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Junior Vasquez
Page 15



Limahl
Page 10



Dean Stocking
Page 20



bent

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A PRODUCT OF A SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE

EDITOR'S WORDS

Last month saw the biggest constitutional crisis ever to hit the UK since... well no one is quite sure. The sight of MPs rushing around, waving their chequebooks, in an effort to pay back the money they have stolen from British tax payers has been a revelation. "Oh it's the system," they bleat. "We don't get paid nearly enough so make it up by padding our accounts." No one in their position can use the excuse that it was an oversight. They have accountants and are MPs for Christsake, so if they overlook something that actually concerns them... what bigger matters have they decided to overlook? The degree of corruption has

been a revelation and even the most clean politician will have been tainted by the rest of the 'get-rich at the public expense' piggies. Come the General Election and quite a few of these dishonest MPs will get their comeuppance and the leaders themselves will not be exempt from the fury of a battered and

humiliated public. Now we know why Parliament was so slow to go after the bankers who led this country into bankruptcy... they were feeding at the other trough of no-accountability. In the words of Kenneth Williams in 'Carry On Cleo' "Infamy, Infamy... they've all got it in for me"... Yes, every MP is now under the close scrutiny of their constituents and woe betide anyone found with their hand in the till.

Meanwhile, what was would-be MP Peter Tatchell doing while all these prominent decision makers were sorting out their accounts? Why, he was in Moscow being arrested. He was part of a peaceful protest to ask the mayor of

that city to repeal its ban on a Gay Pride march. These protesters was arrested, while a bunch of counter-protesting right-wingers were left to throw items and chant obscenities. Despite Russia staging the campest music festival in the world, the Eurovision, it really hasn't come that far in looking after all its population. Peter is standing for the Green Party in the future election... if you are planning to vote, perhaps you should take into account his constant and unerring defence of everyone's civil rights. He appears to be at least one man not out to feather his own nest.

Hugs

Gordon

And finally...

Shawn visits his mate Dave who has a broken leg.

Dave says, "My feet are freezing mate, could you nip upstairs and get my slippers?"

"No bother," he says, and he runs upstairs and there, sat on their beds revising for college, are Dave's stunning 17 year-old twin sons.

"Hi boys" he says loosening his zip "Your dad has sent me up here to shag you both."

"Fuck off you liar!" the twins chorus.

"I'll prove it," says Shawn.

So he shouts down the stairs, "Both of them, Dave?"

"Of course, what's the use of fuckin' one?"



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LET HIM BREATHE

WHERE HAVE WE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE? WOULD-BE MODEL HAS A GO AT SINGING... FAILS! WELL, LET ME BE ONE OF THE FIRST TO SAY I DOUBT THIS WILL HAPPEN TO NEW AND OUT GAY PERFORMER BILLY DORTCH. HE HAS THE LOOKS AND, IF HIS FIRST SINGLE 'BREATHE' IS ANYTHING TO GO BY, HE HAS THE VOICE AND A PRETTY GOOD TUNE TO TAKE HIM TO THE TOP. BENT CAUGHT UP WITH HIM AS HE WRAPPED ON THE SET OF HIS FIRST MUSIC VIDEO.

You went to LA to pursue an acting and modelling lifestyle... was this just an idea or had you already taken to the boards or catwalk before the move?

I grew up in Sacramento, CA. It is about 6 hours drive north of Los Angeles. I knew from a very young age that I would be moving to LA for one reason or another. I think anyone that has a creative spark moves to LA or NY. I moved the day after I graduated High School. As far as the modelling, I was a cute kid, an awkward looking pre-teen, then when I was about 16 I started to grow into my face...haha. I was scouted by an agent on a family vacation of San Francisco.

How did you stumble into singing?

Stumble is a very good word! haha. I was always a shower singer, yet was never confident enough to sing in a serious setting. I actually got into singing when I was drinking at a karaoke bar, acting like I was in the shower, singing. I had some liquid courage, and a producer happened to be listening. I thought he was joking when he approached me to do a demo.

Is it a career change you are pleased with... and is the acting now on hold?

Yes, I would say so. I was living in LA for 5 years and the acting was very hard. Within less than a year with the music I already have my songs on iTunes, just shot my debut music video, and will embark on my European mini-tour this summer. I think the music just clicked, great timing, and knowing good people helps.

You say you are a gay and out singer, when did you decide to make the announcement?

The moment I really decided to take this career to the next level. I am not going around waving rainbow flags on stage. However, I think it is important to me to know who I am exactly. I also don't think there are enough out artists that are open from the start. They have to be outed. I would rather out myself. If I can tell my parents at 17 yrs old, I should be okay with my fans knowing.

Is being gay that important these days?

I look at it more like it is important for younger teens who may be gay or bi to have someone to look up too. When it comes down to it, sexuality should be a non-issue for anyone in public eye. Since it is, I may as well turn it into something positive. I would have loved to have a teen crush on a "pop star" who I knew was actually gay when I was a teen. It makes you feel less alienated

What's a good night out for Billy?

A few Margarita's with my friends... gossiping like little girls...haha. Or a bonfire on the beach drinking beer and cuddling with that special boy. I plan to do that many times this summer.

Do you have a guilty pleasure?

Yes!! I cant fall asleep without watching The Simpson's every night. It's some sort of sick disorder..haha. I also love date nights with myself watching "The Office" and eating a pint of ice cream.

Who would be your fantasy bedmate.?

Dolly Parton! Just so I can see them jiggle!!!! Then I can try on her wigs. Just kidding. I'll have to say the classic David Beckham answer always works. Those underwear ads are... great!

When are we going to see you in the UK?

I was hoping to come to London this year to perform at gay pride. I will be in Berlin performing gay pride there... maybe I will take a few days extra and explore London. I can use a good tour guide, Boys?

www.billydortch.com

10 THINGS...

DIFFICULT TO GIVE UP



1 Kinder Eggs (it's those little toys what does it)

2 Whining about your job

3 Eating a four finger KitKat in one go (also the same for a box of Krispy Kreme doughnuts)

facebook

4 Posting ridiculous claims about yourself on Facebook

5 Big Brother, X Factor, Britain's Got Talent



6 Just another little 'drinkie'

7 Pretending you're loaded

8 Chat rooms and porn sites

9 Lusting after that new young guy in accounts

10 Pretending you're in a relationship



If you put
your cock in
someone's arse
without a condom
you can get HIV.
Condoms protect.

WRAP IT UP.

BIG UP
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GMFA
the gay men's health charity

Registered charity no: 1076854

Big Up is the volunteer group at GMFA working to improve Black gay men's health. To volunteer for Big Up, or any other GMFA group, or to make a donation, visit www.gmfa.org.uk/supportgmfa or call 020 7738 6872. For more information on HIV, AIDS and safer sex, visit www.gmfa.org.uk or call THT Direct on 0845 122 1200



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Room Owner



SHANK

Uncompromising gritty gay Brit flick SHANK has won the Roger Walker-Dack Award for Emerging Talents in Queer Cinema. Directed by straight 21 year old newcomer Simon Pearce and Written and Produced by gay creative team Christian Martin and Darren Flaxstone. The film follows the life of teenage gang member, Cal (Wayne Virgo) who hustles for sex and deals drugs to get by. Hiding his secret sex life from fellow hoodlums Cal rescues a university student mid queer bashing and falls in love as their lives and worlds collide. Unique in its treatment of gang culture the unrelenting drama fuses sex and violence with a fast paced action which turns the whole coming-out genre refreshingly on it's head. The film takes no prisoners and the brutal and emotionally draining denouement to this sexy, violent and multi-layered story has electrified gay festival audiences worldwide. SHANK will get a small theatrical release in September before release on DVD by TLA in the autumn. www.shank-movie.co.uk



LET'S HERE IT FOR THE BOIS...

Nottingham Ball Bois FC won the GFSN gay national football league in convincing style, remaining undefeated in only their second season in the league. The Ballbois finished seven points clear of their closest rivals, and now look forward to defending their title as the league expands in 2009. Supporters and players interested in the club can contact info@nottinghamballbois.com or 07828 014952 or see nottinghamballbois.com

FRAMED JULIAN CLARY



Born in Clacton on Sea to parents Peter Clary, a policeman, and Brenda Clary, a probation officer Julian has become one of England's most controversial as well as most loved comedians.

He studied at Goldsmiths College in London where he, and his best friend Linda, had a series of cabaret shows dressed as two cleaning ladies called 'Glad & May', which of course had an injection of dry slightly racy wit.

He has a dog called 'Fanny the Wonder Dog'... genius. This is also slightly ironic as his first role was in a play called "I Was a Teenage Sausage Dog".

Clary's most controversial moment was live on pre-watershed national TV at an awards ceremony. As the stage had been dressed to look like Hampstead Heath, he took the camp angle and announced that he had in fact been out the back "fisting Norman Lamont". This caused absolute hilarity at the show but uproar in the press. It resulted in a long gap before Clary was allowed back on live television here in the UK.

The queen of double entendre - his tours have had such delightful titles as: The Mincing Machine, My Glittering passage, while his next tour, starting this year, is called, Lord of the Mince.

His first ever live show was as the wonderful, rubber-clad, camp superstar, The Joan Collins Fan Club.

He has been a pop star, even if it was in a fake band called Thinkman that didn't actually last.

Clary has now become an author. His wonderful autobiography 'A Young Man's Passage' followed by the tale of a serial killer in 'Murder Most Fab'. His latest 'The Devil in Disguise' apparently has a delightfully evil old lady in the starring role.

Before he became a big success on the comedy circuit Julian was actually a Singing Telegram. His Tarzan routine was apparently his most successful character. We wonder why?

He did do some of those early gigs in drag, until the costume was nicked from the back of his car!



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LAUNCHES MONDAY 1ST JUNE



NOT 'TOO SHY' ANYMORE

BACK IN 1983 THE BAND KAJAGOOGOO HAD A HUGE WORLD-WIDE HIT WITH THEIR FIRST SINGLE CALLED 'TOO SHY'.

It was never off the radio and the young 5-piece were destined for great things but shortly after this phenomenal success the band split. Now, 25 years later, the original five members - Limahl (Lead Vocals), Nick Beggs (Bass/Vocals), Steve Askew (Guitar/Vocals), Jez Strode (Drums) and Stuart Croxford Neale (Keyboards/Vocals) have reunited to tour the UK. Bent caught up with frontman Limahl to get the low-down on just what went on all those years ago.

OK, I suppose the main question is... at the peak of your success you left the band... why?

Hey hey - why not go straight for the jugular? I didn't leave, I was fired. Our first single went to Number 1 all over the world, which was fantastic... BUT we were all very young (I was 23), thrown in at the deep end and pressures led to fractures etc. However, the main problem was me not seeing eye-to-eye (pun intended) with the then manager, who was on old school chum of the band's, and they felt a loyalty to him when he suggested they get rid of the lead singer and go back to being a 4 piece. From the smugness of hindsight they can now see that was the WRONG decision - especially as he ended up ripping them off. No clichés there then eh?

You had solo success and the band had

some further success... are you going to combine the two careers on the new shows?

Absolutely. That's been part of the fun - incorporating both bodies of work and it also helps us heal the long rifts. Nick sings the girl part in 'Neverending Story', which is very worrying that his voice can get that high. I think he's secretly a sex change. Was a girl but now a man - well vaguely a man (laughs).

Did you find being 'the gay frontman' of such a popular band difficult?

VERY !! I didn't know how to handle it at all and no one was advising me. Politically I felt I was very much out of my depth and so just didn't address the issue. Besides my goal was always about achieving the role of a successful singer/songwriter - whereas, I think someone like Jimmy Somerville for example (who I greatly admire and respect as a musician/performer/gay rights campaigner) seemed to be driven by that agenda from the outset.

What have you been doing for the past 25 years... has it been difficult not being in the limelight?

Wow how do I edit 25 years into a paragraph? I've been on a journey called 'life' - experiencing all the usual stuff, love/heartache/ups/downs/twists/turns etc. It's been, and continues to be,

a challenge that is both fulfilling AND frustrating. Your 'limelight' question is VERY valid though because when the fame thing is over, as a person you are suddenly left wondering if you're now a failure. This is an important hurdle because the answer is an emphatic 'NO'. I simply asked/told myself this: I may never have another hit record; does that mean I'll be unhappy for the rest of my life? What waste that would be. The early success was great fun and certainly life-changing BUT it doesn't define who I am by any means. I'm just grateful that I experienced it - I wouldn't have missed it for the world. AND I also came through it OK, with my head/heart/body/soul still intact, which is a success in itself. When so many temptations are thrown at someone at such a young age, it could easily be the start of that slippery slope downwards.

Tell Bent about the new material.

The new material is our first new offerings as the original 5 piece in 27 years and we all felt that that was one of the most important things to do. It has also really helped the healing process by us getting down to the nitty-gritty creativity, which after all, is what brought us together all those years ago. The chemistry was interesting because now

we all bring to the table our individual influences of life/living PLUS we're all fairly experienced musicians now. The result is very satisfying and a real grown-up Kajagoogoo sound. We've tried to stay true to what the musical ethos of what Kajagoogoo was about, which is a combination of Nick's fun, Stuart's great keyboard/sequencers and Steve's guitar. In the early 80's, there were the early electronic pioneers like Depeche Mode, Human League, Soft Cell, then came the bands who blended all of that with guitar like, Duran, Spandau Ballet and Kajagoogoo. My voice is a bit like an old leather jacket, better when it's worn in a bit. We've just shot a video for one of the new tunes called 'Space Cadet' and in some of it I wore drag, which was really fun. There's a lyric in the song "I'm the Rocky Horror Show" so it was a perfect creative reason to put on the false eyelashes, lippy and red finger nails - honestly!! Actually, I make quite a pretty girl sweetie...

What type of stage show can the audience expect?

Energetic, only one slow track in the 90 min set. A touch of the old-school Kajagoogoo sound/style with some new naughty nuances. I think in a world of the Simon Cowell conveyor-



Switzerland Tourism
MySwitzerland.com



Geneva. Where
people meet.

MySwitzerland.com/gaylesbian
More than a festive fun city, a true shopper's paradise,
with prestigious and trendy boutiques for all tastes.



THIS IS GONNA SOUND A BIT GAY!

Forty-two years ago in Britain, homosexuality was still essentially illegal. Now nearly half a century since the 1967 Sexual Offences Act Britain's Gay community has achieved a level of social equality that is almost unrivalled in the rest of the world. Now virtual legal parity has been achieved, is a person's sexual orientation still an issue in the UK? Is your sexuality an identity in itself? Through a series of short documentary style features and Current's Graeme Smith we discover how gay identity is changing in modern Britain and in some parts of the world. On the way Graeme explores the history of sexuality, the process of coming out, whether homophobia is still a problem and takes a look at gay culture. He will also discover how people perceive him and how much his sexuality is linked to his own identity.

10pm - 2nd July - Current TV - Sky 183

belt pop - we might be a refreshing change - even if we are all approaching the big five zero. Fifty is the new 35 anyway! Seriously though - 'Too Shy' was almost a perfect pop record but I think people have always been a little suspicious of pop. Is it really them singing/playing or is it just the producer and backing vocalists doing it all and the band are just fronting it? But I can assure you, unlike Milli Vanilli, we DID sing/play (and write I might add) our songs/records.

Kajagoogoo... do you think it is a name for the noughties?

In the name stakes we were pretty much ahead of our time I think. The biggest search engine in the world is Google and there's something about saying the sound of 'oo' that people like. In music we all love a good 'Ooh ooh' (as in many great Motown hits) so in Kajagoogoo - you get to do it twice - how fab.

THE TOUR DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

September

17th	Liverpool - O2 Academy	08444 772000
28th	Glasgow - The Ferry	01698 360085
20th	Belfast - The Ulster Hall	02890 334455
23rd	Norwich - The Waterfront	01603 508050
24th	Sheffield - O2 Academy	08444 772000
25th	Wolverhampton - Robin 2	01902 401211
26th	Nottingham - Rescue Rooms	08713 100000
27th	Swansea - Sin City	01792 654226
30th	London - Islington Academy	08444 772000

October

1st	Southampton - The Brook	02380 555366
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www.kajagoogoo.com

WILL YOU BE THRILLED?

In recent years we've seen quite a lot of 'pop star' musicals. We have had Pet Shop Boy's 'Closer To Heaven', Abba's 'Mamma Mi', Take That's 'Never Forget', Queens 'We Will Rock You' the list goes on and on. Do we need another? Well Thriller is a musical journey through the Michael Jackson songbook and judging by how quickly the tickets went for his UK shows, the man still has some pulling power. So, what's the premise of the show? Well there isn't a phoney cheesy storyline for a start - instead what you have is a collection of great singers and fan-bloody-tastic dancers singing the hits of Jacko through the years. Some of the dance routines will have you gasping and whooping! No, you're right it shouldn't work... and yet even for those of you who aren't die hard fans, I defy you not to get up and sing along. You might even have a boogie, as the wonderful Maria Lawson and handsome, stunning and highly delicious Ben Forster, take you on a journey through Jackson's hits. We absolutely loved it... and we weren't even fans of the King of Pop!

Thriller - Live extends booking period by four months to Sunday January 3 2010 for more information and tickets visit www.thrillerlive.com



BY JASON GUY

THE RISE AND RISE OF GAYDAR RADIO

When you think about gay radio what springs to mind? Kenny Everett camping it up BBC Radio in the 80s and 90s? Radio 1's current drive time presenter Scott Mills? Possibly the recent gay character on The Archers? Personally (and for more than 2 million others worldwide) there's one clear choice. Gaydar Radio.

Back in 2000, just a year after the launch of their dating site, an idea was born. Why don't we provide music for our members while they date and cruise? And so Gaydar Radio took its first steps.

The initial proposal was for Ministry of Sound to provide the service, but due to costs, Gaydar decided to go it alone. So, in 2001 they launched as an internet only station. At first, the entire station was played off a single PC that sat on a table that was

propped up with a gay clubbing directory, according to the station's first director Jamie Crick.

It was an instant hit with gay men who loved the mixture of camp classics, house music and pop. Within a year the station became available through Sky Digital (Channel 0158). The year after, when rival gay station Purple Radio closed down, Gaydar Radio put in a request to the Radio Authority for Purple's frequency. Their request was successful, meaning they could now be heard loud and proud on DAB throughout London and the South Coast

It was around this time that the station's music policy had a major overhaul. While hosting the Street Party at Brighton Pride, the station's owners were watching the crowds. They found the crowd reactions to

the funky, uplifting house that was being played simply blew them away. So much so, that the following Monday the station's existing music policy was thrown out of the window. Camp classics like Steps and Gloria Gaynor were out and in came accessible, uplifting funky house (a la Freemasons et al).

It's the openness to change and it's constantly reviewed, ever tweaked music policy that has won the station it's legions of fans, both gay and straight. Over 330,000 people tune in every week in the UK, with another 2 million listening around the world "Reflecting what house music is doing is always a challenge" remark's Gary H, Gaydar Radio's Head of Music. "The scene moves at such speed...so striking that balance between familiarity and educating

listeners in new music is what keeps me on my toes." Gary's obviously perfect for the job and a quick peak at trophy cabinet shows the radio industry agrees. Best Radio Station at the 2006 BT Digital Music Awards; Digital Terrestrial Station of the Year at the 2007 Radio Oscars (Sony Radio Academy Awards); Station Of The Year in 2007 and 2008 at the Commercial Radio 'Arqiva' Awards. I could go on, but you get the picture.

What next for the station? "An increasing number of our listeners now prefer to stay at home at the weekend" adds Gary. "So while the weekday music remains funky, the weekends have historically been much tougher. Club Nation from 8pm to 7am Friday and Saturday is more representative of the London club scene. I created it to reflect the change in clubbing culture. It's a continuous mix of music, without chat and has had some amazing DJ guests such as Bodyrox, David Guetta & Tom (Superchumbo) Stephan as well as budding DJs looking for their first radio gig."

You can listen to Gaydar Radio at www.gaydarradio.com, on Sky Channel 0158 or on DAB around London and the South Coast.



gaydarradio.com



Gaydar Radio DJ Profile:
NEIL SEXTON AND DEBBIE RYAN
(Mon-Fri: 7am-11am)

Neil - It all started after he was born in the same place as Elton John. Failed the audition for QVC "I had to sell a pencil". Started his career on Radio in Blackpool "Oh the glamour" before becoming the first presenter on Gaydar Radio.

Random Fact - My boyfriend Jasper was the winner of Sky One's Project Catwalk.

Most likely to say on air: "Debbie... shut up!"

Current favourite track: Chris Lake - If You Knew

Debbie - Dragged up in super-straight Tunbridge Wells by her disco-loving mum & Gay Uncle David. Passport in pocket she jetted to New York, got thwacked by the sexiness of the city, then "the bloody visa expired!" Pommeland beckoned. Lost her tan but found Gaydar Radio, where she and Neil get to gossip with the likes of Grace Jones & Rupaul.

Random Fact - Her Auntie Isobel was Miss Aberdeen and asked to star in that Eau De Naff Joan Collins porn movie - The Bitch. "I'm so proud."

Most likely to say on air: "Would you like fish paste or corned beef in your baps?"

Current favourite track: Roisin Murphy - Overpowered



Gaydar Radio DJ Profile:
SIMON LE VANS
(Mon-Fri: 3pm-7pm)

Born in deepest, darkest Hampshire into a farming family, but soon realised his future was in music. I DJ'ed my first gig at the age of thirteen in the local youth club and was soon asked to play at friends parties. I moved to London at the end of the 80s to study Drama and English and eventually came out after a couple of false starts in the early 90s. He soon landed some gigs on the gay scene, working in the cabaret bars and big clubs in London including Heaven and The Fringe. Got my break on Gaydar Radio when Gary H invited him to meet the crew at one of their birthday parties and the rest, as they say is history!

Random Fact - I have a record and CD collection containing at least 15,000 tunes

Most likely to say on air: "Honestly I'm a big butch top... dear!"

Current favourite track: Michael Woods - Natural High



Gaydar Radio DJ Profile:
GARY H (HARRISON)
(Mon-Fri: 7pm-11pm / Sat: 7am-11am / Sun: 8pm-11pm)

Gary has been Head of Music and a presenter on Gaydar Radio for 3 years and has been instrumental in helping overhaul the station sound. The result is not only bigger audiences, but also a growing collection of industry gongs. His international DJ career spans more than 10 years and has taken in Trade, Lo Profile; Heaven, Sunday Sundae in Brighton, Federation, Crash, Substation and the recent London launch of Manchester's Recreation.

Random Fact - He quite fancied being a trolley dolly until he found out he was too tall. "I guess I just like lying on my back."

Most likely to say on air: "This track will blow your skirt up!"

Current favourite track: Deadmau5 - I Remember



Gaydar Radio DJ Profile:
STUART MILES
(Mon-Fri & Sun: 11am-3pm)

Best known for his time on BBC TV's Blue Peter, which he presented for 5 years in the late 90s alongside Tim Vincent, Richard Bacon and Katy Hill. He became the first civilian to take part in a Parachute Display with the RAF Falcons Display Team which he says is his butchest achievement...ever!! He also presents travel shows for ITV, has appeared alongside Richard and Judy on this morning, performed in drag at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival and can be found presenting a roundup of movie news for 'Film 24' on Sky TV.

Random Fact - On my last Blue Peter I produced a recipe called 'Stuarts Chocolate Ring!'

Most likely to say on air: "Sorry!"

Current favourite track: Lady Gaga - Poker Face (Jody Den Broeder Mix)

Find out more, download a mini-mix or subscribe to Mark's podcasts at www.markpicchiotti.com
His UK Management Team can be contacted via www.angel-artists.com

DJ / PRODUCER / REMIXER

MARK PICCHIOTTI

FLASHING A DISCOGRAPHY OF OVER 200 REMIXES; MARK PICCHIOTTI HAS TWIDDLED THE KNOBS FOR ALL THE TOP GIRLS (BEYONCÉ, SOLANGE, MARIAH, MADONNA, KYLIE)

AND BOYS (ENRIQUE, PET SHOP BOYS, THE HILLERS, AC/DC, NEW ORDER, ERASURE, JAMIROQUAI). HE'S DJ'D IN SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST RESPECTED CLUBS FROM CROBAR TO PACHA (THE ORIGINAL ONE IN PORTUGAL) AND EL DIVINO (IBIZA) AND HAS BEEN ASKED BY JANET JACKSON TO DJ AN ALBUM LAUNCH PARTY.

Mark's production career began back in 1991, when he produced the debut album for reclusive Chicago. Artist LaTour, which spawned the huge worldwide hit "People Are Still Having Sex". In 1998 he launched Blueplate Records which generated many huge club hits including Mark Picchiotti presents Basstoy "Runnin'". And now that BluePlate Records has become Blueplate Global (a joint venture with Strictly Rhythm), he's even busier than ever.

You've currently DJing on RuPaul's Drag Race Winner's Tour. This show has not been aired yet in the UK, can you describe it.

It's a reality show that's like a combination of Project Runway and America's next Top Model, but for drag queens. The idea was for RuPaul to pass the torch to "America's Next Superstar Drag Queen" with tasks like designing and constructing an outfit or doing a mock "Oprah-like" interview. RuPaul and a panel of celebrity judges watch as the contestants do runway and then they judge their task from that day. The bottom two finalists then "lip-synch for their lives." I was asked to DJ the tour around many nightclubs in the US because they wanted a DJ/Producer who has worked with artists at the "superstar" level. I'm currently in contract negotiations to produce the winner's debut single and album.

Has the tour visited many Gay Pride events?

Yes, I love doing Gay Pride events as I get to play a lot of signature Mark Picchiotti music: Uplifting, soulful vocal records and many of my own productions. So far the audiences have been fantastic and the reception is always overwhelming. I get the sense that the gay community in the US is more united than ever before, as we fight for our rights for equality and marriage. I'd love to play London Pride. I was there in 2004 and I've never seen so many people at a Pride event!

You've produced tracks for Kylie too. How did this come about? Any plans for you both to work together again?

When Kylie was signed to Parlophone/EMI in 1999, the head of the label was looking to bring her back to her dance/pop roots on her imminent "Fever" album. The songs had already been written and he came to me looking for a current and marketable sound that would make Kylie relevant again. I was given three to choose from and the one that jumped out to me was "Butterfly." I flew to LA where Kylie

was recording the album and we cut the vocal. I came back to Chicago and put my finishing touches on the track. I had a six month window to commission additional remixes, release the single, promote it and sell as many as I could in that timeframe. We moved 5000 white labels in the UK in the first week and sold over 15,000 double-12" vinyl sets. It definitely got a lot of buzz going for the upcoming album.

And now to future plans with your joint venture with Strictly Rhythm. What is the schedule looking like on the release front & will we see a big push in the UK with this label?

I have a lot of new music coming on the label. As homage to my humble beginnings, my first release is the re-released "I Believe" by The Absolute featuring Suzanne Palmer and is available now. The label will of course be home to many of my own releases including a new Basstoy single, called "Your Love is Magic" a new Absolute featuring Suzanne Palmer track entitled, "Love Reaction" as well as projects I've done with Inaya Day, Katherine Ellis, UK vocalist Peyton and as of today, 5 additional new Mark Picchiotti productions. We plan on aggressively promoting all Blueplate Global Releases in the UK. **How did you break into the US Circuit Party scene? I hear that's a very elite group?**

It is. And I have been working at it for years. The Circuit scene likes to stay with only a few DJs and use them over and over again. It's a blessing to those who are chosen and a tough road for those who are trying to break in. It takes a lot of phone calls and follow-ups to land the gigs. But having big club records and tons of remixes helps too. I am trying to plan a DJ tour in the UK too, but haven't quite gotten around to it as my US DJ schedule has been quite consuming. If any UK clubs are reading this, please feel free to contact me through my website or contact my management team.

Who party harder? The Chicagoans, New Yorkers or the Brits?

I'd have to say the Brits win hands down. We can party in the US but there must be something in the water over there that makes you all throw down the way you do.

Finally, what's on the horizon for Mark Picchiotti?
Hopefully a vacation! But in the meantime I have way too much to do...

REVIEW DANCE

BY JASON GUY

FORTHCOMING RELEASES

TRACK of the MONTH



◀ LONNIE GORDON - CATCH YOU BABY 2009 (FEVERPITCH)

This track makes me feel quite old - I can remember buying it on German import called Gonna Catch You, when I first started DJing 18 years ago. It's had its fair share of remixes over the years, but the 2009 pack is the best set so far. The stand out mix comes courtesy of Steve Pitron & Max Sanna - it's their unmistakable sound they do so well, from the tough charging beat, to the huge breakdowns, while our beloved New York diva screams "I'm gonna catch you baby". The Wide Boy's electro mix comes a close second. www.myspace.com/lonniegordon



◀ V.V. BROWN - SHARK IN THE WATER (ISLAND)

It's usually best not to read a press release for a track as they're usually full of what the label want you to believe. However, in this instance, being described as "infectious" is spot on. A quality electro track (Think Ercole or DJ Antoine) which is beautifully sung by VV. You'll be hearing this a lot over the summer, especially the awesome Wendel Kos mix. I can just see this being played in Ibiza all season. www.islandrecords.co.uk



◀ JAY C FT NATHAN THOMAS - MULTIPLY (GFAB)

Manchester based Jay C regularly DJs on the In Bed With Space and Space World Tours. This is a two-part milestone release that celebrates (and coincides with) the rebranding of the Gfab label. This latest offering is an uplifting slice of anthemic, electronic house which is set to smash the main rooms and terraces of Miami, Ibiza and beyond. I'd head straight for the tougher, big-room mix from Thomas Gold. www.myspace.com/gfabmusic



◀ THE ABSOLUTE FT SUZANNE PALMER - I BELIEVE 2009 MIXES (BLUEPLATE GLOBAL)

Originally released back in 1997, the record that redefined the Gospel house genre is back with some killer mixes. It's released on Mark Picchiotti's Blueplate Global label (see interview this month) who delivers a quality, funky-up chunked-up version really shows off the amazing vocals from Suzanne Palmer. I personally prefer the Ralph Rosario mixes, who turns in a darker and tougher mix than I'd usually associate with him, complete with hypnotizing synths very reminiscent of Peter Rauhofer. www.markpicchiotti.com



◀ OUT OF OFFICE VS THE ORIGINAL - I LUV U BABY (DIFFUSED)

Another rehash of an old track, but when they're done as well as this remix of the 90s classic from Out of Office, it's actually as pleasure to play again. Michael Woods is on a roll right now, with his infectious blend of tough beats and stabs cutting the original up (pun intended) while keeping the infamous piano breakdown. Dabruck & Klein also turn in a tougher, dirtier mix perfect for the less commercial floors.

www.myspace.com/outofficemusic

ALBUM of the MONTH



► PAUL VAN DYK

Volume – The Best Of

Out: 15th June

Grammy-nominated artist DJ, label owner and global megastar Paul van Dyk needs little introduction. Dominating electronic music charts and appearing at the pinnacle of Top DJ lists the world over, van Dyk is one of the biggest icons in the electronic scene. Now delivering Volume, this best of album celebrates Paul van Dyk's musical career and also features exclusive new material and some very special remixes. Volume

encompasses track selections from his massive 15-year catalogue and includes classic cuts from his studio albums, including the Grammy-nominated Reflections (2003) and In Between (2007).

► ALI CAMPBELL

Flying High

Out: 22nd June

Following the worldwide success of 2007's Running Free, June sees the release of Ali Campbell's much anticipated third solo album Flying High, his first to be recorded since splitting from UB40. Ali has one of the UK's most distinctive and recognisable voices and as lead singer with the world-renowned group UB40, he has sold over 60 million records worldwide, toured across the globe, notched up four number No. 1 world-wide singles, over forty Top 40 UK singles, released 24 studio albums and received an Ivor Novello Award for International Achievement. So this is going to be huge!



► ONE ESKIMO

All Balloons

Out: 22nd June

Not a name I'm familiar with but this 4-piece has produced a cutesie, beautiful and heartbreaking vocally led album. The concept behind the band is to meld music with other creative and artistic mediums... so there's animation version of the album to be sought out. The animation for their single 'Hometime' has already picked up a 2008 British Animation award and once this 10 track album is out there... I'm sure it will also garner a few for itself. Produced by Rollo (Faithless) the story of eskimO and his band – the giraffe, monkey and penguin will keep you mesmerised.



► CINNAMON CHASERS

A Million Miles From Home

Out: 16th June

This is really just the work of one person, Russ Davies (son of Dave Davies of 60's fave The Kinks), and is an airy-fairy delight of wistful melodies driven by a score that would do Giorgio Moroder proud. Russ says he wanted to create music that "has a honest heart and feels good". I think he has achieved that in spades with this perfect piece of night-time, relaxing and atmospheric pop.



SINGLE of the MONTH



► KRIS MENACE

Metropolis

Out: 1st June

'Metropolis' follows the hugely popular 'Scaler' that had everyone from Soulwax and Erol Alkan through to Style Of Eye and A-Trak claiming it was one of their biggest tunes. 'Metropolis' however is no simple club track. Inspired by Kris delving into his back catalogue to compile his album he decided to create a track that encapsulated the joy and energy he felt when he first discovered house music. With a sense of drama and melody few producers can match, Metropolis is pure class.

► SANDER VAN DOORN

Spaceman

Out: 15th June

Hot on the heels of his A-list collaboration with Robbie Williams, Sander van Doorn delivers his latest project, two remixes of multi million selling and multi award winning band The Killers' new single, 'Spaceman'. Taken from their No.1 album Day & Age, the follow up to the album's massive first single 'Human', 'Spaceman' gets its release ahead of the band's biggest UK arena tour to date.

Part 1 takes a more euphoric approach and is guaranteed to get those hands in the air, whereas Part 2 takes things to the darkside, delivering the driving Sander van Doorn sound that we've all become accustomed to.



► CHASING LIZ

Gravity Girl

Out: 29th June

This has a very airy, summery sound that is pure pop but with a haunting memorable refrain. Nicely floating vocoder style vocals carry this rather pleasant piece of harmonic styling which, if the radio stations get behind, could be the hit of 2009. It is just packed with all the right sounds and arrangements so... I musician led, rather than fad led band that I hope we're going to hear from more.



► MILKE

Maybe I'm Crazy

Out: 29th June

Bent introduced MILKE to its readers back in April in our BUZZ feature. Since then they have won more accolades and converts to their synth pop expert musical outings. Proving themselves in live and recording situations, the duo has developed a really keen and individual style that sets 'Maybe I'm Crazy' well apart from much of the chart dross around at the moment.



GENERATION V

JUNIOR VASQUEZ DEFINES NEXT GENERATION OF HOUSE MUSIC

By Gregory T. Angelo



"I've been at the top of my game for years," asserts the legendary DJ who has recently released his first continuous compilation in three years: Generation Next. "House music has changed a lot since my days spinning at Sound Factory and Twilo and I pride myself on always having been able to stay one step ahead of the curve. I see what gets the crowds going at my New York parties and on the dance floors at the mega-clubs I've been playing around the world lately and I just harness that energy in an album."

Generation Next is a relentless 14-track compilation that pulls listeners in from the first beat to the last.

"Generation Next embodies everything great about Junior Vasquez," says Silver Label's Victor Lee, the producer who encouraged Junior back into the studio. "We're always looking for the new sounds and cutting-edge producers. With Generation Next, you get both—delivered by one of the best DJs in the business."

Featuring two new Vasquez studio stormers (the groovy progressive jam "I Love Music" and the brash, gospel-infused vocals of songstress Maxi J. on the big-room blaster "Insecurities"), Generation Next adds a bold exclamation point to the litany of legendary tracks the DJ has produced over the course of his decades in the business. It's a dark, sexy and uncompromising dose of high-energy house that emphasizes Vasquez's relevance and enduring ability to create the choicest cuts in the genre today.

Junior Vasquez is credited with inventing the full package of DJ as Brand, Image, Personality, and Superstar. "I'm the definition of the 'rock star life,'" he says of his globe-spanning, revolutionary career.

He admits his wild ways have caused him to burn a lot of bridges along the way, including a very public feud with once close pal, Madonna.

"That one will haunt me for the rest of my life," says Junior about the infamous track "If Madonna Calls," a mix that layered a personal answering machine message from the Material Girl over a hard tribal beat. Once Madonna learned of the track, she cut off all ties with the DJ. "I was stupid," admits Junior. "I thought I was being clever."

But even Madonna might appreciate the brave and bold approach Junior has implemented to reinvent his sound and image throughout the years. "I like being controversial," he says. "I won't stop that. I'll keep doing whatever I can get away with. Because if you don't cross boundaries, you don't get attention."

Especially these days, when the current depressed climate of the music industry makes it harder than ever for dance artists to get attention.

"Today, there are fewer and fewer places to go to hear great house music in the United States," says Lee. "But the audience for house music is still out there—in fact, there's a whole new generation of fans of the genre who never got to experience the decadence of Junior Vasquez's days spinning Arena or the eclectic crowd that packed The Tunnel week after week. Generation Next is especially for them. It takes Junior's sound from the big-room to the living-room with all the drama and intensity you'd get from him in a live set."

Decidedly forward-looking in its sound, Generation Next showcases fresh cuts from some of the hottest up-and-coming spinners working the decks today: Nick Harvey, Rubin Vega, Twisted Dee, DeMarkol, and Bimbo Jones are but three of the young talents who add their progressive perspective to the compilation's massive BPM-barrage.

"I'm at a point in my life where I'm comfortable in my career and happy to share the spotlight with the next

generation of DJs who are inspired by me," Vasquez says. "They're the ones who will ultimately carry on my legacy."

"Of course, I don't plan on leaving this scene anytime soon," Vasquez smiles. "I'm still having too much fun."

Junior Vasquez: Generation Next (Tommy Boy Silver Label) is available now, on iTunes, Beatport and Masterbeat.

Visit tommyboy.com for more info.

PEP

Post Exposure Prophylaxis

HOURS MINUTES SECONDS
-72:00:00

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

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

On occasion people do experience side effects.

PEP is not a cure for HIV.

There is no guarantee that it will prevent HIV transmission.

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

Yorkshire MESMAC:
0113 2444 209

The Brunswick Centre:
01422 341 764



SOHO GAY TOUR

With over fifty gay venues in London's Soho, it was only a matter of time before some genius thought a tour of the world famous gay zone was in order.

Throughout summer, London's Buddy Map, are hosting group tours on Thursday evenings. The 2-hour long Gay Soho Walking Tour is a perfect introduction to the gay scene of the capital.

Find out when gays first started taking over the area, why gay flags are not allowed, where Oscar Wilde use to drink and discover the best place for an English pint and where to watch drag shows.

Organiser Chris Amos from Buddy Map reveals his inspiration for setting up the weekly tour, "Bar tenders tell me gay tourists are always asking for directions. London is the most popular gay travel destination in the world and Soho is its heart. The gay scene here is unique in that it caters for many different types of gay people and I will show visitors Soho in all its wonderful diverse glory."

For more information visit www.gaybuddylondon.com

**Terrence
HIGGINS
TRUST**



SHARING EXPERIENCES ONLINE

Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) is looking for gay men living with HIV to share their experiences online on its 'What next?' website, www.tht.org.uk/whatnext which provides information and support specifically for newly diagnosed gay men.

Part of the website is written from the perspective of men already living with HIV and includes diaries describing their personal experiences and offering tips and advice. THT hopes to find more men willing to contribute to this section.

Anyone who is interested can come forward and the aim is to get a diverse range of men with varying experiences and backgrounds. At the moment, THT is particularly looking for Latin American men and men from black and minority ethnic communities. Ideally contributors would be able to provide a diary of about 500 words once a month. They would also have to be comfortable being pictured on the website.

People who are interested in contributing to the website should contact Stephen Adair on 020 7812 1783 or email stephen.adair@tht.org.uk



SUDDENLY SANDRA

SANDRA BERNHARD IS A GAY ICON. FROM HER DAYS AS 'NANCY' IN ROSEANNE TO HER CABARET, BURLESQUE, SOCIAL COMMENTARY AND ROCK 'N' ROLL... SHOWS, HER FRIENDSHIP WITH MADONNA, HER CONTROVERSY... WE COULD IDENTIFY WITH HER AND SHE MADE US LAUGH. NOW SHE BRINGS HER CULT SHOW 'WITHOUT YOU I AM NOTHING' BACK TO THE UK AND WE SENT SIMON SAVIDGE TO CATCH UP WITH HER.



You're bringing 'Without You I Am Nothing' back for an anniversary show, I wondered what made you want to bring that specific show back as it wasn't your first show....

It was genuinely by demand from my fans. I guess when you do something that is, for some people, a kind of cultural signpost they want you to do it again. I am not the kind of performer who generally, in the course of a new show, pulls out old material so I hadn't done any of it since. The fact it falls on its 20th anniversary seems quite special too.

Is it nerve-racking bringing it back after the success it had, it was a seminal piece?

Nerve-racking ... erm not so much... though I do get nervous before every show, which people don't tend to think I would, but really I do. I have added a few bits and changed the sounds of some of the song to make them slightly more up to date but really the whole thing hadn't aged. I have... the show hasn't, which is quite unfair (laughs).

Was it quite nostalgic?

Definitely. As the show was pieces from my life... things I have been through and experienced. It was nice to return to what felt like a friend I hadn't seen for a long time and catching up.

It does seem a nostalgic time with people looking back at the eighties in real fondness. If Roseanne was to come back would you do it?

Oh sure without a thought. I don't think it would come back, not because we wouldn't all do it, I am sure we would. I don't think it would happen because networks need to have control and won't let artists like Roseanne be the boss anymore, which is sad. There seem to be less true stars on TV now.

Is it exciting to be back in the UK?

You know any excuse to come to the UK and I am excited (laughs) it sounds really false when people say "I love the UK" but I honestly do. I love London and I get inspired by Europe in general. I can't wait to see my gay audience... without you I am nothing (laughs). That was quite dramatic wasn't it?

You have a huge gay fanbase...

I should hope so. I think I speak out which helps. I am not afraid to say what I think, I get irony and I am open to everyone. I guess I am quite campy and can be quite emotional and over the top and people like that.

You write, you sing, you act and perform, if you had to choose one of those which would it be?

Oh my god! That would be impossible. I don't think I could choose. I think all of them really interlink. I started performing and making people laugh when I was about five, from then so I see

it as a gift. I love the fact strangers want me to make them laugh. You know, even when I am buying a sandwich and I love that and will always try and make folk laugh. I like to oblige my public (laughs) if I can make you laugh... I'm there.

You have always been quite tough on 'fame' in your shows but what are the perks of it... after all you are famous?

You know I look back on the shows where I would slate fame and think 'but at least back then people had gotten where they were with talent... or some talent'. I want people to do it the old school way like Pink... she has worked so, so hard and is genuinely talented... that's how it should be. Sadly, now anyone can be famous for the most banal reasons and everyone can have their fifteen minutes of fame, which sometimes is fifteen minutes too long (laughs) but now it's about hype not longevity. My favourite thing about fame is genuinely meeting people, the other side is being quite political... I can say things that get the right causes noticed, that's great.

We mentioned Roseanne earlier, do you ever get annoyed by people asking that, like I did, or asking about your friendship with Madonna?

That's a very clever way of asking me isn't it (laughs)... I love you gays. I don't mind as much about Roseanne because she employed me and because it was an amazing show. Also, I am still very good friends with her so, in that way, it's a relevant subject and relationship. I guess the thing that bothers me about Madonna is ultimately it was a period in time and I don't get why people find it so fascinating so many years later. I find that more interesting than talking about her. There is no light I can really shed on her.

I think people are just fascinated as to who she really is and the whirlwind that she creates in a way...

Yeah I know... but I think they should look at how few friendships she keeps in her life and see that (laughs) that's not actually something to aspire to. I am so lucky with the friends that I have. I do have some 'celebrity' friends but I also have friends who are real people... you know we could become great friends. I try and have friends who keep me grounded, she doesn't do that and I find that quite sad and weird.

Does it ever annoy you that you are labelled 'controversial'?

Honey when they stop saying that, that is when I am gonna get irritated (laughs). I think being truly controversial, not any of this superficial way just for the sake of it or for selling yourself, is really important. If I am not doing that... I am not doing my job properly.

Photo courtesy: William Baker

ACT ART

ACT ART 7

Delightfully sub-titled 'Children of the Damned' this art group is run by artists for artists and people interested in art. It aims to create an event that celebrates difference within artistic practices, supports cross-discipline ways of working and offers a safe environment to exhibit work in all disciplines, including live art, performance, video, installation, 2D and 3D work. With a particular emphasis on works that are experimental, radical, challenging, confrontational and non-mainstream. ACT ART aims to show work by artists that work on the edge of the art world, where the boundaries between art and alternative scenes come together. If this sounds like something you'd like to be involved with, then the deadline for proposals is 1st July.

For further details visit www.actart.co.uk

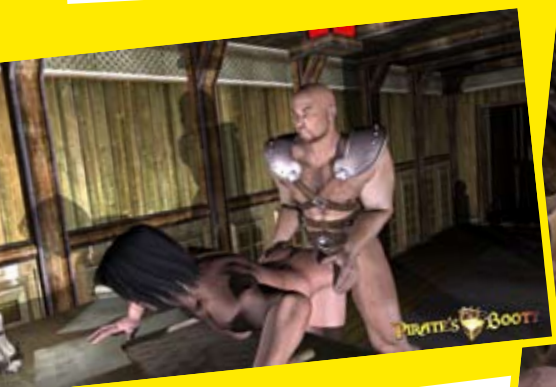
PIRATE'S BOOTY

SYNOPSIS

Adult Source Media presents its first full-length, fantasy-based gay adult CGI movie. Featuring the most realistic looking characters short of live actors, the action has to be seen to be believed.

Come sail away with Captain Jack Swallows and his crew as they set sail on the rough seas and encounter even rougher hardcore sex along the way! Throw in a spirit who possesses each crew member and releases the inner 'plunderer' in them and you've got the makings for a raunchy good time.

www.piratesbootyxxx.com and
www.adultsourcemedia.com



THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

The yearly comic confluence returns to Scotland's capital city with a huge bill of top funny men and women. Fitting in all the shows can be a problem but that shouldn't stop you at least checking out a few of the superb acts that await your applause (or not depending on what mood you're in).



The Godfathers of alternative cabaret movement, The Tiger Lillies, return to Edinburgh with a show celebrating 20 years of their dark and deviant theatrics. For the first time in years, they will perform the songs from their Olivier award-winning smash 'Shockheaded Peter', along with a selection of numbers from their Grammy nominated album 'The Gorey End' and other deranged fan favourites. Tiger Lillies founder Martyn Jacques on vocals and accordion spent much of his early years living in a Soho brothel alongside pimps, prostitutes and drug addicts. Their co-founder is drummer, 'toys' and percussionist is James Joyce, a former butcher, cycle and pie shop worker. The trio's final member is Adrian Stout on contra bass, musical saw and vocals, who joined the band in 1995, a once serious musician who has since found himself dancing in leder hosen and making love to inflatable sheep.

There's also a chance to see Bourgeois & Maurice - Making the Edinburgh debut they are a cabaret show like no other. Featuring biting funny songs and extraordinary film footage along with a veritable sweatshop of costume changes this is a show not to be missed.

The Festival runs from 7th - 31st August - for info www.edfringe.com



Photo: Chrisgeary.com

COMING OUT ON TV

This year's London Pride parade takes place on Saturday July 4th 2009 - with the theme "Come out to play". HOMOVISION.TV is working with Pride to produce a number of short videos about people's coming out stories, some of which will be shown on the main stage in Trafalgar Square.

So if you've got a coming out story to tell - whether it's a horror-hell story, comedy knockers or simply inspirational - and want to be part of this project, let us know. We're looking to get stories from a cross-section of the community - guys, girls, bi's, tranz, whatever. You never know - you're story could help to make a difference for someone out there who's yet to catch the different bus. So if you've got a story to tell, or know someone who'd be great for the video, let us know as soon as possible. You can also record yourself telling own coming out story, and send it in to us.

For more info visit www.homovision.tv/pride.

RYAN JAGGER

Last year we Bent brought to your attention a new singer from Lincolnshire who was being compared with Justin Timberlake. Now Ryan Jagger has changed his musical style and influence to a more club-sounding, old skool dance vibe - which he feels suits him better. In the process he's also teamed up with an edgy photographer who has taken some pretty cool shots of the lad's hot bod (more of which can be seen on his website). Ryan says he is pleased to be a gay artist and loves the gay following he's created. He has a new single out 'Star Sign' and is looking forward to performing at Swansea, Belfast, Lincoln & Manchester Pride.

www.MySpace.com/RyanOfficial



WALKING PROUD

The Lesbian and Gay Foundation host the second Walk Against Homophobia. The walk will take place on Saturday 13th June and starts and finishes in Sackville Gardens, and will be a 5k walk around the city centre of Manchester.

The main purposes of this event are to stand up to homophobia and raise funds for lesbian, gay and bisexual causes. This year, participants can register for the 5k walk in advance. Registration is just £5 - which will go towards raising money to fund the LGF's vital services for lesbian, gay and bisexual people across the North West - and participants will also be raising money through sponsorship. The walk is not a race and there will be no pressure to finish in a certain time, so anyone can take part.

www.lgf.org.uk

SEXY... SURREAL... STOCKINGS!

SPURRED ON BY RECEIVING AN ADVENTURE KIT, WHICH CONTAINED A CAMERA, BINOCULARS, A COMPASS AND A WATER BOTTLE AS A 6-YEAR-OLD, DEAN STOCKINGS HAS NEVER LOOKED BACK. THE CAMERA BECAME A FASCINATION BUT NOT UNTIL STUDYING AT BRIGHTON COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY DURING THE 90'S DID IT BECOME AN OVERWHELMING PASSION. IT WAS HERE THAT HIS TALENT... FOR BLAGGING HIS WAY INTO SITUATIONS... PAID OFF WHEN HE BUMPED INTO NEW POP WAVE LEGEND TOYAH AND SECURED A DEAL TO SHOOT AN ALBUM COVER FOR HER. SINCE THAT FATEFUL DAY, HE HAS DEVELOPED A UNIQUE AND ADVENTUROUS STYLE UNLIKE ANYONE ELSE.



Describe your style.

Colourful, camp & kitsch - with a little bit of sexy thrown in for good measure!

What is the most difficult part of your job?

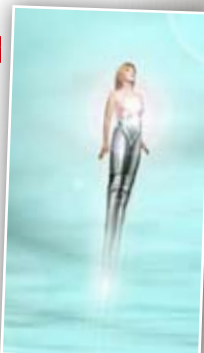
Making ends meet.

Is the male form your favourite subject?

Yes - I think it can be incredibly beautiful.

What's the most surreal concept/artwork you've ever come up with?

Probably a shot I did for a video cover for singer and actress Toyah Willcox. The piece is called 'The Assention' and she's shooting up to the heavens from the sea in silver body armour. It took a lot of planning, but was fun to shoot. Oddly, a cover I recently shot for The Humans new album (We Are the Humans), is very simple - a broken eggshell showing the yoke inside - but also very surreal.



Which famous people have had the Dean Stockings treatment?

There's Toyah of course, Joan As Police Woman (Who's also one of Antony's Johnson's), Fatboy Slim, Bill Reiflin (of REM & formerly of Nine Inch Nails), Kyran Bracken (England rugby captain who won Dancing On Ice), Patsy Palmer (Eastenders), Dicky & Dolly (Richard & Lea of Big Brother) and a host of others your readers are probably too young to remember.

Whom would you like to photograph and do you have an idea already how you'd portray them?

Well, other than Queen Elizabeth II (lets face it, not many models would suit my camp & kitsch

treatment more than her majesty!), I'd have to say Rufus Wainwright. I think it'd be fun to do some really amazing drag photos of Rufus, but on the other hand, I'd also like to see him in some very tight leather hotpants, in a harness, smoking a cigar! As for the Queen, I'd like to photograph her in a big sparkly Priscilla type outfit wearing false eyelashes! There are a host of other people too, including Francois Saget - he's like a walking, talking Tom of Finland creation.

Who are your main influences?

James Bidgood is by far my biggest inspiration, with Robert Mapplethorpe and David LaChapelle being close runners up. I find the whole New York Pop Art scene from the 60's and 70's very inspiring too, even after all this time. I'd have loved to have joined Mapplethorpe and Warhol for a drink at Max's Kansas City back then...

Does Video/Film direction call?

Yes, I've already dabbled with a few pop promo videos and it's something I find very exciting - it's like 3D photography and the possibilities for creativity are just endless. I'd love to experiment with some high-class porn videos too - I find it really boring when the actors get straight down to the action - I'd love to direct my own and work on some decent story lines!

What is next for Dean?

Well, I'm currently working on a joint project with author Paul Burston for an exhibition in London at the end of this year. I can't give away too many details in case someone else runs off with the idea, but Paul will be creating a story, which I will be illustrating photographically. That's all I can say at the moment, other than there are likely to be a few well-known faces modelling for the project... I'm also putting more time into my other photography business - biggerpixel.co.uk that specialises in wedding and civil ceremony photography - so if you're getting hitched, give me a call!





To view more of Dean's work, please visit his online galleries:
www.deanstockings.co.uk
www.biggerpixel.co.uk
www.myspace.com/dean_stockings

JOHAN'S BLOG

SO, FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS I HAVE BEEN SHOOTING AND EDITING A LOT OF PERSONAL CLIPS FOR MY SITE. THAT MEANS, MONDAY TO THURSDAY WANKING IN THE MORNING, WHILE MY BOYFRIEND IS RECORDING IT, THEN EDITING IT DURING THOSE AFTERNOONS AND EVENINGS.

However, there's a change of direction for me on Friday and Saturday because that's when I produce the duo and group scenes. That means no wanking but plenty of shagging. Actually, I like sex and wanking very much – but at the moment I enjoy the hours when I am not playing with my dick or when not see myself fucking on the screens of the editing machines. On the other hand, it's a gruelling job but I take my responsibilities seriously and would hate to let any of my fans down. So... sex, sex, sex... that's my motto.

Sunday I relax and refill my batteries – so no sex but there are also crazy stories I like to remember.

There is this really cute and very sexy guy. Wow. He is a model for my label Staxus, too. His name is Jimmy Call. I always wanted to have sex with him but it never happened on a movie shoot. I have appeared at various live strip and go-go shows with him before in Germany and UK – but we always slept in two different rooms and I have always been too shy to ask him to share the bed with me. This time though I took the chance to call him and invite him for a duo scene with me. He accepted immediately, which was a good sign.

I arranged everything to meet him at my place and do the scene in my bedroom. The entire house was prepared; bathroom shining, the bed linen fresh and smelled like a flower garden and I was shaved and sparkling. I was so nervous while my cameraman was sitting in the corner chewing gum, waiting and totally bored. Straight guys, what can I say?

When Jimmy was sitting on my bed to discuss the scene we immediately found out we had a really big problem. We are both tops! Damn it! I was so horny about this guy that I totally forgot to check this 'minor' fact before. That was the reason why I never had a movie scene with him!

So what should we do? Both only wanking and sucking? No way.

Sometimes I am versatile, normally only with my boyfriend. But with Jimmy... I would do the big exception... and I hoped he wasn't too big. So, we had to prepare me. Shower was no problem as I have everything you need at home but I didn't have any dildos to stretch and prepare myself. Only some vegetables... but the thought of using a banana or a cucumber – forget it. I am not that desperate! So we had to do the scene without stretching me before. My cameraman stopped chewing his gum while a stupid sadistic grin lit up his face.

I was as nervous as a kid because I really wanted to have sex with Jimmy. The sucking and wanking were great and I really enjoyed it. But then the fucking part came.

The only thing I can say is: OUCH! Are they always much bigger up your arse than they look like outside? Believe me; it took a lot of breathing and relaxing to take it! I looked up and saw the fat, satisfied grin of the camera guy and made a mental note to fire him the very first second after we finished with the scene.

But once Jimmy entered and I got used to the thing deep inside me I enjoyed it. Of course not as much as a being top but it was still great sex. Because when you really want something you can take everything – and I so much wanted him. You will know what I mean when you have seen the scene on my site.

I learned a few things from this experience with Jimmy: The next time I will ask my partners about their preferences before I invite them for a shoot. And maybe I will meet with Jimmy again – even as a bottom... because even the strictest top can like to be a bottom... occasionally!

To see the Jimmy scene or for more information go to:

www.Johan-Volny.com or
www.Staxus.com



ROUGH ROLLERS

These East European lads are ready for even more partying once they put their skateboards away. The DVD features nine, horny young guys intent on experiencing everything their sexuality can give them. Barely an orifice isn't filled, or a dick not investigated in this sex-fest of tight bodies and even tighter butts. Marco Bill, Robin Few and Skan Berri are just a few of the cuties taking part.

A Bloc Hardcore Production -
Staxus - R18



TERRY GEORGE TELLIN' STORIES

MORE MORRISON

A COUPLE OF YEARS BACK I BECAME INFATUATED WITH A CERTAIN SONG. I TURNED IT UP WHEN IT CAME ON THE RADIO AND WHEN I EVENTUALLY BOUGHT IT, I'D DRIVE MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS MAD BY PLAYING IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN AT FULL VOLUME.

The song was "The Pieces Don't Fit Anymore" by James Morrison and I simply could not get enough of it. Recently, I was invited to a special 'Up Close' show of James where he played an exclusive concert for competition winners and us media types. However, I overheard

technical and superb and unbelievable and fabulous... (you get the idea) that he needs more time to get it all ready. Mind you, I don't think there's a hotter ticket in the world at the moment and everyone wants to see the King of Pop back on

stage where he belongs so, I guess we'll just have to wait and hope it all happens.

The other day I was taking some photographs of a model for some shots to be featured in a future



a conversation by the organisers saying they hadn't got any towels for James after he'd finished his show. I volunteered the fact that I had one in my car and they gratefully accepted my offer. I use it at the gym but fortunately... I hadn't used it to wipe any part of my anatomy (not even down there!!) before I gave it to James... he must have been relieved. The show was fantastic, he sang superbly but more importantly... my towel featured on stage, as in between songs James wiped his sweaty brow. Later, I went back to reclaim it and mentioned I wanted to donate it to charity so he signed it for me. Now I'm in a bit of a quandary as to which charity I should send it and help raise much needed funds. On my Facebook page I have asked for suggestions (and be nice) as to who should receive it... so, if you have any ideas please email them, find me on Facebook.

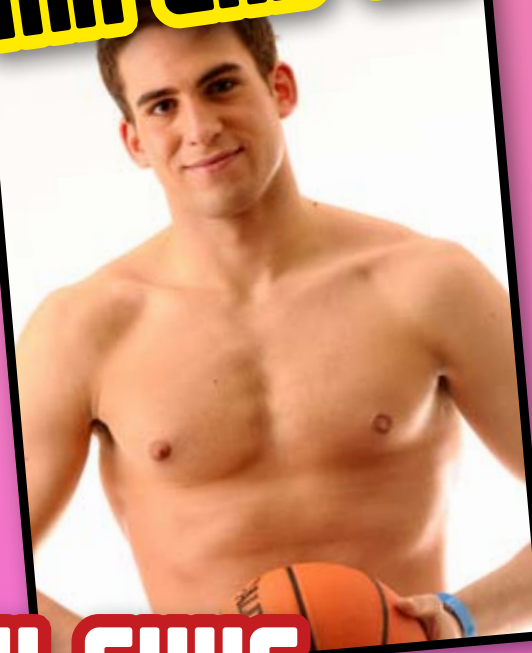
It appears from recent news reports that Michael Jackson had undergone surgery for some ailment or other. Well, this was just one of the many rumours that circulated when it was announced he had postponed a few of his much-publicised concerts at the O2 in London. However, the official line is that the show is just so

edition of Bent. He pumped up his muscles, slipped into the outfit provided and started to pose for me. He was a natural. However, I didn't quite realise how heavily I got into the session, as I shouted for him to strike certain poses, remember to tighten his abs, show off his six pack, smile at the camera (or not smile), to jump, to throw a ball or to change into some different gear. The poor guy was breathless and sweating like the proverbial... by the time we'd finished. He looked over at me and said I should be a personal trainer as he'd never had to do so much exercise and been driven so hard in his life. So... perhaps a new career opportunity has just opened up.

See you all at the gym

Terry

MR GAY UK



HEY GUYS, HOW'S LIFE?

Hope you're all enjoying the start of summer! Last month was fun and I got up to a load of fun stuff! I went along to the Stonewall Equality Walk in Brighton and had such a great day! The weather was perfect; nice and sunny but not too hot, everyone was in great spirits for the 10k walk! Then we all headed down to Legends for the after party! What a great venue this is... a hotel, a club, a bar and the nicest staff you could possibly meet. It was ace; we sipped on some free champagne and met loads of really nice people! Finally, I announced the raffle winners and the heads of Stonewall announced the total sum raised! Over £50,000! That's £20,000 more than last year!

Everyone was ecstatic! To finish off the day a bunch of us headed down to Brighton Pier and went on all the rides - it was such a laugh and what enjoying yourself at the seaside is all about! What a great way to end the day! Along with the bright lights of Brighton, I also sampled some more of London's theatre. I went along to see my favourite actor James McAvoy in 'Three Days of Rain'. The play was great, although it took a little while for me to get into it. It was very fast paced and had quite a complicated plot. However, the acting was superb; McAvoy, Harman and Marshall were all brilliant, especially in the second act! There's nothing quite like live theatre but I suppose I am biased as that's where I hope to earn a crust in years to come... well maybe! Just booked my tickets to New York as well! I cannot wait! My boyfriend Luke and my two mates; Sophie and Greg are heading off to the Big Apple for two whole weeks!!! I'm counting down the days!

Other than that, I'm just working and rehearsing for the play I'm performing in at the Edinburgh Fringe festival this summer. Plus, getting ready to start drama school in September - so excited! Well, I hope everyone is good... I'm off to bed now!

Take care peeps!

Love,

Dino



CALLING ALL BOOK GEEKS!

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

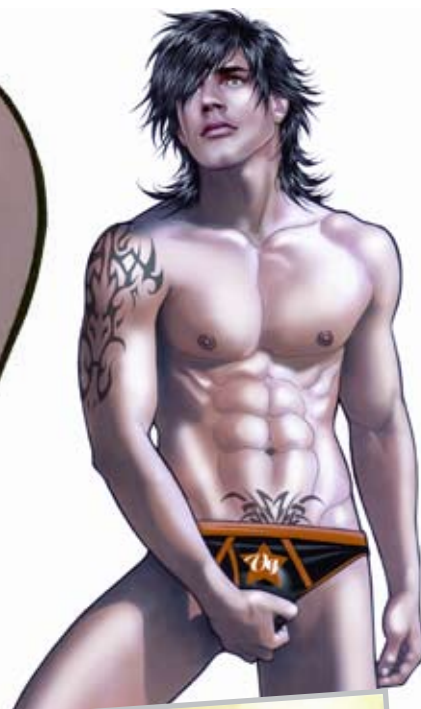


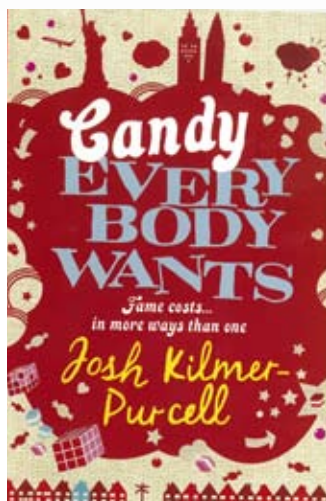
◀ IN YER FACE

By Ismael Alvarez

Alvarez' drawings are spoiled and colourful, horny and corny. And what are they about? They are about hot guys and giant cocks, about sunshine and the good life! And of course about piles of sperm! Is there are philosophic point to catch? Surely not! Alvarez wants to entertain and to tease us; his art wants nothing more than to be what it is. And that's exactly its most outstanding feature. Alvarez draws his pictures with an extra large portion of love and lust. He doesn't care that much for the things he sees – he cares much more about the things he wants to see..

£18.95 – Bruno Gmunder





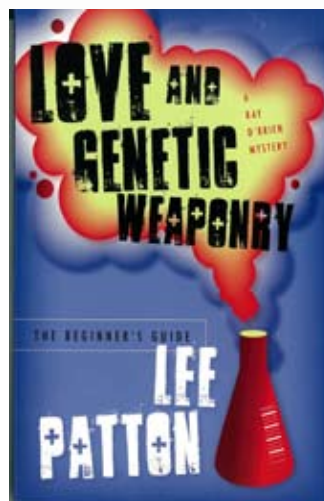
► CANDY EVERYBODY WANTS

By Josh Kilmer-Purcell

Jayson Blocher is tired of worshipping popular culture; he wants to be part of it. So he's off, accompanied by an ever-changing cast of quirky extended family members, on an extremely bumpy journey from rural Wisconsin to a New York gay escort agency for Broadway Chorus boys, to a Hollywood sitcom set... and that's only the half of it!

A funny, enjoyable, feel-good romp... perfect holiday reading.

£7.99 – Harper Collins

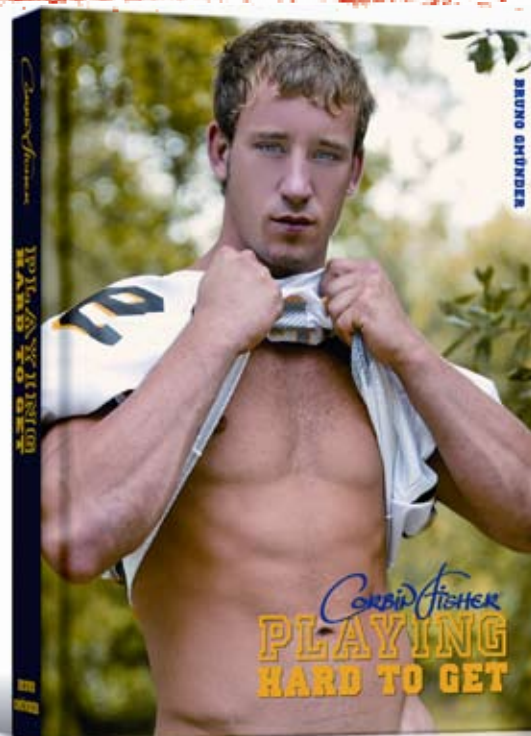


► LOVE AND GENETIC WEAPONRY

By Lee Patton

Readers were introduced to protagonist high school drama teacher Ray O'Brien in the author's last novel Nothing Gold Can Say where he had spent a summer in London. His stay on that occasion was made extraordinary by the presence of Eduardo, a fellow student. Now he has to reveal the truth behind a genetics laboratory and its shady dealings as he becomes entwined in a world of activism.

£8.99 – Alyson Books



► PLAYING HARD TO GET

Corbin Fisher

These dream guys play outside—they have fun, they do sports...and of course they come into contact with each other. None of the guys has a fear of being touched. In contrast—they don't even seem to be aware of the cameras around them. Corbin Fisher managed to capture the thrilling intimacy of these encounters with a tender sense for the perfect mood. The pictures tell stories, a casual contact, a gentle kiss...the rest is allowed, even supposed to happen in the viewer's head.

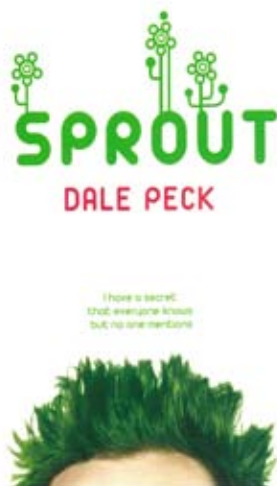
£29.99 – Bruno Gmunder



► THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE MOTOWN STARS

By Alex MacKenzie

With nearly 200 Number1 songs worldwide, Motown's hits continue to appear globally in commercials, TV shows and movies, and remain an influence on today's pop and R&B superstars. The Life And Times Of The Motown Stars is fascinating, true and insightful look into the world of the Motown greats; from Diana Ross, Marvin Gaye and The Supremes to Smokey Robinson, The Jackson 5 and Stevie Wonder – discover what life was really like for these musical legends.

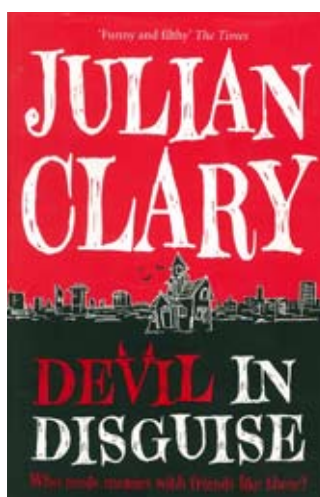


► SPROUT

By Dale Peck

When his father uproots him from his New York life and moves them both to the midst of rural Kansas, Sprout is convinced he'll find no friends, no love and no beauty there. This is a deftly handled coming of age story by one of America's better story-tellers. And one that a lot of teenagers will relate to... gay or straight but on this occasion Sprout knows he's gay.

£6.99 – Bloomsbury

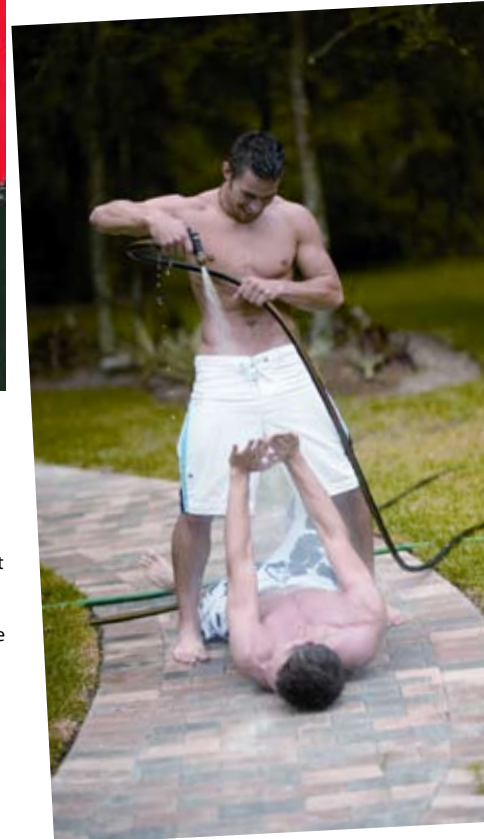


► DEVIL IN DISGUISE

By Julian Clary

Hot on the heels of his first novel Murder Most Fab, comes Julian's second creation, Devil in Disguise. Simon is Molly's oldest, bitchiest, best friend. Since they were high-kicked out of university, Molly has become a jobbing musical theatre actress, while Simon is on the cusp of fame thanks to his caustic, bitter alter-ego: Genita L'Warts, a drag queen with a talent for abusing audiences. They vowed no man would ever come between them, but Simon can't resist the fatal attraction to straight men. Is this the end of their spectacular relationship?

£14.99 – Ebury Press





WIN
THIS

▲ THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON

"I was born under unusual circumstances." And so begins The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, (starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett) adapted from the 1920's story by F.Scott Fitzgerald about a man who is born in his eighties and ages backward. From his birth in New Orleans in 1918, across the high seas, through the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and back home again – Benjamin's journey is as extraordinary yet as common as any man's life can be.

Out: 8th June 2009 – DVD £19.99 Blu-ray £26.99 - Warner Home Video

To have a chance to win a copy of this fantastic DVD just answer this simple question:

Complete the title of this Brad Pitt Movie Fight



WIN
THIS

▲ MILK

Academy Award winner Sean Penn gives an outstanding performance as he transforms himself into the inspirational Harvey Milk under the direction of Gus Van Sant. In 1977, Harvey Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, becoming the first openly gay man to be voted into major public office in America. His victory was not just a victory for gay rights; he forged coalitions across the political spectrum. From senior citizens to union workers, Harvey Milk changed the very nature of what it means to be a fighter for human rights and became, before his assassination in 1978, a hero for all Americans.

Out: 8th June – DVD £17.99 Blu-ray £24.99 - Momentum Picture

To have a chance to win a copy of this fantastic DVD just answer this simple question:

Sean Penn was married to which iconic female singer?



WIN
THIS

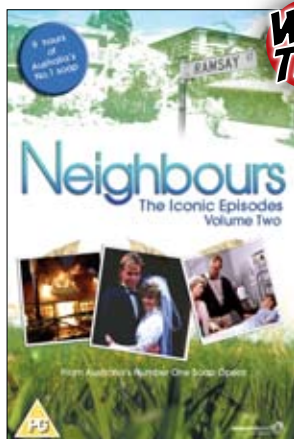
▲ MY BLOODY VALENTINE

Tom Hanniger, an inexperienced coal miner, caused an accident in the tunnels that trapped and killed five men and sent the only survivor, Harry Warden, into a permanent coma. But Harry Warden wanted revenge. Exactly one year later, on Valentine's Day, he woke up...and brutally murdered twenty-two people with a pickaxe before being killed. Ten years later, Tom Hanniger returns to Harmony on Valentine's Day, still haunted by the deaths he caused. After becoming the most successful 3D horror film of all time at the UK cinema box office home entertainment fans will now get the chance to watch the DVD in 3D in their own homes! Also has 2D version.

Out: 8th June - DVD £19.99 Blu-ray £24.99 - Lions Gate Home Entertainment

To have a chance to win a copy of this fantastic DVD just answer this simple question:

On what date does Valentine's Day fall?



WIN
THIS

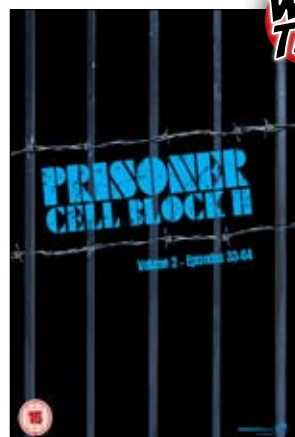
▲ NEIGHBOURS: THE ICONIC EPISODES: VOLUME 2

This is the second in a collection of DVD box sets, celebrating Britain's all time favourite Neighbours episodes, featuring key moments in Ramsay Street's prestigious 22 year history. Comprised of three themed discs, the second of which is 'Charlene' is a whole disc dedicated entirely to Neighbours' brightest star (Kylie Minogue), which includes of course, her relationship with Scott, played by Jason Donovan. Follow their amazing on-screen romance from the first time they met, right up to and including their wedding day episode, which attracted over 20 million viewers and widely regarded as one of the best TV moments in soap history.

Out 1st June – 3DVD set £19.99 – Shock Entertainment/Fremantle Media

To have a chance to win a copy of this fantastic DVD just answer this simple question:

Kylie and Jason had a hit record with, Especially for



WIN
THIS

▲ PRISONER CELL BLOCK H: VOLUME 2

This must-have collectors' edition 8-disc DVD box set contains episodes 33-64 of the hugely popular cult television series. With over 25 hours of footage, this beautifully packaged collectors' DVD box set is the perfect addition to the previously released 'Volume 1', which contained the first 32 episodes. Based inside Australia's fictitious Wentworth Detention Centre, Prisoner Cell Block H tackled issues that included rape, homosexuality, murder and violence.

Out: 1st June – 8 disc set £34.99 - Shock Entertainment/Fremantle Media

To have a chance to win this fantastic 8 disc box set just answer this simple question:

Name the prison where Cell Block H was based?



WIN
THIS

▲ PUSH

The film is set in a world of psychic espionage and intrigue where the gift to move objects using only the mind, see into the future, create new realities and kill without ever touching the victim, can turn a person into a lethal weapon - or target. The DVD and Blu-ray are packed with Special Features including 4 Deleted Scenes, Audio Commentary with movie's stars - Chris Evans and Dakota Fanning, and the making-of-featurette "The Science Behind the Fiction."

Out: 29th June - £19.99 - Icon Home Entertainment

To have a chance to win a copy of this fantastic DVD just answer this simple question:

Complete the title of this Chris Evan's movie The Fantastic

COMPETITION TIME

Turn to page 78 for entry details



THERE'S NOWT SO...

QUEER AS FOLK WAS SOMETHING OF A CULTURAL TELEVISUAL TURNING POINT. IN THE UK, THE SERIES SENT THE GAY DEBATE INTO OVERDRIVE AND HAD THE SUBJECT OF HOMOSEXUALITY DISCUSSED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, IN PEOPLE'S LIVING ROOMS. THE IMPACT OF THE RUSSELL T DAVIES PENNED MINI-SERIES CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.

Meanwhile, over in the USA, they took this controversy and, with just a few changes to characters, launched their own version set in Pittsburgh... rather than Manchester. Most importantly, for gay men everywhere, there were still the three main protagonists:

Brian: A veritable sex machine. At 30 years old, is living life for the now and believes in having sex for the sheer joy of doing it.

Justin: The youngster who, at the age of seventeen, loses his virginity to Brian and falls in love with him.

Michael: Brian's best friend since adolescence, and secretly harbouring feelings for him.

In the US, and Canada in particular, the series proved a huge success and ran from 2000 -2005 creating stars out of its cast. The young guy who played Justin, the cute teen love interest, Randy Harrison, overnight became a pin-up for many gay youngsters. His character's plight to overcome bullying, homophobia and the general burgeoning of his sexuality struck a chord with many. The show was noted for its somewhat frank depiction of gay life, as well as its vivid sex scenes and a disclaimer, "Queer

as Folk is a celebration of the lives and passions of a group of gay friends. It is not meant to reflect all of gay society" appeared after each episode. The US version had, like its UK counterpart, its own brand of critics who hated such a ground-breaking show and graphic homosexuality on screen, that they condemned it out of hand.

It is unfortunate that, although the American version of the show has been screened in the UK, it was often transmitted so desperately late, and frequently difficult to find in any listings, that it was perhaps tricky to keep any kind of continuity going. The quality of the series writing, the plots and the stars, made this version of QAF well worth a full re-run at a more respectable hour.

However, if that's not to be... we here at Bent can offer you the chance to win the Box Set of series 4 and all you have to do is answer this simple question:

What character in QAF, USA did Randy Harrison play?

Out: 22nd June - Queer as Folk season 4 - Warner Home Entertainment





10 THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT CHRISTIAN BALE

- 1 Hand-picked by director/writer Mary Harron and author Bret Easton Ellis to star in American Psycho (2000). Consequently, was noted by the media as the first star of American Psycho (2000), only to lose the part to Leonardo DiCaprio and then win it back again.
- 2 He has an uncanny ear for accents - he has used a different accent for each of his films to date.
- 3 A devoted animal lover, Christian has two dogs (Mojo and Ramone) and three cats (Miriam, Molly, and Lilly), which are all strays that he found.
- 4 Christian is active in many organizations, including Ark Trust, Greenpeace, the World Wildlife Foundation, the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, the Redwings Sanctuary, and the Happy Child Mission, and a school for street kids in Rio De Janeiro.
- 5 His grandfather doubled for John Wayne in two movies, in Africa.
- 6 His first on-screen role was in 1983 at age 9 in a British commercial for Pac-Man cereal.
- 7 Met his wife through Winona Ryder; she was Ryder's personal assistant.
- 8 Has been a Vegetarian since the age of six, after reading Charlotte's Web.
- 9 If he plays an American character, he will use an American accent in all the interviews related to the film. He says he does this so the audience isn't confused.
- 10 Met Drew Barrymore on the set of Empire of the Sun 1987 who was visiting her godfather, Steven Spielberg. He was thirteen and she was twelve. Later they would both admit to having a crush on one another at the time.

▲ **TERMINATOR: SALVATION**

Out: 3rd June

Big budget sci-fi drama that has film enthusiasts salivating with anticipation and they will not be disappointed. The new installment of The Terminator film franchise is set in post-apocalyptic 2018. John Connor (Christian Bale) is the man fated to lead the human resistance against Skynet and its army of Terminators. But the future that Connor was raised to believe in is altered in part by the appearance of Marcus Wright, a stranger whose last memory is of being on death row. Connor must decide whether Marcus has been sent from the future, or rescued from the past. As Skynet prepares its final onslaught, Connor and Marcus both embark on an odyssey that takes them into the heart of Skynet's operations, where they uncover the terrible secret behind the possible annihilation of mankind.



▲ **TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN**

Out: 24th June

After the massive success of the first one, this special effects extravaganza will more than likely be the biggest film of 2009. Hotties - Shia LaBeouf and Josh Duhamel - return to battle those nasty robots. The battle for Earth has ended but the battle for the universe has just begun. After returning to Cybertron, Starscream assumes the command of the Decepticons, and has decided to return to Earth with force. The Autobots believing that peace was possible finds out that Megatron's dead body has been stolen from the US Military by Skorpionox and revives him using his own spark. Now Megatron is back seeking revenge and with Starscream and more Decepticon reinforcements on the way, the Autobots with reinforcements of their own, may have more to deal with than meets the eye.



▲ GIGANTIC

Out: 19th June

Brian Weathersby (Paul Dano from *There Will Be Blood*) is a 28-year-old salesman at a high-end Swedish mattress company. The afterthought child to elderly parents and the youngest son in a trio of successful brothers, Brian is searching for his place in the world. Unfulfilled by his work he spends a good portion of his day pursuing his goal of someday adopting a baby from China. He gets swept up in a romance with the lovely but misguided Harriet Lolly (Kate Perry lookalike Zooey Deschanel) when she comes in to his store one day and falls asleep on one of the beds. To win her over, he must compete with her bear of a father, Al Lolly, (John Goodman) art-collecting loudmouth with a bad back and deep pockets. *Gigantic* is a funny, surreal love story about the anxiety that comes when two people with crazy families collide unexpectedly and fall for each other.



▲ TELSTAR

Out: 19th June

The stranger-than-fiction true story of the flamboyantly gay, tone deaf, songwriter-producer Joe Meek. A maverick musical genius, Meek enjoyed phenomenal early success with *Telstar* – the biggest selling record of its time and the first Brit band single to top the US charts. Set in the London music scene of the early 1960s, the film boasts an eclectic cast including Kevin Spacey, Ralf Little, James Corden, Pam Ferris and JJ Feild alongside a tour-de-force from Con O'Neill in the lead role. They are joined by a host of musicians who appear in cameo roles, including ex-Libertine Carl Barât and former front-man of The Darkness, Justin Hawkins.



▲ THE HANGOVER

Out: 12th June

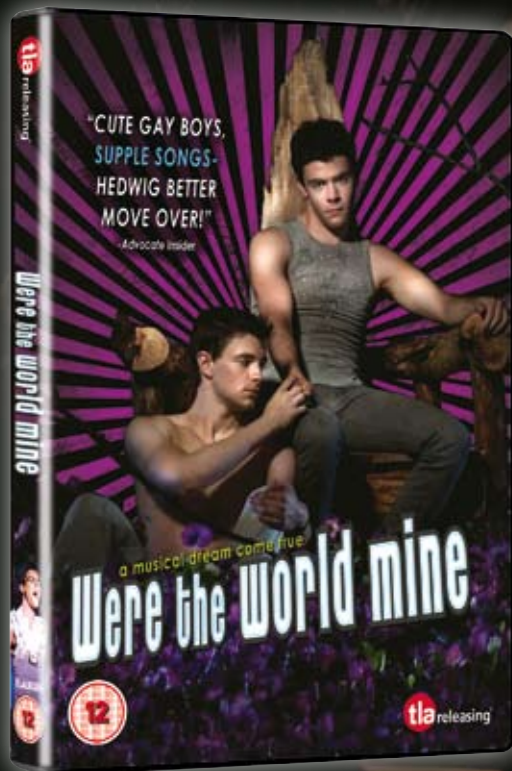
Two days before his wedding, Doug and his three friends drive to Las Vegas for a blow-out bachelor party they'll never forget. But, in fact, when the three groomsmen wake up the next morning, they can't remember a thing. For some reason, they find a tiger in the bathroom and a six-month-old baby in the closet of their suite at Caesars Palace. The one thing they can't find is Doug. With no clue as to what transpired and little time to spare, the trio must retrace their hazy steps and all their bad decisions in order to figure out where things went wrong and hopefully get Doug back to L.A. in time to walk down the aisle.



▲ FIRED UP

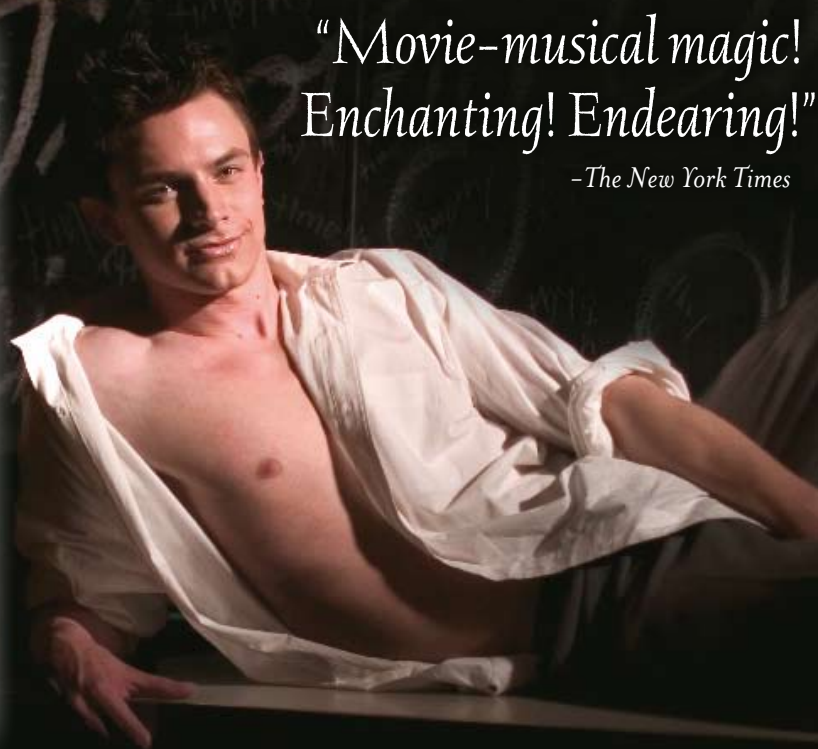
Out: 12th June

This summer's silly American jock flick with eye-candy. Shawn Colfax (Nicholas D'Agosto from *Heroes*) and Nick Brady (Eric Christian Olsen), the stars of the Gerald R. Ford High School football team, are dreading the prospect of another summer at football camp. When Nick hatches a scheme for the two to join their school's cheerleaders at cheer camp instead, they find themselves awash in a sea of gorgeous young women. It all goes great until Shawn falls for Carly (Sarah Roemer), the beautiful head cheerleader who sees right through them.



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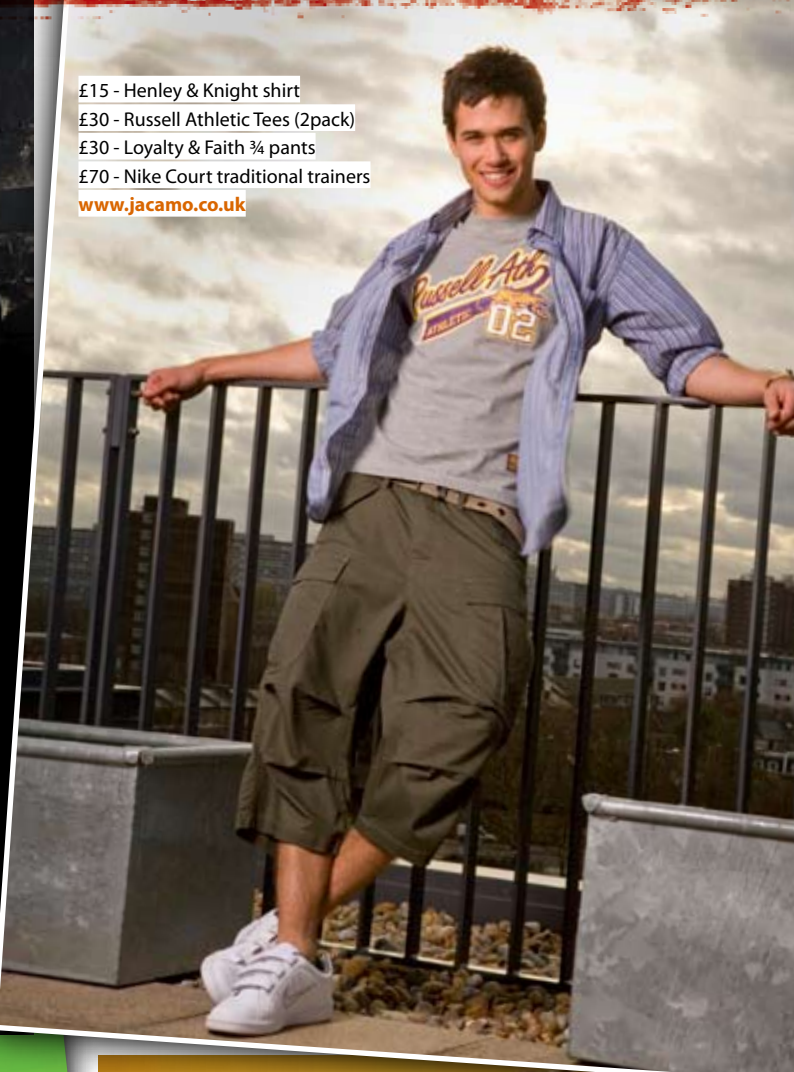


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When the railroads reached Florida in the 19th Century, they brought along rich, leisured Americans seeking sun. The roaring twenties were interrupted only briefly by depressions and hurricanes; then increased migration and resultant poverty from South America and Cuba brought in the notorious drugs-fuelled 80s crime spree – Miami Vice and Scarface times – now, thankfully, all gone; to be replaced by A-list celebs and beach-loads of queers – not least along South Beach's famous sandy spit!

SETTLE

For accommodation, check out The Pelican (826 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach; T: +1 305 673 3373; www.pelicanhotel.com), a quirky landmark Deco-style boutique hotel slap-bang on the front; or the Mandarin Oriental Miami (500 Brickell Key Drive, Miami; T: +1 305 913 8288; www.mandarinoriental.com/miami/) – offering Asian serenity, bay views plus exotic spa.

SOUTH BEACH

Miami's South Beach – or SoBe (pronounced "so-bee") – has the colour of Rio, the intensity of Manhattan and the tropical ambience of the Caribbean, all on a long island just a 10-minute drive east of Miami's main Downtown urban sprawl.

SoBe boasts one of the world's most significant, and thankfully now nationally protected, swathes of 1920s and 30s Art Deco hotels and residences – each one as individual and scrumptious as a well-iced fairy cake, all with glorious pastel hues which take on a brand-new dimension of luminosity when lit up after dark. The Miami Design Preservation League (www.mdpl.org) runs regular daily walking tours of the district.

Whilst in the area, visit The Wolfsonian (1001 Washington Avenue; www.wolfsonian.org), showcasing American and European decorative arts, 1885-1945; and the gloriously massive World Erotic Art Museum (1205 Washington Avenue; www.weam.com)!

Along pedestrianised Lincoln Road Mall, you'll find numerous gay-run or gay-friendly cafes, galleries and shops. Further south – overlooking the fine white-sanded beach itself – is the famous Ocean Drive; best cruised down slowly in a large open-top car at night or sauntered along dreamily on foot by day. Along it you'll find the Casa Casuarina (1116 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach; www.casacasuarina.com), the former Versace Mansion, now a luxury boutique hotel and club, brimming with Gianni's unique designs. Great public eatery and daily tours.

At the very southern tip of Ocean Drive, Nikki Beach (Penrod's Complex, 1 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach; www.nikkibeach.com) is a full-amenity beach club serving Euro-Bistro cuisine amidst sun-basking hotties. Back from the front, check out buzzing Lime Fresh Mexican Grill (1439 Alton Road, Miami Beach; www.limefreshmexicangrill.com); showy Barton G. Restaurant (1427 West Avenue, Miami Beach; www.bartong.com); or any eatery along ambient Hispanic Española Way.

BEYOND SOBE

A short drive north of South Beach, and you reach historic Sunny Isles Beach (www.sunnyislesbeachmiami.com) where you can pop into Paradigm, the experimental "molecular gastronomy" restaurant-within-a-restaurant at Neomi's Grill (Trump International Beach

Resort Miami, 18001 Collins Avenue, Sunny Isles Beach; www.trumpmiami.com); or explore oceanfront Canyon Ranch (6801 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach; www.canyonranch.com), notably its vast spa, with thermal circuit.

Due west of South Beach, over the causeway, the Little Havana district attracts, with its colourful murals, monuments, Cuban characters, coffee and cigars. Whilst there, pop into buzzing, cheery Versailles (3555 SW 8th Street, Miami; www.versaillescuban.com) for authentic, great-value and delicious Cuban cuisine.

In Miami Downtown (www.miamidda.com) itself, chomp away at Manny's Steaks (Met 1, 300 S. Biscayne Boulevard; www.mannyssteakhouse.com), before enjoying a show or film at the utterly kitsch architectural orgy that is the old Gusman Center for Performing Arts (174 East Flagler Street; www.gusmancenter.org); or a ballet or opera at the modern Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (1300 Biscayne Boulevard; www.arshtcenter.org).

Stroll the Miami Design District (www.miamidesigndistrict.net)

, a unique, pedestrian-friendly 18 square block "community of design", just north of Downtown and ten minutes from South Beach – brimming with fashion and décor stores, plus lively eateries like jazzy Brosia (163 NE 39th Street, Miami; www.brosiamiami.com).

SCENE

There are loads of gay-friendly grubberies along Lincoln Road Mall. For home-from-home, try Balans (1022 Lincoln Road Mall; www.balans.co.uk/lincoln.htm) – a US outpost of those fab

London stalwarts. Or try the queer-buzzing Palace Bar & Grill (1200 Ocean Drive; www.palacesouthbeach.com), right opposite the gay beach on the front.

The Laundry Bar (721 Lincoln Lane, South Beach; www.thelaundrybar.com) is a fun space. Ditto ever optimistically-titled Score (727 Lincoln Road Mall, South Beach; www.scorebar.net)! Sizeable Twist (1057 Washington Avenue, South Beach; www.twistsobe.com) is the longest-running of SoBe's gay venues. Also check-out relative new kids, über-chic Halo Lounge (1625 Michigan Avenue, South Beach; www.haloloungeiami.com) or Vlada Miami (3215 NE 2nd Avenue, Midtown; www.vladabar.com). Downtown Discotekka (@ Metropolis nightclub, 950 NE 2nd Avenue, Downtown; www.discotekka.com) gets packed with hunky Latinos every Saturday night.

If still on the prowl, "take airs" in South Beach's Flamingo Park 24/7; or, by day, check out the herds of preening peccs on the gay beach opposite 12th Street. Haulover Nude Beach on Collins Avenue at 108th Street is even clothing-optional.

Further info

The next infamous 10,000-strong Miami White Party (www.whiteparty.com) is 25-30 Nov 2009; with 5,000-strong Winter Party (www.winterparty.com) set for Feb/March 2010.

www.miamianbeaches.com;
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ANTWERP OR THE END OF THE GALAXY?

ADAM LOWE INVESTIGATES.

Belgium has a reputation here in the UK. Indeed, Douglas Adams once made a joke in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* that the only swearword left universally unspeakable in the whole galaxy (except the one place where no one knew what it meant) was 'Belgium'. Rather scathing, rather funny, but also rather untrue. As Antwerp showed me, Belgium has a queer side—and I loved every minute of it!

THE BASICS

Antwerp (or Antwerpen in Dutch and Anvers in French) is the capital of the Antwerp province of Flanders, which is considered the home of the Flemish community. As such, Dutch and French are both spoken, with a 59% and 31% distribution, respectively. There are also some German speakers, too, and many locals in shops, in restaurants and at

tourist attractions will speak English at least reasonably well. It has a population of approximately 475,000, and has an area of 205km². Their currency is the Euro, which is unsurprising since Belgium was a founding member of the EU, and because Antwerp is located on the right bank of the river Scheldt, their economy has traditionally been associated with trade and tourism. These two meet, appropriately for the LGBT community, in fashion, and Antwerp is considered one of Europe's most exclusive and culturally diverse centres for the fashion industry. Of course, as with the rest of Belgium, it also has its fair share of chocolates.

CULTURE CULTURES

17th Century Antwerp was famed for its cabal of painters, including Rubens, Jordaens and Van Dyck. This has no

doubt influenced the aesthetic sensibilities of the city, which has more recently become famous for fashion designers such as the Antwerp Six. Its Royal Academy of Fine Arts has given it an elite status in the fashion world, and many fashion designers have decided to locate stores in the city over other European centres because of its prestige and the high number of fashion tourists it receives from nearby countries.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Antwerp is a queer city—in both senses of the word. It has tourist attractions galore, whether you want to visit gothic museums or stroll down sunny, continental boulevards. It has shopping to suit all tastes and budgets, from Urban Outfitters to Armani. But it also has nightclubs, bars and restaurants, ranging from the refined to the more



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trendy palettes. For food, there are a range of options available. Garde Ville offers traditional local cuisine suited for brunch, lunch or tea, and is located at Nationalestraat 41, close to the fashion museum and boutique shopping district. The restaurant is open from midday to midnight, with sandwiches, soups, main courses and coffees available throughout.

For dinner, Brasserie Appelmans has both a bar and restaurant designed to whet the appetite. Their speciality is absinthe, and the cocktail menu includes a range of absinthe drinks. A suggestion would be to try the liquor as it was drunk in the past, and as the Belgians still drink it now. That is, mixed with water and sweetened with sugar.

Dinner at Appelmans involves a back-to-basics approach, combining traditional Belgian food with modern variations upon the same. The duck here is splendidly juicy and the fish, fresh and tasty.

As an alternative, try dinner and cabaret at P. Preud'homme, where drag queens can often be seen serenading guests as they tuck into the luxurious but manageable five-course banquets it is justly famous for.

For the more gay-oriented or simply more low-key trip, Sjalot en Schanul offers a lesbian-run, friendly experience sure to charm and delight. This café also offers take-out for those with a hectic itinerary.

Late-night drinks can be enjoyed at Popi Cafe, where the local LGBT community flocks for a chilled-out drink or for a pre-club warm-up. The management is friendly and the staff eager to help. Small finger food can also be obtained here for a reasonable price.

Red & Blue is the city's biggest weekend gay night, run by the successful team who put on city's now legendary NaviGAYtion boat parties at Antwerp Pride. The venue is massive, complete with a number of bars, a huge stage and an upstairs VIP area. The Red & Blue venue also hosts Studio 54, which is a themed night drawing both gay and straight customers with

an exceptionally decadent feel. D-Club is a modern club that would feel perfectly at home in London. Inside it has a glamorous cocktail bar in an antechamber that leads to a large, high-ceilinged dance room reminiscent of a giant black box. Antwerp Gay Pride runs from 25th -28th June
www.antwerppride.com

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel t'Sandt offers a very gay-friendly service for travellers (the owner himself is gay) and suites lavish and spacious enough for even the most queenly of tastes. Located beside the river on Zand 17, it is also within walking distance of the Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekathedraal (Cathedral of Our Lady), Brasserie Appelmans and Popi Café. Other hotels include Hotel Rubens at Grote Markt, Prinse Hotel at Keizerstraat 63 and the Radisson SAS Park Lane Hotel on Van Eycklei 34.

TRANSPORT

Travel by road is easy, since Antwerp city centre is encircled by a motorway known locally as 'the Ring'. It offers connections to Brussels (40 mins), Ghent, Lille and Hasselt. The river is also amply connected by three road tunnels, and a fourth is due to be built shortly.

Rail links connect Antwerp to Amsterdam and Paris, as well as Ghent, Bruges and Brussels. Central Station itself is a brilliant tourist attraction and architectural monument.

Within the city, it's advisable to use the tram or bus services, since they're quick, regular and efficient. Walking is also an option, since the city is small enough to reach many locations on foot, if you don't mind a slower, scenic journey.

Brussels airport offers a wider range of airlines into the country, although a taxi would be 62 Euros to Antwerp. Antwerp International Airport, however, does have flights from London and Manchester via VLM Airlines. There is a bus from Antwerp International to the city centre.

Eternal thanks go out to Chloe Lopez and Olivier Seyssens of Tourism Flanders, without whom the trip would not have been possible. Thanks also to Ludo Smits of Red & Blue, P. Preud'homme, Roze Huis at Brasserie Appelmans, Rick Philips of the tourism office, the wonderfully accommodating Bart Abeel from Antwerp Pride, Patrick Aertsen, Sjalot en Schanul, D-Club, t'Sandt and Ariane Van Duytekom.

Photos: Tourism Antwerp



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LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS YOU'VE HAD A LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE GYM. YOU'VE BEEN WORKING OUT HARD FIVE TIMES A WEEK, AND YOU LIKE THE RESULTS. BUT LATELY SOMETHING IS AMISS. YOUR MUSCLES AND JOINTS ACHE, YOU'RE LOW ON ENERGY, AND YOUR FRIENDS SAY THAT YOU'RE BITCHIER THAN USUAL. WHERE DID THE LOVE GO BOYS?

Chances are you're feeling the effects of overtraining, doing too much too often and not giving your body sufficient time to recover. Overtraining hits almost every athlete at some point, and it's important to recognize the symptoms:

- **Decreased strength and aerobic training performances**
- **Persistent muscle soreness**
- **Irregular sleep patterns**
- **Loss of appetite**
- **Headaches**
- **Depression**
- **Recurring colds or illnesses**

CAUSE AND EFFECT

What causes this to happen? Your muscles go through a tremendous amount of stress during strength training or any hard physical exercise, developing tiny micro-tears that need 48 to 72 hours to heal properly. It's this healing process that leads to size and strength gains. Not giving your muscles sufficient time to recover means they never get a chance to repair themselves, and your strength and growth gains become seriously compromised. It's like you're running to stand still. Fortunately, if you catch the signs early before you've caused permanent damage, overcoming overtraining is relatively easy.

Follow these tried and true steps to bounce your body back into shape in no time.

• **Take a break:** Most experts agree that you should take one week off from working out every eight to ten weeks. Don't worry, you won't turn into a 30-pound weakling. If anything, you may be surprised at the growth and strength gains you see when you return to the gym fully recovered.

• **Get some sleep:** Your body recuperates best when you shut it down, so grab eight hours of shut eye per night if you can.

• **Develop a sensible workout plan:** Write down your weekly workout routine, including both strength training and cardiovascular exercise,

and make sure you're giving your body adequate time to heal, repair, and grow between workouts. You should take at least one day a week off, no matter how heavy or light you are lifting. Take into consideration how many days a week you work out and how many times per week you hit each muscle group. In general, try not to work any one muscle group more than two days per week.

• **Build muscle groups in tandem:** Muscles don't work in isolation, so it's important to understand how your muscle groups work in tandem as you are training. For instance, your triceps (and to a lesser extent, your shoulders) are activated when you do chest presses. The same goes for back and biceps. You might not want to work your back on Monday and biceps on Tuesday, as this subjects your biceps to a double whammy workout in a two-day period. Either execute these body parts during the same session or separate them by at least two days to make sure a muscle group is not being worked on consecutive days.

STRENGTH TRAINING WORKOUT ROUTINES

Whether you strength train three, four, or five days a week, separating muscles groups should not be a problem. Follow these suggested weight-training breakdowns to ensure you don't overtrain and injure your muscles:

Three-day Workout

Day 1: back and biceps · Day 2: chest and triceps · Day 3: legs and shoulders

Four-day Workout

Day 1: back · Day 2: chest and shoulders · Day 3: legs · Day 4: biceps and triceps

Five-day Workout

Day 1: chest · Day 2: back · Day 3: legs · Day 4: shoulders · Day 5: biceps and triceps

WATCH WHAT YOU EAT

Athletes and strength trainers should always watch what they eat,

but monitoring your food intake is particularly important when you know you have been overtraining. Make sure you get a balanced diet of protein, carbohydrates, and fats to keep yourself fuelled and energized with the nutrients your body needs to run efficiently and repair damaged muscle tissue. And watch out for simple sugars like candy and soda—your body may crave this quick fix as it tries to propel your fatigued muscles through another workout, but it's a short-term solution to a larger problem.

When deciding on your diet, be sure to take in enough protein to keep your weakened muscles from breaking down under the stress. Manuel Villacorta, a registered dietician and nutritionist based in San Francisco, recommends that when doing light weight training, you should eat approximately 1.7 grams per kilo of bodyweight per day (or 0.8 grams for every pound), and when doing heavy weight training, you should eat up to 2 grams of protein per kilo of bodyweight per day (0.9 grams per pound).

A WORD ABOUT ABS

Somewhere along the line someone apparently decreed that the path to washboard abs lay in working the abdominals every day. Nothing could be further from the truth. The abs may be the most overtrained muscle group in the body. Anatomically speaking, the rectus abdominus (the long, flat muscle that extends the length of the front of the abdomen) is as thin as a bath towel. Working such a thin muscle every day can only lead to muscle fatigue and diminishing returns. You wouldn't work your biceps or pectorals every day; think of your abs in the same terms, and give them at least a day of rest between sessions.



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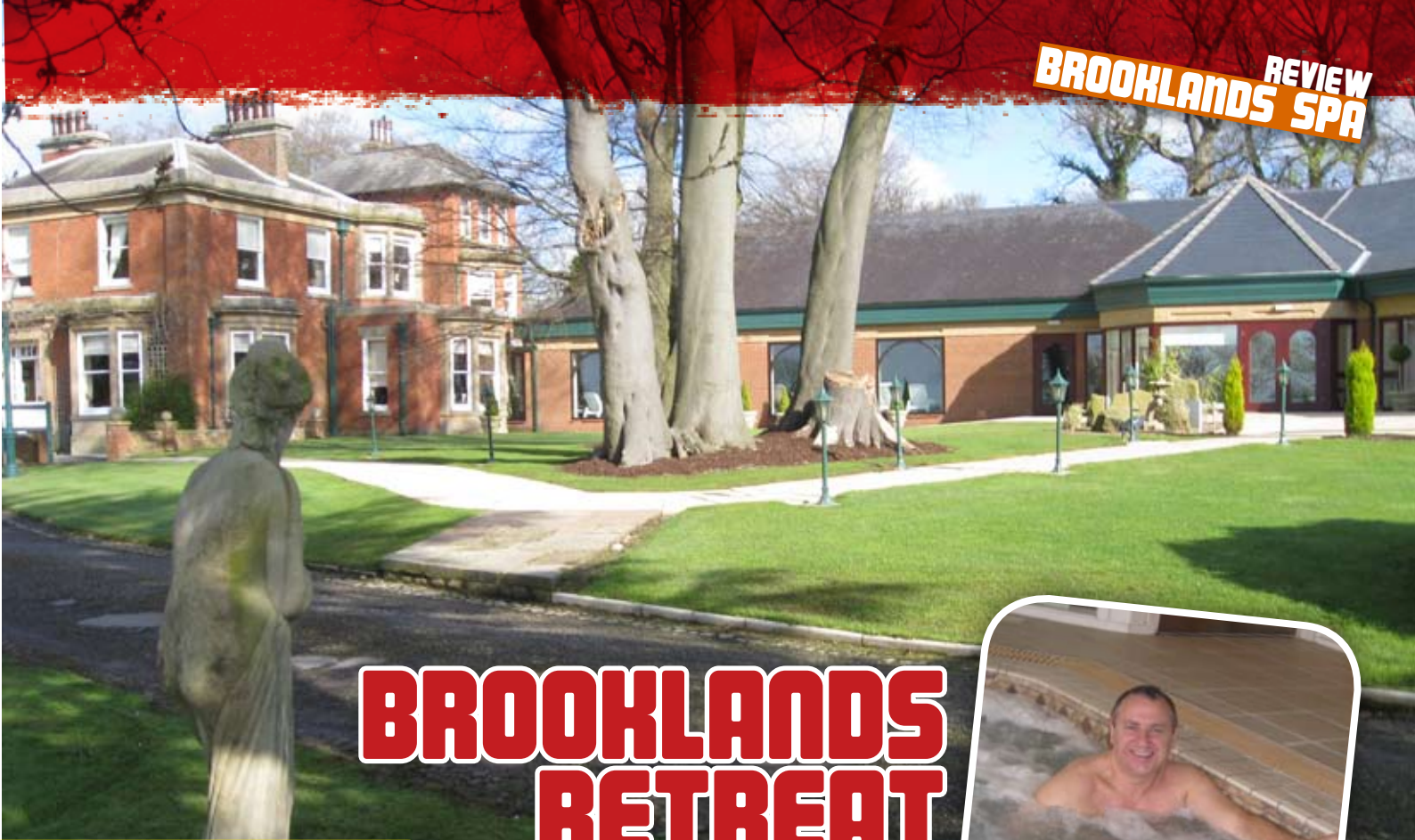
Winter weather ravages, while sunny days play havoc with our skin. So, for men looking for a no fuss, no frills moisturiser, the Dr Bragi Age Management Marine Enzyme is perfect.

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Costing less than £10 for a pack of eight, the vest is thrown away after use – and as it is manufactured from safe, toxin-free, 100% bio-degradable polythene, it will cause no harm to the environment.

£9.98 www.sweatzsportz.com.

Nestled comfortably just off the A6 in Garstang, Lancashire is a wonderful haven for those who want to get away from it all... but not think that civilisation is too far away. Brooklands boasts the ideal place to escape and let yourself be pampered by friendly staff who certainly know their business. Although the Spa has a mainly female clientele, my partner and I immediately felt welcome and not in the least bit intimidated and, with the likes of players from both Preston North End and Blackpool Championship football teams being recent visitors they know how to look after guys. The 5-acres of landscaped grounds, complete with a pair of 'gay' peacocks, offer walks and jogging areas with a back drop of the Lancashire Hills and nearby Forest of Bowland. The venue itself has a terrific large hydro pool, heated indoor pool, well equipped gym and all the therapy possible to make you relaxed or invigorated, depending on just what you want. The staff are incredibly helpful and knowledgeable, and the number of different treatments on offer is quite mind-boggling. In case you want to make it more than just a day visit there are luxurious rooms for overnight (or longer) stays available. When you buy into one of their many package deals, all your meals are organised for you or, like the locals, you can visit their award winning Thai bistro (I gave it 5*), which is all part of the thoughtful design that has gone into Brooklands. The owners Tracy and David have sunk a great deal of time, thought and money into this Spa-rkling venue and their enthusiasm for the Retreat is obvious at every tasteful turn. The venue is available for Civil Partnership receptions and it is the ideal place to visit for a well-pampered honeymoon if you're not jetting off to Bali.

www.brooklandsretreat.co.uk

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CALL IN AT NO.52

THERE IS A FRESH, NEW ADDITION TO THE LEISURE SCENE FOR GAY AND BI-SEXUAL MEN IN THE NORTH EAST. YES, NEWCASTLE NOW HAS A HEALTH CLUB WHERE THE BOYS CAN MEET, RELAX, UNWIND AND MEET OTHERS IN INVITING, DISCREET AND STYLISH SURROUNDINGS... WELCOME TO NUMBER 52 SAUNA.

Situated in the heart of Newcastle's vibrant gay village, this welcome addition to the city's leisure scene has become an instant hit offering - a sauna, steam room, hydrotherapy pool, several restrooms, a relaxation lounge, a large licensed cinema room featuring 50" plasma screen and cruising area and a café bar. Unlike some saunas, the staff are welcoming, friendly and helpful, there is an unlimited supply of towels and condoms, the venue is well maintained and hygienic... and is very reasonably priced.

Well located for all the city centre attractions, Number 52 is just a short walk from the train and bus stations and situated close to the main road links including the A1 and A69. An NCP secure car park is only a minute's walk away. Whether you're new to gay saunas or are looking for a friendly new venue to meet like-minded men, there is always a welcome at Number 52.

Number 52 Sauna, 52 Scotswood Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7JB.

Tel: 0191 2212189 Email: info@number52sauna.co.uk

www.number52sauna.co.uk



number 52 sauna

Number 52 is a friendly and stylish new venue for gay and bisexual men offering:

- Discreet setting to unwind and meet like-minded men
- Modern and attractive surroundings
- Latest, high-tech leisure facilities including sauna, steam room, hydrotherapy pool, café bar and relaxation lounge
- Private restrooms and cinema room
- Private courtyard and smoking area
- Internet access



**North East's
hot new sauna,
now open!**



Open seven days a week:

Sunday to Thursday 11am - 10pm

Friday & Saturday 11am - 7am

Entrance fee from £8

50-52 Scotswood Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7JB. t: 0191 2212189 e: info@number52sauna.co.uk w: www.number52sauna.co.uk

Manchester
18 Tarrif Street
Manchester M1 2FN
0161 237 9996

Leeds
7 Heaton's Court
Leeds LS1 4LJ
0113 242 7730

Gran Canaria
Avda de Estados Unidos 37
35100 Playa del Ingles, Gran Canaria
0161 873 7086




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Rest Rooms | Sling Room | Tea & Coffee Bar
Internet Lounge | TV Lounge

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Wednesday 12noon - 3am | Thursday 12noon - 4am | **24HR WEEKEND**
Friday 12noon until 4am Monday

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GLASGOW

35 Man Spa Pool | 20 Man Steam Room
20 Man Dry Sauna | 14 Rest Rooms | Sling Room
Tea & Coffee Bar | Internet Lounge | TV Lounge

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Wednesday 12noon - 3am | Thursday 12noon - 3am
Friday 12noon - 3am | Saturday 12noon - 3am | Sunday 12noon - 3am

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in a **Hectic** world...

For an insite, visit our new interactive web site

www.gay-sauna.com





Whatz On



CLUB OF THE MONTH

2-4-1 THURSDAY ESSENTIAL

Just when you thought Thursday's couldn't get any bigger and better, Essential now brings you 2-4-1 on all drinks (inc premium). Go out on a Thursday in Manchester and you're bound to end up in Essential with two dance arenas and a host of top name PAs lined up to entertain, this is the big event in the Village. Crazy drinking games and big prize giveaways brought to you by top Pop jock Nicky (Key 103) and Carl Spencer (Galaxy Manchester) weekly 11 pm till very late!

See www.essentialmanchester.com for full events and photos from all nights.



REFRESH POP PARTY

THURSDAYS ONLY!

2-4-1
ON ALL DRINKS*
INCLUDING PREMIUM SPIRITS & BOTTLES

Thursday 4th June

E'RJRE

LIVE ON STAGE, PERFORMING
TAKE ME AWAY, DUSK TILL DAWN, SOS AND WAITING FOR THE NIGHT



*EXCLUDES CHAMPAGNE NO OTHER ADVERTISED DRINKS OFFER IS AVAILABLE DURING A SPECIAL THURSDAY 2-4-1 DRINKS PROMOTION



ALWAYS A WINNER - CRUZ 101

What an amazing night as Cruz 101 turned 17! The club was packed to the rafters as excitement bubbled amongst the clubbers waiting to see if they would win the fantastic brand new Citroen C1 car the club had put up for grabs in its charity raffle. As the ticket was drawn there was a hush around the room and as Paul Martin (Chief Exec LGF) passed the ticket to Miss Cara you could hear a pin drop. The number 0341 was pulled out and the lucky customer ran waving his ticket in the air to the stage. Other winners included ticket numbers 3689, 0791, 3032, 5092 and 1559. These winners can collect their prizes from Cruz 101 reception up until the 30th June. The Chief Executive of the Lesbian and Gay Foundation was on hand to say a few words of thanks as it was announced the club had raised more than £4500.00 for them. Roll on the 18th anniversary celebration.

Meanwhile, Cruz 101 never sits back on its laurels as they get ready for summer with their Cruz Down On The Beach so, if you're feeling Hot, Hot, Hot! Pull on those shorts, slip into your tightest Speedos and get your beautiful butts down to the club to party, party, party!.

Thursday 25th June is Back2Back On The Beach and the venue is licensed til 5am.

Join Cruz & Poptastic behind the dunes at the busiest Thursday night in the Village!

John Hamilton presents 'What's In The Box?' giving you the chance to win £100 every Thursday. Grab a key from the lovely Flangela Lashes and open a box.

Members FREE all night, Students FREE B4 12.30

Fri 26th June Big Gay Friday Miss Cara squeezes into her bikini and makes a grab for the nearest hunk in trunks! Loads of Corona & beach bum goodies up for grabs. Licensed til 6am

Sat 27th June Drama Queen 2 floors, 2 moods! Light & fluffy upstairs, dark & dirty downstairs! Almighty Donald plays Pop, Disco, Dance & RnB Party tunes in Cruz

Little Miss Natalie & The Superchoons Crew spin uplifting Trance & Bouncy House in the Sub levels! Licensed til 6am

Sun 28th June Sunday Night Screamers It's All Too Shocking! Pop, Disco, Dance, RnB & House Anthems from DJ Spook Licensed til 6am

Mon 29th June Disco Inferno Welcome to Club Tropicana where the 80's & 90's rule the decks! Cruz floor plays 70's, 80's & 90's Pop & Disco Classics courtesy of Dino

Licensed til 6am

For more info go to www.cruz101.com



Manchester's Favourite Gay Venue

CRUZ
101

Check out
Michael's Bar B Q
at Napoleons
Sat 27th June



Thur 25th - Mon 29th June

Corona Beach Party

Miss Cara has loads of Corona goodies
up for grabs so pull on your shorts &
surf down to Cruz!



NEWCASTLE



NORTHERN PRIDE

A colourful festival of over 5,000 people will bring a Mardi Gras atmosphere to Newcastle in July as the annual celebration of all things gay returns to the Northeast.

With everything from picnics and parades to art showings and comedy, it promises to be a fun and diverse celebration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. And there's a fantastic line-up on the main stage on 18th July in the city's Leazes Park, with Eurovision entrants Scooch, pop legend Nicki French and local divas the Camp Vamps, alongside local LGBT performers.

The festival includes a Pride Parade snaking through the centre of Newcastle at noon on 18th July, all are encouraged to come along meeting at the Civic Centre beforehand.

The Parade will culminate in a Pink Picnic at 1pm in Leazes Park where it promises to be a fun-packed afternoon with music, stalls, children's activities, fairground, entertainers, cabaret tent as well as local rugby boys, The Ravens, and footballers, The Panthers, showing off their ball and 'tackle' skills.

Speaking about the festival, Tom Gorman, Chair of Northern Pride said:

"We're really excited about this year's festival – building on the huge success of last year it'll be the biggest yet! There's something for everyone and not just the LGBT community.

"This is a real community festival and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities from across the region have come together to ensure that we have a Pride that represents and celebrates our diversity. It's our way of marking this 40th anniversary year of the Stonewall Riots – a defining moment in the history of gay rights.

"There's not just the fantastic parade and festival on the 18th July but loads of other events happening throughout July.

"I'm also really impressed with the hard-work and commitment of the commercial gay scene, really getting onboard with the Pride spirit. Rumours of a massive after-Pride street party in Newcastle might be true!

The full programme of events can be found at www.northernpride.org.uk



Northern Pride Parade from
Newcastle Civic Centre at 12:00

pink picnic

at leazes park, newcastle

Saturday 18th July 2009

hosted by the one and only, the Fabulous...

"Miss Rory"



Live on the Main Stage SCOPOCH

Scooch represented the United Kingdom in the Eurovision Song Contest 2007 in Helsinki with their song "Flying the Flag (For You)".



Live on the Main Stage NICKI FRENCH

Performing her dance cover version of "Total Eclipse of the Heart", she also represented the United Kingdom in 2000 at Eurovision in Stockholm.



Live on the Main Stage CAMP VAMPS

Camp Vamps are a blood curdling cacophony of post modernist rock/pop music. The girls wallow in an ancient quagmire of Neanderthal rock n roll.

Cabaret Tent
Hosted by the amazing Miss Vicky Paris.

Honey Lingus, Greta La More, Penny Arcade,
Miss Sushe, Drag Attack, Tara Camp, Phyllis Tyne,
Gale Force, Lucy Lastic, Paddy NoToole,
Kitty le Teur and Miss Ophelia Balls.

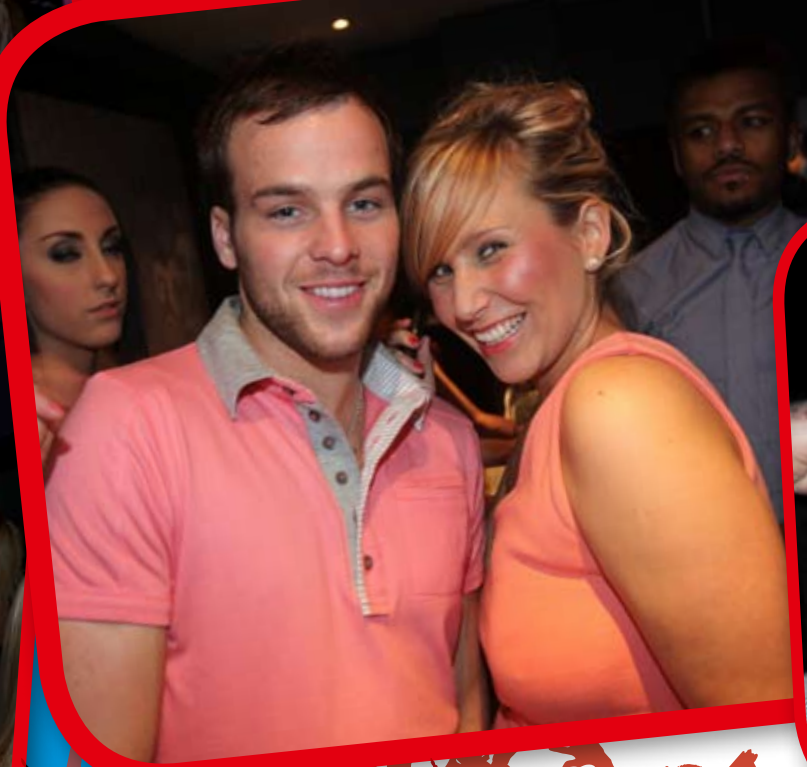
Live Main Stage Acts
The Kitty Kat Dolls, Sam Dickinson,
Laura Steel, Loraine Tinsley

Market Stalls, Fairground Rides,
Two Bars, Health and Well Being,
Sports Area, Food Hall, Stilt Walkers
Fire Eaters and Dancers.

Parade from Civic Centre at 12:00
Pink Picnic opens at 1:00pm



Event DJ's
dj gingerspice (heavens)
dj iain macleod (heavens)
dj owen (switch)



DARLINGTON

GAYLICIOUS

It's been a busy month on the Darlington scene, with 2 bank holiday extravaganzas! and there are busier times ahead at Gaylicious! With DJs Wendy Woo, Jigs, The Dollymixtures & Vinna Cliffe. Look out for these nights this summer, especially Joe's White Party, Christmas in July and Darlington Pride.

Join the Gaylicious Group on facebook for details of future events.





gaylicious

Darlington's fruitiest drag extravaganza.

every monday

JOE'S

CELLAR BAR



free entry all night!

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LEEDS

BACKDOOR DISCO

Super cool clubbing experience Back Door Disco has already caused a huge shake up on the Leeds scene since its launch two months ago. The city's only weekend gay night has fast become a staple in the party diet of every right-minded queer boy and girl after an explosive first few weeks, which has seen each Saturday rammed to the rafters. Local and national press have given it a top rating, labelling the new night as one of the North's most quality and unique dance destinations. With all that's been going on – not least appearances from nationally notorious drag stars, an electrifying set from London legend Tasty Tim and a string of theme nights, including an angels and demons dress up – it's easy to see why.

"Whether it's a big name like Tasty guesting on the decks, an opportunity to get kitted out in outrageous outfits or a special offer on the drinks or door tax, there will always be something going on at each event," says one of the promoters. "Our main aim is to do something different for the gay inhabitants of Leeds, with new things happening each week. Expect much more over the summer and don't miss any of it."

All this excitement takes place at a hidden venue next door to Club Mission and alongside outstanding features that can be found at Back Door Disco each week, including free shots, circus-style stilt walking entertainment, superstar drag hosts, nearly-naked dancers and amazing modern-to-the-minute pop and dance tunes from the residents, Scott Kelly and DJ Bdubs.

Don't miss it on Saturday 13th June, as Back Door Disco goes West, giving clubbers a chance to dress up as cowboys or Indians for free entry before 12. As always, there will be cheap drinks and an array of unmissable happenings. For more information check out backdoordisco.com

Photos: Aaron Corkin
www.acorkin.co.uk



**DRAG QUEENS
FREE SHOTS
SEXY DANCERS &
SUPER FIT BOYS
& GIRLS**

Backdoor Disco

Bad Ass Gay Clubbin'

**EVERY SATURDAY
LEEDS BIGGEST GAY NIGHT**

IN THE HUGE MAIN ARENA: SCOTT KELLY

Blasting out a modern mix of Bubblegum Pop & Commercial Dance

**SELECTED DRINKS INCLUDING
BOTTLED BEERS & ALCOPOPS AT**

£2.50 ALL NIGHT

@FIORI, HEATONS COURT, LEEDS.

www.backdoordisco.com Fiori/Mission Annexe, Heaton's Court Leeds
Open 11pm till 5am every Saturday www.myspace.com/backdoordiscoleeds For details / Guestlist text 07974 42 55 62
Add us on facebook - BACK DOOR DISCO LEEDS

Nice'n'Naughty

bent

homo

Corky's

VK
VODKA KICK





LEEDS

ALL CHANGE AT THE VIADUCT

The Bitch is Back in no uncertain terms, as Anna Glypta and her fabulous company have a totally new show to be unveiled at the Viaduct, which is soon to be renamed The Viaduct Showbar.

Since starting her career back in the year dot, Anna has always dreamt of bringing a Vegas style show to the inhabitants of her home city. Working her way from DJing karaoke nights, peddling her drag DJ to straights in Scarborough but always causing quite a stir everywhere she performed... Anna eventually found her home at the Viaduct. Now, with a budget to thrill every drag queen under the sun and a troupe of enthusiastic superstars in the guise of Carla Jackson and new comer Di Di Dior, the new show will premiered on Friday 3rd July. The ensemble is completed by two stunning boys, Dan and Paul (the budget has been cut for these horny lads so it will be just a thong and a smile) the event will be like no other cabaret ever to be seen at a gay bar in Leeds.

Meanwhile, the Dazzling Diva Show and the award winning Danny Sher Bailey continue every Sunday and DJ Martin thrills Monday nights with his karaoke special.

Food is always available from noon thru to 8pm

For even more info: facebook
theviaductleeds
www.annaglypta.com



WE'RE GONNA MAKE YOU AN OFFER...

Fibre launches their brand new daytime concept 'Café Mafiosa' on Monday 1st June, which is a modern twist on the traditional Italian pizzeria. This new idea will take over the super-trendy Briggate bar daily from midday until midnight, seven days per week and will serve mouth-watering pizzas, Paninis and gourmet coffee courtesy of Starbucks. If you have not got time to eat in, everything on the menu is available to take away too!

Café Mafiosi @ Bar Fibre, 168
Lower Briggate, Leeds.
www.cafemafiosa.com



the VIADUCT

CABARET SHOW BAR

The Bitch is Back

THE VIADUCT'S VERY OWN
QUEEN OF MEAN

**ANNA
GLYPTA**

*Every Friday &
Saturday Night
8pm - Late*



Sunday Night

your host Danny Cher Bailey
with The Dazzling Divas,
starring Miss Carla Jackson and Roxy



WHAT'S ON AT YOUR VIADUCT

MONDAY –
KARAOKE WITH DJ
MARTIN

TUESDAY –
CHILLOUT NIGHT

WEDNESDAY –
MOVIE and SUPPER
NIGHT

THURSDAY –
GLAMOUR WITH
MISS CARLA
JACKSON Drag DJ
playing all your
favourite tunes.

FREE Courtyard Party
Sunday 28th June 2pm - Midnight

Feeling Hungry
Deborah's Pantry
Hot food served daily

The Viaduct, Lower Briggate, Leeds LS1 4AE Tel: 0113 3912741
viaductleedsfacebook

LEEDS

FUNDRAISING FASHION

A special fashion show hosted by Bag It Up, the textile recycling partners to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, and the final year students at Leeds University School of Design was a sell out. The show included VIPs including the internationally renowned designer Wayne Hemingway, and raised a staggering £4,000 to help support the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. The 'No Frills' fashion show at the Victoria Works in Leeds was a great success, the atmosphere at Victoria Works was electric and the designs from the students were simply fantastic. Elisa Salamone from Bag It Up said "We were proud to get the message across that recycling doesn't just stop with emptying your wardrobe, it can help to make shows like this and we hope this is the first of many"

www.bagitup.org.uk
www.victoriaworksleeds.com



LEEDS

SUNRISE

Well the summer is final here and Mission in Leeds is launching a brand new Friday night all-nighter 'Sunrise' the summer terrace parties. This new weekly event launches on Friday 19th June and will take advantage of the largest licenced terrace in Leeds city centre. DJ's will include Josh Demello, Marc Wagastaff and John Crayford playing sizzling summer vocal-house in the dance arena alongside chilled-out house on the terrace. Weather permitting, there will be a free barbecue every week during the early hours and best of all admission prices are just £3 before 1am/£5 after or free in your beach wear plus... drinks at only £2.50 all night.

Sunrise, Every Friday @ Mission,
 Heaton's Court Leeds,
 Friday 19th June - Midnight till
 Sunrise



QUEENS COURT & BAR FIBRE PRESENTS...

THE COURTYARD 09

P A R T I E S



SUN 28TH JUNE
SUN 26TH JULY
SUN 30TH AUG
BANK HOLIDAY
SUN 27TH SEPT
CLOSING PARTY

4pm till Midnight // www.barfibre.com
www.queens-court.co.uk
Free B4 4pm // £3 B4 7pm // £5 after

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SUMMER
DRINKS OFFERS!**
UNTIL 7PM
From both
Queens Court
& Bar Fibre



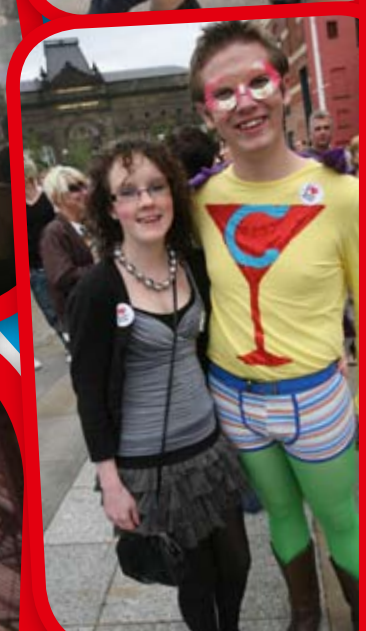


LEEDS FREE LEEDS PRIDE 4 YOU

With 2nd August rapidly approaching the team behind Yorkshire's largest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Pride are promising a day to remember. Liaqat Ali told us, 'Its going to be amazing, people are really behind Leeds Pride; everyone from the City Council's Events Team, West Yorkshire Police, the local Gay business and of course our charity, Yorkshire MESMAC. It really is a great partnership that we've put together to deliver the Party of the year! Over the past three years Leeds Pride has grown and grown and the organisers are anticipating the biggest crowd ever to enjoy all things gay that the city has to offer.

The parade of floats will start from Millennium Square at about 3pm and wend its way through the streets to end up at Lower Briggate where the fun really starts. Every scene venue is putting on special Pride entertainment, while the area itself will be cordoned off to traffic... but FREE to you happy party-goers. There will be a stage for acts, bands and entertainers, bars and community stalls. While some of the north's biggest gay brands including Back Door Disco and Homo join forces in the evening from 10pm-4am @ Mission to present '4Play' which will feature all of your favourite DJs alongside cheap drinks and live entertainment.

If you would like to volunteer to help steward the parade please contact Anne Marie at the Leeds office of Yorkshire MESMAC on 0113 2444209 or email volunteer@mesmac.co.uk



LEEDS

LOVE LEEDS 'THE SUMMER OF LOVE'

The biggest party of the summer is nearly here! Love Leeds returns following the sell out smash on New Year's Eve, to bring together the biggest clubbing brands of the North with their 'The Summer Of Love' event on Saturday 4th July at the huge Victoria Works venue.

The clubbing glitterati will be out in force as Federation, Kissdabunk, Filth, Purrfect, Blackout and Candypants club together to create an almighty party for your summer. Love Leeds will create a soundtrack with something for everyone, no matter your musical taste... as well as amazing stage shows and special effects, lasers, lighting and huge sound systems brought in especially for this event.

Love Leeds kicks off at 7pm in the outside area of Victoria Works with soundstages, outdoor bars and a funfair with white knuckle rides, traditional stalls and food concessions, which will be open all night until the event closes at 5am.

For more information and tickets go to www.loveleeds.com

Love Leeds 'Summer of Love'
Saturday 4th July
7pm until 5am
@ Victoria Works, Leeds
www.loveleeds.com



Photos: Mark Hawkins





LE4DS PRIDE

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST 2009

SHOW YOUR PRIDE AT LEEDS PRIDE 4

LESBIAN • GAY • BISEXUAL • TRANS • FAMILY & FRIENDS, ALL PROUD JOIN US!

the fun starts at millenium square at 12 noon • afterparty @ lower briggate

HUDDERSFIELD

PINK PICNIC - 26TH JULY

The pink picnic in Huddersfield began in 1986 with a group of friends deciding to organise an afternoon outing to the moors overlooking the scenic reservoir Binn Wood. It not only turned into an annual event but has also developed into something that the entire LGBTQ community can be proud of. By 1998 the event had grown to such a size (with over 1500 revellers) that a new location was needed to accommodate the massive turnout. Castle Hill, Huddersfield's most prominent landmark became the new location and has since become it's new home. Last year event saw a turnout of over 5,000 people and more are expected in the year to come. Already set to entertain the throng are Pride Sisters, ENV, Bears Aloud, Almost Pink and a host of other acts, market, food stalls, and a beer tent. Don't forget... bring your own picnic and impress your fellow al-fresco diners.

The Pink Picnic does request an optional £3 donation to cover the costs of the event.

www.huddersfieldpinkpicnic.co.uk



YORKSHIRE

THE NEW UNION @ THE SUN BRADFORD

It's been in the pipeline for a while, there was a bit of a false start but we can now officially announce The Sun Hotel is under the management of The New Union's Wakefield & Huddersfield where I'm sure loads of you will of have spent many great nights out. The New Union @ The Sun will breathe New Life into the Bradford Gay Scene with credit crunch beating bar prices and great entertainment including Missy Mincin & the return of MarkyMark after being away from Bradford's Gay Scene for more years than he cares to share with us. Join the FaceBook group "The New Union @ The Sun" to keep up to date on all the upcoming events.



THE NEW UNION HUDDERSFIELD

The New Union Huddersfield has just given Friday nights a facelift! Their brand new Friday night T.B.I.F. (Thank Bubbles Its Friday) is set to be the Campest Party Night in town. Miss Bubbles La Belle presents her Open The Box Game Show with Cash Prizes Plus Surprise Guest Drag DJ Once a Month on The Last Friday. If that isn't enough on Friday 26th June there will be a Male & female Stripper. With an all new Happy Hour from 9pm till 11pm including doubles & mixer for £2.00 and selected bottles for £1.90 The New Union is the number one place to be in Huddersfield. Don't forget tickets are now on sale for the Pink Picnic After Party which will be bigger and better than ever before! Tickets are £5 if bought in advance or £10 on the gate. Tickets sell very fast every year so buy early to avoid disappointment.



WAKEFIELD PRIDE @ THE NEW UNION

Plans for Wakefield Pride @ The New Union on August 9th are moving along nicely. The New Union are rising nicely to the challenge of providing 14 hours of entertainment. If you would like to get involved with this years event The New Union are looking for people to help steward and help with fundraising for Yorkshire Mesmac amongst other things. If you would like to be involved please email mark@wakefieldpride.net or call The New Union on 01924 378 215

Just because the team at The New Union are busy planning a huge 14 hour pride event it doesn't mean that they haven't got time to make sure they continue to provide the best entertainment, the finest food and great value drinks every day. They have just launched a new cocktail menu for those of you who like a little something different and the fantastic 2 - 4 - 1 VK offer continues on a Thursday night making MarkyMark's Camp Karaoke, which is now open till 1am every week, a great cheap night out.



SUNRISE

THE SUMMER TERRACE PARTIES



FREE BARBEQUE ALFRESCO COCKTAIL BAR

ON THE BIGGEST LICENCED OUTDOOR
TERRACE IN THE CITY!

**JOSH DEMELLO
MARC WAGSTAFF
JOHN CRAYFORD**

PLAYING SUMMER VOCAL HOUSE
IN THE DANCE ARENA
MIDNIGHT UNTIL SUNRISE

SELECTED
DRINKS
£2.50
ALL NIGHT

LAUNCHES
FRIDAY
19TH JUNE
2009!
mission



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WWW.CLUBMISSION.COM



EVERY FRIDAY



GO TO FLAMINGO

Well after some glorious weather, and the start of a raft of Prides up and down the country, Summer must be on its way, and what better way to party than a visit to the seaside, and as always Flamingo is well positioned to provide the best night out; by providing a huge range of events and promotions.

The crazy diva Lonnie Gordon makes a welcome return for an American Theme Weekend with a live appearance on Friday 3rd July. For nearly two decades Lonnie has graced the dance charts with such worldwide number hits as "Happening All Over Again", "Gonna Catch You", "Bad Mood", "No Regrets" and "Love Eviction" to name but a few. The Wideboys have given her monster hit "Gonna Catch You" a makeover and the track is set for imminent release.

Live on stage on Friday 31st July is Tina Cousins - a true 21st Century diva. She's stunningly beautiful, with a powerfully emotive voice, achieving global success with the anthemic single 'Mysterious Times' alongside German DJ Sash, which reached No. 2 in the UK charts, Tina's new track "Sex On Fire" has now gone out on promo and is on heavy rotation in the clubs in the UK, its going to be a monster.

Federation returns to the Flamingo on Saturday 20th June, and every third Saturday on the month. Expect nothing less than an astounding night filled with style, uplifting anthems, featuring entertainers and fire eaters to keep the crowd entertained, as their resident DJ's make sure that the beats will be fierce, the mix will be bold, and the crowd eclectic. Miss it, miss out !!

www.itpleasure.com





Lonnie
Gordon

Friday 3rd July

"Happenin All Over Again"

"Love Eviction"

"Gonna Catch You"

tina
Cousins

Friday 31st July

"Mysterious Times"

"Pray" "Wonderful Life"

"Sex On Fire"



BLACKPOOL

BLACKPOOL PRIDE

Kicking off this year's round of Pride events, Blackpool is always the first off the mark. The weather is often unpredictable at the UK's premier holiday resort but it never seems to dampen the spirit of those hardy partygoers. Despite the inclement weather, the parade up the promenade was fun and well attended. In fact, this year saw a surge in the number attending the occasion, so it was just as well that the organisers had cordoned off part of the gay area for safety... and to erect a stage. With the likes of Andy Scott-Lee, Michelle McManus, hot boy band Frixion, several ex-XFactor contestants and Miss Pride herself, Hazell Dean, the crowd lapped up the daytime festivities. Come the evening and a whole new style of fun took over, with the Flamingo producing a huge foaming bubble bath for the enthusiastic revellers. Later in the night the fantastic Chris Geary introduced his new boys in a fabulous new strip routine that had everyone... UP. Throughout the celebratory weekend all the bars and clubs made sure there was something for everyone with Mardi Gras putting on a sensational line up of top entertainment featuring strippers, vocalists and comedy. The city is famous for its drag acts and much of the fun was to be had from the laydees giving of their sparkly best.

Congratulations to all involved and I bet that plans are already being drawn up for 2010.



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Nathan Moore

MARDI

10

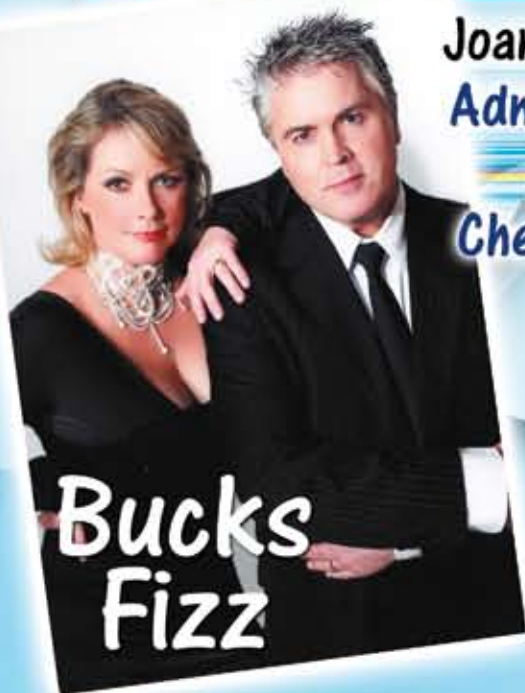
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BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM PRIDE

By Darrell Hirst

Billed as the biggest free pride event in the UK, Birmingham, as always, lived up to its awesome reputation. They never do things by half in Britain's second city and the organisation was just brilliant. The acts were superb and whichever person ordered the weather... should be knighted for services to gaydom... it was all just fantastic. The parade was the best ever and got the crowds motivated, as if they needed it, to party the weekend away. Venues were packed, the streets were full, the atmosphere friendly, the different areas with community stalls, the village green... well... I, like so many other people, thought it was the best yet. Congratulations to the committee, volunteers and everyone involved... the rest of the country will have a great deal to live up to.



CAMBRIDGE

PINK FESTIVAL - CAMBRIDGE 22ND AUGUST 2009

The Pink Festival is a massive, colourful summer celebration, which breaks down social barriers and brings together crowds from all corners of the region and from all walks of life. Now in its sixth year, it's everyone's party and the only diversity festival held in the East of England! Daring to be different, with an ethos firmly founded in celebrating individuality and imagination, whatever age, gender, sexuality or religion, The Pink Festival, which has wheelchair access and sign language accompaniment for many acts, is everyone's party and it's absolutely FREE! With the perfect mix of all things for all people, the Pink Festival is expecting crowds of 15,000 this summer and is truly one of a kind. With live music on the main stage, camp cabaret, theatre, comedy, disco, DJs, art, yoga, youth projects, children's areas and the infamous Pink Lounge, you've got an amazing outdoor event that is as individual as those who attend it.

www.pinkfestival.com



Progress FM

PROGRESS FM

If you are visiting the Midlands in the near future, or attending Nottingham Pride, you can tune in online to Progress FM for all the latest gay news and gossip. The online station is there to: Promote Awareness, Understanding and Acceptance. To be informative and entertaining radio. To reach people on a deeper level, asking questions on subjects that matter to the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgendered community, as well as the socially aware audience. An at all times support the LGB&T community and related issues. Progress FM also works with many organisations, offering help and a voice for their services.

They continue 24 hours a day on-line, with the next event on FM for the week of Nottingham Pride on 25th July
<http://progressfm.co.uk>



BE SAFE AND STAY SAFE

You pluck up the courage to go for an HIV test. The result comes back and it is good news – you're HIV negative; you haven't been infected with HIV. You might think that that's the happy ending, but for many gay men it isn't. A number of recent studies have shown that the majority of gay men who are diagnosed with HIV have had a previous negative test result and then became infected with HIV later.

"It's a sad story, but a familiar one," said Matthew Hodson of GMFA. "I think that lots of men when they test negative think that they will always have safer sex from then on, but then find that it's not always easy. Getting a negative test result can give you the opportunity to think about your behaviour, why you felt you needed to test in the first place and what you can do stay safer in future, but without support a negative test can actually increase the chances of sexual risk taking."

To help gay men who test negative to stay negative, GMFA have just produced a new booklet called "Tested Negative?". This booklet provides both information and exercises that help men to take control of the sex that they have, and avoid the sex that is more risky than they want. The booklet is now available to gay men in some gay bars and is being distributed by health trainers on the scene and through GUM testing services in London. It can also be downloaded free of charge from GMFA's website at www.gmfa.org.uk/staynegative.

PLAN YOUR PRIDE VISIT

13 June

NATIONAL GAY PRIDE
Italy – Genoa

19-28 June

DUBLIN GAY PRIDE

20 June

SHEFFIELD PRIDE

20 June-5 July

PRIDE LONDON FESTIVAL

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SWANSEA PRIDE

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PRIDE SCOTIA
Edinburgh

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SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE

28 June

NEW YORK CITY PRIDE

4 July

PRIDE LONDON
Parade and rally

10-12 July

SPARKLE
the national transgendered celebration
(tba)

18 July

NORTHERN PRIDE
Newcastle

18 July

THANET PRIDE

25 July – 2 Aug

WORLD GAMES
Copenhagen, Denmark

25 July – 2 Aug

BRIGHTON AND HOVE GAY PRIDE
Festival (Parade 1st August)

25 July

HULL PRIDE

30 July

STOCKHOLM PRIDE

2 August

LEEDS PRIDE

8 August

CORNWALL GAY PRIDE
Truro

15 August

UK BLACK PRIDE
London

16-31 August

MANCHESTER GAY PRIDE
Festival Parade on the 29th

29 August

BARNLEY GAY PRIDE

GRAN CANARIA

PRIDE IN THE SUN

Word and photos by www.garfy.co.uk

Maspalomas Gay Pride is now in its 8th year and the event gets bigger each year. People flock from all over Europe to attend this event and give it a very international flavour. 2009 proved no exception.

Running from 4th to 10th May, the first major event was the Blue party, a fund-raising cabaret event hosted by Sandra with performances from Mandy Gap, Dr Beverley Ballcrusher, Wilma Fingadoo and Drag with No Name.

On Thursday the crowd were treated to an evening organised by Amigos Contra El Sida with songs from the musicals sung by local and visiting acts. The evening came to a close with the audience placing remembrance candles in the shape of a red ribbon.

Friday, a Royal Variety Show presented by GLAY, the organising committee, entertained the audience with numbers by stars including Toyah Willcox, Hannah Jones, Angie Brown, Eva the Diva and Hazell Dean.

On Saturday, 20,000 people joined in the Pride Parade in a colourful display of costumes and floats entertaining the watching crowd all along Avenida Tirajana. This was followed by the finale live cabaret show. Again, the crowd were entertained by international acts including Jo Francis, Living Joy, NTrance, and the Venga Boys. Following with tradition, Maspalomas Gay Pride 2009 was brought to a close with a spectacular display of fireworks. Maspalomas Gay Pride, Gran Canaria runs from the first Monday in May to the following Saturday each year. More information can be found on the GLAY website:

www.gaypridemaspalomas.com.



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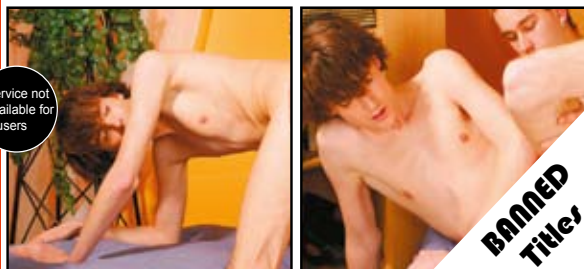
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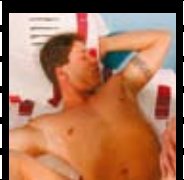
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SHOWER PANTS

By Gordon Alexander

Jimmy Hudson had finished his well planned morning workout. These days he spent an awful lot of time at the gym as his recently imposed 'unemployed status' had freed him to pursue his need for a better body. At 25 he'd been absolutely stunned at the way his already nicely toned body had reacted to the long and arduous exercise programme that he'd worked out for himself. These new bumps and curves to his body had made his training kit of white vest and white shorts bulge at the seams as the muscle area increased. He loved to look in the multi-mirrored gym and see those muscles being reflected back from all directions. Hell, he thought he really did look HOT... and he did. The now exaggeratedly tight shorts and vest made him look like an overly pumped-up schoolboy who'd just finished showing off at P.E. He didn't mind the look at all. He'd seen plenty of guys at the gym watching him. He'd seen surreptitious stroking of cocks through shorts as they'd eyed him up... and he liked the fuss he caused. As he wondered into the shower area the first thing to catch his eye was the underwear hanging from a nearby hook. His first reaction was of slight disgust... who would just leave their manky underpants hanging for all to see? He entered the cubicle opposite and began his showering routine. As he shampooed his hair he loved letting the foam slowly trickle down his back or over his face and down onto his chest. He used very little water to wash the stuff off and watched as this white tide slowly engulfed his pecs and travelled southward to cover his tight abdominals and form in a foamy pool in his matt of pubic hair. He'd had this routine ever since he saw just how all this emphasised his new muscle groups but today he kept being distracted. It was the pants hung up outside the shower opposite. He was fascinated. As he massaged the thick suds into his cock and balls he got hard as usual, but got even harder when on closer inspection he could see the slimy gobs of cum clinging to the manky fabric hanging just an arms-length away. He knew he shouldn't... but he did. He snatched at the spunky pants and pulled them into his own compartment. He caressed them against his heaving chest (his erotic thoughts making him more than a little excited) and wrapped them around his own foaming cock and balls. The cold greasy soft fabric initially giving his body a different sensation before the lather soaked in and they became slippery and wet. His seven inch cock throbbed and jerked as he used the slimy material as a wank tool. It worked well. Before long his dick spurted a huge gushing load of prime cum into the soggy material... the effort had him moaning and squirting for longer than he usually did. The pants had caught Jimmy's orgasm and he gently squeezed the last drops from his cock into a less spunky part of the soaked material. After rinsing himself off he once again hung the gooey briefs on the same hook he'd found them on... hoping that some other gym bunny would do the same. They did!



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ADVICE & COMMENT SIMON & BEYONCÉ



Simon says...

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

Dear Simon,

My boyfriend and I, well ex boyfriend and I have recently split up and there is one thing that we are arguing over constantly. It's not who gets the dog or the house or the Madonna cd's - how stereotypical. It's over who gets the 'home movie' that we made together! Now people seem to think this is a little odd but partly it's about nostalgia and partly it's about having the only copy so it doesn't end up on X-Tube.

Dan, London

Dear Dan,

Well, I have to admit I wasn't expecting that to be what you are fighting over. I mean why would either of you want to keep it for nostalgic reasons? If you aren't together anymore you're not exactly going to be wanting to watch it of a night for a quick handjob? Or are you... do you both still want to be together? OK, let's not go there and over complicate things. I think the answer is simple - destroy it. That way neither of you get it, no new fella is going to accidentally find it and it won't ever end up on the internet.

Dear Simon,

I have told no one about this at all because it is wrong beyond belief. In fact, I am not sure that I can even type it, but here goes. For the last six months I have been having an affair... with my boyfriends Dad! My boyfriend is 23 and his Dad is a very good looking 48, I myself am 27. It all started at Christmas when we went to stay with his parents and things sort of progressed. Now we are having late nights at the office, business weekends away- all the clichés. He's still married and I am happy with my boyfriend but I just can't stop screwing his Dad. I don't want to be with him just for the sex and the whole thing is its getting to me and I don't know what to do.

Anon

Dear Anon,

Well, either you are living the life of a porn movie or you are indeed in a very, very difficult situation. I don't tend to condone affairs but I am more lenient if the two people do actually get together and it is worth all the heartache. This sounds like it is about sex... plain and simple and you can get that from your boyfriend or porn, though possibly not ones with your storyline. I see this is all about you, which is fair enough, but have you asked about what he wants. He might just see you as a bit of young ass he's not getting at home... but no more. However, before this 'affair' comes to light, deep down you know you have to stop? I think maybe you should just leave this family alone, there will be some pain but a whole lot less than you could create carrying on.

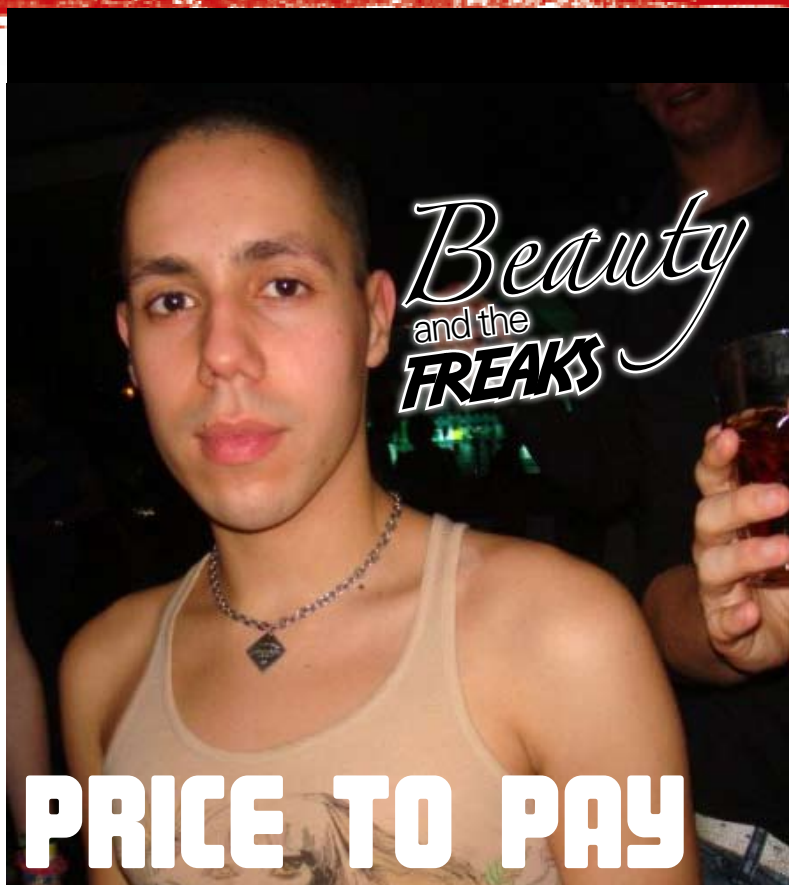
Dear Simon,

I have stopped fancying my boyfriend. It's ever since he started to loose weight. When I met him he was a chunky, slightly chubby bear and now he has started to look like a gym bunny with cropped hair everywhere. He says he is doing it for his health, which I respect but now he is not really my type anymore and I am reluctant to have sex with him. He has also started to get quite vain which I don't like. Do I tell him to put on weight or else? I want him back the way he was.

John, Glasgow

Dear John,

Normally you get this the other way around with shallow people (not that I am implying you are shallow) complaining their boyfriends are getting fatter not thinner. I think you have to look at it this way...are looks the only reason you are with your boyfriend? Fat or thin he is still your boyfriend with the exact same personality and that should be what is turning you on. If not then maybe he just isn't the one?



Katie Price and Peter Andre, if you've been living under a rock and somehow haven't heard, are no longer together. Forget their recent appearances on Graham Norton and Paul O'Grady; forget their marathon dash. Forget every word you've read in any of Katie's ghostwritten autobiographies. It's all apparently rubbish. But let's face it, who ever bought it anyway? I wouldn't be surprised if they switched again and renewed their wedding vows for a glossy magazine before we even go to print.

Goodbye ageing obscurity and Hello! magazine.

Peter wants to sing again, but has he asked any of us what we think? Let's hope he doesn't. And will Katie resurrect Jordan? I can see the wrinkles now. He: parading around across MTV and T4 with his leathery

man-boobs out, grinding to a mysterious (and invisible) girl. She: baps out, down to her ankles, stretch-marked and leaking milk all over page three. What a pair of tits!

Maybe I'm cynical (by now you know I am) but doesn't this just seem like yet another ploy to get on the front page? Now they get to sell stories about how bad the other was in bed, who took up the bed covers, who cheated on who. There will be the custody battle, the McCartney-style fight for material gain, the concerned Mitch Winehouse-type parents, the disturbed children, the public rows, the general public disapproval, then maybe a reconciliation in time for spring.

Photo: ITV



Well Max Clifford might find the media circus amusing, but I fancy setting the elephants loose and dropping the tent on all concerned. I'm tired of the relentless freakshow. With all her thick make-up she looks like a Tia-Anna rip off (if you caught the drag queen on Britain's Got Talent). Then again, it does seem like a good lesson in how to cash in during the credit crunch. Maybe MPs will be doing it next to repay their fraudulent expenses claims.

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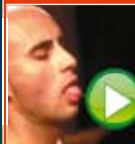
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Suckin' Cock



3013

Suckin' Cock II



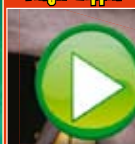
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Suckin' Cock III



3015

Finger Dippin'



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Sailor' Fun



3017

Rough Sex



3018

Bear Bating



3019

Young Soldier



3020

Uncut Cock



3021

Open Wide



3022

Eating the Ass



3023

Bigass Bear



3024

1st Time Swede



3025

Asian Delights



3026

Twins Together



3027

Wanking Scally



3028

Massive Knob



3029

Massive Knob



3030

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Just dial **09097 90 51** then the **extension**
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- 00 Uniform comes off to reveal lads big d**k (18+)
- 01 A tender d**k deep in yer throat
- 02 Dirty old man fiddled wiv a lads c**k (18+)
- 03 Doc pulls my undies down & gives me a stiffy (18+)
- 04 Feelin a lads arse at work leads to more (18+)
- 05 Footie lads sent for early shower have sex (18+)
- 06 Gay porno gets str8 mates suckin d**k
- 07 Groping u leads to hot sex at back of Tesco's
- 08 Horny boy wants yer hot juicy d**k (18+)
- 09 I banged my pool cue into a lads d**k (18+)
- 10 I caught my mate w**kin in me bruv's footie shorts
- 11 I got a boner watching my mate play footie
- 12 I kissed me f**k buddy for the first time
- 13 I'll take yer full length in me gob
- 14 I took w**k mag off str8 scally & grabbed his c**k
- 15 W**ked a scally thug to stop him deckin me
- 16 Guys get well horny playin naked snooker in a pub
- 17 He let me carry on slammin after I c**m up his bum
- 18 Luv me bird to bits but I luv havin sex wiv guys
- 19 Dad's mate took me in from rain & sucked me
- 20 Me & my mate got well gay while his bird watched
- 21 Me sleepin mates boner wox up against me arse
- 22 Me & u with boners in the sauna
- 23 Naked college boy w**kin on top of desk (18+)
- 24 Naked teenboy at the newsagents (18+)
- 25 Old man & boy rub c**ks together (18+)
- 26 Phone hot guy & he'll try his speedos on
- 27 Rude boy luv's yer cock (18+)
- 28 Rude guys swap speedos at the baths
- 29 Scallies & moshers havin d**k fun
- 30 Scally gets his dirty boner out on train
- 31 Guy pi**ed in a bottle & poured it out
- 32 Scally removes get c**k out in the offy
- 33 Sir spanked me in class (18+)
- 34 Skinny lads wiv big c**ks (18+)
- 35 Slender guy wiv donkey d**k
- 36 Suckin guys d**ks round da lock up
- 37 Suck me pi**y cheesy d**k
- 38 Guy points his hard-on at me in bogs
- 40 Guy will lick yer bum if you let him j**xz over your face
- 41 Tesco guy going commando wiv sp**k down his thighs
- 42 Smoothness of a boys shaved d**k & balls (18+)
- 43 TLC on a sweet & tender hugs d**k
- 44 Two blokes see horny guy get a boner at the urinals
- 45 Two lads pi**ing down an alley (18+)
- 46 U & your fantasy f**k
- 47 W**kin rude boy on a bus whilst he talked 2 his pal
- 48 Yer hand up the leg of my footie shorts
- 49 Wrestlin wiv me cuz gets me c**k well hard
- 50 I slid c**kskin up & down a skinheads boner in a pub
- 51 F**k yer fist & imagine it's a boy's arse (18+)
- 52 Scally wiv a big d**k in tight silky trackies (18+)
- 53 Blond haired boys wiv d**ks (18+)
- 54 Boner alert wiv scrappin scallies
- 55 Bored str8 mates experiment wiv their d**ks
- 56 Breeze up leg of shorts gets a scally's c**k well stiff
- 57 College boys snoggin & w**kin in front of class (18+)
- 58 Cute guy gets a good mouthful of yer hot c**k
- 59 Dirty scally plays wiv his mates d**k whilst he sleeps
- 60 Dirty stained undies get scallys c**k well ard!
- 61 Flash yer stiff c**k wiv a scally outside McDonalds
- 62 Horny boys wiv pi**in d**ks (18+)
- 63 Teen neighbours have mutual w**k & more (18+)
- 64 House full of naked guys playin wiv d**ks
- 65 My mate wox gay & I let him have my bum
- 66 I found out sweet guy next door was into c**k
- 67 I saw a cute guy w**kin naked in the park
- 68 I showed my arsehole to me old school teacher
- 69 Jacuzzi bubbles round my balls & arse
- 70 Guys drinkin cider & w**kin on the corner
- 71 Lads ridin bikes wiv their boners showin (18+)
- 72 Late nite summer w**kin in the park
- 73 Me bird loves watchin c**k action wiv me n pal
- 74 Me gay mates showed me what I'd been missin
- 75 Me mates Dad did me hard & fast up the arse
- 76 My sisters b.f went further than a hot wrestle
- 77 Me & u wiv stiff c**ks in & out of our Calvin's
- 78 Musty whiff of sweaty balls in footie shorts
- 79 Naked guys face the road, kissin & w**kin
- 80 Naked wiv me str8 mate after a footy game
- 81 Night of stiff c**ks wiv me Mums boyfriend
- 82 Butt knacked wiv me str8 pal all night long
- 83 Night of stiff c**ks wiv me Mums boyfriend
- 84 Pothead wox off his face so I sat on his d**k
- 85 Pretend bummin turns real for str8 mates
- 86 Pullin down ASDA lads uniform trousers (18+)
- 87 Scallies kiss & copper gets hard-on
- 88 Scally in TJ Hughes smellin of cum
- 89 Scally mates find out they are both into c**k
- 90 Sir likes naked boys wiv big d**ks (18+)
- 91 Sir saw my gay c**k suckin doodles in my pad
- 92 Sniffin between balls & thighs (18+)
- 93 Scally looked well pissed off so I sucked him off
- 94 Tender guy d**s get stiff in changing rooms
- 95 Hoy guys wrestlin naked wiv stiff c**ks
- 96 Wet naked boy sits on lifeguards lap (18+)
- 97 Wot happens when u get 2 horny teens (18+)
- 98 Wot I did after I got my wasted mate naked
- 99 Wot I get up to wiv people I don't know!



Press 1
to skip
stories



Gemini (May22/June21)

Your mood is hasty and impulsive. You could end up tripping over our own feet if you continue in such a disorganised fashion. Plan the next few weeks more carefully and you will get everything done. Changes made to your home life will please your housemates. Single? Love is in the air and you will be kidding yourself if you believe any relationship begun now will stay platonic!



CELEBRITY GEMINI

22/05 Sir Lawrence Oliver	06/06 Sandra Bernhard
23/05 Joan Collins	07/06 Prince
24/05 Queen Victoria	08/06 Joan Rivers
25/05 Lauryn Hill	09/06 Johnny Depp
26/05 Lenny Kravitz	10/06 Judy Garland
27/05 Christopher Lee	11/06 Gene Wilder
28/05 Kylie Minogue	12/06 Anne Frank
29/05 Melissa Etheridge	13/06 Mary-Kate & Ashley Olson
30/05 Mel Blanc	14/06 Boy George
31/05 Colin Farrell	15/06 Courtney Cox
01/06 Marilyn Monroe	16/06 Tupac Shakur
02/06 Sir Edward Elgar	17/06 Barry Manilow
03/06 Tony Curtis	18/06 Isabella Rossellini
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05/06 Mark Walberg	20/06 Nicole Kidman
	21/06 Prince William

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



Aries (Mar21/Apr20)

Neighbourhood and community affairs need a lot of thought; someone expects your support in a group project. Be sure to arrange it, over the weeks ahead, so you get a chance to take a well-needed pause from working and other commitments. In romance, you must turn your attention to an issue that can't be sidetracked any longer. This will involve some deep conversations with your partner.

Taurus (Apr21/May21)

You receive proof that someone cares for you deeply. This could take a close relationship onto a new level. The weeks ahead will be good for your love life, travel and shopping. In fact you will be brimming with excitement after some revealing developments in romance. You motivate others with your enthusiasm. Someone close is thinking about joining a health club and you might join them.

Cancer (Jun22/Jul23)

A lot of planning and research is needed before you get some ideas underway. Be prepared to spend some time these next few weeks behind-the-scenes. Confidential matters and private meetings need to be attended to. It may seem as if you're neglecting your loved-ones but this isn't so. To prove it you might arrange a genuinely pleasant surprise. Socially, you have some rich choices ahead as you'll be mixing with some wonderful people.

Leo (Jul24/Aug23)

There's something very tempting about forbidden fruit; you will be determined, over the weeks ahead to win the heart of someone who is playing hard to get. There's a lot to do over the weeks ahead; you're determined to succeed and you will leave no stone unturned in your efforts to achieve. An old friend or lover gets in touch and reminds you of something you used to enjoy immensely.

Virgo (Aug24/Sept23)

You're nearing the finishing line; a goal is in sight and you're remaining calm and focused. The few problems that come your way will be faced head on and you will solve them too. You're in demand socially; friends think the world of you. You could really use some tender loving care too. Carve out some time in your hectic schedule purely for romance and socialising. As important as your work may be, you also need time to play!

Libra (Sept24/Oct23)

New opportunities are opening up for you now. Risks are taken; you're likely to land on your feet. Your feelings about relationships will be changing these next few weeks. A platonic relationship starts to become more meaningful and you need to do something about this. Expressing your private hopes and desires is important now. Take the initiative in romance; your efforts will be rewarded.

Scorpio (Oct24/Nov22)

Attention to finances seems to be a must as June begins. Travel is highlighted later when thoughts of a coming holiday or a long journey will provide you with the change you need. While you're whizzing around between this place and the next, spare a thought for someone you love who can't seem to catch up with you. Plan something romantic soon. Just to show a certain special someone you haven't forgotten about them!

Sagittarius (Nov23/Dec21)

Efforts you're making now will reap rewards greater than you imagined, over the weeks ahead. Networking is the name of the game if you want to get yourself noticed. Someone you are introduced to between now and mid-June will have the ability to make a loving dream come true. Watch your spending. It will be easy to fritter away your cash on unnecessary expenditures. A special someone is worried about something. A few carefully thought-out words could do a lot to ease their mind.

Capricorn (Dec22/Jan20)

If it seems there's not much to show for past hard work all that will soon change. You've laid down a lot of ground work and over the weeks ahead you will start seeing practical results. There's something secretive about romance; you may have to keep a relationship quiet for a wee while. Some form of specialised knowledge is needed to achieve your next career goal.

Aquarius (Jan21/Feb19)

Your lucky star could be working overtime at the moment. You might feel unaccountably lucky, happy and optimistic. If you have recently taken a slight gamble concerning a property or investment matter, you may hear some good news about this soon. Perhaps you shouldn't start counting your chickens but it will be a relief to know that the risk has paid off. Life gets easier and less complicated over the weeks ahead.

PISCES (Feb20/Mar20)

A busy and purposeful few weeks are on the cards. You will enjoy working on a venture already begun. Family and friends will offer support especially if you feel a little sore about problems that arise in a working relationship. Very soon you will feel optimistic and confident about your abilities in certain directions. A female friend could give you a useful tip or two.

Is that special relationship around the corner?

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5. Winners will be notified within 28 days after the competition closes.
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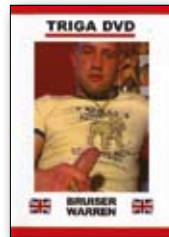
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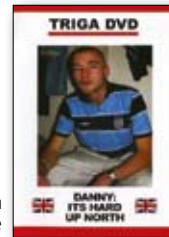
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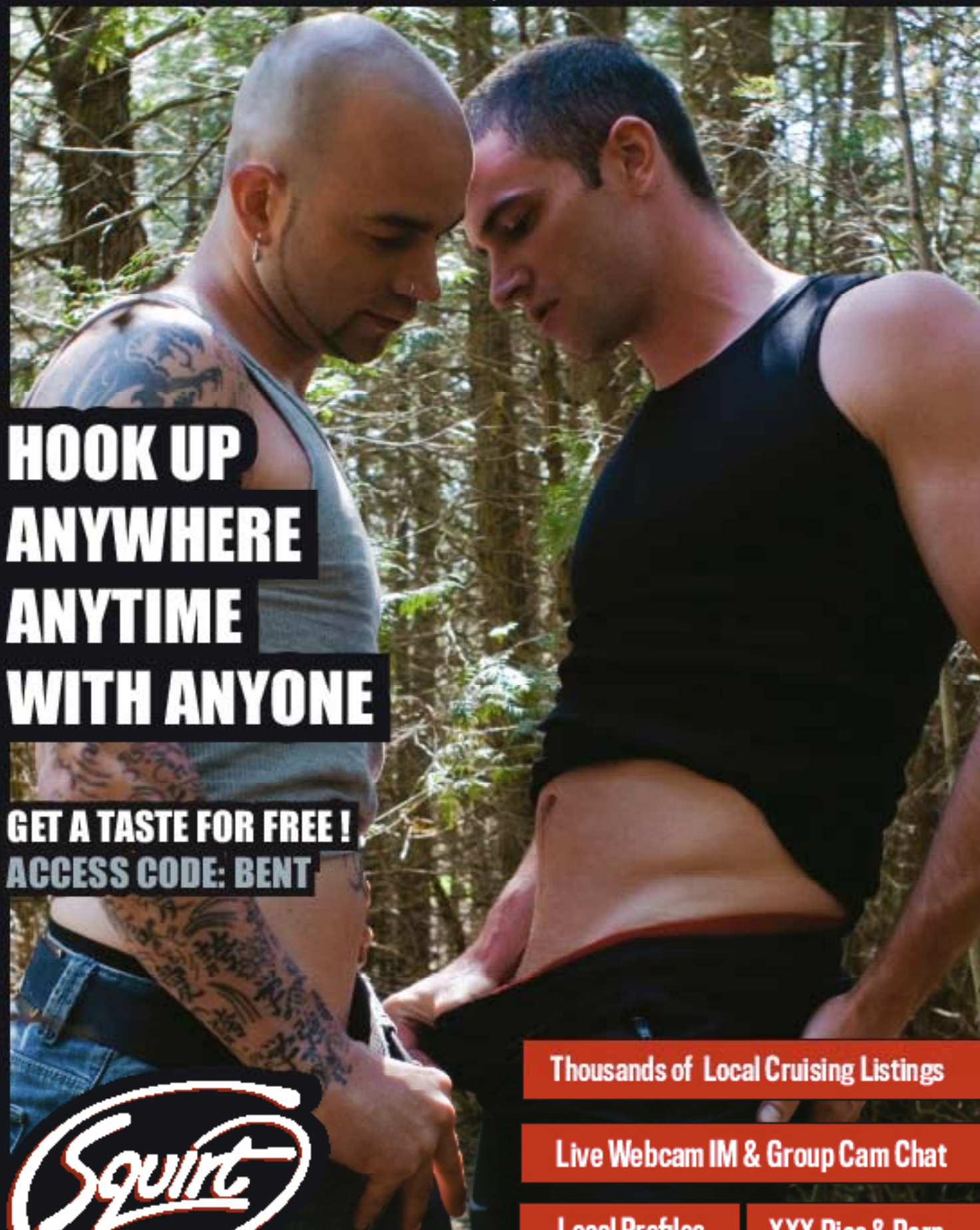
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