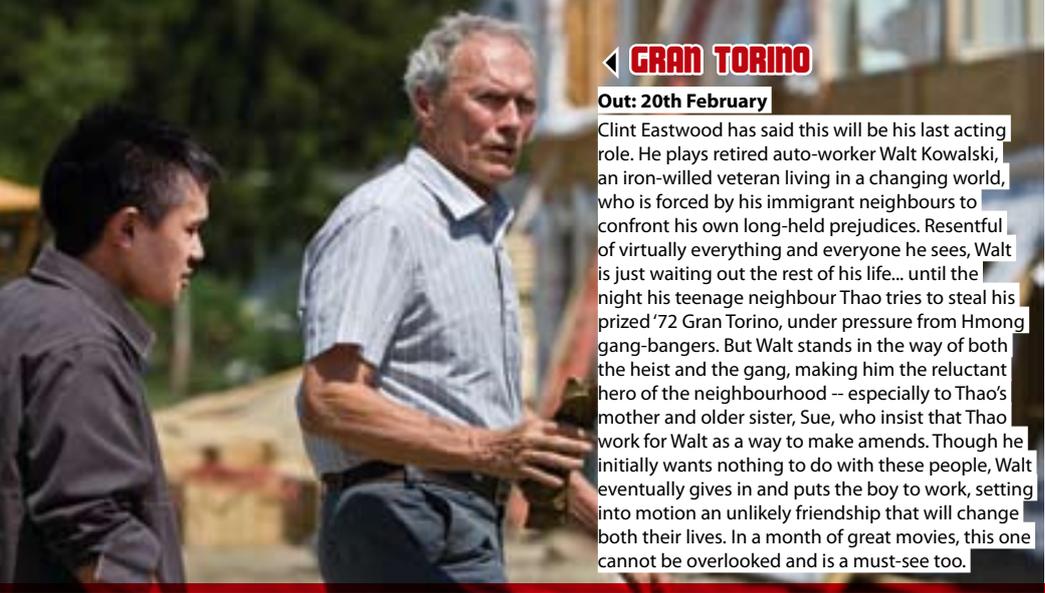
Sigourney Weaver hopes her first TV movie will help gay teens come out to their parents. In *Prayers for Bobby*, the *Alien* star plays the real-life mother of tragic gay youth Bobby Griffith, who committed suicide in the 1970s after his religious parents spent years trying to 'cure' him.



◀ VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA

Out: 13th February

Just as New York City was the backdrop in Woody Allen's *Manhattan*, the stunning city of Barcelona is the setting for the romantic adventures of Vicky and Cristina. These two young Americans spend a summer in Spain and meet a flamboyant artist (Jarvier Bardem) and his beautiful but insane ex-wife (Penelope Cruz). Vicky (Rebecca Hall) is straight-laced and about to be married. Cristina (Scarlett Johansson) is a sexually adventurous free spirit. When they all become amorously entangled, the results are both hilarious and harrowing. Picking up Best Motion Picture - Comedy or Musical, Woody Allen proves that making his movies now in Europe has certainly given him a new lease of film life.

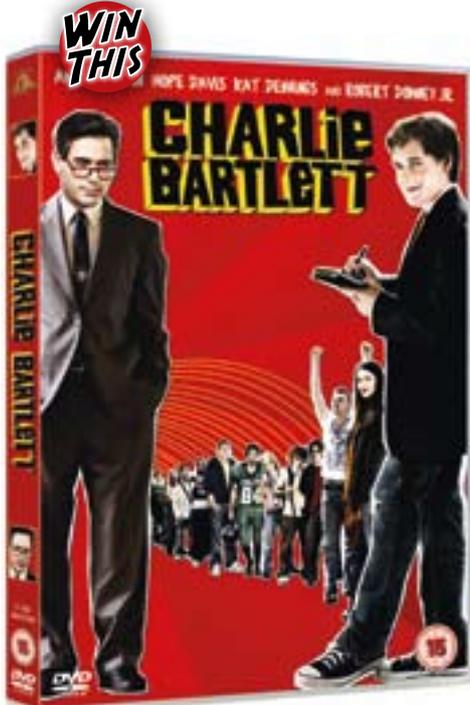


◀ GRAN TORINO

Out: 20th February

Clint Eastwood has said this will be his last acting role. He plays retired auto-worker Walt Kowalski, an iron-willed veteran living in a changing world, who is forced by his immigrant neighbours to confront his own long-held prejudices. Resentful of virtually everything and everyone he sees, Walt is just waiting out the rest of his life... until the night his teenage neighbour Thao tries to steal his prized '72 Gran Torino, under pressure from Hmong gang-bangers. But Walt stands in the way of both the heist and the gang, making him the reluctant hero of the neighbourhood -- especially to Thao's mother and older sister, Sue, who insist that Thao work for Walt as a way to make amends. Though he initially wants nothing to do with these people, Walt eventually gives in and puts the boy to work, setting into motion an unlikely friendship that will change both their lives. In a month of great movies, this one cannot be overlooked and is a must-see too.

► **CHARLIE BARTLETT**



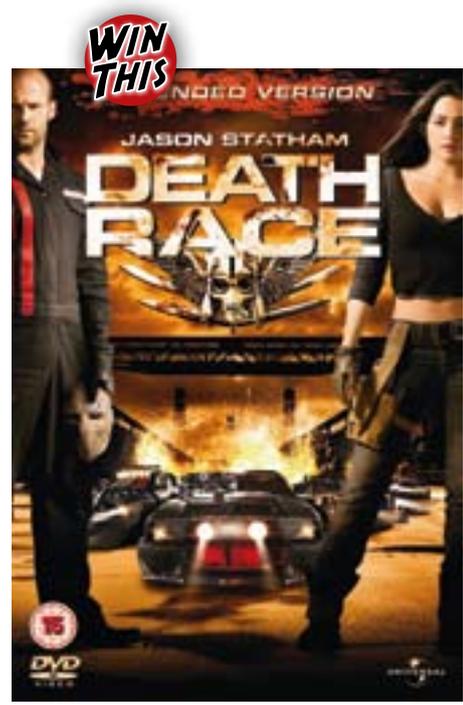
Expelled from yet another private school for his blossoming, though illegal, entrepreneurial activities, wealthy teenager Charlie Bartlett finds himself at regular high school. His smart, geeky appearance gets him a first day beating from the school bully, so his overly medicated mother calls in the family psychiatrist to help him out.

Seeing an opportunity not to be missed, Charlie sets himself up as the school agony uncle, dishing out advice and prescription drugs, courtesy of the family shrink, from the school toilets.

Out: 23rd February - £19.99 - 20th Century Fox Home Ents

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this terrific DVD just answer this simple question: Complete the title of this recent Robert Downey Jr movie, Iron _____

► **DEATH RACE**



The world's hunger for extreme sports and reality competitions has grown into reality TV bloodlust. Now, the most extreme racing competition has emerged and its contestants are murderous prisoners. Action star Jason Statham leads the pack of tricked-out cars, caged thugs and smoking-hot navigators, which all combine to create a juggernaut series with bigger ratings than the Super Bowl. The rules of the are simple: Win five events, and you're set free. Lose and you're road kill splashed across the Internet.

Out: 2nd February - £19.99

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this terrific DVD just answer this simple question: Complete the title of this 1998 Jason Statham movie, Lock, Stock and _____



► **YOU BELONG TO ME**

Jeffrey, a young architect has just moved in to an apartment building in New York occupied by a quirky mix of residents. Not that it matters anyway, as he just wants to be nearer his French one night stand René. Eccentric landlady Gladys takes a rather unhealthy liking to him and soon begins to lavish him with affection, from cooking his dinner to insisting he have a copy of her keys. Before long, Jeffrey begins to notice some strange goings on in the building, until one night he hears a voice crying out for help through the rotten floorboards below. 'You Belong to Me' is a neighbour-from-hell nightmare.

Out: 23rd February - £14.99 - Peccadillo Pictures

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this terrific DVD just answer this simple question: Complete the name of this New York landmark, The Statue of _____

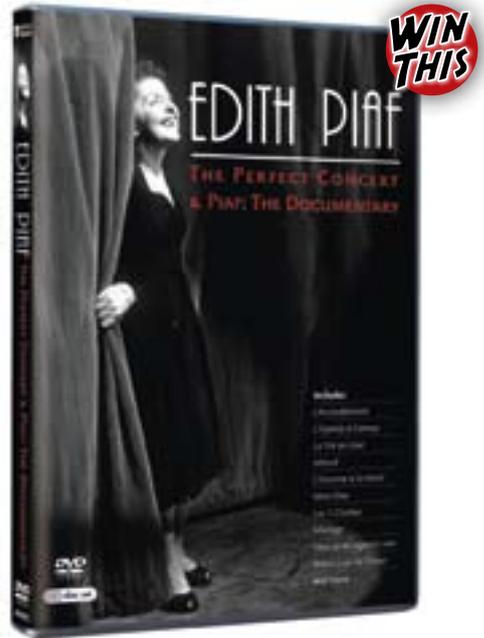


► **TAKEN**

Liam Neeson takes on a breakneck, adrenalin-fuelled role in the tense and heart-pounding action thriller Taken, from acclaimed producer Luc Besson. Neeson plays an ex-secret agent who will stop at nothing to rescue his daughter from her Albanian kidnappers in Paris. This roller-coaster ride of an adventure is as action-packed as the 'Bourne Trilogy' and will have you on the edge of your seat from start to finish. Taken is released as an extended, harder cut version than seen in cinemas.

Out: 9th February - DVD £19.99 Blu-ray £24.99 - 20th Century Fox Home Ents

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this terrific DVD just answer this simple question: Complete the title of this Liam Neeson movie, Schindler's _____



► **EDITH PIAF - THE PERFECT CONCERT & PIAF: THE DOCUMENTARY**

Combining a unique collection of filmed and recorded performances by Edith Piaf this spectacular two-disc set captures many of her finest and best-loved works. Coupled with an in depth and unique documentary featuring several rare and extraordinary interviews, this set is an incredible and revealing portrait of one the world's favourite performers. Piaf's songs often reflected her turbulent life, especially the heart-rending ballads that she was so famous for.

Out: 2nd February - £19.99 - Acorn Media UK

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this terrific DVD just answer this simple question: Which spectacle firm are using Piaf to advertise their products?

COMPETITION TIME
Turn to page 74 for entry details

IN THE VAMPIRE'S LAIR

Peter Stickles leads the cast of Lair as Damian the leader of a gay vampire cult. However, he first came to prominence as the voyeuristic Caleb in cult classic Shortbus, but what had he done acting-wise before that?

Very little. I had lived in New York City for five years before I auditioned for Shortbus. My first film was a horror flick called "Cemetery Gates" and I starred in a short-lived TV show for the Oxygen Network. I was working in a nightclub and living the life of your typical struggling actor!

As the idea Shortbus was a mainly improvised script did this scare you at all?

Absolutely! The whole idea of using real sex in the film was terrifying. The only comforting thing was that we were to play variations of ourselves so we all had a hand in writing our own characters and our scenes. I just had to be myself.

Talk about being scared. How did you feel about playing a gay vampire in Lair?

Now that part was exciting! I jumped at the chance to play Damian. Playing the bad guy is always more fun and more fulfilling. I had my concerns regarding the sex scenes, but I think every actor has his/her own reservations when it comes to on-screen sexuality.

Is the 'here after' something that concerns you in real life?

What an interesting question. Does it concern me? No, not really. I have always believed that my life is fundamentally mapped out. Everything happens for a reason. And what happens after my life is supposed to happen too. I shouldn't be scared of that.

The Lair got a second series... but what are we going to see you in next?

We actually just got done shooting our THIRD season! We've got a hit on our hands! I've done a few more horror films since The Lair and I think they've turned out really well. They will be on DVD soon.

Who is your favourite hero of all time?

I have always been a little embarrassed by this, but Madonna is someone I have looked up to all my life. And she never seems to go away! I guess I should have to accept that she is my hero!

What is your guilty pleasure?

Horror films. Exploitation films. Buffy. And cheesy films that have faded away into oblivion...

Who would you kill to perform with?

Sigourney Weaver. I think she is a miracle.

Describe your perfect partner?

Ambitious. Mischievous. I love crazy, zany people. A sneaky smile at all times. Someone who can show me real magic...



WIN THIS



◀ THE LAIR - SEASON ONE

The makers of camp classic Dante's Cove welcome you to The Lair, an exclusive male only sex club populated with the hottest guys you will ever lay your eyes on...but enter at your own risk - for this club is run by blood-thirsty vampires! When local journalist Thom investigates the continuous appearance of discarded male bodies turning up all over the once peaceful town he attracts the attention of the head vampire and ends up endangering himself and his boyfriend.

Out: 2nd February - £14.99 - tla releasing

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this terrific DVD just answer this simple question: Complete the title of this Peter Stickles movie, Short

◀ **NEW LAGUNA COUPE**

Perhaps not the best time to buy a new car but we couldn't help but get excited by the sweeping lines of this new Coupe. With a raft of high-performance engines, impressive equipment levels and 4Control chassis in its Coupé GT guise, the svelte four-seater has a formidable arsenal.

Basic model around £22K



◀ **MAGIC BOX**

Hitachi's small, sleek and stylish 'multimedia box' gives you seamless connectivity from your DVD Player, Satellite box, Games Console and TV Recorder. Meaning that all the above devices link into the 'box' with just two cables into the Ultra Thin flatscreen. That's the cable from the 'media box' and the cable carrying the power supply to the flatscreen.

Not least there's no need for you to place the Ultra Thin LCD flatscreen close to your TV aerial output. The Hitachi Ultra Thin flatscreen can be placed just anywhere you choose - for the aerial also links to the 'multimedia box'.

Retailers suggest that the 32" UT with the 'free' media station costs under £800.



▶ **POWERDESK**

Cool uber-modern glass and brushed aluminium PolarisX Powerdesk incorporating Freemote, the world's first true Remote Control for a PC, which sits in the desk's worksurface duplicating all the key controls (on/off, USB, headphone and mic, DVD) meaning the PC and all its cables can be hidden inside the desk out of sight. Attractive, clutter-free, space-saving, ergonomic and safe computing for the home.

Price includes Dell PC with 3yr onsite warranty.

£1,675 www.secretpc.co.uk



▶ **JEAN PAUL GAULTIER LE MALE**

Jean Paul Gaultier Le Male, a real tough guy with a tender heart, is a fragrance that brings out both the virile and sensitive sides of a man. Jean Paul Gaultier wanted to create an eminently masculine accessory especially for him. Discover the perfumed military accessory. Inside, a unique masculine wax texture, with the emblematic sailor's stripes, reinterprets the "fougere" note: ushered in by mint, its composition is rounded out with an amber trail and a hint of vanilla. In a simple gesture, this fashion accessory becomes a secret weapon for seduction. Wear it all the time, as a pendant or attached to your jeans or sports bag, for quick, discreet and invisible fragrance touch-ups.

Product price: £29.50





Paul Smith - Blue and yellow bowling bag
£120.00 www.houseoffraser.co.uk



▲ **EGG-CELLENT IDEA**

Now you can always make the perfect boiled egg with this handy Egg Cup and Timer. After having perfectly cooked your egg, you can then enjoy eating it from the stylish egg cup, made from Borosilicate glass.
£14.95 www.GettingPersonal.co.uk



Pulsar Noir Alarm Chronograph
£150 www.seiko.co.uk



◀ **MOVING PICTURES**

The Vado HD is the only pocket video cam that combines HDMI connectivity and a supplied HDMI cable. It supports high definition output to an HDTV at up to 1080i. It also features a precision glass lens for stunning video quality, and 8GB of built-in memory to carry up to two hours of HD video.
Approx £210
www.creative.com



▲ **DON'T STOP THE MUSIC!**

The music never stops with the Intempo Go Pack; it's the essential kit for music lovers everywhere! With a portable iPod speaker-dock, an FM transmitter, an in-car iPod charger and a worldwide mains charger, the Go Pack has it covered whether you are at home, abroad or travelling in-between!
£59.99

◀ **SITTING PRETTY**

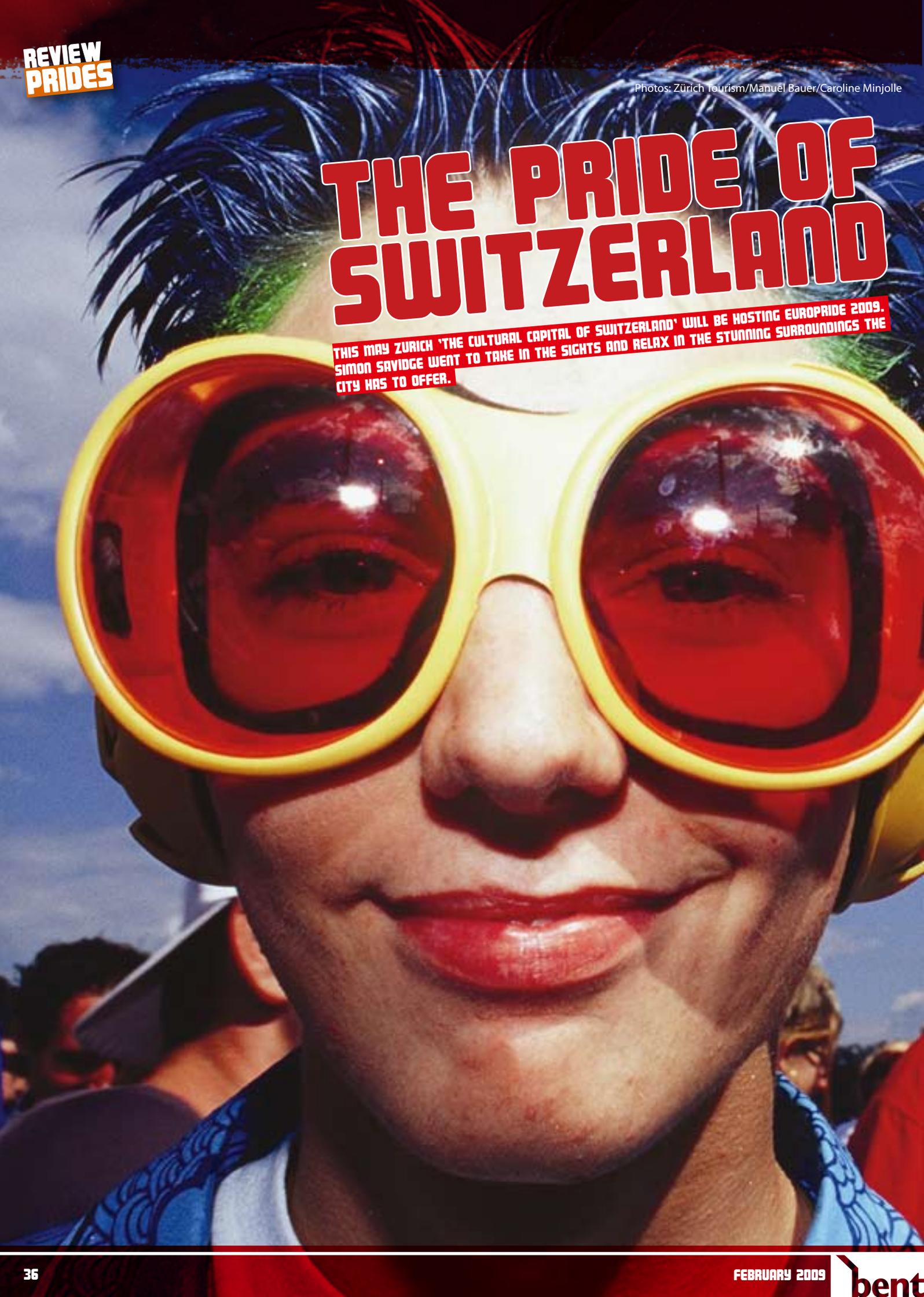
Where better for man's best friend to take the weight off than in the arms of an Elephant? Show Rex how much you love him with his very own bean bed. Cover is removable for easy washing.

Small - 60 x 80 cm £54.95 Large - 80 x 120 cm £79.95 www.elephantbeanbags.co.uk



THE PRIDE OF SWITZERLAND

THIS MAY ZÜRICH 'THE CULTURAL CAPITAL OF SWITZERLAND' WILL BE HOSTING EUROPRIDE 2009. SIMON SAVIDGE WENT TO TAKE IN THE SIGHTS AND RELAX IN THE STUNNING SURROUNDINGS THE CITY HAS TO OFFER.





When they say that the Swiss are efficient they aren't lying. With the new speedy service from Swiss International Airlines (www.swiss.com) it means that from leaving the runway in the UK you can be on the outskirts of the city in just under an hour and a half ... leaving you plenty of time for shopping, and cruising some of the country's stunning men. But leaving the men aside... well for the moment anyway... what else has Zurich to offer?

First of all it is simply stunning. On the edge and spilling around the sides of Lake Zurich, surrounded by mountains, it's hard to believe you are in a city at all. Mind you, with only 350,000 people said to be living in the city itself you still feel like you are in a fabulous cosmopolitan town, which is Switzerland's largest city. It has the perfect mix of amenities, with the quietness much needed after some serious EuroPride drinking. There are endless things to do whilst whiling away the hours until the next party... like swimming in many of the lakes and their 'lakeside submerged bars' where swimming and socialising are combined. Any excuse to see men in Speedo's is good with us. You can also walk the historic streets of The Old Town, take in an opera, try a mountain climb, walk the woodlands within ten minutes of any part of the city, stuff your face on the finest chocolates or enjoy some retail therapy in the very trendy and exclusive Zurich-West district.

In terms of nightlife there are so many places that you can go in this exceptionally gay friendly city - whether they are gay straight or mixed. If you are looking for an exclusively gay night out I would recommend the small but very friendly Cranberry Bar (www.cranberry.ch) which has a real mix of locals from the ages of 20 - 40 the staff are really friendly, as are the locals. After that stroll to the Sex and the City cocktail bar vibe Lobby Bar and then hit the T&M bar with its dancefloors and darkrooms for the adventurous boys out there. There is also the G-Hotel (www.g-hotel.ch) above for those of you who don't want to walk much further after all that dancing.

Zürich's prominent gay community will be reflected in the EuroPride programme with many of the city's biggest GLBT events and organizations taking part. The programme commences on 2nd May with the opening ceremony and a big party that is open to everyone. One of the most anticipated events will be the EuroPride Parade on 6th June, you can expect a line up of non stop parties and fun times. Alongside this Europride are running the Pink Apple Gay Film Festival, sporting events, workshops, exhibitions of gay artists and their works and much, much more.

In terms of accommodation you are spoiled for choice. For those of you out to really spoil yourselves we recommend the Hyatt Park Hotel (www.hyatt.com) where none other than Robbie and Madonna like to spend their time. We had the pleasure of staying at the Hotel Plattenhoff (www.plattenhoff.com), which is a mix of contemporary, modern and minimal making it homely yet fabulous. There is a gorgeous bar downstairs where the locals come to drink for its atmosphere.

When a city is full of nightlife, relaxing and the ability to feel like you are miles away from the cares of life back home is it any wonder Tina Turner decided to make this her permanent residence? Nothing to do with Tax of course! Hurry before everyone else discovers the delights of Switzerland's secret gem of a city! Get booking now for EuroPride as it is selling out fast and you really don't want to miss out.

For more information visit www.switzerland.com and <http://europride09.eu/>

PLAN YOUR YEAR WITH PRIDE

7 March - Sydney Mardi Gras - Australia

7-15 March - Winter Pride - Brighton

25 March - 8 April - London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

27 April to 3 May - Equality Forum - Philadelphia

May - Queer Up North - Greater Manchester

2 May - 7 June - EuroPride in ZURICH - Switzerland

16-17 May - Blackpool Pride

23-25 May - Birmingham Gay Pride

17 May - International Day Against Homophobia - IDAHO

6 June - Oxford Gay Pride

13 June - National Gay Pride Italy - Genoa

27 June - tbc - Pride Scotia - Edinburgh

18-28 June 2 - Dublin Gay Pride

20 June - 5 July - Pride London Festival

27 June - Swansea Pride

4 July - Pride London - Parade and rally

10-12 July - Sparkle - the national transgendered celebration

18 July - Thanet Pride

25 July - 2 Aug - Brighton and Hove Gay Pride - Festival

25 July - Hull Pride

1 August - Brighton and Hove Gay Pride - Parade and park party

2 August - Leeds Gay Pride

8 August - Cornwall Gay Pride - Truro

15 August - UK Black Pride - London

16 - 31 August - Manchester Gay Pride - Festival Parade on the 29th

29 August - Barnsley Gay Pride

List not complete... please send dates for your local Prides to editor@bent.com

BOOTIFUL BOYS!

SO MUCH MORE THAN DELIA SMITH, ALAN PARTRIDGE AND TASTY TURKEY! ADRIAN GILLAN CHECKS OUT EAST ANGLIAN CAPITAL, NORWICH - PLUS THOSE BOOTIFUL BOYS IN NEARBY GREAT YARMOUTH!

Norwich is bootiful, really bootiful. Not just the city itself, which is indeed a kind of overlooked York - out-on-a-limb in the oft forgotten lobe of East England, complete with castle, cathedral, walls, arches like some rare breed medieval saintly and trade street names! But also: the home-grown males in this town full-swollen by students, all strutting stuff around its ancient, compact, easily walkable lanes like some rare breed sure to broaden the smile on even one of Bernard Matthews' jolliest faces!

Sights

The regional capital that is Norwich is, arguably, the most complete medieval city in Britain - boasting over 1,500 historic buildings - albeit now imbued with a truly modern vibe.

Be inspired by Norwich Cathedral, sporting the largest cloisters, and second tallest spire, in England - not to mention its picturesque adjoining Close; get lost in the warren of medieval alleys lined with small speciality boutiques in the Lanes - contrasting nicely with the city's more

modern precincts; admire attractive half-timbered houses, most notably along the cobbled Elm Hill; explore the 12th Century Norman Castle now housing the county's main museum, brimming with local historic treasures.

Just below the Castle, snap up a bargain at the refurbished open-air market - England's largest, with stalls selling a wide range of goods, six days a week; visit some of the 30+ medieval churches within the city walls alone, many converted to other uses now - such as Norwich Puppet Theatre, or Norwich Arts Centre, with its nice little eatery; take in a show at the Playhouse or Theatre Royal.

The Norman Foster-designed Sainsbury Centre UEA (www.scva.ac.uk) boasts a truly world-class collection - with a particularly fine line in major works by Moore, Bacon and Giacometti. Awesome.

Scene

Step back in time! Stay at gay-beckoning Gothic House B&B

(Old King's Head Yard, Magdalen Street; T: 01603 631879; www.gothic-house-norwich.com) - a boutique Grade II-listed 1820-built gem, the interior charmingly reeking of history, overseen by character Clive and cat Tensing.

Feeling peckish? Delia's (Norwich City Football Club, Carrow Road; T: 01603 218705; www.deliascanarycatering.co.uk/restaurant.php), at the footie ground just south of centre, is the only restaurant in the world dedicated exclusively to the "canary cuisine" of Norwich's most famous daughter.

Stomach filled, hit new girl The Catherine Wheel (61 St Augustine's; T: 01603 827852; [w: www.inthewheel.com](http://www.inthewheel.com)) - a lively homo haunt just north of centre, its olde, exposed Tudor-meets-Soho rafters and timbers fair-shaking with queer quizzes, plus crazy karaoke and creaky dragged-up cabaret.

To step things up a gear, march east to storm The Castle (Spitalfields, off Ketts Hill; T: 01603 768 886; www.thecastle-pub.com) - its dance space, The Barn, opening around 10pm cum weekends.



THE BROADS & GREAT YARMOUTH

Across the wildlife-teeming waterways of the Norfolk Broads, a pleasant 20 mile train trek due east of Norwich, lies Great Yarmouth. And the sea.

En route, take in The Broads themselves! Explore Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden (www.fairhavengarden.co.uk), with its plants, shrubs, ancient trees, birds, dykes, gift shop, modern café-tea room plus vast private broad affording fab boat trips! Visit Ranworth Church - just up the road from South Walsham - to climb the tower and get a great view of surrounding wetlands, before walking out to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's floating info centre on Ranworth Broad (www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk).

And so onto Great Yarmouth itself! Fresh air, long sandy, dunny beaches, craft and "herring" heritage, funfair entertainment, theatres, piers, shops and markets await! Gawp at the history of its preserved old town walls, row houses and quays. Explore the town's links with the likes of Dickens and Nelson!

Stay at family-run, yet gay-wooding Imperial Hotel (North Drive, Great Yarmouth; T: 01493 842000; www.imperialhotel.co.uk) - a historic lodging overlooking dune and wave with fine Café Cru restaurant.

The local gay scene means the vibrant yet still loungey King's Wine Bar (42 King Street, Great Yarmouth; T: 01493 85374), just back from the front - open all day 'til midnight and beyond.

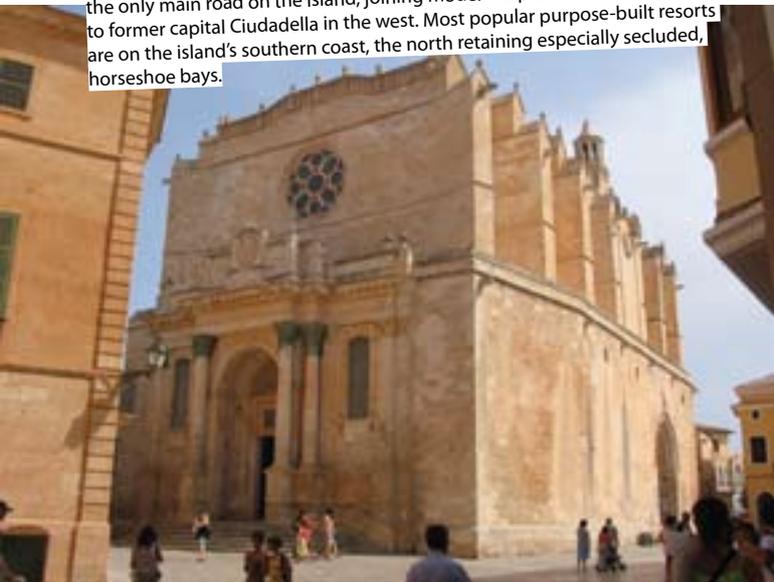
Useful websites: www.visitnorwich.co.uk; www.heritagecity.org; www.great-yarmouth.co.uk
Norwich is around two hours away from London Liverpool Street by National Express East Anglia: www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com



MEN ON MENORCA!

LOVED MALLORCA? SEEN IBIZA? ADRIAN GILLAN SAMPLES THAT OTHER BEAUTIFUL BALEARIC: LITTLE MENORCA!

Second largest of the Spanish Balearic Islands, Menorca sparkles in the Mediterranean Sea, off the east coast of mainland Spain - 2 hours' flying time from most UK airports; one hour ahead of GMT on arrival. Despite the onset of mass tourism in the 60's, Menorca - with its mere 90,000 populous - still remains relatively "unspoilt" compared to its noisier neighbours. The ME1 is the only main road on the island, joining modern capital Mahon in the east to former capital Ciutadella in the west. Most popular purpose-built resorts are on the island's southern coast, the north retaining especially secluded, horseshoe bays.



TO STAY

Hotel Port Ciutadella (Paseo Marítimo 36, Ciutadella; T: +34 971 482 520; www.sethotels.com) - This chic, modern 4* spa hotel lies on the west coast of the island in the charming town of Ciutadella, former capital - on the seafront, close to the bijou Platja Gran beach and town centre!

Hotel Port Mahon (Avenida del Port Mahon, Mahon; T: +34 971 362 600; www.sethotels.com) - Situated on the east coast, in a quiet residential area overlooking present-day capital Mahon's massive natural harbour, this 4* colonial-style hotel is just five minutes stroll from the town centre!

ApartHotel Bahia Park (Calle Llebbeig 16, Cala'n Porter; T: +34 971 377 246; bahiapark@bmc-hotels.com) - This 3* "straight-friendly" self-catering apartment complex in due to open, May 2009.

TO SEE 'N DO

Ciutadella - Ciutadella was the original capital of Menorca until the Brits came along and moved it to Mahon in the 18th Century. But it still remains the spiritual centre. The café-lined harbour and marina is one of the smallest ports in the Mediterranean - best viewed from the main square, Plaça des Born, itself dominated by the town hall. The nearby old town warren boasts a 14th Century cathedral, a seminary and fish market. Bask on cute Platja Gran "inner city" beach.

Mahon (a.k.a. Maó) - Situated at the island's easternmost point, Mahon is Menorca's most densely populated town. The Brits made it an administrative hub in the 18th Century and it has remained the capital ever since. Check out the town hall with its "British" clock; cloistered café-lined market; old city gate ruins; and plethora of fish eateries and millionaires' yachts lining the vast harbour below.

The "other" towns - You have to drive through Ferreries, Es Mercadal and Alaior as you cross the island anyway, so you might as well stop off... and be charmed!

Mount Toro - Menorca's highest "peak" (357m) offers great all-round vistas on a clear day.

Nature - A UNESCO-protected wilderness and wetlands lies north of Mahon, brimming with birds.

Secluded sandy coves - Such idylls include Cala Galdana, plus nearby Cala Macarella and Cala Macarelleta, both well-nigh virgin; Cala en Porter; and Binisafúller.

Beach and dune - Stroll lengthy Son Bou beach 'n dune system, in the middle of the south coast.

Castles - East of Mahon, explore old Brit haunt, Fort Marlborough; plus infamous La Mola.

Ancient stone remains - Scattered across the island, some sites date back to around 1500 BC.

Cova d'en Xoroi - This vast bar-club at Cala en Porter is built into cliff caves high above the sea, which its balconies gaze down upon. Once a pirate dive, now a great place to watch the sun set.

TO BOOZE 'N CRUISE

There are no gay-specific bars on Menorca, but Akelarre (Moll de Ponent 41-43, www.akelarrejazz.es), Ars (Plaza Principe 12, www.arscafe.info) and Nou (Carrer Nou) are especially gay-friendly and mixed, in Mahon. In Ciutadella, try Jazzbar (Marina). Beyond which, gents oft "take airs" at and along...

Lofty Passeig Maritim, Mahon

Son Bou beach - the dunes get busy; and the westernmost beach section is unofficially nudist.

Cala Macarelleta - another staggeringly beautiful unofficial nudist beach, reached by a 20 minute walk from Cala Macarella, itself a pleasant 30 minute walk from Cala Galdana. Pine forest to rear!

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Low fares airline Monarch offers year-round flights to Menorca from London Luton airport; and flights during the summer season from Birmingham, London Gatwick and Manchester airports with fares, including taxes, starting from £52.99 one way (£88.50 return). Monarch also offers a unique range of tasty hot and cold meals onboard, with prices from £3. Seats can be pre-booked at £6 per one-way flight; or, from only £20, try one of their extra-legroom seats which offer up to six inches more space. Regular travellers are rewarded with a range of benefits through loyalty scheme, Vantage Club. Scheduled flights allow online check-in. For more info or to book: www.monarch.co.uk



To get around Menorca, hire a car - Europcar: www.europcar.es
General info about Menorca: www.cime.es; and www.illesbalears.es
General info on Spain: www.spain.info/uk; or request a brochure via 08459 400 180 (24 hrs)
Spanish Tourist Office: PO Box 4009, London, W1A 6NB; T: 020 7486 8077; F: 020 7486 8034; E: info.londres@tourspain.es

COCKY OPERATION

THE LONDON CENTRE FOR AESTHETIC SURGERY IS LOCATED ON THE FAMOUS HARLEY STREET IN LONDON, AND IS RUN BY THE WORLD-RENOWNED DRs MAURITZIO AND ROBERTO VIEL. THE CENTRE IS ONE OF THE FIRST IN THE UK TO OFFER PENIS ENLARGEMENT TREATMENTS. AS WELL AS THE MORE FAMOUS PENOPLASTY, THEY NOW OFFER AN EXCELLENT 30 MINUTE PENIS ENHANCEMENT SURGERY WHICH IS CHEAP, QUICK AND TEMPORARY.

Macrolane has traditionally been used for breast-augmentation in what the tabloids call the '30-minute boob job'. The same procedure, however, can be used safely on the penis too. Macrolane is an entirely biodegradable product comprising hyaluric acid, which is a plumping compound found naturally in the skin. Injecting the Macrolane solution to the penis requires only local anaesthetic.

The procedure is simple. The patient receives a local injection to the base of the penis, which serves to numb the entire area. Then smaller doses of anaesthetic are applied around the shaft to the areas where the injections will be made. Usually the doctor has up to five syringes full of Macrolane, totalling 50ml of the fluid. This is injected strategically to provide a natural-looking increase in the girth of the penis. Effects are immediate as the penis can literally be seen expanding as the procedure is carried out. Sometimes not all the 50ml is injected at once, as the Macrolane takes two weeks to set. Once the Macrolane has set, the patient must return to the clinic for a check-up to see how the penis looks. If at this point the penis needs more girth or additional contouring, extra Macrolane is injected in a quick 10-minute top-up operation. This should then resolve any lopsidedness or unevenness to the penis, resulting in a smooth, natural-to-the-touch penis visibly bigger than before.

The added weight of the Macrolane also works to make the penis look longer, as it will hang lower and heavier than it did before. And because the injections do not restrict bloodflow, your penis will get a further increase in size when you get an erection, although the increased size of your flaccid penis may make the growth less dramatic. One important point to note is that the glans or helmet cannot be increased in size, so the girth may have to be skillfully tapered by the surgeon in order to achieve an organic appearance.

The texture of the Macrolane is natural, unlike silicone implants, meaning the flaccid penis feels almost identical before and after. When erect, the shaft is slightly squidgier in texture, but the result is still natural and undetectable. Furthermore, if the result isn't to your liking, the body usually absorbs the Macrolane in 12-24 months, depending on lifestyle circumstances, so you can return to your previous penis size eventually if you desire. Of course, you'll probably love the result, and it can be topped up annually. Furthermore, because the procedure is relatively painless and quick, you can have it done in your lunchtime and return straight to work afterwards.

Costs for the treatment start at £1,600 with reduced rates for annual top-ups to maintain girth.





Website: jarrettjames.moonfruit.co.uk Mobile: 07876525392
Location: London Center

STRICTLY COME TRAINING

WHEN IT COMES TO EXERCISE, I LIKE TO TRY NEW THINGS AND MIX IT UP SO I DON'T GET BORED. AND AS WE'RE WELL INTO THE NEW YEAR, IT LOOKS LIKE THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF INTERESTING CHOICES TO GET US ALL MOVING BOYS, SO GET THAT ASS MOVING! FROM LATIN DANCING TO WATER AEROBICS, I PREDICT 2009 WILL BE A YEAR FILLED WITH FITNESS FUN.

HERE IS MY LIST, OF FUN FITNESS TRENDS YOU SHOULD DEFFO TRY . GOOD LUCK!

1. Out of the Box workouts : Gyms are not for everyone. The popularity of TV shows like Dancing On Ice and Strictly Come Dancing has dance studios popping up across the country. Hip hop, ballroom, Latin and country line-dancing combine high energy music with unique moves that let you get your groove on as you get fit. Outdoor boot camps are also getting more popular (keep a look out for the JarrettJamesBootcamp starting in April) and local boxing clubs have classes filled with people of all ages. These fun activities can make you forget you are really exercising.

2. Body Weight and Equipment-Free Workouts: Equipment can intimidate some people. Others want to add options and flexibility to their workouts. These full-body exercises focus on movement patterns, repetitions, and Polymetrics to target multiple muscle groups. They are perfect for travelling—you do not need any equipment so you can do them anywhere.

3. Event or Sports-Specific Programming: Thousands of Brits participate in charity runs and walks every year, and even train for months to get ready. For many people it is a great social event and a chance to help their favourite charity. Health clubs are offering training for golf, football, etc. and at the same time helping members build the strength, endurance, and stamina they need for real-life activities and sports.

4. Boomer Fitness Focus: The 50+ age group is redefining our expectations about age, vitality, and the importance of physical activity as we get older. For the aging population, regular exercise is critical in keeping the body limber, injury-free, and more youthful. The non-profit group, OAPF, launched a major fitness initiative in September of 2007 aimed at providing a wide range of affordable fitness services to its 39 million members.

5. Focused Express Workouts: These are group classes lasting 30 minutes or less that focus on one element of fitness or training a specific part of the body—for example, core training, upper-body

strength, balance and agility, aerobics/fat burning. You can target a specific goal with little time commitment. Many gyms piggyback these classes so you can go to two in a row.

6. Total Wellness Programming: More and more people will focus on injury and disease prevention and understanding how food, exercise, weight and a healthier mindset must interact for the body to have balance and total wellness. Maintaining a healthy mind and body from the inside with less focus on physical appearance is steadily becoming a new ideal.

7. Hybrid Programming: Fusion of mind-body techniques like breath work and meditation into traditional exercise continues to be popular. Workouts like Spin-Yoga and Pilates Fusion combine strength, flexibility and endurance—an all-in-one exercise experience.

8. Personal Training: 93% of fit professionals in the UK and in America surveyed say personal training will be more accessible in 2009. Consumers are demanding competent personal trainers to offer them expert guidance and motivation. Many clients view it as a wise investment in their long-term health.

(for more info check

www.jarrettjames.moonfruit.co.uk)

9. Technology-Based Workouts: Consumers are downloading exercise programmes that feature illustrations and/or video to their iPods, PDAs etc. While advances in technology make it possible to more precisely measure your performance and keep track of your results. This helps improve weight management.

10. Functional strength training: Whether it is walking, hiking or lifting weights, you need functional strength. More people will be looking for workout programmes to help improve their endurance, balance, and coordination. This will, in turn, help them more safely and effectively perform their daily living activities, work-related tasks, and recreational or sports-specific exercises. Health clubs and Personal trainers offer functional training programmes and classes for virtually all levels and types of participants.

I definitely will be focusing on a fun, fit 2009 . Hope you do too boys!

GYM MATE

Pure-Col is ideal for those who regularly train in the gym, suffer from sustained injury or experience joint pain due to its ability to protect cartilage and synovial fluid against deterioration whilst killing joint stiffness, pain and swelling. Lots of professional sportspeople and athletes swear by this supplement to keep themselves at optimum level.

Priced £29.99 for a one month supply
www.collagen4u.co.uk.



OI STINKY

Working from the inside out, Body Mint tablets use a 100% natural derivative of chlorophyll to help prevent the build up of everyday odours from multiple sources, including halitosis (bad breath) and underarm, body and foot odour. Used for years by doctors to reduce odour in patients recovering from intestinal surgery, Chlorophyll actually zaps the bacteria that cause the odours rather than masking them.

Priced £11.95 www.revital.co.uk/



Whatz On



CLUB OF THE MONTH

TOPS IN NOTTS

NG1 is an 820 capacity, air-conditioned super-club comprising of four separate and distinct environments - each boasting its own creature comforts!

Two dance floors, four bars, smoking terrace, three separate sound systems and an up-scale atmosphere ensure NG1's appeal to gay clubbers nationwide.

Recently awarded the title of 'Best Midlands Gay Nightclub' by Midland Zone Magazine for the fourth year running, NG1 has an enviable reputation for being the BUSIEST and BEST gay venue in Nottingham.

We're continually adding to the array of nights bringing you big names and events to offer a great clubbing experience.

Make a date for our Valentine's Ball on Saturday 14th February a special night to be with the one you love or an ideal opportunity to mix with some of the sexiest guys around.

NG1
Friday 10pm - 4am
Saturday 10pm - 6am
Sunday 11pm - 4am
www.ng1club.co.uk/



NG1 NOTTINGHAM PRESENTS

VALENTINE'S BALL



SATURDAY
14TH FEBRUARY 2009
10^{PM} 'TIL V. LATE



WWW.NG1CLUB.CO.UK

76-0 LOWER PARLIAMENT STREET · NOTTINGHAM

**Advertise your event, venue or brand here
for only £100!!**

NORTH



THE WINNERS ARE...

Super club Essential and Canal Streets leading dance bar, Queer, have been voted the best club and bar in the Northwest in the Pink Paper Readers Awards. Essential also scooped the award for second best gay club and Queer for third best bar, in the entire country! Fresh from its half million pound refurb it's no wonder Essential has taken top prize in the awards. Plus, with some huge events lined up at both venues it's clear why gorgeous clubbers from all over the UK make the journey to these world class venues every weekend. For a sneak peak at the club and events listings visit their new interactive website www.essentialmanchester.com



Photo: Darrell Hirst



Photo: Darrell Hirst

essential

**OFFICIALLY THE BEST
GAY CLUB IN THE
NORTH WEST
AND THE SECOND BEST IN
THE ENTIRE UNITED KINGDOM**

8 MINSHULL STREET,
MANCHESTER. M1.
WWW.ESSENTIALMANCHESTER.COM

SOURCE: PINK PAPER READERS AWARDS 2009

Queer

4 CANAL STREET,
MANCHESTER. M1.
WWW.QUEER-MANCHESTER.COM

**OFFICIALLY THE BEST
GAY BAR IN THE
NORTH WEST
AND THE THIRD BEST IN
THE ENTIRE UNITED KINGDOM**

SOURCE: PINK PAPER READERS AWARDS 2009

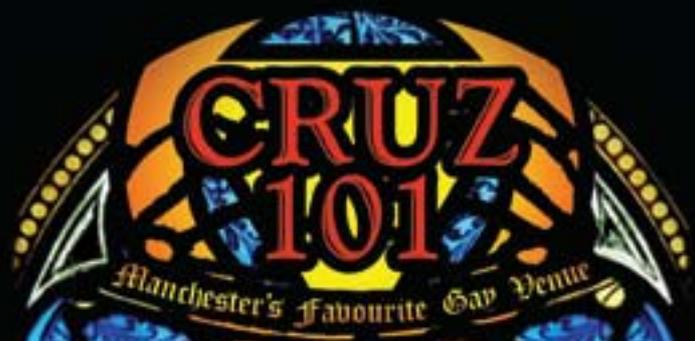
NORTH



CRUZ 101'S CHAPEL OF LURVE!

Romance is in the air this February as Cruz 101 start the 2009 party season from Thursday 12th to Monday 16th February - with five days of Valentine's celebrations. Kicking off on the 12th, Poptastic and Cruz cuddle up in bed together with the sell out Back2Back and a Valentine's special. Students beware as John Hamilton & Paul McAvoy play Poptastic's pop & r'n'b upstairs, while Rob James gets down'n'dirty in sub playing sexy grooves of funky & progressive house. If you're superstitious you might be unlucky and not make it down to the only busy place on Friday 13th but if you get down to the Big Gay Friday at Cruz, Miss Cara and the Cruz team make sure you have way too much fun. Saturday 14th February, Valentine's Day proper, thou shalt come to Cruz 101 and praise be at 'Miss Cara's Chapel Of Lurve'. Drag out the old ball and chain as Miss Cara gets in the habit and spreads the word of pop, disco, and dance for all you sinners at the 'Vicars & Tarts Valentine's Ball'. Downstairs in Sub Little Miss Natalie and the Superchoons crew play uplifting trance and bouncy house. Vicar or tart... which one are you? 'Sunday Night Screamers' tops off the weekend with DJ Spook playing pop, disco, dance & r'n'b with a touch of house and finally the doors close to The Chapel Of Lurve at Monday night's 'Disco Inferno' the 16th. '70's, 80's and 90's pop and disco classics with a modern twist courtesy of DJ Dino. Suffering from the credit crunch? All Valentine's Weekend Cruz has 'crunch-busting' offers from £1.50 and leading the charge against gay poverty have extended their New Years Eve ticket membership offer - just bring your New Years Eve ticket and get in for the member's price on any night until 28th February! For more info on February events log on to www.cruz101.com





Saturday 14th February
Vicars & Tarts
Valentines Ball
Vicar or tart...which one are you?

Lets do some baptizin'

Chapel Of Lurve

Feb 12th - 16th The naughtiest chapel in town

NORTH



FEDERATION LIVERPOOL

Federation returns to Liverpool for another collaboration with the legendary Gbar – recently announced 'Liverpool's Club of the Year 2008'. Prepare for a lustful night of Homo Eroticism on Saturday 14th February as we present the Anti-Valentines Ball with the super hot Federation dancers who will be on hand to tease and tantalise you. Federation's award winning DJs Gregg Holden, Stuart Robinson & Nik Denton will provide a full on turbo-charged soundtrack with support from the Gbar residents and 'Cupids and Fairies'

Federation & Gbar Present the Anti-Valentines Ball
 Saturday 14th February
 @ Gbar, 1-7 Eberle Street, Liverpool L2 2AG
 10pm – 8am / £10



FEDERATION MAKEOVER

Federation is currently undertaking an 'Extreme Makeover'. She will return like an elegant swan after a few nips and tucks – watch www.clubfederation.com or join our official Facebook group for more info on the stunning, new look Federation.

This will include a new credit-crunching ticket price, all new entertainers, stage sets and themed decor, brand new chill out space with extra seating, free after party at Mission plus a few new explosive surprises

* Please note that there will be no Federation Valentine's event in February, as we prepare ourselves for Victoria's Secret's 1st Birthday party in March.

Photos: Mark Hawkins

FEDERATION

*It's 2009 and Romance is dead,
 Come to G-Bar and have a dirty
 one night stand with Fed!*

gbar
 'Saved My Valentines!'

FEDERATION

The Valentines Night Out

SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

with

NIK DENTON STUART ROBINSON GREG HOLDEN

WITH SUPPORT FROM G-BAR RESIDENTS

DOORS OPEN 10PM – 8AM // ADMISSION £10
 G-BAR, 1-7 EBERLE ST, LIVERPOOL CITY CENTRE, L2 2AG
WWW.G-BAR.COM // WWW.MYSPACE.COM/COMEONGBAR
WWW.CLUBFEDERATION.COM

gbar
 'Saved My Valentines!'



FEBRUARY LISTINGS



FED MANCHESTER

IN:SESSION

SATURDAYS | MISSION | IFFDS

FEDERATION
SAT//FEB//7TH
FEDERATION MAKES A SPECIAL ONE OFF
APPEARANCE @ IN:SESSION WITH...
JASON GUY
STUART ROBINSON
+ IN:SESSION RESIDENTS
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT REPLACES FEBRUARY'S
FEDERATION @ VICTORIA WORKS!

IN:SESSION
FEBRUARY'S RESIDENT DJ'S RETURN...
JOSHUA ROBERTS
FUNK JUNKIES / SAS
LUKE POMPEY / TIN TIN
JOSH DEMELLO
SMITH & WESTERN / GINNA
ANTHONY PORBYN
MARK PARK / JAMES DUTTON



NORTH



SPIRIT OF MANCHESTER

Canal Street in Manchester has always been the hub of gay life in the North of England and the reason is, that you can find fun and entertainment seven days a week along this hallowed thoroughfare. Giving it - Big Time - with a constant array of events is Spirit, where you can kick back with your mates or party hard like a man possessed. Meet up with some of the cutest cuties around and listen to top DJs bring you incredible sets to inspire and get those feet going... and don't forget their topless sexy shot lads... an extra tasty treat to join the rest of Spirit's pleasure principles
Spirit, Canal Street, Manchester
www.spiritbar.uk.com



Canal Street | Manchester
M1 3WB | 0161 237 9725

www.spiritbar.uk.com

MONDAY the big chill

Kick back and chill with our fantastic drink offers

TUESDAYS pop corn v mayhem

The ultimate party night for all students - one venue / two events - for the party die hard students.

event one (lounge bar) - popcorn 9PM TILL 4AM

For all your pop / chart / dance classics / and much much more. With DJ Dan Lisa & Guests

event two (audio room) - mayhem 11PM TILL 4AM (First and last tuesday of the month)

Get exposed to this unique blend of vocal / electro house and retro indie vibes to move ya pumps too with DJ Steffi B & Guests. **Fosters / Strongbow £1.50 pint // VK Flavours £1.50 // Mojitos £1.75 // Wild Shots £1.00 // Cocktails 2-4-1 all night // Double vodka and energy £1.75 // Bottle of house wine £5.95 //** Calling all students this is the official no.1 party night dedicated to you **FREE ENTRY....**

WEDNESDAY house mania

Shake off those mid week blues with Dj Rude Boi, mixing up ya dance floor beats

THURSDAY exposure

With our resident diva DJ Steffi B mashing up the best beats on Canal Street....

FRIDAY deep spirit

(lounge bar) Resident DJ Roger Da Silva - spinning the best in old skool / dance and funky vibes for your ear candy....

(audio room) For guest club nights different every week - introducing Coalition (Hard House) - FitLads (London) - Rude Bois - Gay Bollywood....with international guest DJs and more Club Nights than any other venue in The Village....

SATURDAY Euphoria clubbing

(lounge bar) Resident DJ FunkMiester Roger Da Silva - Mixing up those funky vocal house beats / and yesteryear dance classics, for the best party vibe on Canal Street.....

(audio room) Genetically Modified 10PM -2AM with the Federation residents and there guests

≠ ORGANIC ≠ The legendary after hours clubbing experience from 2am till 8am with special guest DJ line up from the worlds best club nights (check out in house posters/flyers)

SUNDAY funk'd up

After the after hours with Resident & guest DJ's on rotation

Cocktails 2-4-1 // 241 VK Flavours

Double vodka and Kick £2.95

everyday House wine £5.00 a bottle // Fosters £2.00 a pint // VK's 2-4-1

mon/wed/thurs/sun after 7pm 2-4-1 Cocktails & VK // Dbl vodka & energy drink £2.95

Management reserve the right to change or withdraw these offers at any time. Subject to availability. Spirit welcomes responsible drinkers.

drink offers:



**Advertise your event, venue or brand here
for only £100!!**

Photos: ChrisGeary.com

NORTH



Pink Ball

K-KLASS

Exclusive DJ Set

Open 10.30pm - 6.00am

Saturday February 14th 09

Live P.A.

Bobbi

"Rhythm is a mystery"

"Let Me Show You"

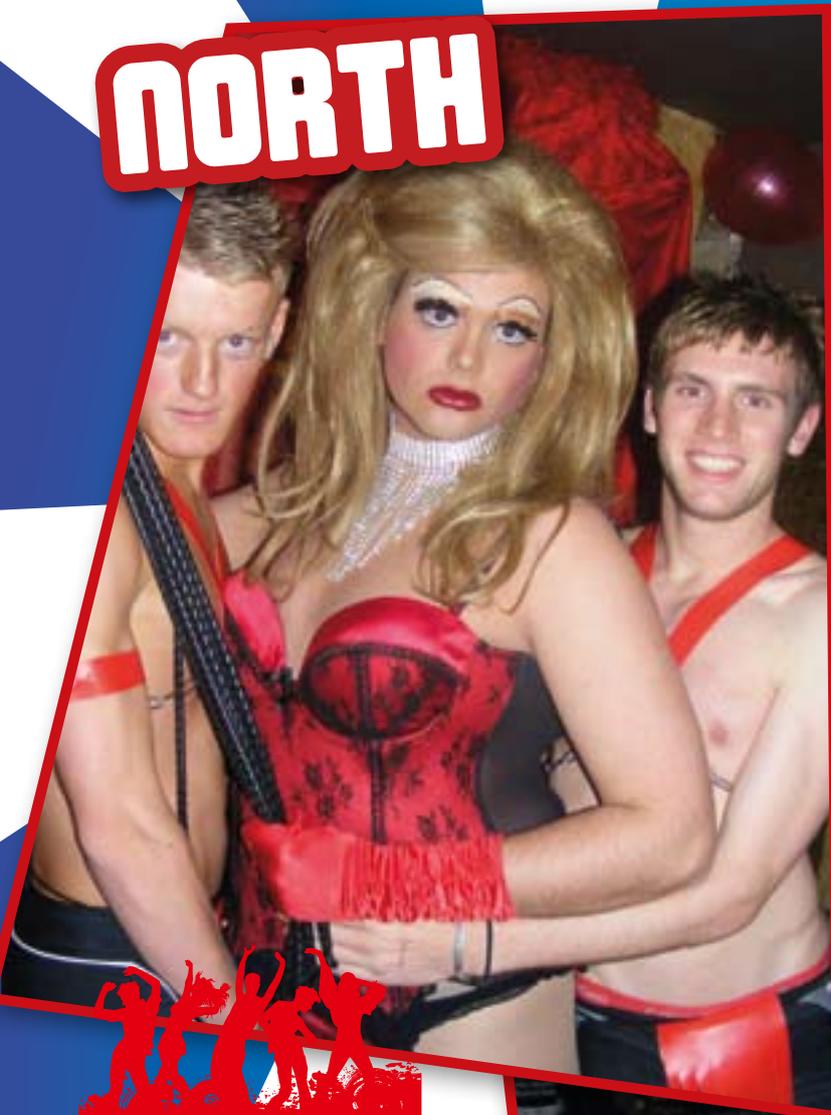
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44 Queen Street. Blackpool. FY1 2AY.
Tel: 01253 649151 www.flamingoonline.co.uk

NORTH



GAYLICIOUS DARLO

Hot boys, sexy dancers, fantastic drag queens, and guest DJs from G-A-Y! What has happened to the small town of Darlington? GAYLICIOUS! That's what. Every Monday at Joe's Bar. Possibly the best night out between Leeds and Newcastle, it has a camp, fun "draggy" feel - without all of the clichés and cheesiness. It's cheeky but friendly, very friendly. There are no door charges, and amazing drinks promos with Bottles and Shots from £1.50, Pints from £2 and Double Vodka & Mixer £2.50. Things normally kick off around 9pm with some light cabaret followed by resident DJ Wendy Woo, with her mix of nineties and noughties classics. We recommend getting there early and having a bite to eat in the popular Joe Rigatoni's Restaurant above the venue, where they serve good home-cooked Italian food. (reservations on 01325 464642 or joerigatoni.co.uk)

Joe's Bar, The Imperial Centre,
Darlington, DL1 5NQ



gaylicious joes bar



line up

FLICK MA BEAN / DUCHESS DAVINA /
LUCYLICIOUS / HER MADJESTI /
UMA GAWD / GINA TONIC & GUESTS!

every mon

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GRANGE ROAD / DARLINGTON
DL1 5NQ / 01325 464642

facebook

FIND US ON FACEBOOK / JOIN THE
GAYLICIOUS GROUP

NORTH



OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW!!!!

Back in December two gay guys Robert & Duncan saved Blayds from closing and continued to welcome customers old and new as it has done for the last 10 years. The new year has seen a complete new look, with the relocation of the bar and entertainment in the format of concerts and songs from some of the most famous Hollywood musicals. Upstairs will host regular entertainment & theme nights every Friday, Saturday and Sunday - unless the room has been hired for a private party. Both Robert & Duncan still have a few more surprises to come in the future but both agree that they couldn't have done this without the support they have received from all the customers at Blayds over the past few months.

Blayds. 3-5 Blayds Yard, Leeds
Tel: 0113 244 5590



Photo: ChrisGeary.com

Something fresh for Leeds



Every Friday Drag DJ Anna Glypta

Sunday 1st February

Male Stripper (Dynamite)

Saturday 7th February

Women only

Sunday 8th February

Champagne Showgirls

Saturday 14th February

Shag Tag night (get a date on valentines night)

Sunday 15th February

Champagne Showgirls

Saturday 21st February

Bears, Cubs and admirers Men Only

Sunday 22nd February

Drag Act Birmingham KopyCatz



Upstairs at



blayds bar (ABUV)

HAPPY HOUR
Every day from 5pm - 8pm
All pints £2 and
house spirits double & mixer £3

For more information
on future events
join Blayds Bar Leeds
on Facebook.com

facebook

The entertainment will be held upstairs at Blayds (ABUV) and will be free entry.
The room can be hired for private functions, contact Robert or Duncan on 0113 2445590 for more details
3-5 Blayds Yard. Leeds, LS1 4AD

NORTH

Photo: Darrell Hirst



VIADUCT IS THE WORD

This is the first opportunity I've had to thank our unbelievable customers who made 2008 such a brilliant year for us. The credit crunch is affecting us all but the ethos here at the Viaduct guarantees value for money and fun – so much so that all our old customers seem to be coming back for more. We'd like to offer the same service to both old and new customers so, lets keep struggling on together and not worry about the future... let's just enjoy it!

After the success of our Pink Tribute Night we are looking forward to more tribute bands soon, so watch out for our adverts, we might be just be reminiscing to your favourite musical period. On board HMS Viaduct there are 3 different drag DJs and the mix of all 3 seems to be going down well... making Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday something different on the scene.

Valentines weekend sees us bringing you our staff production of one of the most well known love stories GREASE, Sunday 15th Feb from 8pm till late... with a live performance of the film, cabaret and guest appearances ...more tba .

No ticket needed ...Fancy Dress is optional.

For more info call: 0113 3912741



the VIADUCT

Be My Valentine



Monday

Karaoke with DJ Jackie

Tuesday

Chillout Night

Wednesday

Second Chillout Night

Thursday

**Glamour with
Miss Carla Jackson**

Friday

**Lucy Lastic presents
Dirty Laundry**

Saturday

**Anna Glypta's
Camp Attack!**

Sunday

**Sunday with
Miss Carla Jackson**

NORTH



THE PINK POUNDER

Due to popular demand Queens Court is pleased to announce the return of "PinkPounder" every Thursday night from 8pm until 3am. Expect a trendy crowd of sexy boys and hip girls, whipped into a froth by DJ Scott Kelly of Homo and Climax. 2 dance floors open, the music policy promises to be funky, slick and fresh, with a commercial soundtrack perfect for all those who like to start their weekend early. Dirt-cheap "beat the credit crunch" drinks are available all night, including premium spirits such as Smirnoff and Bacardi and a top range of draught beverages.. Door tax is £2 before 10pm and £3 after, half price with NUS card. Drag host Chelsea Denton will be on hand to greet guests at the door and ensure everyone has a glamorous night, in her own inimitable way. So party the night away with style from 8pm to 3am at Queens Court Leeds. Don't miss out on Queens Court's happy hour every day between 5pm and 8pm when all drinks are virtually half price!!!!.



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www.queens-court.co.uk **DRINKAWARE.CO.UK**

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QUEENS COURT

loft
QUEEN'S COURT

NORTH



THE DOG'S BOLLOCKS

The Greyhound in Huddersfield is in new hands and the owners are looking to put one of the longest established gay bars in the north back on the map. After a successful festive period, the management team are planning a programme of events to include a Valentine's Day party on the 14th February with cabaret act "The Outrageous Sally Bowls".

Also planned for the Easter weekend is a programme of entertainment to include cabaret and a camp Easter bonnet competition!

The Greyhound also provides weekly entertainment:

Wed - Karaoke with Judy and Leroy

Fri - Disco with drag DJ Miss Fish

Sat - Poppers Paul's HI-NRG Nite

Sun - Karaoke with Ann

We are also planning to have regular monthly events plus themed nights!

Situated close to Huddersfield town centre The Greyhound has a warm friendly atmosphere and provides a relaxing venue for gay men and women to socialise.

Open 7 nights a week from 8.00 pm until late.

Andrew and his team welcome all new & existing customers.

The Greyhound, Manchester Road, Huddersfield, HD1 3HJ.

THE GREYHOUND

16 Manchester Rd, Huddersfield, HD1 3HJ
THE NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM ANDY & PAUL
WELCOMES CUSTOMERS OLD & NEW
Open 7 nights a weeks 8pm - late

WEEKLY EVENTS
Every Wednesday
Karaoke with Judy & Leroy
Every Friday night
with Drag DJ Miss Fish playing tunes from the 70's 80's & 90's
Every Saturday
Popper's Paul playing HI-NRG
Every Sunday Evening
Karaoke with Ann

Big night specials
Friday 30th January
Top International Male Stripper
Andy King
Saturday 14th February
Special cabaret star
Sally Bowls

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all evening**



FEBRUARY ALL DRAUGHTS £2.00 A PINT FROM 7:00 PM TILL MIDNIGHT



**Thursday
Karaoke with
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FOOD SERVED SEVEN DAYS A WEEK



**Friday
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OUR WEBSITE : WWW.NEWUNION.COM



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bent SAUNA GUIDE

When responding to an advert, please tell the advertiser that you saw their advertisement in **Bent Magazine**.

To advertise in these pages contact Darrell: **08712 246 529** or email: Darrell@bent.com



DERBY CITY STEAM

Just to let you know that there is a new car park on the next street from us Cathedral Road opposite The Queens Leisure Centre, which is £2.00 all day. Don't forget that it's still Free parking in the Chapel Street car park every weekend till February.

FREE PARKING EVERY SAT & SUN AT THE REAR!

www.city-steam.com



PLASTIC IVY SAUNA: FEBRUARY FREEBIES!

Last month the boys at Plastic Ivy Sauna in Dewsbury told us that their usual membership fee was being done away with for the month of January. This has proved to be quite a success and so the offer is now being extended to cover February as well. So that's lifetime membership to the busiest little gay sauna in Yorkshire, free of charge! An offer not to be sniffed at.

If you haven't been before, Plastic Ivy is a busy, clean, and stylish sauna located just outside of Leeds next to the motorways, and is very popular with married & bi guys, as well as those wanting discretion.

With the party season over, and the nearest bank holiday months away, why not beat the winter blues and pay them a visit. You could steam away your stress (or find other ways to de-stress) for as little as £5 entry. Just check out their website for a list of special offers and opening times. It's quick and easy to join, and no ID is needed, just turn up, get a locker, grab a towel, then go downstairs to relax, explore, and meet other men.

www.plasticivy.co.uk - open every day except Tuesdays - 12noon-11pm

33 Leeds Rd, Dewsbury, WF12 7BB - 01924 455 600

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relax, steam, jacuzzi, meet men
...sauna, get clean, get dirty...

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available, T & Cs Apply. Not
available in conjunction with
any other offer.



HONEYCOMBE SAUNA

A visit to Blackpool isn't complete with out trip to the Honeycombe Sauna. Here you can relax in clean surroundings and try out the bubbling 10 man Jacuzzi, the 30 man steam room or even top up your tan on the hi-powered sun beds. For those who like to make a day of it there is a coffee lounge and internet facility to use before delving back... to what is euphemistically called the 'relaxing' areas... for a little more fun...perhaps trying out the dungeon with sling. Two-way mirrors, private rooms... you get the idea!

Honeycombe is open 7 days a week

97-107 Egerton Road, Blackpool, FY1 2NN

Tel: 01253 752211

Mon - Fri 12noon till 9pm - Sat - Sun 11am till 9pm

Last time of entry is 8 pm - Final departures 9 pm

The admission price for non-members is £10

www.honeycombe.net



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Jacuzzi | Solarium | Steam Room | Dry Sauna
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2-6 Union Street, Belfast Tel: 028 9023 3441

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.....

NO Membership required.
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Last entry 1 hour before close.
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.....

For details call 01332 209150 or
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www.city-steam.com

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SIMPLY STUNNING

By Gordon Alexander

There were no other words to describe Simon – he was simply stunning. It was a term you would hear whenever anyone caught site of the 19 year-old's superb body.

At school Simon had been an amazing gymnast, winning award after award for his incredible floor exercises and stylish bar and ring routines - as well as being tipped for great things at the Olympics. His body was absolutely incredible to those of us who knew it well; tight, when it needed to be, elastic, when he wanted it and solid with a muscle definition that defied all known anatomical laws - well, that might be only from the viewpoint of those few who knew that body intimately. His perfect smile, his short blond hair, his easy way with dealing with everyone around him had won him a large following from the very start of his career. Even as a talented youngster he was always popular and that continued as he grew into a supremely gifted teenager. At the gym, people would gather to watch him shower after he'd performed his daily exercise. He delighted in feeling the warm shower trickle over his tensed frame, never revealing every thing about his body as he sensually let the water define his abs and flow over his sexy little pouch. He was obviously aware of the effect he had on people. Hell, he must have been propositioned from a very early age, but to him it was a fun thing to do and not, as he was often accused of, wallowing in his own beauty and mocking those less fortunate in either talent or looks. Those who coveted him (and everything about him) but had no chance would say that his dick was too small, or that he was as thick as clotted cream but to us in the know... he was a simple sincere lad, with a pleasant and unassuming personality... but who was an absolute demon in the bedroom (or kitchen, or park...). He loved only three guys, of which I counted myself privileged to be one, and would not allow any of us to be jealous of the others. When we were all together, as a foursome, his enthusiasm, inventiveness and humour made for the best sex ever... and he loved sex. Perhaps that's why he didn't push for the Olympics, his ambition, once he'd discovered other than training in his life, seemed to diminish in importance. He said he wasn't a driven athlete to that extent as everything came natural to him. We who had been his friend from school days knew this wasn't completely true but he insisted that he only did all the extra intense exercise... because he enjoyed it... and he liked his instructor. Simon said it was amazing what sexual thoughts used to go through his young head, as his hunky instructor took him through routine after routine. He smiled when he told us that after he'd accomplished some amazing technical skill all he wanted to do was jump on top of the man in celebration, pull off his shorts and suck him off in thanks. He never did. However, now free from his instructor, and with his mates around for him to play with, he did all those things that had occupied his thoughts ever since he started his gymnastic career when he was seven years old. Simon had rigged his own gym, with climbing frames, vaulting horses, hoops, ropes, trampolines, bikes, vibrating platforms and god knows what else, so that we could enjoy positions and develop techniques we might never have thought of. We all brought our own ideas but it was definitely Simon who led the games. We'd often have our own Olympic sessions lasting over three or four days when all we did was shag, our teenage bodies more than ready and constantly loaded for the next sexual mount and dismount. Our own bodies advanced in shape and muscle but in no way matched Simon who remained, in any sexual act over, on or under any piece of equipment... or friend, simply stunning.

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Simon says...

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

Dear Simon,

I have been talking to a guy on an internet site for a while and we have been getting on really well. We have progressed to a few webcam shenanigans and some very long deep conversations in the space of less than three weeks. The problem is that he is incredibly busy with work and family connections and we haven't been able to meet yet. I don't want to rush him or pressurise him but I have fallen for him and am worried that it all might have gone wrong. I told him and he seemed a bit freaked out by it what should I do?
Kevin, Derby

Dear Kevin,

I have to say falling for a guy that you haven't met can be very dangerous because when you are online people can give a very different account of what they are like than in real life. As it is... that's a bit too late. My advice would be to explain that you really like him and would like to meet up with him but don't make any demands as you both have lives offline. If he doesn't want to meet after a few more weeks I would try other avenues as maybe he is one of those 'internet chatters' who is all talk and no action.

Dear Simon,

I am having real problems during sex. My foreskin is incredibly tight and it can make the whole thing very painful and uncomfortable. I know they say that there can be some pleasure in pain but this is quite something else. I feel quite embarrassed by it and don't know who to turn to?
Dave, Wakefield

Dear Dave,

My advice would be to go to the doctors and have a chat with them. They can give you all the options. This is actually not an uncommon issue in men and may mean that it would be wise to have a circumcision, which I know sounds drastic but in the long term could make everything a lot more enjoyable for you. Pop down to your local GP and they are sure to help. They have seen it all before and more.

Dear Simon,

I came out late and have only been on the scene for a few months and am keen to meet a man. The only problem is I don't really like gay men. They seem completely obsessed with the latest underwear or Kylie single, there doesn't seem to be any depth to these people. Where can I just go to meet normal blokes who happen to be gay and want to go out and date like a normal couple would?
Anon

Dear Anon,

This sounds like you have a form of internal homophobia going on somewhere. While you may not like the latest Kylie (and not all gay men do) why is that stopping you dating people who do, you never know you might be converted. One thing that's great when dating is meeting people who like the same things as you but discussing and learning all about the things that you might not have in common, after all if we all liked the same things life would be quite boring wouldn't it? It's only been a few months so just see how it goes and enjoy the hunt for Mr Right. As for 'Where can I meet normal blokes' decide what your interests are and look for a group on the internet that shares them.



Beauty and the FREAKS

ROMANCING THE STONE

I know a couple who constantly profess their undying love for each other. It's in their status updates on Facebook; it's in their texts to each other; it's all they ever talk about. At least, when they're not together. When they're together it's usually 'cunt this' and 'cunt that'. True, one is 18 and one is 19, so is that all it is? The folly of youth and first love?

'No couple that goes on that much about how much they love each other can really be that in love,' said a friend of mine.

But is it that simple? I have another friend, let's call him Simon, who used to write love letters and poetry to his boyfriends. He's currently single, but I'm sure he'd do so again, and at least two of his relationships were of the deep, long-lasting variety. It seems shocking to many of us, who think sending a text with the words 'i fancy u' in would be too much. But perhaps we're just unused to romance?

True, teenagers are hardly the best example, as they probably will break up in a few months and be in love with someone new. But there must be real romantics in real relationships out there? Or are there? And how much romance is too much romance?

My friend Simon has been in love with a friend of his for quite some time now. He knows it will never go anywhere, but that won't stop his feelings. As he himself puts it: 'How can I get over something that never happened?'

His problem is that without having some form of relationship with this person, or even just sex, he's been unable to move on because there's nothing to move on from. Simon understands this and is happy with it.

'I'd rather have a fantastic friend whom I loved than lose him by trying to push anything. It's not my fault I love him and it's not his either, so I just get on with it.'

However, Simon decided he had to tell his

friend how he felt to avoid it becoming an issue between them. So he wrote a letter detailing his feelings and how he hoped they'd still be friends. I couldn't help but wonder if his love interest would reply or not. Would he find such a letter too much information? Would he rather not know? Or would knowing allow him to handle the situation better, in case it ever did become a problem? Or would Simon writing him a letter be enough to ignite dormant passions in his friend and get them together? It seems a difficult situation. But ideally Simon's friend would find the letter sweet and endearing, and it would make them closer as friends rather than driving them apart, and perhaps grant Simon the closure he needs.

Another example of romanticism at play is love songs. Many of us would feel embarrassed writing some of the lyrics to popular love songs ('I wanna fall from the stars / Straight into your arms...') etc, but there's no doubt these songs inspire us. They make us feel good about ourselves and perhaps make us do things we wouldn't consider otherwise. I've also often thought a good love song, or a happy song in general, can do a lot to cure a broken heart. Music is a tonic, and perhaps served with the right gin it can give you that warm, fuzzy, drunken feeling we all pay so much at exorbitant gay nightclubs to feel.

So maybe these romantic gestures—letters, poems, love songs—have their place. Maybe we shouldn't write them off just yet.

Then again, maybe I'm just thinking too much because it's nearly Valentine's Day and I haven't got a date yet!

Beyoncé
xxx

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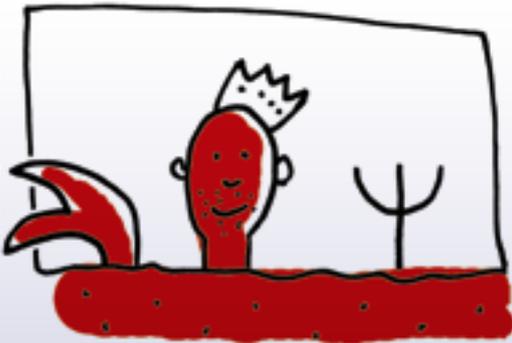
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Philip has just started to write detailed monthly travel horoscopes in addition to his existing content of weekly love & gay horoscopes, daily horoscopes and weekly & monthly in depth scripts for phone lines.



Illustrations: Oliver Weisst/owei.com



AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th

As February begins, you would prefer to take the lead so it won't be easy to take a step back to allow a loved one to call the tune. Even so it seems important for a partner or close friend to be the one who sets the pace. As it is, the situation won't be as bad as you think. It will be surprising, over the weeks ahead, how you can influence people's thoughts and decisions by leading quietly from the background. You are learning a lot about your relationships this month.



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02/02 Shakira	17/02
03/02 Daniel Craig	Joseph Gordon-Levitt
04/02	18/02 Matt Dillon
Natalie Imbruglia	19/02 Seal

Aries (Mar21/Apr20)

Your charm and personality helps you put new ideas over at work and in your social life this February. You might get heavily involved in a group operation and there is every chance people will look to you to lead the way. If there has been tension in a friendship or working relationship, all seems to be going well now and this will restore your spirits completely. Your work output will surge forward once again now you are feeling more hopeful and cheerful.

Taurus (Apr21/May21)

If you feel undecided about making a fairly long trip, you should go with your instincts. You will be far better off if you stay in your home area especially during the first half of the month. Who knows, you might even meet someone special if you are single by attending a local community event. If you're attached, you and your partner might opt for quality moments spent together rather than anything too sociable. Secrets are shared as February ends.

Gemini (May22/June21)

You and your partner may take the unusual step of pulling out of a regular arrangement. This is because you have more important things on your mind. You might realise other people are taking up too much of your time and this month you want to focus more on your personal life and relationships. Paramount among your plans is to decide whether or not to carry out some extensive home improvements to your present abode or to look around for new premises. The issue is likely to arouse much emotion.

Cancer (Jun22/Jul23)

If you keep asking your partner if he's happy with you, you could end up pushing him away. Once he has given a reply, leave it at that. It will do your relationship no good at all for you to seek frequent assurances of his feelings for you. After all, if he didn't want to be with you, he would be looking for someone new. This February, live for the moment and be happy with what you have. As the weeks wear on you will soon notice a positive difference in close relationships.

Leo (Jul24/Aug23)

You might be temporarily taken off a project with which you have been involved. This could be so you can tackle a small but important task elsewhere. Your heart isn't likely to be in this and you may have to force yourself to concentrate to get it out of the way. It might seem, during the first half of the month, as if other people are having it so very easy whereas you get all the hassle and aggravation. Try to stay positive. You wouldn't be trusted with this responsibility if others didn't think you had it in you. Trends later in February will make you feel brighter and in control.

Virgo (Aug24/Sept23)

Love is a prerequisite for a relationship to really work but love is not enough if you are suspicious of each other. Mutual trust, respect, commitment and a willingness to fulfil each other's needs

are the ingredients that combine to form a lasting affair. Good communication is necessary for a smooth running romance. With positive things going on in the romantic zone of your chart this February expect a loving union to get better and better.

Libra (Sept24/Oct23)

Nothing comes easily now. Could it be you're exaggerating things in your mind and if you could snap out of this negative mood, life would be less complicated? Granted some people do seem to be going out of their way to be awkward as the month begins. If you avoid them, you won't let them get to you. Mid-February will be more relaxed when your partner or a loved-one brings home some uplifting news which will trigger off a discussion concerning the future.

Scorpio (Oct24/Nov22)

Mending fences in broken relationships won't be as difficult as you expect this February. If you and a lover have fallen out and you feel bad about this and want to get back together again, let him know. If a morning starts badly, plan something special and romantic in the evening. Run him a bubble bath and join him. Make him dinner, get his favourite film on DVD and let him know how special you feel to have him in your life. Little gestures that show you care will make all the difference over the weeks ahead.

Sagittarius (Nov23/Dec21)

The current lucky romantic streak seems to be never-ending! It seems to be your partner's turn this month to receive some good news concerning his career or finances. You might be conscious of a wave of positive energy gripping you now and this will coincide splendidly with a joint project that is all set to start soon. The helpful and co-operative aura you're experiencing in your family this February, will spread into your social and working life, too.

Capricorn (Dec22/Jan20)

New challenges will give something of a sparkle to your days. You may not have realised how much life was lacking in excitement until you take up an offer as the month begins. You might feel you are in a lucky phase now and it seems quite safe to go out on a variety of reasonably stout limbs over the weeks ahead. For instance you might take a chance with a new work routine or you may agree to a first date which turns out to be the best decision you've ever made.

Pisces (Feb20/Mar20)

You're starting to feel you aren't making your partner happy. This makes you more possessive and suspicious. You are building a castle of sand. If he is bored, it doesn't mean it's with you! To issue him with ultimatums will put him under pressure and he could make a decision neither of you really want. Try to relax this February. Give your partner the space he seems to need without asking why, when or what this means to you. It's not the right time for questions.

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- 09097 90 64 26 Me dads mate did me
- 09097 90 64 27 Mums boyfriend spanked me
- 09097 90 64 28 Smooth Teen jock
- 09097 90 64 29 Naked boys in bedroom
- 09097 90 64 30 Watchin lads getting changed
- 09097 90 64 31 Bare arse boys wiv boners
- 09097 90 64 32 Cut and uncut compare
- 09097 90 64 33 Riding me bike - naked
- 09097 90 64 34 Wank yer dick wiv horny lad
- 09097 90 64 35 Rude boys in the nude
- 09097 90 64 36 Straight lads havin cock fight
- 09097 90 64 37 Naked lad wiv mums bf
- 09097 90 64 38 BJ in the car at the pub carpark
- 09097 90 64 39 First date with a Chinese guy
- 09097 90 64 40 New town - New meat
- 09097 90 64 41 Getting soaked in the rain
- 09097 90 64 42 Trapped in the storm
- 09097 90 64 43 Watching a mate in the shower
- 09097 90 64 44 Cum under the desk
- 09097 90 64 45 Orgy at the party
- 09097 90 64 46 The disabled toilets
- 09097 90 64 47 The housewarming party
- 09097 90 64 48 Working with Adam
- 09097 90 64 49 Shagging my uncle's lover
- 09097 90 64 50 Prison rape
- 09097 90 64 51 Sisters boyfriend
- 09097 90 64 52 Caged sex
- 09097 90 64 53 Hot Speedo wank
- 09097 90 64 54 18yo introduction to sex
- 09097 90 64 55 Cleaner empties sack
- 09097 90 64 56 Thick-dicked squaddie action
- 09097 90 64 57 Shagging the engineer
- 09097 90 64 58 Steamy first time sex
- 09097 90 64 59 Straight suck
- 09097 90 64 60 First time sauna orgy
- 09097 90 64 61 Brotherly love
- 09097 90 64 62 Taxi to ecstasy
- 09097 90 64 63 Black school mate fucks me
- 09097 90 64 64 Unexpected caller
- 09097 90 64 65 Hitch-hiker sucks
- 09097 90 64 66 Up my arse
- 09097 90 64 67 Fingering my mates smooth arse
- 09097 90 64 68 Italian stallion fucks 18yo
- 09097 90 64 69 Horny cum boy
- 09097 90 64 70 My mates horny son
- 09097 90 64 71 9" dad
- 09097 90 64 72 Golden showers, brown result



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Illustration: Paul Newbould www.myspace.com/valcorcity

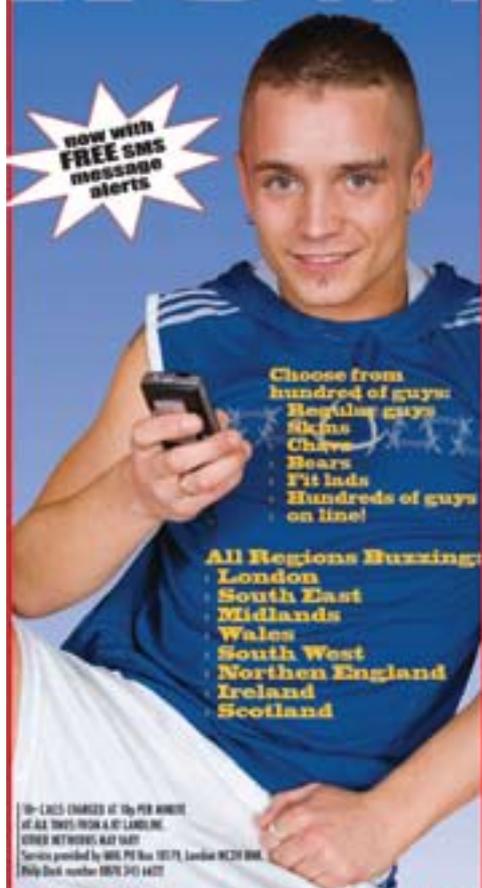


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