

bent

Issue 152 September 2011

mag.bent.com

GEORGE MICHAEL

SYMPHONICA TOUR

BEVERLY KNIGHT

A WHOLE LOT OF SOUL

BARCELONA CIRCUIT

FUN IN THE SUN

PRIDE ROUND UP



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& MUCH MUCH
MORE...



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MR GAY UK... IS BACK...

After a break of three years the contest that every gay boy can enter returns with heats being held all over the UK.

Terry George, the Leeds based gay entrepreneur, who owns the competition said: "I thought that maybe the contest had passed its sell by date and decided to put it on hiatus. However, the number of texts, messages, tweets... and just about everywhere I go... people kept asking me when the competition was returning, I reality, I just had to bring it back."

So, the competition that has made headlines, both good and bad, from when it first started is now searching for that new face, body and personality to become the next Mr Gay UK.

Being Mr Gay UK isn't a guarantee of stardom but, for a year, the title carries with it some responsibility (as well as earning the winner a fantastic prize). Over the years many winners have gone on to appear on TV, been sort after as a spokesman for the gay community on radio programmes and often quoted in the media. It's a role that some of the title holders have relished as they have been catapulted centre stage and requested to appear at various functions and charity event.

Over the years many star names have been associated with the contest: Lily Savage, Jason Donovan, Phil Oliver, Graham Norton, Jane McDonald, Sonia, Tim Vincent, Brian Dowling to name but a few of those who have hosted the Grand Final. While on the judging panel there has been an eclectic mix with everyone from Sir Ian McKellen, John Paul Gaultier, Denise Van Outen, Danny La Rue through to some of the biggest names from the country's top soap operas and reality shows.

The heats start this month and is open to every gay boy who wants to take a chance at becoming the next Mr Gay UK... are you bold enough? Are you confident enough? Check out your local club to see if they are holding a heat or go online to find where the nearest heat is taking place.

Many of the heats have their own prizes but the prize on everyone's mind is getting through to the Grand Final.

So, fish out your sexiest underwear and let's get this parade underway!



WWW.MRGAYUK.CO.UK



MR GAY UK



HEAT
CALENDAR

MR GAY UK 2011

- 27/08 - LONDONDERRY - ENVY BAR
- 03/09 - CARDIFF - PULSE
- 09/09 - BURNLEY - GUYS AS DOLLS
- 17/09 - STOKE - FIERCE MUSIC BAR
- 23/09 - NEWCASTLE - POWERHOUSE
- 24/09 - GLASGOW - BENNETS
- 30/09 - MANCHESTER - CRUZ 101
- 01/10 - BRISTOL - QUEEN SHILLING
- 07/10 - BELFAST - KREMLIN
- 08/10 - WALSALL - LION BAR AND CLUB
- 08/10 - MIDDLESBROUGH - SATUR-GAY @ BLU & BASEMENT
- 10/10 - DARLINGTON - PICK & MIX @ HARVEYS & GAYLICIOUS @ JOES BAR
- 14/10 - HULL - FUEL + PROPAGANDA
- 21/10 - SHEFFIELD - FUEL
- 22/10 - BIRMINGHAM - IHOST
- 28/10 - NOTTINGHAM - PROPAGANDA
- 29/10 - LEEDS - VIADUCT



Next Issue
27th September

ON THE COVER

George Michael
Courtesy: Caroline True



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Symphonica

The George Michael experience (sorry that sounds like a tribute act) has been a roller-coaster for him and his fans alike.

He was one half of the cutest, most musical pop duo ever, we all adored him – shorts and all. As a solo star he stunned us with his debut album and has kept us totally enthralled ever since. He struggled to 'come out' and admit he was gay, but we shared his suffering and applauded when he made the announcement. He was out and proud and lived his life for his own benefit not caring what others thought and we cheered his self-approval. Then suddenly we got worried. George was falling asleep at the wheel of his car, taking risks with his and other people's lives. We took a deep breath. He announced his last tour... and we cried. He seemed to have given up and let the pressures of the world get to him finding solace in drugs and who knew what else. We never stopped loving him but we were worried, especially when he was given a prison sentence after crashing his car into a photography store. We all wanted to know what was to become of the UK's most successful, talented singer/songwriter and would he emerge from his incarceration a different man?

Well now we can find out for ourselves because the cleaned-up, healthy and happy George Michael has embarked on his 'Symphonica' tour. George, complete with a 40 piece orchestra, has never toured on such a scale before but, as with every performance he does, we just know it will be spectacular. He will perform not only a carefully chosen selection of his songs, spanning all his remarkable, near 30-year career, but will cover some of his favourite songs from other artists. The music will be re-worked and re-arranged for the orchestra. This new classical setting will give each song added layers and new nuances. It's unmistakably George Michael, but not as we've ever known him.

Symphonica will be both a new musical direction for George, fulfilling a long-cherished artistic ambition and a significant cultural exchange, not least since many of the concerts will take place in specially selected venues - the first time George has played such settings - in countries including Denmark, Switzerland, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Ireland and the UK.

A much-loved, enduringly popular figure, George Michael's career has evolved from the era-defining pop of Wham! to a solo career of extraordinary lyrical beauty, genuine emotional depth and life-affirming melody. For all the spine-tingling intimacy of his music and his still-spectacular voice, George Michael fills stadiums and arenas across the globe, making the prospect of him appearing in the exclusive surrounds of the Symphonica tour more special still. A magical experience awaits singer and audience alike...

Photos: Caroline True

ON TOUR

OCTOBER

Tuesday 25th	London Royal Albert Hall
Wednesday 26th	London Royal Albert Hall
Friday 28th	London Royal Albert Hall
Saturday 29th	London Royal Albert Hall

NOVEMBER

Sunday 6th	London Royal Opera House
Saturday 26th	Cardiff Motorpoint Arena
Sunday 27th	Cardiff Motorpoint Arena
Wednesday 30th	Liverpool Echo Arena

DECEMBER

Friday 2nd	Sheffield Motorpoint Arena
Saturday 3rd	Newcastle Metro Radio Arena
Tuesday 6th	Glasgow SECC
Wednesday 7th	Glasgow SECC
Friday 9th	Birmingham LG Arena
Saturday 10th	Birmingham LG Arena
Monday 12th	Manchester MEN Arena
Tuesday 13th	Manchester MEN Arena
Friday 16th	London Earls Court
Saturday 17th	London Earls Court
Monday 19th	London Earls Court



Bites



Their eponymous debut album is out on 3rd October.

Gay Chorus sign to major label

Universal Records have announced that they have signed a 30 strong Gay Men's Chorus to join the label that is home to U2, Grace Jones, PJ Harvey and Paul Weller. The first ever major record deal for a gay men's chorus, an alternative choir, The Brighton & Hove Gay Men's Chorus will release their debut album of alternative music in October. From barman to baker, teacher to travel agent, The Brighton & Hove Gay Men's Chorus have come a long way since forming six years ago by John Hamilton and Jason Pimblett. The overall aim of the Chorus was to provide a community for gay men to share experiences, have fun but most importantly develop and learn vocal abilities and embrace new styles of music not often associated with the gay community.

In a move to dispel the clichés surrounding what one would expect to hear from a gay men's chorus, the album will feature a variety of unique interpretations and alternative arrangements of alternative/rock singles and B-sides, by artists such as Ian McCulloch (Echo and the Bunnymen), Radiohead, Neil Young, The Enemy, David Bowie and Nine Inch Nails. The album will also feature one original song.

With sights set firmly beyond the seafront of Brighton & Hove, this group of ordinary gay men from the South of England are reaching for the stars, with the hope of setting a brand new standard for the gay community, united in their love of singing.

Pride In The Sun!



For those of you still hankering after further pride celebrations but perhaps in the sun – Benidorm - one of Spain and Europe's top gay destinations is to host its first Gay Pride scheduled to take place next month from 21st – 23rd October under the auspices of the Benidorm Gay Business Association (BGBA) and Benidorm City Council.

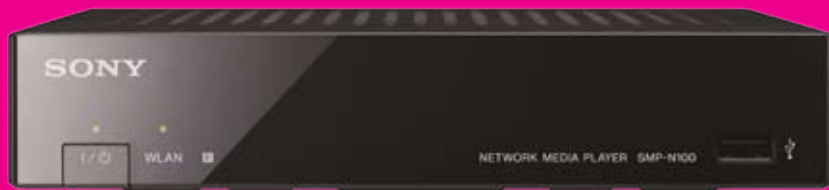
The BGBA, specially formed to organise the event Benidorm Pride - On the Beach! - comprises many local bars and businesses and a host of volunteers, who plan to make this a major fundraising event for various Spanish charities.

Rather than have the event concentrated in one single location, activities will be spread throughout the Old Town area of the city. A main stage on the beach, adjacent to the "gay village" will be the entertainment focal point for the event, with several satellite stages set up in other accessible parts of the town, centred around the many gay bars, restaurants and a host of other businesses, each with their own programmes of entertainment and special offers, throughout the weekend.

With the inclusion of high profile acts from Spain, the UK, Holland and Germany, Benidorm's first Pride promises to be a truly spectacular international event!

The organisers, who anticipate an influx of around 5-10, 000 visitors said: "Benidorm has everything one could wish for, for a Pride event of this sort – miles of beautiful, award winning beaches, a fabulous climate, great scenery, uniquely 3 massive theme parks in the area, and a host of international restaurants, tapas bars, and pubs."

www.benidormpride2011.com



SONY
make.believe

Sony has teamed up with Bent to offer 2 lucky readers the chance to win a brand new Sony SMP-N100 Netbox.

With the Sony SMP-N100 you can stream content through your existing TV in crisp, clear quality thanks to the built-in Wi-Fi technology and access a world of content including; BBC iPlayer, Demand 5, Music Unlimited, LOVEFiLM and stay up to date with breaking news via Sky News.

The Netbox is super easy to set up and will transform your existing or spare TV into a great source for movies, audio tracks and photos, displaying enhanced resolution with the Photo TV-HD.

The SMP-N100 hosts two USB ports and with a simple push of a button you can view all your holiday snaps and family videos on your TV whilst listening to your choice of music.

The XrossMedia Bar allows fast navigation as you browse and select the content of your choice. You can also control Netbox functions with your iPhone or Android device using the touchscreen interface.

For more information go to www.sony.co.uk or call 08705 111 999

For your chance to win the Sony SMP-N100, answer this simple question: Who invented the television? - A, Lionel Blair. B, John Logie Baird, C, Tony Blair.

Win This

Turn to page 78 for details



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to meet the guys
who have joined
and to find out
how you can be
part of it.





Fly like an Eagle

Win This
Turn to page 78 for details

Rob Eagle is a talented young singer/songwriter from Blackpool. He has set his hopes high with his new album, *The Clue to Life*, and we at Bent thought we'd catch up with him to chat about ambition, inspiration and fame.

comes, no matter how big you are. Right now I need to concentrate on getting my music heard. I need to keep working as hard as I possibly can to reach that dream.

When did you first realise you wanted to make music?

When I was 10 I attempted to write my first song, which I never finished. Then again at 14 I had another go and this time I finished. This I recorded at a local studio when I was 15, which gave me my first taste of life as a recording artist. I uploaded that first track to YouTube as a promotional video clip, to see if anyone was interested in what I had to offer as a singer. I've continued to write my own music, which I believe is very important. I have since returned to Bluebird Studio to work on the project that would become *The Clue to Life* album.

Who are your musical inspirations?

I am a huge fan of Chris Brown and really like all his work. He's a very talented dancer as well as a singer, and he has learned from his mistakes. He kept going even when he was hated and picked himself back up, which I respect him for. He knew he did wrong and he paid for that. He got punished and then bounced back, just as Rihanna did. I think it's made both of them stronger as artists, and I appreciate that. I think as an artist you have to be willing to admit your mistakes and grow from them, but it's important also not to let them drag you down. I also like male solo artists like Usher and Michael Jackson, and I love The

Script's style of songwriting. The feeling with which The Script write and the depth of their lyrics are really inspirational to me.

What are the last three tracks you listened to on your iPod?

'It Girl' by Jason Derulo, 'Dirty Dancer' by Enrique ft. Usher & Lil Wayne, 'Heart Skips a Beat' by Olly Murs.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time?

I hope to be a major recording artist performing at big arenas and collaborating with major artists. That's a big dream, but you have to dream big if you hope to get anywhere.

Photos: JKRRPhotography

www.robeaglemusic.co.uk

You're quite young, aren't you? How do you think fame and success might change a young person?

I am 17. I understand that fame at a young age can change a life. Not least because of how busy it would make you. But I hope I'd be strong enough not to let it control me.

If I was to become very successful I'd deal with it the way I do now by continuing to work hard and by bringing good music to people. I believe no one is perfect and that you can only get better at what you do by taking each step as it

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BIG SWITCH ON

You can always tell that autumn isn't far away when Blackpool announce the 'Big Turn On' of their world famous Illuminations. This year, visitBlackpool announced that TV's hottest funny man, Mr Keith Lemon will do the honours backed by a host of star guests and celebrities.

This North-west coast's party of the year includes multi-million selling artists Scouting For Girls and the queen of 'UK Soul,' Miss Beverley Knight along with former Savage Garden frontman Darren Hayes and X-Factor 'Man Band,' The Reason 4. These are just the latest names added to an already extensive line-up; James Morrison, Pixie Lott, Joe McElderry, Olly Murs, Paul Carrack, Wonderland and The Overtones for what promises to be a fantastic night to remember.

Keith said "I've dreamed of turning t' Blackpool Lights on ever since I could reach the light switch in me mam's front room. Me teacher at school said I was fick. I might be, but I know how to turn a light switch on and now that knowledge is gonna come in handy." He concluded in his own inimitable way; "Can't wait to come to Blackpool and turn you all on! Ooooh! Sha-ting!"

The show is by ticket only but huge screens will also broadcast the event to the huge crowd expected to make an appearance over the 2nd- 4th September celebration.

The lights will shine from **2nd September thru 6th November.**
www.visitblackpool.com/switchon

Photos: ITV & Mark S Jobling



KAOS
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www.kaosbar.co.uk
 Forthcoming events at Blackpool's favourite GAY venue

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Wednesday 7th September
CHRIS D' BRAY FREE ENTRY
 Blackpool's Favourite Returns



Friday 23rd September
Kelly Wilde
 Superb Recording Artiste



Wednesday 5th October
KIRSTY CRUISE FREE ENTRY
 You've seen Kevin, now see the sister!



Wednesday 26th October
TIFFANY WELLS FREE ENTRY
 One of the capitals longest serving amazing drag entertainers



Monday 31st October
EDWARD REID FREE ENTRY
 Be afraid - be very AFRAID! HALLOWEEN @ KAOS BAR



Wednesday 16th November
LAQUISHA JONZ FREE ENTRY
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Bites

All that glitters is not gold...

Following the massive success of the Justice Vogue Ball in 2010, Renowned Dance Company House of Suarez return with 'RUNWAY - The Death By Glitter Vogue Ball', which will stomp into the Black-E, Great George St, Liverpool on Saturday 1st October.

For one night only club culture meets high art in a dazzling battle for supremacy on the Runway. If you thought Harry Potter and Lord Voldemort had the ultimate fight to the death, you were wrong. This is the fiercest fight that you'll see in 2011 and it'll be the most magical one of them all.

Hosted by the one and only Rikki Beadle Blair, the Death by Glitter Vogue Ball promises a feast to the eyes and the senses. Glitter is the one thing on this menu, so get ready to splurge.

Filled with seriously sexy human specimens, bizarre creatures, lady-boys and everything else in-between when the Vogue Ball rocks up to put the bass back in your walk in what promises to be Liverpool's most glittering event of 2011.

A dance form popular in the 1970s and 80s, Vogueing began in the New York gay scene as a non-aggressive battle between two feuding individuals or group (houses) who chose to use dance instead of violence to settle differences. Vogueing often imitated the perfect lines and flexibility of model poses seen in fashion magazine such as Vogue, from which the dance got its name. No touching was allowed during vogue challenges, even though dancers would often become intertwined in each other's extended arms, legs and hand moves. The Voguer with the best dance moves was declared the winner of the battle. There were different styles of the vogue, including pantomimes or moves imitating the challenger. The Death By Glitter Vogue Ball will showcase this stunning form of dance, which is now synonymous with Madonna's massive 1990s hit 'Vogue'.

For a short video introduction to Vogueing and the Vogue Ball, check out <http://bit.ly/oRwgbA>



FAIRYtales by Allan Christian Hansen



The Smiths – Complete

For some people of a certain age there was only ever one band that made any sense to their youthful vision of the world, and that band was the Smiths. The band fragmented many years ago but with each passing year new and excited listeners suddenly get what 'life' is all about.

The Smiths have grown to be one of Britain's all-time most influential groups. Often borrowed from, rarely matched, no band since has truly captured the incredible dynamic of Johnny Marr's musical genius and Morrissey's lyricism. Completed by Andy Rourke on bass and Mike Joyce on drums, the band are often cited as the key precursors to Britpop and all that came with it, inspiring a slew of bands to form and intrinsically changing the face of British music forever.

The collection includes all four of the band's studio albums – 'The Smiths' (1984), 'Meat Is Murder' (1985), 'The Queen Is Dead' (1986), 'Strangeways, Here We Come' (1987) and their sole live album 'Rank' (1988) as well as firm fan favourite compilations 'Hatful Of Hollow' (1984), 'The World Won't Listen' (1987) and 'Louder Than Bombs' (1987). Speaking of the releases, Johnny Marr says: "I'm very happy that the re-mastered versions of The Smiths albums are finally coming out. I wanted to get them sounding right and remove any processing so that they now sound as they did when they were originally made. I'm pleased with the results."

(Taken from www.johnny-marr.com)

For more info and availability go to: www.rhino.co.uk/th smithscomplete



Mysterious Skin

In Kansas, Brian gets blackouts and has missing hours in his life. He looks for them with alien abductee Avalyn, who is lonely and looking for her next close encounter!

In New York, street hustler Neil loves sex with older men, while his friend Wendy worries. In a deeply moving twist, their parallel lives link to unlock the past in Prince Gomolvilas' adaptation of Scott Heim's world-famous book and cult film.

The truth is out there... And it sets you free.

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18th – 20th September

www.drillhall.co.uk/skin or
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10th & 17th September		17th & 24th September		1st & 8th October	
City	Agency	City	Agency	City	Agency
Brighton	THT	Birmingham	THT & HGL	Leicester	TRADE
London	GMFA	Bristol	THT	15th & 22nd October	
Manchester	LGF	Leeds	YORKSHIRE MESMAC	Truro	EDDYSTONE TRUST
Newcastle	MESMAC NE	Nottingham	HGN		
		Southampton	GCHS		

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ALBUMS

By Adam Lowe



JOE GODDARD

Gabriel
26th September

Gabriel is Joe Goddard's new album of celestial electronica, which descends upon us in spools of gold strobe lighting. Gospel and house make this a light, euphoric EP, which opens as it does with the haunting grooves of 'Gabriel', which soars on the spectral vocals of Valentina, and yet ripples with touches of late 90s garage. 'All I Know' is an autotuned, broken, stripped back lament and 'Jump' begins in similar territory to 'Gabriel' but descends into a more experimental frenzy of awesomeness towards the end. Though concise, Goddard touches upon a range of styles and epochs, while nevertheless maintaining a consistent tone throughout.



FABIAN

Goodbye
5th September

Timetravelling sonic pioneer Fabian searches new frontiers for the dance version of warp space. These ambient soundscapes can only be described as madness wrapped up in electric dreams. There are moments of psychedelic West Coast hip-hop that flare up between electro-pop, Italo disco and freestyle influences. There are definite shades of Daft Punk, but with an LA vocal house vibe. This is hazy, crazy and off-the-wall.



HARDCORE HEAVEN

Summer Madness
Out Now

This triple CD compilation encompasses no less than 64 tracks. From the likes of Chris Fear to Darren Styles to Scott Brown, just about every contemporary hardcore name pops up on this exhaustive mix by Dougal & Gammer, Sy & Unknown and Joey Riot & Kurt (with each pair taking the reins on one CD each). This is the ultimate hardcore summer album for fast-lane music lovers.



JOSH MILAN PRESENTS

Honeycomb Music, Vol. 1
5th September

Legendary producer/songwriter Josh Milan drops this fantastic new double album dripping with soulful gems. Josh, who recorded this at home, seems determined to inject the soul and instrumentation back into house music. The result is a lush tapestry of true dancefloor soul, full of the very best in collaborators, including Cassio Ware, Dawn Tallman and Sandra St Victor.



RESPECT LA DIVA

A spectacular musical celebration paying tribute to the greatest female singers of all-time. World Premiere production – Live on Stage!

Featuring a cast of amazingly talented West End singers & dancers and with a stunning live band, Respect La Diva is packed with over 30 classic songs by diva greats including Diana Ross, Tina Turner, Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, Etta James, Shirley Bassey, Mariah Carey, Beyoncé, Dusty Springfield, Alicia Keys & many more.

Cast includes: The incredible vocal talent of Sheila Ferguson (The Three Degrees), Denise Pearson (Five Star), Katy Setterfield (The One & Only) & Zoe Birkett (Pop/Idol West End). Hosted by X-Factor finalist Andy Abrahams.

Garrick Theatre, London From 7th – 24th September
www.respectladiva.com

Manchester best gay-friendly destination

Manchester has been named the best gay-friendly destination in the world ahead of San Francisco, Sydney and Amsterdam.

The title has been awarded by Expogays, a Spanish based Gay Business and Tourism Fair, which showcases gay friendly businesses, tourism destinations and specialised products to more than 15,000 visitors.

Manchester has been recognised for the respect and tolerance it shows

to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

Andrew Stokes, chief executive of Marketing Manchester, said: "Manchester has always been a tolerant city and this award confirms that. It's great to recognise the sense of community that LGBT people bring to the area".

For more information about Manchester's gay tourism, visit:

www.visitmanchester.com/lgbt



Manchester's Favourite Gay Venue

Pink Paper
readers'
awards
2011

Winner
Best Club
In The
North West

CRUZ 101



MrGAYUK

Friday 30th September

Join Miss Cara & the Cruz team as
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Mr Gay UK entry 2011

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SINGLES

By Adam Lowe



SUGABABES
Freedom
5th September

This month the UK's most successful game of musical chairs . . . sorry, girl band, hits the charts with new single 'Freedom'. Unfortunately, the girls have gone from being one of the sassiest outfits in Brit girl pop to being yet another plastic Fembot ensemble. Although there are hints of dub-step, overall 'Freedom' lacks the grimy urban edge that made Sugababes the harder counterpart to Girls Aloud. Now the band is barely on level pegging with The Saturdays. Only Heidi's voice really stands out, and I'm left wondering if Mutya, Keisha and Siobhan can't reform to give girl pop its balls back?



CEE LO GREEN
Cry Baby
12th September

As evidenced by the sublime 'Fuck You', Cee Lo Green is a master at pastiching the upbeat optimism of the love song. With 'Cry Baby' he does it again, setting all the musical traits of a bright, light-hearted love song against lyrics which, while dealing in the clichéd language of the love song, express something much darker between the lines. In parodying the affectations of the popular musical love story, he picks apart that selfsame genre, and shows up how hollow it really is.



ASHLEY NOOT
Song About You
19th September

This is a catchy, feisty pop song with rock energy that packs a punch! This break-up record is sure to be a hit with angry gays and angry girls across the world. It's no wonder then that Ashley Noot is fast becoming a gleaming star in the world of guitar pop. Ashley is Kelly Clarkson for the new decade, with crystal-clear vocals and just the right amount of sass.



JASON DERULO
It Girl
19th September

The man who made himself famous by singing his own name returns with 'It Girl'. Irritating, predictable and . . . meh. If you weren't driven insane by every chav in the country singing 'Jason Deruuuuulo!', the sickening faux-folk whistling, schmaltzy lyrics, half-arsed chorus and lazy rhymes will definitely do you in this time.

Live & Remastered- MOS 20th Anniversary Boxset

Win This
Turn to page 78 for details



2011 is a significant milestone in Ministry of Sound's continuing evolution marking the 20th anniversary of the South London venue opening its doors as an alcohol-free nightclub dedicated to house music on 21st September 1991. As you'd expect from the label that sparked the DJ mix album revolution (and today's leading compilation provider), Ministry of Sound are celebrating their 20th anniversary with this album, 'Live & Remastered'.

What you have before you is not just a deliciously put together compilation; 'Live & Remastered' is a time capsule. For in the early days, the men and women at Ministry of Sound hit the record button on their DAT machine each week and captured what were not just great sets by the era's finest DJs, but also a slice of dance music history, too.

The sets you are about to load on your desktop or place on your CD player are not recreated from archaeologists' dust or polycarbonate moulding, but actual live recordings of five DJs at the peak of their game: Larry Levan, David Morales, Kenny Carpenter, Todd Terry and resident and co-founder, Justin Berkmann.

Out: 19th September - MOS

To be in with a change of winning this fantastic album just answer this simple question:
What year did the Ministry of Sound open in London?

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A Whole Lotta Soul

British soul queen Beverley Knight has officially made her return to music with the release of her brand new album 'Soul UK'.



In her latest album she pays tribute to the British soul artists who inspired her, including Soul II Soul, Omar and Roachford. Here, Ryan Houston speaks to her about her influences behind the new album and her luck in the music industry.

What first got you interested in music?

There was no single incident that got me into music. It has just always seemed to be in my life. I come from generations of musicians, and we had the piano in our house which we all played so, from there, I just developed a passion for the creation of music and performing it.

Who influences you and your music?

My writing is based on everyday life, in turn influencing my singing and power to emote. You have to feel that to put pen to paper or really sing (as opposed to just recording a series of notes strung together as a melody, there is a huge difference!). I am a Prince fan and his work has influenced me greatly.

How would you describe your new album?

My new album is a labour of love. I wanted to celebrate the work of British soul/R&B artists and songs; the very people who are mostly forgotten heroes who created the climate of success that I and every artist in this area has since enjoyed. I don't believe it gets the respect it deserves. It is the first time in my career that I have put together an album without writing it.

You're about to embark on tour do you enjoy the buzz from meeting your fans?

I always have enjoyed the thrill of meeting those people who support me. Without my fans I don't exist and I certainly wouldn't be where I am today, so it's great to actually have the chance to be able to interact with them on a tour.

In your opinion, what was it that made you a success: hard work or good luck?

I was lucky to have been spotted almost 19 years ago singing in a Wolverhampton club. After that everything I have has been down to old fashioned hard work. It's important to remember that British R&B/soul was an anathema to British radio when I came on the scene. That has changed in the past 6-7 years but not radically. I have swum upstream against the tide my entire career but I wouldn't alter a note of what I do musically. It is who I am.

What can fans expect from you in the future?

I will continue to make music until my body says no more!!! In heels! And a smile! I will tour until the end. Nothing makes me happier and my fans love it so I have to keep doing it.

Album: Soul UK out now

www.beverleyknight.com

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DANCE TRAX

With Jason Guy

The big news this month is that Manchester's most loved house night – Freakshow is returning to the city for its second birthday. Full details are to be released shortly, but rumour has it it's set to return around Hallowe'en time... perfect timing eh? As usual, you can download my monthly podcast - simply search for 'Jason Guy' in iTunes or download directly from www.jasonguy.podomatic.com. If you'd like to see your track, club, or event featured here, contact me at jason@bent.com.



Cyber Club
There's Nothing I Won't Do
 (Turbulence Records)

A remake of one of the biggest club tracks of the 1990's, the JX anthem 'There's Nothing I Won't Do'. This classic was huge back in the day so it's set to be just as big this time around, especially as Cyber Club have called upon the original vocalist Shena, to deliver a massive reworking of the vocal. There's a big remix package from the likes of Super Stylers and Loverush, but I'd head straight to Nev Scott's offering, which keeps the huge piano breakdown, while giving the track a more underground feel.



Chris Bangs ft Rita Campbell
Warm Weather (Ispirato)

'Warm Weather' was a massive club hit from Chris and Rita back in 2000, when it was originally released by Sony. Now it's back with some excellent remix treatments for 2011 dancefloors courtesy of UK dance label Ispirato, with house, progressive and trance all covered. Rita Campbell, best known for 'It's The Way You Make Me Feel' sings her heart out here, with this huge summer anthem. Best mix for me is Atlantic Drift's Balearic style version. Driving beats and Spanish guitars.



CeCe Rogers & Syke'n'Sugarstarr
I Believe (Ibiza World Records)

About three years ago this team-up already fascinated the house scene with their remake of the classic 'No Love Lost'. The summer of 2011 brings a brand new track from the legendary US Vocalist and songwriter CeCe Rogers called 'I Believe', once again produced by Syke'n'Sugarstarr. 'I Believe' stands out with its soulful, melodic hook, based on a massively grooving beat-section, while CeCe Rogers' unique voice brings the track to the next level... soul. There's a massive remix package on Chris Montana's new record label, but nothing 'quote' - beats the feel of the original version though.



WaWa
Sunrise (WaWa Traxx)

Hot on the heels of club smash 'The After Party 2011' comes a superb offering from the WaWa boys! This main room monster has an incredibly infectious bassline that just builds and builds until out of nowhere comes a drop to make those hairs stand on end at the peak of your night. One of the most infectious instrumentals I've heard in ages and seeing as there's samples of thunder and lightning in it, it's perfect for the end of the English summer!



Whats on // Leeds

Following an action packed Summer, Leeds' biggest gay nights, Homo and Back Door Disco, are launching into the Autumn with a huge events schedule, promising a bigger and better clubbing experience than ever before.

Back Door Disco will return on Saturday 17th September and Homo on Monday 18th September with huge opening parties. Both will be bringing bigger and better clubbing events to the city's gay community but still keeping prices rock bottom and with the best DJ talent in the North.

Both events will take a short holiday at the beginning of September, whilst their host venue – Mission 2 on Lower Briggate – undergoes a revamp. This refurb will bring the latest in clubbing technology to Leeds. Both Mission 1 and 2 will feature interactive LED DJ boxes in their dance rooms and a completely new outdoor terrace area and a stunning new VIP room. Be sure to see it for yourself!

From September right until Christmas, Homo and Back Door Disco will be bringing huge parties to the city's gay scene each week, including the gay Fresher's party on Saturday 1st October, where Freshers can get in free before 1am. For more information go to:

www.clubmission.com




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BEYONCE

BEAUTY AND THE FREAKS

Porn this way

Porn used to be a dirty word. It's pretty much in the mainstream now. Even among straights. I know many straight girls who want to do porn. That is, as much as I 'know' any breeders (which isn't really that much).

And it seems the thrill is no longer just in the watching. People get off just as much on being watched—sometimes even more so. The more voyeurs they have begging them to 'cum now' or 'milk it', the harder they get. It's a trend which crosses genders and sexualities.

After all, how often do you log onto Cam4 to see some 'straight' guy whacking off for 400 gay guys? Most of them won't even get their pants off till they know their audience is into double figures. It's as if they can only get it up for a small army of perverts sat in their darkened bedrooms, cock-in-hand.

People are not only watching porn, they want to be a part of it. They're making their own and uploading it to Xtube. People who'd never consider walking the streets nevertheless will do whatever you ask for a fiver via PayPal when logged into Skype.

I'm not sure what the next step is—probably porn you can walk into. Or maybe cyborg models you can control from your keyboard.

But it does make you wonder what happened to real sex? People seem lazier when it comes to interaction. Why bother going out to see your mates when you can just drop them a half-arsed 'Hi, how r u?' on Facebook? Digital interaction is easy and throwaway. It means we don't have to try any more.

There are other flaws, of course. How do you know it's not a dirty old man sat at the other end? Hell, you might like that. But what if it's some underage girl instead? Doesn't that make you a little queasy? And if you're one of the people with a fake persona and stolen pics, how do you know you're not secretly wanking off to your own mother while she's in the next room? The person at the other end could be anyone.

I've often seen gay men pretending to be women on chatrooms to lure straight men into stripping off. I admire their resourcefulness, of course, but usually I end up flinching at how obvious they make the whole thing. Surely these straight guys know what's actually happening? Maybe that's where the real thrill of it is.

I am beginning to wonder, though. Does anyone prefer the real thing? I get bored chatting to people endlessly online. It's always a front. You can no more tell someone's real personality from a computer screen than you can tell if the pictures they've got are accurate or not. Whereas TinEye might reveal those fakers who've stolen pics from a straight guy on Faceparty, there's no TinEar to tell you if those lines they're using have been used elsewhere or whether they truly reflect a person's personality.

For that reason I would always try to move the conversation to a meet. Isn't that the point? I have too many online friends; I don't need more.

Cyber sex has its uses. Often the imagination can be far more interesting than real life. But there comes a time when you need a good, hard dose of reality (right up the bumhole). Right?



Whats on // Middlesbrough

Who says 'it's grim up north'?

Middlesbrough may not be the first place on your list for a gay night out, but one Gay Venue is booking the trend, and proving that it's not always 'Grim up North'.

Blu Bar Middlesbrough celebrated its first Birthday in March and 18 months in is busier than ever. Hosting this year's 'Middlesbrough Pride', the 10th September promises to be one of the biggest nights of the year on the North East scene with thousands of revellers hitting Middlesbrough's streets for a HUGE party with a Cabaret Stage, Outdoor Dance Arena and performance by X Factor Finalist Rachel Adedeji. Every week the bar and sister club BASEMENT play host to SATUR-GAY, now in its 5th year, Teesside's biggest venue continues to attract big name PAs and Drag Acts and

has truly put Middlesbrough's Scene on the UK's Gay Map. Sundays are reserved for pure Camp in Pop Boudoir, think Musicals, Show Tunes and Cheese for 8 hours with the award winning Duchess Davinya and guests.

So, Priscilla's, for your next road trip, why not head across the desert to Middlesbrough and sample the delights of one of the UK's hidden treasures!

Blu Middlesbrough, Albert Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 2RU - 01642 220040

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A little more summer heat with Frixion

Formed four years ago when college buddies Neil Painter and David Stanton decided to start up a new unique boy band with an RnB edge, Frixion became a working trio after they held open auditions and found Johnny Wright.

For the past couple of years they have toured with the likes of Jessie J, Tinie Tempah and Titchy Stryder, amongst others, as well as being announced as one of N-DUBZ official support acts for their 'Uncle B' UK Tour.

The new single 'Under the Influence' is excellent, how did it come about and who came up with the video?

Neil: basically we were in London recording the album and our producer Hypertone played us the demo...

David: ...we fell in love with it instantly and knew we could add our own swing to it!

Johnny: The video was actually directed by a guy called Sesan. He's done work for N-Dubz in the past and has just been working on Kanye West's latest video in Africa!

You're just about to start another tour but what has been the highlight of your career so far?

Neil: We have so many! Me personally was for Dappy to come up to us during our N-Dubz tour and say that watching us on stage makes him want to take up singing lessons! We got a good bond with them during that time. Really good experience!

David: For me it was when we did our gigs with Jessie J, she said we were the best vocal band around, which coming from her, meant a lot! So happy she finally got her big break this year!

Johnny: Mine has to be just meeting people on the road in general. Having their songs blasting on your iPod one day, then talking to them in the Green Room the next! It's quite surreal! We did a gig with McFly last year and Harry came up to me and introduced himself. There was a little teenager in me wanting to go 'I KNOW WHO YOU ARE!' But I kept my cool and just said 'Hey mate, I'm Johnny' haha

What is the one thing, besides a van, do you absolutely need to make touring bearable?

Neil: This is gonna sound really sappy, but each other! We are only on stage for around 30-40 minutes at a time, the rest of our tour is spent in the van, in hotel rooms or out and about. So it's good we've got each other to keep company!

David: Yea, we see a lot of solo artists on the road and it's ok if you've got your friends with you, but we're grateful to have each other all the time!

Johnny: Also earphones for when they start to become annoying. Jokes!

You work hard and gig around to show you're not some manufactured, thrown together, band so how do you feel about these bands directly off 'talent' shows that haven't put in the work but walk off with a contract?

Neil: It depends on the artist really. It can be frustrating when you've been in the game for as long as we have and overnight another group comes along. But at the same time reality shows do produce a lot of genuine talent.

David: Every year when X Factor comes around, a lot of our friends say 'Ohh you should of gone for it! You would have won it!' But even some of the winners aren't guaranteed success.

We'd much rather graft the hard way and get recognition for it!

Johnny: The good thing with it is there aren't any other groups out there doing what we do at the moment. And even if there was, it's like N-Dubz, whether people like our music or not, they respect that we've been grafting for so long and worked so hard for it. You don't get that with many 'reality' show acts.

You've toured with some other great acts, who did you enjoy most and who, if anyone, would you love to tour with?

Neil: Jessie J for me, we did it in her early days so would be wicked to see her again!

David: N-Dubz, their taking a break at the moment but would be wicked to reunite with them.

Johnny: We've done a few shows with The Wanted and they are sound! When we first started doing gigs, there were no boy bands around, just us and JLS, before they went on The X Factor. Since then there has been a crazy amount of boy bands popping up and we've done a lot of gigs with them over the years, but The Wanted by far have been the nicest.

If you hadn't got the band together, what other careers did you have planned?

Neil: I'd probably want to go into fashion.

David: I would probably set up my own business. Or even go into the army, I've always been fascinated with that.

Johnny: I think whatever I'd be doing, it'd involve entertainment. TV presenting, acting or even doing theatre productions. It's my passion so I don't think I'd want to do anything else!

When you get the time, what do you do to relax? (Sport or social)

Neil: I like to just chill in my home, watch TV and spend quality time with my friends

David: I enjoy going to the gym, I like to keep in shape when we're not on the road.

Johnny: I just like to pop home to catch up with my family and friends, then whack my American Dad boxset on and chill out really!

Are we going to see you at many Pride events this year?

Neil: Yea... we've already done Blackpool and Birmingham...

David: and Brighton Pride!

Johnny: We always enjoy doing Pride events, the atmosphere is incredible and everyone is just there to have a good time.

You seem to have got yourself quite a strong gay following, how do you feel about that?

Neil: It's wicked, whenever we go to gay clubs we always get spotted, which is cool.

David: We love doing gay nightclubs because they are always up for a laugh and there's never any trouble.

Johnny: We get a lot of supportive messages from our gay fans on Facebook, we've had to set up more than one profile so we can accept everybody and one of my FB profiles have more guys than girls on it! They're very supportive.

And for all those gay fans... What is your favourite style and brand of underwear?

Neil: Diesel!

David: Emporio Armani

Johnny: Calvin Klein

Under the Influence out 12th September
www.myspace.com/frixionstyle



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Bites

Creamy Goodness

Last month Covent Garden opened its doors to the world's first gay ice cream bar.

With a whole host of goodies now available to gay men visiting the capital, 'Queens of the Dessert' is a pop-up ice cream parlour with a difference by the brains behind 'The Icecreamists'. Until Friday 30th September this strictly

over 18's ice cream haven will promise to bring the gay men ice cream treats galore and more.

Get ready boys for the treat of your lives with Mr Wippy aka Sandro Squillace baring all in the store's window, showing you his wicked ways with ice cream.

If ice cream's not your thing 'Queens of

the Dessert' are also offering a range of wines and beers to cool your down. 'Vice Queen' and manager Graeme Clarke said: 'This is ice cream by queens for queens. We wanted to create a fun, adult over 18's ice cream bar with a twist this summer.'

www.theicecreamists.com

Gay Marriage

In the UK we've had the Civil Partnership for several years now but in the US, each state seems to have its own problems getting pro-gay legislature through. However, recently, New York had some success and now couples are flocking to the city to pledge their lives to each other. One thing that struck us here at Bent was some of the humorous signs that were used to rally the crowd and defeat those who have no interest in equal rights.

Enjoy!



Turn 2 Dust

Boy George releases a re-mix version of his Ordinary Alien album track Turn 2 Dust on the 5th September followed a week later on the 12th with the release of the reggae remix package.

On this political and highly emotional track Boy George sings "Chi Chi man everywhere you turn" - addressing the growing lack of tolerance towards gay men and women and asking for all hatred and ignorance to 'Turn To Dust'. Says Boy George: "I like to write songs that have a message and not just put your hands in the air kind of stuff. I still believe a great song with a strong message can be life changing!"

Now his record company Decode are to release the remix package of Turn 2 Dust - consisting of mixes from rising superstar DJ/Producer David Jones, and up and coming producer duo Bootik (Bartosz Brenes & Timofey Reznikov) - with additional remixes arrive from scene star Kris Di Angelis who delivers his own diverse slant on George's original.



Godspell - 40th Anniversary Concert

Award winning West End star DANIEL BOYS will join the previously announced West End and Broadway singing sensation KERRY ELLIS in the 40th anniversary concert version of Stephen Schwartz's smash-hit musical 'Godspell'.

The production coincides with the Broadway revival of Grammy Award winning composer, Stephen Schwartz's first ever musical. One of the biggest Broadway successes of all

time, Godspell is based primarily on the Gospel According to St. Matthew. Featuring a sparkling, seminal score by Stephen Schwartz, Godspell boasts a string of recognizable songs, led by the international hit, Day By Day.

The Palace Theatre, Manchester
Friday 21st October @ 8pm

www.manchesterpalace.org.uk

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BARCELONA CIRCUIT FESTIVAL 2011

by Chris Geary.com

The 10 day event held at the beginning of August in Barcelona Spain is the largest gay and lesbian event in Europe, if not the world.



10 days of massive parties, after hours and day time pool parties; plus many free day time activities such as conferences, speeches, art and film. Plus the infamous Mar Bella gay beach is a popular 'must do' experience to hang out with a Sangria and socialize with the boys. But if all the gay activities get too much, just exploring the beautiful unique Barcelona city architecture is amazing.

Even in this tough time of a world recession this fourth edition of Circuit Festival was bigger and better than ever. With just three previous editions and more than 140,000 attendees, the Matinee Group organizers continue to work with other major party promoters

and DJ's around the world to bring us all together in a Pride style atmosphere with a cherry on top.

If the full 10 days of parties is simply too much, then just go for 5 or 6 days. Make sure the Gay Water Park Day at Illa Fantasia is first included in your schedule (get there early). This year it was on Tuesday 9th August and nearly everyone we chatted to agreed it was the best event of them all. The other two "extra spectacular" events were the Goa Beach Club Pool Party on Thursday 11th, and on Saturday 13th, the day time Splash Pool Party at Complex Esportiu L'H Nord followed by the Main Party at its new venue next door. »





Matinee Group had this to say: "This was the year of 'bigger and better than ever', because we offer you more days, more parties and more activities to make you enjoy your summer like never before. We want to keep surprising our audience and making possible that, year after year, our audience enjoys Barcelona and the Circuit Experience as if it was their first time ever. That's why we wanted the fourth edition of Circuit Festival to consolidate Barcelona as the Mediterranean gay capital and turn the city into the real international gay epicenter during the first fortnight of August. We will keep caring for every detail to make sure that you have to care for just one thing... to enjoy the best summer of your life."

More details: www.CircuitFestival.net

Matinee also has big parties in Amnesia nightclub, Ibiza every Saturday. Its big closing party will be on Saturday 1st October: www.MatineeGroup.com



A Loose Woman

on the Road



Jane McDonald rocketed to stardom in 1998 when she first appeared on our screens in the BBC 1 docusoap The Cruise, as top of the bill on board the ship 'The Galaxy'.

The series attracted 13 million viewers and Jane McDonald emerged as a star and household name, an incredible 13 years later her career continues to take her to amazing heights. We caught up with Jane to find out what fans can expect from her upcoming tour.

What first got you interested in performing and music?

When I was 7 years old my parents decided to move and we were looking at new houses. One of the houses had a piano in it and I couldn't tear myself away. My grandmother looked at my mother and said "we need to get a piano", I then took piano lessons for the next 7 yrs.

How was life on the cruise ships? Was it a vigorous schedule?

Life on the cruise ships was FANTASTIC! It was one of the best experiences ever. I travelled the world on a luxury liner for 8 years, sang my heart out every night and got paid for it. It was a vigorous schedule, 10 shows a week. But it was a blast.

We haven't heard a lot from you over recent months, what have you been up to?

It's funny how if you're not on the TV everyone thinks you're dead! My feet have not touched the ground in a year, I have been working putting a new team together, new band, new Musical Director, new songs etc, also I have been writing some new songs for my next album which will be out next year. I've also completed a spring tour this year and I'm getting ready to go back on the road from

September for 2 months!. I also produced the new show, and designed all the costumes I wear with my very talented Seamstress.

Over the past few years you've been a regular on our screens as a panel member of Loose Women but sadly you departed last year - How was being on Loose Women for you and was it hard to leave?

I absolutely loved being a Loose Women for six and a half years and the only reason I left was because it went live every day. It was extremely difficult to leave; thankfully the door is open for me to return when I have a little more time to do so.

You are, to say the least, a huge icon to gay men how does it feel to have such a big following of fans?

I am very flattered with the icon tag, but think you are being too generous. I am thrilled to have so many gay followers and I love it, but think the icon league is maybe a little way off yet, but I'm working on it!

Later this year you'll be setting off on tour, do you enjoy meeting fans and interacting with them in that kind of environment?

The great thing about being on tour is the connection with the fans. I recognise so many now and know a lot by their names. I feel very blessed and grateful to them for their loyalty and support over all the years.

What can fans expect from you in the future?

My fans can expect a party every night on the Autumn Tour! We have the big Diva songs like "You're My World", "This Is The Moment" and the DreamGirls section, plus we have Motown and Disco Medleys. Gowns to die for, comedy banter with myself and the one and only Sue Ravey. Plus, I am working on a brand new album which will be out in 2012, and there are some very exciting new projects that I'm working on, so there's lots to look forward to!

Jane's autumn tour dates can be found at: www.jane-mcdonald.com and www.facebook.com/janemcdonald



Win This

Turn to page 78 for details



Doris Day - My Heart

This exciting collection is Doris Day's first studio album of new material in 17 years; a dozen songs of a timeless quality, with nine brand-new recordings produced by Day's late son, Terry Melcher, plus a trio of Day classics.

The iconic movie and recording star has been fully involved with the musical selections for this special release. Her son Terry Melcher - who was known as a songwriter and producer for folk-rock pioneers The Byrds ("Mr. Tambourine Man") and other artists - co-wrote four of the new songs with Beach Boys member Bruce Johnston: the emotional title track 'My Heart,' the romantic 'The Way I Dreamed It,' the haunting 'Happy Endings' - sung by Melcher with a newly recorded spoken-word introduction by Day for her fans - and the catchy new Doris Day single release 'Heaven Tonight.'

Also on the set list are three classic rock-era favourites: 'You Are So Beautiful', 'Daydream' and 'Disney Girls'. "I had to sing some modern songs," Doris remarks, "because I had already done all the old ones." Ms. Day says that she's delighted her music has withstood the test of time and that she still has a loyal listenership, spanning the generations. "It's just such a thrill, and I'm honoured" she says.

My Heart - 5th September - Sony Music

www.DorisDay.com

To be in with a chance to win a copy of this fantastic album, simply answer this question.

Doris Day starred in a series of RomCom movies opposite Rock_____?



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HOW SOON IS NOW?

By Adam Lowe

How Soon is Now? was a devised performance piece created with writer, performer, DJ and former Mayoress of Camden, Amy Lamé. It was directed by misfit performance genius Scottee.

before and after her death) and 'Chipwrap Collage' (a fictional tale of two people who kill themselves with a broken pint glass, in the gutter, while being uploaded to YouTube, just for a bit of attention).

As part of the tour for her work-in-progress show, Amy Lamé's Unhappy Birthday, modern wonderwoman Amy and her best friend Scottee will be conducting outreach workshops with young writers and performers to develop the How Soon is Now? shows. I had been captured under despicable circumstances and forced to take part in this shocking (and yet fabulous) depravity, which would be the blueprint for those that followed.

The night was fun, emotional and powerful, and I genuinely think the audience was moved. A number of people came up to me afterwards and thanked or congratulated me for my Amy Winehouse poem.

It followed with a short scratch performance from Unhappy Birthday: an interactive show-cum-birthday party, where Amy Lamé played pass-the-parcel with the audience, forced Bollocks' drag queen Sheena Blige to do karaoke unannounced, and tried to deal with her unhealthy obsession with Morrissey (who has never, ever come to any of her birthday parties, despite being invited numerous times).

Amy ate lots of cake. She wrote words on the wall with (unused) sanitary towels. She kept weighing herself. But most of all she went nuts over Morrissey, and even hacked off her hair during a hilarious dance routine set to The Smiths' broody song 'How Soon is Now?'

All in all, it was mental—and I loved it!

How Soon is Now? and Amy Lamé's Unhappy Birthday will be touring theatres around the country soon. You can find out more details at:

www.amylame.com

.....
Last month I was invited to take part in a series of workshops at Contact Theatre in Manchester, not realising that I had been unwittingly drafted into an interactive performance with one of the UK's most exciting and dangerous creatives.
.....

The night came together as a cabaret of sorts, with the aptly-named Afreena Islam giving a striptease out of her burkha and into her normal clothes (shorts and a T-shirt), while Bekke Platt did a reverse striptease from her underwear into the burkha afterwards. Meanwhile, Philip Brankin was a Jewish tiger, prowling around for just the right gazelle to nosh on, and I was transformed into the 'Tabloid Wino'. Although it was my own idea to do this, I was nevertheless held still by many arms, as they built me a beehive out of tabloid newspapers (complete with fringe and ponytail). Then, using some left-over silver giftwrap Amy Lamé had left lying around I was masking-taped into what appeared to be a 50s-style girl group dress. The end result was . . . let's say, unforgettable. I stood up and performed two poems: 'Tragic Amy's World of Pain' (a poem composed entirely of headlines and newspaper quotes about Amy,

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.....
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So prepare for a night to remember, an opportunity to be whisked to Bangkok and back, what are you waiting for, be a part of 'Fur Coats And French Knickers!'

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INTERVIEW

.....

How does a good traditional Mormon boy and then father of two turn into a rent boy addicted to crystal meth, and how do you survive that and come out the other side?

.....



THE MORMON BOY CONFESIONS

We sent Simon Savidge to meet Stephen Fales, a man who has been through just such times and turned it into a stage show, to find out.

This sounds a great story, so how did it all happen??

Well Simon, I think really it all started from me being gay, not that I think that's a bad thing at all I embrace it whole heartedly now. But I hid it for such a long time. I mean if you are a Mormon you can't even drink coffee, it's a sin, so admitting that you want to have sex with men isn't something you ever admit to, even if I knew from about 12 to 13, when my hormones kicked in, that I liked other boys. I just hid it... it was against everything I had been brought up to believe in.

So you didn't do anything about it until after you were married?

I can't say that no, though I didn't lose my virginity with a man until I was twenty nine. I mean I had a first experience or two when I was in a scouting troop, but people experiment I guess don't they? Then when I went on a choir trip, of all things, it went a step further. I suppressed it, slammed the door on it if you like, and tried to carry on with my life and got married. I have two beautiful children which I don't regret in the slightest, they are the joy of my life. Sadly the marriage didn't, well it simply couldn't, work out and that's when it all went out of control.

So how did the sex-work come about?

Well, after the divorce, which was acrimonious to say the least, I moved to New York to act. I wanted to be in Shakespeare or in one of the big musicals on Broadway. There was hardly any work, I was broke and really horny and so it seemed to make sense. In my head I started doing it for the child support, I know that sounds so bizarre, then it was to pay for the child support and dance lessons, then it was about those two things and buying Prada and 'being fabulous'. I enjoyed the sex in the main but it spiralled out of control...

And is this where the crystal meth kicked in?

Yes, completely. It all started at a sex party I went to about six months in, I can't really remember if it was for work or just horny pleasure now, anyway, I had lost my spiritual core and was feeling crap about myself and had become 'a pleaser'. I started taking it because everyone was. Oh and here I should add I never paid for it, why would I buy it when I could have yours? But it was an experience like no other, you can just fuck all night... am I being too graphic?

No not at all, it's good to hear someone being so honest about it...

So I could fuck all night. It was amazing. It totally looses you, you go from saying you're 'a top' to thinking you wouldn't mind sitting on a finger or two... then you want

to mount the Empire State building. What's that one you have in London? The one that looks like a perfect dildo?

What pulled you out?

I was in the shower and it hit me. I called to God and I knew instantly, like a voice in my head, I had to call someone. I had a giggling feeling I might have caught HIV, thankfully I hadn't, and the idea I was invisible had passed. It was hard but I had to take responsibility for my recovery and I did.

So why then write a show about it, what did you want to do in creating 'Confessions of a Mormon Boy'? Isn't it almost putting too much of you out there?

I think selling myself for sex was putting me out there too much. This is something else; it's a message to other gay men, a message about religion, and a totally honest portrayal of what you don't want to do with your life. It has also been a therapy for me in a way. I have explored what I did, why I did it, what made me feel the way I did. I also wanted to do something that told the truth to my kids no matter how hard that might be. I didn't want to be erased from their history.

So where do you stand with religion now?

I am still a believer. I'm no latter day saint though. For a while I had a nervous tick every time I saw a steeple... but that has passed. God

is so much bigger than a religion; I don't want to sound all preachy though so I will say I have found my inner faith and love in faith again.

So where do you go from here, what's next for the Mormon Boy?

Well this is the first show in a trilogy, and I am aiming to do the whole three shows each day off Broadway in 2012. There might be another book, I am thinking about that at the moment. I am also in talks for (laughs) 'The Mormon Boy Cookery Show', looking at all those recipes that are secret, I have blown a few lids off a few Mormon secrets in the shows, so why not go one further, and I really miss the food.

Confessions of a Mormon Boy will be playing at the Charing Cross Theatre from 4th - 24th September.

You can find more information by visiting www.mormonboy.com



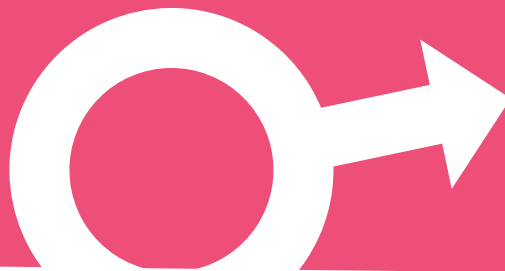
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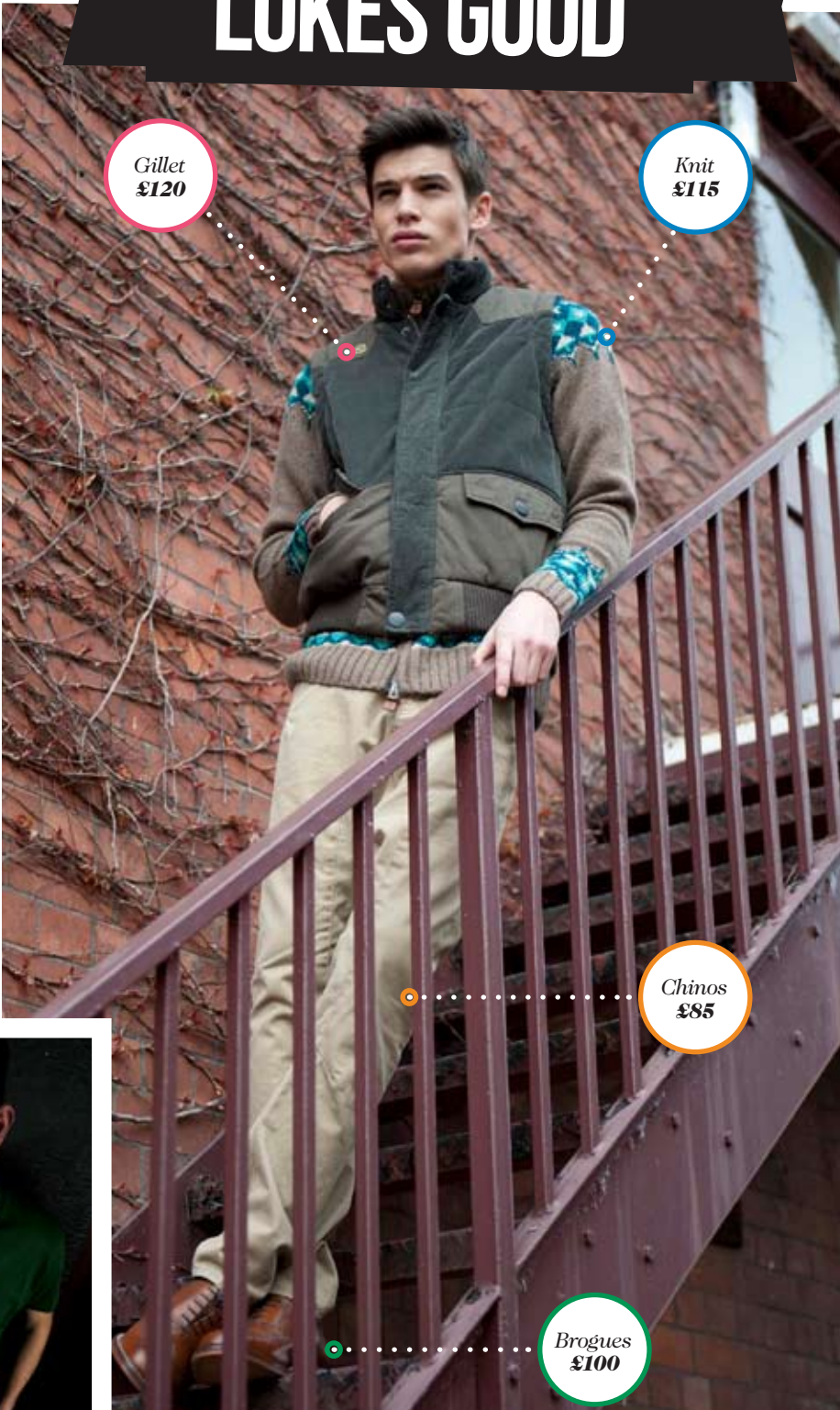




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Boot camp

Inspiration for the men's sportswear collection comes from the 'urban playground' this season. Lacoste brings the city to life and transforms the metropolis into a world of possibilities its latest collection. Using a colour palette of rich autumn tones such as rusty reds, dusky dark browns and blues this season's styles are the very definition of urban chic. Brand new to the Sportswear line, the lace-up Marceau and the Delevan boots fuse fashion and functionality with worker day style. Featuring a wide variety of high quality leathers, brushed suede's and canvas. Unmistakable Lacoste branding features throughout differentiating these boots from other competitors.

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www.luke1977.com

PRIDE ROUNDUP



Leeds Pride

Despite the weather being trifle inclement, Leeds Pride notched up another success as this annual event carries its own yearly momentum. Crowds of people crammed into Millennium Square to watch a cavalcade of acts from the world of pop and cabaret perform under cloudy skies to an enthusiastic, partying, colourful audience out supporting the LGBT community. Later, the celebratory atmosphere moved to the Queer Quarter in Lower Briggate where all the bars and clubs are situated for a street party that went on until midnight. All the venues were jam-packed as no one seemed to want to go home so... as all gay boys and girls know... you don't turn into a pumpkin at 12.

Photos: Grizz

www.gayleeds.com/pride



Nottingham Pride

It seems that the general consensus was that this was the best Pride in the city... ever. The march was bigger than before and attracted a lot of support from those who simply watched it pass them by. Meanwhile, at the 3 stage area, there were enough stalls, eateries and entertainment to keep things fizzing throughout the day. Support from the mayor and a very camp looking Sherriff of Nottingham set the general positive atmosphere to the occasion, while the comperes had us all in stitches as they looned around and introduced some really exciting star acts to the stage.

Photos: Amy Jai

www.nottinghamshirepride.co.uk





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PRIDE



Liverpool Pride

Over 40,000 people flooded the streets of Liverpool to enjoy the second official Gay Pride festival, held at the city's iconic waterfront, on Saturday 6th August. The number of attendees was almost double that of the first Pride festival, which attracted 21,000 to the city in 2010, with 35,000 attending the main Pier Head festival site and a further 5,000 revelers visiting the Stanley Street fringe events.

Thousands of people lined the streets as the Liverpool Pride march passed through the city centre. The march, led by members of murdered teenager Michael Causer's family, saw 2,500 of the LGBT community in addition to their friends and family flow through the city in a blaze of sound and colour.

At the Pier Head, Pride goers were treated to two stages, over fifty stalls, Zumba sessions, caged football matches and a whole host of street entertainment. On the main stage, acts including soul divas Rowetta and Kym Mazelle, accompanied by the Liverpool Pride Dance team from AJ Dance, blew the crowds away with stunning performances,

the main stage line up also included Bears Aloud, whilst up and coming local artists including Oh My, Alan Cross and Cocabelle entertained the masses on the second 'Summer of Love' stage. Photos: Sakura and Brian Plumage

www.liverpoolpride.co.uk

Pride Outlook

Sunday 25th September – Sunderland Pride
Sunderland is currently gearing up for the first ever Pride celebrations in the city. On Sunday 25th September thousands of members of the city's LGBT community are expected to flood Park Lane where entertainment from artists such as I'm So P!nk, Envy and headlining act Scooch will be performing from 1pm. The event will also include a Pride march setting off from the Civic Centre at 12pm. Up to date information on the event can be heard on Pride Radio North East throughout the day and online via @SunderlandPride on Twitter or Sunderland Pride 2011 on Facebook.



Sheffield Pride

Taking full advantage of the sunny weather, the city's Endcliffe Park hosted this year's Pride celebrations. Over 6,000 people took part in enjoying the festive mood as the theme of 'Pride Over The Ages' nodded acknowledgement to the first such pride event in New York 40 years ago. Although having a party was the rule of the day, it wasn't for everybody so the organisers included a quiet spot for poetry reading, afternoon teas and a special Rainbow Weddings tent. Meanwhile, festival goers could browse market stalls or just relax in the sun.

Photos: Grizz

www.sheffieldpride.org.uk



Pink Picnic

Huddersfield's iconic Pink Picnic may have been held in the wilds of the moorland (some of us had trouble with our sat-nav systems finding the place) but once on site, there's no doubt about it, this yearly event is something special. There's nothing fancy or fake about the PP, everyone is out to have fun, even the entertainment look pleased to be there and not just going through the motions. The idea of the picnic is simply ideal. You bring what you want, be as down-to-earth or as fancy as you like, frock up in a way that pleases you and the general sociability of the event makes it a complete success. No wonder so many other events around the country have copied this wonderful occasion.

Photos: Grizz

<http://huddersfieldpinkpicnic.com>



York Pride

Well over a thousand people attended this year's York Pride to laugh, sing and dance along with a wealth of bands and entertainers – and to shed a tear in a hugely moving tribute to David Kato, a gay rights activist and recent resident of York who was murdered in Uganda this year because he was gay.

With a rapidly increasing attendance and media profile York Pride has become the major event for York and North Yorkshire's Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender (LGBT) community – and now attracts visitors from across a wide area, which this year included a man who travelled from Norway specifically to join the tribute to David Kato.

York MP Hugh Bayley and the Lord Mayor led a mass release of biodegradable rainbow-coloured balloons in commemoration of David Kato, to the sound of 'We are together', an African spiritual anthem performed by Gay Abandon, a sixty strong LGBT choir. The event is in its fifth year and as the event has grown so too have the activities over the whole Pride weekend. The main event in York's Rowntree Park on 30 July (1-6pm) saw an exciting main stage line up of live music and cabaret headlined by Bears Aloud and the Dame Shirley Bassey Experience. The party continued afterwards at the Duchess in York until 3am.

www.yorklgbtforum.com



Doncaster Pride

Last year Doncaster Pride looked like it would never happen but with a supreme effort the organisers booked the city's racecourse and held the event against all odds. This year, the racecourse was deemed too big and sprawling to accommodate the event successfully so they transferred to the Keepmoat stadium where the thousands of visitors were kept happy with nonstop entertainment. Tribute acts and flamboyant drag were the order of the day but there was also a funfair, stalls, fashion show and even civil partnership advice for those planning on doing the deed.

Trevor Jones, chair of Doncaster Pride, said moving to the stadium gave the festival the chance to 'develop and grow'... and the general opinion was that the Keepmoat was a safe and friendly environment for any future Prides.

Photos: Grizz



Wakefield Pride

Rainbow flags and drag queens were the order of the day for this year's pride, with an assortment of X Factor and Eurovision stars there to entertain the crowds. Taking as its theme Pride not Prejudice the event took place under one of this summer's few sunny days and attracted a very supportive crowd into the city. Local gay venues made sure the event was a success and singer and Pride stalwart Soraya Vivian proved a popular addition to the stage and had everyone bopping along to her energetic set.

Photos: Grizz

Rave Not Riot

On the back of the riots across the UK many Pride events, as well as over-stretched police forces, were worried about large numbers of people congregating anywhere in case of trouble. Most events are going ahead and those that have happened report everything has gone off peacefully. Brighton Pride was unofficially retitled 'Rave Not Riot' as tens of thousands of revellers hit the seaside town for the annual Pride Party. Because of complaints about last year's event; rubbish, too many people, not enough security etc, etc, this one was ticketed and an admission fee was introduced for the

very first time. After the parade through the town it was on to Preston Park for the entertainment and, as the sun continued to make its presence felt, the crowds enjoyed a top line list of celebrities including Joe McKelderry and Alexander Burke. The organisers were pretty pleased with this new and improved Pride but as yet had not been able to calculate if the event paid for itself or turned a profit.

Photo: Heather Buckley via Flickr

www.brightonpride.org



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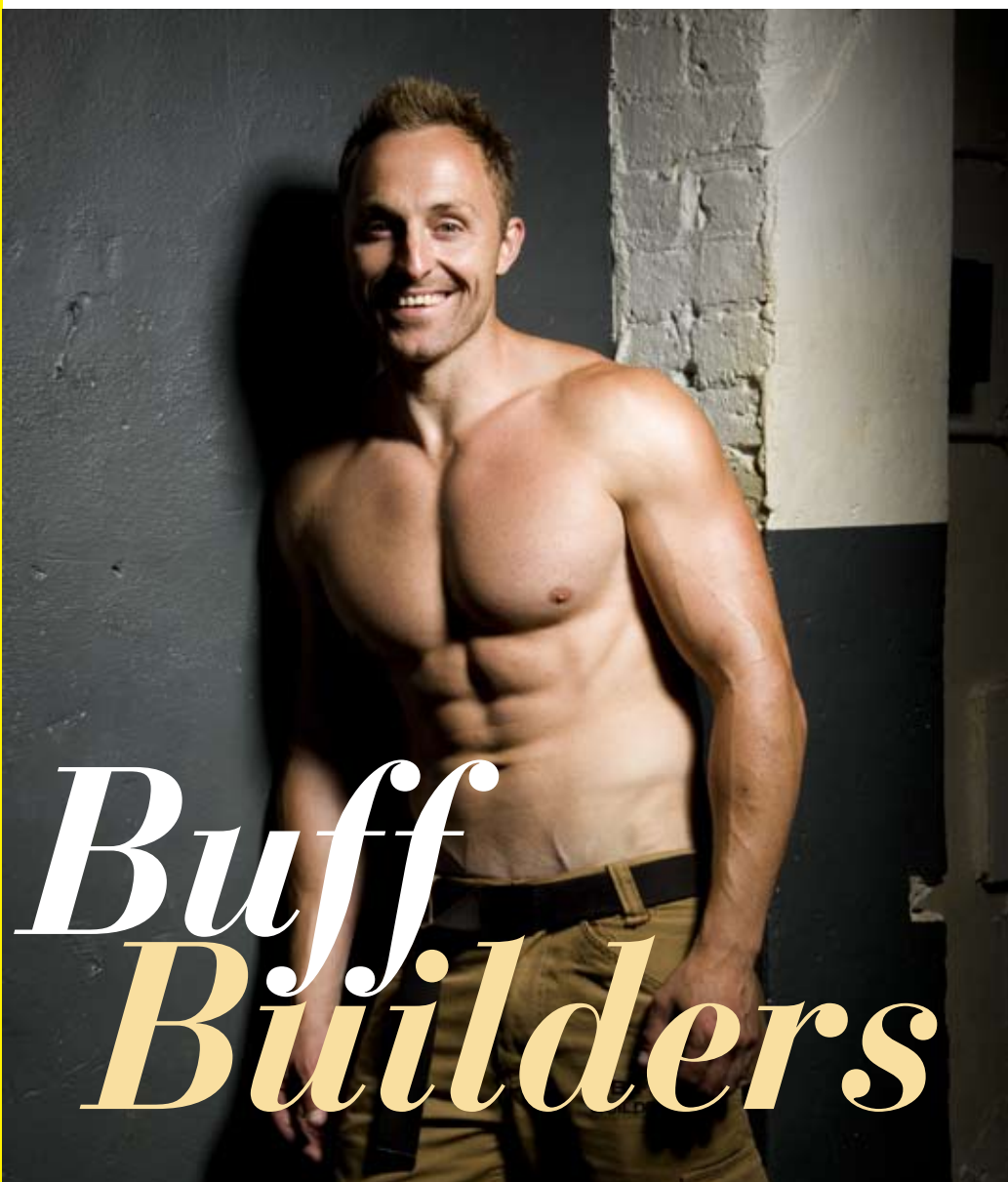
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MEN AT WORK

By Alex Wiggan

.....
For some guys its police men. For others its fire fighters. No matter what your choice of hunky hero you've got to admit there's something irresistible about a sexy man in uniform.
.....

For the chaps who risk their lives to protect others on a daily basis, it probably comes as little comfort that they're being lusted over by us mere mortals, but what's a fella to do when a hunk with a hose pipe starts doing good deeds left right and centre? There they are rushing into burning buildings or arresting bad boys and the one thing that remains constant is that God damn uniform, showing off all those bulging biceps and that all important gluteus maximus. Oh and let's not even get started on what happens when you throw in a truncheon and whistle or spurting pipe or steely helmet! Men in uniform command power, but not because they have the ability to right wrongs and save lives, but because no one can say no to a chiselled chap in a form fitting outfit. Yes buttons and zips can often prove problematic when getting down to business, but for some of us part of the fantasy of bagging one of these guys is helping him take off his clothes in order to get a good look at the body inside. However as we all know in the real world (a place many choose not to visit too often) men in uniform are usually too busy to stop and flirt with a guy; well they do have jobs to do after all.



Buff Builders

.....
For many gay guys the fantasy of hot, sweaty and gorgeous workmen is just about the epitome of manly lust.
.....

Muscles bulging, chiselled features creased under the intense concentration as they go about their business, but all the time, the hint, the thrill, the hope that maybe... just maybe... Let us introduce you to "Buff Builders" who are - Stephen Cranford, 39, a former career police officer during the 90s but who has been working in the construction industry since 2000. He once entered Mr Gay UK, and came second in the Brighton heat. He lives with his long term civil partner Paul, and their rescue cat Henry. His on the job partner is Pete Stone, 34, originally from Leighton Buzzard now lives near Worthing with his partner and their young family. Together, and with the occasional small team of helpers, they make up Buff Builders a Sussex based group of guys who can provide DIY, gardening and light building work on an hourly basis... with their tops off. Needless to say, this type of service has been very well received. So, who exactly came up with the idea?

"I came up with the idea," enthuses Steve. "I used to work part time for a company called

"butlers in the buff" - where I used to work virtually naked serving drinks and nibbles to drunk women at hen parties! Many of the clients (who were usually women) would ask me whether I worked full time as a butler. When I replied that I worked in construction, many of them thought this was wonderful, and asked whether I could work for them "dressed like that", i.e. with no shirt on. I also knew the attraction of handsome tradesmen: I remembered when my partner and I had a tree surgeon round to cut down a tree in our back garden. He was stunning, muscular and blond and worked bare-chested. We couldn't believe our luck and ogled him through the kitchen window. So I knew it would be appealing to provide a bare-chested handsome muscular handyman service. So with a friend Pete (who I knew from my gym) - Buff Builders was born.

Were you already 'buff' or did you have to work on it?

I had been a gym goer since I was 18 - I used to be a police officer before I left to work in



construction - but since being a Buff Builder I've focused a lot more on the training and dieting. When you know you're working with your shirt off, it does provide you with an incentive!

Do you have a fitness regimen?

It's mainly weight training. I aim to train 4 times a week, with a structured weights programme. I don't tend to do any cardio work - with a physical job we don't tend to need it!

Do you travel all over to work?

We're based in Sussex, but would travel further. We have done jobs up in London, but most of our customers are in the Brighton area.

What are your rates?

We charge £30 per hour, per man. It's actually competitive compared to other handyman services - and with us you get a skilled gay or gay friendly handsome bare-chested tradesman - no other service and offer that - plus we invite you watch and take photos!!

What else do you get asked to do?

We are very strict that there are never, ever any "extras" - and there never will be. We have a scrupulously clean reputation. One of our guys was asked to work naked in someone's garden. The price kept going up and up, but we continued to decline! However, we can perform other duties if you don't have any handyman work to do. We get asked whether we can help out at parties, serving drinks for example, when customers simply need some bare-chested hunks!

Since your appearance with Alan Carr... how has things taken off?

Ha ha! Appearing with Alan Carr for Comic Relief was one of those examples when we were hired for our looks - so the viewers didn't know we were the "buff builders"! We did star in a Channel 5 series last year called "White Van Man" - we were expecting to be inundated with work after that programme, but we weren't!!

Have you thought about franchising the idea?

One of the first things we did was to trademark "Buff Builders" with the government's Intellectual Property Office... we have had a few work enquiries from around the country, but so far it hasn't been enough to warrant setting up a franchise, although it's certainly in our thoughts. Our biggest battle is to find suitable guys to work with us. Obviously the handsome looks and fit muscular body are a given, they also need to be skilled ... but the biggest concern is that they're the right personality too, charming and gay friendly. Because most of our clients are gay men, we pride ourselves that Buff Builders are genuinely 100% gay friendly. If anyone thinks they're a potential candidate, get in touch!

Buff Builders... what else can you knock up for me?

We get asked to do all sorts of things - usually we can oblige. If there any jobs we can't do, or don't have the correctly skilled guys we

won't do the job. Try asking us and see what we say!

OK, so you've got your shirts off but what undies can we see as you bend over or stretch for that just out of reach item?

Both Pete and I like the tight trunks/hipster style. Pete's favourite brand is G Star, Mine is Calvin Klein. You can often see a glimpse of a branded name band popping up above our trousers! We tend to wear the same at work as we do for pleasure. Sometimes though, if the weather's really hot I have been known to go commando!

www.buffbuilders.co.uk

**Buff Builders mobile:
07988 298 387**



Grindr:

"What are you looking for?"

By Cameron Lamont

If you're gay and you own an iPhone, a Blackberry or an Android device then the chances are, you have heard of Grindr.

A revolutionary new GPS-based app that promises to, 'make it easy to discover new people and make new friends'. Male friends that is, as Grindr is only available, at the moment for gay or bisexual men.

Being location-based it is able to tell you, to within about fifteen metres, how close you are to another Grindr user.

For those that feel the internet has already given the online generation ample opportunity to avoid speaking to one another in the real world, Grindr takes it a step further, placing its users excitingly close to one another, tempting them towards physical interaction.

I have to admit that the first time I logged onto Grindr and was faced with a grid full of photos showing twenty or so men, less than half a mile away I was quite excited. It was new and sexy and it was unique; offering a radius of attractive local men only a click away. There is something inherently thrilling when chatting to a guy no more than a couple of hundred metres away and

this is magnified further when out and about in town or at a club, as the novelty intensifies.

Once the interest in its innovation subsides however, and your heterosexual friends have all but given up on flicking through nearby members with hilarious fascination down at the local bar, what purpose is Grindr able to serve? Do most of its users simply log in the hopes of discovering new people and making new friends, or is there more to it than that?

There undoubtedly are users on Grindr that simply want to find someone and have a chat over a coffee or similar, but there is an intoxicating air of raw sexual energy that seems to permeate through the grid; and is, I would argue, becoming harder to ignore. I would perhaps even go as far to say that the majority of people signed up to the service are using it as some kind of mobile hook-up device. Grindr takes away that need to put on jeans and tight v-neck tee and head down to the nearest gay bar, or cruising ground; instead by keeping on your pyjamas (or less) and flirting with the man down the street, it is possible to meet up with him at his place or yours within the hour, due to the 'live' nature of its interface and therefore it is effectively providing sex-on-tap. A departure from the promise of new friends, but nonetheless a discovery of new people. Most users appear to be in no doubt about Grindr and of the sexual energy that runs through it. Many profiles list the individual's wants and desires under their picture, which is preferably (according to most) of their face. Even those not in the mood for a sexual liaison, seem to have to make it clear that this is indeed the case, 'just looking for chat', 'for mates and dates only' and 'not into random meets' tend to be amongst the most popular forms of doing this. People requesting something more interesting than 'hey' as a greeting now also seems quite common; has social networking really come to this? How else is one supposed to greet someone, if not in the standard manner?

Conversely Grindr also has a big share of those not afraid to admit that they are cruising its network for sex, some even using names such as 'NSF now' or at least specifying this somewhere on their profile;

NSF standing for no-strings fun, for those not in the loop. This desire for 'fun' often goes hand in hand with a chat that is both sexually-charged and also likely to involve explicit or suggestive pictures being swapped by both parties. A sort of personal pornography perhaps, despite the 'no underwear' guidelines imposed on profile pictures.

My experiences with Grindr have been extremely varied, and I can liken them in some ways to my first steps out and about on the gay scene. A place that is all at once, exciting and terrifying and full of both an underlying bitchiness and an unhidden hunt for sexual attraction. It definitely takes a few visits to get used to it, and realise there's a lot of enjoyment to be had. Grindr is essentially the same; having brought the gay scene into people's living rooms, coffee shops and workplaces in the form of a mobile app. It offers the opportunity to hide behind a blank profile picture whilst chatting, and maybe even flirting with a man, also giving the somewhat questionable option of seeing the merchandise before you sample it, as it were.

When I first logged on, I felt like fresh meat, I had messages popping up from many different men in the vicinity. In some cases I was flattered, and enjoyed being told how attractive I was, though in other cases I quickly became unsettled by how many offers of fun were being sent my way, as well as unsolicited photographs of genitalia.

I'm aware of the somewhat critical tone that I am setting up to now, and at this point I think that I should mention that the Grindr's appearance on the gay social networking scene has paved the way for many gay men to meet new people, whereby normally they would be unsure about how to approach the issue of making new friends in a homosexual context. I myself have been lucky enough to meet people that I now regard as friends through the Grindr network and it should be disclosed here too, that we've yet to compare pictures of our penises or have an explicitly-themed chat, so I'd say that it is definitely possible for such interactions to take place.

Grindr Xtra is now available on BlackBerry, iPhone, and Android at GrindrXtra.com

More Features. More Guys.



The best way to meet guys near you on the world's largest all-male mobile network.

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* Certain features are exclusive to iOS or Android platforms. Grindr Xtra monthly subscription pricing varies based on device and local currency.

HUNTER'S LODGE

What began ten years ago in Boston as a telephone dating service called The Tool Line, is now America's leading web site for men looking to meet other men.

by Sebastian Reynolds



Manhunt has more than four million profiles worldwide, with 40,000 new members joining each week.

As chairman of Manhunt, co-founder Jonathan Crutchley is the man behind the blue and orange curtain. We sat down with him at his fabulous estate to discuss how he and his business partner Larry Basile first came up with the idea for an online gay dating site; and how, in 10 years, it has changed the way gay men meet other gay men.

How did you become the ultimate gay matchmaker?

The truth is that I have always been a shy and introverted person, especially when I came out as a gay man, which didn't happen until I was thirty. Back then, gay bars and discos were the places to go to meet gay men. If you were a good dancer with a gym body and perfect hair, you made friends. I was the guy watching all the others from a dark corner of the room.

How did you hook up?

It wasn't until the introduction of telephone chat lines, like the ones founded by my business partner Larry Basile in 1987, that I was able to meet more guys and make friends. On the telephone lines you were just a voice – the rest was unseen, and, until you met someone in person, they were just a fantasy. Fantasy is powerful, and it helped me emerge from my shell. Later, when I partnered with Larry Basile in the telephone chat lines and, after that, the Internet personals



business, we perfected the use of fantasy to help men meet each other.

Are people surprised to meet the man behind the Manhunt curtain?

Yes, the real me is not what people imagine. For twenty five years I sold real estate and wore sport jackets from Brooks Brothers. You wouldn't find me marching in a pride parade with my shirt off. I'd be watching the parade from the sidelines.

How did Manhunt become such a leading hook up site for gay men?

Larry and I knew that Manhunt's customers are more than just those who live in gay neighborhoods in big cities and who follow the latest trends and fashions. Our market is much larger than that. It includes bears, leather guys, even married and bi-guys – whom we guess could be as many as thirty percent of Manhunt users. We always knew that gay men were everywhere, and with Manhunt, guys from Nashville, Tenn., to North Dakota can find each other.



There is much more to gay life than Chelsea in New York City or the Castro or West Hollywood. We developed a site that was easy for the average guy to use.

How has gay dating changed in ten years?

Guys have always been looking for the same things. The web makes it much easier to find exactly what you want.

Do you pay attention to the competition?

We'd be crazy not to.

Manhunt was slow to the mobile game. Why did it take so long for Manhunt to launch its mobile app?

We took our time in development because we decided it best to stick by our old formula of quality as #1. We've learned through the years that exceptional quality and service will bring subscribers back and bring new ones onboard.

What is Manhunt doing to keep up with mobile trends?

It's not easy. Technology changes at internet speed. But anyone who wants to engage in commerce today must adapt to the latest medium or get left behind. We employ about 28 geeks in our tech department. It's their job to keep our current system running on the internet and mobile phone and to develop new ways for guys to meet each other.

Meanwhile, you get to relax in your home that has been called the gay Playboy mansion.

It's a gay man's fantasy, or at least this gay man's fantasy. Someone else may have a different dream.

Do you have a grotto?

There's a temple behind the spa and pool. It's reminiscent of a Roman bath with the statues and the fountains.

Do you host naughty parties?

I'll let you use your imagination.

The home appears to be a shrine to masculinity.

Some people say it's a bit too hyper masculine but I've reached the stage in life where I can have the house I want and the life I want without having to worry what people think.

What is your favorite room in the house?

I would say the oak-paneled library. In the winter, I love to curl up with a book by the fireplace.

Did you commission the mural in the entry?

The mural was painted on the wall thirty years ago by a previous owner. It shows scenes of Italy, particularly Venice, and Roman ruins. It is in keeping with the style of the house as a Mediterranean villa.

How many people does it take to run the house?

Mike is my resident manager. He supervises the housekeeper, gardeners, landscapers, and maintenance people. Then, one week every month, we go out to Palm Springs, California, to my other house. Mike runs that home, too.

Is this where you hope to retire?

Who says I'll retire? But, if I do, it will be to an apartment in New York City.

Visit Manhunt.net

SPEXY BEAST

.....

Recently I organised a coach trip outing (no not that sort of outing) for my staff to go and see my good friend Alan Carr doing a warm up gig before he starts his massive Spexy Beast arena tour.

.....

He'd asked me to pop in to say hello before the show and we chatted before he went on in front of the packed 1500-seater Victoria Theatre in Halifax.

Sitting in the dressing room with his dog, a gorgeous Red Setter, he tells me that most people expect to see him with a Chihuahua or some other type of toy dog not a large, curly-haired, lively animal which he's affectionately called Bev - in homage to that feisty Coronation Street redhead Beverly Collard. As he stroked his hairy friend (oops sorry couldn't resist it) I wondered if he was nervous of doing arenas but he thought it all seemed an inevitable development to his career. He said he preferred the theatre setting for his act as there was more intimacy but realised that comedy is now the 'BIG THING' and, seeing as everyone else was doing them, he didn't want to miss out. So, albeit reluctantly, he decided that huge arenas and a completely fresh act would be his next project. He told me that the new show had in fact been 'under construction' since 2005 but that there would be no hint of his Tooth Fairy show, which was all about his childhood. Now the public were going to find out more about him. Same observational style but he has a lot more to say in that wonderful, self-deprecating way that has made him such a favourite of the masses.



I've known Alan for a few years now and watched as his career has taken off into the stratosphere so I always enjoy my time chatting to Chatty Man... and it appears I'm not the only one. I'm a great fan of Twitter and occasionally tweet myself but it is Alan's regular postings that have me in fits of laughter as he appears to have something new and funny to reveal every day. Stephen Fry may have millions of followers but it's the daily posts, and growing number of followers that make Alan the comic genius of the twittersphere.



I have been fraped. That is the technical term for being Facebook raped, and it wasn't a very good experience at all. I was in the VIP lounge at Barcelona Airport and went on one of their computers to check my Facebook pages. Now the problem with some foreign computers is they don't have the same keyboard as the one I use in the UK and I couldn't find the @ sign. Trying to track down this illusive symbol I opened my Facebook page again and worked on that until I was called through to catch my plane. Unfortunately, I only closed down one of my pages leaving the other forgotten and open on the bottom bar. When I disembarked from my 2 hour flight and switched my mobile phone back on I was inundated with texts and missed calls. Apparently someone had gone onto my Facebook page and said that I was dead. RIP Terry George, funeral and more info to follow. Calls from friends, relations, colleagues were all wondering what had happened and because I had turned my phone off for the flight, the fact that they couldn't get hold of me only served to make matters worse. Panic and a great deal of unnecessary misery was caused by my moment of forgetfulness but whoever did it... and the fact that this happened in the VIP lounge... makes me question the mentality of someone who thinks this

type of frappe is funny. They had also changed all my settings so sorting out the page was a lengthy process... so be warned... make sure you close everything down if you are using a strange computer.

I get asked to get involved in charity events all the time and I'm more than happy to take part whenever I can. However, this year I am supporting the High Heel -a-thon in my home town of Leeds, which is raising money for a couple of cancer charities. This idea was originally started in New York as a way to raise money and awareness for certain charities but this is the third such event to take place in Leeds and all have proved successful in helping to do just that. Now, although I am keen to take part, I do have a problem. Unlike many of my contemporaries I have never been one to wear my mother's shoes, not even as a precocious little kid experimenting with my... er... sexuality... or attempts to look taller. In fact my mother was never a high heel fan. She preferred flats and certainly nothing over

2 inches (a motto I have stuck with to this day). I'm worried about being able to cope with wearing high heels and finding a pair that I can squash my size 9s into but also how I'll navigate the mile course without tripping over or falling to my doom. I've enlisted the staff from my bars - Viaduct and Fibre - to show their support and join me, together with Kimberly from Girls Aloud, various soap stars, celebrities, local government officials and members of the public who have all signed up to take part. Now then, the object is to raise as much cash as possible so, if I approach you armed with a sponsor form I don't want you running away (high heels or not), just a couple of pounds will do... and it is for a cause that, percentages say, will affect everyone at some level at some time, so if you can, be generous. The event, which takes place on Sunday 25th September, kicks off at the Gateway complex on East Street, Leeds and follows a 1 mile route around the city, taking in many of Leeds' best known landmarks such as the Corn Exchange, the river Aire and Brewery Wharf.

For more information and to register, visit the official High Heel-a-thon website at: www.highheelathon.co.uk



Born out of frustration when looking for gay activities in cities to be visited while on vacation or business trips, GayHop, the online gay travel guide and social networking website has been given a makeover to make it more informative, user-friendly and fun.

By joining GayHop, members are introduced to state of the art and easy to use social networking tools, which allow them to:

- complete a detailed member profile, including general information, physical stats and photos
- publicise past, current and upcoming holidays and business trips
- add real-world friends to their profile, as well as privately keep track of members they like or want to meet
- chat 1-2-1 with multiple members at the same time
- cruise guys by location and distance, either from their home location or whilst on a trip
- individually unlock private photos and stats for guys they want to meet
- add new listings to any of GayHop's gay guides, so that others know of the best places to visit
- upload their own photos to existing listings
- review listings to make sure that fellow gay travellers know exactly what to expect when they visit a place

Log on and see what other goodies are on offer for free when you sign up:

www.gayhop.com





PRIDE!

I love the "Pride" season. After all, it means it's summer - and that means cute guys and sex!

Over the last few weeks I've been to a lot of "Prides" - Vienna, Munich, Hamburg, Prague, Berlin, Amsterdam and Cologne to name but a few. Why, even Prague has had its very first gay pride, featuring a parade, a few trucks and a party! Needless to say, attending all these events means showing my face (and more!) at either the pre-parties the day before the main event or at the main celebrations at the parade evening itself. Either way, it's all fabulous fun!

A "Pride" (or CSD as it's called in Germany) basically means being just what you want to be, or indeed just who you are! Nobody cares and quite simply everything is allowed. Indeed, I think this is the only day of the year when you can walk totally naked down the streets holding another naked guy on a dog-leash... on his knees. I've actually seen this in Vienna and the police officers didn't seem to mind at all. In fact, some of them were even posing for photos with these guys using their mobile phones. Well, at least I think they were policemen, rather than just some random guys with a cop fetish!

It's quite unbelievable as to how many gay people are around you at these events - but of course we gays are a massive crowd en masse! Around 1.5 million people attended the gay parade and open air street parties in Berlin this year - which begs the question, why don't we have the same rights as straight people yet? Indeed, why do we still have to go on fighting for them? Let's be honest, if ALL gay people stood up for their rights at the same time there's no doubt that society would be shocked at the amount of people involved and the degree of power that us gays actually have when we stand together as one.

Talking about Berlin, this particular pride is always very special. After all, it's quite literally pure sex! After the parade I had to walk back to my hotel, so I decided to take a short-cut through one of the parks, where there'd been gay activity everywhere that day! It was only five in the afternoon and still broad daylight, but it was clear that there'd been sucking, pissing, fucking and whole lot more going on there - not only in the bushes, but also out in open on the grass. Such antics are surely only possible in Berlin, where the mayor is openly gay and always rides on the first parade truck, and where the parade ends right in front of the Brandenburg Gate, surely the most important historical building in the whole of Germany. Just imagine if London Pride concluded on the gardens of Buckingham Palace - hey, Lizzie would not be amused for one second!

Actually, the bookings we have for parties during the pride seasons are unquestionably more hardcore than is usually the case - even in clubs where we only do go-go dancing and who don't ask for an oral or anal show. No doubt about it, everything is much more energetic, sexy and horny at this time of year!

After hours on a pride truck - and having taken a short nap afterwards - I'm just happy to start one of our erotic shows in the evening. After all, I've been surrounded by some of the hottest and cutest guys imaginable all day, and have danced half-naked and consumed lots of alcohol whilst lots of these boys

enjoy blowjobs or jerk off in a corner. No wonder that I'm feeling as horny as fuck by this point - I'm a guy in my mid-twenties whose hormones and sexual appetite are at their peak! I need sex pretty much every day - and never more so than after having been aroused for hours on end by a hot, sexually-charged crowd! It wouldn't be quite so bad if I'd been able to relieve myself with a wank at some point, but of course I always have to save myself for whatever show I'm performing in later on.

Still, I always really enjoy the hardcore shows we put on during pride season - be they with some cute and sexy partners or just alone with my lovely flashjack. In most cases I simply concentrate on whoever I'm performing with and/or my own aching cock and shut myself off from the crowd around me. Why, sometimes I even forget that I'm in a club at all! Instead, I just focus on the sex - and enjoy every single moment of it!

Occasionally it happens that the show continues on backstage. Indeed, in some of the bigger venues we often have a nice backstage room which we share with the sexy go-go dancers. Here the fun continues, with the dancers hot from their appearances and we models still highly aroused from our shows. What a perfect combination! Unfortunately, most club managers hate this kind of extra activity because they always delay the go-go dancing schedule. The boys are simply too busy with other things to watch the clock!

I wish you a great, hot and horny pride season and hope to see you all soon!

**All the best
Johan**

For booking requests of the STAXUS models please go to www.StaxusOnTour.com

Remember, the STAXUS models offer all different kind of entertainment opportunities, from autograph signings through to both softcore and hardcore shows.



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BOOKS

A Queer Thing Happened to America

By Michael L Brown

Forty years ago being a homo or calling someone a homo was regarded as the biggest slur possible, now things have turned and America is undergoing drastic change, where challenging attitudes and a positive identification is at the forefront of social/political/religious revolution. This book chronicles this amazing transformation, from Stonewall Inn riot to the Whitehouse, and addresses the question head-on; is there a gay agenda or is it simply a fiction of the fundamental right? Written in a lively and compelling style, but backed with massive research and extensive interaction with the LGBT community.



£23.50 – Gazelle Books
(sales@gazellebooks.co.uk)

Beautiful Boys

Edited by John Patrick

Some boys are hot, some boys are sexy and some are simply beautiful. You won't be able to get enough of these beautiful boys, who are even more beautiful in the bedroom than you could ever imagine. Their beauty only enhances their sexiness and stirs your desires, making you yearn for more.



£13.99 - Starbooks

Hot Jocks

Edited by Richard Labonte

Who hasn't been hot for a jock or, for that matter, an entire team? In these tales of inter-athlete lust trophy-winning is even better if you can bed the trophy afterwards. Locker room adventures and hard-assed coaches all play their part as uninhibited track runners, MMA fighters, hockey players and a host of other ripped and chiselled sportsmen stop at nothing in their desire to play the field.

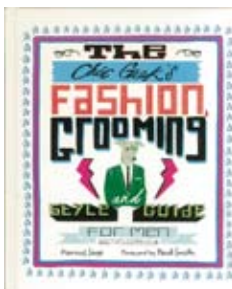


£10.99 – Cleis Press

The Chic Geek's Fashion, Grooming and Style Guide

By Marcus Jaye

The Chic Geek is a new independent online men's style magazine for any guy interested in his personal appearance; it gives advice, guidance or simply reassurance. This book includes up-to-date advice from industry experts, a glossary of fashion terms in the Geekipedia and images of trends on the street and why they work. It's so hip (?) even trendy designer Paul Smith has written the foreword so it must be hitting some of the right buttons!



£16.99 – Carlton books

The Curse of the Dragon God

By Geoffrey Knight

China is a land of ancient wonders, but one treasure remains the most precious of all; a diamond known as the Eye of Fucanglong, the 'dragon god' of last jewels and buried treasure. The diamond is flawless. It is priceless. It is cursed. And is about to be stolen in the heist of the century. Can Professor Fathom's team of gay adventure-seekers find the diamond before this perfectly executed crime leads to a cataclysmic event of mass destruction?



£12.99 – Cleis Press

Gym Buddies & Buff Boys

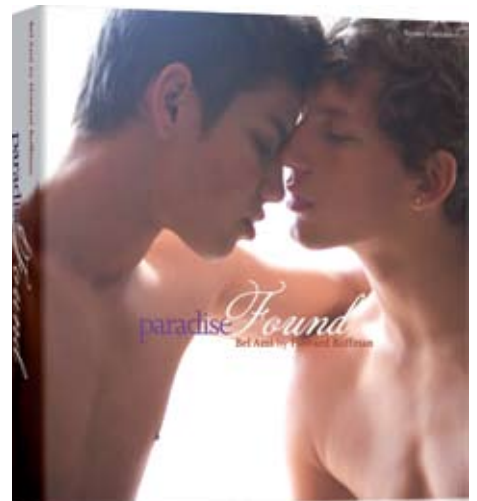
Edited by Mickey Erlach

From hot workout fantasies to sexy meets in the sauna and showers, all the sweaty, pumped muscle of the gym is captured in these locker-room encounters. Always pushing themselves to the max, these men won't stop at anything – on or off the machines.



£13.99 - Starbooks





PARADISE FOUND

By Howard Roffman

While the boys of Bel Ami dedicate their selves to a stunning performance—as can be seen and admired in the label's many movies—Roffman follows them with his camera. He captures their funny and sexy moments; he watches them in their quiet and in their frisky minutes. You can tell that over the years of cooperation between the Bel Ami boys and their photographer a certain kind of intimacy has grown; the pictures are even more spontaneous and outgoing than in the first two books—they are all about enjoying the good life. And though Roffman sticks to his distinctive and moving style his new pictures are more sexually charged than all his work before. PARADISE FOUND contains intimate pictures of adolescent men. A splendid paradise—with no Eve in sight.

£49.99

www.brunogmuender.com

DVD

The Supernatural just got sexy...



Win This
Turn to page 78 for details

Hit US series, Supernatural, has shown its audiences all manner of gruesome creatures and gory encounters with the paranormal – but it's not all ugly. Check out some of these irresistible heroes and villains; if evil was really this sexy, we'd all be in trouble!

Supernatural: Season 6, Volume 1

Having spent six seasons battling every supernatural threat imaginable the journey of Sam and Dean Winchester reaches thrilling heights, following a truly apocalyptic climax in Season Five, with Sam imprisoned in Lucifer's very own cage in Hell. One year later and Dean Winchester is still wandering the back roads of middle America, trying to piece his life together when his brother makes a surprise return. With the brothers reunited, and rejoined by longtime friends Bobby and fallen angel Castiel, the team must establish what happened to Sam in Hell and prepare for yet another confrontation as a brand new threat rises.

Out now - £29.99 – Warner Home Entertainment

To be in with a chance to win one of these fabulous DVD sets, just answer this simple question:

Where was Sam imprisoned in the finale of Season 5?



1) Dean Winchester (Jensen Ackles)

Sorry Sam, but in a showdown of who is the hottest Winchester brother, your older sibling wins hands down every time. He is of course the formidable and fearless hunter, Dean Winchester: he endured forty years in hell to save his brother, he's probably one of the only humans feared (and lusted) by even the most powerful of the supernatural creatures, and he's the biggest love rat of the entire series. But most of all, Dean is a natural born hero. They say no man has the whole package, but Dean has the heroic valour of a God and the supermodel looks that would make you weak at the knees – that's why this sexy slayer of all things supernatural is our number one!



2) Sam Winchester (Jared Padalecki)

Okay, so Sam isn't far off the number one spot. He's no Dean Winchester, but Sam has the gentle nature and soft looks that balances out his brother's smouldering appearance and rugged character. Unlike Dean's 'kill first ask questions later' attitude, Sam is a lot more sensitive – opting for a more peaceful solution to the many troublesome situations the pair face. He's no pushover though;

Sam might be more sensitive, but has enough courage to put Hercules to shame, even sacrificing his soul to force Satan back to hell. Now that's hot!

3) John Winchester (Jeffrey Dean Morgan)

John is the strapping and valiant father of Sam and Dean Winchester. He taught the boys everything they needed to know to protect the Earth and humanity from all manner of evil. Like his sons, he also made the ultimate sacrifice to protect his loved ones: selling his soul to the malevolent demon Azazel for the life of his son, Dean. Tortured in hell for over a century, John never gave in to the demons that wanted the secrets to raising Satan. It's easy to see where Sam and Dean got both their bravery and devilish good looks from!



4) Azazel (Fredric Lehne)

He may be an evil, callous and unrelentingly tyrannical demon from the jaws of hell, but yellow-eyed Azazel still retains a lot of tempting charm and swagger - even if he has lost all goodness and compassion! Despite his raging nature and cruel intentions, Azazel has a dry sense of humour and hellishly clever wit that'll make you beg him to take your soul...



5) Castiel (Misha Collins)

In last place (but certainly not least), we have angel Castiel. He raised Dean from perdition, stood up to Satan and was reincarnated by God himself into an archangel for his loyalty. At first he is the stoic, mysterious protector and helper of the Winchester brothers, assisting them in saving the world from evil whilst battling angels in the war for heaven. Later in the series we see a more brooding side to Castiel as he gains more power and authority, earning his place as the hottest angel in heaven!



Win These

Turn to page 78 for details

Never Back Down 2: The Beatdown

Starring America's number one martial arts action star Michael Jai White (Black Dynamite, Blood and Bone) in his directorial debut, *Never Back Down 2: The Beatdown* returns to the adrenaline-pumped underground world of MMA fighting, as a group of four college-aged fighters must learn the most intense fighting techniques and go head-to-head in a punishing Beatdown competition. Behind the closed doors of a seemingly normal college, the ultimate showdown in underground MMA fighting is being planned.
Out: 12th September - £12.99 - Sony Home Entertainment



To be in with a chance to win one of these fabulous DVDs, just answer this simple question:
What to the letters MMA stand for?

The Roommate

She's cute. She's loyal. She's psychotic. And, unfortunately for college freshman Sara, she's her new roommate. When Sara arrives at school, she finds new romance with Stephen and forms a fast friendship with her roommate Rebecca. What begins as camaraderie soon turns creepy, and Sara comes face-to-face with the terrifying realization that her new best friend is obsessive, unbalanced...and maybe even a killer!
Out: 12th September - DVD & BluRay - Sony Home Entertainment



To be in with a chance to win one of these fantastic DVDs, just answer this simple question:
Who had a huge hit in the 70s with the pop classic - 'School's Out'?

Insidious

The story concerns a happily married couple recently moved into a new suburban home with their three young children. When their eldest son inexplicably falls into a coma his condition coincides with the start of a series of disturbing events that defy any rational explanation. The ghostly goings on suggest a sinister supernatural presence is at work in the house, one that is intent on tearing the Lambert family apart. Forced to seek unconventional help to protect themselves and their children, the couple are awakened to the terrifying truth - it's not the house that's haunted.
Out: 12th September - DVD & BluRay - Momentum Pictures



To be in with a chance to win one of these fabulous DVDs, just answer this simple question:
What 'S' is another word for ghost?

Blitz

Jason Statham heads up a British all-star cast in this uncompromising thriller set on the streets of London and based on the book by acclaimed crime writer Ken Bruen.



Detective Tom Brant is a tough un-PC cop on a mission to take down a serial killer who has been targeting London policemen. Nicknamed 'The Blitz' the vicious psychopath is picking off officers from a burnt out division and Brant - partnered with an unlikely accomplice Sgt Porter Nash - is the only cop left on the block mean enough to take him out.
Out: 26th September - DVD & BluRay - Lionsgate

To be in with a chance to win one of these fantastic DVDs, just answer this simple question:
Complete this title of a Jason Statham movie - Crank: High _____

Boys on Film: Bad Romance

Prepare to experience an alternative take on attraction... BOF explores the darker side of romance with a collection of edgy, controversial and sexy short films that have wowed film festival audiences the world over. From hiding their sexuality, to exploring it - From the obvious, to the extreme - From happiness, to sadness... 10 short movies that will make you think and maybe shed a tear.
Out: 26th September - Peccadillo Pictures



To be in with a chance to win one of these fabulous DVDs, just answer this simple question:
What do the initials BOF stand for?

Eating Out - Drama Camp

Chris Salvatore and Daniel Skelton return, along with Rebekah Kochan and Mink Stole (John Waters cult icon) in the fourth installment of the hilarious and sexy Eating Out series!



Zack and Casey's relationship is in a slump, but things are about to change this summer at Dick Dickey's Drama Camp! When Zack meets Benji there is an instant connection. However, not wanting to interfere with Zack's current relationship, Benji pretends to be straight. When Benji and Zack get cast as lovers in an updated, sexed-up version of *The Taming of the Shrew*, their self-restraint is put to the test. And when the sparks start to fly, Casey's trusted friend Penny takes matters into her own hands by setting a poison oak trap for Benji so that Casey can step in as Benji's understudy.
Out: 26th September - £15.99 - tlareleasing

To be in with a chance to win one of these fabulous DVDs, just answer this simple question:
Which famous British dramatist wrote *The Taming of the Shrew*?

Curio

Twenty-nine year old Lauren and her young daughter Emily travel from the US to visit an old cottage on the North Yorkshire Moors bequeathed to them by their distant uncle. Shortly after their arrival at the dilapidated cottage, an old friend of the dead uncle visits with some hospitality. Despite Lauren's reluctance, the old woman conducts an impromptu séance and things rapidly begin to go wrong. Within 24 hours, Lauren and Emily are fleeing from the police across the dark, bleak Yorkshire Moors with nowhere to go. Lauren wakes up in bed in an old and unfamiliar room. She has a gunshot wound to her shoulder and a badly sprained ankle. Watching over her is Len, the kindly rescuer who took her in.
Out: 12th September - £15.99 Eureka Entertainment



To be in with a chance to win one of these fabulous DVDs, just answer this simple question:
What is the county capital of Yorkshire?

Man at Bath

Notorious gay porn star Francois Sagat stars as Emmanuel, one half of a cute gay couple who between the suburbs of Paris and the skyscrapers of New York, go to extraordinary lengths to prove that they're not in love with one another. A striking meditation on the male form, appearing as much a celebration of porn actor Francois Sagat's sculpted body as it is a tense examination of love and desire, celebrated director Christophe Honor welcomes you to an exploration of desire and longing; a touching ode to bittersweet goodbyes. Official Selection, Locarno Film Festival and the London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.
Out Now - Peccadillo Pictures



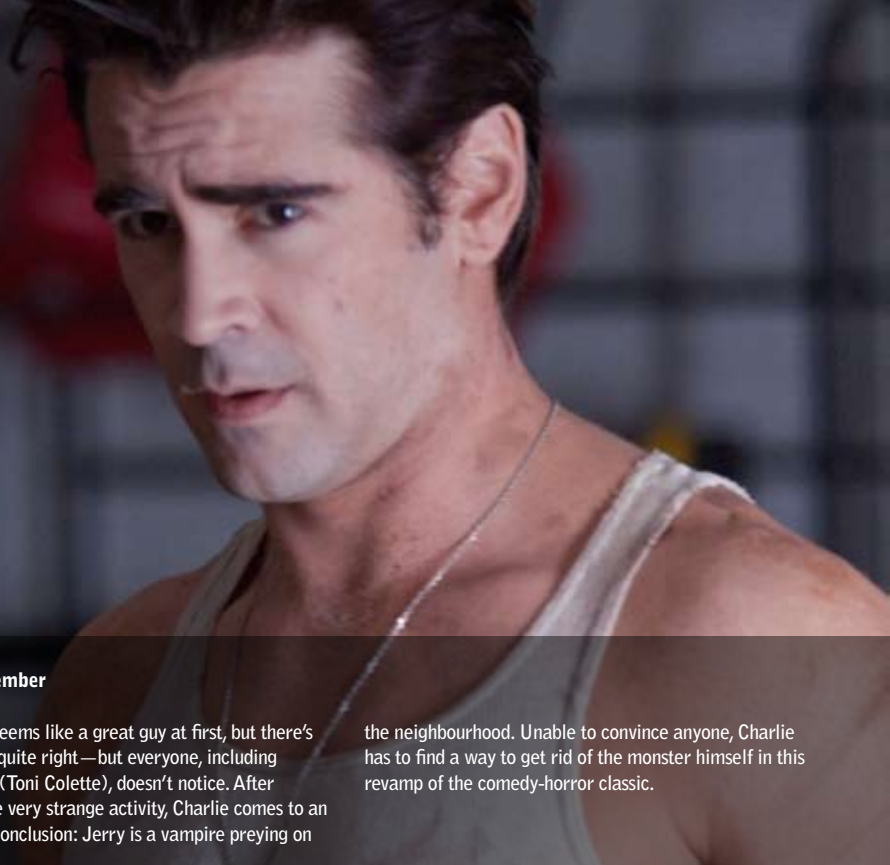
To be in with a chance to win one of these fabulous DVDs, just answer this simple question:
The Locarno Film Festival is held in which country?

Latter Days

The handsome Aaron, a Mormon missionary, travels door-to-door in Los Angeles spreading the word of his religion. Christian, a cute West Hollywood party boy, goes from man to man without much commitment. Opposites will soon attract when Aaron and Christian meet and sparks begin to fly. Featuring two star-making performances from Sandvoss and Ramsey, the film also features a terrific supporting cast including Mary Kay Place, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and international screen legend Jacqueline Bisset.
Out: 12th Sept - £17.99 - tlareleasing



To be in with a chance to win one of these fabulous DVDs, just answer this simple question:
The Mormon Church is based in which US city? A, Salt Lake City. B, Chicago. C, San Francisco.



Fright Night

Senior Charlie Brewster (Anton Yelchin) finally has it all going on: he's running with the popular crowd and dating the most coveted girl in his high school. In fact, he's so cool he's even dissing his best friend. But trouble arrives when Jerry (Colin Farrell) moves in

Out 2nd September

next door. He seems like a great guy at first, but there's something not quite right—but everyone, including Charlie's mum (Toni Colette), doesn't notice. After observing some very strange activity, Charlie comes to an unmistakable conclusion: Jerry is a vampire preying on

the neighbourhood. Unable to convince anyone, Charlie has to find a way to get rid of the monster himself in this revamp of the comedy-horror classic.



Weekender

1990. England. A revolution is building across the UK. Dilapidated warehouses and factories come to life at night. Euphoric teens defy police cordons and bans to embrace life and the dancefloor. Acid house has arrived and friends Matt and Dylan are at the heart of it. Tired of scamming their way to a quick buck, Matt and Dylan put together their first rave with the help of their mates and the maddest DJ on the scene, Captain Acid.

Out 2nd September

When their success catches the eye of London clubbing kingpin, Gary Mac, the boys are whisked away into a VIP world of sun soaked villas dripping in girls, bin bags full of cash, dancefloor anthems, drugs and temptation. But pretty soon what began as celebration of music and friendship soon becomes something darker and more dangerous.



Jane Eyre

Mia Wasikowska (Alice in Wonderland) and Michael Fassbender (Inglourious Basterds) star in the romantic drama based on Charlotte Brontë's classic novel, from acclaimed director Cary Fukunaga (Sin Nombre). In the story, Jane Eyre flees Thornfield House, the vast and isolated estate where she works as a governess for Adele, a child under the custody of Thornfield's brooding master, Edward Rochester.

Out 11th August

As Jane looks back upon the tumultuous events that led to her escape, from her childhood as an orphan to her education at the cruel charity school to which she was consigned, she realizes that she must return to Thornfield - to secure her own future, and to come to terms with the terrible secret Rochester had hoped to hide from her forever...

MOVIE BUZZ

◆ Bradley Cooper has dropped out of the lead role in Juan Carlos Fresnadillo's (28 Weeks Later) remake of The Crow and word now is Channing Tatum and Mark Wahlberg are both listed as possible replacements. The film is a new adaptation of the James O'Barr comic series, which is said to be a gritty reboot following the 1994 adaptation directed by Alex Proyas.

◆ Matthew McConaughey is set to join Channing Tatum and Alex Pettyfer in Steven Soderbergh's indie drama Magic Mike in which Tatum stars as the title character, a stripper and dancer who takes Pettyfer's character under his wing and mentors him on how to hustle both on and off the stage. McConaughey will play Dallas, a former exotic dancer who now owns and operates Xquisite, the club where "Magic Mike" works.

◆ Brad Pitt is set to star in The Gray Man, an adaptation of Mark Greaney's thriller novel, for James Gray (We Own the Night). The film centres on a former CIA operative-turned-ultimate assassin who is targeted by a powerful multinational corporation and must fight his way across Europe and past special-forces teams from around the world in order to save the life of his handler and the handler's family.

◆ Leonardo DiCaprio is circling The Creed of Violence, a western-flavoured script based on the 2010 novel from cult author Boston Teran. The film tells the 1910-era story of a criminal named Rawbone who tries to take a cache of weapons into Mexico as part of the country's revolution but is caught and then, accompanied by a government agent who, it turns out, shares a secret past with him.

◆ Chuck Norris, John Travolta and Jean-Claude Van Damme will have appearances in The Expendables 2 which is set to shoot in Bulgaria this month. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis along with the surviving cast members from the first film are set to appear too.



The Change-Up

Ryan Reynolds and Jason Bateman star in *The Change-Up*, from director David Dobkin (*Wedding Crashers*). Growing up together, Mitch (Reynolds) and Dave (Bateman) were inseparable best friends, but as the years have passed they've slowly drifted apart. While Dave is an overworked lawyer, husband and father of three, Mitch has remained a single, quasi-employed man-child who has never met a responsibility he liked.

Out 16th September

To Mitch, Dave has it all: beautiful wife Jamie (Leslie Mann), kids who adore him and a high-paying job at a prestigious law firm. To Dave, living Mitch's stress free life without obligation or consequence would be a dream come true. Following a drunken night out together, Mitch and Dave's worlds are turned upside down when they wake up in each other's bodies.



Drive

Ryan Gosling stars in *Drive*, a fast paced action thriller that focuses on a Hollywood stunt driver, a loner by nature, who moonlights as a getaway driver-for-hire in the criminal underworld. He finds himself a target for some of LA's most dangerous men after agreeing to aid

Out 16th September

the ex-con boyfriend of his beautiful neighbour in a job that goes dangerously awry. The only way he can keep her safe and stay alive is to do what he does best: *Drive*. Fast and entertaining from start to finish. One of the best films of the year.



Abduction

Taylor Lautner stars as a young man unwittingly thrust into a deadly world of covert espionage. For as long as he can remember, Nathan Harper (Taylor Lautner) has had the uneasy feeling that he's living someone else's life. When he stumbles upon an image of himself as a little boy on a missing persons website, all of Nathan's darkest fears come true: he realizes his parents are

Out 23rd September

not his own and his life is a lie, carefully fabricated to hide something more mysterious and dangerous than he could have ever imagined. Just as he begins to piece together his true identity, Nathan is targeted by a team of trained killers, forcing him on the run with the only person he can trust, his neighbour, Karen (Lily Collins).

TEN THINGS YOU NEVER
KNEW ABOUT:

TOM HARDY



- Tom joined Drama Centre London in September 1998 and was taken out early to work on *Band of Brothers*.
- He was nominated for a 2004 Laurence Olivier Theatre Award for Most Promising Newcomer of 2003 in a *Society of London Theatre* Affiliate for his performance in *Arabia, We'd All Be Kings*.
- Trained under Sir Anthony Hopkins's former mentor at the London Drama Centre.
- He appeared as gay hoodlum "Handsome Bob" in the Guy Ritchie film, *RocknRolla*.
- Some of his favourite foods include American hot pizza, cheese on toast, crackling, lobster, pork, roast beef, roast duck, spinach with sesame and soy sauce, and some Yorkshire Pudding. He loves Chinese and Japanese cuisine also.
- Won *The Big Breakfast's* Find Me a Supermodel competition at age 19 (and with it a brief contract with Models One).
- In 2010, Hardy became engaged to fellow English actress, Charlotte Riley, whom he starred with in *The Take* (2009) and *Wuthering Heights* (2009), and is raising a young son, Louis, with ex-girlfriend Rachael Speed.
- Has written two television shows with Kelly Marcel, both of which have sold to production companies.
- He battled alcoholism and a crack cocaine addiction in his early-to mid-twenties, but has been sober since 2003.
- Plays Batman's arch nemesis Bane in the upcoming *The Dark Knight Rises* out summer 2012.

This month he stars in two movies, as a boxer in *Warrior* out on 23rd September and a British agent in *Tinker Tailor, Soldier Spy* out on the 16th September.



by Gordon Hopps

Fit Farms

For most people, feeling comfortable in 'their own skin' is what makes them who they are. Sometimes, that comfort creeps up on them when they aren't looking and suddenly they realise that, well, they no longer feel that comfortable anymore.

Quite rightly, not everyone is body conscious, or cares that much about what others think as they are happy the way they are. They are not bothered about medical advice or government recommendations because it is nothing to do with anyone but themselves. However, at some point, some people take stock and feel the need for change. This can happen at any age and unfortunately I'd reached that age.

It was on my last holiday when it happened. The weather was hot and sunny and I was walking along wearing only a pair of shorts when I caught sight of my reflection as I passed a shop window. I wondered who that fat, old guy looking back at me was. The realisation shocked me as much as the image and I thought it was time to do something about it. I signed up to FitFarms who, after running 'Women Only' courses very successfully for over 4 years, were starting 'Men Only' courses at their weight loss and fitness camps.

Before I went I managed to lose 14 pounds in weight on a no-carb diet, which surprisingly was not a strain for me and vainly I wanted to look a bit better when I got to the FitFarms base in the Peak District. The plan was to spend a week following a nutritional and exercise programme that would re-boot my system, make me see the way I live my life in perhaps a different way and to try and achieve goals that I could set for myself.

Now let me make it perfectly clear that this is not a boot camp where ex-military men shout abuse or power

obsessed fitness freaks try to belittle you in any way. For some, that would be heaven but that wouldn't be for me. What FitFarms did do is point out the reason we fall so easily into eating too much and/or not exercising regularly, so for this one week, what you eat and how you exercise is all laid out for you.

I did find the exercise programme quite a shock. Hell, I hadn't done any real exercise for a number of years and gearing up, at 6.45am, for the first session of the day, was quite scary. However, once that was over at 7.30 you could have breakfast, a calorie controlled start to the meals you'd be having throughout the day. From 8.30 through to 12.30 there would be a couple more sessions of different forms of exercise. For instance, we might be doing resistance

work, cardio work, strengthening this or that group of muscles. Whatever it was, lunch at 12.30 was always welcome - FitFarms in the Peak District has a fantastic chef called Anthea and her meals were a joy to eat. The afternoon is also then broken up into different sessions; a walk, a run, a swim, a bike ride, boxersize, Pilates, yoga, jogging, (see the chart for an example of a typical day) >> as well as all the usual step classes and general fitness circuits. It has to be said that the countryside in the Peak District is wonderful and our 8 mile walk around Carsington Water or the 6 mile hike around Chatsworth were hard but visually stunning. By the time dinner arrives around 5.30 you know you are ready to dig in but, you are on a calorie and nutritionally balanced diet and the portions are definitely smaller than you think your

WEDNESDAY

- 6.45 Wake Up Workout
- 7.45 Breakfast
- 8.30 High Peak Trail Walk/Jog
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.15 Cookery Workshop with Anthea
- 14.15 Lift Your Bodyweight
- 15.00 Dash & Splash
- 16.00 Swimming
- 17.30 Dinner
- 18.30 Cardio Combat
- 19.30 Massage

body needs. But on this you have to give way to the experts when they are trying to help you burn off the fat and facilitate a toning of that out-of-





were a terrific cross-section of ages and abilities. We all had our own personal reasons for being there and each of us wanted the experience to kick-start a new direction for some kind of healthier lifestyle. To help with this they offer very interesting talks on the psychology of exercise, weight management, info on how to maintain your blood sugar levels and a particularly interesting class on nutrition. Most of us had never so much as looked at the info printed on the packaged food we buy to find out what was in the product, so a few pointers on this subject became a real eye-opener.

In my week away I lost a further four and a half pounds in weight, lost 2% of my body fat, lost an inch around my waist, was able to do more sit-ups, and felt really proud of my achievements. Thankfully, the course doesn't end there. They have

online follow-up help, encouragement, recipes and exercise programmes you can access, as well as a notice board to keep in touch with your trainers and fellow FitFarmers.

So, if your idea of a fit farm is all elegance, pampering and gentle exercise, then FitFarms isn't for you. At FitFarms you are looked after but not pampered (although the accommodation is very nice), encouraged but not berated and offered goals that are both beneficial, achievable and sustainable. I found it a liberating experience and it definitely gave me more of an insight into the way I tick and a future where I control my body, not the other way round.

For more info: www.fitfarms.co.uk

control body. Food is tasty but often feels minimal however, don't make any rash decision about sneaking an apple or going off site to the pub. All meals are balanced for what you are trying to gain from the FitFarms experience. After all, you've paid a lot of money to be there but don't expect that it is going to be canapés and champagne with a bit of toe-wiggling as exercise... it isn't that type of establishment, you will be working very hard at getting into shape.

After the first couple of days I ached so much I really didn't want to get out of bed. However, knowing that everyone else was in the same position a sort of 'British Spirit' soon emerged and I wanted to get through it, no matter how much 'suffering' I had to endure. The staff were motivational, without being 'preachy' and understood if you lagged a little behind others who were better at some things than you were. The group of fourteen guys I was with



Queer Vienna:

Now or Never

Vienna is a cultural beacon in Europe and often overlooked for places like Venice or Paris. But this Austrian city boasts its own rich heritage and baroque style which is bound to win over even the most discerning of queer travellers. By Adam Lowe

As the capital, Vienna is undoubtedly the LGBT hub of Austria. As at home, many gay people move from smaller cities and towns to their capital, and as such Vienna is bristling with queer fun.

There are plenty of stylish hotels available, suitable for all budgets, and all are very tolerant of gay guests. The proximity of other European countries, and their accessibility via train or plane, makes Vienna perfect either as a destination or as a stop on any city tour of the continent.

To Eat

Vienna is full of high quality eateries. Like their continental cousins, they have a café culture famous for its cosiness, or 'Gemütlichkeit'. For more substantial fare, the local restaurants typically blend Austrian, Hungarian, Czech and European influences.

Café Berg is a wonderful venue close to both the university district and the historic city centre. It offers seating inside and out, with a delicious range of plates, sizeable enough to satisfy even the most voracious of appetites. The salmon breakfast was a personal favourite: bagels, cream cheese, smoked salmon, tea or coffee, orange juice and a glass of prosecco. It was the little touches (horseradish and half a boiled egg topped with caviar) which made the meal. The scrambled eggs in truffle-scented oil are also worth a try and complement the salmon excellently.

Café Willendorf is on the ground floor of The Rosa Lila Ville, which is the very heart of the Viennese gay scene. The café offers not only a safe and cosmopolitan environment, but also excellent food, generous portions, a wonderful courtyard for al fresco dining and prices that are more than affordable.

Motto is a bold, stylish and beautiful restaurant with a laidback atmosphere, outstanding menus and great value for money. Its sister restaurant, Halle, is located in the Museums-Quartier.

For the lesbians amongst us, Café Standard is the first port of call. This lesbian-owned restaurant is open to all members of the community and fully wheelchair accessible, and is famous locally for its great food and signature music policy.

Café Berg

Bergasse 8, 9th District
Daily 10am-1am
Tel.: +431 319 57 20
cafe-berg.at

Café Willendorf

Linke Wienzeile 102, 6th District
Thu-Sat 6pm-2am (kitchen closes at midnight)
Sun-Wed 6pm-1am (kitchen closes at 11pm)
Tel.: +431 587 17 89
cafe-willendorf.at

Motto

Schönbrunnerstrasse 30, 5th District
Sun-Thu 6pm-2am
Fri-Sat 6pm-4am
Tel.: +431 587 06 72
motto.at

Café Standard

Margaretenstrasse 63, 5th District
Mon-Fri 8am-10pm
Sat-Sun and bank holidays 11am-10pm
Tel.: +431 581 05 86

To Drink

Café Savoy is a café-bar with vast single-plate mirrors and a friendly atmosphere. The crowd is very mixed, with groups of men and women present, although generally the clientele is a little older than some of the newer hotspots. However, located as it is on the Naschmarkt, it is a perfectly placed retreat from the hustle and bustle of the marketplace.

Café BaKul is perfect for those who prefer to head out a little later (or start a little earlier) with opening hours from 9am until 2am. Just around the corner is café Rifugio, which is open from 10am-10pm, and

offers a regular calendar of queer events, including the Oktoberfest and late-morning drinks ('Frühschoppen').

Café Savoy

Linke Wienzeile 36, 6th District
Daily 8am-2am
Tel.: 8am-2am
savoy.at

Café BaKul

Margaretenstrasse 58, 5th District
Daily 9am-2am
bakul.at

Café Rifugio

Schönbrunnerstrasse 10, 5th District
Daily 10am-10pm

To Dance

Village Bar is located just off a Naschmarkt sidestreet, making it perfect for a follow-up destination to Café Savoy. The crowd is younger, hipper and inevitably more energetic, although the compact venue fills up quite quickly, so it's best to locate some seats and hold onto them!

House, disco and garage are the calling card of the fabulous Heaven Vienna at the Camera Club. Austria's best known drag queen, Miss Candy, leads a frothing madhouse of camp revellers.

Homoriental takes its musical cues from the Far East and targets itself as a multicultural, cosmopolitan crowd. The punters are pretty mixed but the atmosphere is relaxed and friendly.

Goldener Spiegel ('the Golden Mirror') is named for the huge, tacky gold mirrors inside. The wallpaper is entirely made up of pasted-on hunks from porn magazines and, according to the locals, this is the only bar in Vienna where you can get the best sausage on the left and the best rent boys on the right.



HARD ON is the aptly-named fetish party run in a private residence to members only. Others include Stiefelknecht, Eagle and Sling. For the indie kids there's Meat Market.

Village Bar
Stiegengasse 8, 6th District
Daily 8pm-3am
village-bar.at

Heaven Vienna
@ Camera Club
Neubaugasse 2, 7th District
Sat from 10pm
heaven.at

Homoriental
@ WUK
Währinger Strasse 59, 9th District
homoriental.wordpress.com

Hard On
Hamburgerstr. 4, 5th District
Thu from 8pm
Fri-Sat from 10pm

Goldener Spiegel
Linke Wienzeile 46 (Stiegengasse entrance)
6th District
Daily 7pm-2am (kitchen closes at midnight)
Tel.: +431 588 66 08

To Shop

Mariahilfer Strasse is the main shopping district. Here you'll find all the highstreet chains, such as H&M and Zara, but also sex shops such as Spartacus XXL-Store (and the nearby Tiberius, just off the highstreet).

Löwenherz bookstore is next door to Café Berg (see above) and offers a truly astonishing array of queer-interest magazines, books and DVDs in a variety of languages.

If you want to splash your cash, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Prada, Armani and Hugo Boss can all be found on Kärntner Strasse, Graben and Kohlmarkt.

Naschmarkt is an outdoor market perfect for bric-a-brac, but also home to Café Savoy. Just up the road is the Klimt exhibition at the Secession gallery, which sells prints, T-shirts and even satchels emblazoned with Klimt's eye-catching spangly style.

Kaiserbründl is the first stop-off for any fan of saunas. This gloriously decorated place looks like the inside of a palace. You're sure to unwind in style.

Younger crowds often visit Apollo City Sauna, Sauna Frisco and Sportsauna, where you can safely switch off your Grindr and still be guaranteed a good time.

Kaiserbründl
Weihburggasse 18, 1st District
Daily 2pm-midnight
Fri-Sat and nights before public holidays 2pm-2am

Apollo City Sauna
Wimberggasse 34, 7th District
Daily 2pm-2am

General Information

Gay visitors' information:

Rosa Lila Villa
Linke Wienzeile 102, 6th District
Tel.: +431 585 43 43
villa.at

Gay tours:

Qwien Centre
Grosse Neugasse 29, 4th District
Tel.: +431 966 01 01
qwien.at

Useful websites:

gayboy.at
gaynet.at
rainbow.at
gaywien.at
facebook.com/gayfriendlyvienna

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Images courtesy of viennaphoto.com



Steaming spires!

Little fresher Adrian Gillan has a boy bender binge to examine if Oxford really makes the gay grade - as autumn term begins!

Ah, the “dreaming spires” and homo-boards of bright, brainy boy babes who’ve just left home, hungry for new knowledge. Yet: anyone can say they “went to Oxford” these days!

Sights

Queer culture vultures should first defo work up an appetite, browsing the Bodleian Library (www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk), whose collections include Shakespeare’s first folio, the poet Shelley’s letters and one of the few remaining original impressions of the Gutenberg Bible! Or savour the equally celebrated Ashmolean Museum (www.ashmolean.org), brimming with art and archaeology, from ancient Egypt to the present day; or the Modern Art Museum (www.modernartoxford.org.uk). Stroll through the peaceful Botanic Gardens (www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk), boasting Tolkein’s favourite tree; or perch under the iconic Bridge of Sighs - a Venetian-style enclosed bridge built as recently as 1914 (younger than its Cambridge namesake) to link the two sides of Hertford College.

Gawp at the stunning architecture of the Natural History Museum, Wren-designed Sheldonian Theatre (affording amazing views from its rooftop cupola) or Radcliffe Camera. Scale the giddy heights of the Carfax Tower. Catch a show at the Oxford Playhouse. Even a Godless gay can’t fail to be impressed by flagship university gem, Christ Church College

(www.chch.ox.ac.uk) – dubbed the “Harry Potter College” - with its cathedral, choir, meadow and Old Master-brimming Picture Gallery. And no visit would be complete without escaping the boyish bustle and commandeering a hand-built punt on the water, from Cherwell Boathouse - which also boasts a rather nice riverside restaurant for a spot of tucker – tally-ho! Or try one of the excellent, frequent Oxford River Cruises (www.oxfordrivercruises.com).

Official Guided Walking Tours (Oxford Tourist Information Centre, 15/16 Broad Street T: 01865 252200; www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com) are available at 10.45am and 2pm daily (except Christmas Day).

Get a lively take on local history at Oxford Castle Unlocked (44-46 Oxford Castle; T: 01865 260666; www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk). Grab a sandwich, soup or locally-sourced cake at fab 1071 (5 Oxford Castle; T: 01865 205034) whilst in the area; or, alternatively, in the bustling Covered Market.

Scene

Oxford’s greatest asset is undoubtedly its earthy young indigenous population (“town”), plus classy student influx (“gown”) - a significant portion of who seem to be either queer, or constantly questioning. From geeky Greek grammar nerd to rowing or rigger scholar: whatever your taste, you’ll find it scarce five minutes’ walk from the train station.

The newly refurbished Jolly Farmers (20 Paradise Street) attracts gay locals of all genders and ages who merrily prattle away the hours on the balcony and sizeable garden cum summer, chewing queer cud and mulling life and love or reliving a recent Oxford Pride, blow-by-blow.

Probably time to up the ante pre-club now: so make your faint excuses and flit outrageously to The Castle Tavern (24 Paradise Street) mere doors down. Being so buzzing, it is the obvious place to enrol, or even settle any mid-term nerves. This place certainly sorts the men from the boys, all spilling out to pose in the streets whenever nights are warm.

Recently-opened with a new sound system and luxury interior, Plush Lounge (27 Park End Street) is Oxford’s only gay-dedicated club, with a cheap student night on Wednesdays; classic pop and rock every ‘Flash Back Friday’; plus pop, rock, cheese & live acts every Saturday. You should also check out Poptarts - ‘Oxford’s Tastiest Gay Night’ – on Tuesdays, 10pm-3am, at Baby Love (3 King Edward Street).

Stay & Eat



These days, the Malmaison Oxford (Oxford Castle, 3 New Road, Oxford OX1 1AY; T: 01865 268 400; www.malmaison-oxford.com) takes no prisoners – but bad boys can still ‘go down’, guilty as charged! Sentence yourself to a night’s stay at Oxford’s former jail, now doing time as a luxury boutique hotel (95 rooms and rock’n’roll suites), destination brasserie and hang-out bar for “high-life hoodlums”. As the door slams behind you, fear ye overly not: you’ll get ample privileges! Blisteringly quick broadband, roll top baths and drench showers for the extra naughty! Plasma TVs and ‘steal-me’ toiletries for repeat offenders! And as for the suites: redemption awaits, so lock yourself up and throw away the key!

But not before putting in a last request at the bar for a Mint Mojito; followed by simple British classic dishes - uncompromising in quality, locally-sourced and generous in portion - at the 100-seater brasserie. Prison grub has never been so good! The Oxford Mal retains many of the original features of the jail: metal staircases, imposing arches, huge atriums. And all a mere stone’s throw away from that Oxford scene!

Visit Oxford by First Great Western trains, with standard advance returns from London Paddington starting at just £8. For times, fares and bookings: www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk

Oxford Pride runs every June: www.oxford-pride.org.uk

For more on what to do in Oxford, and wider Oxfordshire: www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com

For more on gay Oxford: www.gayoxford.co.uk

Wales

Cwmtylo
Bed & Breakfast

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My First Time

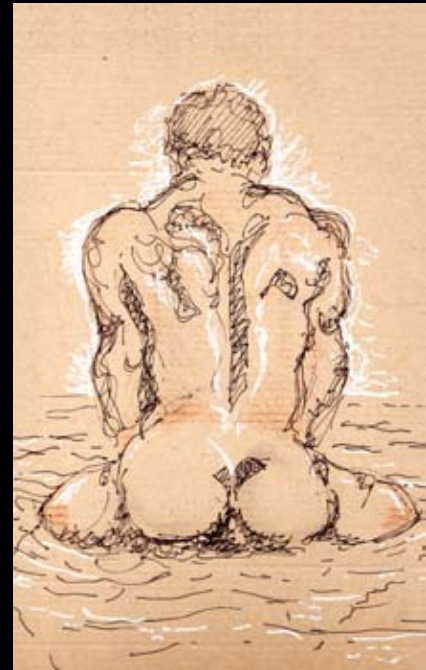
Bent asked its readers to share their experience of that very first ever visit to a gay sauna.

I've only recently started to go to a brilliant place near my home town. I'd read online about these places and the idea really appealed to me but I thought that they'd be awful dives and the only good ones were abroad or in London, so was pretty made up when I found one so close by. I was worried at first that I'd see someone I knew, or even worse that someone would see me and tell my family. I'm 18 and still live at home but eventually I got over that and thought that they'd be there for the same reason I was so what did it matter.

Anyway, after the guided tour I was amazed at just how many guys there were around and was even more surprised that I'd got nods off quite a few guys as I'd looked around. In the sauna I happily took my lead from the four other men laying there and removed my towel and spread myself out. I closed my eyes and within minutes felt a hand stroking

my body. The warmth was really nice and the touches were gentle and I got a hard on. Lips serviced my dick as fingers searched my body and I was in nervous ecstasy right off. After that I toured more of the complex and everywhere there were men, some cruising and hoping, others who had already succeeded and were enjoying a sexy session. One guy asked me to go to a little room with him but I said no as I wasn't ready for anything in private (I was worried that something might happen to me that I couldn't get out of) but we still managed to play around in a sort of public communal room where I experienced my very first rimming.

Terry, Harrogate



• Illustration by: **Ryan Doherty** - www.wix.com/ryandoherty27/ryansart

Send your first time experience to: editor@bent.com

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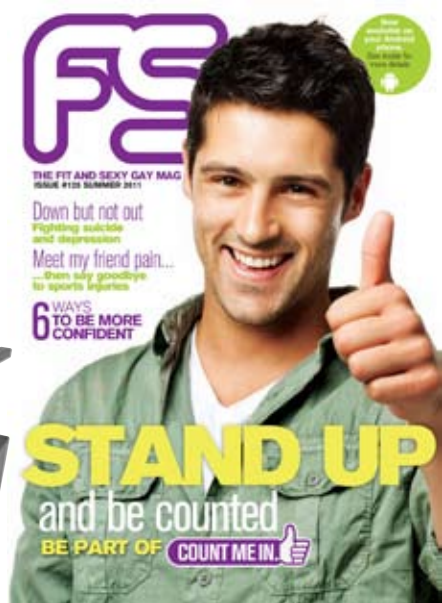
Depression

One in four people will experience depression in their lives and a fifth of gay people will attempt suicide. The latest edition of FS magazine talks to James, a 26-year-old man who tried to take his life three times. Why? Because he didn't want to be gay.

"Discovering my sexuality at a young age, I wasn't able to relate to anyone. Any gay person I saw on the television was not a representation of me," says James. He adds, "I feared society. I feared becoming gay. I was severely depressed and saw suicide as an easy way out". Luckily James gained the courage to overcome his problems and tells FS magazine how he did this. "I realised that no matter how much I blamed everyone else, how much I asked 'Why Me?' - the only person who could change my life was me."

Matthew Hodson of GMFA, who publish FS, comments; "Depression can also lead to many other risks. Men who are depressed are more likely to take risks in sex. This means you may be less likely to use condoms or more likely to have sex that you don't really want to have. If you are feeling down and taking risks that you know you shouldn't, talk to someone about it."

For advice on how to spot depression, how to help a mate that is depressed or to read James's story, see the full article "Down but not out" in FS magazine, issue 125. It's available for free in gay venues and GUM clinics across the UK or can be viewed at www.gmfa.org.uk/fsmag FS magazine is now available to download on your iPhone, iPad or Android device for free. Visit www.gmfa.org.uk/fsapp for more information.



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CHEAP PANTS GUY

By Emeness



"I'm a pants nutter"

For as long as he can remember I've just loved my underwear. As a child I'd spend most of my time wondering about the house in just my little cartoon-character briefs.

My mum told me that ever since I was a tot I'd always pulled off my clothes and shoes and paraded around almost naked. Firstly it was in a nappy, then trainer pants, then my briefs... for some reason I was only comfortable in my underwear. According to her, it didn't matter where I was or who was visiting, it was usually just me and my undies. Apparently I was as good as gold once I'd shuffled out of all my other clothing and always seemed perfectly happy wearing only that tiny piece of material covering my 'bits and pieces' (as mum called them). When as a toddler, and we were out shopping, she often had to struggle to get me to stay in 'going out' clothes and if I ran off, she always knew where to find me; standing near the area that sold underwear. Male or female, as a child it was all the same to me, I would just hang around and look at the items on show until mum or some surprised other customer would arrive and find a trouser-less young boy stood gawping at the display.

As a kid my mother's mail-order catalogue proved a source of inspiration. The underwear page had

kept my young eyes glued and I used to want to dress up (if that's the correct term) in the styles I saw on those colourful pages. The models in their vest and pants poses had, even from an early age, made me like the manly image and stirred the pubescent cock resting in my cotton underwear. To me, seeing the guys standing around in just their tight fitting Jockeys was perfectly normal because that's how I liked to be. To be honest I didn't mind some of the pictures of the lady models either. I wasn't keen on the knee-length styles but the pretty brief ones I liked. The silky pastel colours, the flowery nylon, the lace trim... all these, I have to say, I appreciated and liked the idea of wearing as much as the white or blue cotton y-fronts that turned my youthful imagination on so much.

I begged mum to buy the items I'd seen in her catalogue but as the family was struggling financially we'd take a trip to the local market for her to buy her growing lad all his schoolboy needs from one of the cheap stalls. Usually it was just a few pence for a pair of briefs.... although sometimes she bought several pairs of multi-coloured boy's cotton trunks or briefs for around £2. The colours and designs were often awful but I realised that I could obtain masses of undies for the same price that one pair in the catalogue cost. That schoolboy revelation has stayed with me to this day and although I enjoy and

appreciate all the tight, gleaming, sexy, shiny, Lycra, branded styles... I refuse to pay more than a couple of quid for any pants.

Now as a twenty-five year old, things have changed... but very little in my desire for underwear. Although I wear trousers to work, the minute I get back to my flat, off they come and the rest of the time I pad around, make my meals, watch TV and sleep in nothing but my pants. The chest of drawers in the bedroom is weighed under by all the styles of cheap pants bought at the market. Boxers, trunks, briefs, skimpier thongs, nylon flowery knickers, lacy panties, rough cotton pants, polyester shorts... if they haven't cost much over £2... they are usually added to the collection. I've got more colours and styles than anyone else I knew and often spend night after night playing around in them... either alone or with some guy picked up at a bar, in a cottage or off the net.

I'm OK looking so hopefully it's no surprise I do well. Everything's in the right place and I don't suppose the horny underwear pics that adorn my profile on the net do any harm at all... my sex life is buzzing. All the guys who visit the flat are stripped down to their underwear first before anything else happens. Once I've found out what they are wearing under their jeans my interest soars... mainly because I want to get them out of what they

have on... and into a style from my own collection that I think will suit them. Yes, I've become a sort of Gok Wan of underwear - the number of times I've talked some horny, hairy hulk out of his pristine white CKs and into a pair of lacy women's nylon knickers is quite unbelievable. Not being modest here but my own substantial cock is usually permanently hard at this point and forms a terrific outline in whatever style I've got on. Even my cheap drab, baggy paisley nylon y-fronts, which for some reason I've developed a passion for, seem to come alive (and well tented) when I'm in shagging mode. Very rarely do visitors refuse to join in the underwear fun... in fact, the sessions are always so hot that more often than not a few like to swap what they've arrived in (expensive or not) and go home in their cum-filled, stinky 'cheap' pants. A hairy arse framed by a piece of sheer nylon or a throbbing cock trapped inside a satin g-string desperate for escape... I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking it is the best of sights. Visitors often seem to appreciate what this first ever taste of pant pleasure gives them. Spurting into and over the fabric and not having to worry about ruining an expensive £20+ pair of designer pants helps lose silly inhibition and eases guys into just having a great time... creaming, screaming, dreaming, humping, pumping, laughing and loving in their newly found cheap pant heaven.

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Aquarius

(Jan21/Feb19)

Over the weeks ahead there will be times when it will be impossible to get on with anything without someone disturbing you. You're too kind for your own good. Although you've always been a friend others can rely on, people are now taking it for granted that you will drop everything whenever they need you. This situation can't go on and if you don't speak up for yourself, by the end of the month, someone who has your best interests at heart will!

Pisces

(Feb20/Mar20)

If you are single, your ability to attract the right people in your life has never been stronger. Over the next few weeks get out and socialise. You might enjoy impromptu parties and fun social gatherings. You have a sensitive nature and you aren't a one to throw yourself at anyone. There's something hidden in your basic makeup that makes you nervous about getting to know new people better. What's good about the weeks ahead is you will meet a person who you feel at ease with immediately.

Aries

(Mar21/Apr20)

There's an air of purposeful determination about you now and over the weeks to come. This suggests you will put up with no argument or interference from others. You haven't the patience, these days, to wait around for other people to make up their minds. You already know how you're going to approach certain jobs and assignments. This is one of those times when you will get far more satisfaction through being left to get on by yourself with no-one watching over your shoulders!

Taurus

(Apr21/May21)

If you are single and looking then romantic opportunities will abound over the weeks ahead. Ruled by Venus, you appreciate beauty in all forms. So it's hardly surprising that you find yourself drawn to an attractive someone who has just entered your social circle. A little light flirtation will be harmless enough but what surprises you is how keen this person will be to get to know you better. Expect the next few weeks to be interesting as relationships develop and bonds grow stronger.

Gemini

(May22/June21)

There could be a dramatic change in your attitude towards the more elderly members of your family over the weeks ahead. Or it will be an older neighbour who you will start to see more often and you will really enjoy their company. If you can keep an open mind and prepare yourself for some long discussions and consultations, you should be able to put most of your troubles behind you by the end of the month. Expect too, to hear some news that will make your financial situation even more robust.

Cancer

(June22/July23)

Family has always been important to you but are they taking advantage? Conflicts you're trying to sort out at home could mean you're missing out on some great romantic opportunities. Tension between you and your partner is getting too much to bear. It's time to let others know you're an individual too and you can't

sort out everybody's problems. Leave others to their own devices and concentrate on what's important in your life. Your love life especially needs a bit more attention!

Leo

(July24/Aug23)

Although you're trying hard not to be extravagant, extra expenses over the weeks ahead could be a drain on your purse. Events you take part in and places you visit could cost a lot more than expected. Especially when you find yourself mixing with people who have luxurious tastes. You might be annoyed with yourself if you are economising or trying to cut down on your spending for one reason or another. Still, there will be a one-off occasion you won't want to miss and you won't begrudge the outlay too much!

Libra

(Sept24/Oct23)

Minor problems could build up in your mind until you feel overwhelmed by them. If you feel you can't cope with anything, reach out to a practical friend. Over the weeks to come, people will notice that you're not your usual self and they will want to know how they can help you. Libra, you have many caring and sympathetic friends so don't feel you have to go through uncertain times on your own. The more you keep everything bottled up inside the worse they will seem. Share your problems to half them!

Scorpio

(Oct24/Nov22)

Over the month ahead you will want to get on with what you want to do with no interference from others. You're searching for something new and exciting but not everyone will share your need for a change. In fact there will be some who just seem to want every day to be the same. Take the chance to join a new club or society where you can share your interests with like-minded people. Take a look at what's new in your neighbourhood and you could be surprised. You're ready to broaden your horizons even if it means leaving your partner at home.

Sagittarius

(Nov23/Dec21)

Be patient these next few weeks and don't let minor hurdles distract you from your goals. Whenever you come across a problem, ponder on all possible solutions before you decide on which might be the best one. Through weighing up the pros and cons you will decide on the right course of action. Wise choices will take you to your goals. A partner's avid support will also keep you thinking positive.

Capricorn

(Dec22/Jan20)

If you're single and looking for love, it is time you had more confidence in yourself. This is not the time to hold back in romance. Other people are attracted to you, no matter what you think! If there is someone you fancy, take a deep breath and take that first bold step before it's too late. There are plenty people around who will want to grab your dream lover before you, so dial their number or send them a text message and be sure to meet up regularly over the month ahead.

Virgo

(Aug24/Sept23)

Dealings with other people will be mutually advantageous especially if you're at the start of a new venture. Over the weeks ahead your mental powers will be at a high level and coupled with ample vitality, work will seem like a pleasure! No matter how many difficulties you encounter, you will find a quick and effective solution. Make sure you have a definite plan in mind before getting into discussions with your partner that may affect the future. This will be a good month for new starts.



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