

# bent

Issue 153 October 2011

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INTERVIEW

**DARREN HAYES**

NEW ALBUM

**ERASURE**

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# ON THE COVER

Melanie Chisholm  
Courtesy: MBC - PR

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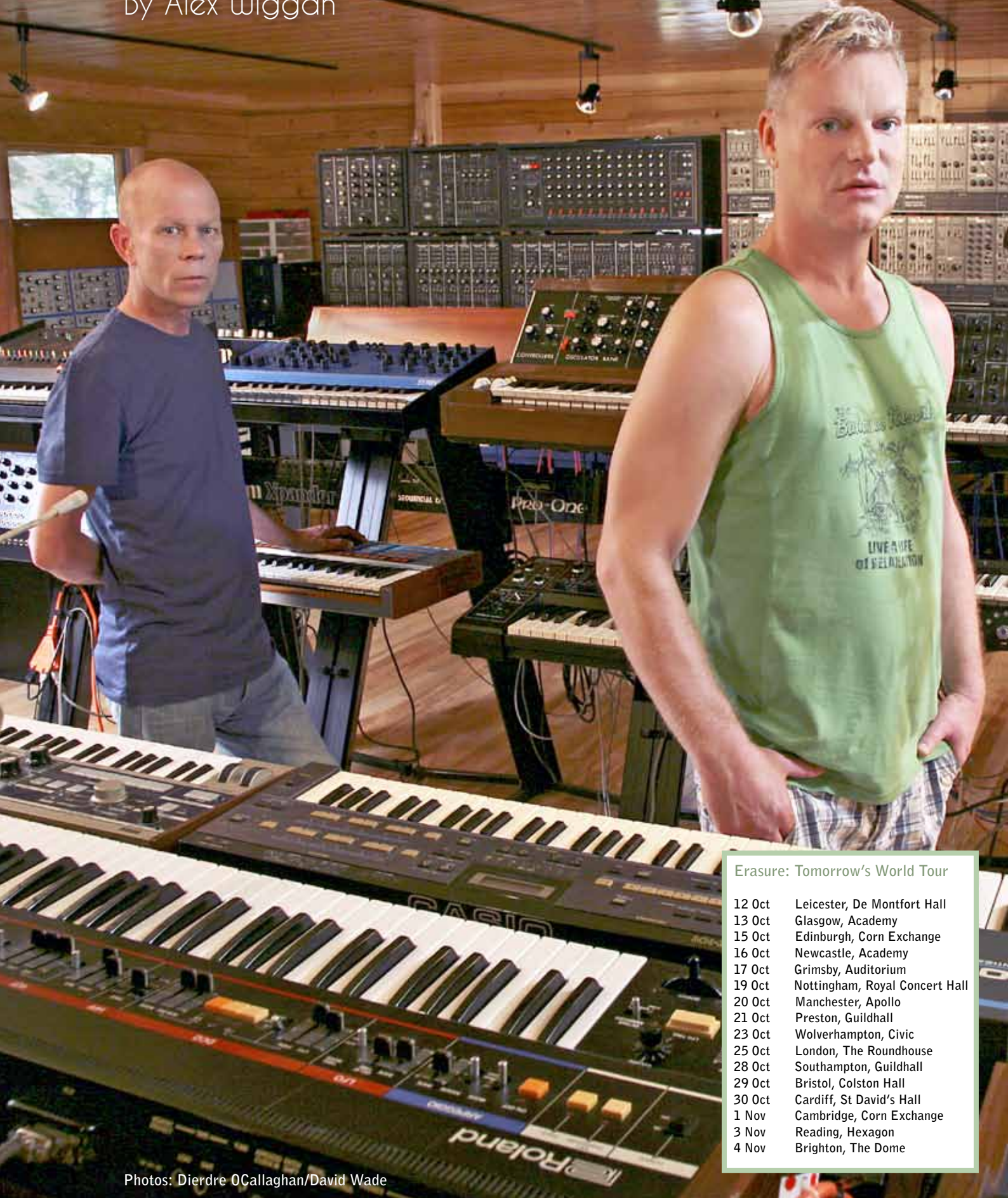
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# ERASURE

By Alex Wiggan



## Erasure: Tomorrow's World Tour

- |        |                                |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| 12 Oct | Leicester, De Montfort Hall    |
| 13 Oct | Glasgow, Academy               |
| 15 Oct | Edinburgh, Corn Exchange       |
| 16 Oct | Newcastle, Academy             |
| 17 Oct | Grimsby, Auditorium            |
| 19 Oct | Nottingham, Royal Concert Hall |
| 20 Oct | Manchester, Apollo             |
| 21 Oct | Preston, Guildhall             |
| 23 Oct | Wolverhampton, Civic           |
| 25 Oct | London, The Roundhouse         |
| 28 Oct | Southampton, Guildhall         |
| 29 Oct | Bristol, Colston Hall          |
| 30 Oct | Cardiff, St David's Hall       |
| 1 Nov  | Cambridge, Corn Exchange       |
| 3 Nov  | Reading, Hexagon               |
| 4 Nov  | Brighton, The Dome             |

Photos: Dierdre OCallaghan/David Wade

**IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS, THERE ARE SOME MOMENTS IN TIME WHEN THE STARS ALIGN AND WE ALL BECOME AWARE THAT CERTAIN ICONIC GAY EVENTS WERE JUST MEANT TO BE.**

Take for instance the moment when someone suggested that mixing gays with showbiz would be an award winning combination; it was a moment of pure genius! Now think about that point in time when the first scally whipped off his T-shirt and donned a pair of trackies to create the perfect ensemble; it must have been a truly momentous occasion. They were both magnificent achievements in the history of the gay world, but there was once a day unlike any other, when destiny truly went out of its way for something incredibly special. It was a day when a chap called Vince crossed paths with a fella named Andy and shortly thereafter the world was treated to an electro-pop explosion, the likes of which had never been seen before. That day took place in 1985 and ever since for over a quarter of a century the world has been fortunate enough to witness art, creativity and an ABBA themed drag routine all come together in one perfect pop package. With hits such as 'Love To Hate You', 'A Little Respect' and 'Blue Savannah', this once in a lifetime occurrence could only have been for one group and that is the dynamic duo of Erasure!

Fun, colourful and camper than a week spent in a tent with John Barrowman, Erasure are the ultimate electro super group who have come a long way since their debut single 'Who Needs Love Like That' was first released. To date they've sold over 20 million records, had 13 studio albums, four live albums and with the exception of the Transformers and David Hasselhoff's career, Erasure are one of the few great things to have survived the '80s unscathed. Although their debut single didn't ignite the charts upon release, the talent of front man Andy Bell and writer/keyboardsist Vince Clarke shone through regardless and the group continued onwards and upwards. Their fourth single 'Sometimes' reached number two in the UK charts and it was at that moment that Erasure really broke through into the big time and found the success they deserved.

Like Beyonce belting out a tune, there was no pausing for breath and into the '90s they continued releasing song after song after song which also meant releasing a variety of bonkers videos. Oh Lady Gaga might be the current queen of bizarre videos, but the floating blue hand in 'Blue Savannah' surely ranks as one of the strangest moments in pop history. It was kind of like watching the appendage of a dismembered Smurf let loose in a Derek Jarman movie, yet 'Blue Savannah' was also one of their biggest hits! This wasn't the only slightly obscure video the guys released, just check out their cover of ABBA's 'Lay All Your Love On Me', which saw the boys riding around a forest on gold motorbikes. It was like a camp scene from the film Return Of The Jedi, only minus the Ewoks. Come to think of it, if Luke Skywalker had half as much fun zipping through the trees as Erasure had then he might have embraced something a lot more fun than the dark side! As for the video 'Always' Andy dressed in a kimono and danced around like an extra from Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon to one of their most beautiful songs ever. It was captivating,

emotional and it was exactly the reason why Erasure are a group unlike any other, because Andy and Vince were born to produce great music. As time moved on Erasure continued to release new material, as well as the odd cover version here and there; they also toured a fair bit and amassed a huge following across Europe. As well as this they produced a country & western album, Andy found time to work on a couple of solo projects and more recently he appeared on reality show Popstar To Operastar. This has kept the pair very busy for the past 25 years and so it's no surprise that their fans remain loyal, with a work ethic like that the pair have put in more effort than a rent boy doing overtime. However they're more than just men for hire, they're instead the quintessential British pop group; a mix of flamboyance, class and a heck of a lot of nudging and winking. Without Erasure the electro '80s would have been less vibrant, the pop-filled '90s would have been less theatrical and the '00s wouldn't have had a cover of 'Solsbury Hill'. Together Andy Bell and Vince Clarke are a powerhouse; an example of everything that is great about music, imaginative videos and watching two blokes having fun doing what they do best. The stars don't align all that often but when they do they really create something special. Oh and seeing Vince Clarke dressed in drag queen is surely a gift from the gods.



## NEW ALBUM - TOMORROW'S WORLD OUT 3RD OCTOBER

### A LITTLE RESPECT

\*In 1985 Vince Clarke posted an ad in the music newspaper Melody Maker looking for a lead vocalist to join him on a musical project. That ad was seen by Andy Bell and before anyone could say electro-pop anthems, Erasure was born.

\*Prior to the formation of Erasure Vince was a founding member of Depeche Mode and wrote the classic track 'I Just Can't Get Enough'. After leaving Depeche Mode he later worked with Alison Moyet as a member of Yazoo, where he wrote 'Only You'.

\*To date Erasure's only number one in the UK was courtesy of their 1992 EP titled ABBA-Esque, which featured cover versions of four Abba tracks: 'Take A Chance On Me', 'Lay All Your Love On Me', 'SOS' and 'Voulez-Vous'. It's often believed that this was one of the catalysts behind the big ABBA revival of the 1990s.

\*In 2007 Erasure toured with Cyndi Lauper, Blondie singer Debbie Harry and many others for the True Colours Tour to help provide support for the LGBT community.

\*Throughout Erasure's career, Andy has always been open about his sexuality and in 2004 he publicly announced that he is HIV-Positive.



# SINGLES



**SARAH BLASKO**  
**Xanadu**  
24th October

Aussie alt-folk songstress Sarah Blasko becomes every gay man's best friend when she covers Olivia Newton-John's classic hit 'Xanadu'. This sparse song is accompanied only by a piano but shines all the more for it. 'Xanadu' is the first track of Blasko's new EP Cinema Songs, in which she covers songs from Annie Hall, The Sound of Music, Cabaret and Fame. This camp treat is definitely one for your Christmas stockings.



**JADAN LEE**  
**Definitely You**  
3rd October

This is an old-fashioned feel-good smash, complete with acoustic guitar, steel drums, trumpets and smooth, upbeat vocals. Jadan Lee is the grandson of a gospel singer and the son of a DJ, raised on a diet of Marvin Gaye, Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder. It is no wonder then that music seems to run through him like blood. This charming pop-reggae track is a perfect slice of summer, which comes to warm us even as the temperatures outside drop.



**LIQUIDEEP**  
**Angel**  
10th October

This soulful house track is a lyrical ode to the fairer sex. Liquideep vocalist Ziyon drizzles his heart-warming voice over soothing melodic rhythms with warm sweeping keys and a tear-jerking piano performance. Baltimore house legends DJ Spen & Gary Hudge serve up a bouncy urban house mix, while UK house darling Sean McCabe offers a classy deeper workout. Tribe label boss Zepherin Saint rounds out the mixes with his signature afrocentric rhythms laced with sweet melodies.



**SCARLETTE FEVER**  
**Elated**  
3rd October

'Elated' is a heart-stopping, piano-driven ballad, raw in its use of the yearning couplet. 'Tell everybody I'm elated / armour-plated' croons Scarlette, who informs us that the song is 'about growing up' and that it tells us 'there isn't always a happy ending'. The fabulous Scarlette Fever will be continuing her tour throughout the rest of the year, so keep your eye out for her at a venue near you.



## Whats on // Manchester

### FREAKSHOW

Manchester's best loved club night Freakshow, returns with a "Thriller-themed" one off Halloween party to celebrate its 2nd Birthday.

After months of searching for another venue reminiscent of our hallowed Number One club, we have found it - the crypt like Sub Space on New Wakefield Street, will host a special one off party for our travelling troupe of party freaks and clubbing chic. Celebrate Freakshow's 2nd Birthday, dress to impress and wear what you dare, in our Halloween special!!

Expect a spine chilling, nerve tingling, crypt creeping, blood curdling, gore fest of hedonism, as we take you on a journey back in time, from Freakshow's past and bring you up to date with our trademark lasers; the hottest DJ's serving up Freakshow's unique and inimitable chunky soundtrack for Manchester's most up for it crowd.

Freakshow Thriller, Saturday 29th October, 11pm until late

@ Sub Space New Wakefield Street, Manchester



**FREAKSHOW RETURNS WITH A  
THRILLER OF A SECOND BIRTHDAY**



**FREAK  
SHOW**

**SATURDAY  
29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

**11PM UNTIL LATE  
SUBSPACE**

**11-14 NEW WAKEFIELD STREET, MANCHESTER**

Revered for her crass in-your-face style and taboo-busting material, Margaret Cho is one of the most prolific and critically acclaimed comedians in America... and she's here for a few shows in October.

Last year San Francisco born Cho did an extensive nationwide US tour. The lyrics on the album, which tackle issues of sex, drugs, rock & roll – and lice is 100% laugh-inducing. After "My Puss," a hilarious rap parody Cho recorded impromptu-style with friends, became a surprise YouTube hit, Cho began to integrate more comedy music into her live stand-up shows. When



Margaret raced toward adulthood to escape bullying, she began writing jokes for stand up at 14 and professionally performing at age 16. Getting picked on, and feeling disenfranchised, is a subject that's very near to Margaret's heart. She has become a sort of "Patron Saint" for outsiders, speaking for them when they are not able to speak for themselves. "Being bullied influenced my adult life because I grew up too fast. I was in such a hurry to escape that I cheated myself out of a childhood. I didn't want to go to school any more, didn't want to be around those people any more. I want to use what happened to me to help other kids." Being part Korean and part American makes Choo pretty unique in the world of comedy and it's this uniqueness that makes her so damn funny.

LONDON – LEICESTER SQ THEATRE  
13th,14th,15th,17&18th October -7.30pm  
[www.leicestersquaretheatre.com](http://www.leicestersquaretheatre.com)

BRIGHTON COMEDY FESTIVAL  
Brighton Dome - 16th October – 8pm  
[www.brightoncomedyfestival.com](http://www.brightoncomedyfestival.com)  
[www.MargaretCho.com](http://www.MargaretCho.com)

The DVD 'Beautiful' starring Margaret Cho is available from 10th October



# Bites

## Cruising For Art

Homotopia's 8th festival brings audiences 5 new commissions and 4 world premieres amongst over 30 events across Liverpool throughout November. This year's theme is 'Cruising For Art' showcasing an array of the queer, the extravagant, the bold, the unexpected and the daring. A celebration of 21st century LGBT life with an eclectic programme of theatre, dance, film, cabaret & discussion. One of the World Premiere a dance piece called Cruising, Clubbing, Fucking; a dance-theatre performance exploring how gay men have met and seduced each other, from the 60's to the present day. Blending bodies with beats and contemporary dance styles with gesture, the three dancers move their way through this world of late night lust, combining seduction, sex and moments of human tenderness. 2nd&3rd Nov - 8pm - Unity Theatre  
Meanwhile, there's Savage Style: costumes from Lily's Wardrobe from the 4thNov thru to 19thFeb at The Walker Art Gallery and the Museum of Liverpool.

Also making a show is the Alternative Miss Liverpool - A pageant like no other and a competition that will set Liverpool alight. Featuring live music, performance & dance. The event is open to participants and anyone can enter. 12th November at The Kazimier. Hosted by David Hoyle and featuring Carry On starlet and Morecambe and Wise favourite Fenella Fielding as celebrity judge. Traditional Rounds of Daywear & Evening Wear with categories to include; Butch/Femme Realness, Peacock Punks, Neo-Romantics, Tom-Boys, Liverpool Spinster, Confirmed Bachelors, Queens Of The Nile, Ladyfags and SPECIAL VIP Tribute Category LIZ TAYLOR.

[www.homotopia.net](http://www.homotopia.net)

## Competition Time



### Hip Hop - Tic Toc

First launched in 1985, Hip Hop was one of the first fashion watch crazes with sales exceeding two million. Now, over 25 years later, Hip Hop is back on the scene allowing us to express our crazy and colourful side.

The new men's collection features a 40mm case that is available in either white or black, which is removable to allow the strap, in soft coloured rubber, to be changed according to the mood of the moment.

The straps are available in a kaleidoscope of colours: black, brown, yellow, orange, red, burgundy, navy, royal blue, light blue, khaki green, grey, white and grey.

£24.99 per watch

To be in with a chance of winning one of these fantastic colourful timepieces, just answer this simple question:

When was the launch of the first Hip Hop watch range?



# Win This

Turn to page 78 for details

Manchester's Favourite Gay Venue

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# CAMP WEEKENDER

Prepare for a weekend to remember, it may be November but the temperatures will definitely be rising in Southport as we play host to the North West's Hottest Gay club Weekender.

We've re-vamped last year's Mardi Gras of the North to bring you this years all new and improved event with a brand spanking new name to boot – Camp Camp!!!

This time we have pulled out all the stops with a fantastic line up of non-stop entertainment to tickle your fancy with legendary club nights POPTASTIC, FEDERATION AND MANFEST, top name DJ's from Ibiza and London "Ibiza v Fire", the UK's Number 1 tribute to Take That "Back for Good" and soul queen ANGIE BROWN to name but a few.

With 3 music venues each night, all night bars, drag shows and over 2,000 fellow Campers, make sure you don't miss out on this year's Camp as Christmas weekend extravaganza. Our Camp Club Reps are on hand to keep you entertained and will be hosting their very own production "Camp Attack" along with daytime games, competitions, Mr Pontins and our legendary "Big Gay Swim".

With all this plus drinks promotions, killer karaoke and Camp Camp's Got Talent and our GRRRRREAT Mystery Guests, if they're Aloud (yes, you know who we're talking about!!), make sure you're not the only gay not in our village.

## Plea For Dancers

This Christmas SG Productions are presenting Manchester's alternative adult pantomime Sinderfella at The Dance House Theatre.

This is a fun filled alternative pantomime based on the traditional story Cinderella. The show features feel good songs, lots of comedy and great festive fun for all.



It will be headed by Shameless star Alice Barry (Lillian) as the Fairy Godmother, the hilarious Miss Thunderpussy as Sinderfella, and Gaydio Radios Nicky as Buttons.

However, they are now looking for two to four strong male jazz/contemporary dancers with great physiques and looks to be part of the show with rehearsals in London on the 5th December for the first week, and then from the 12th December in Manchester.

As far as rehearsals goes for the dancers this may in the end just in Manchester, it really all depends on the choreographer etc.

At this stage only expenses are on offer to the students, however this is an excellent showcase and valuable experience as well as also being part of an exciting new show coming to Manchester this Christmas.

If interested - [info@sgproductions.co.uk](mailto:info@sgproductions.co.uk)

So, what are you waiting for? With prices starting from only £69pp plus Bent readers booking before 15th October will receive a FREE UPGRADE \* on their chosen accommodation.

To Book Call Our CAMP CAMP Hotline on 0844 576 5935 Quoting BENT or visit [www.gayweekender.com/bent](http://www.gayweekender.com/bent) for more details.

### Terms and Conditions

\*Free upgrade subject to availability, book early to avoid disappointment

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\*Full terms and conditions apply (available online)

\*New bookings only

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## THE AGES OF SHAYNE

At the back end of 2005 everyone thought the good-looking singer who had just won the second series of the X- Factor had a very bright future ahead of him. Certainly, to begin with, all was going well and Number One albums and singles followed in rapid succession and established Shayne Ward as one of the UK's most promising newcomers.

Alas, the vagaries of the pop business and those who now appear to control it, means that quite a number of would-be superstars are lost to the 'next-big-thing' and their careers go into terminal decline. Thankfully, our Shayne is well aware of his talent and the fickleness of the pop industry so, rather than living on past success and griping about how cruel the world is, he has found a slightly new direction to pursue. Joining the cast in the UK production of Rock of Ages in London's West End, he plays the part of Rock Star Stacee Jaxx, alongside funny man Justin Lee Collins.

**Working with Justin Lee Collins must be a hoot... what's the funniest story from the rehearsals?**

There are too many funny moments to mention. Come down to the Shaftesbury Theatre for the show and you'll see just how funny he is. He's hilarious.

**Rock of Ages - the musical is a celebration of Los Angeles rock culture, with a great story to boot. Set in 1987, a small town girl meets a big city rocker in LA's most famous rock club and they fall in love to some of the greatest songs of the decade – all classic tracks, which will have the audience rockin' for more but who is Shayne's all-time favourite rock band?**

I've always loved Foreigner and Bon Jovi but also love a song called 'Love Bites' by Def Leppard.

**What is your favourite song from Rock of Ages?**

I really enjoy the group numbers we do. 'Don't Stop Believing and 'Here I Go Again'... two fist-pumping, rock-horn waving anthems. LOVE IT.

**Tom Cruise is going to play your character Stacee Jaxx in the movie version of Rock of Ages, have you got any tips for him on how to play the role?**

Well as far as I'm aware he is playing a good guy in the film, whereas, I'm playing the bad boy. So I'll keep my tips to myself (lol). Tom is an amazing actor and will definitely play a wicked Stacee Jaxx. I'm looking forward to seeing the film.

**Now you have a taste for rock, would you someday like to release a rock-based album?**

Well, I'm not going to turn overnight into a full-on rockstar! (lol) but I would like to bring a taste of it to my new material. I never thought I'd see myself performing rock but it's going down a storm. So I'm looking forward to hitting the studio.

**Changing the subject and the age old question of age (after all it is called Rock of Ages) Amy Winehouse sadly passed away at 27; you turn 27 this month... any thoughts on this?**

It was sad to hear that Amy died. She had an incredible vocal ability that stood well above others. Yes, I'm 27 soon ever closer to the 30 mark. Age is a scary thing for me.

**What's it like being a sex symbol?**

Well, I don't know about being a sex symbol but I can say I'm getting a lot of attention from the older female fans who come and see the show. It's like a jungle at the stage door. The other guys in the cast fear to go out (lol).

**If Bent readers come and see the show are they going to be able to get your autograph at the stage door afterwards?**

Of course. I'll be signing autographs every night. So come down and enjoy a wild night of Rock.

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

## Knickers to Rafa



Photo: Armani

Here at Bent we always have a har... er... soft spot for guys who wear shorts to work especially when the look particularly good in their tight-fitting outfits.

Now, tennis ace and all round hunk Rafael Nadal has gone down the same route as footballing legend David Beckham and pretty boy Christian Ronaldo, in showing off his prime assets for Armani in their latest campaign shot by Steven Klein in Mallorca. As well as the virginal white boxers he also partly climbs into a nice pair of jeans which we think is equally as sexy. Just so you know Rafa if you're reading this... we here to serve... if needed.

## Twenty Twenty



You know Bent cannot refuse a pretty face... or in this case... three pretty faces as boyband Twenty Twenty release their latest single on three CDs; you can choose between Sam, Jack or Sonny artwork and three brand new bonus tracks. The song 'Move It', is a noisy, feel good single encouraging listeners to let their hair down at a rapturous party and offering an exciting preview for their upcoming debut album.

**The single Move It will be released on 24th October**

# Eazy Street

8 - 10 Westmorland Road, Newcastle. NE1 4EG

Launch Party  
with S Club 7s  
Jo O'Meara

## Street Wize

Monday 12th September

Newcastle's  
most up for it student party

All drinks £1.50

September

12th Circus Circus...be dazzled by our ring masters

19th UV Full Moon Party...shine in the twilight

26th Viva Las Vegas...Jingle, jangle & spangle

October

3rd Ibiza Closing Party...One word - WOW!

10th Masquerade Ball...Un-mask the masked

17th Christmas Already...EZ Street early celebrations



In association with Smirnoff, Antica Sambuca and FireBall

## Drag Legends



For more information  
[www.boulevardnewcastle.co.uk](http://www.boulevardnewcastle.co.uk)

Two of the country's top drag performers come together to celebrate the first birthday of Newcastle's Boulevard, where cabaret meets Broadway. Miss Rory, who has taken the Newcastle scene by storm as the face of Northern Pride working with a crowd of 16,000, will be the host and compere. The indestructible Betty Legs Diamond, a drag legend across the UK, leads the cabaret part of the show and is the lead choreographer at the venue. We sent Ryan Houston, minus his wig, high-heels and sparkly dress, to investigate.

### What first got you involved in performing and drag?

Miss Rory: For me it happened by pure mistake, I met Greta LaMore, another Newcastle scene legend, and she pushed me into putting on a dress and performing. She really helped me and through progression as I got older... I am what I am today.

Betty Legs Diamond: I've been in this kind of environment since being 11 years old and I've been on the West End stage since 12. When I first started

the money for touring drag queens wasn't very good so I decided to put an act together. I went to a club and said: "Book me". They of course said: "Haven't heard of you". So I made a deal saying if I don't get a standing ovation then they get a free show. They all agreed and at the end of show they all paid.

### What would you both say to people that say drag is just about a man in a dress?

Miss Rory: To many people it is. There is no basis to back it up and it's just a guy in a dress playing music behind a dj box in a club, but fortunately that doesn't cut it anymore and that kind of act certainly doesn't last long. There's a huge difference to a performer and a drag act.

Betty: Everyone has their own opinions, the main problem is that people tend to see a really poor drag act and we all get tarnished with the same brush. For me it's a uniform and it's a job that I get paid quite well for. All I can say is; give it a chance and you might be surprised, there's so much that can be offered from a drag performance.

### Betty what inspires your choreography?

Having worked with a lot of good people, you take something from each of them – it's not about copying what they do it's about taking different ideas and seeing how you can create something possibly better.

### If you had the chance to go back and do things differently as a career would you?

I really don't think I would change, there's such a brilliant team here at Boulevard and I've been able to work with some amazing people like Lily Savage and of course Miss Rory, who I honestly believe will become the next Lily Savage she is so talented. It's just a brilliant thing to do, no two nights are ever the same.

### What's next for Boulevard Rory?

We have the Boulevard Summer Show, which runs until the 30th October so plenty of time for readers to come down and enjoy that. Then we have a special performance on Halloween, 31st October and then finishing off the year we have our Christmas Show, from November 17th until 15th January 2012.

# TRANNY HOTEL

Grab those heels and find something gorgeous to wear for a weekend like you've never experienced before. Tranny Hotel will make its UK premiere, taking over Liverpool's world famous Adelphi Hotel, from Fri 11- Sun 13 November. Following a highly successful trial run in Cologne, Germany in June 2011, Tranny Hotel saunters in to Liverpool for weekend long celebration of Transgender arts, organised by renowned Liverpool based Transgender artist Mandy Romero. The event will see dozens of transgender artists, both male to female and female to male, from across the globe, perform a wealth of different works in numerous spaces around the hotel from bedrooms and suites, to staircases, hallways and function rooms.



The event forms part of the Europe wide Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival, to take place on Fri 11 November, or 11.11.11, across the continent. Liverpool is the only city outside London to have an Exchange Radical Moments! event, largely due to the uniqueness of Tranny Hotel. It will also be a part of this year's Homotopia Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender culture.



<http://tranny-hotel-liverpool.11moments.org/>

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16th October  
Miss Jason

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Eazy Street Drag Attack  
Join David Dale, Vicky Paris, & Miss Lucy!

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Nightmare On Eazy Street  
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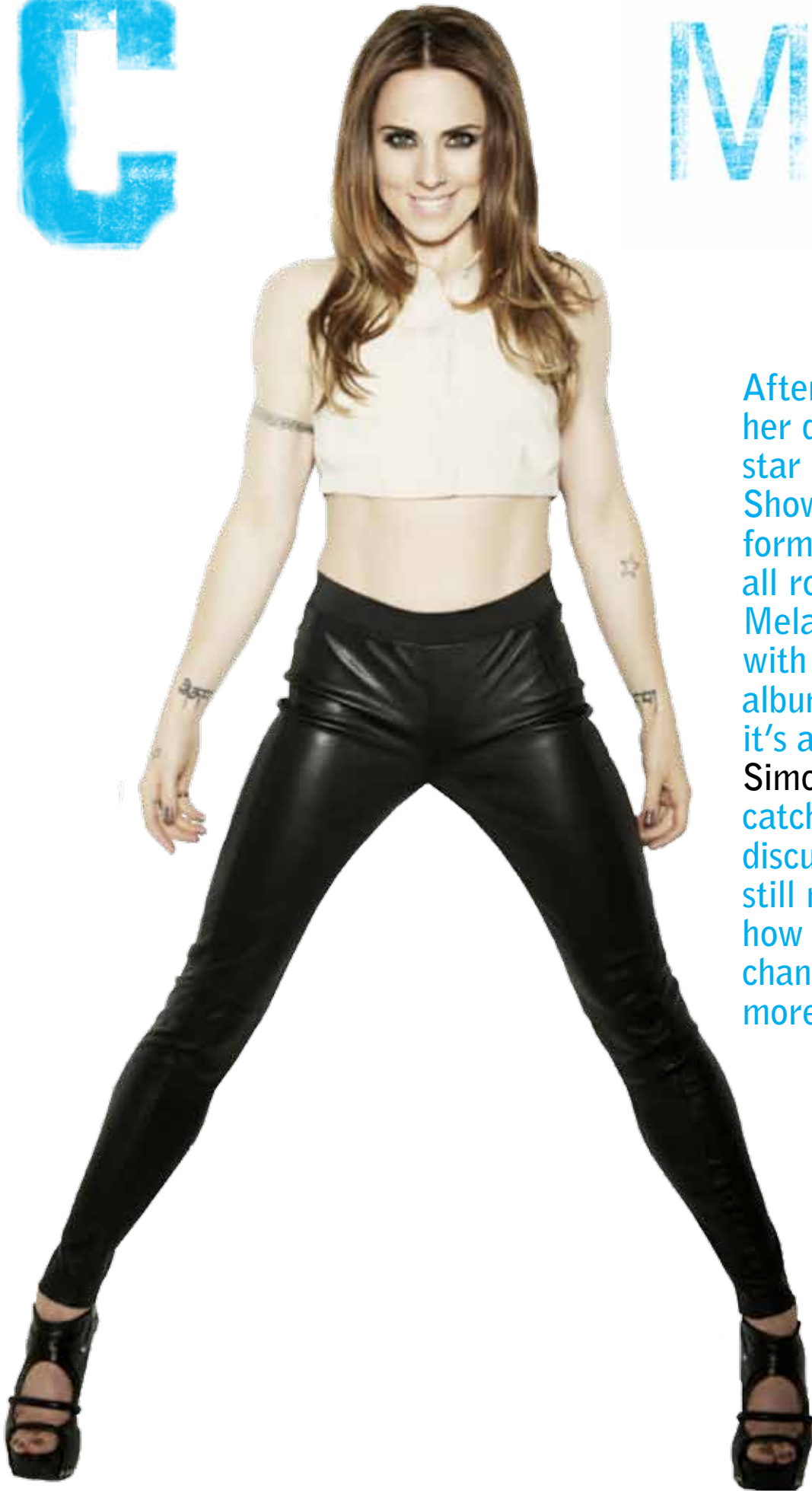
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drinkaware.co.uk

# C

# Melanie C



After a break to have her daughter and to star in the West End Show 'Blood Brothers', former Spice Girl, and all round nice lady, Melanie C is back with her fifth solo album, and we think it's a corker. We sent Simon Savidge to catch up with her to discuss if going solo still makes her nervous, how motherhood has changed her and a few more spicy things.

# Melanie C Chisholm

## **So how is all in the world of Melanie C?**

Well apart from having to talk about myself all day (laughs) which gets a little bit boring, I am very good thank you. Sorry that makes me sound really grumpy doesn't it? The promotion for a new album is always a killer and you always forget how gruelling it can be but I love it at the same time. There's a nervous excitement.

## **Before we go any further do you prefer Mel C or Melanie C, or Melanie Chisholm or just Melanie?**

Ha, ha. You know people don't ask that very often weirdly. I actually like Melanie C, that's why I have never become Melanie Chisholm on an album. Melanie C sort of merges the spice side, though there I was Mel C but I prefer Melanie, with the C. (Laughs) That sounds really diva like and I am so not... Call me what you like love. Ha.

## **I wondered if you ever feel nervous with a new album, 'The Sea' is your fifth after all. Does it still scare you to some degree?**

Oh god yes. I think if anything I get more nervous. In fact, I have been very nervous with this album in particular. I know that everyone says this every album they make but this is actually my favourite album I have made I think. It has got elements of the very first album 'Northern Star' in being quite eclectic and I think my song writing is some of my best... (laughs) Not that I am saying I have written any old pop song before this. Ha.

## **Does it make it more nerve wrecking because you are on your own label now?**

There is an added pressure there yes, though I have been on my own label for three albums now. I think that the pressure is more me putting it on myself. There is also the pressure to perform financially in a lot of ways; I have to pay my team and the bills after all.

## **I somehow don't imagine a former Spice Girl having to worry about paying the bills...**

Ha, ha, ha. Well there is an added pressure. There is also additional freedom. I am in a position where I can work with the people I want to work with and make the music I want to make. Not that being on a big label wasn't great... you just have a lot of other people's influences and decisions, which can change what you are doing, even in minimal ways. I like the control and the fact I can try lots of different things now.

## **So let's talk about 'The Sea', why that title? It wasn't a play on Melanie 'C' was it?**

No, do you know what, that's come up a few times and I have been thinking 'oh no', it gives it a naff aspect (laughs). Too late now. Seriously though, when I wrote this album I tended to be in various studios near the sea. So, on my way in I would make sure that I walked along the seafront and it was so calming and clearing, yet some mornings it could

be blustery and quite harsh. I liked that. It was like a focus point. We recorded the waves for the song 'The Sea' though I don't think it is a theme in all the songs... there is a song called 'Drown' though, make of that what you will.

## **Would you like to do more musicals?**

Yes, definitely. I obviously want to concentrate on this album and the singles that come from it, but yes there may be some more theatre work in the pipeline. I really need to go and see 'Wicked' as everyone has told me that is amazing. I don't think I have any roles I am desperate to play, I was desperate to be in Blood Brothers I have to say, I would like to see what comes my way. Maybe some acting as well, who knows?

## **Has motherhood changed you?**

(Beams) Totally. Scarlet is everything to me. I think having a child can ground you more, it's not all about what I want to do now, well not always, it is about what's best for us. I also think it has made me work harder. I want her to be really proud of her mum.

## **Oh I am sure she will be, who can say their mum was a Spice Girl?**

Ha... actually (laughs) there are now eleven Spice babies so it's not as rare as you might think. In fact it's almost becoming common (laughs).

## **Speaking of the Spice Girls, it seems like there is about to be a bit of a solo Spice resurgence isn't there?**

Well there might be. I know Geri is actively going back to the studio and seeing what happens. I think Emma has thought about it and it could happen. Melanie B has made some new material but she is now really busy with the Australian X Factor.

## **Have you been tempted to be a judge on any shows as Victoria, Geri, Mel and Emma have all done it?**

Not really. I went and joined Melanie B to help her whittle down her category in LA and that was hard. These people are all so talented and there is such high emotion everywhere. I don't know if I could do it. I never say never though.

## **I have to ask about the Spice Girls, are you going to get back together again as the reunion tour was great.**

You know we had the biggest blast on that tour. None of us knew if it would work we just realised we really wanted to do it again. There is nothing booked in, but again (laughs) you can never say never. We will see. I would like to but it's a case of timing and getting all five of us to do it. I am glad we did the last one, it cemented things.

## **When did you last do a backflip?**

Ha,ha, ha. The Spice Girls tour. It was at Madison Square Gardens and let's just say I haven't done one since. Mind you... have you seen the heels I am wearing now? I thought for this album I would do something a bit different so the skin-tight girl came in with heels. I did a gig the other week that had a slope... no one warned me. Fucking hell, I thought it was going to fall off them. (Whispers) Do you want to know a secret? (Laughs) People have to help me in them. Ha. But there is a time in a girl's life where the heels have to come out.

## **Oh the gays will love them...**

Not as much as I love the gays. Actually I want that in capitals. My gay audience have been the best. They have been incredibly important to me. So a big thanks to them and their loyalty.

Melanie C's new album 'The Sea' is out now on Red Girl Records.

For more information on Melanie and any tour dates coming up etc you can visit [www.melaniec.net](http://www.melaniec.net)



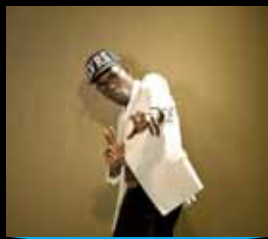
# ALBUMS



## RANDA & THE SOUL KINGDOM

**What You Need**  
24th October

Opening with the happening groove of 'Power in Me', Randa's vocals ride over a powerful, bold and brassy riff that crackles with positive energy to make pure dancefloor gold. Randa's vocals delve next into gritty funk tinged soul, then disco-driven diva dynamics before sliding into squelchy synth territory. This exciting album is driven ahead by Randa's high-octane voice and a retro aesthetic that shimmers and glides.



## THEOPHILUS LONDON

**Timez are Weird These Days**  
3rd October

This Morrissey-obsessed urban electro-pop songwriter, rapper and producer was born in Trinidad, raised in Brooklyn and has already graced the stage of David Letterman's Late Show. This album is a heady mash-up of 80s rap, new wave beats, freestyle noise and snarling guitars—painting a dapper image for contemporary urban music.



## THE DAMN JAMMAGE

**Well Hanged**  
17th October

Well Hanged is an astoundingly intelligent, utterly compelling and masterfully unrestrained meander through the darkened alleyways of blues, folk, rockabilly, doo-wop and classic rock 'n' roll. Danny Rapsallion is the bone-shattering and ice-melting baritone who, with the classical angelic pianos of Jasmine Cave, holds it all together. This semi-crazed sextet ignore tradition and break the rules as they spiral into tasty musical ecstasy.



## ARGY

**Fundamentals**  
4th October

Argy is one of house's hottest properties right now. Expect the attitude and soul of Chicago rerouted via Berlin. Fundamentals synergises nostalgia with a forward-thinking ethos that has come to exemplify Argy's work. The retrofitted house of 'Party People' and 'It Feels So Good' sits neatly against the classic futurism of 'Y'm In', 'NY Anthem' and 'Indulgence'. The Latin-influenced rhythms of 'Absent Friends' and the sheer production quality of 'String Poetry' and 'Dinner at Kerri's' stand testament to Argy's ability to imagine, write and produce deeply musical, yet state-of-the-art electronic music.



Single: 'We Only Do It In The AM' out now  
[www.frankmusik.com](http://www.frankmusik.com)

Summer 2011 and Frankmusik is back in London. He's got a tan, a lovely new haircut, and an album that's about to steal pop back.

Last time we saw Frank he had just played a sold out show at KOKO, Camden. His debut album had gone Top 15, and he'd been producing songs for the likes of Tinchy Stryder and Sky Ferreira. Pop's red carpet was laid out expectantly, but Frank ran off in the other direction. Unshackling himself from the music-industry machinery, he jumped on a plane to California. Knowing no one there, and without so much as an address to write on his green card, he hoped he could "set the reset button" on his career and work out what to do next. Now he's back with a brand new and very catchy single 'We Only Do It In The AM', a collaboration with the Far East Movement, and an album on the way. With all this going on, Ryan Houston caught up with him to find out what he has to offer fans in the coming months.

### Where have you been for the past year?

It's been a very busy year I've been writing and producing my latest album in Los Angeles. I also dabbled around a bit in Spain but have recently returned to London to do some single and upcoming album promo!

### What can fans expect from you in the coming months?

I have created an album full of collaborations from Cherry Tree Records (my US label) and also delivered a record that I feel will reach out to a lot more people. Songs like 'Do It In The AM' are just up front party songs with party monsters The Far East Movement contributing a wicked party verse for it. To songs like 'No ID' featuring the fresh new talent of Colette Carr. It's just an amazing journey documenting my creative path I have put myself on since living in America.

### You've teamed up with Far East Movement for this venture, how do you feel about working with another act to produce a single?

I'm always excited about collaborating! It's the best feeling sharing the final result with other creative minds.

### Is there a tour planned?

I really want to tour the US and Europe as soon as possible but it is a really busy time for me at the minute, hopefully my fans can wait a little bit longer for the tour.

MISSION  
**2**

# HOMO

MISSION  
**2**

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**EVERY MONDAY**



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**MARK PARK & CHRIS B**  
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**NEW OPENING TIMES: 11PM - 4AM**

**MISSION 2 - NEXT DOOR TO THE VIADUCT, LOWER BRIGGATE, LEEDS**

# BEYONCE

## BEAUTY AND THE FREAKS

### TEN WARNING SIGNS THAT YOU'RE GETTING OLDER

You prefer a night in with a cup of tea and your Dinnerladies DVD to going out. It reaches 9 o'clock and you just can't be bothered. Disco naps are sure sign you won't get out of bed at all, and a shot of espresso gets your heart pounding like a speaker at a German techno night. Instead you fold yourself up in your comfiest dressing gown, turn the gas fire on, and wiggle your toes into a pair of fluffy slippers.

You start having dinner parties instead of house parties. You swap coke for coq-au-vin and sambuca for a nice, chilled Sancerre. Instead of your neighbours coming round at 6am to complain about the banging music, they come round at 7pm to taste your new vegetarian quiche. You give up muscle Marys for spinach and chickens for low-fat Moroccan grilled turkey. Though you like to think you're cutting edge, and strive for a Come Dine with Me theme, you'll end up with a balding queen called Terence criticising the needlework in your doilies.

You start referring to boyfriends as 'partners' and fuck buddies simply as 'friends'. If you have neither, and that's far more likely, you'll have a rent boy and refer to him as your 'companion'. You'll get married in matching white suits with a dyke in black to give you away, and absolutely no one will have sex in the back row at the church. Those days have long since passed.

You buy a house instead of renting a city-centre apartment. You reason it's time to have a study and a bookcase and a pantry full of red wine. You get a golden retriever and call him Sam. You eat paella and muesli, and find Top Gear bloody radical. At Christmas you ask for a matching cutlery set because you feel it's all you need to complete your life.

Your chest looks like a magnet dipped in iron filings. Meanwhile, your knees buckle and your belt won't, and your ears are hairier than your head. This, in itself, you might put down to bad genetics, but the desire to wear corduroy is no one's fault but your own.

You go on holiday to Gran Canaria, and instead of staying in a cheap hotel, stay in the local sauna complex instead. However you don't have sex. You simply stand on the sidelines and watch everything, tutting about how young everybody else seems and how tasteless all that rimming business really is. You'll spend your evenings watch drag acts mime badly and actually only use the jacuzzis to relax. Should anyone take a dip beside you, you'll cross your legs, look resolutely in the opposite direction and keep your sphincter tightly clenched. To take it at your age would only result in prolapse.

You pay attention to the news, rather than simply having it on in the background. Whenever a young person comes on TV you tut and blame the parents.

You wake to feel like it's the morning after—only, you went to bed at 9pm. Tetley's tea is usually enough to give you a hangover.

The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your spectacles. The spring in your step is caused by a dodgy pacemaker and not too much viagra, as it used to be. The colour in your cheeks is because you passed out on a park bench, too blind to read the sign that said 'Caution – Wet Paint'.

You turn out the lights because you're tight-fisted, not because you're horny. This is the same reason you know what 'equity' means and get into heated debates about pension plans. Because you don't trust banks any more, you prefer to store your money beneath a mattress, and you sit in wait for the day you no longer have to pay a TV licence.

*...you'll have a rent boy and refer to him as your 'companion'.*

### Iconic, diva... failed star



Billie Ray Martin, best known for her work in Electribe 101 and her smasheroo hit 'Your loving Arms' is about to release her new project from the new Electronic Duo 'The Opiates'. The album called 'Hollywood under the Knife' is scheduled for release in October and each song is about another tortured Diva, Hollywood actress, failed Star... in search of identity, gender and a life beyond isolation. The first video from this album is a song about Warhol star and Transvestite Candy Darling, in which BRM dresses as Candy.

The Artwork for the entire album was done by gay icon and Turner Prize winning artist Wolfgang Tillmans, who opened his entire archive to The Opiates and gave 10 unreleased images. The album out: 17th October



## My BIG GAY ITALIAN Wedding

Planning a wedding can be hell...but planning to ruin a wedding can be a hell of a lot of fun! Come and join the congregation as this off Broadway cult hit makes a return to London after a critically acclaimed Edinburgh Festival run.

Andrew and Anthony are getting married and everyone wants to "help"! My Big Gay Italian Wedding spins into a hysterical fiasco as everyone tries to have their way. This music and dance-filled extravaganza has played to sold out houses in New York for four years and is still showing no signs of finishing the reception early!



Above The Stag from 1st-19th November.  
15 Bressenden Street, London, SW1E 5DD  
Box Office: 020 8932 4747

W E L C O M E

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**SHOWBAR**

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**DANNI CHER BAILEY**

★ **CARLA JACKSON**

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**Hostess**  
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**Miss Orry**



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**Anna Glypta's**  
*Camp Attack!*  
*Last Friday of Every Month*

# DANCE TRAX

With Jason Guy

Hold on to your hats boys and girls – Manchester’s most loved vocal house night is back with a bang and is celebrating its second birthday at the amazing Sub Space in Manchester on Saturday 29th October. If you can remember just how rammed the last 2 Hallowe’en nights were at Freakshow, you’ll know to get there early! Find out more at [www.clubfreakshow.com](http://www.clubfreakshow.com)

As usual, you can download my monthly podcast - simply search for 'Jason Guy' in iTunes or download directly from [www.jasonguy.podomatic.com](http://www.jasonguy.podomatic.com). If you'd like to see your track, club, or event featured here, contact me at [jason@bent.com](mailto:jason@bent.com).

ARTHUR BAKER FEAT. JIMMY SOMERVILLE  
I BELIEVE IN LOVE



**Arthur Baker ft. Jimmy Somerville  
I Believe In Love (Defected)**

Arthur Baker's 1989 disco cut gets reworked by two of today's modern masters, with predictably explosive results. First up, king of the rolling groove Joris Voorn creates a tense, relentlessly building powerhouse of a track, chopping Jimmy Somerville's original vocals beyond recognition and creating incessant rhythmic stabs with what remains. Jacques Renault leaves more of the original intact, heavily reverbing the epic chords and washing the vocal with effects to create a dreamlike soundscape of deep beats and shimmering percussion.



**Ce Ce Peniston ft Joyriders  
Finally (Perfecto)**

Ce Ce Peniston was 22 years old when her debut single "Finally" was originally released back in 1991, where became an instant dance anthem. Within 3 months it has sold over 3 million copies worldwide! Now "Finally" is back and sees Ce Ce Peniston team up with the Joyriders who are currently causing a storm with their booty of "Sweet Fucking Dreams" with Paul Oakenfold. The 2011 versions are set to be huge all over again. There's a superb remix package with reworks by Roman Hunter, Zen Freeman & Remy Le Duc, Tiger Stripes, DJ Cii and my personal favourite from Digital Chord.



**Manufactured Superstars Feat Selina Albright  
Serious (Magik Muzik)**

Serious is partially based on the Donna Allen classic by the same name, and is best known as the track Strike's 'U Sure Do' was sampled from. This has an old skool build up with an enticing piano arrangement in it, while all the time the low sub bass rumbles away. Add to that the can't-get-it-outta-my-head synth riff that backs the vocals of Selina Albright and you're in for a killer anthem. On my first play during Manchester Pride the crowd all raised their hands and sung along the second the infamous "baby I don't know what I should do..." vocals made an appearance. Choice of mixes here for me is the tougher late-night offering from Trent Cantrelle.



**Fedde Le Grand  
So Much Love (Toolroom Records)**

Time for another Fedde Le Grand anthem! The Dutch master is back on Toolroom Records with a dance floor shaker that blew the roof off the Space Ibiza Terrazza at Toolroom Knights. So Much Love is a pure crowd pleaser, with an infectious, instantly recognisable vocal hook that has already seen thousands of festival fanatics from Global Gathering UK to Exit in Serbia left in a frenzy. You'll know the hook from 70's disco group The Real Thing, as it's been used in a thousand tracks before, but this might just be the best version yet. "I've got so much love to give..."



## Whats on // Leeds

SEX CIRCUS has been an absolute pleasure to create... Our "Mission" was to put together a genuinely unique party with content, interaction, glamour, theatre, a real musical showpiece... To transform a club into an event... and to play fresh house music!

A lot of nights put on flyers "full club decor" and stick some drapes up... when we say DECOR we mean, detail, passion, points of interest and imagination... HALLOWEEN is a marquee date in the clubbing Calendar... and we intend on giving around 1000 people a night that will be talked about for a full year. People will look at the pictures, watch the videos and reflect on a night that will take your breath away and lead you into the dark side of the SEX CIRCUS...

Ghouls, Ghosts and Creatures of the night... will entertain but might give you a fright! Every door you open has a scary other side... evil clowns, the walking dead and vampires lurk inside. The only way to live through the night is to dress to kill and cause a fright! FANCY DRESS is a must with big prizes for the best... A VERY SPECIAL NIGHT that will HORRIFY its guests!

WE HAVE AN AMAZING LIVE ACT and SHOW... so, make sure you have your batteries charged as you will need to record it... to believe it!!!

The CAST will be UNREAL... so be warned, it could SHOCK, SEX and SCARE you to DEATH  
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ALEX SIMMONS, TIN TIN, KO KANE, MARK HOWARTH, JOHN MARSHALL, RICKI DH, PAUL ROUGH, JONNY BEE  
Percussion with PAV

Live Vocals from KELLY RICHARDSON

Tickets are £15. But everyone attending SEX CIRCUS... VEGAS STRIP on SATURDAY 24th SEPTEMBER can buy a "LOOKING AFTER OUR REGULARS FIRST" early bird ticket for £10 on the 24th (Limited to 2 per person) Don't miss the first HALLOWEEN SEX CIRCUS OF HORRORS I'm excited it's all about the music and party... PLEASE MAKE A MASSIVE EFFORT with your FANCY DRESS... MIX MAG will be in REVIEWING the event!!!



**HALLOWEEN**  
**SAT 29TH OCTOBER**

**PRIZES  
FOR BEST  
HALLOWEEN  
FANCY  
DRESS**

  
**MISSION**

# **SEX CIRCUS OF HORRORS**

**DJ'S EXCLUSIVE TO SEX CIRCUS**  
**ALEX SIMMONS, JOHN MARSHALL, TIN TIN, RICKI DH, PAUL ROUGH,  
JONNY BEE, MARK HOWARTH, KO KANE**

SEX CIRCUS PRESENTS THE GREATEST HALLOWEEN PARTY IN THIS LIFE OR THE NEXT! FEATURING A  
BREATH TAKING LIVE STAGE SHOW, **BRINGING A MUSICAL LEGEND BACK FROM THE DEAD!**

  
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# GLASGAY! 2011

Scotland's annual celebration of queer culture.

The Festival runs: 15 Oct - 12 Nov.  
For a full list of what's on:  
[www.glasgay.com](http://www.glasgay.com)

This year in a slightly more modest programme, we celebrate and question our "REPRESENTATION". We ask, are our identities, lifestyles, relationships, families and nuances of issues understood or effectively represented? When some Church leaders still cry abomination; when opera companies can't say "queer" and some think there are too many lesbians and gays on Coronation Street. Why do these things go unchallenged? How do we get more effective representation?

Glasgay! exists in a continuum that effectively highlights our diverse communities and offers interesting and multiple perspectives that others simply do not. There 106 individual performances; Theatre, film, music, art... even 6 world premieres.



## Lea DeLaria: House of David A Night of Bowie Classics

For one night only – on the 29th October, Jazz singer Lea Delaria performs interpretations of classic David Bowie tracks. She has previously performed critically acclaimed Jazz reinventions of 'The Ballad Of Sweeney Todd' and Blondie's 'Call Me'.

in every form of entertainment that she touches. Jazz Musician, Broadway Diva, Actor, Writer and Stand-Up Comic. Ben Brantley of the New York Times describes Lea as "Every inch a star." This gig will make you want to laugh, cry and sing along - don't miss it!

DeLaria has performed stand-up comedy for over 25 years and is a prominent figure in the world of lesbian stand-up comedy. Lea DeLaria has distinguished herself

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



## FAIRYTALES

by Allan Christian Hansen



## CHAT PILLOWS

Currently trending big-time (at least it is in our office), these handcrafted 100% fleece cushions are emblazoned with either the word 'Follow' alongside a regulation 'add' icon or with the globally recognised thumbs-up icon and its accompanying four-letter word. They are even filled with highly squishable polyester fibres, making them perfect for snuggling into after a hard day of tip-tapping utterly pointless 140 character tirades or status updates into your gizmo of choice.

**Follow Cushion/Like Cushion – £24.99.**

**Chat Pillows - £19.99 (each)**

# EVERY MONDAY



OFFICIAL PRE-PARTY FOR HOMO AT **MISSION 2**

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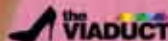
**HOUSE DOUBLES £2**

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## Back Door Disco



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## MADS LANGER

It was in November of 2009 when London based musician Mads Langer was asked by his local radio station to record a cover for their 'Best of 90s' campaign.

"I went through tons of 90's dance compilations before I finally found a song with lyrics that actually meant something". He picked Olive's "You're Not Alone".

A year later his contemporary and emotionally charged interpretation of the song had topped the charts around Europe and Mads found himself performing in front of 80,000 people. This was immediately followed by another wave of attention, this time with an original song "The River Has Run Wild" when it was featured in the popular TV series The Vampire Diaries.

A new album 'Behold', which he has written and co-produced is now planned for release here in the UK with the personal goal of capturing the intimate emotions of the live performances which are at the core of Mads' artistry.

The first single from Behold is "Microscope" and is available to download now.

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

## Weekends To Brag About

By Christopher Nye



While the perception of a gay lifestyle is; clubbing, organising your underwear draw and pampering yourself... but this is not the case for a huge percentage of gay go-getters. This book has over 100 adventures in Britain's great outdoors and more than enough ideas for those ultimate thrill seekers. Forget settling down with a bottle of wine and tuning in to the next episode of the X-Factor, here's a chance to open up new horizons and go and meet adventure head on. This round-up has ideas for every fitness level and every activity from field archery to mountain biking from paragliding to horse riding. Grab a chance to brag about doing something instead of who you were doing!!!

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# Darren Hayes

By John Aizlewood

"At the age of six, I knew I wanted to be famous more than anything. At the age of 23 I was a star, but I saw through the facade pretty quickly. Now, I'm my late-thirties and I still know I was born to do this. And I know too that this new album, *Secret Codes & Battleships* is, beyond any doubt, right up there with the best I can do. I'm back at my fighting weight."

After two phenomenally successful albums with Savage Garden, three pioneering solo albums and 26 million sales, *Secret Codes & Battleships* is singer-songwriter Darren Hayes's first proudly mainstream pop album in four years and it might just be the best of his career. "It feels like I've woken up from a coma," he chuckles.

What a long, strange, sometimes despairing, mostly magical trip it's been. The kid from the trailer parks of Brisbane who loved Star Wars and Michael Jackson always knew he was going to make it, even after he turned down one of Australia's most prestigious stage schools to stay with his girlfriend: "She dumped me four

months later; probably for the best since I turned out to be gay".

He flirted with journalism, he taught pre-school kids, but once he and Daniel Jones became Savage Garden and their self-titled debut album went 12x platinum in Australia, 7x platinum in the US and 4x platinum in the UK, the world was theirs. As experiences go, there can have been few more bitter-sweet. "I was airbrushed within an inch of my life, but at the end of it all, I'd written songs which people genuinely seemed to love". Then, in 2001, they imploded and, for Darren Hayes, things really became interesting.

2002's album *Spin* ("It was supposed to do a George Michael; it didn't, but it did quite well") set things off nicely. Two years later, *The Tension and the Spark* was a poke in the eye to those who assumed Darren was merely a pop poppet. Dark, angry, but life-affirming, it wasn't a huge hit, but more to the point, "It saved my life. It was a record about overcoming depression. Consequentially it was very difficult to make."

In 2007, *This Delicate Thing We've Made* was the first on his own label Powdered Sugar and it was a double, both inspired and flawed. "I knew that, even as I was recording it," admits Darren, "but it's a record I had to make to get to where I am now."

Since then, near-silence, although the hardcore fans who ensured his most recent British gig at the Royal Albert Hall in 2007 was a sell-out know and adore *We Are Smug*, Darren's eccentric but rewarding download-only outing of 2009, ("it wasn't an official release; think of it as my Black Album," he chuckles). The final track, *The Pressure*, celebrated not merely the end of his San Francisco sojourn, but, for all the wonders of his work since *Spin*, the beginnings of musical renewal. After all, as Darren notes: "it's easy to be strange, there's no discipline and it's a bit of a cop out". It was time to get back to work and time to merge the boundary pushing with Darren's ability to move people with a humdinging pop song...

On one level, as Darren says, it's about "holding on to love as everyone around you is breaking up. I've found somebody who completely gets me: I never thought that would happen". The string-laden (courtesy of Mattias Bylund, whose father arranged Abba's records) first single *Talk Talk Talk, Don't Give Up and Hurt* tingle spines, touch hearts and tighten stomachs with the melodic flair and searing honesty that is Darren's calling card. And he's never done it better.

On another level, it's about the things we don't say to each other, the secret codes of the title. It's an album packed with seafaring imagery (Darren's alcoholic father was a merchant seaman) and it's a deeply personal journey from despair ("I'd forgotten how to dream," he admits) to hope. As with all journeys, there's a beginning, a middle and an end.

*Bloodstained Heart* concerns the "worst day of the worst month of the worst year, but it says I will pick up your pulsing, bloodstained heart from the gutter and we will get through this, together", while *Cruel Cruel World* stems from a time "I was in LA feeling so lost and disoriented I just wanted to crawl home". It's a special record from a special songwriter.

"I want to know if I've still got it," he insists. "I'm so tired of people asking me if I still make albums. I look at people I admire such as Kate Bush and Peter Gabriel and I want to emulate their longevity. I'm not made for making records that are secret: I'm not very good at that. But I am good at playing for thousands of people and I am good at saying things we all have in common. It's easy to pretend you don't care and you don't want to write more songs for a generation. I do care, I do want that and I do know I'm not done yet."

**Album: Secret Codes & Battleships out 17th October Powdered Sugar Records**



## OCTOBER TOUR DATES

15th 02	Liverpool
16th 02	ABC Glasgow
18th 02	Birmingham
19th 02	London



## FRISKY & MANNISH

Edinburgh festival favourites, and now Scott Mills best chums, Frisky and Mannish are back on the road to bring pop to the provinces. After completing your education with their previous popcentric shows, they're here to help you secure gainful employment in the world of pop with their Pop Centre Plus. The X Factor and Britain's Got Talent are not the only way to carve out a career in the fabulous world that is... showbiz. Laura Corcoran & Matthew Jones are the starmakers so just how did they meet?

We were both studying literature degrees at Oxford University, but found each other in the ethnic-scarf-wearing, Pinter-spouting, cider-drinking Thespian community. We did a production of *Guys and Dolls* together, and then decided to start putting on our own shows, working together as all combinations of actor/director/musical director. Finally our good friend, Rose Heiney, asked us to help her write comic songs for the Oxford Revue, and that was the catalyst for us getting involved in musical comedy.

How would you describe each other in one sentence?

Laura: I would describe Matthew as an embarrassingly talented perfectionist. Or do I mean, embarrassing, talented perfectionist? Either works.

Matthew: Laura Corcoran is a unique hybrid: a diva-belted songstress, a naturally shrewd businesswoman, and a Mancunian. I don't know why I bother, really.

What inspired your alter-egos Frisky & Mannish?

Laura: Frisky is definitely a natural extension of the brasher and sillier sides of my own personality, but she's ended up being much more dominant, authoritative and sometimes patronising than I am in life! Matthew may disagree with that... She developed to serve a purpose really – it was the only way I was going to get on stage to sing these odd ideas for songs that we had to start with. I'd just finished training in musical theatre at the Royal Academy of Music when we started, and so I was very focused on acting rather than

being myself on stage. Back then there's no way I could've got up to perform just as Laura, but now more of my own personality is creeping back into Frisky.

Matthew: Mannish has been through a few metamorphoses since we started. To begin with, as I had little multi-tasking experience of simultaneous singing/piano-playing/comic timing/reacting, Mannish was a vocally-limited character – Laura took the bulk of the speaking so I could focus on perfecting the music. Quickly, I got so used to doing everything at the same time – like driving a car – that I became frustrated with his silent weirdness, so I started pushing him towards sarcastic interjections and eccentric outbursts. And I love gurning, so he does a lot of that now. The character changes to suit what we feel we need. At predominantly-male comedy nights, I'll steer away from excessive camp and go down more of a Steve Coogan route, whereas at gay clubs I'll mince as if my life depended on it. I like doing both equally.

What were your childhood ambitions?

Laura: My mum was the first woman to be a mounted police officer in Manchester, and so for a long time I had an obsession with becoming the first woman to do something. I went through lots of things – astronaut, chemist, train driver, etc – but I was constantly thwarted. Even by the late 1980s, women had done most jobs. So I gave up trying to be original, and for a few years was determined to work with horses, but by 11 had resigned myself to a life on the stage.

Matthew: I can't remember. Unlike Laura, I'm sure they were all very short-term and small-scale, like "I want to be able to climb across the monkey bars without touching the floor..." The first big ambition I remember was wanting to get into the National Youth Music Theatre when I was 14. I didn't make it in first time round, but I went back again and really went for it, and got in. That was, and still remains, the best audition I've ever done. I may have peaked too soon.

For the full list of dates go to: [www.friskyandmannish.com](http://www.friskyandmannish.com)  
Photo: IdilSukan



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# PRIDE ROUNDUP

## MANCHESTER PRIDE: A ROUND UP

The festival, which this year celebrated its 21st birthday, was attended by thousands and put on an outstanding show boasting some of the biggest, freshest and most talented acts in its 21 year history. Manchester Pride's seven day Pride Fringe (August 19 – 25) featured arts, sport, theatre, music, family orientated and musical events. From the wonderful Pink Dog Show to It's A Gay Knockout – premieres teams from the LGBT community competing in the likes of 'stiletto races' and 'handbag tossing' – there was a wealth of activity on for all.

The Big Weekend took place between Friday 26 and Monday 29 August, with a 'Best of British' themed parade on the Saturday. Featuring almost one hundred floats and led by Aussie 'trolley dolly' Pam Ann, this set the city centre alight with support, love and excitement as all those taking part marched triumphantly as the clouds parted and the rain came to a halt.

Manchester Pride featured a range of musical talents over its Big Weekend across three stages. Headlining acts included Alexandra Burke, the Sugababes (both on Sunday), Pixie Lott (Saturday), Blue (Monday) and Pam Ann (Friday). Other notable names include Heather Peace, Patrick Wolf, Toyah Willcox, Angie Brown and Manchester based talent Rubika, Santiago Street Machine and The Mend. On Sunday Sackville Gardens became the Women's Stage (from 4pm), where a great range of new female talent was showcased.

On the Monday night Manchester closed with its Candlelit Vigil, presented by the George House Trust, to remember and support those lost to HIV and those living with it.

What was perhaps most poignant this year was that despite the UK's current economic climate such a superb festival could be put on and orchestrated without a hitch, with thousands of people coming to celebrate and enjoy it for a four-



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day long weekend. Specifically to Manchester, and in conjunction with its 'I Love MCR' campaign, the Big Weekend and 'Best of British' parade theme celebrated all things good in defiance against the negative riots the city had been a victim of only weeks previously. Manchester Pride 2012 is scheduled to take place from the 17th-27th August of next year.

For up to date information on this, and for upcoming images and video from this year's event, please visit:

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

**Photos: Mark Hawkins / Grizz**



## Grimsby Pride Photos: Grizz

This may not be the best known of the Pride events that take place every year but it has to be said that the all-encompassing attitude of the organisers made for a terrific atmosphere. It felt more like a big picnic than anything else but that didn't stop a parade of top local and tribute acts from taking to the stage to give their all. The rain may have threatened but the elements need to know that we gays love nothing more than cuddling up together under an umbrella...ella...ella.



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## Barnsley Pride

It looked like it might just end up as a bit of a wash-out as the weather decided to end any attempt at being in the least bit summery. Thankfully, hundreds of people braved the rain to enjoy the third annual Barnsley Pride, which featured music, drag, entertainment and even support from the town's Mayor, Karen Dyson, who said it was a 'wonderful' event and was pleased to welcome it back into the town centre.

Last year's event was held at the Metrodome.

Photos: Grizz

## BIGGEST GAY SPORTS DAY EVER



Late August saw 17 teams compete for victory in the biggest ever Gay Sports Day, cheered on by a packed crowd of supporters. The event, organised by GMFA, the gay men's health charity, and the Royal Vauxhall Tavern (RVT), took place in Vauxhall Spring Gardens on Bank Holiday Monday. Contestants displayed their sporting prowess in events such as the drag relay, the egg and spoon race and the 50m mince, helping to raise vital money for gay men's health and the local community.

Competition was fierce on the day, with 'The Misfits' crowned winners of the sporting events. 'The Flying Fingernails' were the top fundraisers, thanks to their amazing efforts to bring in over £1,900 from sponsorship, while 'Flob-a-Dobs' won best costume for their Flower-inspired outfits.

Rugby star Gareth Thomas gave his support to this year's event, donating a Welsh training top,

a pair of Welsh Rugby shorts and a Crusaders polo shirt, all worn and signed by the man himself.

Other auction prizes include an Official Team GB Suitcase, a pair of made to measure CHAPS from Expectations, VIP tickets to the MAD Trust's West End Bares event and a professional photoshoot by Pics By Gaz. The auction raised £1,350. The full total raised from the event is still to be confirmed as donations are still being counted. All money raised will go towards GMFA, Vauxhall City Farm, and The Friends of Spring Gardens.

[www.gmfa.org.uk](http://www.gmfa.org.uk)

Photos: ChrisGeary.com

## SOHO PINK SUNDAY DRAG RACE

by ChrisGeary.com

Last month the gay bars, clubs and cafes of London's gay West End got together for Soho Pink Sunday, in aid of The Albert Kennedy Trust, the LGBT homeless organisation. As well as all the venues putting on special events and festivities, it was the Drag Race that stole the show. Kicking off slightly later than billed (but of course we were dealing with some fabulous creations with Diva-like credentials) the race was hilarious, well supported and fun. You simply cannot beat a horde of glittering drag queens taking to the open road... well as near as dammit.

The race was won by Danni Dee Queen, second place went to Portia de Fosse. Money raised from this event went to the Albert Kennedy Trust (AKT). AKT support several hundred young people every year who have experienced domestic violence or have been ejected from home just for being brave enough to come out as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Trans to their parents or care giver.

Find out more at:  
[www.AKT.org.uk](http://www.AKT.org.uk)



## A NEW WORLD

By Randy Myers

After nabbing the #1 position on the music countdown show of America's gay TV channel, LOGO, for four weeks in a row last winter, Aiden Leslie's "World's Away" became the sleeper hit of the gay dance floor. This month, the out-artist releases his follow-up single "Trying to Leave Now". Penned by Leslie, the track is about salvaging what is right in a relationship before losing everything. It reads like a page out of Leslie's own diary.

"I wrote Trying to Leave Now about a person in my life I have always had deep feelings for, but was afraid to express", explained Aiden Leslie from his studio in New York. "We eventually came together but at the wrong time in both of our lives, making it impossible to pursue. We had such a long history; we had to ask ourselves if what was at stake was worth losing."

Leslie says he was forced to battle trying to leave while the feelings were still strong and alive.

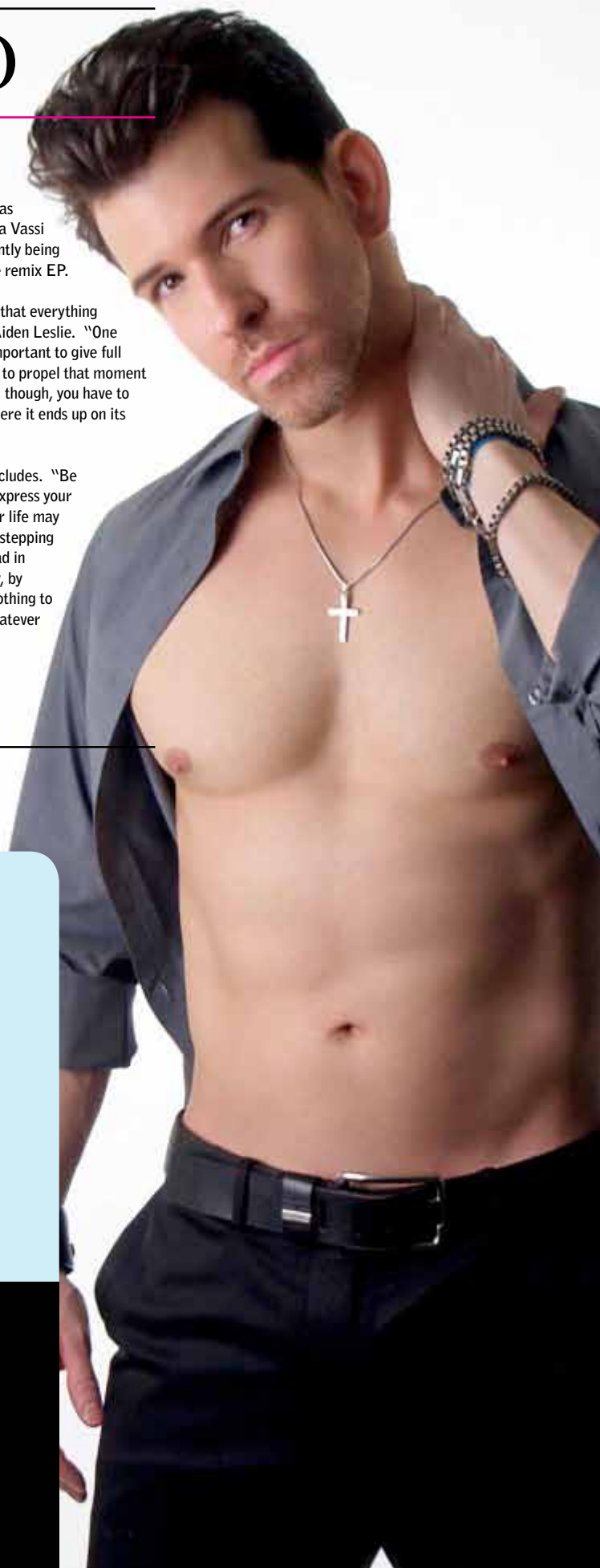
"When it comes to love, things are not black and white," says Leslie. "If love isn't working, it's important to be honest with yourself and to find the courage to say what you feel to the other person, and understand that sometimes, leaving is the only option."

"Trying to Leave Now" was produced by Mike Degen, who has worked with Public Enemy, Anna Vassi and RuPaul. Remixes are currently being selected for the upcoming dance remix EP.

"I learned from 'World's Away' that everything is a stepping stone," continues Aiden Leslie. "One thing leads to another and it's important to give full energy to each moment in order to propel that moment as far as you can. At some point, though, you have to surrender and let it go to see where it ends up on its own."

"It's the same with life," he concludes. "Be honest and find the courage to express your true feelings. The person in your life may choose to follow you to the next stepping stone, or they may choose to head in a different direction. Ultimately, by embracing the truth, you have nothing to lose, and everything to gain...whatever the outcome may be."

Visit: [www.aidenleslie.com](http://www.aidenleslie.com)



## 'AZZ EVERYWHERE'

Big Freedia is the undisputed "Queen Diva" of Bounce Music, and performs six or more times a week in various venues throughout her home town of New Orleans. Big Freedia, like other "Sissy" artists, has achieved mainstream success with several New Orleans hit singles such as "Gin in My System" and "Azz Everywhere!"

Since 2009 Freedia has begun traveling outside the city regularly with her dancers and live DJ, Rusty Lazer, playing to audiences on the East and West Coast alongside (or onstage with) artists such as Spank Rock, Ninjasonik, Japanther, Monique and many more. More recently she has performed in venues across Europe. Big Freedia has always acted as a mentor for many younger artists and is currently

at work on her third album. This year Freedia performed on the West coast with New Orleans band Galactic, recreating her collaboration on the critically-acclaimed 2010 album "Ya-Ka-May", and at North By Northeast alongside Kid Sister, De La Soul and her New Orleans neighbors Quintron and Miss Pussycat. Freedia has performed at FYFest in Los Angeles, shared the stage with Major Lazer at MusicfestNW in Portland, headlined the Windish Agency Showcase at CMJ and has performed at many major festivals in Austin including SXSW, Fun Fun Fun Fest and GayBiGayGay.





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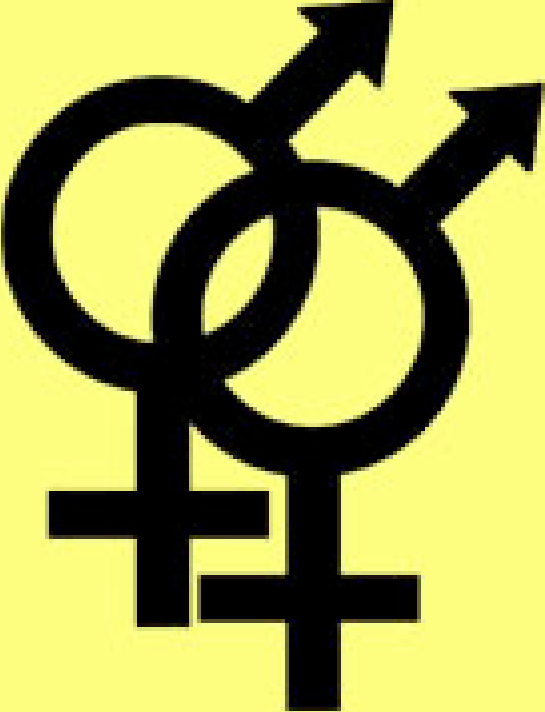
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# PLANNING A CIVIL PARTNERSHIP CEREMONY

By G Alexander

I have been to several of these ceremonies and never quite get why a couple would spend so much money on one day.



## Helpful advice

The new gay wedding magazine for men, Two Men on a Cake.com, has recently been launched.

Celebrating everything involved in the planning and execution of the perfect dream wedding from cakes to suits to stunning venues, Two Men on a Cake will be the ultimate destination for gay grooms-to-be to plan their big day.

Two Men on a Cake will feature exciting features detailing how to guides with top expert advice from wedding planners. It will also feature real life gay wedding examples to not only help inspire future grooms but enable married couples the chance to show off their beautiful day.

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

Yes, yes, I know it is a very special day, love is in the air, hearts are filled with joy and expectations are high but, as with straight couples on their wedding day, why waste so much money on this one event when you are planning on spending the rest of your life together?

However, I know my 'Bah! Humbug!' approach to finances and general level-headedness in most things doesn't really register on this special occasion. So, with the help of various web-sites, knowing couples and the bank manager, let's have a look at the way costs can add up as we begin to plan and then hold the event.

Of course, the location of your ceremony should be a special place for both you and your partner; however, consider choosing a central location for all of your guests. Also, make sure the venue of choice is gay-friendly. In the UK you should have no problem at your local registry office but wherever you choose it needs to be licensed for such an event. Some couples also choose to have their special day at a gay pride where there may be someone on hand to perform group commitment ceremonies. These are not necessarily legal ceremonies, just public affirmations of the couple's feelings for one and other. If you are religious you might be able to find a church that will offer a full service for a Civil Partnership and a bit of a time spent on line (no not for that) should turn up a sympathetic vicar. Some couples choose to have small intimate ceremonies, while others have large events. Invite the number of guests that make you and your partner comfortable. Remember that the cost of the ceremony can rise steeply depending on how many guests you invite.

Choose invitations to your taste. If money is a concern, try a little creativity and create your own special cards or go on line again (stop it or you'll go blind) as there seems to be more and more companies now offering a same-sex service. Decide if you'd like the reception at a private home, a public hall or not at all. If you are considering a public venue, call as far in advance as possible and stick to that date because changes can be very costly. Some places offer full packages (ceremony venue, reception, caterer, music and photographer) check it out but don't expect much change from your recent big lottery win.

Organise a photographer who isn't going to be obtrusive but knows and gives you just what you want.

If you plan a post reception party, book a DJ who will keep the festivities going for all your guests not just the Trance fans who came for the 'cake'. Costs mount when you start adding limo service, hiring formal wear, kilts or tuxedos or if you are theming the event, i.e. Hollywood Stars. Try thinking simple and casual.

If you have designed the rings and are having them specially made... make sure that they are ready before the 'special day'.

Multi-layered cakes in pink (just a thought) are a nice idea but again, you may need to organise that well in advance to make sure you get exactly what you want on the day.

Flowers always seem more expensive if it's for a ceremony so I suggest you get that window box maturing about the time of your nuptials to keep costs down.

A honeymoon is a must but remember, you've already forked out an arm and a leg to keep everyone you've invited happy, so your newly betrothed is going to expect that expense to be topped... so a B&B in Bridlington is probably not going to be appropriate.

So, the bottom line is this. If you are strapped for cash (or just don't like parting with a great deal of money) plan a budget ceremony. Take into account the number of guests, the venue, entertainment, photography, rings, clothing, license, etc. If you've found that pot-o-gold at the end of the rainbow and money is no problem, then go and make it the best damn day of you and your significant other's life. There are tons of organisations out there that will be only willing to help make it a day to remember.

# PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION (PDA) – IS IT STILL TABOO FOR TWO GUYS TO SUCK FACE IN PUBLIC?

We've never been more accepted in this country than we are right now. This is fact. In most places, seeing gay couples holding-hands or showing affection in the street is nothing new - it's passé even.



Like reality TV stars - they are so common that no one cares anymore. It's so of the norm that people don't even bother to stare with gaping mouths. So, why then did I feel the need to pull away when my deliciously cute date attempted a kiss in public?

It started as a traditional cinema date. We'd just finished watching the latest cinematic blockbuster and had enjoyed some over-the-clothes groping in the safety of the darkened pictures. But as soon as the lights were up, my hands snapped firmly back to my sides. Then it happened. He leant in for the goodbye kiss that I wanted as much as he did, but for some reason I couldn't bring myself to do it. I shrank away, leaving him hanging there with his mouth puckered, ready and waiting - alas, only to be disappointed. There came the brief awkward moment afterwards, but I pretended to never have even noticed his attempt, which he was happy to believe also, rather than feel the sting of rejection.

I went home and thought a lot about why I'd done that. I wanted to kiss him, but having people watching me put me off. Why? I wondered whether I was scared to show my gayness in public and for a while I felt like I was a bad gay man, letting down the team and being a complete wuss. But then it occurred to me that even if I when I'm surrounded by other gayers, I still feel uncomfortable having full facial suckage when spectators are ogling from all angles. It was then that I realised the truth. I'm simply don't like PDAs.

For those who don't know what a PDA is, I shall explain. It stands for Public Displays of Affection. While some people, gay or straight, are comfortable with eating each others faces in public, or holding hands in the park, or groping on the bus; I am not one of those people. I've discovered that I prefer to keep my PDAs private

If I'm expected to perform for a crowd then my face flushes and I turn into a shy little girl. It has nothing to do with being afraid. I don't particularly enjoy being forced to watch other people salivating over each other, so I don't expect people to want to see me do it either. I find it awkward and unnecessary. If you're horny, go home or get a room.

I then began to wonder about how hard I'd been on myself before I realised I had PDA-phobia. I'd felt so guilty that I might have been too scared to show my gay-old feelings in public. I felt like I was pushing the whole

country back about twenty years, in terms of tolerance and equality. Why had I felt like I was letting the side down?

Surely, in this day and age, where gay people have more rights and see more equality than ever, we don't need to be larger-than-life-out-and-about-in-your-face gays? Haven't we gotten to the point where there's no immediate need to have excessive PDA action to act as our big 'we're still here' statement anymore? People know now, right? Surely all the efforts of the homo community before us have earned us the choice of how out we're seen to be? Not from fear of being ostracised, but from personal preference.

Isn't that what it's all about anyway - having the same choices as everyone else; gay, straight, bi, try, and not feeling the need to PDA to merely prove something? If we have gotten to this point, surely that's a new milestone. We can now choose to keep PDAs indoors if that's what we want, knowing that we're not being bad gay men for failing to do our bit for the flag, but that we now have the freedom to choose not to.

Do we as gay men still need to force ourselves out into the public eye to let people know we're still here? If this is the case then maybe it can be argued that because of my aversion to PDAs, I'm not allowing myself to be seen as my homo self. We all know that the fight for equality isn't always in protests or court rooms or in the decisions of MPs. It's about how we live our everyday lives and whether we can do this comfortably and without hindrance or judgment from others.

So if like me you're averse to PDAs, what other things can we do to aid in the fight for equality. I've thought about this for quite some time and while my mind has skimmed over things such as: wearing lots of pink, saying 'faboosh' as many times as I can, creating a fitted suit from a rainbow flag and working into all my conversations the phrase 'hello sailor'. But I don't think these actions will be too effective.

But I'm now certain of one thing. I shouldn't feel guilty because I'm not a fan of showing affection in public, as long as I'm doing it for that reason and not because I'm scared of the reactions of people around me. To be honest, even if I was scared, I'd end up snogging my date's face off in public anyway just to master my fear. I've discovered that's just the kind of gay I am.



# Tellin' Tales TERRY GEORGE

Some say that you should never meet your heroes because you may be disappointed, so it was with a good deal of trepidation when I met one of my all time heroes.

Some say that you should never meet your heroes because you may be disappointed, so it was with a good deal of trepidation when I met one of my all time heroes.

I'd been invited to a charity event at the Grosvenor Hotel in London to help raise funds for the Katie Piper Foundation an organization I knew something about but in all honesty, not a lot. Katie was a former model and television presenter whose career came to an awful end when she was the victim of an acid attack, an attack arranged by her ex-boyfriend and his accomplice. She was blinded in one eye and her face left badly burned and disfigured but thankfully, a team of brilliant surgeons rebuilt her

face with skin substitute and a skin graft. You may have seen her recently on a Channel 4 programme called *Katie: My Beautiful Face* and her foundation now raises money and awareness to help other burns victims. Patron of the charity and co host at this event was none other than Simon Cowell a man who has been a hero of mine for some time and, like a little kid on Christmas day, I was keen to meet in person. Despite any doubts that were lingering in the back of my head we were introduced and he was - simply terrific. We chatted for a while and had a couple of photographs taken together. Once that trend was set, then everyone wanted their photo taken with him and, guess what, he could not have been more accommodating. He was smaller than I

imagined him to be, and without being rude, looked exhausted, which I suppose isn't that surprising if you're one of the most famous people in the world and jetting all over the place. In the States he may have to be surrounded by minders but here, well he was superb, giving everyone time and a photo, eventually having to be dragged away by the organizers to eat his meal. I was impressed that at no point did he feel it was either beneath him or that he felt put upon and my estimation of the man rose with each passing second he gave to other people attending this fantastic occasion. Leona Lewis and the lads from One Direction were there to offer their support but, and heaven knows why I should have felt this way but, seeing Simon in his position work like that when, let's face it, he doesn't really have to, made me so happy and proud that he was one of my heroes. Especially when I think of some C-list celebs I've met who think they are someone and so full of attitude, The man is a proper gentelman and, the event raised £100,000 for the foundation.

*Beautiful*, (the book) by Katie Piper, is published by Ebury at £6.99.

To make a donation to the Katie Piper Foundation, please go to [www.katiepiperfoundation.org.uk](http://www.katiepiperfoundation.org.uk).

you can watch *My beautiful face* again at <http://www.channel4.com/programmes/katie-my-beautiful-friends/4od>



## DATING MADE EVEN EASIER



Back in my hometown of Leeds I was having lunch at Nando's when I spotted a face that I knew walk past the window. I followed him into the shop next door, and thought it would be funny to grabbed him by the arm and demanded, in my best store detective -like voice, to inspect his bag. The startled figure was my old friend Gareth Gates who I couldn't help but think I'd set him back in his work to ease his famous stutter. I could see the shock on his face, as he lifted his arm I though he was going to hit me but instead he hugged and kissed me and introduced me to his father and his beautiful young daughter, who I have to say is as gorgeous as his mother and father. I felt awful as he struggled to get his word out. He was in the region to open his new theatre academy in Bradford called Gates&Wilkes, both he and Robbie William's chum Jonathan Wilkes decided to form the academy as their wives had worked together as dancers for stars such as Beyonce, Robbie and Cher. He seemed very happy with the way his career was going and what the future held. I can only think of it as reveng as revenge because the next I was woken from my bed at 3am by a telephone call from Gareth he had just fineshe playing a gig at Leeds uni and thout it would be nice to bring a group of family with friends to my club, Mission, it was a bit random for a Monday night but I must say they all enjoyed the VIP lounge until the wee small hours and gareth reassured me I hadent permanaty brought back his stutter back.



Talking of Mission, no this isn't just publicizing the venue, I want to say a big CONGRATULATIONS to Ned who was once the manager at the club. Ned, a nice but no one could call a well-honed hunk, is the cover star of the current Men's Health magazine. His real name is not Ned but Gareth Nedoszytko but because we already had a Gareth working for us simply became Ned, however, since he left us things have changed. He joined the police force in Scunthorpe and after once trying to restrain somebody and getting thrown to the ground, he decided to join a gym and start honing his body. After regular sessions at the gym and an even more hectic dieting regime he entered a competition run by Men's Health to find a cover model and he won. He looks superb and I can only advise everyone to grab a copy of the mag and see what this delightful, shirtless man has done to his body. He looks brilliant and I've decided that if I'm going to be arrested, I shall head for Scunthorpe and hope for the best. Well done Ned.



GAYDAR.CO.UK - the UK's number one gay dating web site has undergone a funky new makeover, making it even easier for guys to navigate and therefore faster for its six million members to find what they want, when they want it.

The site has retained its iconic orange and black theme which is synonymous with the Gaydar brand, but has adopted a new layout which is altogether clearer, sharper and more stylised. The Gaydar logo has also been updated with a contemporary 'make under' to strip away its bevelled edge giving it cleaner lines and making it more powerful and robust.

Trevor Martin, Managing Director at Gaydar, comments: "This is a very exciting time for Gaydar. Our community has previously suggested a number of features or additions to the site which we've added, but we found a lot of people weren't aware of all of the site's full functionality. We, therefore, wanted to restructure Gaydar to make it even more intuitive and ensure our customers are fully aware of the vast array of features available to them. As well as this redesign, we have a number of projects coming up over the next 18 months in which we'll continue to improve the way the site works in terms of niches, geographical areas and searches, making it even more intuitive for our six million users."

Additionally, Gaydar's popular smartphone app has been updated to reflect the changes taking place across the brand. The update will include a single sign up screen and improved profile editing, meaning guys on the go can be up and running in a matter of minutes.

To check out the stunning new Gaydar site, visit [www.gaydar.co.uk](http://www.gaydar.co.uk) from your desktop or iPad or download the free Gaydar App for iPhone and iPod Touch.

# I LIKE SEX. WELL, TO BE HONEST, I JUST LOVE IT!



And it's not just the cum-shot I love – you know, when you feel the cum bubbling in your balls and then it explodes out through your cock onto your partner. No, it's much more than just that.

It's the intimacy; the privacy between you and your partner. Plus, of course, the sheer energy of the act itself!

The kinds of sex I have are quite different, and I always make an effort to differentiate between the activities I enjoy in the company of my boyfriend and the sex that I have in front of the camera. In other words, between the intercourse that I have for "work" and that that I have "just for fun"!

As it happens, however, the "just for fun" sex – usually comprising of one night stands – has become less and less frequent since I've had a boyfriend, and I've become older and a little more relaxed about things. Yeah, I know, I'm just 25 and already I'm experiencing a decline in my sex life – horrible! But seriously, the truth is that I find the sex with my boyfriend so satisfying that I just don't feel the need any more for so many one night stands. Plus the nice thing about my situation is that I still get to have sex in front of the camera to try out new things, to live out my fetishes or simply just to release some of the sexual pressure that a gay man in his mid-twenties experiences.

Nevertheless, I remember the time shortly after I finished school – and before I decided to embark in a career of gay porn – when I worked for a few weeks as a construction worker. It was hard work, but really good fun, and I did it for a few weeks in the summer with 3 or 4 of my best mates to earn some cash for a holiday together. Here in the Czech Republic you can earn really good money on building sites, and we were all making the most of the opportunity to do just that.

That said, I didn't actually do it for the money alone. Back then – and maybe even still today – I had this fetish for strong, muscular, tanned guys, especially those who are sweaty as a result of hard work or some sports activity. I was already quite experienced with sex in cars, in all sorts of bedrooms, and in the shower and locker rooms of the gyms both in and around my home town. Now I was ready to try something completely new – which that summer meant trying out all those horny builders with my group of equally horny friends!

Needless to report, I had a very satisfying summer that year. We Czechs are very open-minded about sex, and even straight guys don't seem to mind when it comes to

sucking a big juicy cock or getting blown by an experienced gay guy. Basically it just depends on the situation, how sexually driven they are and the quality of the blow-job (or indeed fuck) on offer. You can imagine just how quickly the word spread on that building site that whilst my friends and I might be a bit clumsy in regard to the construction work we were much more experienced when it came to the job of treating cocks right! It's funny how, after working hard in the hot sun on a dusty site, you get really horny – but to prove the point I can assure you that we regularly had sex during our lunch breaks, either between ourselves or with our straight fellow workers. I admit that it probably wasn't the best sex I ever had; but it was definitely very satisfying and helped relieve all that pent-up sexual tension, which is basically what you need in most cases. In addition, the experience helped add to the list of strange places where I'd had sex: on a forklift truck, in a concrete mixer, and on the open top floor of a skyscraper, where we hadn't yet put up the walls. Why, even a public portable toilet could be crossed off my list – an experience never to be repeated for obvious reasons!

To be honest, I've never quite understood this competition that some folk have about having sex in the most "exotic" places. I've never had sex in the toilet of a plane – despite my Star Alliance gold status! – and, as I've mentioned on several previous occasions, I find that sex on beaches or in sand-dunes just isn't at all practical. Call me an unromantic, but I prefer to feel the cock of my boyfriend rather than the bite of a mosquito! So you can forget all about sex in the great outdoors! To me it's the stuff of cheap porn productions. I also assume that the guys who boast about how great the sex was in the confines of a plane toilet forget to tell you about how they needed a course of massages and other suitable treatments to recover for the slipped disk they sustained from trying to suck (or even fuck) the flight attendant whilst in the confines of a tiny cubicle! Then again, maybe I'm just a little bit envious that I use the wrong airlines or don't get that kind of cabin service!

**Hugs and stuff**  
**Johan**

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**FANCY A SHAG?**

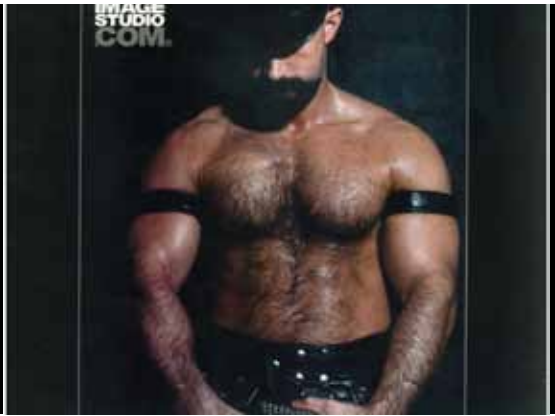
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# KNOWING WHAT YOU LIKE

By Alex Wiggan



So, what are you into? Go on, you might as well come clean; we're all friends here, because chances are you've got a fetish of some sort. It could be wearing nappies, sporting tattoos, tight-fitting leather trousers or dating guys with winkies shaped like ice lollies; but whatever it is, you're not alone. Most guys have a fetish. They might not realise this of course, but you can almost guarantee that something weird yet wonderful gets them off in ways that nothing else can. Mention the word fetish and instantly most people would presume that it's something that only appeals to chaps who like rubber. You know the sort, the ones who seem to get aroused every time they slap on a fresh pair of marigolds and attempt to do the washing up, despite having a perfectly working dishwasher in their kitchen. But have you ever thought that it might not be just the feel of rubber across their knuckles that really gets them going, but perhaps the feel of the water flowing between their fingers? Maybe it's the bubbles and the scent of lemon zest that really gets their blood pumping, or possibly it's just the satisfaction of being able to get the last bit of Weetabix off the breakfast bowl? Fetishes are tricky things you see, as they're not always what they seem to be.

Take boys who are into Speedos for instance; is it the sight of swimwear stretched across the groin that does it for them, or is it actually the lad inside? Well if the sight of a beer belly obscuring most of the material instantly stops you in your tracks then you know it's not a fetish. If you see a fella prancing around in a tight pair of ball huggers and you can't take your eyes off him, then chances are that it's actually the gym body that does it for you. However if you see a fella prancing around in a pair of shorts and you then go home and thumb through your mums catalogue looking for more hunks in trunks, then you know you've got a fetish on your hands. Likewise the same rule applies to footballers and sportswear, doctors and surgical scrubs and handymen and work boots. You see there you were thinking that fetishes had to involve spanking, sex swings and safe words, but that's not always the case. Of course some do

and those fetishes are probably the ones that have become most common just because they don't always fit into the perceived norm, but fetishes are adaptable little things, pretty much like the Borg on Star Trek. They can be split into different categories and then within those categories different subcategories and genres, so that there are an endless succession of fetishes to meet the requirements of everyone. There are types of guys who like to dress up and then there are types of guys who like to dress down. There are those that like to be subservient and then there are those that like to dominate. There are even those that like nipple clamps and being covered in tinkle, but strangely they don't even realise that what they like is classed as a fetish! It actually can become quite a nightmare trying to keep track of fetishes and the only way to be aware of them all is to reference and cross reference the individual categories using flip charts, graphs and those extendable pointer pens. Oh and if you've just noticed a stirring in your downstairs area after reading that last sentence then you've just discovered your fetish is numerology! Congratulations; now go and watch an episode of Countdown and switch your phone to vibrate.

There are fetishes pretty much everywhere you turn, you only need to glance across the profile of half a dozen guys on Fitlads to see that's the case; and they can even be as simple as getting off over guys who fall into certain social subsections. One man's fetish could be scally lads, where as the next could be emos. For them this isn't an interchangeable fetish, they want what they want and there is no way around it, even if a Muscle Mary tries to squeeze his perfectly toned thighs into a pair of spray on skinny jeans! The fetish is for the real life

genuine article, not some fake-and-make who tries to pass himself off in one category just to get a bit of action. Oh nothing spoils the mood more than the whiff of fakery hiding under the guise of a bit of Guyliner and a My Chemical Romance T-shirt. If it's truly a fetish and not just the result of consuming too many bottles of Kopparberg, then it's going to take a lot more than goodwill to convince you to 'give him one', even if he has tried his hardest to meet your demands. With all the fetishes out there it would seem that if you haven't found yours yet then it's highly likely that you haven't realised what it is that you like doing; but that doesn't mean that you aren't getting off on it every week. So if next Saturday you find yourself putting on your angel wings and white briefs for another night out clubbing, maybe you should stop and think about what it is that you're wearing, as there might be a clue as to your fetish hiding in your outfit.



## OPINION

Sexual fetishism, or erotic fetishism, is the sexual arousal a person receives from a physical object, or from a specific situation. The object or situation of interest is called the fetish, the person a fetishist who has a fetish for that object/situation. Noted psychiatrist Sigmund Freud believed that sexual fetishism in men derived from the unconscious fear of the mother's genitals, from men's universal fear of castration, and from a man's fantasy that his mother had had a penis but that it had been cut off. He did not discuss sexual fetishism in women.

Early psychology assumed that fetishism is either being conditioned or imprinted or the result of a strong emotional (e.g., traumatic) or physical experience. Often, these experiences were from early childhood and have stayed part of their lives from that time. Perhaps, if that was true wouldn't we all still want to be babies and at which point as a child were some people subjected to the feel of leather so much so that they now feel compelled to wear tight leather jeans and jacket?

As we know, fetishism can be about anything - from custard covering your arse to metal hooks tying up your cock, from dressing as a furry animal to being restrained in a cell, from loving the touch of satin to cumming at the sight of shiny rubber. There are few things that someone somewhere has not turned into a fetish... then found a friend who shares the obsession. The question that is always asked is... Is It Healthy?

Think of it this way: They aren't selling the country out by causing a global financial meltdown or exporting arms to a country with dubious civil rights. No one is saying you have to take part... or else... and most of it is kept and undertaken in private. I think this perceived moral outrage needs to be put into context - someone strapped into a harness and pretending to be a dog for a few hours a week does neither me or you any harm at all and if they can find others who want to share that experience... so much the better.

**So, if people are deriving pleasure from it... why not enjoy it?**

SlaveBoys.com 



Even good boys  
deserve a spanking...



# STRAP ON!

By Alex Wiggan

## JOCKSTRAP TOP 5:

- 5 - Wearing a jockstrap keeps you cooler when working out as sweat evaporates more freely, allowing you to work up even more of a sweat than usual!
- 4 - The jockstrap is designed to offer support exactly where you need it during 'physical activity', so encourages you to get rough and ready with the boys.
- 3 - With different designs and colours jockstraps allow you to let your chosen strap reflect your changing mood (you kinky bugger).
- 2 - Having a jockstrap on increases the potential for your ass to be spanked by 100% (this is not a guarantee, but it's worth a shot).
- 1 - Wearing a jockstrap doesn't half make you feel one dirty little bugger.



**MAN CENTRAL**.COM  
THE PLACE TO GET OFF

Slipping on underwear nowadays requires more thought than just a quick rummage through the 'undies' drawer in the dark.

In fact depending upon the sort of mood you're in, any downstairs stirrings that rise above six on the Horny-O-Metre will no doubt heavily influence what banger-hanger you opt for. Going commando used to be the ultimate thrill when it came to teasing all the boys on crotch watch, but that was before switched-on fellas realised the true power of titillation thanks to the jockstrap!

Arguably the filthiest piece of clothing ever, the jockstrap is a modern marvel when it comes to providing a penile pulsating offering that gives just as much as it takes away. Just think about its design, which is a piece of material that firmly grabs a lad by balls, whilst at the same time leaves plenty of room round the back to show off the perfect pert package. It's like emergency underwear as it doesn't need to be removed and offers easy access for those wanting to get in and out without the hassle of having to tackle the tackle. Oh claims can be made that the jockstrap was designed to offer

sportsmen support in all the right places, but clearly this little knickerbocker glory was really invented so that saucy sports boys could show their arses off to one another (the lucky buggers). With its 'no back to cover the crack' design it's like having x-ray vision without getting eyestrain and offers gift wrapped gonads and peachy posteriors all in one place. In fact it's cheeky, mucky and just a little bit camp, making it the underwear equivalent of Barbra Windsor!

Obviously this type of wonder wear has transferred off the pitch and into the home and so it's no surprise that boys are choosing to pick up a schlong-thong instead of just boxers and briefs. For this reason there are now many different types of jockstrap to choose from; from rough and tough nut-huggers for leather lads, to pouch pinching penis enhancers for guys who want that little bit extra where it counts. Jockstraps also come in a range of different colours, but boys new to wearing jockstraps should be cautious about showing off their primary coloured pants to just anyone, as certain colours carry sexual connotations. So for example, fuchsia is ideal for those who like spanking, whereas gold is all about having fun with a couple of friends. Red is sure to bring a tear to the eye, yellow could require a towel and as for brown, well I'll let you work that one out, as it is what you think it is. Whatever the intended use of the jockstrap there's one thing for sure; it's underwear that's more than just a place to store your nuts for the winter.

Recently Mancentral members were asked about their kinky side. The response was overwhelming and over 4,500 members answered the question that was: **Out of all the fetishes out there, which one does it for you?**

- A) Leather/Whips/Chains/Bondage
- B) Piss play
- C) Scatting
- D) None of the above.

The least popular answer coming in with a miserable 1% of the vote, we have scatting. So, I guess when it comes to poop it's a no go for almost all of you! Then with a healthy 10% we had piss play. Coming in with 12% we have leather/whips/chains/bondage but as this is the perceived area of fetish by most of the British public you might have expected it to rate higher. There are entire nights, clubs and online news groups dedicated to leather and bondage but obviously it's not as popular as it was maybe 5 or 10 years ago. In second place we have underwear/jockstraps with a healthy 35% this really is no surprise as many out there have a thing for underwear especially jockstraps. Now, here is where it gets interesting, the number 1 answer with over 40% was none of the above/other. Of course people would not just vote for that one WITHOUT telling us what they like. There was one very popular comment that more than half of those members questioned wrote and it was none other than the true blue: foot fetish.

I knew that many had a thing for feet but I had no idea it was this popular! It is a fetish that almost anyone (with nice feet) can enjoy or maybe some like guys with nasty toes, but one thing is for sure it's all up for grabs when it comes to the feet!



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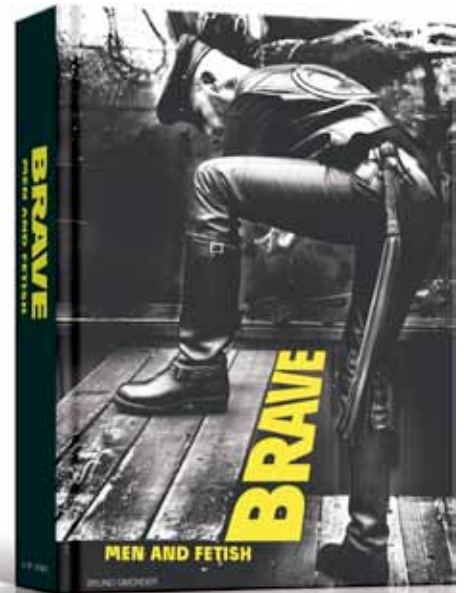
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## **BRAVE - MEN AND FETISH** Various Artists

This is a comprehensive collection of photographic images by artists from across the globe. Among them are such great pioneers of the genre as Jim Wigler, Jack Fritscher, Mark I. Chester and Rick Castro, who have all been leading the charge of the pictorial fetish revolution capturing the raw sexuality of gay men in a fearless and uncompromising way. As varied as the photographers' take on the subject in this book might be, from the most intense encounter to those where everyone is just having fun, they have all one thing in common: the Turn On that is Fetish!

**£23.20**

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# Out and about with Brendan



Brendan Sheerin is the much-loved tour guide star of Channel 4's teatime hit show *Coach Trip*, which is now into its seventh series and regularly attracts 2.5million viewers.

Brendan has won fans of all ages through his enthusiastic and comical role as the tour guide on *Coach Trip* and *Celebrity Coach Trip*. Packed with laugh-out-loud tales described in Brendan's unique voice, his autobiography is warm and charming. He spent thirty years travelling the globe as a tour guide before unexpectedly finding fame on *Coach Trip*. Bent grabbed the man before he embarked on the coach for the filming of his eight series to chat about his life, his book and of course...

**How did you get the job?**

I was working for Scarborough Council in their tourism department and ended up running the Spa, which is a big conference, concert venue... I was in my element as a gay guy running a complex like that, dealing with people you know what we're like... airline stewards are the same. Anyway, my old boss had received an email from a production company asking for people who worked as tour guides or theatre managers and she insisted that I apply saying she thought it was right up my street.

I filled in a huge application form and shortly after there were requests to go to London for an interview. At the time they were only thinking of a pilot because no one knew if it would work. In those early days no one had put cameras in a coach before or put sound equipment in before. We didn't

know if it would be too noisy, whether the camera positions would work or anything really. Anyway the production company liked what I did but the tape was sent off to Channel 4 for their approval. They said I'd hear back by Friday but on the Wednesday I was on my way back home and changing trains at Doncaster station when I got a phone call from the production company saying they'd found the person they want. I said I was pleased for them and thanked them for the opportunity to audition and said that if ever anything else ever came up let me know. She said, "No, no, no... it's you... it's got to be you." So, there I was at the station in a bit of a daze and my stomach churning and I suddenly thought "Oh God... what have I got myself involved in?"

**How has the programme affected your life?**

I was recently at Leicester Square Tube and the guy in the ticket office said; "Brendan we love the programme, I absolutely love it." And the thing is everyone loves the programme so I do get a lot of recognition. I always pose for a photograph and they always tell me their favourite bit of the programme or episode or remember who was a cow on which *Coach Trip*.

**Who has been the biggest let down on the coach?**

Well, we had two party girls from London who I thought were going to be a load of fun but they wanted to start drinking vodka at noon and I wouldn't let them. I told them that they couldn't be pissed for the vote as the other passengers could have objected wondering if it was how they felt or whether it was the drink talking. Anyway, we were in Vienna, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and all they wanted to do was drink so... they fell out with me and left after twelve hours.

**What about celebrities? David Van Day?**

The Cheeky Girls were a lot of fun, the Chuckle Brothers are genuine blokes but David Van Day... he drove me nuts because every time you said anything he'd start singing a song about it. He drove everybody nuts but he was

partnered with Tony Blackburn, who was such a nice guy but, when David got voted off poor old Tony had to go as well.

**Is it just our perception or is there an abundance of gay guys on that bus?**

We like a cross-section actually and we do have a lot of gay fans who watch the show so we get a lot of applications from gay and lesbian couples. We'll take anybody (laughs), to me it doesn't matter, it's nice to have a good representation of the people who watch *Coach Trip*. I only have to walk down Old Compton Street in London and I get screamed at by all the queens; "Hello Brendan we love the show."

**What's the most outrageous thing you or your coach trippers have had to do?**

I don't think it was outrageous because we do do a lot of funny things. Dressing up as a Roman soldier... that was fun...

**Did you keep the gear?**

All the leather gear (sigh) no I didn't... I had to give it back but I looked lovely as an Emperor ... and apparently I have lovely legs... well so the girls said. The mud baths in Greece, they were funny. We did *Burlesque* in Holland and I had to ask the girl to put something over her breasts because she was just going to wear these tassels on her nipples and swing them around. I said; "We can't film your breasts love... you'll have to put a bra on." We do a lot of fun things and active things. I mean I feel incredibly butch when I'm white-water rafting or abseiling down a cliff.

**In your book you talk about your early years growing up in Leeds. Can I ask you – you were a pretty, young, gay, catholic altar boy... do you think God was testing you and the priests?**

No. The priests were really lovely. Cared and worried about their flock offering comfort and really getting to know everyone – who had a job, who was out of work, who might need a bit of help... everyone used to look out for everyone else. Don't get me wrong. The Catholic Church has got a lot to answer for but I can honestly say there was never a hint of anything like that where I grew up.

**At what age did you realise you were gay?**

Oh I think from about 11 or 12 I knew I preferred men to women. You know, when you watched the telly and these heroes would be on... Starsky and Hutch... or the gorgeous David Cassidy. I used to steal the David Cassidy poster out of my sister's Jackie magazine.

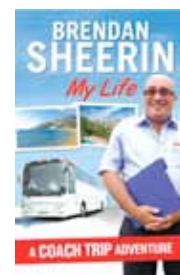
**So, who was the first guy you kissed?**

That would have been John, he was beautiful ... stunning... a ballet dancer and we met in the reference library. I was about 15 and he took me down to the end of the books, away from the lady librarian and kissed me first... and I knew then. I felt ever so guilty on my way home on the bus I was sure everyone knew I'd been snogging with John and they were all looking at me.

**You also talk about the man who you were together with for 25 years... the love of your life Les who was 15 years older than you. Did the age gap ever concern you?**

No it never worried me. He was interested in travel and so was I and we seemed to have so many interests together but don't get me wrong, his friends warned me off a few times because I was a little chicken and thought I was just after him for what I could get. But it didn't work out like that. We fell in love and age has never been a problem... it's only a number and was never an issue with us.

*Coach Trip* series 7 is currently being broadcast on Channel 4 at 5pm, a series 8 is now under production and two special *Celebrity* editions are already in the can and waiting to be broadcast.



**Brendan's autobiography "My Life" is published on 1st October from Michael O'Mara Books priced at £14.99**

## An Extraordinary Boy

**By Vernon Hewitt**

An alien civilization that once lived on Earth eons ago starts an experiment to re-ignite its very own existence. They try out their process on 24 young children but only one of the treatments is a success. Now, as that child reaches his 18th birthday, the cells that were placed in his DNA begin to transform him but will this be for the good of man... or lead to its destruction? His gay best mate can't stop him from changing but endeavours to do what he can and to be with him until the end. With love, paranoia, aliens, Big Government, cover-ups and a super-gorgeous hero... this book has a cracking pace that will be enjoyed by everyone whether they are sci-fi fans or not.



**£8.99 - Olympia Publishing**

## Katy Perry – A Life of Fireworks

**By Chloe Govan**

Never far from controversy, Katy originally struggled to get started in the pop industry, first cutting a gospel album, then falling out with her record company, she eventually managed to alienate both conservatives and gay organisations with songs like 'UR So Gay' and the megahit 'I Kissed A Girl'. This is the tale of two Katys – the pop sex bomb and the wholesome pastor's daughter... gone bad.



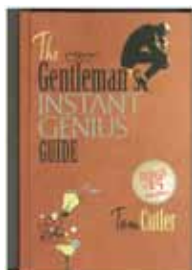
**£9.95 – Omnibus Press**

## The Gentleman's Instant Genius Guide

**By Tom Cutler**

Alongside the vital how tos (from learning the waltz or draw the Union Jack), you will find a multitude of information that every genius ought to know. From the history of the blue-skinned people of Kentucky to the truth about the deadliest frog in the world, not forgetting everything you've wanted to know about the penis. Be a genius, be impressive... be as popular as your dog!

**£12.99 – Constable Books**

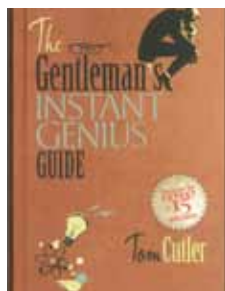


## The Mammoth Book of Gorgeous Guys

**Edited by Barbara Cardy**

This is a stunning collection of nude and erotic portraits from some of the world's most outstanding photographers. There are over 400 images in this small format book but each shot reveals unique and an innovative ways of capturing the beauty of the male form. A visual treat to keep on the bedside stand.

**£10.99 – Constable Books**



## Gay Porn Heroes

**By J.C. Adams**

The book is a tribute to the amazing men who have fired our erotic imagination across four decades. Anyone who has ever wondered about what it means to be considered an erotic icon will certainly find some of the answers he's looking for here.

From Al Parker to Brent Corrigan, Jeff Stryker to Matthew Rush, Lukas Ridgeston to Pierre Fitch, these are the skin stars that make us smile – and turn us on! The Top 100 stars are arranged in ten categories, including The Bodybuilders, The Macho Men, The Boys Next Door, The Superhung Studs and The European Fantasy. Whether you're a fan of the classic stars or the current day studs, this is a must have for every fan of all male adult entertainment.

**£37.15 - www.brunogmuender.com**



## G is for Groundskeeper

**By Michael Broderick**

There are 26 good reasons to buy this book: For every letter of the alphabet Broderick presents a drawing full of sex and fantasy. The groundskeeper helps young, athletic students to discover the joys of sex and satisfaction. Doesn't this sound like a philosophic stroke of genius? Well, you might be right, maybe it doesn't, but Broderick's charming and colourful illustrations want nothing more than to entertain and make you horny.

**£13.90 - www.brunogmuender.com**

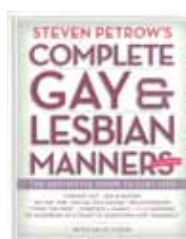


## Complete Gay and Lesbian Manners

**By Steven Petrow**

This heavy tome covers all those important milestones – coming out, friendship, sex & dating, moving in together, commitment ceremonies... the list goes on and although this is aimed at an American audience, a British reader should be able to take a great deal from the advice and pointers the book offers. Whether it is throwing a great party, interacting with work colleagues or just introducing your 'significant other' to your family and friends... there's a lot in here that will help and guide.

**£11.99 - Workman Publishing**



# KICKING BACK WITH KENNEDY

Meet Kennedy Carter, a self-described English lad living a 'Clark Kent life', university student by day, go-go dancing porn superhero with Raging Stallion Studios by night.

Ryan Houston caught up with Kennedy to talk about his job as the British hunk over the pond.

**How did you first get involved in the porn industry?**

I sent off my photos to a few studios when I first started university as I wanted a job that would help me pay for college, and I was lucky enough that all the companies I applied to were interested in working with me. I started working for a website in the UK before working for one of the largest American companies, Raging Stallion.

**Do you enjoy your job?**

I really do. It is a world away from my life at university: I get to travel all the time and I have met so many really lovely, interesting people, which might contradict what people think of the industry. The actual filming of the movies is like any other kind of filming it can be repetitive, and it is not like having normal sex as your job is to focus primarily on the position of your body in relation to the cameras, the lighting, and so on. However, I have had some really fantastic sexual experiences, and the atmosphere on set is always fun.

**Do you think that the porn industry is fuelling the spread of HIV in gay men through the promotion of bareback sex?**

You can't prove that porn promotes unsafe sex in its audience in the same way that you can't prove that violent movies inspire violent behaviour in their audience.

**Are there any bad parts of your job?**

I wouldn't necessarily say it's a bad part of the industry, but longevity is difficult to attain, so my advice to anyone getting into porn is just to enjoy it for as long as possible, and not to take it to heart when it comes to an end.

**What are your plans for the future? Will porn affect this?**

In a perfect world (i.e., finances permitting), I will do a Masters once I have completed my current degree and then a PhD - my dream job is to work as a historian. I am completely at peace with the fact that I have put my employment in jeopardy from doing porn, and I came to that realisation as soon as I made my first movie. Not to do so would be beyond me.



BAD ROMANCE

10 Gay Short Films

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# A BULGE TOO FAR?

As with the ground-breaking mini-series Spartacus – Blood and Sand, this six-part prequel is just as bloody and brutal, with a heady mix of profanity, nudity and sex, which in my book makes for top evening's viewing.

Gods of the Arena was designed as a stop-gap solution when Spartacus star Andy Whitfield had to pull out of filming a second series to receive treatment for cancer. (Unfortunately, Whitfield recently lost his battle with his illness; the lead role has been recast and goes to fellow Antipodean actor, Liam McIntyre). However, what a brilliant

'stop-gap' it proved to be. By filling in the background of the rise of the House of Batiatus and his ludus; the deals, cheats, intrigues and murders he had to commit, it gave us more of an insight to mechanics needed climb the slippery pole of ancient Roman society. His ambition is achieved thanks to the sexually explosive setting of the macho and sweaty world of his gladiator's physical exertions, their never ending dose of violence, homo and heterosexual lust and the ultimate desire to be the best. With the motto: LIVE TO BECOME A GOD OR DIE TRYING

Packed with sexual tension and bloody battles sequences, the series features some of the biggest and most brutal spectacles the show has ever produced. Not to be outdone, the costume designers had a field day making sure the greasy, sweaty hunks had very little to wear but what they did wrap around their plentiful groins, emphasised why these men were regarded as gods once they entered the arena.

Out: 3rd October – DVD & BluRay - Anchor Bay Entertainment

To coincide with visual treat of such 'well-developed' gladiators, Aussiebum - the leading Australian undies maker [www.aussiebum.com](http://www.aussiebum.com), is offering a pair of their figure enhancing pants as part of the prize for this explosive DVD.

To be in with a chance of winning a DVD and a pair of these fantastic Aussiebums, just answer this simple question:

**What is a ludus?**  
**A, a game. B, a sword. C, a gladiator training camp.**

## Blood Creek

In 1936, the Wollners, a German family living in rural Town Creek, Maryland, are contacted by the Third Reich to host a visiting scholar. In need of money, they accept him into their home but his grand occult project seals the Wollners off from the rest of the world and makes them players in a horrifying game of survival. Now, in 2007, Evan Marshall's life has stalled at twenty-five years old. Left without answers after his older brother Victor's disappearance from a camping trip near Town Creek, he has tried to move on. But when Victor returns one night, very much alive and having escaped his captors, Evan asks no questions. At his brother's request, he loads their rifles, packs up their boat and follows him back to Town Creek on a mission of revenge that will test them in every possible way...



Out: 24th October – DVD & BluRay – Entertainment in Video

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

In which US state is Town Creek?

## Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence

In 1942 British soldier Jack Celliers (David Bowie) comes to a Japanese prison camp. The camp is run by Yonoi (Ryūichi Sakamoto), who has a firm belief in discipline, honour and glory. In Yonoi's view, the allied prisoners are all cowards after choosing to surrender in the war instead of committing suicide. When one of the prisoners, interpreter John Lawrence (Tom Conti), tries to explain the Japanese way of thinking, he is considered a traitor.



Out: 17th October – BluRay & DP – Optimum Classics

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

Complete the title of this David Bowie movie –  
 The Man Who Fell To \_\_\_\_\_

## The One

Hunky Daniel couldn't have it better – great parents, a successful career and the beautiful Jen as his fiancée. A seemingly perfect life... but there is one temptation that may derail his best laid plans for a straight-and-narrow life: he has a thing for Tommy, the former college classmate who is now openly gay. After a few drinks, Daniel succumbs to his repressed desires and makes a 'one-time mistake'. With Tommy's friends warning him against his involvement with a straight man and Daniel's pledge of heterosexually, it would seem that nothing will come of them...but love and lust have a way of messing up even the best laid plans.



Out: 10th October - £15.99 – tiareleasing

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

Which of these famous people was known to be gay: A, Oscar Wilde. B, Michaelangelo. C, Freddie Mercury.

## Tin Tin

and the Mystery of the Golden Fleece A surprise message from Istanbul is about to ruin Captain Haddock's day. Named as sole beneficiary in the will of his late comrade Paparanic, Haddock sets sail with the intrepid Tintin on a journey to collect his strange bounty – but is all as it seems? This spirited live-action take on Hergé's iconic comic creation is a colourful, fun-filled adventure set in stunning international locations. Featuring all of Hergé's best-loved characters, this English language treat is released by the BFI just ahead of October's highly-anticipated big screen outing for the boy reporter in Steven Spielberg's The Adventures of Tintin.



Out: 17th October - £9.99 – BFI

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

What do the letter BFI stand for?

## Prison Break: The Complete Series

When Michael Scofield's brother, Lincoln, is wrongfully sentenced to death, Michael engineers an impossible escape - from the inside out.



Getting arrested and imprisoned is only the first step and when they break free their troubles really begin...

Combining all four seasons and the thrilling series finale The Final Break, the 23-disc box set brings the entire tension-filled escapade home in high definition. Starring Dominic Purcell and Wentworth Miller, this high-action prison drama will have viewers on the edge of their sofas and is a must-have for any TV box-set collector.

**Out: 3rd October – BluRay – 20th Century Fox Home Ents**

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

What did Michael use to bust his brother from prison: A, A Key. B, A Tattoo. C, A kind word to the governor.

## Senna

Featuring never-seen-before home videos and archive footage of Ayrton Senna in his younger years, the Blu-ray and DVD footage gives viewers a greater understanding into this fascinating man behind the wheel. As well as exclusive featurettes and commentary from Director Asif Kapadia, the DVD and Blu-ray disks contain exclusive interviews, including a 'lost' interview with biographer Gerald Donaldson. Traces of archive footage allow you to feel closer to this phenomenal figure who loved and lived for the racetrack. Action packed and totally enthralling... and not just for fans of Jeremy Clarkson and the Top Gear boys.



**Out: 10th October – DVD & BluRay – Universal**

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

Ayrton Senna came from which of these countries: A, Brazil. B, Scotland. C, South Africa

## This Boy's Life

Drifting from town to town and various different relationships, single mother Caroline (Ellen Barkin) and her son Toby (DiCaprio), eventually settle in Seattle, where she meets the seemingly charming Dwight (DeNiro). The couple marry, but her husband's veneer of respectability soon fades to reveal a bullying, violent tyrant, who wants to change Toby and the emotional, verbal and physical abuse begins. This Boy's Life is a compelling drama featuring powerhouse performances from two Hollywood greats.



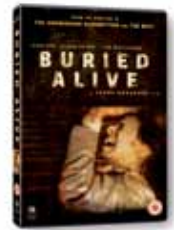
**Out: 10th October - £15.99 – Second Sight**

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

Complete this title of another DiCaprio movie: Catch Me If You \_\_\_\_\_?

## Buried Alive

Hard-working construction company owner, Clint, is married to Joanna, but little does he know she's having an affair with a doctor and the pair are plotting to kill him to get a hefty insurance payout. One night Joanne injects Clint with poison and with the help of her lover they set about burying him in a shallow grave. But there's one slight problem; Clint isn't dead! Buried Alive is the ultimate revenge movie from the creator-director of award winning TV zombie thriller The Walking Dead.



**Out: 17th October - £15.99 – Second Sight**

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

What are zombies: A, The Unclean. B, The Undead, C, The Uninvited.

**Win These**  
Turn to page 78 for details

**EATING OUT  
DRAMA CAMP**

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A FILM BY Q. ALLAN BROOKA

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## Johnny English Reborn

Rowan Atkinson returns to the role of the accidental secret agent who doesn't know fear or danger in the comedy spy-thriller Johnny English Reborn. In his latest adventure, the most unlikely intelligence officer in Her Majesty's Secret Service must stop a group of

**Out 7th October**

international assassins before they eliminate a world leader and cause global chaos.

In the years since MI-7's top spy vanished off the grid, he has been honing his unique skills in a remote region of

Asia. But when his agency superiors learn of an attempt against the Chinese premier's life, they must hunt down the highly unorthodox agent. Now that the world needs him once again, Johnny English is back in action.



## The Three Musketeers

Paul W.S. Anderson the director of Resident Evil series and married to Milla Jovovich, brings the well-loved The Three Musketeers to the big screen in stunning 3D. The hot-headed young D'Artagnan (Logan Lerman) joins forces with three rogue Musketeers (Matthew MacFadyen, Luke Evans and

**Out 12th October**

Ray Stevenson) in this reboot of Alexandre Dumas' story. They must stop the evil Richlieu (Christoph Waltz) and face off with Buckingham (Orlando Bloom) and the treacherous Milady (Milla Jovovich). A lot of fun for the Autumn season.



## Footloose

Writer/Director Craig Brewer (Hustle & Flow, Black Snake Moan) delivers a new take of the beloved 1984 classic film, Footloose. Ren McCormack (played by newcomer Kenny Wormald) is transplanted from Boston to the small southern town of Bomont where he experiences a heavy dose of culture shock. A few years prior, the community was rocked by a tragic accident that killed five teenagers after a night out and

**Out 14th October**

Bomont's local councilmen and the Reverend Shaw Moore (Dennis Quaid) responded by implementing ordinances that prohibit loud music and dancing. Not one to bow to the status quo, Ren challenges the ban, revitalizing the town and falling in love with the minister's troubled daughter Ariel (Julianne Hough) in the process.

## MOVIE BUZZ

- ❖ Kathryn Bigelow's (Hurt Locker) 1991 feature Point Break starring Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze is being updated and set in the world of international extreme sports.
- ❖ Whitney Houston could make her return to the big screen in a remake of the 1976 musical drama Sparkle. The original was inspired by the story of the Supremes and follows a girl group whose rise to fame creates turmoil in their personal lives. American Idol winner Jordin Sparks will take the lead role, while Houston is in negotiations to play her not-so supportive mother.
- ❖ More remake talk (ugh) as Juan Carlos Fresnadillo (28 Weeks Later) has agreed to direct a new version of the 80s classic Highlander. The original cult classic starred Christopher Lambert as an immortal Scottish swordsman who must confront the last of his kind. Apparently nothing was learned from Conan the Barbarian's dismal returns.
- ❖ Top Gun is getting a 3D conversion in early 2012. Is there a market for 3D conversions of classic films? I wouldn't think so, but I guess we'll find out soon enough with 3D versions of The Lion King, Titanic and the Star Wars films already set to hit the big screen.
- ❖ Hugh Grant has joined the long list of big names starring in Cloud Atlas, the ambitious project from the Wachowskis and Tom Tykwer. Shooting has begun in Scotland, Spain and Germany, while previous reports have revealed that every member of the cast will play multiple roles. The previously committed talent list includes Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Susan Sarandon, Jim Broadbent, Jim Sturges and Ben Whishaw.
- ❖ Steven Spielberg is heating up as he has two films due this December with War Horse and The Adventures of Tintin, another film already slated for next year is Lincoln and he is now teaming with Fox and Dreamworks for the previously announced Robopocalypse, due to hit theatres on July, 2013. The quick synopsis is to say it's about humanity's struggle to survive a global robotic uprising.



## Contagion

Steven Soderbergh directs an all-star cast in the sci-fiction thriller *Contagion*. Already topping the box office in the USA, the hit film follows the rapid progress of a lethal airborne virus that kills within days. As the fast-moving epidemic grows, the worldwide medical

**Out 21st October**

community races to find a cure and control the panic that spreads faster than the virus itself. At the same time, ordinary people struggle to survive in a society coming apart. The cast includes Gwyneth Paltrow, Matt Damon, Lawrence Fishburne and Jude Law.



## Real Steel

A gritty, white-knuckle, action ride set in the near-future, where the sport of boxing has gone hi-tech, *Real Steel* stars Hugh Jackman as Charlie Kenton, a washed-up fighter who lost his chance at a title when 2000-pound, 8-foot-tall steel robots took over the ring. Now nothing but a small-time promoter, Charlie earns just enough money piecing together low-end

**Out 14th October**

bots from scrap metal to get from one underground boxing venue to the next. When Charlie hits rock bottom, he reluctantly teams up with his estranged son Max (Dakota Goyo) to build and train a championship contender. As the stakes in the brutal, no-holds-barred arena are raised, Charlie and Max, against all odds, get one last shot at a comeback.



## Ides Of March

Based on a play from Beau Willimon, George Clooney puts on his director hat and also stars in the political drama *The Ides of March*. Takes place during the frantic last days before a heavily contested Ohio presidential primary, when an up-and-coming campaign press

**Out 28th October**

secretary (Ryan Gosling) finds himself involved in a political scandal that threatens to upend his candidate's shot at the presidency. A power house acting cast including Paul Giamatto and Philip Seymour Hoffman, a possible contender at next year's Oscars.

TEN THINGS YOU NEVER  
KNEW ABOUT:

## GUY PEARCE



- Born in 1967 in Cambridgeshire, England, Guy Pearce and family moved to Australia when he was 3-years-old.
- Turned down the title role in *Daredevil*.
- Two days after his final high school exam Guy started a four year stint as Mike Young on the popular Aussie soap *Neighbours*.
- Father was a test pilot who died in a crash in 1976.
- His eldest sister, Tracy, has Cornelia de Lange syndrome, a genetic disorder that affects both intellectual and physical development.
- He married his childhood sweetheart Kate in March 1997
- Appeared in the last two Academy Award winning best films (*The Hurt Locker*, *The Kings Speech*).
- As a teenager was a body builder, he won Mr Junior Victoria competition.
- Guy is a keen musician, he plays the guitar, saxophone and piano, but his musical talents go beyond that, he is also a bit of a songwriter.
- Guy who worked with Christopher Nolan on *Memento*, was turned down for the role of Batman in the movie *Batman Begins*.

**This month Guy stars in the thriller *Don't Be Afraid Of The Dark* out 7th October.**

# Great Scot!

Adrian Gillan takes the high road for a queer cultural treat in the Scottish capital, Edinburgh!

## Sights

Check out the world's largest collection of Scotch whisky, at the Old Town Scotch Whisky Experience, near ancient St. Giles' Cathedral, the eye-teasing Camera Obscura and Writers' Museum. For art, visit the Scottish National Gallery, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and Scottish National Portrait Gallery. For history, try the National Museum of Scotland, Museum of Edinburgh, People's Story, Museum of Childhood, quirky well-nigh gory Surgeons' Hall Museum – or any of a host of informative, oft-spooky, walking tours out touting for trade!

Relax in leafy Princes Street Garden – seemingly a million miles away from all the shops just up on the road – in which park, if you muster the energy, you can also climb the Scott Monument for fab views. Tour the old Palace of Holyroodhouse and new Scottish Parliament nearby; plus check out the vibrant Dynamic Earth exhibition whilst down that way!

Take a leafy stroll along the banks of the narrow Water of Leith – stopping off at the picturesque Stockbridge district, plus the splendid Royal Botanic Garden with its mighty trees, hedges and glasshouses – to quaint old Leith itself, home to the majestically moored Royal Yacht Britannia.

Though Edinburgh used to share Pride Scotia ([www.pride-scotland.org](http://www.pride-scotland.org)) in alternate years, Glasgow has now "hived off" with its own event, leaving the Scots capital to hold the event by itself every two years – normally in May/June. Edinburgh does, of course, host another fairly well known "Festival" – in reality, a clutch of festivals (most notably [www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk); [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)) – every summer! This may be the world's largest cultural event – the number of tickets sold exceeded only by Olympics and World Cup.

## Scene

Most of the gay action happens in the Broughton locale around folly-filled Calton Hill (with its Nelson Monument vantage) – up which great views abound, and men oft take airs; and, at the foot of which, pubs and bars keep pumping tunes and booze into the wee small hours.

The Blue Moon Café (1 Barony Street; T: 0131 556 2788; [www.bluemooncafe.co.uk](http://www.bluemooncafe.co.uk)) boasts healthy, filling fodder and attitude-free staff serving all a boy could need. Ditto nearby Café Nom de Plume (60 Broughton Street; T: 0131 478 1372), adjoining the excellent LGBT Centre.

New Town Bar (26B Dublin Street; T: 0131 538 7775; [www.newtownbar.co.uk](http://www.newtownbar.co.uk)) gets pretty busy, not least

in its basement disco and 'intimate area'! The Street (2 Picardy Place; 0131 556 4272) sprawls out onto just that all summer long! Stylish Planet (6 Baxter's Place; T: 0131 556 5551) is a bit of an institution that goes head-to-head with buzzing-to-the-rafters Habana (22 Greenside Place; T: 0131 558 1270; [www.cafehabanaEH1.com](http://www.cafehabanaEH1.com)) a few doors down.

Away from the main bustle, try Elbow (133-135 East Claremont Street; T: 0131 556 5662; [www.elbowedinburgh.co.uk](http://www.elbowedinburgh.co.uk)), Frenchies (87-89 Rose Street Lane North; T: 0131 225 6967; [www.frenchies-bar.com](http://www.frenchies-bar.com)) or The Regent (2 Montrose Terrace; T: 0131 661 8198).

Two-levelled club CC Blooms (23 Greenside Place; T: 0131 556 9331) is the scene's mainstay cheesy bedrock, sure to press all the right buttons, night in, night out. For the more discerning clubber, sprawling basement GHQ (4 Picardy Place; T: 0131 550 1780; [www.socialanimal.co.uk/Edinburgh/GHQ/](http://www.socialanimal.co.uk/Edinburgh/GHQ/)) hits the mark pretty much any day, Tues-Sun. Cabaret and drag bar Priscilla (17 Albert Place, Leith Walk; T: 0131 554 8962; [www.priscillasedinburgh.co.uk](http://www.priscillasedinburgh.co.uk)) adds a high dose of glam and glitz, not to mention glitter, to the scene.

Still restless? We doubt if any of the world's great cruising grounds can boast a classier name than the Royal Terrace Gardens – a long stretch of landscaped slope, brimming with lolling men. And few can claim the 360-degree panoramic, aforementioned manly vantage just behind it, up Calton Hill, with stars above and the Scottish capital's own twinkling lamps flickering away beneath. Alternatively, Steamworks (5 Broughton Market; T: 0131 477 3567, [www.steamworks-sauna.co.uk](http://www.steamworks-sauna.co.uk)) is one of several busy saunas in town, just around the corner from aforementioned Blue Moon caf. Ditto Number 18 (18 Albert Place, Leith Walk; T: 0131 553 3222; [www.number18sauna.com](http://www.number18sauna.com)).

## Stay & Eat

Stay at The Knight Residence (12 Lauriston Street; T: 0131 622 8120; [www.theknightresidence.co.uk](http://www.theknightresidence.co.uk)) – 5-star serviced apartments, just beneath Edinburgh Castle, in the Old Town. Comfortable pads come in a range of sizes, all with friendly, attentive yet unobtrusive service.

Dine at the Rutland Hotel restaurant (1-3 Rutland Street; T: 0131 229 3402; [www.therutlandhotel.com](http://www.therutlandhotel.com)), just off the western tip of Princes Street. After a drink at the stylish downstairs bar, tuck into reasonably-priced modern tasty takes on classic dishes, all using locally-sourced produce. Stunning service, plus epic views of the castle, and right down Princes Street! A treat!

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Other useful websites: [www.thisismyedinburgh.com](http://www.thisismyedinburgh.com) [www.facebook.com/weloveedinburgh](http://www.facebook.com/weloveedinburgh) See more and save more with the Edinburgh Pass ([www.edinburghpass.com](http://www.edinburghpass.com)) – the must-have sightseeing pass for visitors to Edinburgh – providing free entry to over 30 top attractions in Edinburgh & the Lothians; free transport around the city and airport transfer; and great special offers on sightseeing, shopping, eating out and entertainment.

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# TWEAK MY PEAKS!



## Interlaken

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The best, most thrilling and quirky way to get your bearings around Interlaken is on a Segway ([www.segway.ch](http://www.segway.ch)) tour, flitting back and forth across the gushing river and through the old town

## Mountains

Want to get up a high mountain? Then let the train take the strain!

Hop on the amazing Jungfrau Railway system from Interlaken Ost to Lauterbrunnen and, via Kleine Scheidegg, right up to Jungfraujoch (3454m) - Europe's highest railway station, celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2012. Disembark to enjoy ice sculptures in the chilly glacial Ice Palace plus restaurants galore - there's even an Indian one, to really hot things up! There's a special area for year-round snowy hill-top japes at the Snowfun Park, plus new attractions are opening all the time!

Take the lift up to the 'Sphinx' complex (3571m), whose viewing platforms afford great vistas of 'the big three' peaks, plus the 23-km-long UNESCO-World Heritage Aletsch Glacier - Europe's longest.

Factor in a short downhill hike between rail stations on your descent. A spot of solitary walking is truly the only way to 'feel the mountains' - maybe popping into the tiny 'Eiger North Wall' museum en route, which explains an intrepid, oft tragic and still-evolving, climbing history, with its sad rock memorials just outside, commemorating, quite literally, 'the fallen'.

Other top tips for great views of the entire Jungfrau region include the Schynige Platte (1967m), reached by easy train; and Harder Kulm (1322m) - Interlaken's 'home mountain', perched just north of the town, and reached via funicular, offering forest trails, a hotel with restaurant ([www.harderkulm.ch](http://www.harderkulm.ch)), and panoramic views to die for! Put away your cameras! Photos could hardly begin to do this justice!

## Lakes

So much for the mountains! Be sure to check out at least one of the two big lakes. Hop on a Lake Brienz ferry from Interlaken Ost to Giessbach - ascending the world's oldest funicular, dating from the 1870s, to view

the spectacular multi-level Giessbach Falls whilst sipping a drink on the terrace of the historic and atmospheric summer-only Hotel Giessbach ([www.giessbach.ch](http://www.giessbach.ch)), before returning to the ferry by a soothing forest path. Then hop on the ferry again - maybe even an old, renovated pre-WW1 paddle steamer - across to the town of Brienz itself.

A short bus ride from Brienz lies the incredible Ballenberg open-air museum ([www.ballenberg.ch](http://www.ballenberg.ch)), featuring more than a hundred old buildings re-assembled from all over Switzerland, some dating back to the 14th Century. Demonstrations of local crafts evoke a vivid impression of rural life in days gone by.

## Food

Take the Jungfrau Railway system from Interlaken Ost, via Lauterbrunnen, to Winteregg, to visit the small Staubbach cheese dairy to see how cheese is made, buying some to sample - taking lunch on the restaurant terrace there, slap bang in front of 'the big three', before enjoying a bit of local hiking.

Back down in Interlaken, tuck in to local tucker at central Grand Café Restaurant Schuh (Höheweg 56, Interlaken; T: +41 (0)33 888 80 50; [www.schuh-interlaken.ch](http://www.schuh-interlaken.ch)); or at Hotel Alpenblick (Wilderswil/Interlaken; T: +41 (0)33 828 3550; [www.hotel-alpenblick.ch](http://www.hotel-alpenblick.ch)) - boasting tasty cuisine from friendly Michelin-starred chef, Richard Stöckli. Try a nice 'rösti' (fried grated potato)!

The local guys are so handsome and charming, careful not to mistake such alluring friendliness for a romantic advance! Best fix an online hook-up first! Unless you're already happily married, that is!

## Photos: 'Interlaken Tourism'

For more information on Switzerland check out [www.MySwitzerland.com](http://www.MySwitzerland.com) or call the Switzerland Travel Centre on freephone 00800 100 200 30; alternatively, visit [www.interlaken.ch](http://www.interlaken.ch) or [www.jungfrau.ch](http://www.jungfrau.ch)

SWISS operates daily flights from London Heathrow, London City, Birmingham and Manchester to Zurich. For reservations call 0845 601 0956 or visit [www.swiss.com](http://www.swiss.com)

For details of getting around Switzerland on its legendary rail system, not to mention bus and boat - including the great-value Swiss Pass - call the Switzerland Travel Centre on 00800 100 200 30 or visit [www.swisstravelsystem.co.uk](http://www.swisstravelsystem.co.uk)



Chocolates and cheese, mountains and lakes, money and men: Adrian Gillan is far from neutral about the fab hiking and eating around Interlaken in the Jungfrau region of central Switzerland.



Not just one lake, but two! Not just two iconic mountain peaks, but three! Then dozens of fab eateries! Plus hoards of gorgeous local men, all shimmeringly healthy and aglow with their fine Alpine rearing!

In the very heart of Switzerland, nestling between two luminously blue lakes - the Thun and the Brienz - Interlaken (568m) is gateway to the whole Jungfrau Region, the ideal starting point for rail and hiking excursions on and around the world-famous Eiger (3970m), Mönch (4107m) & Jungfrau (4158) peaks.

Wintry fun on the white stuff is all well and good, but few things can compare to the blue skies and flower- and cow-speckled majestic mountain greenery - the breathtaking views, fresh air, and unspoilt nature - in store on these wonderfully summery Swiss slopes, every May-October.

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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.

In 1958, when I was 21, a man seeking, by any method whatsoever, to meet another man was considered by the law of the land to be 'soliciting for immoral purposes'; the slightest sexual contact between males was called 'an act of gross indecency', anal sex was 'buggery'. Men were frequently convicted, heavily fined and even sent to prison. At the time I met a man, 2 or three years older than myself, who told me about the Russian Baths in Leeds. They were part of the municipal swimming baths and could be found all over the city. These Russian Baths sounded like a dream come true. The very thought of seeing a man completely naked, whilst being naked oneself filled me with anticipation, as did the possibility of sexual contact in the steam room. My new friend offered me some reassurance when he said that "Cum just disappears in the sweat, steam and general wetness". The Russian Baths were a

fairly civilised affair with tables and chairs from which you could order refreshments. There were relatively few bathers, perhaps ten in all, aged from late-teens to around 50. In those days most men sat on their towels rather than wrapping them around their waist. I feasted my eyes as two guys, completely naked, walked towards the shower-room door. A lovely sight! Beyond the shower room was a further door leading to the steam room. Over it there was a severe notice, advising bathers that anyone behaving inappropriately would be reported to the police, whose premises were just next door. The steam room was large enough for about 20 customers but as I peered through the heat and damp I noticed that only a few people were using the room. Soon I was alone. Then in came a lad, naked of course, who sat down right next to me. We talked. He was twenty-one as well and delivered milk for Co-op Dairies. Our

knees touched... our hands wondered and my friend was correct - our cum simply disappeared. The whole visit had been a wonderfully liberating experience, in spite of the care and vigilance one had to show with every move. That was the start of my visits to Russian and Turkish baths, a sort of precursor to the current gay saunas, and my visits continued for forty years.

Eric, Leeds (edited)



• Illustration by: **Ryan Doherty** - [www.wix.com/ryandoherty27/ryansart](http://www.wix.com/ryandoherty27/ryansart)

Send your first time experience to: [editor@bent.com](mailto:editor@bent.com)

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### 2. Sleep May Prevent Cancer

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### 3. Sleep Reduces Stress

When your body is sleep deficient, it goes into a state of stress. The body's functions are put on high alert which causes an increase in blood pressure and a production of stress hormones.

### 4. Sleep Reduces Inflammation

The increase in stress hormones raises the level of inflammation in your body, also creating more risk for heart-related conditions, as well as cancer, diabetes and is thought to one of the causes of the deterioration of your body as you age.

### 5. Sleep Makes You More Alert

Of course, a good night's sleep makes you feel energized and alert the next day. Being engaged and active not only feels great, it increases your chances for another good night's sleep.

### 6. Sleep Bolsters Your Memory

Researchers do not fully understand why we sleep and dream, but a process called memory consolidation occurs during sleep. While your body may be resting, your brain is busy processing your day, making connections between events, sensory input, feelings and memories.

### 7. Sleep May Help You Lose Weight

Researchers have also found that people who sleep less than seven hours per night are more likely to be overweight or obese. It is thought that the lack of sleep impacts the balance of hormones in the body that affect appetite.

### 8. Naps Make You Smarter

A study of 24,000 Greek adults showed that people who napped several times a week had a lower risk for dying from heart disease. People who nap at work have much lower levels of stress. Napping also improves memory, cognitive function and mood.

### 9. Sleep May Reduce the Risk of Depression

Sleep impacts many of the chemicals in your body, including serotonin. People with a deficiency in serotonin are more likely to suffer from depression. You can help to prevent depression by making sure you are getting the right amount of sleep, between 7 and 9 hours each night.

### 10. Sleep Helps the Body Make Repairs

Sleep is a time for your body to repair damage caused by stress, ultraviolet rays and other harmful exposures. Your cells produce more protein while you are sleeping. These protein molecules form the building blocks for cells, allowing them to repair damage.

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# KALEIDOSCOPE

Kaleidoscope is a new organisation to support gay men and lesbians around the world from prejudice and discrimination. Its aim is diversity and respect for all regardless of sexuality. It will work alongside local activists and groups to fight the threat of persecution, imprisonment and even death.

One of the founding members of Kaleidoscope, Bisi Alimi, said:

'I was the first person from Nigeria to openly declare my sexuality on national television. As a result I was attacked, tied up and beaten in my own home in Lagos. For the first time in my life I not only saw a gun but I felt it right against my head. I was forced to leave my country. My dream is that others like me will be free to stay and be happy surrounded by the love of their friends and families. Kaleidoscope can make a real difference, so I hope people will support us so that maybe one day my dream will come true.'

Kaleidoscope is backed by a number of prominent individuals including: Elton John, George Michael, Amy Lamé, John Barrowman, Trevor Philips, Angela Mason, Simon Fanshawe, Matthew Parris, Sir Nick Partridge.

Kaleidoscope is seeking donations large and small to help fight homophobia around the world.

The broadcaster Paul Gambaccini, who has made the first donation, said: 'I have been passionate about working for human rights ever since my classmates and I read a Martin Luther King comic book in 1961. This struggle has in my life been waged on behalf of black Americans, women, gays, and non-white South Africans. It is time for those of us who enjoy our rights in the UK to support movements for dignity and decency wherever they are located.'

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



## Gay men can now donate blood?



Health Ministers announced recently that the rules regarding the eligibility of gay and bisexual men to donate blood have changed. The new policy allows gay and bisexual men to donate blood if they have not had oral or anal sex with a man in the last year. Previously all men who had ever had sex with another man (including men who are gay, bisexual or had a one off sexual encounter with another man) could not donate blood.

The ban on gay men donating blood was originally introduced as a response to the HIV epidemic.. Since that time, changes in testing technologies, as well as changes in equalities legislation, had led to calls from many gay individuals and organisations, to repeal the ban.

GMFA, the gay men's health charity, was involved in a review of the policy, conducted by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO). Although testing technologies for screening blood for HIV had improved considerably since the initial ban, concerns were raised about the possibility of Hepatitis B being in blood at a level too low to be detected but high enough to result in infection.

However, the giving of blood comes with a requirement that you cannot have had anal or oral sex with another guy for a year before the donation. So, I would suspect that this repeal, despite being backed by many gay groups, is nothing more than a sop to these organisations and will do nothing to add to the blood banks from gay individuals.

**More details about the new blood donor policy, and how it relates to gay men, can be found at [www.gmfa.org.uk/blood](http://www.gmfa.org.uk/blood)**



## Live-in couples can still have rights despite Government U-turn, says Law Society

Couples who live together but do not marry can still have similar rights to married couples, despite the Government's U-turn on giving cohabiting couples more rights, says the Law Society.

The Law Society says that despite the Government's decision to drop plans to give couples that live together similar rights to married couples, unmarried couples can sign a cohabitation agreement which would give them stronger rights should their partner die or should the couple separate. The Society says that cohabitation agreements which are drafted by a solicitor could potentially put cohabiting couples in a better legal position than their married counterparts should the relationship breakdown.

Law Society President John Wotton says: "Although the Government has chosen not to legislate to give cohabiting couples the same rights as married couples, couples can sit down with their solicitor and draft a cohabitation agreement which

caters for all eventualities. Unlike pre-nuptial agreements for married couples, cohabitation agreements are recognised by the courts in England & Wales as being legally binding." Cohabiting couples should seek legal advice from their solicitor when drafting cohabitation agreements, as often there is more than a home that needs to be considered. Child care and other assets need to be taken into account, as well as property rights. The Society also urges cohabiting couples, in the absence of protections under intestacy laws, to write wills to ensure their partner does not go without should they pass away. Without a will it is possible someone could end up with nothing from their partner's estate. The Law Society provides guidance to couples living together at:

<http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/choosingandusing/commonlegalproblems/homewithpartner>

TONY SWINHAE ON

# PRIDE RADIO

In recent years the number of radio stations in the UK has risen, specifically those aimed at a LGBT audience profile. This proliferation is down to the hard work from people like Tony Swinhoe, programme controller of Pride Radio North East, a volunteer-run project, which is often the envy of better financed enterprises.

**Ryan Houston** talks to the broadcaster's main man about the growth of the station and what's on its way to LGBT radio in the North East.

## **How was Pride Radio North East formed and why?**

It was formed as there was no outlet in commercial radio for LGBT people to have their own voice: When was the last time you heard a commercial radio station congratulate two people on their civil partnership, or give a shout out for a lesbian lady wishing her partner a happy birthday? This is why Pride Radio was formed, to allow LGBT people to express their views on air and have a say in their community. Actually, it was formed after a drunken evening over dinner with some friends where we struck upon the idea. We then looked at how realistic it would be to set up. We got some money together to put the entire infrastructure in place and began broadcasting online. Last year we undertook our first Restricted Service License (RSL) for four weeks on 87.9FM and we received a tremendous response from the LGBT community.

## **What has made you continue the work and the development of Pride Radio North East?**

The response from the community towards the station, our music and our presenters has been amazing. They have given us so much support over the last 18 months from conception to where we are today. It is because of our listeners that we are continuing to develop the station in other areas and extend our involvement in the north east LGBT community. We will be undertaking some major development work over the next 12 months too, from building extra studios to raising our profile within the community and some exciting new programmes.

## **Do you feel that there is a need for LGBT radio in the north east of England?**

Yes absolutely! The feedback we have received has been testament to that. A lot of our listeners are saying they wish were on FM full time so that they can hear us when they're out and about in their cars. Being in place has allowed us to support lots of LGBT initiatives such as the Pride events, Northern Proud Voices, Women4Women, Tyne Trans to name but a few. Our ethos is to inform, educate and entertain through information & health bulletins and a wide range of music. Our presentation team are all made up from the LGBT community and include very popular artists such as Ophelia B & Miss Rory. We receive messages from people saying they wake up with Pride Radio, they listen to us at home and at work. We are really a part of people's lives now, which is a fantastic thing for all of us at Pride Radio.

## **What makes Pride Radio North East different from the other LGBT stations in the UK?**

Everybody at Pride Radio are volunteers from the local LGBT community who are known for what they do outside of Pride Radio, because of this we understand and can talk about the issues which really affect the LGBT community today. It sounds clichéd but we are really one big family at Pride Radio, from our

initial recruitment night back in April 2010 we met some fantastic people who all came on board and who are still with us today. Through this we have amassed a large listening base which chats to us when we are out and about on the Scene or at Pride events, etc. and from our point of view it's great to meet the people who are listening to us, to hear their ideas for the station and take those on board to make what we do even better.

## **The station has now officially celebrated its first birthday, how does that make you feel?**

Incredibly proud! Of the station and all of our volunteers. If anyone had told me 18 months ago I would be a part of setting up Pride Radio I wouldn't have believed it but now seeing what we have accomplished over the last 12 months has been amazing. We have volunteers who had no previous broadcasting experience and can now give professional broadcasters a run for their money, it is remarkable to see it all happening. We are continuing to go from strength to strength with the support of the bars on the scene and local organizations.

## **What's coming next for the station in the future?**

The biggest thing for us is applying for our Community Radio License, which will enable us to broadcast on FM full time. OFCOM have announced another round of licenses and applications are being invited regionally. The North East can apply next summer so rest assured we will be applying! In the shorter term, we are planning some great new programmes for the Autumn so keep listening.

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



# EXECUTIVE TOY



By Martin Croft

Six months ago I left school and got a job as an office junior in a large building firm. It wasn't a very demanding job but they told me that the prospects were good if I had any aptitude. The office is relaxed but everyone dresses rather smartly. No jeans or t-shirts and most of the guys wear a suit so I do too. I'm always clean, well presented, neat and tidy (mum sees to that) and I hope to do well in this my first ever job. I'm slim, OK looking, always polite (again mum's doing) and very easy to get along with and often don't need things explaining twice before I can do what is asked of me.

They seem to like me in the office and I've become fairly popular with my work colleagues. Almost immediately one of the company directors became very friendly towards me and encouraged me in my ambitions - taking me out on the occasional site inspection with him, as he thinks it will give me more of an overall idea of what the company is about. He's witty and you can share a joke with him, he makes the entire office a little nicer to be in when he's around. Not like the other two bosses who, in all honesty, scare the shit out of me. When we went to the sites together, and it was at least once a week that I accompanied him, it all seemed so exciting. At my age, and in my first job, I love the attention and the encouragement he gives me, making me feel special and that I could really go places with the company. He said he liked the way I said "Yes Boss" when he first asked me to do something for him - I think it was to retrieve a file on the computer system. Embarrassingly, I couldn't remember his name so I meant to say "Yes Sir" but it came out as "Yes Boss." He laughed and I nervously smiled back at my unintentional cheek but from then, we've got on just fine.

One evening about 2 months ago, when we were returning to base, he said he had to call home first

as he'd forgotten some papers. His house on the outskirts of town is terrific; in its own grounds, very expensive, well decorated and I was pretty impressed. He asked if I was thirsty... pointed to a drinks cabinet and told me to help myself, I felt like he was treating me as an adult and not as one of the office juniors. He disappeared into another room, which I assumed was to get the papers he needed and after a couple of minutes he called for me to go through. I went to help little knowing that it was his bedroom and was surprised to see him standing there dressed in nothing but a white silk bathrobe. I was stunned but still took in the fact that even though he was in his late 40s he had a very muscular hairy chest. I then tumbled to the fact that the detour to his place was all just an excuse to get me alone but when he pulled me against his strong body and told me how good-looking he thought I was, in truth, I was scared but also flattered by his attention. I'm 18 and I've known I was gay since I was 12 but had never acted on my feelings. However, just about any guy looking at me, or me looking at them, gives me a stiffy so, with his masculine firm hands touching me, it was no surprise I got an instant hard-on. He's not the greatest looking guy, although he's OK I suppose, but he is very manly and quite an imposing figure.

Now I know my reaction should have been to throw a hissy-fit or storm out but I was dumbstruck as he slipped his hand into my waistband. He flicked the button loose on my trousers, pulled them down then quickly fell to his knees and was sucking on my hard cock through the thin nylon material of my briefs in seconds. Although I was shocked, the feelings he was generating in my groin were incredible and I loved it. So, when he dragged my trousers and briefs down to my ankles and turned me around I was more excited by the fabulous sensations than alarmed. He played with my cock as he licked my

bum for a couple of minutes, which was really strange but felt great. When he saw I was enjoying these fantastic sensations (it was hard to hide my stiff dick) he pulled apart his bathrobe and took out his thick cock. I didn't know just how thick at that moment but soon found out as he quickly shoved it up my slippery wet hole. It all seemed so surreal but my tight little virgin hole was forced wide open by the boss as he shagged me over the side of his bed for about 20 minutes. I was pinned there, bum filled and stretched, hurting, trying to hold back the screams and tears but without much success but he just kept his thrusting up my tight chute... enjoying his own sensations. Afterwards, there was no pretending, I was very, very sore and in shock wondering what had just happened and why? What had I done? What signals had I sent out and... how did he know, that despite the initial pain, I was going to enjoy it so much? My mind was full of questions as I tried to deal with what had just taken place. He was smiling and full of praise for me, telling me what a fantastic arse I had and what a great shag I was. Once he'd finished with the praise I think he noticed my shocked and hurt look but he just told me I could go far in the company... if I kept my mouth shut... and my legs open.

So from that moment I became his plaything, in fact his toy. He was happy to have me in that role but I got the message...the minute I didn't live up to his expectations, he'd find someone who would... so it was up to me. The sex is OK... I think. He's the only person I've ever done it with so don't really have anyone else to compare it to. All I know is... I'm learning all the time, in the office he's the life and soul of the place and he's really good to everyone but when we're on our own... well, sexually he's such a demanding boss. Anyway, I have to think of my future... don't I?

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## Aquarius

(Jan21/Feb19)

When you're going to get great satisfaction these next few weeks, is from seeing justice done. You always have an eye to the future and you will have made provision for the difficulties that are before you. This may involve asking a colleague to deal with your responsibilities for a short while. It'll be worth it when the ruling of a legal or official battle will be in your favour. Secretly, you feel this is a state of affairs that is way overdue!

## Pisces

(Feb20/Mar20)

Over the month to come, it would be worth considering job related opportunities very carefully. You may not wish to expose your true feelings or personal plans to everyone but there is someone you can trust if you need a confidant. As it is, there will be a short delay before you are able to put plans into serious action and this will provide the perfect excuse for you to talk things over. Money dealings and communications regarding your finances will add a touch of optimism into your life.

## Aries

(Mar21/Apr20)

A number of exciting challenges will be coming your way over the weeks ahead. You've always been interested in what's going on around you and not everyone will be as quick as you are to spot a good opportunity. That's why some won't be happy to realise they've let some great chances pass them by. If they made the wrong choices, that's their problem but you shouldn't let others hold you back. Some joint decisions will be called for as the weeks wear on and these could have a strong consequence on your future.

## Taurus

(Apr21/May21)

Extra responsibilities are likely these next few weeks. You always like to be organised and if you establish a routine from the start you should cope adequately with these new commitments. Be sure, too, that someone who is known for regularly shirking their responsibilities puts in their fair share of work. You might be inclined to think a new person in your life is playing games with you when they express their feelings for you. They're being serious so believe what you are told!

## Gemini

(May22/June21)

Your specialised skills or knowledge will be in demand by others. Initially you won't mind doing people the odd favour but you might find yourself struggling, over the weeks to come, to receive just reward for your efforts. So be sure others don't take your help for granted and speak up if you feel you deserve adequate compensation for your hard work. You are in a more receptive mood these days and a new romance will soon begin if you heed the signs that someone is interested in you.

## Cancer

(June22/July23)

Close encounters of the romantic kind will bring you a lot to be glad about. News of an addition to the family will soon come your way and not necessarily in the usual run of the mill fashion. This could have you excited and slightly fearful too, over the weeks ahead. Your partner could surprise you by their willingness to add a touch of adventure into your days. Even so because of your home loving nature they will probably wait for you to express your wishes before they reveal theirs!

## Leo

(July24/Aug23)

Doors are soon to open and these will help you progress in your career and main aims. The secret is to keep an eye open on what's going on behind the scenes over the weeks ahead. Once you know what to look for, you will be halfway there already! It will be to your advantage to attend meetings and seminars even if they aren't your idea of fun. Someone with a powerful personality is about to sweep you off your feet. You don't want to fall for their charms but they are highly persuasive and you will succumb very quickly!

## Virgo

(Aug24/Sept23)

So much of what you're planning to do over the weeks ahead is of importance to you. It will be impossible to work out your priorities because you have so many. Your aim should be to take things slowly until you cross all tasks off your list of things to do. You're making a big impact in your closest relationships. If you're trying to sell an idea or a project to your loved ones, they will be impressed by your enthusiasm. Your positive attitude helps generate optimism among friends and you're likely to enjoy group activities of the outdoors kind.

## Scorpio

(Oct24/Nov22)

Don't be surprised if you aren't feeling very sociable or talkative these days. Over the month ahead, staying out of the limelight will give you the chance to appreciate the delights that solo and twosome activities can bring. Noisy or gregarious occasions will make you tense and ill at ease when your basic need at this time will be for peace and quiet. Mental rather than physical tasks are favoured now as anything too strenuous will exhaust you. Your health is a little below par so take this into consideration when you plan your days.

## Sagittarius

(Nov23/Dec21)

A lot of planning is ahead of you these next few weeks but it might seem, at times, as if very little is getting done. You should avoid haste and impulsiveness but you will get frustrated if this state of affairs goes on for too long. If others lack the initiative to get new projects underway, a slight bending of the rules should help you promote this venture yourself. Very soon you will be introduced to someone who is formidably talented and it will be a pleasure to join forces with such an attractive, gifted and spirited person!

## Capricorn

(Dec22/Jan20)

You will be feeling more confident about your abilities to succeed now. You're determined to make a success of your life. Professional goals and ambitions are being reviewed when you get to experience other fields and this gives you new ideas on where you want to go. If there is a senior colleague you can trust, it would be beneficial to talk your ideas over with them. Given the chance you will grasp any opportunity to do work that is unfamiliar and mentally demanding over the weeks ahead.

## Libra

(Sept24/Oct23)

The weeks ahead will be lucky for you. Very soon you will get the chance to realise a special ambition; you mustn't feel selfish about doing this. You will have the confidence and initiative to make things happen. There will be a few difficulties to overcome when one or two people might oppose your ideas but you won't give up. You are more determined than ever to get your own way and this will make people sit up and take notice. You will gain from all experiences in a personal sense.



Matt Damon 8/10

## Celebrity Libra

24/09 F.Scott Fitzgerald	10/10 Mya
27/09 Avril Lavigne	11/10 Dawn French
28/09 Gwyneth Paltrow	12/10 Hugh Jackman
29/09 Jerry Lee Lewis	13/10 Margaret Thatcher
30/09 Martina Hingis	14/10 Usher
01/10 Julie Andrews	15/10 Sarah Ferguson
02/10 Sting	16/10 Oscar Wilde
03/10 Gwen Stefani	17/10 Eminem
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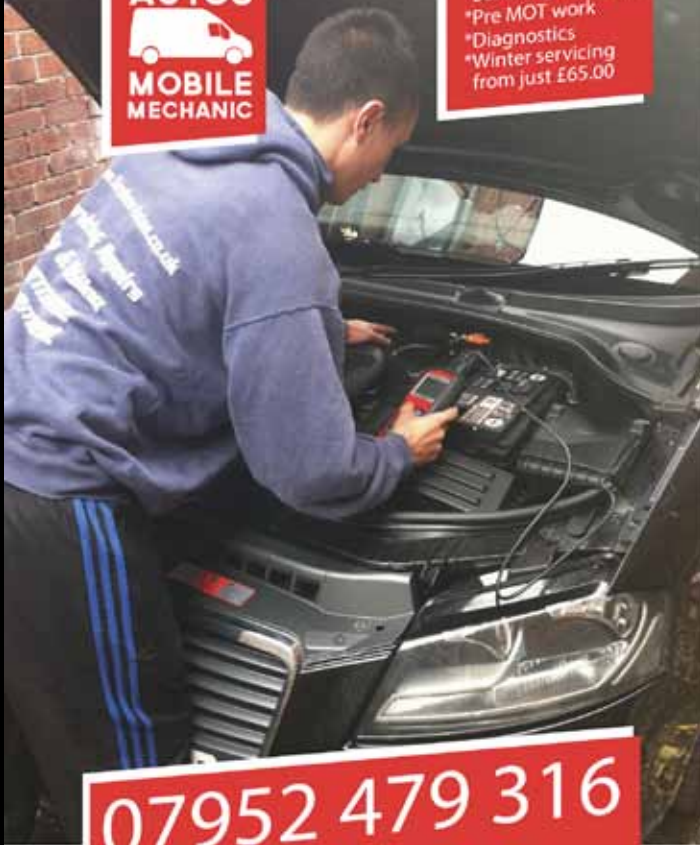
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