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Issue 155 December 2011

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gaydar.co.uk

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FEDERATION



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Issue 155 : 2011

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Merry Christmas from everyone at Bent



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KYLIE

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The tour was Kylie's most ambitious and spectacular to date and the DVD footage, filmed over 2 nights at London's O2 Arena, captures the show at its absolute peak. Directed by William Baker and Marcus Viner, all formats also feature an exclusive tour documentary. The ultra-theatrical tour was devised with Kylie's creative director, William Baker and toured 5 continents, 27 countries, 55 cities, 77 shows, with 150 days on the road, 85,000km travelled and audience numbers in excess of 575,000. With costumes created exclusively for Kylie by Dolce & Gabbana, the stage show followed an enchanting Greek mythology theme, and featured an astonishing water finale. This was a show that truly redefined what a pop concert could be.

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www.kylie.com



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SINGLES

By Adam Lowe



FRANCIS NEVE
Dance Around the Fire
5th December

Neve's low-fi pop is atmospheric, tinged with melancholy folk, and poetic in its subtlety. 'Dance Around the Fire' is more upbeat and celebratory than some of his more signature tunes, and is stronger for it. The B-side 'I Lie' is a slice of icy electronica with vocoders driving the track forward. It is accompanied by two ace remixes of previous single 'Brian's Drying Up'.



STOOSHE
Betty Woz Gone
Out Now

Stooshe have already caused an internet stir when their video was debuted online. It's been retweeted by the likes of Ed Sheeran, Rizzle Kicks and Wretch 32 and prompted Time Out to label them 'A fresh new voice in UK R&B'. 'Betty Woz Gone' describes a mother more interested in getting wasted than her kids. This is unapologetic, bold R&B with a cool sense of fun.



WOLFETTE
Trophy Girl
5th December

'Trophy Girl', with its soaring chorus, establishes Wolfette's considerable presence in London's burgeoning new music scene, borrowing style and verve from the likes of Karen O, Blondie and Gwen Stefani. Icelandic producer Gisli carves this up into a fierce burst of feminist edge with dirty beats.



CEE LO GREEN
Anyway
12th December

There's no doubt about it Cee Lo Green has a very distinctive set of tonsils and his global hit album is still producing hit after hit. Anyway is his latest single set to reach the highest highs of the charts and will have you bouncing around to its infectious catchy title. After all, no matter what he does... we still love him anyway.

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honesty
控制誠實



GAY SELF-ACCEPTANCE FILM PRODUCED WITH THE HELP OF INTERNET FANS

An independent gay short film raising awareness of the importance of self-acceptance, is the first of its kind in the UK to use online fans to get produced.

Social media followers from around the world interacted with costume decisions, narrative choices and even watched Adam; The Gay Short Film Project being shot live via Ustream.

The film mocks up a futuristic advert for a customisable robot and uses the mechanical metaphor to say we should never seek to control, suppress or silence a person, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. We are not robots.

"I wanted to shoot something engaging, with a universal message about self-acceptance and homophobia," said filmmaker Mike Buonaiuto. "New's reports of homophobic abuse and the devastating effects it has on families are becoming ever too common. I hope the film will inspire young people struggling with accepting their sexuality due to bullying or fear to find confidence within themselves. We are not machines, we are human and we cannot be controlled, suppressed or silenced."

Film Link: <http://vimeo.com/30717500>

THOSE DAMN SEXY RUGBY LADS



There seems to be no let up in the desirability of those fantastic specimens of manhood with the launch of yet another calendar from those French Sporting spunks at Dieux Du Stade. They have continually set the benchmark in quality totty and fantastic photography of these well-honed hunks and even straight boys can hang this 2012 calendar on their wall and people not think that they are gay... we on the other hand know differently!

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IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Beauty is a Pop/R&B solo artist from Liverpool with an ability to write catchy songs that instantly get stuck in your head. His electric dance routines, combined with his quirky, eccentric style have quickly made him popular on the music scene. Having been described by Piers Morgan as 'incredibly vibrant, sensational, and energetic' this artist has been touring the country appearing at numerous Pride events but managed to make time to chat to Ryan Houston about his inspirations.

I think my interest in music grew from my parents just playing it around me when I was younger. I always remember my Dad playing retro vinyl records and tapes that I would sing and dance around the house to, and that kind of inspired me to continue the music theme in my life. I wanted it to be a big part of me because I always enjoyed it and I'm still enjoying it.

If music hadn't worked out for you where would your life have gone?

I love fashion almost as much as music so maybe I would have done something related to that. Although, what I do now still has a connection with fashion through the creativity of my productions, so it looks like I'm winning with what I chose to do.

Out of the gigs you have performed what has been your favourite?

The second show I did as a solo artist was at Liverpool Pride. That has been one of my favourites as I got to play my home town and also support a good cause, but on top of that it's a Pride event and there's always a great atmosphere.

You've performed at numerous Pride events this year, how does performing these events compare to a 'straight' event?

There seems to be more of an energetic atmosphere. I think the crowds are more free spirited and willing to get involved which is always a good thing because when the crowd gets involved it pushes you to do more and be better and I think it just adds to the experience.

What can fans expect from you next year?

Big things! I'm currently writing new music and putting different things together. I'm upping my game so watch out.

<http://www.beautysmusic.co.uk/>

LIVERPOOL PRIDE FUNDRAISING BEGINS

After the incredible success of last year's event and faced with Liverpool City Council's proposal to cut all funding to festivals, organisers have taken the decision to start fundraising for Pride much earlier than ever before and have devised an all year round fundraising campaign that will begin from 2012 onwards. The Liverpool Pride Board of Trustees is adamant that it will continue its core work of combating homophobia and transphobia in the city, whilst maintaining a free festival to ensure that everyone feels welcome. The city's Pride is one of the biggest FREE LGBT Pride events in the country, with over 40,000 people attending in 2011, double the 2010 figure of 20,000. A study completed by Liverpool Pride showed that 2011's festival generated a total spend of over £2.6 million for the local economy as people spent money on hotels, travel, clothes, food and drink. The study also showed that a large number of Pride goers booked their trips to Liverpool Pride more than two months in advance.

Organisers have announced that the main festival site will remain at the Pier Head. However, a presence will definitely be maintained in the Gay Quarter thanks to a close working partnership between Liverpool Pride and the Liverpool Gay Business Association, the collective that organised Stanley Street Pride in 2011.

Liverpool Pride is to return on Saturday 4 August 2012.

www.liverpoolpride.co.uk



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ALBUMS

By Adam Lowe



GLEE:

The Christmas Album, Vol 2
Out Now

As far as Christmas albums go this is pretty much what you'd expect from those warbling songsters off the telly. I suppose all seasonal songs like these become classics so no one is going to be disappointed with the Glee-terpretation on these festive hits. This time of year seems to get everyone singing, even if it is just in their head, as they go about their shopping but I would suspect that most stores have already invested in this album and you are going to be bombarded by this album more than any other. Sit back and enjoy it because you aren't going to be able to avoid it.



ESCORT

Escort
5th December

No, this isn't music to accompany a rent boy. This is, according to Jake Shears of the Scissor Sisters, 'The best disco you've ever heard'. Escort is a seventeen-member 'disco orchestra' founded by producers Eugene Cho and Dan Balis, with Adeline Michèle taking the helm as lead singer/frontwoman. Escort members have performed with everyone from Arcade Fire to Alarm Will Sound, so you know they knew their shit. Escort is steeped in the sounds of NYC, Chicago and Detroit dance, with a dancefloor aesthetic and sardonic sensibilities. Clever, striking and cool, this is a group you have to check out!



THE SUPERMEN LOVERS

Between the Ages
Dec 2011/Jan 2012

Guillaume Atlan is the man behind The Supermen Lovers. His is a coruscating blend of pop, electronica and funk. You might remember The Supermen Lovers' 2001 smash 'Starlight' best of all. This is Parisian house with 70s and 80s tones, and Between the Ages is familiar in its punching, groove-tastic sound. The disco bass of 'Say No More' sits beside tracks such as the minimalist 'Impact' and the hi-tech 'Eagle Shadow' and the epic strings of 'Let Me Show You'. This is a wide-ranging, ambitious and fabulous album, with more than a little pink appeal. spiral into tasty musical ecstasy.



THE PUPPINI SISTERS

Hollywood
26th December

Glamorous crooners The Puppini Sisters step into the showbiz spotlight with their latest album. Hollywood is a covers album of the very best music from the silver screen, including camp renditions of 'Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend', 'Moon River' and 'I Got Rhythm'. This glitzy, kitschy marvel is a perfect antidote to those post-Christmas winter blues.



Christmas and New Year 2011 at Cruz 101

Manchester's favourite gay venue, Cruz 101 presents the world famous Manchester Gay Village Festive Season! For almost 20 years Cruz 101 has been the perfect place to party at Christmas time and its resident DJs, known as the Experts In Pop, provide the perfect party soundtrack every night. Cruz is well known for its amazing themed transformations and by the time the club's creative team & art department has finished this year's Christmas set, they will have created a magical winter wonderland - something they've already started work on. And, with the hottest guys and gals in the Village this is the only place to go kissing under the mistletoe this Christmas.

Cruz is open every night except Tuesdays so there's plenty going on over the festive period. Highlights of this year's programme include the hugely competitive semi-final & final of the "STEPSMANIA" competition on Friday 23rd & 30th December with the winner of Miss Cara's STEPS Dance-off winning a pair of tickets to see the fab five at the M.E.N. Arena. After the relaxing family Christmas Day Cruz knows everyone is desperate to get out & party and Boxing Day Monday 26th December is a Cruz Special Event with the Experts In Pop playing the very best pop, chart, dance and RnB with guest DJ Dino. On the same night Manchester's now legendary house night Aftershock is hosted downstairs in SUB101 from midnight until very late. Aftershock moves this unique clubbing space into new frontiers every week with an assault on clubland that features a fresh and uplifting soundtrack provided by Manchester's finest House DJs.

Capping it all off is the Cruz New Year's Ball - obviously on New Year's Eve! This is one of, if not the, busiest night of the year. Great value advance tickets can be bought from the club for just £5 if bought before the 5th December. Other tickets are available after so check out the website for full details. There's a spectacular show at Midnight and Aftershock down in Sub101 - make sure you don't miss out on this one - tickets do sell out early.

For full festive details check out the website at www.cruz101.com or find them on facebook - www.facebook.com/cruz101manchester



MISS TIARA THUNDERPUSSY

By Adam Lowe



Miss Thunderpussy is the Midlands' last surviving "IT" girl and an international drag star. She performs all over the world, and somehow manages to drag herself back to a twice-weekly slot at the Thompson Arms in Manchester, where she has been resident for the past half decade. She answers the phone with the husky tones of a late-night chat line. I catch her as she's just stepped out of the shower.

'Was it a busy morning or are you a late riser like me?'
'If it was up to me, the world would start at this time.'

It's 1pm. The rest of the country is already hard at work—except for people like Miss Thunderpussy and me.

'My body clock is reversed,' she continues. 'I'm sure my neighbours think I'm unemployed or something, because I'm always getting out of bed while they're still at work.'

'What does your normal day consist of?'

'First I slap on copious amounts of face cream and play Picasso with the make-up brush. It's an artform to basically make everything look like it doesn't need ironing. Then I pamper and feed the pooches—a boxer and a pug—and do my daily research. This involves watching as much Jeremy Kyle, Judge Judy and Lorraine Kelly as I can. If there's any time left over, I'll watch some porn. I pack my bags and plan where I'm going to be driving that evening. Then I hop into the Pussywagon and take off.'

'Don't most drag queens have drivers?'

'Most of them do. But I work all over the country and if I had to spend six hours making conversation with someone, I'd go crazy. It doesn't matter whether it's a friend or a stranger—that amount of time cooped up together would drive me to wedge a shoe through their eye.'

'What do you do on your time off?'

'I try to go to the gym, but usually only get as far as the Jacuzzi. That basically means I spend five days a week in a frothy man soup, which I think most girls would envy. I like to go shopping for new frocks. I pass Poundland to see what the riffraff are up to and get inspiration for my shows. And if there's any time left I'll spend some time with Mr Thunderpussy.'

'What kind of shows do you do?'

'It's a strange bunch, really. I've had a residency for five years at the Thompson Arms now. But a lot of what I do there is specific to that venue. In other places I do a lot of stand-up comedy which is scripted, as well as improv and ad libs. I've performed at everything from hen parties to military bases. I am also available for children's birthday parties and bar mitzvahs.'

'What's it like performing for the soldiers?'

'It's a very unique experience. I'm out of my comfort zone, so it's more challenging, but I've had a number of soldiers come out to me. That first ten minutes is

the hardest because no one knows whether to glass me or shag me. It's traditionally a very homophobic environment. Then they loosen up and I'll be chatting to all the lads for the rest of the night. It's two to three hundred soldiers, all with their arms around me or with me sat on their lap like a colourful big sister they can share their secrets with.'

'That sounds like it might be difficult.'

'The hardest gigs are actually on the gay scene. I love the gay scene but the customers have seen it all a hundred times before. They just stand there, cross their arms, and look at me as if to say, "Entertain me, bitch!" You've got to work a lot harder. I try to avoid being like other drag queens by not doing the typical bitchy thing. There's enough pissing on the gay scene and it's not my thing to pick on someone's insecurities.'

'You let them make a tit out of themselves by getting up on stage and singing instead.'

'Well singing's fair game. Someone once went to the trouble of writing a message on my website where they said my singing was appalling and that I should stop immediately. Now I preface every performance with a disclaimer. I've never pretended I can sing; I'm not a harmonist. What I do to singing Harold Shipman did to pensioners.'

'What is the transformation like—from Scott to Thunderpussy?'

'The face takes the most time. That's about 35 minutes. Then the hair and clothes take about 15 minutes. Psychologically I slip into character pretty much straight away. Anyone who's ever done drag before will tell you they're a completely different person once they get their wig on.'

'So no Dutch courage then?'

'I don't drink really. I've only ever been drunk on stage twice. I got a gig at Gran Canaria Pride because they'd seen me performing drunk the first time, so I thought I had to get drunk again. But once they got me on stage I wouldn't shut up. It dragged on longer than Children in Need. It took two Chippendales and a cattle prod to get me off stage.'

'So tell me about Sinderfella. How did that come about?'

'Well I just got a phonecall from the production company. I think it helped that I was very popular in Manchester already, and they wanted someone who the audience would recognise. I went to the interview in London and I didn't realise the other drag queens were auditioning in full costume. I had a beard and I wore a vest with camouflage pants

and flip-flops. Everyone else was dressed up as Cinderella, and I just had to do the best I could.'

'But it obviously worked? I say,

'Yes. For some reason they liked me, and I got the part. I have to spend the next few weeks in a Big Brother-style house with all the rest of the cast.'

'Will there be cameras?'

'I hope not! You can imagine what the voiceover would say.' She coughs and adopts a Geordie accent. 'It's 12.31pm. Miss Thunderpussy is still asleep. Meanwhile, housemates Alice and Nicky have broken into her stash of ecstasy and are feeding it to the chickens. I don't think it'd be pretty.'

'What can our audiences expect?'

'It's not your typical panto. The Prince is an absolute pervert who just wants to get his end away. And he doesn't realise Sinderfella is actually a bloke. I'm like Katie Price with a penis, of course. Buttons is basically a loudmouth yob and the Fairy is a sarcastic old bitch. Fun for all the family, if you happen to be the Osbournes!'



Sinderfella is playing between Dec 15th and January 7th at The Dancehouse, Oxford Road, Manchester (thedancehouse.co.uk), excluding Dec 24-27th and Dec 31st-Jan 2nd.

Tickets are £18.50. Thunderpussy is onstage at midnight on Thursdays and Mondays in the Thompson Arms, Manchester.

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For more detailed info on drink offers and listings visit www.cruz101.com • Free entry to Village Staff

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NEW YEARS EVE

Saturday 31st Dec
11pm-7am

Miss Cara & the team invite you to come & welcome in the new year at Cruz 101
Get here early & don't miss the best midnight countdown in the Village!
Almighty Donald & Rob James play the best Pop, Disco, Dance & RnB in Cruz
Downstairs in Sub the Aftershock crew play their brand of House Anthems
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£9 Advance Tickets on sale from 5th until 24th December then £12 after
Ticket's available from Cruz & Clone Zone • Hotline: 0843 208 0500 • www.quaytickets.com

Sunday 1st Jan 2012 • 11pm-6am

VILLAGE RECOVERY PARTY Members £6 • Door £7 • Drink offers from £1.90
Cruz & Poptastic throw a party to cure those Village hangovers!
John Hamilton • Current Pop, Dance & RnB / Rob James • 90's Dance Anthems



CHRISTMAS CORRESPONDENCE

By Alex Wiggan



John is now friends with **Kriss Peter Kringle**



John 'Good Guy' Smith

Hi Kriss Kringle,
Thanks for accepting the friend request. Thought it best to post on your wall instead of sending a long letter, as I know you're busy, and I can't find a stamp (do they still make stamps?). Plus I was taggin pictures and I'm bored. Lol.

This year I've been a good boy; a really good boy in fact. On Saturday some randoms in Essential invited me to their 'party' (which I was very tempted to attend), but I turned them down as my boyfriend would not have been happy. Yep babe, this is the new me! So I think, as a reward, this Christmas I deserve something special in my stocking. I'm not askin 4 much, just a few things really, that would make the day a bit more exciting, as tbh last Christmas was dull (and don't even get me started on New Year's Eve). Anyway, I'm not saying last Christmas was all your fault; unless it was your idea 4 my fella to buy that 'swing'? I wasn't a big fan of that and I told him that it's just not me. So, this Christmas I would like the following:

5. A signed photo of Harry from TOWIE
4. A home bake set with matching apron and oven gloves (sun blushed yellow or burnt orange)
3. World peace (there's only so much I can do myself)
2. Tickets to the Steps reunion tour (front row please)
1. A personal Christmas message from Susan Boyle (made available on iTunes for my friends)

I don't think I'm asking for 2 much, so if you could sort all this out 4 me I'd appreciate it. Gotta go now as I've got Made In Chelsea on Sky+ and I need to get 'hubby's' tea on the table before he gets home.

XX

2 hours ago near Salford . Like



"Kick off's not til 3pm, so yeah I'd totally be up for showing her my..." on Dave Kringle's wall.

Nov 29 at 11.32pm via Blackberry



"Nah, she won't let me put it in there, not since..." on E. Bunny's wall.

Nov 29 at 11.21pm via Blackberry

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta Oi Santa, why have you not accepted my FB friend request? This Twitter is hard cuz I can't right everyfin I want 2 right.

2 hour

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta This yr az been epic and I had a well good wkend with @BigDickie who I pulled in the Viaduct. #hot!

1 hour

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta He was proper fit, but not exactly what I want for Crimbo. He's not as big as he claims and I want bigger LMAO.

1 hour

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta I had to make do with my 'little' ex for most of this year and now I'd like a lot more for Xmas. A lot more than him anyway.

59 mins

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta So I've made a list of stuff I need. Can't exist without any of this, so don't let me down this Christmas haha #xmaslist

58 mins

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta To start I want Harry and Zayn from One Direction (or all of them if poss) #xmaslist

56 mins

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta I want at least an hour with Channing Tatum (so fit). Maybe two hours! #xmaslist

52 mins

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta Hahahah just seen the Coca Cola advert on TV with you in it! Funny lol

47 mins

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta Where was I?! need need need Frankie Cocozza now!!!! #xmaslist

44 mins

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta I want you to tell my ex that he's an ex 4 a reason and to giv me back my iPod!! Wot a jk! #xmaslist

37 mins

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta Can you tell @Lisa265 to hurry up and get ready cuz we were supposed to be at Keith's an hour ago #xmaslist

35 mins

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta Keith's jus text me and he ain't happy. His bf's messin him about again. Told him to dump his ass!! #lameuser

34 mins

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta And finally can I also hav a nu fone as this screen is broke and it's doin my hed in!!! #xmaslist

33 mins

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta Thanx, you'll hav to leave all these gifts with @Daryl-KnowsBest as @BigDickie just txt and he wants to meet to 'watch a DVD' ;)

12 mins

DevilBoyDanny

@TheRealSanta He txt back. As if he really wants to watch a DVD. Going on Grindr instead.

8 mins

santabook



LEEDS BEST WEEKDAY GAY NIGHT!

ADMISSION
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CLUBBERS

HOMO

MISSION
2

MONDAY

MISSION
2

5TH DEC *Pumps & Hoe's*

19TH DEC *HO HO HONNO!*

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PRE-PARTY **EVERY MONDAY**



DANCE TRAX

With Jason Guy

How good was Freakshow's Second Birthday? And the good news is Freakshow is back this month on the 3rd December at the amazing Spektrum above Sankeys, with its Funktion One sound system, LED ceiling and lasers. This is a World AIDS Day charity fundraiser and it's FREE entry all night... however, please make a donation to the volunteers from the LGF who will be on the door all night with their collecting buckets. As usual, you can download my monthly podcast - simply search for 'Jason Guy' in iTunes or download directly from www.jasonguy.podomatic.com. If you'd like to see your track, club, or event featured here, contact me at jason@bent.com. www.clubfreakshow.com



Stadium ft Blue Pearl

Take My Breathe Away (Worldwide Phonographics)

Don't worry... this isn't a cover of the Berlin track from Top Gun, but a brand new anthem from new producer Stadium, which is also the debut track for this brand new label. Part big room house, part trance, the vocals here are delivered by the awesome talent of Blue Pearl (aka Durga McBroom) best known for Naked In The Rain. There's a huge remix package here from the likes of Richard Dinsdale and the Wideboys, but my preferred mix is the original with its chunky, chugging baseline and synth stabs.



Benny Benassi ft Gary Go

Close To Me (All Around The World)

Following on from the huge Number One club smash "Cinema" with Gary Go, Benny Benassi returns with the third single lifted off his sensational new album Electroman that featured the massive singles Spaceship with Kelis and Beautiful People with Chris Brown. "Close To Me" sees Benny Benassi team up once again with Gary Go, a more laidback affair to "Cinema" but still contains those big sinister electro riffs, which Benny Benassi only does so well. Head straight to the Michael Woods mix who does not disappoint with his big room sound and huge breakdowns.



Chris Lake

Sundown (Ultra)

Can Chris Lake do no wrong? Over the past few years, we've seen Chris rise within the ranks of tech house, progressive house, and electro house alike with tracks such as "Running Out" with Marco Lys. This latest track off Ultra Records has an acid-influenced loop, which leads into some beautiful vocals. This one definitely boasts his momentous production skills yet again. This driving, dirty house offering literally sets the dance floor alight within seconds of dropping it.



Copyright ft Imaani

Story Of My Life (Defected)

Story of My Life, featuring long-time vocal collaborator Imaani, is classic Copyright; infectious, heartfelt vocal, thunderous tribal drums and an instantly danceable groove. Masters of their craft, Copyright go from strength to strength with every release and this is no exception. On the remix front DJ Chus & David Penn up the tempo and tension with urgent stabs and a typically frenetic breakdown that leaves the senses tingling. One of my biggest tracks of the year!



LOVE LEEDS - NEW YEAR'S EVE

Saturday 31st December

SEX CIRCUS, FEDERATION, UBER, ONE RELIGION, PURRFECT & BACK2SPACE
10PM - 10AM @ CLUB MISSION, 8-13 Heaton Court, Leeds.

After last year's sold out event, Love Leeds returns to Club Mission for what promises to be another memorable extravaganza on New Year's Eve. This time around, we will be sticking with the successful script of six hand-picked local brands from the Leeds clubbing scene, guaranteed to blow you away...

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY, THE WHOLE OF CLUB MISSION WILL BE OPEN FOR A MIND BLOWING 12HR SHOWCASE!

Book one of our six exclusive VIP Booths in our brand new VIP room. £750.00 includes 5 bottles of spirits of your choice together with unlimited mixers. The Booth is reserved for your party for the entire night and includes admission for six people. Message mark@clubmission.com or call 08701 220 114 to make your booking.

Very Limited Tickets

Early Bird Tickets - £15 Standard Advance Tickets - £20
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Available from

www.ticketweb.co.uk www.ticketarena.co.uk www.skiddle.com

Outlets - Bar Fibre, Ace Clothing, Crash Records & Jumbo Records or call - 08701 245 567





NYE
love
leeds 
NYE 2011-12

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BAR FIBRE, JUMBO RECORDS, CRASH RECORDS, ACE CLOTHING
CLUB MISSION, 8-13 HEATONS COURT, LEEDS, INFO: 08701 245 567



FURRYFACT



FEDERATION



ONE RELIGION

BEYONCE

BEAUTY AND THE FREAKS

OOPS! SHE DID IT AGAIN

I went to see Britney recently. I'm not particularly a fan—I just got dragged there by a friend with a spare ticket. I quite like a few of her songs and love a couple in particular. With the ticket being free, I thought, Why not? It might be the only time I get to see her live.

I wasn't hopeful of a life-transforming experience. But I hoped it'd at least be fun.

In brief: I was disappointed. There were a few fireworks, an interesting costume or two, and some sterling performances from backing dancers. But Britney herself . . . well her heart certainly wasn't in it.

I spent most of the show chatting to my friend. We discussed the possible reasons for her apparent disinterest. Was she too tired from being overworked by a ruthless record label? Was she bored with showbiz and just counting down the minutes to the end? Was she just in it for the money? Was she out of it on anti-depressants (for legal reasons, I have to insist she was not)?

In contrast, I recently attended Tranny Hotel and Alternative Miss Liverpool as part of Homotopia. Those were indeed transformational experiences. It's funny how a drag queen lying on her bed in a hotel room, inviting passersby to stitch charity-shop scraps of clothing into a growing, twelve-foot long dress (Thom Shaw's 'Drag Mountain') had more energy and passion than a live performance by one of the world's supposed princesses of pop. There was more stage presence from Alternative Miss Liverpool's gender-bending backing dancers and the inimitable David Hoyle than there was from Britney and the entirety of her retinue. I was more moved by the cutting-edge performances of trans artistes such as Adrian Turrell-Watts, Thom Shaw, Timberlina and Mandy Romero than I

was by one of the most accomplished pop artists alive today. The difference, I guess, is that these performers were passionate about what they were doing. They were celebrating. Britney, on the other hand, was getting paid. (I could almost imagine her with her arms crossed, fag in hand, checking her watch like Bet Lynch awaiting closing time.)

Overall I was not left angry or disappointed by Britney. I hadn't paid for the ticket, so I certainly didn't feel ripped off. But I did feel sad. I felt sad that here was a woman whose music I had grown up to, whose career I had followed with some fondness, and who should, by all means, be at the top of her game. Instead I saw a woman going through the motions (for whatever reason) and giving a less than adequate performance. This wasn't even the first time, either. How many times have we heard stories of her lip-synching and dancing sloppily across the stage? By now it seems a regular occurrence. So she must have known her show wasn't good. She must have known her audience would be disappointed. She must have known 20,000 people were looking at her and wondering what on earth was going on. And if that was me, I'd have died a little inside.

Perhaps she's used to it by now. Perhaps so much of her has died she no longer feels it or cares. But I'm crossing my fingers, because I think she might just have some life left in her yet, and maybe in a few years something will click into place, and she'll become the diva she really should be.

Failing that, maybe I should enter her into Alternative Miss Liverpool next year, and recycle her costumes to make tranny tentacles for the train of Thom Shaw's serpentine Drag Mountain?

There were a few fireworks, an interesting costume or two, and some sterling performances from backing dancers. But Britney herself . . . well her heart certainly wasn't in it.



MR GAY UK – THE FINAL THREE




They've been out in the cold: wandering the streets in very few clothes. They've had interviews with newspapers, radio stations and magazines. They've flaunted and frolicked themselves on Facebook and tweeted their teets off on Twitter. Each Mr Gay UK finalist has pushed and pulled, and found their own individual and unique method to get your votes.

You voted: and in the words of a rather dashing man on a rather popular Saturday night television talent show, "the votes have been counted and verified".

Finally it's here. The moment of truth. Who are the Final Three? To find out which of the gorgeous hunks have been put in the running for the accolade of Mr Gay UK 2011 you can visit the website: www.mrgayuk.co.uk

Congratulations to all of the Mr Gay UK finalists who have done a great job in getting this far and canvassing votes. We look forward to see you at the Grand Final to be held at Mission 2 in conjunction with Backdoor Disco on Saturday 10th December – watch this space to find out who will be our Celebrity guest host and judges.

Find out all the Mr Gay UK goings on by liking the Facebook page (facebook.com/mrgayukofficial) or following on Twitter [@mrgayuk](https://twitter.com/mrgayuk)

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EVENTS



Photo: Rachael Jackson and Tillate.com.

Mixing it with Gareth

Former Pop Idol star Gareth Gates took to the decks at Back Door Disco in Leeds recently and played a fantastic hot mix of pop and dance tracks... and no he didn't fill his set full of his own hits... the lad is far too classy for those type of shenanigans. The place was packed for his appearance and the feedback from the crowds was – a great set and a great guy. So, he's had hit records, starred in the West End, has set up music academy's with his mate Jonathan Wilkes... it looks like the Gareth Gates journey through the world of music and all it has to offer is now going in yet another direction.



Photos: Grizz

2 Shoes

X-Factor hopefuls 2 Shoes were special guest at the Viaduct in Leeds for a Mesmac fundraiser, which was a curtain riser for the city's Drag Idol contest. 2 Shoes – Charley and Lucy were the big entertainment hopes of this season's X-Factor but were sadly

voted off before they could really prove their talent. X-Factor loss was most definitely the Viaduct's gain as the girls performed a storming set ; telling jokes and camping it up between songs and delivery vocals that should have graced are TVs for a lot longer... 2 Shoes will be welcomed back anytime by the capacity crowd.



DECEMBER AT THE VIADUCT...

the VIADUCT SHOWBAR

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HOMO PRE - PARTY
7PM - 1AM
DRINKS FROM £1

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WITH DJ MARKY MARK
FREE DRINK
FOR EVERY SINGER
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HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT

WEDNESDAYS

PLAYING 80'S, 90'S
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DJ HOST CARLA JACKSON

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2PM - 7PM KARAOKE
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LGBT HISTORY PROJECT LAUNCH

The LGBT History Project has launched a new wikimedia web site that is devoted to British LGB & Trans history.

Using Wikipedia's own software, everyone is invited to log on and enter stories, memories and knowledge of British LGB&T life. Suggested topics include arts, sport, business, health, press, people and pubs and clubs. This new site has already attracted entries about crime, politics and legislation, as well as one contributor specialising in bisexual culture, and another in South London's gay groups. The site aims to records social memories of our day, the nations changing attitudes to same-gender relationships and notable people in history that LGB and Trans people can draw upon as role models.

The site is looking for people from all over the country to record what they remember and know of their experience. Founder, Jonathan Harbourne said "It's great that attitudes towards homosexuality are becoming more acceptable in many places in Britain. In another 10 or 20 years, I don't want people to forget the struggle and the fight that won us our equalities and freedoms. But I don't want it to be all doom-and-gloom either – as a perceived minority we not only stood out against injustice, but often shone out. We often led the way in music and clubs, we celebrated our differences with the word 'Pride' becoming synonymous with being LGB&T, and we stuck together during the health crisis we faced raising millions of pounds. This makes our culture creative, generous and supportive. My aim is that this site becomes a history "time capsule", a resource to people and academics in years to come."

www.LGBHistoryUK.org



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MR RIGHT BUT ALWAYS END UP WITH MR WRONG?

HAS YOUR SEARCH FOR MISS PERFECT HIT A DEAD END?

WOULD YOU LIKE THE CHANCE TO MEET YOUR PERFECT PARTNER?

IF YOU ARE SICK OF BEING SINGLE FED UP OF NOT HAVING YOUR OWN PLUS 1 TO TAKE TO SOCIAL EVENTS OR STRUGGLING TO FIND YOUR IDEAL MATE - OR ANY MATE OR IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SERIOUSLY NEEDS SOME HELP WITH FINDING THE PERFECT PARTNER

Fever Media And Bbc3 Are Currently Looking For Singletons Who Are Serious About Finding Love. To Take Part In A Groundbreaking Dating Experiment Get In Touch Now. To Be In With A Chance Of Meeting Your Own Mr/Miss Right



Will Young Live in Sheffield

By Lee Hudson

The last time I saw Will live was in a huge arena with Gareth Gates and assorted other pop Idolers. I was sitting right at the back and had trouble seeing anything but a small speck in the distance, whilst the crowd going mad more or less drowned out much of the singing. However, Will had become our first modern day reality talent show star and it was purely on the back of his fantastic voice, not through mock publicity and PR stunts. I have all his albums and to say I am a fan would be an understatement, however, I hadn't seen him live for quite some time so I was excited that in the more cozy confines of Sheffield City Hall I would be able to hear what my hero was singing.

He didn't disappoint.

Oddly enough, I was a tad upset that his show wasn't more spectacular and, well, showbizzy, but there again, that isn't what Will is about. His quirky stage entrance through a front door in the middle of the stage (?) gave way to over 90 minutes of sublime songs, sung by one of the UK's best talents and didn't need all the clever lasers and fireworks. That's not to say there weren't moments of theatricality, after all, that's where Will honed his talent, but in the main it was and is his voice, delivery and pretty darned good songs that make Will more likely to last in our ever-changing pop echelon.

He sang his hits, songs from his album; he reinvented his first hit Evergreen and even gave us a stunning version of the Kate Bush classic, Running Up That Hill. So, by the end what we all wanted was more... and... in true showbiz fashion that's how he left us... wanting more and looking

forward to his next album and tour. I for one cannot wait.



Christmas at

QUEENS COURT & **the loft**

Thursday 22nd Dec

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DOUBLE SPIRIT + MIXER £2.50

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Open from 7pm

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U-POP

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DOUBLE SPIRIT + MIXER £2.50

With **PAUL MCAVOY** (AXM Manchester)
PLUS the outrageous **MISS ORRY** on the decks
From 8pm till 4am

www.queenscourtleeds.com

New Year at

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Saturday 31st Dec

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With **MISS ORRY** and **MARKYMARK**
From 8pm

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After 30 years working on their respective ongoing music projects, Vince Clarke (Erasure / Yazoo / Depeche Mode) and Martin L. Gore (Depeche Mode) come together for the first time since 1981 as VCMG to release a brand new album preceded by a series of EPs. VCMG is the fruit of initially tentative discussion and subsequent enthused collaboration where Vince and Martin, both influential as pioneers in electronic music, get to exercise their lifelong love of the genre as the techno inspired VCMG.

As Vince explains: "I've been getting into and listening to a lot of minimal dance music and I got really intrigued by all the sounds... I realised I needed a collaborator... so it occurred to me to talk to Martin."

Says Gore: "Out of the blue I got an e-mail from Vince just saying, 'I'm interested in making a techno album. Are you interested in collaborating?' This was maybe a year ago. He said, 'No pressure, no deadlines,' so I said, 'OK'"

The writing and recording of the album was done in a typically unique way with the pair working alone in their respective studios, communicating only via email, exchanging files until the album was ready. It was in May 2011 that the pair met for the first time to discuss the project when they both performed at Short Circuit presents Mute festival in London.

The album (title to be announced soon) was produced by Vince Clarke and Martin L. Gore and mixed by the influential Californian electronic artist Überzone / Q and will be released in the spring of 2012.

The first release is an EP entitled Spock. EP1/SPOCK will be available initially as a global exclusive on Beatport out now, and then on all DSPs from 12th December with the 12" release following on 19th December.

EP1 / SPOCK TRACKLIST

- Spock – Album version
- Spock – Edit Select Remix
- Spock – Regis Remix
- Spock – DVS1 Voyage Home Remix
- Spock – XOQ Remix

www.facebook.com/VCMGofficial

Snow White and the 7 Poofs

Following last year's sell out run at Leicester Square Theatre, Snow White and her Seven Poofs are back for another Christmas of rude flirty fun and frolics. This pop-powered drag panto is suitable for adults only and stars 2008 Drag Idol winner Tanya Hyde, who is returning to her role of Snow White, the legendary Titti La Camp as the Queen, Simon Gross returning to his role as Horrible Hilda, and introducing the hilarious Mrs. Moore. This bigger, bolder, ruder fairytale is packed with audience participation and feel good party anthems 'Get The Party Started', 'Bad Romance', 'YMCA', 'It's a Sin', 'Hot Stuff', and Rhianna's 'S&M'.

The Lounge,
Leicester Square Theatre, London
From 1st December – 28th January
www.simongross.co.uk



WANTED



TV PROGRAMME

We're hoping to cast a diverse range of characters from all walks of life and from different backgrounds to represent the British public. The show is going to be light-hearted, funny and will revolve around a group of real characters sharing their opinions and going about their day to day lives. What we are really hoping to find are people with big personalities who are quirky, funny or unique. This may or may not be you, but maybe you have a funny Nan who doesn't know the difference between an iPhone and a calculator, or your daughter is the real Vikki Pollard? Maybe your uncle is a transsexual or your neighbour is a hilarious Cabbie.

Our brief is truly open, we're interested in meeting funny people from all walks of life, some of which won't even realise they're funny!

Don't hesitate in getting in touch if you are or have the perfect person!
Objective Productions Limited,
3rd Floor, Riverside Building, County Hall,
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London, SE1 7PB
Tel: 020 7202 274 or
charliephey@objectiveproductions.com



New lease of life

Since taking over the Sun in March, Tasha and Timmy Tease have taken it from strength to strength introducing a new look, plus a variety of new entertainment and drinks offers - putting Bradford back on the gay map! A warm, friendly & inviting atmosphere is always on offer with drag entertainment Thursday thru Saturday, plus regular DJs & karaoke! The Sun has recently expanded its opening times & now opens from lunch time through 'til the early hours! Also experiencing a new lease of life is Candy nightclub - which is now under new ownership & under the management of the Sun! Featuring more DJs & theme nights plus more opening nights & extended opening times! One of the highlights is 'le freak', Newcastle's outrageous gay night coming to Candy on the first Saturday of each month with a multitude of entertainers, DJs and drag queens! The Sun is now open from 12pm 'til late Mon - Sat and from 3pm Sunday Candy is open Thu - Sun nights - come and experience Bradford's rejuvenated gay scene!



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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT THE NEW UNION WAKEFIELD

With December upon us, we've been busy down at The New Union Wakefield in anticipation of the forthcoming festivities. We start off with our World Aids Day Fundraiser on Saturday 3rd December with a fantastic line-up hosted by our very own Miss Sordid Secret and The Outrageous Cheryl Hole. See advert for further info.

So come and join us and help raise some money for Yorkshire Mesmac, a very worthy cause.

Helping you along with your Christmas celebrations, our Christmas menu will be available throughout December for all your party bookings.

Contact us on 01924 378215 for more info.

**Remember it's free admission always at
The New Union but whatever you do, be safe
and have a fabulous Christmas and great 2012.**



CAMP AS CHRISTMAS

A Sparkling Festive Variety Show

Deck yourself with boughs of holly, tinsel, glitter and anything else that sparkles and settle in for a warm winter's night, Orb Events is delighted to present the first ever Camp as Christmas festive variety event on Sat 17 December, as a fundraiser for Liverpool Pride 2012. Santa has come early and left a sack filled to the brim with a winter wonder lusting line up of entertainment wrapped up in a big shiny bow for the audience to enjoy. The X-Factor's, Diva Fever top the (Christmas) list, which also includes Liverpool's own Adam Lyons and AJ Dance in addition to Pride favourites FTW, Judy and Liza's Emma Dears, and all girl A-Cappella group Barbie Shop as well as Kaz and Britney, who will perform special excerpts from their brand new production 'Scottie Road The Musical.' The audience will also have the opportunity to see Liverpool's Drag Queens as they've never seen them before as well as witnessing a few surprise acts on the night.

The Dome, Renshaw Street, Liverpool.

Christmas & New Year

The New Union

Wakefield

**WORLD AIDS
DAY SHOW!
SATURDAY
3RD
DECEMBER!**



THURSDAY 22nd DECEMBER

**'Only Fools & Voices Karaoke Xmas Special'
With Picky!! Free Shot for Every Singer!!**

CHRISTMAS EVE

**Join The Outrageous 'Cheryl Hole' For The
Waiting For Santa Party!!**

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY - Have A Fab Day

BOXING DAY BASH

**Open from 3pm!! Join DJ Tommi-B From 5pm
with Karaoke through til 10pm, Then Party
Through til' 1am!!**

NEW YEARS EVE

**Join The Fabulous Ricky Glass & Miss Sordid
Secret to See In 2012 The Only Way The New
Union Likes It....In Style!! x**

*Miss Sordid Secret Will Help You Along With Those Vital
Christmas Hang Over's!!*

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from All the Team at The New
Union Wakefield!! Thank-you For Your Continued Support!!**



HOMOTOPIA CROWNS FIRST EVER ALTERNATIVE MISS LIVERPOOL

Carry On star Fenella Fielding crowned Miss Voodoo the winner of the inaugural Alternative Miss Liverpool pageant recently in front of a capacity crowd at city centre club The Kazimier.

The riotous night of Homotopian entertainment featured 23 participants of varying ages, genders and sexualities who donned costumes and make up and took to the catwalk to strut their stuff and answer questions from glamorous host David Hoyle.

Judges Fenella Fielding, Andrew Logan (sculptor, artist and instigator of Alternative Miss World) and Borre Olsen (Norwegian jeweller and co-creator of Alternative Miss Liverpool Crown) chose Miss Voodoo as their ultimate winner.

Homotopia boss Gary Everett said, "This pageant embraced everyone, irrespective of gender, race, age or sexuality and I think our participants reflected this. Miss Voodoo's dress was original, weird and wonderful and created with real artistry."

Miss Voodoo's dress was made from 250 metres of hair, weighs 15 stone and took 300 hours to make. It was designed by Thelma Madine, dreamed up by Voodoo stylist Ryan Edwards and made by a team of 8 staff from Nico's dress designers. It is now estimated to be worth £50,000.

The winner's crown was designed and made by Liverpool milliner

Hayley Marsden and bedecked with £1500 worth of jewellery designed by Borre Olsen. Miss Voodoo will be entitled to wear the crown at VIP events across the city for the next 12 months.



"LOOKING FOR TROUBLE?"

Immodesty Blaize is unanimously credited with spearheading the burlesque renaissance in Europe. Having performed alongside music artists such as Goldfrapp, Marc Almond, Roxy Music, Barry Adamson, and Nick Cave, Immodesty is now creating a full music and performance collaboration with The Noisettes, in this new show 'Looking For Trouble'. Bringing together the band's legendary energy with the dramatic, high voltage visual feast of Immodesty's performances, this fully integrated, avant garde show will see Immodesty showcasing new material as part of this special event.

With the Noisettes it's always best to expect the unexpected; and true to form, this collaboration with Blaize crosses the boundaries between music, high fashion couture, and performance art - Combining rock and roll, retro styles and fierce glamour in a fast and furious flurry, it sees in the Christmas Season with more than a bang. The Noisettes, with their full seven-piece band, will be presenting a combination of their classic hits, and giving exclusive previews to many of the new songs due to be released in spring 2012.

8th December - HMV Picture House - Edinburgh

10th December - HMV Forum - London

<http://www.immodestyblaize.com/>



THE NEW UNION - HUDDERSFIELD



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UNION**



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MONDAY - FRIDAY



11AM - 5PM
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12AM - 6PM
SUNDAY

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3pm til 7pm Daily

FOSTERS £2.40 Pint

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Tuesday

KARAOKE

FREE SHOT
for every singer!

Buy one get one
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2 Courses

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**Miss Sambuca
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Performing Live For **YOUR**
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OUTRAGEOUS!

AWARD WINNING AUTUMN

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

September saw Blu bar host Middlesbrough Pride 2011 with X Factor Finalist Rachel Adedeji Live on a super size outdoor stage... the Biggest Pride Party ever in Teesside! Days later blu's management team scooped the award for BEST BAR NONE 2011 "Best NIGHT CLUB".

Following a hotly contested MR GAY UK HEAT in October (Well Done Greg Lumley!) and a smasher of a Halloween weekend, the Annual Tees Valley Pink Awards in November saw Daisy Diamond, Matt Nevin, Tess Tickle and Blu bar all pick up well deserved awards.



Whats next? No time to rest! Blu is offering its most exciting Xmas line-up with a host of top nights jammed with fabulous entertainers, DJ's and 5am finishes! The Weekly line-up is now better and busier than ever! So Party Animals, for your next road trip, why not head over to Middlesbrough and sample the delights of one of the UK's hidden treasures!

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

Open Tuesday - Sunday - 8pm - 3am

Find us on Facebook - Search for 'Blu Middlesbrough'





MIDDLESBROUGH'S BIGGEST GAY BAR

GET STUCK INTO OUR **WIDEST XMAS OPENING EVER!**

THURS 22 DEC

Penni Presses Play FESTIVE EDITION

FREE entry 9pm - 3am
Every Thursday

FRI 23 DEC

Katy Perry

FREE entry b4 11pm
£2 after 9pm - 3am
Live on stage 12am

SAT 24 DEC

SATUR-GAY
Xmas Eve Special

Honey Lingus & Resident Djs
Open til 3:30am
£4 Q-Jump before 11pm

SUN 25 DEC

XMAS DAY

Xmas Day 8pm - late

MON 26 DEC

POP BOUDOIR

BOXING DAY SPECIAL

8PM - 5AM

VERSUS *Sick Girls*

£5 Q-Jump
£7 after 11pm

TUES 27 DEC

FESTIVE KARAOKE

With Kris King
FREE entry | 8pm - 3am

WED 28 DEC

LINDSEY STEPHENSON

Every Wednesday
9pm - 3am

THURS 29 DEC

Penni's FESTIVE Swap Shop & QUIZ

FREE entry
£1 to play
9pm - 3am

FRI 30 DEC

pout

DJ Matt Nevin
FREE entry | 8pm - late

SAT 31 DEC

SATUR-GAY

NEW YEAR'S EVE
8pm - 5AM

£5 Q-Jump
£8 after 12am

SUN 1 JAN

Escape the family

NEW YEAR'S DAY
FREE entry | 8pm - late

TUES 3 JAN

FESTIVE KARAOKE

With Kris King
FREE entry | 8pm - late

BASEMENT

ALBERT ROAD, MIDDLESBROUGH



BEST BAR NONE



2011



drinkaware.co.uk

David Ducasse

David Ducasse shot to fame when he appeared with Scooch - the fabulous foursome who in 2007 represented the UK at the Eurovision Song Contest in Helsinki - if you need a little help remembering think bright blue cabin crew uniforms. Now, four years later, we sent Ryan Houston to catch up with David and find out just what is happening in the Scooch camp!

Looking back, how did it feel to represent the UK at Eurovision?

It was a very bizarre situation - a whirlwind experience! As a group we weren't performing together anymore and all had very different lifestyles and commitments. We had to juggle busy schedules to be able to commit to the project; if I'm honest, I never expected to be chosen. It was a case of being asked six months earlier: 'If you had the chance to do Eurovision, would you do it?', and then getting a call to say 'OK, can you come and record your vocals, rehearse and attend costume fittings?' When we got through and the British public chose us as their entry everything went mad! I thought it was really nice to re-visit the Scooch project without the pressure of a manager or record label - it was just four friends enjoying the experience. We kind of felt that it was win-win situation, as we could make a little mark and enjoy the experience without the previous pressures of the 90's on us.

We've seen Scooch perform at many Pride events...

Yes... we always enjoy them... they are always full of fun and full of life.

You've moved on from the Eurovision material is that because of a reinvention of the band?

Last year we created a new show 'SCOOCH do GLEE', which has been going down a storm. It came about because we were all such fans of the show and performed 'Don't Stop Believin' at one of our gigs. The reaction was great so it kind of made sense to expand on the idea. As a group we were aware we had quite a diverse audience ranging from pop fans who remembered us from the 90s up to die-hard Eurovision fans. We were also getting asked to appear at all kinds of events including universities, festivals and nightclubs so we wanted to not only sing our own songs but include numbers that appealed to everyone. GLEE seemed the obvious choice as they re-invent popular songs from all genres and decades, whilst bringing them to a new audience. Plus they are just a bit camp, which suits us well!

What is in store for you and the gang this month and next year?

It's another busy time for us individually. Caroline and Russ are finishing off a tour of their Pop and Rock musical 'THE HEAT IS ON'. Both myself and Russ are appearing in Panto this Christmas (I'm playing the title role in 'Dick Whittington' at Consett Empire) so it's pretty full on into the New Year! And then when 2012 comes it's just back to performing and doing what we love.



Eazy Street



**BUBBLY BAUBLES & BUFFET
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WE ARE INTRESTED IN BOOKING A CHRISTMAS PARTY AT EAZY STREET

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all events without further notice. T&C Apply
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EazyStreet



CHRISTMAS AT MARDIGR

FRIDAY 23RD

(AFTERNOON)

KARAOKE WITH DJ KEIRON
2PM 'TIL 6PM - £50 CASH PRIZE



JENNIFER BALL (VOCALIST)

'STARR' (MALE STRIPPER)
WITH STELLA ARTOIS & CAPTAIN GINGER

CHEAP DRINKS NOON 'TIL 7PM
ADMISSION £2 FROM 10PM
OPEN 'TIL 3AM



CHRISTMAS EVE

(AFTERNOON)

'HUSTLER' (MALE STRIPPER)



(EVENING)

DONNA REID
CHELSEA STEVENS
EMMA LOISE

(TOP VOCALISTS)
WITH DJ KEIRON

CHEAP DRINKS NOON 'TIL 7PM
ADMISSION £2 FROM 9PM
OPEN 'TIL 4AM



CHRISTMAS DAY

(AFTERNOON CLOSED, RE-OPEN 8PM)

JAN BRETT (VOCALIST)
AND YOUR DJ CAPTAIN GINGER

FREE ADMISSION
OPEN 'TIL 2AM



BOXING DAY

(AFTERNOON)

STELLA ARTOIS - LEGEND
2.30PM 'TIL 7PM
'FALCON' (MALE STRIPPER)
AND DJ CAPTAIN GINGER



(EVENING)

DIANE LEE CAROL (8PM)
DANIEL BALLARD (VOCALIST)
'STAXX' (MALE STRIPPER)
WITH DJ KEIRON

FREE ADMISSION
CHEAP DRINKS NOON 'TIL CLOSE
OPEN 'TIL 4AM



WWW.THEMARDIGR
114 TALBOT ROAD

TUESDAY

(AFTERNOON)

'ANGEL' (MALE STRIPPER)
WITH DJ KEIRON

(EVENING)

STELLA ARTOIS
ALLY RAE (VOCALIST)

FREE ADMISSION
OPEN 'TIL 2AM



WEDNESDAY

3 DECADES OF
WITH DJ KEIRON
THE SOUNDS OF THE 70S

CHEAP DRINKS NOON 'TIL 7PM
FREE ADMISSION
OPEN 'TIL 4AM



FIND US ON FACEBOOK 'THE MARDIGR'

DI GRAS & NEW YEAR



ASBLACKPOOL.COM
AD, BLACKPOOL

THURSDAY 29TH

'TYSON' (MALE STRIPPER)
RYAN KNIGHT (VOCALIST)
'CAGE' (MALE STRIPPER)

CHEAP DRINK NOON 'TIL CLOSE
FREE ADMISSION
OPEN 'TIL 3AM



FRIDAY 30TH

(AFTERNOON)
KARAOKE WITH DJ KEIRON
2PM 'TIL 6PM - £50 CASH PRIZE



(EVENING)

STEVEN HAYLES (VOCALIST)
ANDY KING (STRIPPER)

CHEAP DRINKS NOON 'TIL 7PM
ADMISSION £2 FROM 10PM
OPEN 'TIL 3AM



NEW YEARS EVE

(AFTERNOON)
PAUL GRANT (STRIPPER)
(CLOSE 6PM)



(AFTERNOON)

RE-OPENS 8PM

ANGIE LANG
JOANNA SHORROCK
(VOCALISTS)

WITH YOUR HOSTS
STELLA ARTOIS & DJ KEIRON

ADMISSION £5
OPEN 'TIL 5AM



NEW YEARS DAY

(AFTERNOON)
STELLA ARTOIS - STUNNER
2.30PM 'TIL 7PM
'ARMANI' (MALE STRIPPER)
WITH CAPTAIN GINGER



(EVENING)

ROBERTS & ASHCROFT
(VOCAL DUO)
AND OUR SPECIAL GUEST
KEVIN SIMM
(FORMERLY OF 'LIBERTY X')

CHEAP DRINKS NOON 'TIL CLOSE
FREE ADMISSION
OPEN 'TIL 3AM

WEDNESDAY 27TH

(AFTERNOON)
MALE STRIPPER)
DJ KEIRON

STELLA ARTOIS
(VOCALIST)

ADMISSION
'TIL 2AM



TUESDAY 28TH

OF DANCE
DJ KEIRON
THE 60's, 70's & 80's

ADMISSION
'TIL 2AM



f
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KAOS

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LAURA JANE BUTLER AS

CHER

The Tribute to

Musical By
Dinah Rodd

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TRANS
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for The Trans
Community

With Special Guests

FREE ENTRY • SAFE SPACE • PLACE TO CHANGE

TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER

GGG

A CHRISTMAS SHOW WITH
S CLUB 7 STAR



JO D'MEARA

FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER
WITH DJ FROSTIE & ICEPOPS

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CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

FUN & GAMES • SURPRISES



CHRIS D'BRAY
CABARET SHOW

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CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL
'I'm Gonna Get You'



plus
other
surprises

Angie Brown

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NEW YEARS' EVE

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DJ Versatile

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Wishing all our customers
A Merry Christmas
&
A Happy New Year

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'Adele' wins Drag Idol

Eight Drag Idol wanna-bes took to the stage at this year's annual Mesmac fundraising event. As always, the place was packed with an enthusiastic crowd ready to cheer the sequined contestants and gaze in amazement as they performed their act.

The judging panel included Coronation Street star and former Eastender, Michelle Collins, amongst others who commented on the talent, make-up and dress sense (or lack of it) of the eager, though friendly, contenders. It was Simon Millea as 'Adele PC' who took to the stage and stunned everyone with his live version of the '21' stars single - Someone Like You. The almost flawless act was added to by his tragic make-up (as one of the judges commented "just like Adele's") and his emotional delivery got the crowd screaming for more.



As the judges scores were totted up Tania Alboni treated the expectant crowd to her tribute to Cher. Once the results were in it was 'Adele PC' who took first place and as a result won a week's holiday in Gran Canaria, which also gives an automatic place into the FINAL of the Gay Pride Maspalomas Drag Gala Competition. That also brings with it the opportunity to perform on the BIG main stage to thousands and thousands of people, competing against Drag Queens from all over Europe and it will be televised. Maspalomas Gay Pride is one of the Top 5 in Europe, so no pressure on Simon to come back a STAR!!

Photos: Grizz



FASHION



Be Aware

We all know that us boys love our underwear. Worldwide it's a billion dollar business, with more players joining the ranks of sexy suppliers than just about any other part of the fashion industry. Manly tighty-whities or butch boxers are OK but every now and then a boy needs to get in touch with his more...erm... sensuous side. When only a touch of silk, shiny satin or luxurious frills will do, there is a brand where we go to make us feel slinkily sexual.

BodyAware has been dressing men one pair at a time since 1987. What started as a small cottage industry in the hills of Wiltshire has grown into a very diverse, successful and global men's underwear mail order catalog and website. BodyAware's main distribution office is now located in sunny Arizona, USA, but they have recently gone back to their roots and now have a fabulous webshop located in London that is just for UK customers. "We really wanted to cater to our loyal UK customers that were with us from the very beginning" explains Kristina Bonfield, one of the directors of BodyAware. "By opening up in London, our UK site can not only provide fabulous and unique knickers to men, but we can do it fast, without the additional time and charges associated with UK customs costs."



Visit the site now at Bodyaware.co.uk!

STUFF

Timepiece

This season, Tateossian is working the stacking trend by combining textured bracelets and colourful watches. The Free Time is a striking polycarbonate black matte straps on stainless steel, which sets the tone for these fun yet masculine watches. Dials are available in yellow, green, blue, red or white to finish off this sporty fashion forward look.



£150 www.tateossian.com

Foldaway soundz

Urbanista, the Stockholm-based design concept shop which produces products geared towards the needs and fashions of urban living, has announced the release of a series of colourful folding headphones called - the Copenhagen. The mid-size, over the ear headphones feature an unconventional square-like shape with an integrated microphone along their cord. Two joints allow the headphones to be folded into a compact shape for easy transport.



Colours - Red Snapper, Crispy Apply, Gun Metal, Fluffy Cloud, Dark Clown and Pink Panther

£79 <http://uk.urbanista.com/>

Wine Cooler

Few things bring more pleasure at an informal gathering or a relaxed supper party than a glass or two of chilled white wine or Champagne. Here the key word is 'chilled' and Wine Corner has a novel way of helping you make sure that the refreshing low temperature of a well-chilled bottle of wine lasts until the last drop is finished.

Available in red, pink, orange, yellow, transparent, green and blue

£5 www.winecorner.co.uk





Arty Cushions

London based artist, Mark Wardel known as Trademark, launches his first collection of homeware products based on his iconic designs, making them accessible to all in a fun and stylish format. For the first time Trademark's most loved images have been recreated as high quality digital prints on 100% cotton fabric and hand sewn into stunning cushions.

The collection kicks off with a set of six 18 inch cushions, each bearing one of the artists vibrant images which together as a set or individually would create a striking focal point in any contemporary home.

£49 www.manmadeproduct.com

Ricoh Camera

Ricoh has announced the release of the CX6, a new digital camera featuring a high magnification 10.7x (28-300 mm) optical wide-angle zoom lens that achieves even shorter autofocus (AF) times through the introduction of a new AF system.

With the adoption of a new system enhancing both the hardware and software of the hybrid AF system introduced on the CX5, the new CX6 achieves AF focusing times as fast as 0.1 seconds. You will be sure to capture that fleeting shutter chance.

The high-brightness LCD monitor is approximately 1.7 times brighter than the previous model for better visibility outdoors. The CX6 also adds a function for automatic adjustment of brightness based on the level of brightness of the subject, and this

make it possible to minimize the loss of visibility that can occur due to changes in the shooting environment. In addition, for telephoto shooting, the new zoom assist monitor function displays a small image on the LCD monitor so that you can always check the framing of the shot.



£259.99 www.tateossian.com

Mixing it

Martin Miller's gin is distilled using pure Icelandic spring water for the freshest, cleanest taste possible. The water is infused with a range of 10 hand-picked botanicals and essential oils in a secret recipe, to create a unique creamy soft palate, unlike any other gin.

The drink was created by entrepreneur Martin Miller, who along with two friends David Bromige and Andreas Versteegh, was dissatisfied with the gin products on the market in 1998. Their aim was to create a truly premium gin that would taste fantastic neat as well as when mixed with other drinks - and remind consumers what a wonderful drink gin could be.

£22 for a 70cl bottle.



REV 100 Revolution

In the sex toy stakes, men have for too long drawn the short straw. While the rabbit revolutionised perceptions of female sex toys and opened the doors to whole new realms of self-pleasure, male toys have remained strictly out of the mainstream...until now.

The REV1000 is a ground-breaking masturbator, designed to bring male sex toys firmly into the 21st century. With 7 speeds and 7 functions, it offers an incredible 49 different pleasure combinations, all created to give a wide range of pleasure sensations. Unlike other masturbators on the market, It's sleek, discreet and incredibly easy to use – perfect for both seasoned thrill seekers, and those looking to dip their toe into the world of sex toys. The REV1000 is fully rechargeable and comes with its own charger and international adaptor.

Colours - Red Snapper, Crispy Apply, Gun Metal, Fluffy Cloud, Dark Clown and Pink Panther

£120 www.sextoys.co.uk



QUEER HIP HOP NATION

By Edward Jonas



Coleman and Jackson Vrana make up the controversial band, Elephant - the only white, twin brother, queer rappers on the music scene today.

Originally from Oklahoma, they came out when they were 14 and were bullied and harassed every day until they finally left home at 18. Coleman fled to New York while Jackson went to London. They reunited in Los Angeles where they formed their band and grew a following with their provocative gay-activist lyrics and in-your-face performances.

They caught the attention of 80's pop icon, Josie Cotton – who invited the duo to collaborate on the 2010 remake of her cult classic Johnny Are You Queer? – and were quickly signed to her record label. Now the dynamic duo aim to make some noise on a national level and that's exactly what they're doing with their debut release, Queer Nation.

How do you describe "Queer Nation"?

Coleman Vrana: It's an in-your-face track that turns hip hop on its head and confronts homophobia with a lot of filthy language.

Did you intend for it to be controversial?

Absolutely. We intentionally pushed the limit with all four of the tracks on the Queer Nation EP.

So it's representative of the rest of your upcoming album?

Definitely, but we go to some pretty unexpected places and our political interests and aims extend beyond LGBT-related issues.

When did you and Jackson first realize you had musical talent?

We grew up performing in angsty punk bands as teenagers. There was never an instrument we didn't want to learn our way around in some kinda way growing up.

When did you boys come out?

At 14. After that, we were huge targets in middle and high school.

Those bullying years seem to play a big part in your music today.

Most of our songs were written with the angst-ridden motivation we got from those days. We connect with a ton of teenagers who are exactly like we were a few years ago.

What lessons have you learned as openly gay artists?

As artists, we constantly have to prove ourselves to everyone. As gay artists who intend to be taken completely seriously, we've learned the struggle is tenfold. People expect us to represent them so specifically that we often have to take a step back and remember what got us here in the first place: our voices, our attitudes and our ideas.

How do you feel about celebrities who won't come out of the closet?

It's hard to imagine staying closeted because our personal artistry comes from our need to express ourselves honestly. Maybe some people are okay with keeping their personal lives private, but we can't imagine expressing ourselves on stage or in the studio like that.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

Josie Cotton told us that showcasing who you are with your own individual voice is the only way to be successful as an artist. Anybody with talent can be a musician or a performer, but only you can be you.

What's the worst cliché about the gay scene?

The notion that gay men are somehow weak-willed or inordinately delicate people is insane. Fighting to be yourself to an intolerant society your entire life most definitely creates more strength in a person than frailty.

Best cliché?

That we are a severely tight community that embraces everyone with open arms. I think it's true.

Finish the sentence: A good night out starts with...

A fat blunt.

It ends with...

A fat blunt. Shunda K from Yo! Majesty (a lesbian hip hop group) taught me how to roll em' the best.

What comes first for you - sex or love?

Sex. Usually, emotions that stick around don't come into play until later.

What's the best thing ever invented?

Over-sized colonial dolls.

When the phone rings, who do you hope is calling?

Mary Tyler Moore—to tell us she's our real mother.



www.elephantwave.com

What's next for Elephant?

We're working on a really exciting project: a gay vs. lesbian rap battle extraordinaire.

You're not kidding about creating a Queer Nation.

Fists are getting tighter. A backlash is on the way. We can feel it.



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Johan's Blog

This party's not one for divas. This party's just about one thing: sex! The Hustlaball in Berlin – the biggest gay party in Europe – is a celebration of lust and cock! Here you can enjoy the hottest guys, the horniest and most explicit shows imaginable – with music thrown in for good measure.



After a twelve month break I was once again back at the Hustlaball – and, as always, I was very much overdressed! I had a tank-top, jeans and trainers, and it was definitely too much. At the very least I should've gone topless or simply wearing a leather thong – if not totally naked! About 40% of the guests preferred the leather and hairy style, another 40% sported naked skin of one kind or another, and the remaining 20% (my boyfriend and I included) watched the ceremony feeling slightly scared. To be honest I didn't want to see so much naked flesh. Indeed, I'd have preferred it if some of the guys there had worn tee-shirts over their XXL bellies and covered their XXXS cocks!

It's the only event of its kind where you can come just as you are and be exactly what you want. Come as a drag-queen, as a leather slave, as yourself – whatever. The important thing is that you have fun and enjoy the occasion – which is exactly what I decided to do the moment I arrived.

It began with the annual Hustlaball awards, the biggest and most prestigious gay porn awards in Europe, which are selected by an internet audience during the weeks leading up to the event. It's a bit like a version of the Oscars for European gay porn – but without the glamour. It was an hour-long event which saw us all standing in front of a stage with two guys reading names of movies and models from a list. True, it doesn't sound very exciting, but hey I'm not complaining. I've won possibly the most important prize in gay porn: the Honorary Lifetime



Award. A big thank you to all of you out there who voted for me and who've given me support over the past eight years in which I've been in this business. Believe me, this award has made me really proud. After that the real Hustlaball began ...

It was quite fun to see all the old colleagues again, to chat with fans, to dance a little bit and to enjoy the sexy atmosphere. I still find it totally unbelievable that so many people recognize me. Clearly my face is as famous in this business as the lower parts of my body!

So the hours passed with a series of chats with different guys and a few beers, until it was time to prepare for our little hardcore show at 02:45 on the main stage. The venue had a small downstairs dressing room which was soon full of us porn actors and go-go dancers preparing for our performances on the different stages. Believe me, all human life was there – cute twinks, drag-queens, buff muscle men, leather cowboys, submissive slaves on their knees or on dog-leads.

You name it, it was there.

We were all busy flexing our muscles, styling our hair and getting our cocks hard. After all, even the most masculine leather guy never steps onto a stage with perfect hair – even if he's completely bald! Unfortunately, however, our dressing rooms were filled with an omnipresent collection of pseudo VIPs. Who they are, where they get their access passes from and why they're there is anyone's guess, but most of them are no more than C-class assistants from some minor sponsors. Nevertheless, these people were perpetually standing in our way, trying



to touch us and taking photos of us naked (and wanking!) – whilst all the time quite literally drooling from the corner of their mouths! The show that followed was a little bit special. As we entered the stage

quite a number of the guys standing in the front row of the audience asked me if I could do my cum-shot in their faces – indeed, they were even prepared to pay me a few Euros for the privilege. As it happens, I needed

all my powers of concentration when it came to my cum-shot so I declined. What's more – and you can call me old-fashioned if you wish – I don't find the idea of cumming in the face of a total stranger either very horny or very appropriate; but a lot of the other models were more than happy to oblige, collecting some nice extra cash in the process! After our show we all relaxed in the special VIP area of our friend Marcel from the famous Berlin Apollo Splash Sauna, where we have regular monthly shows and appearances (www.apollosplashclub.de) – I hope to see you there! Here there was a great big swimming pool, and we were able to sit in comfy deckchairs, enjoy our beers and watch as people merrily fucked away in the water ... whilst approximately 5000 gays had the wildest party of the year around us! In short, totally, totally crazy!! Still, this is exactly why I like the Hustlaball so much. Here you can find and do everything. Here you can dance and meet with friends. Here you can enjoy beers and cocktails or chat with interesting people that you haven't seen for a while. And here, of course, you can live out your fetishes and dreams.

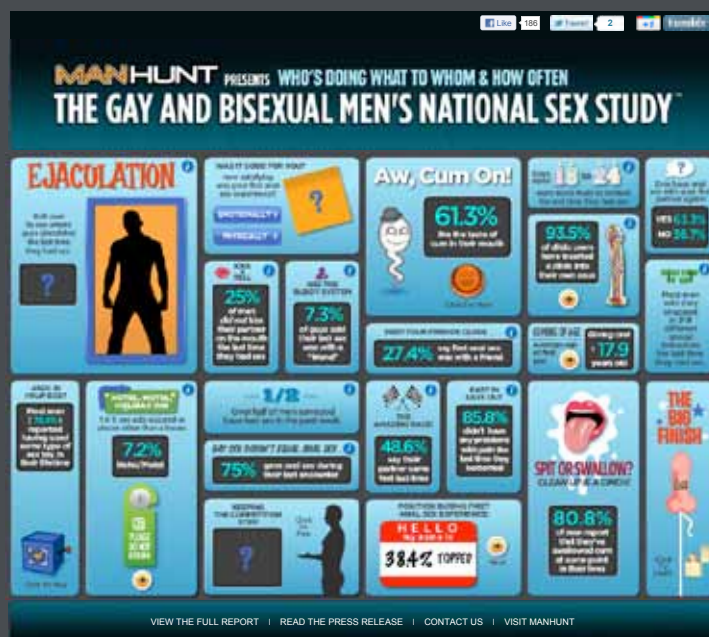
One really weird situation happened in the toilets. I needed a pee and went to the "public" conveniences rather than the VIP toilets, where I knew there'd be a long line of guys waiting for the privacy of a cubicle for a sniff – something I wished to avoid. Arriving at the long urinal, I found a guy sitting in it, wearing only a leather thong and long leather biker boots. He was asking everybody to piss into his mouth and all over his body, and most of the guys there were only too happy to oblige. Alas, this wasn't really my cup of tea. Believe me, in my 8 years in gay porn I've seen a lot of things – and done quite a few as well. But this was just too, too much. Hence I preferred to wait for an empty cubicle. Overall, it was a funny old evening; but I was back at my hotel at around 5am and was only too happy to enjoy the soft linen and a warm cuddle with my boyfriend. The Hustlaball is always a very weird but extremely special event and I'd definitely like to go there again in 2012. But once every twelve months is more than enough. Indeed, I now need the next 364 days to recover and to prepare for this time next year!

Hugs Johan

<http://exclusive.johan-volny.com/>



GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN'S NATIONAL SEX STUDY



A new web-based community report from our American friends at Online Buddies, Inc., parent company of Manhunt™, celebrates the diversity of gay and bisexual men's sexual behaviors. It is a first of its kind website that provides scientific data in an entirely virtual manner.

The community report, based on a recently published study in the Journal of Sexual Medicine which analyzed responses from nearly 25,000 users of Manhunt™, is in the form of an interactive website where visitors can learn more about the study results in a user-friendly and contemporary manner. "As the only online company that has a dedicated Research Institute which promotes an annual sex study with our members, we felt it important to translate conventional academic data into an easily digestible format for our members," says David S. Novak, Managing Director of the OLB Research Institute and Senior Health Strategist, at Online Buddies, Inc. "As highlighted in the community report, the sexual experiences that men are having are not all homogenous. For example, less than 40% of men engaged in anal intercourse during their last sexual event, challenging the notion that 'gay sex always = anal sex.' By providing this information to our members, we hope to normalize their sexual behaviors and ultimately reduce existing stereotypes about gay and bisexual men," says Novak. www.mensnationalsexstudy.com



Terry George

Tellin' Stories

These days I get invited to quite a lot of charity events and I'm often keen to accept the invitation because you never know who else is going to be there. Now call me a star stalker if you like but I just love rubbing shoulders with the famous and chatting to them like they have just become my NBF (New Best Friend). Sometimes this works, sometimes they want nothing to do with me but whatever happens, usually there's a photo opportunity or a story for me to write about.

Last month I was asked by my friend Brian Willett to attend a fund raising auction for his father's charity the Thomas Fredrick Willetts Foundation, which I was more than happy to do. The charity raises funds that encourages and empowers young people to explore the world of music through state of the art facilities, choirs, music workshops, ensembles and education projects and fulfil their own musical potential. A cause than I can relate to as I know how music has broken down many barriers and, if nothing else, lets people get creative if they've never had the chance before. They very kindly seated me at the top table where author and former MP, Lord Jeffrey Archer was holding court (he was very entertaining). However, the person who caught my eye was a lovely giggling lady who was being accompanied to the event by my friend Prady Balan, the man who owns the Balan's chain of restaurants in London and Miami. I thought I recognised her but couldn't quite believe it, this delightful woman, having the time of her life I might add, actually was – no other than Dame Shirley Bassey.

I'm afraid the song 'There is nothing like a dame' began to spin through my mind but I suddenly realised that my gay credentials were seriously flawed – could I hell as like remember which show that particular showtune was from. West Side Story? No. Carousel? No, but still it was spinning through my mind and I was finding it difficult to concentrate on what Dame Shirley was saying. 'There is nothing you can name that is anything...'. Good grief, why can't I think what that damn song is from? Oklahoma? No.

I tried to get my thoughts back to where they should be, concentrating on the very special guest of honour. I was sure she didn't want to be totally occupied by Lord Archer calling her Shirly and topping up her glass. She was still giggling and laughing so I thought I'd venture a question. 'There is nothing...'. Shut Up and concentrate.

So, this was my first question to probably the biggest gay icon I have ever met. 'How do you feel about all the drag queens that want to impersonate you?' Yes, fabulous aren't I? I could have talked about her glittering career, her fantastic voice, her Bond movie themes, her life story, which had recently been

made into a TV film but no, I talked about drag queens. Am I a pratt or what. No wonder Jeffery was looking a little suspiciously at me. However, Dame Shirley rose to the occasion and said that she'd seen loads of impressionists but thought that most went too far. There she was with hands stiff in the air, face and mouth contorted in mock emotion doing a pretty good impression of someone doing a bad impression of her. She was a terrific sport and the whole table was laughing along with her wonderful anecdotes of some of the acts she'd seen. Only one, she said, had ever captured her completely and she wanted him to be her double. She had been so overcome with his brilliant tribute that she had taken off her wig and offered it for him to wear. I wish I could remember his name but, I was just so excited watching her funny gesticulations as she went into another impression of some drag act she'd seen, unfortunately his name completely escapes me.

There she was with hands stiff in the air, face and mouth contorted in mock emotion doing a pretty good impression of someone doing a bad impression of her.

This was going better than I thought. '... there is nothing you can name...'. Quick, I thought, before I get distracted by that bloody song again ask another question.

"You must get asked to loads of these events and parties and... er... things (eloquent aren't I?),

which was the best you've ever been to?"

To be honest I wasn't expecting much of an answer, something like "They are all wonderful darling" or some such reply but she thought about it and said "Monaco darling... it was the best." The lovely, funny, talented and giggling Dame Shirley Bassey then regaled us all with the story of the party she'd had the most fun at. Apparently, she'd been invited to sing at a special event by actress Grace Kelly, who had by then married into the country's Royal Family and become the beautiful Princess Grace of Monaco. Everyone who was anyone at the time was there; Royalty, world leaders, millionaires, film stars of which Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton were the star guests... that's the equivalent of getting Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie to your party these days. Dame Shirley went on about the amount of furs, expensive dresses and jewellery that everyone was wearing except their host, the Princess who wore a simple dress. Wealth dripped from every guest as the amount of diamonds and pearls people had draped around themselves seemed to take over... but the Princess was adorned with nothing glittering at all...that was until she turned around. Then you could see her hair was pinned up and held in place by a selection of beautiful shimmering diamonds that was, as DSB said, simply stunning. SOUTH PACIFIC! Yes that's where the song is from, South Pacific... 'There is nothing you can name that is anything like a dame.' On this occasion I couldn't have agreed more.



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Our Royle Highness... Queen Sue



Sue Johnston is described by many as a national treasure. She has been on our screens since the early eighties after a short spell on Coronation Street and then on Brookside. Now we know her best for her part as the mother we would all love to have, Barbara Royle, in *The Royle Family*. Simon Savidge spent an evening in her company to discuss her career so far, her new autobiography and what is next for her...

Why did you choose to write your autobiography 'Things I Couldn't Tell My Mother' now?

Well, it had been something that I had been offered a few times in my career. In fact, I did a small one called 'Hold Onto The Messy Times' copies of which might still be floating around (laughs), and yet I had resisted in the last few years. Then when my mother became seriously ill, and indeed when she was dying, I looked at our fraught relationship, its highs and lows, and after she died thought 'I should write about this.' In a way, it seemed the right time and something I could dedicate to my mother.

Why do you think we have such strange relationships with our mothers?

It's funny isn't it? We always think we are the only ones, yet once you start talking about it, you discover many people have 'difficult' relationships with their mothers. My mother was a very difficult woman but I loved her so much, she just didn't show it – though after she died I did discover that she had boxes of my cuttings and reviews and the like – and that was our relationship. I miss her everyday but if she came back right now and sat with us, it would be lovely... for an hour or so... and then I would want to kill her (laughs), seriously that's the way it worked. However, she was my Mum and I loved her; that's just the way it is, I have just tried to be a very different mother myself.

Brookside was the show that made you into a household name, how hard was it to leave?

Terribly hard. Sheila was a wonderful, wonderful character and as you said, it made me a household name. It was also hard to say to Phil (Redmond the creator of the show) "No I must go," because he kept making wonderful offers and it was like a big family, we had all started this new show not knowing if it

would work or not. It was the right decision though, I don't think there was anything more that the character could have done without going mad (laughs).

Most of our readers will either know you as Grace from *Waking The Dead* or Barbara Royle from *The Royle Family*, does it bother you that after years on screen and in the theatre these are currently your most famous roles?

No, not at all, because they are wonderful characters and ones that people have taken to their hearts. There are other shows I have made where I wouldn't be quite so pleased if they were the defining moment of me (laughs) we don't talk about them. It's funny, people ask me if I know a show will be a hit, I never know, I say yes to things because I like the sound of them, and because you never know if the offers might dry up.

Was it hard to say goodbye to *Waking The Dead*? and how come Grace didn't get her own spin off show?

Very hard, I was so sad when they decided to end the series, as it was an incredible drama and one I loved working on. I loved Grace. I mean she knew how to use a computer and could come out with all those long psychological and scientific words (laughs), which if you asked anyone on the set you would know I simply couldn't do. I loved playing her, there should be a Grace spin off shouldn't there, can your readers petition (laughs) please?

The wonderful Jennifer Saunders wrote 'Jam and Jerusalem' specifically for you didn't she. That is quite an accolade.

Apparently, that is the case yes. It's one of those things you can never really believe was the case even after the event. We accidentally met in her brothers pub and she said; "Ooh Sue I have been writing something for you", then we

had three wonderful seasons filming and staying in a pub together as a group of drunken women, lovely (laughs) with Jennifer, Dawn (French) and Sally (Phillips)... well all the cast, you can imagine it was quite a time we all had.

Which has been your favourite character so far in your career?

Ooooh that's a tough one but one I have been asked it a lot of late so I am prepared (laughs). I think it is Barbara Royle. She is just happy with her lot, loves her family, and just bumbles along in a kind of permanent bliss. Well, not always living with Jim, but she doesn't even mind the fact she has had the same leggings for all those years... and because she has... I have. I like to think if I hadn't become an actor that in some parallel universe that could have been how I ended up. Not that I would want to swap our lives, I am a very happy woman.

Now what can you tell us about The Royle Family Christmas Special?

Well, I know that we all want to make one and that Caroline (Ahern) has been working on the script so it looks like it is going to happen, we have all set aside time for it. I like the idea of it being on every Christmas forever. I have filmed a show called 'Lapland' for Christmas, I don't get to go to Lapland though, I don't think it's fair really (laughs) maybe that will change but it's what I have been told. It's a lovely script though.

You have rather a large gay following...

(Laughs and camps it up) Oh, I know darrrrrrring!

Why do you think that is?

I have always stood up for gay rights; I spoke on behalf of Stonewall at various events, so that could be that part of it. Some of it of course will be the characters I play. Whatever reason it is, I love it.

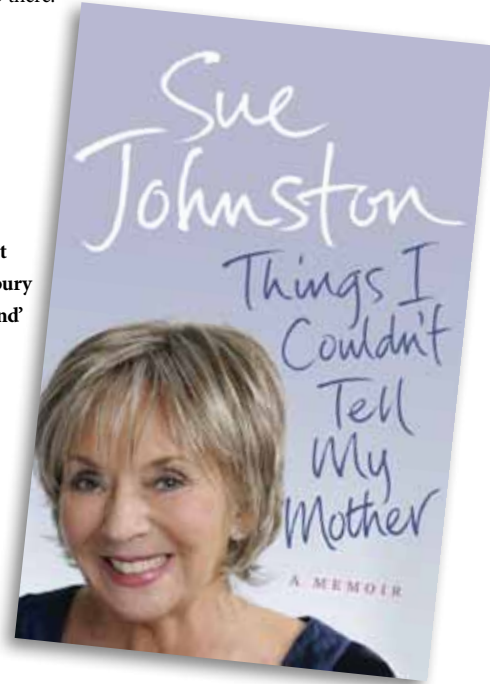
How was it to meet the Queen when you got your OBE?

Bizarre. (Laughs) You are given this huge set of instructions before you go and meet her and then you are in and out very quickly. You mumble a few things at her and that is that. I wanted to ask her if she had seen the Royle family, but I didn't dare. I once made a joke about it to Prince Charles and he didn't really get it.

You are a massive fan of Strictly Come Dancing and yet you haven't done it, surely they must have asked you to, can you do it for me please?

(Laughs hysterically) Oh no Simon, I couldn't. It's a nice idea but the reality would be car crash television, you would just have me looking panicked and shouting; "No Brendon, don't put my leg up there."

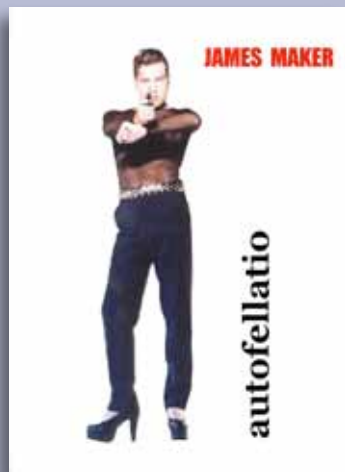
Sue Johnston's wonderful autobiography 'Things I Couldn't Tell My Mother' is out now by Ebury Books. You can see Sue in 'Lapland' and hopefully 'The Royle Family Christmas Special' this festive season on the BBC.



POLARI FIRST BOOK PRIZE

Autofellatio by James Maker has been named the winner of the Polari First Book Prize, announced on Monday 21st November at the Polari 4th Birthday celebration, held at the Southbank Centre.

Paul Burston, Chair of the judges, said: "The judges felt that *Autofellatio* stood out with its humour, honesty and heartfelt exploration of British queer life over the last 30 years. It deals with the hardships of growing up gay in a way that is witty, endlessly quotable and, above all, brave. The hard-won wisdom and tenacity of this story is also reflected in the way in which the book evolved. Self-published as an ebook, it has now been picked up by an independent publisher. The judges also agreed that the winning book best exemplified the spirit of the prize and the ethos of Polari."



Winning author James Maker said: "I'm thrilled... *Autofellatio* began life as a self-published ebook, and I believe that winning this award sends a positive message to other first-time authors: do-it-yourself, go out there and promote your work through Spoken Word. Anything might happen."

CARELESS WHISPERS: THE LIFE & CAREER OF GEORGE MICHAEL

By Robert Steele
George Michael is the single most played artist on UK radio for the last two decades and has sold more than 100 million albums world-wide. This new biography uses interviews with the many people who knew George from his early days and explores every aspect of his turbulent life as well as his extraordinary successful professional life. This biog throws a whole new light on Georgios Panayiotou, the Anglo-Greek London boy who had to hide his homosexuality when he was half of the pop phenomenon Wham! but becoming recognised as a global superstar and gay icon in his own right. The scandals and imprisonment that might have derailed his career but proved to be just another interruption in the life of this much-loved superstar.



£19.95 – Omnibus Press

TURN ON SPORTS

Usually most of us are way too lazy to do it as often as we should—but nevertheless sport is an essential part in the lives of many gay men; after all one wants to stay healthy and in good shape. And there's even more to it: Sport and what's associated with it—muscles, endurance and physical challenges—are a fetish for a lot of me. You accept a challenge and you fight hard to win. Doesn't all this sound just like sex and love and life? This anthology offers you oodles of stunning pictures—athletic sporting aces from lank to bulky, every single one a turn-on himself.





£27.85 brunogmuender.com



The Victor & the Vanquished

By Mark Wildyr

Young William 'Wilam' Greyhorse carves small animals and toys for his younger sister as a method of coping with alcoholic parents and his physical abuse. With the growing estrangement from his family, he is shaken by the increasingly powerful feeling he is different. A feeling that is magnified when he meets Jason Bedford who exposes him to a completely different lifestyle.

£12.99 - Starbooks



Second You Sin

By Scott Sherman

Someone is killing New York City's hottest male prostitutes and it's up to top sleuth Kevin Connor to find out who. There is no shortage of possible suspects or motives. Could the killer be a sadistic head case with a deadly fetish? A high-profile celebrity worried that his biggest secret might get out? Or perhaps it's a right-wing politician, guilty of protesting too much from his pious and unforgiving soapbox?

£10.99 - Kensington

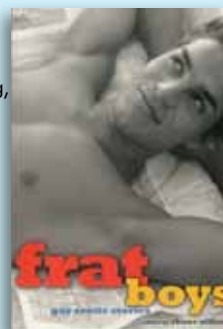


Frat Boys

Edited by Shane Allison

Paddlings, partying, hazing, wrestling at the frat house – the gorgeous undergrads in this compilation of hot stories, definitely know how to have fun, especially with each other. A student with a jock-sniffing fetish goes wild, whilst a pledge is put to the test in front of fellow classmates by a professor with dubious motives. These are just two of the erotic tales you'll find as you visit this particular campus.

£10.99 – Cleis Press

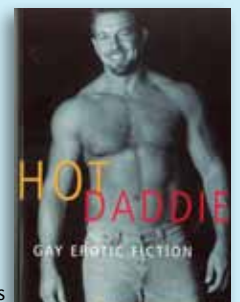


Hot Daddies

Edited by Richard Labonte

From hunky father figures to dominant leathermen, Hot daddies collects stories capturing the erotic dynamic between younger and older men, their emotional connection and the benefits of sexual mentorship. One of the stories is about an 18-year-old's sizzling summer camp romp with both a daddy and his boy, while another contemplates life of a 'boy' with two daddies.

£10.99 – Cleis Press



You'll Hear From Me

Javier is a student who lives an uncomplicated life until he gets to know the younger brother of his girlfriend. Immediately he feels an almost magical attraction to the boy. Everything on him appears to be perfect: His face, his smile, even the blue speedos he's wearing. Javier is after him until he finally finds a way to get close to him. During a hot Madrid summer the two young men experience a relationship that's surprisingly intense.

£9.99 brunogmuender.com



You Spexy Beast

By James Rampton

“People might have forgotten that I’m also a stand-up,” says the comedian, who hosts the hugely popular Channel 4 chat show, Alan Carr: Chatty Man. **“My last show, ‘Tooth Fairy’, was four years ago now. If I were to leave a stand-up tour any longer, it would start to look like a comeback!”** **“Stand-up is my safety blanket. I’m having such a great time at the moment, I hope my TV career lasts. But when it inevitably comes to an end, I’ll always have stand-up. I love doing live comedy. It’s also nice to know that I won’t have to earn money by going into the jungle and eating crocodiles’ testicles!”**

What marks Alan out as one of the great stand-ups is his sheer charisma – you could power the whole O2 Arena with the warmth he generates on stage. He reflects on his marvellously close bond with his followers. **“I have the best fans in the world!”** beams the comedian, whose debut stand-up DVD, **“Alan Carr Tooth Fairy”** became a number one best-seller.

“People are ever so nice. I get kids coming up wanting to hug me. At live shows, you get such a warm welcome - I receive this tremendous sense of affection from the audience. I think people enjoy the communal experience of watching comedy together. It’s such a buzz. Oh, I adore stand-up!”

Alan goes on to outline the other aspects of live comedy that he loves so much. **“Within reason, you can do whatever you want,”** says the comic, whose immensely entertaining autobiography, Look Who It Is! My Story, has become a best-seller, selling more than 350,000 copies to date.

“There is no editing and you’re not hanging around for the ratings the next day. I really like the spontaneity of it all. You haven’t got to cut bits out to make sure it fits the twelve minutes before the ads. That’s very liberating. Hopefully people are laughing throughout it and cheering at the end.”

When on tour, the stand-up also loves tapping into the Great British tradition of live performance.

“Last time, I played St George’s Hall in Bradford, where Charles Dickens performed A Christmas Carol for the first time. The aura in that venue was incredible – it was like I had never left. You can really soak up the atmosphere in a place like that – unlike some of the more modern venues, where the night before they’ve had Teletubbies The Musical – On Ice!”

Alan proceeds to describe his stand-up style. **“It’s about chatting,”** muses the comedian, who hosted two very well-received series of his game show, Alan Carr’s Celebrity Ding Dong, on Channel 4. **“I’m into detailing the minutiae of life. I’m never going to do an hour on tugboats. My audience know what they want from me. The chat show has freed me up. My style is looser now. I’m happy to go off-piste.”**

Alan doesn’t bracket himself with the more snide, clever-clever breed of comedians who populate the

circuit. **“I’d love to be one of those comics, but I’m not. My audience want something else from me: warmth and funny stories. And I don’t think that’s a bad thing. There is a snobbery in the broadsheets sometimes about comedy. The critics write these incredible reviews: ‘I didn’t laugh once, but what an amazing take on tugboats. Five stars. It winds me up when people try to be clever for its own sake.”**

Ever enthusiastic, Alan leaves us with this observation. **“Things just keep getting better and better for me. I was on holiday recently, and I picked up a magazine about house renovations. The first article I turned to had the headline: ‘Make your bedroom as camp as Alan Carr’. It’s funny when people mention your name and everyone knows what they’re talking about. It’s great when you become a byword for something.”** Alan Carr is also a byword for “outstanding stand-up.” So whatever you do, don’t miss him.

Out Now: Alan Carr: Spexy Beast - Universal Pictures
www.alancarr.net

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Turn to page 78 for details



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

What is the title of Alan’s late night chat show?

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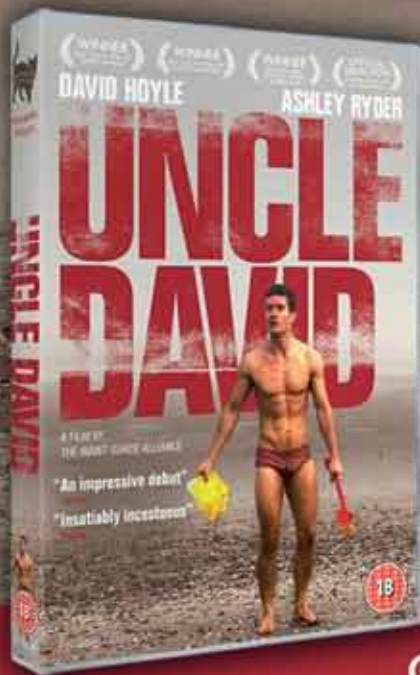
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EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE NEPHEW

Porn star Ashley Ryder is well known for his work with the likes of Eurocreme, UK Naked Men and a host of other adult movie companies. His cute, twinkish looks and his insatiable bum have made him a firm favourite bottom for many of these titles and he's won several European Gay Porn Awards for his stellar performances. Recently, he moved from porn into 'mainstream' movie making when he co-starred in a low budget, but well received, production called Uncle David. Not only did this tale of the relationship between the nephew (Ashley) and his Uncle David (David Hoyle) win the award as 'Best Film', the two stars also received a joint 'Best Actor' award at a film festival in Paris. It also proved that young Mr Ryder is more than a desirable bottom... he's a talent to be reckoned with. Bent met up with Ashley to find out how this collaboration came about.

I met David at a performance arts event about 3 years ago and he wanted me to work with him at his Royal Vauxhall Tavern shows but I wasn't available. After a couple of years I was able to do something and we constructed this piece where I played his nephew and we stayed in character, adlibbing our way through the performance. The director was in the audience and liked our chemistry and, after a couple of pilots for TV, we spent about 8 months getting the film together. Whenever we met or had a conversation we stayed in character, Uncle David and Nephew Ashley, all the time so when the storyline of the film was decided we were able to ad-lib the entire 'script'. The entire 95 minute film was shot on two cameras and every scene was in one take and in real time. The movie was shot over three days with both actors improvising their lines, which gives the whole work an edginess, heightened by the atmosphere of an out-of-season caravan-park on the Isle of Sheppey. The banalities of conversation between uncle and nephew are thrown into the realms of the utterly unconventional when we realise that not only are they involved in a sexual relationship but there is a sinister reason for their holiday.

What was the downside of filming in an offseason caravan park?

The cold. I spent a lot of time lying around naked on the beach at the end of October. Also, there were eight of us living in the caravan that is featured. It was designed for 3 people but we had eight and all the film equipment that had to be moved around as we got the angles right for a take. It was quite hectic but a great atmosphere. Before I met David I didn't have a voice. In the porn industry it wasn't needed so it was nice to step away from that and into the acting, cinema world.

How did you find that move?

Well, with David as my mentor and Gary (the director) overseeing the work I was lucky I had a strong team behind me. It was challenging and I can't say it wasn't scary but it was fun.



Is this something you are pursuing, have there been further offers after this?

Yes, hopefully I'll be doing another film next year and I've just finished a comedy sketch

info-video for GMFA who are promoting a new service via social networks for those who are a bit scared of going and getting results from a clinic. I've also started reading the news for Pink 60 News (www.pinksixtynews.tv/) where two or three times a week I'm in the newsroom in central London reading the latest gay news.

What did you do before you became a porn star?

Well... I wanted to be a roller-coaster designer when I was a kid but eventually went into fashion designing and did A-levels then went to St Martins to do a degree. I didn't finish my course. I worked for Prowler in retail and then on to Vivienne Westwood in the retail side of things and from there into the porn industry.

So how did that work?

I'd been asked by a few companies to go to castings but I kept turning them down but eventually I became comfortable with my body. Then I was asked by someone from 'Freshwave' to do a shoot with them and I spent two days filming one called The Apprentice, which I'm not sure if it's still out on DVD, but that was the first porn film I ever did. I really loved it. It felt a really natural thing for me to do... it was fun as well. Then I did some work for a new website a mate of mine was setting up, went over to New York to promote it and did a live show there and when I got back, Eurocreme had seen what I did and liked it... so I ended up working with them.

How were you on the first day on set?

It was February in the UK and cold... the scene was outside so we had to rush back inside to get warm in front of a heater then nip out again to do the scene. It was good though and fun.

Did you have any nerves at all?

A little bit but you just get into it and I enjoyed my screen partner, it was fun and we just got on with it. A little bit of the exhibitionist comes out as well, especially when the crew are praising what you do and telling you how good you are... you get a bit more confidence through that as well.

What do your mum and dad think of you taking your clothes off for a living ?

They're happy if I'm happy. They are quite supportive of it all. My mum said that as long as I can make it a career and some money out of it then perfect.

What do you like most about doing porn?

The people you meet. The situations you get to have sex in. Sometimes the storylines you have to play can be quite funny. I've just done one for UK Naked Men... a doctor scene where I play the patient which has got some sort of Carry On comedy lines and some classic lines at the start of the scene (Emergency Ward 10"). It's just the fun really.

What's the worst thing about the job?

It's the assumptions people make about you straight away. They think you're not very intelligent, not got much to offer, but it's not true. There are some in the industry that have other jobs, do intense artwork, photographers... all that kind of thing.

Do you have to pursue a rigorous diet or work out at the gym or are you naturally toned?

No. I was big and spotty as a kid so I do go to the gym but it's not intense. I'm not known for muscles or a ripped body... for me it more about sexual chemistry on film.



The videos I've seen... you always seem to be enjoying what's happening to you...
Yes... exactly.

You seem to have moved into other areas of entertainment if I'm not mistaken... wrestling?

I am involved in a weekly event called Grapple 101, supported by www.spandex-party.com/ It's basically a night for guys who like to wrestle and we have an open mat area for guys who want to try it. I encourage participants to enjoy themselves through wrestling... from learners to those who know a few moves.

Do you wrestle yourself?

Yes, I wrestle every week. I enjoy it and it's something I've been doing since the club was started. It was tricky to get into it at the beginning but now I know a few more moves, and submission holds... it's a lot easier.

Is it the wrestling or the spandex you like?

I like both aspects (laughs). We get a lot of people who come down just because they like to wear spandex, which is great, and we have those who like to wrestle and the spandex is part of that. We are more into grappling, submissions etc. rather than the acrobatic, showbiz WWE style.



You just like to get to grips with a guy?

Exactly. I also have a Tuesday night at the Eagle in London called Ashley Ryder's Strip Academy www.ashleyryder.com.uk where guys can enter an amateur strip competition to win £100 every week. There's a panel of celeb judges who decide on the best new stripper.

With the prospect of a follow up to the Uncle David film and a possible musical of it... are you now destined to leave your porn career behind you?

No I'd still like to do some more. At the end of the day there are still people I'd like to be on screen with.

Who would be your ideal?

Harley Everett and Wilfried Knight... I'd love to be in a scene with both of them.

Two fantastic hunks of men...that sounds good.

Yeah... that sounds really good.
(He was licking his lips at the prospect)

UNCLE DAVID DVD
Out: 4th December Peccadillo Pictures

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

Ashley Ryder runs a fetish night for what?
A) Boxing, B)Fencing, C)Wrestling.

Win This
Turn to page 78 for details



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

Which European porn star writes a regular blog for Bent?

Win This

Turn to page 78 for details

BOYS DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES

From the makers of *Shank* comes this fabulously quirky British comedy following a young gay couple who find one hell of a unique way to get themselves out of their mounting debt problems – internet porn! Seb and Aaron are sick of trying hard to make ends meet so they decide to get creative and take matters into their own hands, by turning their bedroom into a porn studio and selling their wares online to sex-hungry consumers. Ryan Houston chats to one of the directors; Christian Martin, about the creation of the film.

Where did the concept for 'Buffering' come from? Darren and I were both determined to do a light film after the heavy subject matter of 'RELEASE' and the violence and grittiness of 'SHANK', so we pondered what form that should take. It didn't take long to come around to discussing the phenomenon of guys selling their amateur sex videos on porn sites and this became the central premise around which we wrapped the story. Exhausting research of these sites and viewing of countless videos demonstrated that there are guys out there making a ton of cash from their own sexual exploits. It was fun to connect what their lives were - ie were they students, unemployed etc and from these imaginings (read

fantasy!) we quickly came to the idea of creating a gay couple who were in a similar situation. A couple who, like many, had overextended on credit cards, had fallen behind on their mortgage and like a lot of people had built a lifestyle on credit which when the credit crunch hit rapidly became a massive debt burden.

The idea of trying to make ends meet is realistic to many viewers, is that what you intended for the audience? Absolutely - all our films have a grounding in reality in some way or another and are intended to act as a record of life for gay people at the time they are made. We live in bizarre economic times and I live in a constant state of stress and pressure juggling the books to make ends meet, which definitely fed into the writing of the characters and the story.

How did you find making a serious issue into a comedy format? It's difficult that's for sure. Every script development session threatened to turn the film into a serious drama because of the underlying subject matter. It was with the invention of the Bernie Hodges role as the sex shop owner and the coming on board of the band Nancy who gave us songs up front to listen to as we were writing that we found ourselves able to steer clear

of an all out dramatic exploration and tell the story in an amusing way. Introduce a few dildos and the comedy writes itself!

Have you been pleased with the outcome of the film? It hasn't been an easy experience but the final outcome is very satisfying, it has heart and humour in equal measure. Audience reaction internationally has been extremely positive, which is great and it's done very well on the festival circuit (apart from here in the UK - but the least said about the failure by the BFI to support British films at the London & Lesbian & Gay film festival the better it is for my ulcer!) We recently went to a sell-out screening at the SHOUT festival in Birmingham and the audience were very positive in their response to it. It was certainly our most ambitious film to date in terms of production values etc - we had a studio this time to build sets in and that was a great experience to have more control. We had an amazing visual fx designer and a great team of cast and crew. We are very proud to have made three films in three years for the gay audience here in the UK.

Where do you hope this film will take you as a director? Back to drama! I really like the gritty dramas and being able to say something that makes a statement

about where we are and where we're going. I've just finished writing the sequel to 'SHANK' - called 'CAL'. In this script the summer riots, rising youth unemployment, the occupation movement etc provides a great setting into which I've dropped the lead character from 'SHANK' and with a fair wind we'll be shooting this winter. The recent success of films like 'The Weekend' demonstrate that a film with gay characters can transcend the gay audience and be seen by a wider audience and with 'CAL' the ambition is to most definitely cross that Rubicon. I promise it will be gritty, real, violent, sad and touching. The stark winter landscape will add to the style and content of the film and we're using a much higher spec camera with lenses that give a greater film quality. I've also just finished a short black comedy called 'CONTRACTED', which will hit the festival circuit next year and explores the behind the scenes machinations of a Hollywood actor's sexuality being covered up by his agent and publicist. There's plenty of observed characters and situations in this film, which will certainly get on the nerves of the Scientologists, if not some of the Hollywood crowd who should be able to identify with it!

**BUFFERING IS RELEASED:
5TH DECEMBER – TLA RELEASING**

Apollo 18



Officially, Apollo 17, launched December 17th, 1972 was the last manned mission to the moon. But a year later, in December of 1973, two American astronauts were sent on a secret mission to the moon funded by the US Department of Defense. What you are about to see is the actual footage which the astronauts captured on that mission. While NASA denies its authenticity, others say it's the real reason we've never gone back to the moon.

Out: 26th December – DVD & BluRay - Entertainment in Video

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

Who was the first man to walk on the moon?

The Drummond Will

A first time feature film, made with money raised independently by a group of talented up and comers, The Drummond Will is a twisted black British comedy that has been taking festivals around the globe by storm. The Drummond Will imagines what it would be like to be stuck in a world where the strange rules of Ealing cinema apply. A world where life continues quite as normal in the face of escalating body counts, where sleepy English villages invariably harbour any number of dark secrets, and where you only really know who the murderer is when everybody else has been killed.

Out Now – DVD & BluRay – Crabtree Films

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

Which Will had a hit record with Evergreen?



Glee: The Concert Movie

Experience Glee like never before when McKinley High students rock out on stage in Glee: The Concert Movie, with exclusive never-before-seen bonus material this DVD gives you the full front row experience and much more, all from the comfort of your living room!

Join members of the award-winning Glee cast for their 2011 live tour and sing along with some of the show's most memorable musical numbers including "I'm a Slave 4 U," "Raise Your Glass," "Teenage Dream," and "Lucky," as well as chart-topping original songs "Loser Like Me," "Hell to the No!" and "Get it Right," and of course, the show's anthem, "Don't Stop Believin'."

Out: 5th December – DVD & BluRay - Twentieth Century Fox Home Ents.

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

What is the name of the Glee music teacher?



THE HANGOVER – PART II

A strip club, a finger, a drug lord, a tattoo parlor and a monkey are the keys to solving the mystery of the missing wedding guest at the latest bachelor party. The boys from that first bachelor party have learned nothing as they travel to Thailand for another wedding. Things go dramatically wrong and a night of wild partying leaves the Wolfpack with no memory of the night before and no idea how to find the bride's missing brother. What happens in Vegas may stay in Vegas, but what happens in Bangkok can't even be imagined...

Out: 5th December – DVD & BluRay – Warner Home Video

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

Which World Heavyweight Boxing champion appeared in the first Hangover movie? A, Mike Tyson, B, Mohammed Ali, C, Lennox Lewis



Win These
Turn to page 78 for details

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FILM



Out 2nd December

The sequel to Happy Feet, the Academy Award-winning animated smash hit, Happy Feet Two returns audiences to the magnificent landscape of Antarctica this time in superb 3D. Mumble, The Master of Tap, has a problem because his tiny son, Erik, is choreo-phobic. Reluctant to dance, Erik runs away and encounters The Mighty Sven -

a penguin who can fly! Mumble has no hope of competing with this charismatic new role model. But things get worse when the world is shaken by powerful forces. Erik learns of his father's "guts and grit" as Mumble brings together the penguin nations and all manner of fabulous creatures - from tiny Krill to giant Elephant Seals - to

put things right. Happy Feet Two features the voices of Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Hank Azaria, Alecia Moore (Pink), Sofia Vergara, Anthony LaPaglia, Magda Szubanski and Hugo Weaving, with Brad Pitt and Matt Damon as the Krill.



Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol

Out 26th December

The new film in the series, which has grossed \$2 billion US dollars worldwide, will feature a new team: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Paula Patton and Simon Pegg. This is not just another mission. The IMF is shut down when it's implicated in a global terrorist bombing plot. Ghost Protocol is initiated and Ethan Hunt (Cruise) and his rogue new team (Jeremy Renner, Paula Patton and Simon Pegg) must go undercover to clear their organization's name. No help, no contact, off the grid. You have never seen a mission grittier and more intense than this.



New Year's Eve

Out 8th December

Pretty Woman and Valentine's Day director Garry Marshall has assembled a mega cast for New Year's Eve. Josh Duhamel, Katherine Heigl, Ashton Kutcher, Sarah Jessica Parker, Zac Efron, Michelle Pfeiffer, Halle Berry, Jessica Biel, Jon Bon Jovi, Abigail Breslin, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Robert De Niro and Hilary Swank star in this ensemble romantic comedy. The film celebrates love, hope, forgiveness, second chances and fresh starts, in the intertwining stories told amidst the pulse and promise of New York City on the most dazzling night of the year.



Hugo

Out 2nd December

Martin Scorsese leaves behind his violent action gangster movies to create his first film in 3D, a kid's movie. This adaptation of Brian Selznick's best-selling children's novel, centers on an orphaned boy (Butterfield) who secretly lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station and looks after the clocks. He gets caught up in a mystery adventure when he attempts to repair a mechanical man. The Aviator's John Logan provides the screenplay which stars Ben Kingsley, Sacha Baron Cohen, Jude Law, and Christopher Lee.



Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows

Sherlock Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.) has always been the smartest man in the room...until now. There is a new criminal mastermind at large - Professor Moriarty (Jared Harris) - and not only is he Holmes' intellectual equal, but his capacity for evil, coupled with a complete lack of conscience, may actually give him an advantage over the renowned detective. When the Crown Prince of Austria is found dead, the evidence, as construed by

Out 16th December

Inspector Lestrade (Eddie Marsan), points to suicide. But Sherlock Holmes deduces that the prince has been the victim of murder --a murder that is only one piece of a larger and much more portentous puzzle, designed by one Professor Moriarty. But the cunning Moriarty is always one step ahead as he spins a web of death and destruction - all part of a greater plan that, if he succeeds, will change the course of history.

+ The director of the final four Harry Potter, David Yates, did an amazing job with them and now he is set to bring Doctor Who to the big screen.

+ Casting for Quentin Tarantino's slave-turned-bounty hunter feature Django Unchained seems to be never ending, now Sacha Baron Cohen (Borat, Bruno) has joined the cast. The film centers on Django (Jamie Foxx), a freed slave who seeks to reunite with Broomhilda (Kerry Washington), his slave wife, a journey which will see him team up with Dr. King Schultz (Christoph Waltz), a German bounty hunter, to take down Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio), an evil plantation owner.

+ Eddie Murphy has stepped down to host next year's Oscars, and Billy Crystal will take his place, this will be the ninth time Crystal has hosted the show. Meanwhile, Ricky Gervais will host next years Golden Globes again.

+ Joel Edgerton (Animal Kingdom) has had a small coming out party as of late with starring roles in The Thing and in Warrior opposite Tom Hardy (The Dark Knight Rises). He will play an operative in Kathryn Bigelow's Kill Bin Laden and is currently filming the role of Tom Buchanan in Baz Luhrmann's The Great Gatsby. Now it looks like he has the lead in Noam Murro's 300: Battle of Artemisia, the sequel to Zack Snyder's 2007 breakout feature 300.



The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo

Based on Stieg Larsson's internationally best-selling novel, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is a murder mystery looking as far back as 40 years at the disappearance of Harriet Vanger, a scion of one of Sweden's wealthiest families. All these years later, her

Out 26th December

aged uncle continues to seek the truth. He hires Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig), a crusading journalist recently trapped by a libel conviction, to investigate. He is aided by the pierced and tattooed punk prodigy Lisbeth Salander. Together they tap into a vein of unfathomable iniquity and astonishing corruption.



The Artist

Hollywood 1927. Georges Valentin is a silent movie star who seems blessed: he is handsome, athletic and an excellent dancer. The arrival of the talkies causes Georges to fall into oblivion, alcohol and poverty. As for the young extra Peppy Miller, her star shoots to the heavens. The Artist is tender, touching and never makes the mistake of simply sending itself up. The performances from Dujardin and Bejo are tremendous,

Out 30th December

with great support from two bonafide Americans: James Cromwell as Valentin's loyal chauffeur, and John Goodman as the glowering producer. The happy ending had me on my feet cheering throughout the final credits. I can't wait to see it again. Also the favourite for Best Film at next year's Oscars.

Going gay at the Oktoberfest

by JD van Zyl



More than just the world's biggest mug-clunking, beer-swilling and sausage gobbling festival in the world – on the first Sunday of Munich's macho beer festival, the Oktoberfest turns a bright shade of pink when the Braurosl tent is filled to the rafters with 8,000 gay men. Most of them in scrumptiously tight-fitting lederhosen.

"In München steht ein Hofbräuhaus," the oompah band bellows from the stage in the middle of the beer tent. The thousands of guys around me, arms linked, beer mugs clutched tightly and swaying to the beat of course, join in: "Eins, zwei, g'suffa". Welcome to the Oktoberfest's Gay Sunday. It is barely noon, but we've been at the Braurosl tent for over two hours and I have already seen the bottom of three beer mugs, known locally as a "masskrüge". "How will I ever keep this up for another eight hours?" I think to myself. You see, not only do the Oktoberfest mugs hold a massive one litre of the special Oktoberfestbier – that's nearly two pints! – it also has a significantly higher alcohol content than what I am used to back home, measuring in at an impressive 6%.

Cause for a celebration

Contrary to its name, the world's largest folk festival actually kicks off in the middle of September and lasts until the first Sunday in October. In 2012 Munich's mayor will open the Oktoberfest for its 202nd anniversary in the traditional manner, by tapping the first keg using a wooden hammer and then shouting "O'zapft is!", as in "it is tapped". For the two weeks that follow the Theresienwiese fairground will be a riot of beer, singing, swaying, eating and oompah action as more than six million visitors flock here. During that time a staggering seven million litres of beer (that's nearly three Olympic swimming pools filled with the brew) will be gulped down and around 300,000 pork sausages guzzled. It's not for the faint hearted. The very first Oktoberfest took place when Bavarian crown prince Ludwig married princess Therese of

Saxony-Hildburghausen on 12th October 1810. As part of the celebrations Munich's residents were invited to join in the festivities, which were held just outside the city gates in the fields named Theresienwiese (Therese's fields) in the bride's honour. Officially the fields have kept their name, but the locals have since shortened it simply to "Wiesn". Although the fourteen local breweries' beer tents form the mainstay of the Oktoberfest, there is plenty more to keep visitors entertained – including death-defying roller coasters and rides (not recommended after you've had more than one mass beer, I can add on good personal authority), stalls mostly selling traditional German knickknacks and an agricultural fair.

Going at it the gay way

If you are anything like the 8,000 gay men surrounding me at that time, however, it is unlikely you will venture much further outside than the entrance to the Braurosl beer tent. The Bavarian brew is clearly a social lubricant of undisputed success. Take the tanned and handsome Swiss boy across the table from me, for example. Minutes ago he ripped the sleeves off his traditionally chequered shirt with his bare teeth to better exhibit his chiselled biceps. Or the two lads from Nuremberg near the entrance, both dressed in snug-fitting lederhosen, dancing shirtless on the table to the tune of Heidi. The Gay Sunday in the Braurosl tent is easily the biggest gay attraction in Munich after Pride, but

it is by no means the only one. Other events are scheduled for the two weeks that follow the opening of the festival. Most notable is the RoslMontag in the Braurosl tent and the Prosecco-Wiesn in the Frischer Vroni tent.

A breath of fresh air

Not sure you'll be able to maintain your momentum of indulging in Bavaria's finest? Keen on some solid R&R to nurse your mammoth hangover? Then look no further than "Berchtesgadener Land".



Situated one and a half hours from Munich near the Austrian border and bang in the heart of the Alps, this is as jaw-droppingly spectacular a destination as Europe can serve up. Especially the Königsee Lake is well deserving of a visit. Surrounded by towering Alpine peaks, the narrow fjord-like lake stretches for 8km into the narrow valley. If you have enough energy, consider hiring a rowing boat and heading out towards the picturesque Catholic pilgrim's church of St. Bartholomew – one of the most popular images on



in Germany after the Zugspitze and Hochwanner) and the surrounding Alpine landscape. If it is a luxuriously relaxing environment you're after, then this InterContinental resort won't disappoint. Especially highly recommended is its Mountain Spa – complete with outdoor heated rim-flow pool, which makes the most of the resort's stunning panorama.

How to get there

As Lufthansa's secondary traffic hub in Germany (after Frankfurt) Munich is extremely well connected from the UK through direct flights from London Heathrow, Birmingham and Manchester. The Star Alliance carrier flies seven times every day from London Heathrow direct to Munich, 19 times every

week from Manchester and 16 times every week from Birmingham. UK travellers recently voted Lufthansa their favourite short haul leisure airline in the Condé Nast Traveller Annual Readers' Travel Awards, awarding the airline top marks for punctuality, efficiency, service and staff.

Handy hints

For more information on Munich and the Oktoberfest visit Munich Tourism's official website (www.muenchen.de). The Rosa Wiesn website (www.rosawiesn.de), literally translating to "Pink Festival" is also a great source of information on all gay Oktoberfest events, though you'll have to brush up on your German first as it has no English translation.

Sightseeing

An excellent addition to any Munich trip is BMW Welt (if only for its cutting-edge architecture) and the neighbouring BMW Museum. Opened in 2007, BMW Welt is an opulent glass palace, showroom, cultural stop-over and playground for boys of all ages rolled into one. The ground floor is home to the company's latest cars and motorbikes to drool over, while the Technical and Design section helps you get a better understanding of the BMW products through interactive displays.

German postcards. Alternatively you can also hop onto one of the electric boats which depart from the village every 30 minutes.

There is much more to the Freistaat Bayern than just beer, but there can be no doubt that the Bavarians take their "liquid bread" very seriously indeed. If you needed anymore proof of that you'd simply have to take in your surrounds in the Lufthansa business class lounge.

Two years ago Lufthansa created a traditional beer garden in cooperation with Munich's Franziskaner brewery, where visitors can relax and admire the panoramic Alpine backdrop. This beer garden, which has been integrated in the refurbished Business Lounge in the Schengen departures area, comes complete with traditional beer tables, draught beer tapped from the barrel and Bavarian pretzels. Ask the waitress to skip the oompah CD forward to "In München steht ein Hofbräuhaus", have another beer and do your best to remember exactly what happened in the Bräurosl tent.

Where to stay Munich:

The Anna Hotel (www.annahotel.de) is perfectly located in the heart of central Munich, just 500m from the main train station and a short stroll from Munich's most famous sights like the Frauenkirche, Marienplatz and the bustling Viktualien market. As can be expected, accommodation availability is extremely limited during the Oktoberfest, but the Anna Hotel still has a few rooms available during the festival period.

Berchtesgadener Land: Situated some 3,281 feet above sea level, the InterContinental Berchtesgaden Resort boasts jaw-dropping views of Mount Watzmann (the third highest mountain

OKTOBERFEST LIFE-SAVER DICTIONARY TEN CRUCIAL WORDS TO HELP YOU GET BY ON THE WIESN

1. DIRNDL (N) = A TRADITIONAL BAVARIAN DRESS
2. HENDL (N) = ROAST CHICKEN
3. MASS (N) = ONE LITRE OF BEER
4. RADLER (N) = BEER SHANDY
5. BIESELN (V) = TAKING A LEAK
6. FLAPPE (N) = SLANG FOR CIGARETTE
7. BREZEL (N) = PREZEL, A GREAT ACCOMPANIMENT TO A MASS
8. SEKT (N) = SPARKLING WINE
9. I' MOG DI = I LIKE YOU
10. SCHNACKSELN (V) = SHAGGING



NEWQUAY NOOKIE!

Photo: Newquay PR team.



Who needs Hawaii? Adrian Gillan far prefers the gorgeous surfer boys wafted in by warm Gulf Stream winds all-year-round down in Cornwall's lovely, balmy Newquay!

It's a deceptively long trek down to, and then along, Cornwall's devastatingly beautiful peninsula, in the South West of England. But as your train chugs ever closer, the winds do get warmer, the boys hotter.

Newquay has long attracted an international, cosmopolitan mix of people seeking to combine the great invigorating oceanic outdoors with a party-'til-dawn nightlife, yet all still far from the madding crowd. So it should be no surprise that a broad-minded respect for outsiders and even the odd downright eccentric – not to mention hoards of droolsome surfer dudes – has also made the place somewhat of a gay mecca.

TO STAY

Stay at the dramatically perched 4-star Headland Hotel (Fistral Beach, Newquay; T: 01637 872211; www.headlandhotel.co.uk), in a landmark late-Victorian Grade II Listed building overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and Fistral Beach, and boasting two ace eateries, The Restaurant and The Terrace; plus two swimming pools – one indoor, one outdoor. You'll be constantly struck by the hotel's friendly professionalism and thoughtful attention to detail. Over the decades, it has attracted a string of royal visitors including King Edward VII, King Edward VIII, King George VI, Queen Alexandra and, most recently, HRH Prince Charles and HRH The Princess Royal. An RAF hospital during WW2, a fair number of, thankfully benign, ghostly visitors have also been reported! Larger families and groups might consider staying at one of The Headland's neighbouring cosy 'fishing village'-style cottages.

TO SEE, EAT & DO

Newquay is an all-year-round active place. There's all the boating, sailing, fishing, diving. Then there's all the cycling, walking, climbing; not to mention

the jet-biking, kiteboarding and kayaking. There are the various beaches – the smaller ones town-side, the mighty Fistral and Crantock just out west. And then, of course, there's all the surfing. All hubbed around numerous activity schools.

Based in The Carnmarth Hotel, near The Headland Hotel, Newquay Activity Centre (www.newquayactivitycentre.co.uk) offers surfing, bodyboarding and coasteering throughout the year – even pole dancing! Tuition is hot, not least if you get fetching South African surfer dude Sean, like me!

Other town attractions include the picturesque Old Harbour, still in use; sheltered Towan Beach; iconic 'Island' with its house linked to the mainland by a foot suspension bridge; Blue Reef Aquarium right on the front; Lighthouse Cinema; and Trenance Park & Gardens – home to Newquay Zoo.

Unwind after all your exertions at The Carnmarth C Bar & Terrace (www.carnmarth.com/carnmarth-newquay-bar-hotel.asp) boasting fine food and views, before completely indulging at the Fistral Spa (www.fistral-spa.co.uk) in The Bay Hotel on South Fistral, enjoying a swim, sauna and steam before one of their many treatments. Try a tailored aromatherapy massage – stimulating yet relaxing!

Still hungry? Nestled above the cliffs of Pentire Headland in west Newquay, Lewinnick Lodge (www.hospitalitycornwall.com/lewinicklodge) has vast sea views, a classy modern British menu majoring on fresh fish, and a cosy informal buzz. Or drop into Bodhi's Beach & Café Bistro (www.bodhisfistral.co.uk), a hideaway for locals, reached down steps from Esplanade Road on South Fistral Beach, dishing up fab creative food amidst yet more simply stunning views!

TO BOOZE & CRUISE

There are no gay-dedicated bars or clubs in Newquay at the moment, but ample gay-friendly fun at any of a big clutch of venues, all jostling for attentions, cheek-by-jowl, in the town centre just above the beaches. Notable bars include Red Lion for live music, Belushi's for DJs and Red Square for vodka shots! Main clubs include Bertie's – in fact, the largest club in Cornwall – plus Sailors and The Beach.

NEARBY: ST. IVES

You'd be daft to visit Newquay without making the short trek westwards along the spectacular North Cornwall coast to lovely, culture-brimming St. Ives. It's the amazing light heaped up by the sea that has long drawn artists to these rugged parts – including Turner, Whistler, Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Virginia Woolf; and the warmer winds that have nurtured all those sub-tropical palms and other plants. Reached by a pleasant train ride from Newquay, or nice bus route in summer months, apart from its stunning surfer-brimming Porthmeor Beach, lofty 'Island' peninsula with tiny chapel, hilly cobbled street warrens and film-set harbour, St. Ives also boasts two world-class arts attractions: the Tate St. Ives (www.tate.org.uk) and the Barbara Hepworth Sculpture Museum & Garden.

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Visit Newquay, plus wider Cornwall and the whole South West of England, by First Great Western trains. For routes, times, fares and bookings: www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES:

www.visitnewquay.org
www.visit-westcornwall.com
www.visitcornwall.com



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BACK TO BASICS

By William Clark

James Tudor is going back to basics with the launch of their new boot camp inspired athletic gear. The sophisticated tailored briefs, tanks and sweats are designed specifically for athletic frames – combining comfort with style to help men endure those arduous military style workouts. Fitness trainer Jeff Peel is the face of the new collection and he says all men can attain the physique of a Navy Seal without expensive equipment. All that’s required is hard work, sweat and the desire to want it.

Did our elementary gym teachers have it right instructing simple fitness techniques like tug-of-war and climbing rope?

Jeff Peel: They sure did. Those simple exercises work some of our most difficult muscle groups effectively and in a fun way.

How do you feel about the tread masters, elliptical machines, and rowers that people spend thousands of dollars on?

I don’t completely neglect the new gizmos and gadgets but I am a firm believer that our body is our best tool. At my gym you’ll see me swinging kettle bells, working on the TRX, doing dips, pull-ups and tons of push-ups.

How long should the average man run each week?

If you want a marathon-runners body - thin, slender and toned - you’ll want to spend your time on endurance and distance training. If you want a ripped body like an Olympic sprinter or NFL running back then ditch the treadmill and start running as fast as you can outside.

What should men pay attention to in order to prevent injury?

The best way to prevent injury is to make sure you have the right shoes. Just because they have tremendous support doesn’t mean you should be running long distances in them. Your shoe should reflect the style of running you do, whether it’s sprint, distance, treadmill or pavement.

How many push-ups should we do each day?

As many as you can! Give yourself a different number each day. You can start with 100 (10 sets of 10) and gradually increase over time. Or if you’re looking to have fun and take it to another level, roll three dice. Each die represents a digit; complete them before the days end.



Images courtesy: LaJock.com

Can you explain the perfect pushup?

The perfect push up creates a straight back, arms are shoulder-width apart and the tempo is 1 second up, 1 second down.

How important is stretching before your workout?

Stretching before you workout can actually be harmful! Dynamic movements will allow the muscle to perform better than static stretching. Think of your muscles as an elastic band. If you hold the band in a fully stretched position for a period of time you will lose the snap quality that helps build muscle and increase strength. The perfect time to stretch is right after a hot shower or after your workout.

How important is diet?

If you put cheap gas in a Ferrari you will cause the engine to work less effectively and you'll never get the full potential out of it. If your diet is bad then your results will be too.



Besides helping you look good, what does fitness do for you?

Fitness is an incredible outlet. It allows me to clear my mind of all the worries of work and life and lets me focus on myself for a couple hours. Working in the fitness industry makes it all the more important to be in the best shape possible. I am my own marketing.

In your case, you're also marketing James Tudor Athletic Wear. Do you have a favorite in the line?

I have absolutely fallen in love with the sweat pants and hoodies. That's my style, I don't like wearing jeans or getting too dressy. I'm a sweat pants and tank-top kind of guy.

Most sweat combos shouldn't leave the house.

What's awesome about James Tudor is it's comfortable enough to work out in, yet still looks damn good. They're perfect for showing off all your hard work.

www.jamestudor.co.uk/



Winterwonderland

If you're ready to slip and slide, move 'n' groove, bump 'n' grind - then join the European Ski Weekend in March 2012, when it returns to the hip, happy and heavenly hospitable resort of Alped'Huez, where both on and off the mountain will be bigger, better, bolder and brighter than ever before.

This season they are expecting over 1000 happy homos, gaydies and an assortment of their beloved and lovely chums for a spectacular week in this winter wonderland. All the accommodation, bars & parties within moments of each other on and around the Avenue des Jeux, the main street of Alpe d'Huez... making this the gayest ski village EVER in Europe.

Alpe d'Huez has an average of 300 days of sunshine every year (and is one of the sunniest ski resorts in Europe) you'll find being outdoors a wondrous way to enjoy your favourite sporting pleasures. Aside from the skiing, get FREE access to the fantastic municipal outdoor pool, Jacuzzi and sauna. For non-skier's there are special pedestrian lift passes available so you can still get to enjoy the fun in the sun and all the lift-accessible bars and restaurants.

And as the afternoon draws to a close, at the top of the village, on a south westerly facing terrace you can catch the last rays of the day at our Apres Ski Sundowner party which is as hot as any you'll find on the beaches of Mykonos or Ibiza.

For more info: www.egsw.eu





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At last Nottingham has a brand new luxurious modern sauna complex.

CS2 Sauna opened in July this year in Nottingham City Centre close to bars and clubs.

The spacious facilities are set on two floors. The ground floor has the changing room with secure lockers, which are big enough to get more than a pair of shoes in. Once changed and wearing a fluffy white towel you can have a very nice hot power-shower or a cold one for the brave. Moving along you come to a large bespoke steam room, a large Jacuzzi with mood lighting and a very big brand new 20-man sauna cabin which gets very Hot!

From there you walk up a grand staircase with blue led lighting.

On the second floor there is a very spacious cruising area with private rest rooms, cinema, and a maze. It's all lovely and warm with central heating throughout the building.

You can chill out in their modern TV lounge downstairs, which has leather seating, drinks and snacks are available from reception.

CS2 is open every day from midday and has a late night till midnight on Fridays. This is the second sauna complex opened by John and Joe who also own the very successful City Steam Sauna in Derby. This is now in its fourth year of trading.



There are plans for a third, but that's a secret for now.
For more details about CS2 or City Steam see their web sites.

www.cs2sauna.com www.citysteam.co.uk

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(See website for full details)

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SAUNA -MY FIRST TIME

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

My first time was in a sauna in London when I was 19 and it turned out a bit different to what I thought would happen. Even in the locker room as I was changing out of my clothes I was being cruised by a couple of older guys. Both looked pretty good and one patted my naked arse before I had chance to wrap a towel around myself. That touch was like an electric shock and my cock sprang to attention straight away. My two admirers were smiling as I turned to go into the main body of the place as my cock was so obviously poking out the front of the little towel I'd been given. I found a shower and hoped that the spray would help deaden my active cock a bit but, as I turned on the hot water I was joined by someone else. He was a guy in his 40s I guess and had an incredible hairy body, quite a bit of muscle and a cock harder and bigger than mine. I tried to ignore him and it but he was just holding it there for my inspection and he was very much my type. Having said that, I think any male with a hard cock was my type back then and his invite to appreciate what he was offering became impossible to refuse. He led me into a dark area (with loads of other things I could hear but not see going on) and pushed me to my knees. With some difficulty I managed to accommodate him in my mouth and slurped on his thick dong. His hips were bucking like a man possessed and, as he held my head, his dick pushed in deep. I gagged but he just pulled it out and slotted it back in again. Eventually I could take no more of it so pushed it away and got to my feet. He spun me around, held me against the wall and that is where and when I lost my virginity. It was dark, it was hot, it was urgent, it was quite painful but I loved it. I met up with him a few more times during that night and each time he taught me another way to take his dick. I never knew saunas were so educational.

Gary, Leicester



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

Sauna H2O

We have just had our first birthday and what a year it has been!

Every week is different and busier than the last... and it's all down to you!

In the New Year we will be trying to sort out a weekly drop-in session with MES-MAC who will do 1-hour HIV testing as well as the usual sexual health advice we already run. We also have a lot of exciting new things happening and changes to the sauna.

Don't forget to sign up to our text service; just text - h2osauna to 60777 to get our latest news and offers. Throughout December we will be sending lucky texts out where you can win prizes from a 2 night stay at REM Hotel in Manchester to VIP passes for up to 1 year. Why not come along and join us through the cold winter's night, in a relaxed, totally SAFE and friendly sauna. Take a soak in our Professional 12-man Jacuzzi and take a steam in one of the largest gay sauna steam



rooms in the UK. Then why not enjoy a hot session in the Swedish sauna cabin then jump straight under a cold shower to become refreshed! Or maybe... book a deep massage with our profession masseur. So what are you waiting for? Join Neil, Andrew and the lads to beat those winter blues! Hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year

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Theme Night STARTING SOON

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SERVICES ON OFFER <<

- Steam Room
- Finnish Sauna
- 10 Man Jacuzzi
- Cinema Room
- Private Cabins
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- Free** Wifi Cafe area

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in the middle
of the Gay
village, Under
Clone zone

CRUZ <<<

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- Slings Area
- Cabins



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• Friday to Sunday

24 hours

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ADVICE

DITCH THE LABEL. YOUR WORLD, PREJUDICE FREE

Ditch the Label is a not-for-profit launched initially as a 'MySpace.com' profile in 2006. The popularity of the campaign exploded and within weeks, the page had attracted over 15,000 fans and was soon to be awarded a 'MySpace Impact UK' award for its positive contribution to the platform and the community.

Many appraised the sheer reach and constructive potential that the campaign had. At 16, founder Liam Hackett became the first minor in the UK to receive a business grant to progress his activities. With the funding, the campaign was able to kick start a new website, blog and its very own social network. Still promoting the same, powerful message as ever: "Difference is inevitable. Difference

is positive. Difference is what makes you, you."

It is this message that forms the infrastructure of Ditch the Label. The campaign is essentially a resource for those from minority groups that feel vulnerable and alone due to discrimination and bullying both in school, the workplace and general life. Typically aimed towards 15-21 year olds, the campaign still attracts a wide demographic and operates a panel of older, more experienced advisors to respond to worries and questions in an agony aunt styled blog and also on hand across the social network.

www.Ditchthelabel.com

DECRIMINALISE HOMOSEXUALITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

More than 80 jurisdictions worldwide criminalise homosexuality 42 of the 54 Commonwealth countries criminalise homosexuality

The result is perpetuated violence, misery and individuals put beyond protection of the law. Punishment for homosexual conduct includes life imprisonment and the death penalty. All of this breaches international law and ordinary constitutional protections for dignity, privacy and equality

The Human Dignity Trust (HDT) is a new organisation created by leading human rights lawyers Jonathan Cooper OBE and Tim Otty QC. Its patrons include former Chief Justices and Attorneys General from around the world, as well as

a former Secretary General of the Commonwealth. It has a legal panel including some of the leading law firms in the world and the largest law firm in Africa. The HDT's mission is simple – working at the invitation of, and in partnership with, local organisations or individuals in countries where homosexuality is criminalised, the HDT provides legal expertise and support to assist in constitutional and international litigation aimed at achieving the decriminalisation of homosexuality.

www.humandignitytrust.org

BE HEARD

Do you want to improve your communication skills, including negotiating the sex you want? GMFA, the gay men's health charity, today announced the return of their popular workshop, 'Power Talking', which will be delivered by GMFA's CHAPS partners in 11 cities across the UK early next year. This two-day course will give you the skills to communicate with clarity and confidence. It will help you talk to people about all areas of your life, including your sex life. It will give you the power to ask for what you want and say 'no' to things that you don't want to do. Throughout February 2012, the 'Power Talking' course will be run by trainers from local gay charities and healthcare



services across England, including: The Terrence Higgins Trust, The Eddystone Trust, Healthy Gay Nottingham, The Lesbian and Gay Foundation, MESMAC North East, Healthy Gay Life, Yorkshire MESMAC, Trade, and GCHS.

The 'Power Talking' course takes place on two consecutive Saturdays from 10:30am to 5:30pm. BSL interpreters can be arranged prior to the course. The dates for 2012 are:

4th & 11th February – Bristol, Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham, Southampton
11th & 18th February – Brighton, London

18th & 25th February – Birmingham, Exeter, Leicester, Newcastle
The national 'Power Talking' course is funded by CHAPS.

To book a place, go to www.gmfa.org.uk national or call 020 7738 3712.

NEW STITESTING KIT AVAILABLE ONLINE

Lloydspharmacy has launched a new STI testing service designed specifically for gay and bisexual men. The launch of the Man2Man STI Test comes on the back of figures released earlier this summer by the UK Health Protection Agency (HPA), which show STI rates are on the increase for men who have sex with men (MSM).

Despite an overall decline in STIs diagnosed in England for the first time in 10 years, the HPA reported that gonorrhoea diagnoses in MSM increased by a third from 2009 to 2010 (3,379 to 4,503 diagnoses), chlamydia by 22 per cent from 4,084 to 4,975, and genital herpes by 19 per cent from 818 to 973.

The Man2Man STI testing kit is available on the Lloydspharmacy Online Doctor website in conjunction with the Millivres Prowler Group and includes a urine test for genital chlamydia and genital gonorrhoea, a rectal swab for chla-



mydia and gonorrhoea and a throat swab for gonorrhoea.

Once ordered the test pack will be delivered by first class post. Patients simply collect the samples and post them back to the Online Doctor laboratory in the pre-paid pre-addressed packaging. Test results are normally ready within two to three working days and will be completely confidential. Lloydspharmacy will not inform the user's GP or anyone of results unless specifically asked to do so. If patients test positive they will be given advice about the best treatment options available.

The testing kit costs £89.99 for more information, visit:

www.prowler.co.uk/doctor

NEW WEBSITE UNVEILED BY NAT

The website, www.HIVaware.org.uk, has been created by NAT in response to research that shows a lack of understanding among the British public about HIV and the site provides current and trustworthy information to address this.

It draws on the expertise of NAT's partner in the project, Durex, who has an ongoing commitment in the UK to improve sexual health and help raise awareness and understanding of HIV.

Ipsos MORI research commissioned by NAT earlier this year revealed that, overall, the general public's knowledge about HIV is declining, with people unsure of routes of transmission, how to protect themselves and the reality of HIV in the UK today.



Deborah Jack, Chief Executive of NAT, comments: 'It is extremely important for people to have access to current and trustworthy information so they know how to protect themselves and others from HIV infection. We also know there is a link between being aware of the facts and the attitude you hold towards people living with HIV, so this is also a way of breaking down stigma and prejudice. We asked Durex to help us with the website as they were able to bring so much to the partnership and we have worked successfully with them before. They have vast experience in consumer and digital campaigns on sexual health.' NAT and Durex are also working together to deliver an educational resource for healthcare professionals that will help them to communicate with the general public about HIV. It will be launched on World AIDS Day (1st December).

Oily Winter Warmer



Get 20% off at Maschio Throughout December when you book and quote Bent Magazine

Last month we brought you the Fabulous Maschio Makeover of Harry Shires, which we hope you enjoyed. To follow on from that we are going to zone in on a number of specialists treatments each month for you and explain how they are performed and the benefits they bring. This month we are treating you to a Winter Warmer, a Luxurious Hot Oil Full Body Massage. Do you get tired and aching muscles in the cold weather? Are you stressed and could do with a release? Or maybe you just like to indulge once in a while. Well if you answered yes to any of the questions above then this is the massage for you.

We invite a passerby in to our Salon in Leeds City Centre to try this luxury massage for free. Kristian Alexander, 22 Yr old club promoter from Leeds was the lucky guy out doing a spot of shopping. We sat Kristian down for a consultation for his massage and identified that he prefers a firm massage, as he does a lot of sports and he holds tension between his shoulders. Although Kristian has had massages before, we find out that he has never had a hot oil full body massage. After completing the consultation, one of our specialist therapists asks Kristian to undress, leaving on his underwear and to get comfortable on the massage bed.

Soft relaxing music is played and candles are lit to create a relaxing ambience. The therapist then starts the hot oil massage working on both legs, below the knee. Once the hot oil has been applied the therapist slightly warms the limbs before she does some light lower back and knee stretches. Both the lower legs are re-covered.

The Therapist then uncovers the left arm and warms the entire arm with the hot oil. Lymph drainage is then performed as this encourages

blood circulation and breaks down toxins in the body. She then works on the wrists and hands applying pressure points and stretches. This is repeated on the other arm and Kristian is wrapped back up under towels and a warm duvet.

The therapist then takes out Kristian's right leg, applying hot oil and works on loosening tight tired muscles. She applies lymph drainage and stretches to the ankles. The therapist follows this by covering Kristian once again and moves onto the left leg to mirror the actions taken on the right. Kristian is asked to turn over so she can work on his back. We know from the consultation that this is where Kristian holds a lot of tension. She starts manipulating the muscles and identifies a number of tight knots in his back which she applies pressure too, massaging firmly until the knots are loosened. She works across the neck and shoulders as well as the base of the back. The hot oil is applied to each area. The therapist works with Kristian to understand where the problems are in his back and helps to remove as many as she can within the session. She then finishes the treatment on the back of his legs.

The benefits of a hot oil massage:

- Increased circulation, especially to nerve endings
- Toning of the muscles and the whole physiology
- Calming for the nerves
- Lubrication of the joints
- Increased mental alertness
- Improved elimination of impurities from the body
- Softer, smoother skin
- Increased levels of stamina through the day
- Better, deeper sleep at night

To Celebrate Christmas we at Maschio Grooming are giving away 2 Free Hot Oil Full Body Massages to you lucky Bent Readers – just email your name, contact number and a reason why you should win it to comp@bent.com



Kristian's Verdict

The massage was so relaxing, I drifted off and almost forgot where I was for part of it. The work on my back was a little painful at first but afterwards I feel so loose and relaxed. I cant believe I got it for free, bonus! It was definitely better than a standard full body as the hot oil makes such a difference. I'll be definitely having one again.

All of the treatments mentioned above are available at Maschio Male Hair & Grooming, New Briggate, Leeds, LS1 6NU, 0113 242 0725. www.maschio-grooming.co.uk Facebook: Maschio Grooming

PREPARE FOR PRESSY BUYING FOR YOUR OTHER HALF

With Christmas just a few weeks away...

you'd better start thinking now of that special gift for that special someone in your life.

- 1) Do not throw the Argos catalogue at them and tell them to order what they want.
- 2) You really need to know what the other half likes. Make a mental note of what he eats, listens to, admires, smells like. Just because they agree with you about liking something –do not assume they actually do.
- 3) Do not think that because you like it... they will automatically think it is terrific as well.
- 4) To avoid last minute panics, make a shortlist of things they like and a price you can afford.
- 5) Online shopping is fraught with danger and that 'Guaranteed Christmas Delivery' is not always accurate... so shop early.
- 6) Decide whether your best approach is lots of small gifts or one biggie... again... make this decision asap.
- 7) If you do buy them something that is awful and needs to be returned, make sure you have the receipt or that the online business returns policy covers the time you've had it in your possession.
- 8) If possible get the shop to wrap it unless you are fantastic at doing this incredibly fiddly job yourself. Remember, make the wrapping classy, no one wants to receive something that looks like the fish and chip supper has just arrived (unless it is a fish and chip supper).
- 9) Decide how you want your partner to receive their gift; from under the tree, on the tray next to breakfast in bed, sat on your knee... you get the idea.
- 10) Do not get too upset if their present back to you isn't as expensive or as stylish as yours to them... you can make the guilt trip last well into the New Year.



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<http://shop.nirvanaspa.co.uk>



V For Vivacious

Those Greek experts in grooming, Korres, bring the V-factor to their new line of fragrances. Vanilla and Vetiver Root are the predominant notes in the Korres rare blends fragrances.

For discerning dykes and delicate drag queens, consider vanilla, freesia and lychee for an elegant floral fragrance with a seductive, oriental character in the all new Vanilla/Freesia/Lychee Eau de Toilette.

The brand's new fragrance for men, Vetiver Root/Green Tea/Cedarwood, is woody and aromatic. Taking a traditional masculine note and mixing it with luxury and the outdoors, the result is a sexy yet classy combination.

The two new fragrances, named as the pre-ancestors for their dominant notes, are part of the brand's ongoing effort to eliminate potential exposure to synthetics such as polycyclic-musk (PCM), nitro-musk and phthalates. Korres has opted for a fragrance that is free of these synthetic non-biodegradable compounds that are widely used as fragrance fixatives and are known to cause irritations and bioaccumulation; Korres developed instead a formula preserved with a natural food-grade antioxidant, Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary).

Korres' full fragrance line is available to buy online from HarveyNichols.com and HouseofFraser.co.uk.



GAY CONNECT

CHAT

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Connection!

By Les Lea

I'd been looking forward to our holiday in Cyprus for a few months and despite my partner's insistence on visiting all the Greek and Roman archaeological sites, thought I'd get a chance to just relax on the beach. Chris, my other half, loves all that historical stuff and in the past we've spent hours climbing over what to me are just piles of rubble, but to him they seem to unlock his imagination and knowledge. He'd regale me with historical info on battles, ancient culture, fables and mythology, which was all very 'interesting' but to me didn't beat laying out on a sandy beach and enjoying the current crop of guys frolicking at the water's edge. Call me shallow if you like but after working in my crappy job for months on end, I just want to relax when on holiday not have a history lesson. However, we are partners, so I join in and feign enthusiasm when needed and I'm sure he is equally bored as I nudge him for the umpteenth time to draw his attention to some hunk walking along the beach in a pair of shorts or sexy Speedos.

We were looking at this collection of ancient mosaics and I have to say I was impressed by the images and the colourful and clever way those old artisans had created a wonderful piece of art. As I took in more of the broken but otherwise well-preserved image in front of me, I noticed a scene where a near-naked slave was offering an amphora of wine to the master of the house. The well-dressed master seemed to be talking to other men of equal stature who were reclining eating and drinking but it was the slave who drew my attention. A shiver



of recognition suddenly ran through my body. I looked up to see where Chris was to tell him but he was chatting to some archaeological types about 50 yards away, not paying me much attention. Suddenly my body spasmed and my mind clouded over. I grabbed the wooden fence that surrounded the mosaic to steady myself but a shock ran up my arms and into my head. All of a sudden... I was that slave.

In that split second of connection it was I who was serving that drink. It was a naked me who was that 18 year-old slave wrapped only in a small yellow piece of cloth over my shoulder and tucked into a

loose piece of fabric wrapped around my waist. Other than that I was accessible to all and, as I replenished the cups of the master's friends, I was groped and man handled by these important and influential guests.

I was there. I could hear every word. I felt my nervousness and terror. I knew the pain and torment he was in... I was in... The master gave an order. I poured the wine. I was hot. It was hot. I was scared. I averted my eyes from the lascivious looks...

I hated being a slave but I could still feel the painful marks on my body where I had been punished for not knowing my place. In the short time since my master had bought me in the market I had to learn a new way of living. From the free man I had been before the Arab pirates had captured me, to just being an object for others to use, had been a very distressing and agonising experience. The pirates had used me on the journey across the seas. They had, by their actions, made me realise I was nothing but an animal as they continually used and abused my body. The physical contact hurt and repulsed me, this was not what my young body was made for but I was made to suffer these degrading assaults time after time. In the market place my pale, firm, naked body had fetched a high price for my captors and my new master licked his lips as I was added to his collection of male slaves.

On that first evening I was washed, cleaned and oiled and delivered scented and, apart from a crown of red flowers on my head, naked to the master's chamber. For what seemed an eternity he made me do unspeakable things to his body, while he did even worse to my own. If I was slow or tried to hold back in any way I was beaten and whipped until I did as I was told. The agony was terrible, the like of which I had never, in all my eighteen summers, had to suffer the like of before. The pirates had been threatening and demanding but this violence was vicious, intense and often undeserved. I soon learned to do as I was bid instantly... or suffer the consequences.

As I poured more wine into the senator's painted cup I could see the outline of his inflamed manhood pushing from beneath his robe. I had quickly come to know that look of desire in a man's eyes and I knew what to expect. My master was a generous man and offered his friends the use of his slaves if they were desired. The fat senator's hand travelled up my thigh and cupped my manhood. He squeezed and I let out a small involuntary yelp of pain. He smiled as he squeezed and fondled me more turning me around so he had access to my hindquarters. His hands slid into my cleft...

"Are you OK? You look as stony-eyed as these mosaics." It was Chris, standing next to me with his comforting hand on my bum as always. I was speechless. What could I say? Would he believe in such an experience... especially from me. Would he think I was ridiculing him or taking the piss? He looked down at the mosaic I'd been transfixed by and made a comment about the conversation he'd just had with the man I'd seen him talking to earlier. In fact, very little time had passed at all since my 'connection' but my entire body was still electrified by this mental encounter with my... past?



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Capricorn

(Dec22/Jan20)

It doesn't matter how calm and organised you try to be at this time of the year, holiday stress will still seem to creep up on you! You always find socialising stressful and when you're being expected to drop in on friends, attend parties and generally have a good time, eventually it will all start to wear you out! When you do feel weary it would be in your best interests to get away from your immediate surroundings. Capricorns who are heart free could meet the person of your dreams and all of a sudden your spirits will start to rise!

Aquarius

(Jan21/Feb19)

Your busy schedule over the weeks ahead combined with difficult relatives, all the preparations yet to be made and gifts yet to buy are likely to leave you feeling tense and stressed out. Socially you will be incredibly active and in fact your numerous activities could lead you to discovering a whole new circle of friends. With this comes a new sense of freedom! There will be moments, this Christmas, you won't ever want to forget and these will help you disregard the more stressful ones!

Pisces

(Feb20/Mar20)

Expect festive gatherings, family get togethers and other holiday activities to be a lot of fun but occasionally stressful too. If you are facing a cash flow crisis, some surprise assistance could come your way. There is someone you are starting to feel remarkably close to and when you're together, you will only have eyes for each other. Time spent alone with together will help you relax and appreciate the romantic side of Christmas. Single? Expect to be swept off your feet at a works festive party!

Aries

(Mar21/Apr20)

A little love and understanding will go a long way towards helping a younger member of your household feel happier and more secure. Keep an eye on how much you are spending over the weeks ahead before the economics of the holiday season start to overwhelm you! Events, this month, will take you too many places and not all journeys will have been anticipated. You should make the most of this by observing people and putting out a few hints to those you feel will be good to know in the future.

Taurus

(Apr21/May21)

Make it your intention to consider the most important affairs in your life over the weeks ahead. It will be easy to forget your priorities amid the fun, festivities and your eventful social calendar. It would also be a shame to devalue what you really feel by putting those things or people who mean most to you in the same pot as everyday occurrences. When it comes to work, your friendships and your romantic life, this Christmas is a time for you to sort out your true feelings.

Gemini

(May22/June21)

Asa Gemini you have a natural flair for picking up new activities and are often able to excel in many different areas. This will be exactly what is required of you over the weeks ahead. You may have to adopt a resourceful and flexible attitude to make work and other activities run smoothly. This does not

mean, of course, that disaster is following closely behind you throughout the month but you could be required to take charge of situations in which you will have to be on your toes!

Cancer

(June22/July23)

It shouldn't be too difficult to fit the additional festive events and activities of the weeks ahead, into your schedule. You don't want to miss out on any opportunity to connect with old friends and share time with loved ones. You have a wonderful sensitivity and charm that many people find attractive so don't hesitate to make a move on a newcomer who has just joined your social circle. Take a good look at your personal goals and objectives this month and you might realise that it's time to make them public.

Leo

(July24/Aug23)

Plan your partying over the festive season as too much of a good thing isn't always good for you. Creative projects will call for a team effort and it would be in your best interests to study the way others tackle the work. You should be able to pick up some useful tips and even some short cuts from your more experienced colleagues. You have incredible gifts that scream for recognition and this is your chance too, to let others learn from you. Your spirits are high and you anticipate this will be an exceptionally lively and sociable Christmas.

Virgo

(Aug24/Sept23)

You're ready to take stock of your overall situation, looking at where you are in life and considering making a few changes. Despite being more careful than usual in your spending, you and your loved ones are in perfect accord with one another. You can look forward to spending some special but fairly inexpensive evenings out together. If you're thinking of treating a loved one to a relaxing spa day this Christmas, there is no reason why you can't treat yourself as well!

Libra

(Sept24/Oct23)

What you're likely to enjoy most, this December, is the sense of community and celebration that's at the heart of both your professional and social festive gatherings. Christmas arrangements will go exactly according to plan and this will leave you with plenty time to enjoy some relaxed and harmonious occasions at home. Your partner will be in a very romantic frame of mind and this could be a rather special Christmas for you both. Single? Be wary of confiding in new acquaintances. True love waits for you in a far off location but not in the workplace.

Scorpio

(Oct24/Nov22)

Money will play a significant role in your life now when you could experience a number of twists in fate. More importantly you may be the recipient of a rather significant windfall, although this may have to be shared. Your partner will be encouraging you to put some of your creative ideas into operation. Enjoy a little festive flirtation if you're single. One person will stand out in a crowd and whether romance ensues it is up to you. Consider why you feel drawn to them. Do they possibly remind you of an old lover?

Sagittarius

(Nov23/Dec21)

A mood of creative and romantic inspiration will have a lot to do with the festive mood around you. You might welcome any chance to break away from your usual routines to get out and about. A new and stimulating interest could become a favourite hobby in the future. Before the end of the month take a look at areas of your life and relationships that could be improved. Make some plans or even better, do something about this right away. Whatever your intentions, remember: there's no time like the present! may even find new circumstances preferable.



Britney Spears 2/12

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 23/11 Zoë Ball | 7/12 Nicole Appleton |
| 24/11 Billy Connolly | 8/12 Kim Basinger |
| 25/11 Christina Applegate | 9/12 Donny Osmond |
| 26/11 Tina Turner | 10/12 Kenneth Branagh |
| 27/11 Gary Lucy | 11/12 Jermaine Jackson |
| 28/11 Anna Nicole Smith | 12/12 Frank Sinatra |
| 29/11 Ryan Giggs | 13/12 Sara Cox |
| 30/11 Lorraine Kelly | 14/12 Michael Owen |
| 1/12 Bette Midler | 15/12 Stuart Townsend |
| 2/12 Britney Spears | 16/12 Paul Van Dyk |
| 3/12 Adam Ant | 17/12 Milla Jovovich |
| 4/12 Jeff Bridges | 18/12 Brad Pitt |
| 5/12 Walt Disney | 19/12 Jake Gyllenhaal |
| 6/12 Ira Gershwin | 20/12 Uri Geller |
| | 21/12 Kiefer Sutherland |

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