



bent

## Aqua

The Barbie Girl clan are back

Clairvoyant

## Tony Stockwell

Do you believe?

## DJ Filthy Rich

Secret of success

## Bears Aloud

Grrr - hairy, camp and a hoot.





# It's No 1 it's... No 1

They say that there is nothing new in clubbing these days and that everything has to be retro to catch on... but that isn't the thinking behind Manchester latest club No 1.

Although there will be a 'tipping-the-hat' in the direction of what the Number 1 club was like in the past, the new format is aimed at bringing a whole new concept to the north's primary party capital. There will be glamour, trannies, pussies and studs... twinkies and hunks and spunks with a fair sprinkling of androgynous waifs. Some are calling it The Clubbing Revolution (and they don't mean taking it out on baby seals) with something spectacular, interesting, vital and fun once you pass through its hallowed portal. If you don't want to sleep then get along to Manchester's latest offering... it's not called No 1 for nothing.

[www.no1club.co.uk](http://www.no1club.co.uk)



Mcr's newest gay venue



Club

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10.30pm till late

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[www.no1club.co.uk](http://www.no1club.co.uk)



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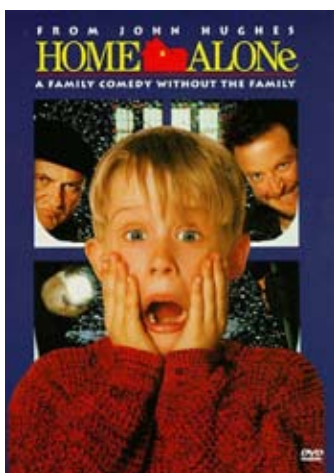


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## EDITOR'S WORDS

I was watching Coronation Street the other day, it was the first time in over 10 years since I'd sat down to watch a soap... and unfortunately, it will be at least another 10 years before I tune in again. I know we gayers are supposed to be infatuated with 'soaps' but I began to wonder - Why? Do all soaps treat their gay characters the way Corras does - shallow stereotypes? I know that looking for short cuts when developing characters makes life easier for the writers. They don't have to develop a back history if by a single phrase or put-down we know instantly know where that character is coming from and what that particular person is like. However, short cuts also mean that the actor is stuck in a character that can't go anywhere or, more importantly for me, a character that cannot be taken seriously. I'm sure that an eight year old Macaulay Culkin clutching his fingers to his face when he realises with horror the predicament he's in when he's been left Home Alone is quite passable. A 40 year old gay man in a gay club doing the same when he realises he's left his 'straight' mate in the hands of a group of gay footballers... doesn't really work.

Having said all that, I do realise that, over the years, many soaps have taken on gay issues and run with them often putting up with a great deal of criticism in the process. I'm sure the publicity surrounding that



first innocent gay kiss in Eastenders provoked the kind of backlash that the BBC were none too keen on but they stuck with it and developed a pretty believable couple in Colin and Barry. When questions get asked in Parliament about something on a soap you know it has hit a nerve. One that the makers of the show could so easily have pulled away from and to their credit, they didn't - although images of tenderness between the pair were never again exploited to any extent. Brookside was more 'in-ye-face' than any other soap, so it was really no surprise when they went for the first

lesbian kiss. Again outrage occurred and a disgruntled public complained more about that than the storyline where a murdered man was buried under his own patio. Of course, the newspapers are always keen to stir up a perceived 'outrage' and there are only too many organisations who will complain about anything - given half the chance. "What about the children?" they bleat not realising that it only becomes a problem when parents get involved. Perhaps we could ban parents... they really seem to know how to mess up kids.

Thankfully, we have made progress. Thankfully, we have organisations who are equally vociferous in challenging the negative and promoting the positive. Thankfully, there are individuals who put their reputation on then line every time they fight for yours and my rights... just to be who we are. Perhaps I shouldn't be so hard on soaps actors who are only doing a job that entertains... I think the worry is... we don't want to go backward either.

Hugs

*Gordon*

And finally...

Remember... the latest survey shows that three out of every four people make up 75% of the population.



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# Learning a Lesson

By Trey Lefferson

"Disco is not dead," declares Barton.

"I hear a lot of music on the radio today that is very clearly disco derivative, inspired by classics like ABBA's "The Visitors," Yello's "Vicious Games" or Grace Jones' "Feel Up!"

Barton, one of the new breed of American out singers, aims to add a few of his own songs to the list of tracks that will endure on gay dance floors. Two of his singles have already become staples: the dark extended mix of "Take Me Up" (featured on the soundtrack of the film "Boy Culture") and his ascendant dub of "To Call My Own."

Is he worried about his limited success? "I am not and never intend to be a Madonna or a Depeche Mode" he says. "I'm incredibly lucky to be able to make music that I love. I will be known and appreciated well by some people - not all - and that is exactly right for me."

**What lessons have you learned as an openly gay artist?**

You have to take the risk to truly be yourself in order to find what's worthwhile.

### Is it still difficult for an out-artist to break into mainstream?

Gay or straight, there's a lot of competition for a musician. A friend who works for a major record label calls part of what he does for a living "pushing people through the looking glass." That's not what I wanted when I set out to do music. Doing things on my own terms is important for me.

**How does the new album *Lessons Learned* compare with your 2008 release, *Formative*?**

Hearing the two albums next to each other is a little like watching a flower open up. The production values and vocal arrangements are far richer and more complex on the new album. Also, it was a more collaborative effort. I co-wrote many of the new songs with some exceptional artists. You start to hear with other people's ears when you work with other talent.

### What was the inspiration behind the last single, On The Beach?

I was in Provincetown, walking alone on the beach with the waves crashing and the sun beating down. I looked up and I noticed the moon was in the sky! It made me reflect on all the elements around me so, while soaking in the wonders around me, I started thinking about a man I loved, who I missed, and longed to be with. I imagined seeing him on the beach in front of me.

**What's your favorite track on the album?**

The one that speaks to me the most "Nothing Lasts Forever". It's about how our lives are finite and the importance of capturing the beauty in each experience.

**The notion of celebration seems to be a common theme in most of your songs. Why is celebration important to you?**

That's due to the influence of late 70s disco, which was all about celebrating being yourself. Artists like Sylvester, who made music in San Francisco where *Lessons Learned* was recorded, used his music to take people to a higher place. That is something I aspire to do in my music.

**Does the gay community have reason to celebrate?**  
We certainly do. The gay community is finally uniting as a group to battle important civil rights issues.

**What words do you live by?**

Listen to your own voice.

To learn more about Barton, visit [Netspheres.net](http://Netspheres.net).

MEAN  
10 ^ ways to  
leave your lover

**Move while he's in hospital.**

## Erase all his browser memory.

**Change your name from Gary to Gladys.**

## Book a holiday for one.

**Send him an text saying that it's over.**

**Run up huge bills on his credit cards.**

**Tell him you've taken Holy orders**

**Shag his uglier brother.**

## Shag his dad.

## Tell him it is him, not you!



# Passwords are like pants



You shouldn't leave them out where people can see them  
You should change them regularly  
And you shouldn't loan them out to strangers!



# THE FRIENDSHIPS COURSE

**Friendships** are important to everyone. As **gay men** it can be difficult to build **friendships** outside of the social scenes we are involved in, and get support for ourselves. **The Friendships Course** is a one day course that will help you to look at what you want from **friendships**, increase your skills to make and keep **friends** and look at how to end **friendships** without confrontation.

We are running **The Friendships Course** in cities throughout England. All places on the course are free of charge. The course starts at 10am and finishes at 5pm.

# Friends

BSL interpreters available by arrangement



Book your place online at [www.gmfa.org.uk/national](http://www.gmfa.org.uk/national) or call 020 7738 3712

Saturday 10th October		Saturday 17th October		Saturday 24th October		Saturday 31st October	
City	Agency	City	Agency	City	Agency	City	Agency
Leicester	Trade	Liverpool	Armistead Centre	Birmingham	THT Midlands	Bristol	THT West
		London	GMFA	Brighton	THT South	Newcastle	MESMAC North East
		Manchester	LGF	Leeds	Yorkshire MESMAC	Nottingham	Healthy Gay Nottingham
		Norwich	TEN	Sheffield	Centre for HIV and Sexual Health	Southampton	GCHS

GMFA courses delivered nationally in partnership with



# Lady Boy Crowned



Eight glamorous ladyboys from across the globe competed to be crowned queen of Lady Boy 2009 - the campest beauty contest of the year - at the Mango Tree in London.

Unveiling their talents before VIP and celebrity guests including Gabrielle, Beverley Knight and Dame Kelly Holmes, the eight fierce and fabulous contestants took part in three rounds to complete the competition. Starting with the 'creativity' category - imagination was the only limitation, as the teasing temptresses displayed their most avant-garde handmade outfits. The sensational sexy 'swimwear' round followed before 'evening dress' brought the competition to a closefitting climax. The overall winner was Miss Garcia from Venezuela. [www.mangotree.org.uk](http://www.mangotree.org.uk)



## Apology for Turing

**Alan Turing cracked the Nazis' Enigma code and shortened World War 2. He pioneered artificial intelligence and is regarded as the father of computing.**

Unfortunately, Turing's life came to a premature and tragic end. In 1952 he was tried and convicted for gross indecency after his homosexual relationship with a 19-year-old Mancunian. His punishment was a choice between jail and probation on the condition of chemical castration via oestrogen. He chose the latter but it ruined his life. He suffered severe side effects and the consensus is that his conviction led to his suicide a year later. After a petition supported by major public figures, entertainers and GLBT activists, Prime Minister Gordon Brown has apologised for the part the government of the day played in hounding the great man. He said; "On behalf of the British government, and all those who live freely thanks to Alan's work I am very proud to say: we're sorry, you deserved so much better."

## Desert Island Dick

With a new single about to be released and rumours of a possible reunion with Take That, Robbie Williams still seems to be one of the nation's favourite pop stars. A survey by PRS for Music has revealed that Robbie is the ultimate choice of male star to be taken on a desert island with Kylie being top of the charts for our female companion.



**Top Male Choice  
Robbie Williams**

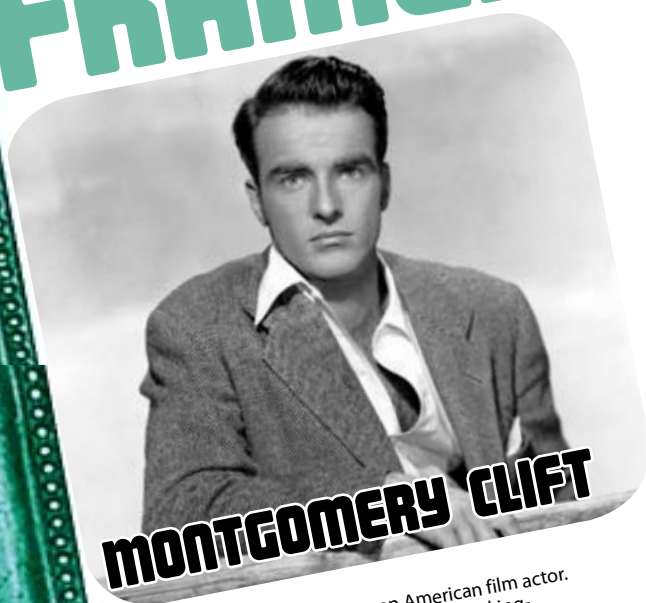


**Top Female Choice  
Kylie Minogue**

Ellis Rich, chairman, PRS for Music, said: "Ever since the heady days of Take That Robbie has had a special place in the UK public's heart and he's a good choice for desert island companion. With Kylie the top female choice, perhaps the time is right for another Robbie-Kylie duet before that rumoured reunion!"

PRS for Music collects royalties on behalf of its 60,000 members in the UK whenever their music is used.

# FRAMED



**MONTGOMERY CLIFT**

(October, 1920 - July, 1966) was an American film actor. He was known for his brooding, sensitive working-class character roles. He received four Academy Award nominations during his career.

Appearing on Broadway at the age of 13, Clift achieved success on the stage and starred there for 10 years before moving to Hollywood, debuting in 1948's *Red River* opposite John Wayne.

This film was a huge success and made Clift an instant hit. He embodied a new type of man on screen, the beautiful, sensual and vulnerable man that seemed to appeal to women and men alike.

His love scenes with Elizabeth Taylor in *A Place in the Sun* (1951) represented a new standard for romance in cinema

Clift was one of James Dean's idols and he would sometimes call Clift "just to hear his voice".

After a road accident, Clift came to rely heavily on prescription drugs and alcohol to relieve his pain.

His addiction meant both his looks and his memory began a steep decline - he often had trouble remembering his lines.

It was also said that Clift was an isolated and tortured, closeted gay man who used drugs and alcohol to escape his pain.

Marilyn Monroe, who was also having emotional problems at the time, famously described Clift as "The only person I know who is in worse shape than I am."

Patricia Bosworth writes in her book, "Before the accident Monty had drifted into countless affairs with men and women. It suited his personality to have sex with a variety of partners."

He is quoted as saying: I don't want to be labelled as either a pansy or a heterosexual. Labelling is so self-limiting. We are what we do, not what we say we are.



# Taste the rainbow...

Photo courtesy of fitlads.tv

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## "Here Come The Girls"

Here Comes the Girls is centred on the three superstar voices - Lulu, Anastacia and Chaka Khan - each with their own unique sense of style, humour and musical heritage. Celebrating all that it means to be a woman - the laughter, the lost loves and the true loves, the yearning, the celebrating, friendship and family - the show mixes great music, laughter, tears, glamour, joy with bit of mischief for good measure! You will sing along to songs that are the soundtrack of your lives - and we defy anyone not to dance, dance, dance!

[www.herecomethegirls.org](http://www.herecomethegirls.org)  
[www.gigsandtours.com](http://www.gigsandtours.com)  
[www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)

### November Dates:

21st	Edinburgh Usher Hall
23rd	Newcastle City Hall
24th	Liverpool Philharmonic
26th	Sheffield City Hall
27th	Swindon Oasis
28th	Bristol Colston Hall
30th	Cardiff Arena

### December Dates:

2nd	HMV Hammersmith Apollo
3rd	Brighton Centre
4th	Oxford New Theatre
8th	Nottingham Royal Centre
10th	Glasgow Royal Concert Hall
12th	Bournemouth Intl Centre
13th	Plymouth Pavilions
14th	Portsmouth Guildhall
16th	Manchester Apollo
17th	Birmingham Symphony Hall
18th	Hull City Hall
20th	Blackpool Opera House
21st	Belfast Waterfront

current

## Sex and Money

In their most revealing series to date, Current TV will be providing a real insight into the vices of the 21st century in the documentary Sex and Money. The show includes:

'Ramone' shows us the 'chicken run' in Leeds; a casting call for male escorts and prostitutes.

Checks out a web site connecting 'Sugar Babies' with Sugar Daddies and asks "Is this dating or prostitution?"

Savannah Sinclair is a career prostitute, talking about how websites like Gumtree have changed her industry.

Anna Span, a feminist who makes porn, she talks about making porn by women for women.

**Transmission: 26th October @ 10pm - Sky Channel 183/ Virgin 155**



## Kingdom Cum

Those lovely people at Squirt have brought out a terrific fun little game for all you pervy cruisers. If you've never tried Squirt before you can play this game, and by avoiding the hedgehogs (?) and getting it on with your fellow cruisers, you can rack up points that gives you access to the site for a trial period. Why Super Mario never went down this route is beyond me!

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



## Tummy Trouble

If, like me, you have trouble losing that set of 'love handles' that seem to have arrived while you weren't looking, 2(x)ist have come up with a bit of a solution. Providing you're not asking the impossible, their new Form series of underpants have a 6" elastic waistband that helps retain and hold firm some of that excess. Now I know what you're thinking, "I ain't wearing no damn girdle" but, I have historical proof that wearing such a benign piece of clothing has been a boon to men. In literature, girdles are often portrayed as magical, giving power and strength if worn by men. For example, Odysseus wears a girdle, which allows him to swim for three days straight, and a girdle worn by Thor doubles his strength. Doesn't that make you feel better about strapping yourself in?

The Form by 2(x)ist

[available from www.deadgoodundies.com](http://www.deadgoodundies.com)



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love  
mates

hook up

gay crush

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\*ends 15 october, 2009

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# FILTHY RICH

**AS A TALENTED PRODUCER/DJ FILTHY RICH'S INNOVATIVE SOUND HAS MADE HIM UNDENIABLY ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S FINEST DIS TODAY. A PROMISING FIGURE LOOMING OUT FROM THE CROWD, RICH IS THE COMPLETE PACKAGE. EFFORTLESSLY LEAVING HIS CONTEMPORARIES BEHIND, HE LEAPS AND BOUNDS INTO A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN LAUGHING TO HIMSELF AS HE DOES IT. THIS IS BECAUSE RICH KNOWS THAT THE SECRET TO GETTING THIS FAR - IS PLAYING MUSIC THAT HE LOVES, FOR PEOPLE TO DANCE TO.**

Without dictating to the crowd, Rich has become popular with everyone from the techno train-spotter, to the handbag honey through his envy-inducing music. His tight mixes and twisted sounds mean nothing is ever a disappointment. Flying between everything from sleazy tech-house, to dirty minimal, to irresistible electro with an old classic thrown in just because he can, Rich delivers such perfection it hurts. Springing from his early dreams of dance music via a backstreet upbringing of filth, Rich has clawed his way to the top, earning such prestigious residencies as the international Kissdafunk, the glamorous Hat Club to the dark and dirty Very Very Wrong Indeed. He has now smashed it home with bi-monthly dates at Ministry of Sound, proving he has the ability to top his cake with more than one shiny sweet cherry.

Filthy Rich fame is quickly spreading around the world, in the last year his international dates have included such far-flung destinations as Dubai, Shanghai, Russia, Serbia, South Korea, Manila and Bahrain, to name a few plus regular appearances at Alter Ego in Italy, MOS in Ukraine and of course not forgetting old friend Ibiza.

Documenting his talent, he has laid down a discography of over 50 productions and remixes. In addition to being played on Radio One and gaining support from the likes of Steve Lawler, Tiesto and Carl Cox, he has also completed successful remixes for the likes of Sidney Samson, Dave Armstrong and Seamus Haji. With more production work than he knows what to do with, he has also found the time and determination to start building his own empire, Control Freq records. Rich will use this as a springboard for home-grown talent, as well as releasing his own productions.

The future can only hold more tempting offerings from this boy with his thirst for new music and undoubtedly many more tricks up his sleeve. Rich gains strength from his diversity and will keep on giving and giving until the crowd is screaming for mercy. With not a spare date in sight for the next 6mths one thing is clear... the future is looking very Filthy!

During October Filthy Rich has 2 releases out. His own release - Luvstruck ([www.floorplaymusic.com/013/](http://www.floorplaymusic.com/013/)) and his remix of 'Overdrive' by Disfunktion out on Audiodamage.

Find out more at [www.djfilthyrich.co.uk](http://www.djfilthyrich.co.uk) or [www.myspace.com/filthyrichuk](http://www.myspace.com/filthyrichuk)



# Wanna hear you say David Jordan

At just 23 years of age, Barnet born David Jordan is serious hot property on the UK singer/songwriter scene. Stemming from the almighty Trevor Horn production stable, which brought global success to the likes of Frankie Goes to Hollywood and Seal, Jordan's 2007 debut album, 'Set The Mood', reached an impressive No.16 in the UK album charts. Standout performances at The Royal Variety Performance, Al Murray's Happy Hour and ITV's Loose Women have also proven Jordan to be an untouchable live performer.

The Ethos of David Jordan is to make music bigger and better than anything else you've experienced before. For Jordan music is a 3D adventure, which spans the spectrum of outstanding visual image and incredible live performance, hand-in-hand with a uniqueness of sound that excites audiences everywhere. His childhood influences were also diverse and slightly unusual for a child of the 90s, with idols including a mix of rock, soul and classic artists such as, The Jackson 5, Marvin Gaye, Jimi Hendrix, Guns n Roses, Prince, Lenny Kravitz, Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly.

In a fortuitous twist of fate, Jordan's guest vocal on a track happened to fall into the hands of music producer Trevor Horn. Horn instantly recognised that he'd stumbled upon something special and snatched up the talented artist immediately. Eighteen months later, the result was a debut hit selling and a gold selling album.

That was in 2007 and now David Jordan is back. 'Hear You Say' is the first single to be taken from his highly anticipated second album and delivers the amazing vocals encased around vibrant stomping beats and an infectious melody.

The single 'Hear You Say' is released 26th October on Flingdown.

For more info visit [www.myspace.com/davidjordanofficial](http://www.myspace.com/davidjordanofficial)



REVIEW  
**MUSIC**  
BY JASON GUY

During October you can catch me playing at Freakshow at the No 1 Club in Manchester ([www.clubfreakshow.com](http://www.clubfreakshow.com)), Federation Blackpool on the 17th, along with regular sets at Fibre in Leeds. I'll also try and get a new podcast uploaded by the time this magazine comes out to [www.jasonguy.podomatic.com](http://www.jasonguy.podomatic.com)

## FORTHCOMING RELEASES TRACK of the MONTH

### ► MEDINA

You And I (Parlophone)

Undoubtedly one of the biggest tracks of the year for me with some of the biggest crowd reactions I've seen during my gigs at Manchester Pride. With its dirty sub bass, lush strings, and haunting vocals, this track has all the hallmarks of being a classic. Stand out mix comes from the ever reliable Deadmau5... his trademark sound fitting perfectly with Medina's vocals. Spencer & Hill beef up the beats for the electro floors too.



### ► RUFF/DRIVERZ PRESENTS ARROLA

Dreaming 2009 (Maelstrom)

A massive tune for Ruff Driverz (Brad Carter & Chris Brown) back in the late 90s, Dreaming was the flamenco inspired dancefloor hit featuring the vocals of Katherine Ellis. Now here are the 2009 versions. Hoxton Whores turn out an electro-tinged number, filled with bleeps and punchy riffs. Hot Slovenian producer, Beltek, is up next encasing the vocal with synth keys and making full use of the breakdown. And if you're into hard dance or Tech House, there are mixes to suit you too.



### ► RECALL 22

Subimos Juntos (Champion)

OK, so this is 2 remakes of an old dance track in one column, but this one is less well known. Go back to the late 90s and Subimos Juntos (We Rise Together) was one of the Ibiza floorfillers. 2 great remixes and it's tough to choose between them... If electro is your thing head for the Pablo Decoder Mix.... I prefer the Arabica housy mix, which keeps everything that made the original to great - a great breakdown along with a huge, chunky uplifting groove.



### ► DUCK SAUCE

Anyway (Data Records)

Duck Sauce are Armand Van Helden and A-Trak and have produced probably the most infectious track of the year so far. Here, they've melding the spirit of classic disco house with modern day production thump and clever new twists. It reminds me of so many things yet I can't quite put my finger on it... a slice of upbeat sunshine, New York style, and is certainly reminiscent of Armand's older productions such as You Don't Know Me and Full Moon.



### ► WALLY LOPEZ FT HADLEY

Burning Inside

Progressive house, but in the more gay friendly version played at the likes of Matinee and SuperMartxe. Spanish DJs and producers Tikaro, J Louis and Ferran deliver a trademark hands in the air remix, with a driving baseline and plenty of percussion, alongside a great female vocal from Hadley. Although this one will surely be remembered for the haunting violin breakdown (its sounds much better than you think!)







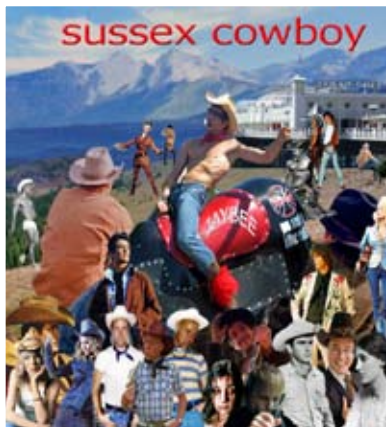
ALBUMS

## △ TREVOR LOVEYS

### Body Jack

Out: 12th October

Trevor Loveys is something of an underground favourite with music lovers, including bloggers and critics. Loveys' is a brand of edgy, beat-driven dance that was once niche and now is troubling sound engineers all over the world. As one half of production duo Switch he reworked tracks by Basement Jaxx, Chemical Brothers and Busta Rhymes. Body Jack is his first compilation album with remixes of Bloc Party and Roisin Murphy making this perfect for any gay household.



## △ JAYBEE

### Sussex Cowboy

Out: 5th October

Sussex Cowboy is worth buying just for the comedy value alone. 'The Ballad of Bonnie & Billy', for example, includes the line 'Billy wakes up in another man's bed'. Other highlights include 'Blind Date' (about the joys of internet dating) and 'Brokeback Mountain', where Ang Lee's cowboys head down to Devil's Dyke in the middle of a rave. Pop meets country meets electro meets pissed pants.

## △ FEVER RAY

### Fever Ray - The Double Disc Edition

Out: 12th October

Fever Ray - The Double Disc Edition is a collector's edition of the hit album with a few covers and a DVD thrown in for good measure. Those who aren't die-hard collectors probably won't care that much about the extras, but the extras may be a nice bonus for those who can't quite decide whether the album is worth their money. Of course, those who bought the single disc edition might be rightly pissed if they have to fork out again



## △ GYRATORY SYSTEM

### The Sound-Board Breathes

Out: 26th October

Kraftwerk meets Looney Tunes, says NME, and it's almost too obvious a comparison. There are definite Europop elements, but also surreal volutas of dusty 19th Century instrumentals. This is layered, manic, chilling, rampant and elemental in turns, but overall the sound is unique and fresh, proving that modern music can be as much an art as it was two hundred years ago.



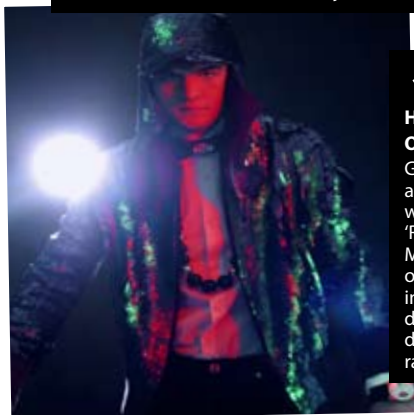
SINGLES

## △ ALEXANDRA BURKE

### Bad Boys Ft Flo-Rida

Out: 12th October

OK, we know she's a winner of a TV talent show and that doesn't always bode well for a career in music. However, this is a pumping number that drives a rather strong vocal in a plea for more Bad Boys... and who can blame the girl. The production, arrangement and just about everything about this single looks certain to make this a sure fire... and worthwhile... hit. Keep an eye out for her album 'Overcome' at the end of the month it's a belter. Hallelujah!



## △ GRUM

### Heartbeats

Out: 26th October

Graeme Shepherd, AKA Grum, is a Scottish dancefloor destroyer, who follows 'Sound Reaction' and 'Runaway' with this Justice-meets-Mylo concoction that clearly shows off its Daft Punk and Human League influences. This is crossover-tastic delicious, with French house, Italo disco and pop all slapped together in raide-the-roof club loveliness.



## △ LULU & THE LAMPSHADES

### Feet to the Sky

Out: 18th October

Plastic cups, paintbrushes and gramophones are just some of the tools used to make this weirdo-pop single, which was conceived on a New Year's Eve bike ride to Paris at 4am. It's playful, wacky and melodic, with air-glockenspiels for all those that think a record has to have one to be respectable (not that anyone would). Multi-instrumentalism is their forte and originality the product, so give this one a spin and enjoy.



## △ CROOKERS

### Put Your Hands on Me

Out: 5th October

Crookers are a Milan duo with slam down hip-house mojo sluicing all over their decks. Their whole ethos is to make crooked, wonky music—a task they accomplish with relish. This dancehall rap-infused single features the sugary vocals of Carla Marie Williams and the MCing talents of Xenomania. This beat-driven mash-up works well and serves as a nice introduction to a team otherwise known only for their popular remix of Kid Cudi's 'Day & Night'.





## Turning Back Time

It seems only yesterday, and yet strangely so long ago, that the airwaves were filled with the sound of 'Barbie Girl' and the blissful pure pop of Aqua. Then, two albums later, they sadly split leaving the gay public grieving... but now they are back with their Greatest Hits and new single 'Back To The 80's' to once more reign as pioneers of pop. Simon Savidge went to meet them and discuss, fall out's, reunions, solo careers and if they ever got annoyed singing 'Barbie Girl'?

It's quite weird meeting some pop people, especially when they were a big part of your youth and Aqua were such with mine. In fact, I spent most of their pop reign drunk and dancing to them in various gay bars and clubs. So I am happy to admit when I met Claus, Soren, Rene and Lene... I was a little star struck.

"Hug me please," Lene says, "we are a very huggy band... we don't really do hand shakes, it's all hugs and kisses." Rene asks which magazine it is "Bend Over Magazine... wow (laughs) oh Bent Magazine? I like Bend Over, I could do your health pages and be Doctor Bend Over Please, sorry it's the jetlag and no sleep" and with that we sit down with a few beverages and a chat.

Back in 1997 the rise of Aqua in the UK was a very sudden thing, one minute we hadn't heard of Aqua (Europe had because they are better at detecting pop than us) then suddenly 'Barbie Girl' was everywhere. This aural epic was followed by a couple more hits (Doctor Jones, Turn Back Time) and it was 'Aqua overload'. "If you think it was crazy for you," Lene laughs, "it was really crazy for us. One minute we had a few big hits in Europe then unexpectedly it was Asia, America, the UK... it was like an unstoppable force and we were very much in the middle in a strange little bubble."

Was all this pressure part of what caused the band to split up just a few short years down the line?

"Yes and no," Lene ponders for a while. "I think that one of the problems was that because the success was so swift we didn't quite have time to catch up. We were constantly promoting and never actually doing anything live. I mean can you imagine we had all these hits in the UK and only now we are finally doing G-A-Y for the first time... almost ten years later? If you tour you have more time to process and catch up and that's what we didn't do. It was single promotion after single promotion, then the studio for album two and then back doing promotion."

"I also don't think it helped being constantly called a one hit wonder, even after three number ones people kept calling us one hit wonders," says Rene. "It is quite hard to constantly fight that, well not fight it but try and persuade people it wasn't the case." Lene interjects. "We know we are a guilty pleasure, we are pure, unadulterated pop. We aren't trying to have huge deep lyrics, though I think our ballads are always beautiful, we are about having fun and a party and that's it. Soren adds, "You know the world is quite a miserable place sometimes and what we want to do is bring happiness into people's world. We are all aware that we are pop, pure and simple, but people really slated us. But you knew that these journalists probably had Barbie Girl on their iPod's and probably still do."

After the split Claus and Soren both carried on in the music business. "But more behind the scenes". Rene went on to do some solo material as did Lene. However, Lene found this quite a difficult time. "After

Aqua I had to find myself a bit and there wasn't quite the space to do that. Who was I? What did I want to do? You know I was straight from college when Aqua started so it was tough. It was pretty much - meet a producer, write a hit, meet a producer write a hit and while I enjoyed it in parts... it was also scary." I ask if she found it weird that her singles, Pretty Young Thing and Here We Go, have been covered by Tina Cousins and Girls Aloud. "Wow you know your pop! I didn't know that." Rene looks shocked. "Did you just say that he knows his cock?" Lene raises her eyebrows in mock despair. "No I didn't..." she winks at me "though I am sure he does" and they all start laughing.

In order to calm them all down I ask if they missed each other during the break. Rene looks over at the rest of the group, "We stayed friends but I think we all really missed each other, although during the first two albums there was times when we may have wanted to kill each other." They all laugh.

So, the \$64,000 question... what made them decide to reform? Lene laughs. "You all have me to blame for Aqua coming back... sorry." Rene smiles knowingly. "I knew it was coming, I almost predicted the call. I picked up Lene's call and just said 'yes let's do it'." Lene grins. "It was actually more Claus and Soren... I wasn't sure they would want to do it, to be honest and Soren is my husband for goodness sake! I don't think we all knew for sure if anyone would be interested." They all laugh again. "We have taken things much more slowly though this time." Claus adds "You know now we are all at a certain age (there are muffled 'speak for yourself' and giggles). We have children, we are doing things more leisurely. We also want to make sure that everything feels right and that we are happy being back together, which of course we are, and that things happen naturally."

I tell them that according to Wikipedia they are already making the third album. "That's your clever way of asking if we are..." Soren laughs. "I tell you what though guys" Rene announces "we start from scratch. No old bits and bobs that we might have had floating around. It's all got to be fresh." Lene raises her eyebrows again and confesses "We did start a third album though before the break but we want anything new to be fresh... take our time over it. There will be something new maybe middle of 2010. It's not like we are a new Aqua, we are just an evolved Aqua, we won't be forgetting our pure pop, guilty pleasure roots..." "We are quite forgetful though... we forgot to put Good Morning Sunshine on the Greatest Hits". They all laugh again.

It truly is a delight to enter the Aqua bubble... long may it continue... after all Pop is Pleasure and I feel like I've just been pleased by Aqua!

The new single 'Back To The 80's' and the 'Greatest Hits' album are both out now. For more Aqua info visit [www.myspace.com/aquaofficialsite](http://www.myspace.com/aquaofficialsite)

WIN THIS



### HAÇIENDA ACID HOUSE CLASSICS

Creating the world of dance music as we know it today, The Hacienda became an all encompassing way of life for its founders, creators and the clubbers who all came to call it their own. Marking 21 years of the genre and the club's seminal involvement since its heady early days, Hacienda Acid House Classics presents a selection of tracks handpicked and mixed by Hooky to portray the definitive sound of Acid House and The Hacienda. Spread over two CDs, this album collates many of the biggest Acid House moments from this time.

**Out: 5th October - Label: New State Music**

To be in with a chance to win a copy of this CD just answer this simple question:

Which band was Peter Hook the bass player for?



WIN THIS

### POP PARTY 7

The wait is over, as the best-selling pop brand returns for its 7th annual party; not only is Pop Party 7 brimming with number 1 smashes from the likes of Black Eyed Peas (I Got A Feeling), Cascada (Evacuate The Dancefloor), Kelly Clarkson (My Life Would Suck Without You), Tinchy Stryder ft N-Dubz (Number 1) and 2009's most outrageous chick, Lady Gaga (Poker Face), but it also features brand new exclusives from Pixie Lott (Boys and Girls), and Naturis Naughton's show stopping twist on a classic (Fame).

CD2 features karaoke versions of your favourites from the album - guaranteed to keep you entertained all the way through winter season, right through to the New Year!

**Out: 26th October - Label: UMTV**

To win a copy of this CD just answer this simple question:

Who had a No1 hit with Boys and Girls?

COMPETITION TIME  
Turn to page 78 for entry details





# BWO

## MUSIC FOR ALL OCCASIONS

**"I LOVE BWO. ALEXANDER BARD IS ABSOLUTELY MAD. HE HAS WRITTEN ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST POP SONGS OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM." MIKA**

He's not the only one. When I get on the treadmill at the gym, plug myself into my iPod shuffle and press play... there is no better music to uplift your spirits and encourage you to exert yourself. BWO have that magic, electro-Eurobeat formula that works on the dancefloor, on the airwaves and in the sweaty confines of a gym.

Thankfully, there's a new album out soon... so prepare for ecstatic eruptions as the band renowned as the most popular pop act across Eastern Europe and Scandinavia, hit the UK with an explosive new release - *Big Science*.

The biographical history of this Swedish trio from Stockholm is nothing short of overwhelming as it boasts glittering accolades of platinum albums, countless hit singles across Scandinavia and Eastern Europe and awards that would make the mightiest of musical legends weep. BWO, aka Martin Rolinski (lead vocals), Marina Schiptjenko and Alexander Bard (both laptops and backing vocals), exude a unique razor-sharp image that's reminiscent of the eccentricities of bands such as Scissor Sisters and the Brand New Heavies, boldly stating that BWO are distinctively unparalleled and extraordinary in every sense. Band member, Alexander, claims that BWO are the much sought-after missing link between Abba and Kraftwerk and their success to date is living proof that he's right!

Forcefully stomping in the footsteps of their Swedish predecessors, Abba, Roxette and The Cardigans, BWO have stealthily proven that they are worthy of upholding the Swedish mantel of outstanding music and performance. Since their formation in 2003, BWO have delivered more hit singles in the Pan-European Singles Chart than any other artist in the 21st century and have toured to territories untouched by many other bands such as Lebanon, Kazakhstan and South Africa. Already with four hit albums under their belt (all of which went gold or platinum in their home country), BWO's CV boasts awards such as, 'Pop Artist of the Year' in the Swedish Grammys, as well as the Rock Bear award for Sweden's most popular band two years in a row.

BWO are also no strangers to the UK as they smashed four singles into the UK Singles Chart throughout 2008, as well as scooping a Top 40 Dance Chart hit in the US. Now for 2009, BWO's sights are firmly set on gripping the attention of the UK music market with their best album to date, *'Big Science'*. The album is a collection of 14 quality electro/pop tracks, all of which have been originally penned and produced by the band, alongside internationally famed co-producer, Ander Hansson, whose previous production works include Cher and Christina Aguilera. The result is an astounding assortment of undeniably catchy and infectious songs, which will have electro/pop fans reeling for more.

**Album - *Big Science* - Out 5th October More on BWO [www.electronordica.com](http://www.electronordica.com)**



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# Do You Believe?

**Tony Stockwell has become one of the UK's leading clairvoyants and is about to tour with the world famous medium, James Van Praagh. We sent the always open-minded Simon Savidge to meet him and talk about spirits, gay men being more sensitive and the afterlife. Little did Simon know he would get more than he bargained for...**

"It's funny isn't it how some people are never going to believe what I do is real, but I've decided that I don't mind now. I mean, if they just refuse to believe you, how on earth are you going to convince them? This is how Tony Stockwell is. He is very warm, very chatty, and open and knows that sceptics exist.

"However, I once did mind. One lady was totally set to disagree with everything I said even though her daughters were saying 'Mum that's true'. She was insisting that it wasn't. Then when I told her of a special memory only her and her husband would know, she suddenly became very emotional and said 'Yes'. Some people just don't want to believe that what mediums do is real. Unfortunately, some people are too keen to believe what mediums do is real."

I got the feeling that if I said that everything he does is rubbish he would say "Well that's ok... at least you have an opinion". From an early age in the East End, he knew that he was a bit different from the other children. "Not only because I was gay, which you know when you are quite young, it was also because I could see things that other people couldn't".

In fact, from the age of four Tony could see "...a woman in my bedroom, she would appear after my mum had left the room. It wasn't a family member as I would have felt that in some way and I knew that she wasn't real. She had a different look about her somehow, ethereal sounds too 'spooky' but I guess that's the word that describes it. I also used to get quite annoyed and upset if we played war games at school and people who had been shot had to die as I would say 'but you can't be dead... people don't die'. I ask him how other kids reacted to this and he laughs. "I think they felt I was trying to ruin their games". Did this knowledge ever make him feel like an outcast? "Not really, no."

It was a friend of the family who mentioned she'd seen a medium and

what had happened. "I felt like there was someone else like me and so I started to go. As soon as I entered that environment I knew that that's what I was all about." Despite having a day job, he found his skill taking on more and more importance. "I was a wedding planner for a while, very stereotypical, and then I would go and do readings in the evening. That was until it just got too much and I decided to be brave and just go for the medium work. Eventually, regular demonstrations at Spiritualist Groups led to one-to-one's, which grew and grew and took me on tours until the TV work started."

All things paranormal have been huge TV winners in the last few years. The likes of Most Haunted, Street Psychic etc have brought mediumship into our living rooms and made them more popular. "I also think the fact that people question religion and the afterlife more is also part of it anyway". However, has the sudden rise in popularity in anyway been detrimental to the field? "Hmmm... no I don't think so. I think for genuine mediums it's been very good and has made some incredibly popular. You have a gift but at the same time, you need to live. I think if you are claiming that you can tell when people are going to die and things like that then something's not right. We can't do that as it's not preordained it can change."

So far, so good but, like all people who meet him I wanted something a bit more solid than just his opinion. "Well for a start I would say that your Granddad, who died when he was 68, is sat in the room with us, well with you." A stunned, slightly unsure silence follows. "I know as I can see Granddad written above your right shoulder and the numbers 68". Tony picks up I am slightly shocked. "You're questioning if you believe me, that's ok people do, you want proof."

Feeling slightly uncomfortable, it's all a little close to home, I decide to change

tact and discuss the fact that it must be difficult knowing that people who are bereaved and come to his shows are anxious for some kind of message. How can he, in a huge audience, give everyone something? "People can be desperate for a message and that can be difficult. Mediums get attacked by the press etc. for making money out of people's hopes and fears and that's why, if I can prove it to people it is real, I am more than happy to."

I decide to bite the bullet and ask if he can see my granddad. What does he look like, and what can he tell me about him. Tony goes very quiet and things slowly start to come through. "Okay... so... he had piercing blue eyes... I can see those but he's not really presenting himself too well. I know that he had cancer... of the liver... or kidneys. I know when you last saw him he was very thin and fragile, which for him wasn't normal. His name was David but you called him something else. It's a B name... a Bo... a Bon or a Bong or something I don't know that word."

Now at this point it got strange as indeed I did call my granddad Bongy. But then Tony says, "You have his watch" I think, no that's way off, until I remember my Gran did indeed give me a watch of his. "That watch stopped at 5.05. Hmm what else?"

Feeling quite emotional I think its time to move on and ask if he can switch when he is getting messages on and off as there are things that you might be doing that you don't want spirits watching or even being around. He laughs. "Yes, you can but then when you are in certain situations spirits won't visit you... they wouldn't have in real life so why would they now. It would get very bad in our house as my partner is

a medium too" and he adds with a wry smile, "and we have dogs that are very sensitive to it so it would be chaos."

I wonder if being gay helps with mediumship. "I think it can actually. A lot of gay men and gay women are mediums or have the ability. I think in many cases we are just more sensitive to things. I am not saying there are no straight mediums (laughs) there are some brilliant ones. Nevertheless, I do think that more gay men also try to see if they have that ability. It's not something straight men would rush out and do. However, if you have the gift you can't really hide from it."

I liked Tony and was, in all honesty, a bit 'spooked' by him but things got even weirder once I got home. I checked and found that indeed the watch stopped at "5.05". Do I think my Granddad was in the room? Logic tells me one thing... what I've heard and seen for myself have, if anything left me more confused than ever.



**For more information about the Across and Beyond UK tour with James Van Praagh and Tony Stockwell visit [www.tonystockwell.com](http://www.tonystockwell.com)**





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## A night in with Babs and Rossy

One of the biggest and best-loved superstars in the world, Barbra Streisand, has confirmed a world exclusive appearance with Jonathan Ross.

In her first British TV interview this century, she will be in the UK for a unique edition of Jonathan's Friday night talk show, Friday Night With Streisand & Ross, entirely devoted to a celebration of her legendary life as a performing icon.

As well as discussing her extraordinary career as (take a deep breath) a double Oscar-winning artist, actress of stage and screen, concert performer, film director, movie producer, screenwriter, songwriter and best album-selling female recording artist ever, Streisand will also be performing live in the studio intimate material from her eagerly-awaited new album Love Is The Answer as well as one of her all-time classic hits.

**Friday Night with Streisand & Ross**  
**TX: Friday 2nd October**



## The Heat is On

Heaton is a singer/songwriter from Manchester. He has been writing and recording music for the best part of 10 years and setup his own label in 2005 to release his debut album Computer Music. The album was a huge success and created 5 mp3 number ones including the massive download hit Let It Go. His brand new single '2 Minus 1', co-written with London based Nick Rumbelow is out now. Heaton recently organised an online remix competition and will feature the winners on the iTunes release.

Meanwhile, his appearance at this year's Manchester Pride event saw him performing in front of 5,000 people his biggest live audience yet. The show was a huge success and showed just how far Heaton had developed as a live performer. Speaking shortly after the show Heaton said "What an amazing day. My band and my dancers did an incredible job and we all had so much fun, I think that came across to the audience as well. The crowd were also very supportive and I would like to thank everybody who came down to see us"

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

## COCK

"But that's what this is, isn't it? The ultimate bitch fight."

When John takes a break from his boyfriend, he accidentally meets the girl of his dreams. Filled with guilt and indecision, he decides there is only one way to straighten this out...

Mike Bartlett's punchy new story takes a playful, candid look at one man's sexuality and the difficulties that arise when you realise you have a choice.

Jerwood Theatre Upstairs at the Royal Court, London Box Office 0207 565 5000

Starts: 13th Nov - 19th Dec





# GRRRR! BEAR COUNTRY

## SIMON SAVIDGE GOES ON BEARWATCH

**OK, IF YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY FED UP WITH LABELS I'LL APOLOGISE NOW. BEARS IS JUST ANOTHER SHORT-HAND WAY OF DESCRIBING A CERTAIN 'STYLE' OF MAN IN THE GAY COMMUNITY. SOME PEOPLE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THE LABEL THAT GETS ATTACHED TO THEM, OTHERS REBEL, WHILE OTHERS FIND COMFORT KNOWING THEY HAVE A PLACE WITHIN A CERTAIN GROUP.**

Bears, an obvious reference to the animal itself, are seen as big, solid, hairy and powerful. Many think the origins of the 'Gay Bear Culture' stem from lumberjacks, who appealed to gay men as the ultimate in maleness, and their style was copied or fetishised. Some present hyper-masculinity, others a disdain for the 'beauty entrapments' of male grooming, while still others shirk the fat aspect and deal only in the muscular. Many see it as a chance not to conforming to a public perception of 'being gay' or simply love a man with loads of bodily hair. In the States there are codes referring to these aspects but over here in the UK it is seen as more of a social gathering than a 'political' statement.

Whatever the reasoning or preference, one thing is for certain, the clubs, websites and image-makers all have seen a huge growth in interest for the hairier man. Where once only DVDs of cute, pretty boys adorned the shelves of gay stores, there has been an upsurge in demand for the more masculine, grownup, hairier models... doing what nature intended... and that's not just shitting in the woods.



**James Vaughan, Team Manager, 33**

**Isn't it all just stereotyping again?**

It's all about how you feel I guess - some people hate all those sort of labels, even though they could well fall into those categories in other people's eyes. It's an easy shorthand way to describe people, but no more so than 'twink' or 'daddy' or any other gay "type". I'm quite happy to use it though, I don't find it offensive. Bear is a much nicer description than fat bastard anyway!

**How do people on the gay scene describe you and indeed other bears?**

Depends who you talk to - I'm sure a lot of the G-A-Y crowd wouldn't be too enamoured of the bear scene, I'm sure they think it's full of lazy and unkempt people... but bears are just as proud of their look as anyone else, it just happens to be a different look!

**Do you think Bears are manlier than other gay guys?**

Ha, no not at all! Have you listened to conversations at bear venues? Some of them are the campest guys I've ever heard. Just because you're large doesn't mean you're butch.

**What would you recommend out there for a cub or a bear new to all of this?**

Take it slowly... you don't want to get a reputation as a slut within a few weeks of appearing on the scene because everyone kind of knows everyone. But enjoy yourself, see what's out there, and find your comfort zone on the scene.



**Dom Agius, Photographer & DJ, 39**

**Would you describe yourself as a bear?**

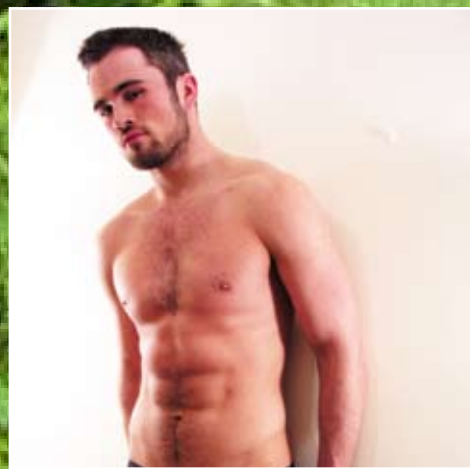
I'm just a gay man on the brink of 40 with an occasional beard, a one pack & big grin most of the time. I got called a Baby Bear once. By the tone in his voice I deduced it was meant to be a compliment.

**Are you yourself into bears or cubs or not at all?**

I like men who at the very least don't give the appearance of being too acquainted with moisturisers or their bathroom mirror. My husband Mick couldn't be further from anything bearlike.

**Why do you think the Bear Scene has expanded so much in the last few years with clubs and themed nights?**

I'm a Trade baby of old but that intense late 90's body fascism was always going to lose it's grip eventually. I'm all for equal opportunities me oh and sandwiches lots of them.



**Ryan Lock, PR Consultant, 23**

**Now many people would say that you were a cub, how would you describe yourself?**

I would describe myself as someone who enjoys a lot of different "scenes" I don't really like limiting myself to one scene in particular. I do have a thing for hot furry muscley guys at the moment though.

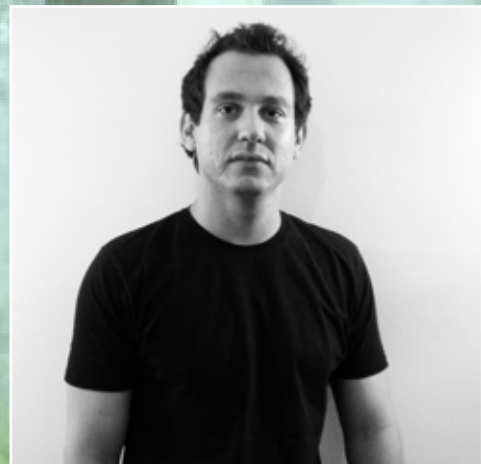
**Do you find you get a lot of older guys on the bear scene chasing you because you are a cub?**



Yes and no, it would sound really arrogant to say 'oh I get chased by all these men all the time' and it wouldn't be true. What I do like about being out on the bear scene is that if you say 'no' people take it better... there seems to be a lot less hissy fits.

**Do you think Bears are manlier than other gay guys?**

(Laughs) It depends on how you define manly... I don't think simply having a beard or some stubble can make you any more of a man necessarily.



**Alaercio Brustolon, Personal Trainer, 29**

**Now I wouldn't personally put you down as a Bear myself...**

No, I guess I am what you would call a 'chaser' I have always been into bigger hairier guys and by bigger I don't mean muscle I mean a nice huggable belly on a guy. Mind you I should say that I was a chaser as I am now happily married.

**Are you yourself into just bears or cubs or have you liked 'non-bears'?**

Well, I am originally from Brazil and we don't really have the same sort of bear scene as you do here. I think it's something that is growing back home but nothing like it is here. I have dated a range of guys but the ones that have lasted have been with more beary guys. My husband is more of a cub though but I think he's a bear in the making.

[www.XXL-London.com](http://www.XXL-London.com)

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

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



Photos: [www.domagius.com](http://www.domagius.com)



# BEARS ALOUD

**BEARS ALOUD: ANDY, ROGER, GARY, DANIEL AND MARTIN, HAVE BECOME SOMETHING OF A PHENOMENON. APPEARING AT VARIOUS CLUBS AND GAY PRIDE EVENTS, THEY HAVE LITERALLY BEEN TAKING THE CROWD BY STORM. WHAT ON PAPER AT LEAST SHOULD NOT WORK... DOES. FIVE HAIRY, XL GUYS (WE'LL ALL EXCEPT ONE AND THEY'RE FATTENING HIM UP), SLAPPING MAKE-UP ON OVER THEIR BEARDS, DOPPING EXTRAVAGANT WIGS AND SLIPPING INTO SHINY FROCKS ARE TRANSFORMED INTO AN ENTERTAINMENT TOUR DE FORCE.**

Adopting the Girls Aloud personas, the guys deliver something that is not quite a tribute act. Roger aka Sarah – who was one of the original instigators of the band explains how it all came about. “For a laugh I wanted to frock up for our local Drag Idol charity show. I thought it might be funny seeing a less-than-glam drag act take to the stage. I was thinking of miming to a Girls Aloud number but as soon as I to talk about it to one or two others... well... that was the start.”

Unlike the Spice Girls where Two Became One... this one hopeful drag queen quickly accumulated others as the idea just blossomed. Pretty soon five rough and ready, unshaven guys became the campest bears around as they discussed the concept of doing more than just the one charity gig and performing one song. Fuelled by the equivalent annual alcohol intake of a reasonably sized Scottish town the group set to work and planned their future.

Andy aka Cheryl adds, “We toyed with a number of names – Bearanarama, Spice Bears, The Nolan Bears... but Bears Aloud seemed to fit... and the more we talked and drank... the more fitting it became.”

The guys are all friends, having known each other on the heavier side of the gay scene for many years. However, even with their gruff bear background they were worried just how that particular community would take to them. They need not have worried as every audience and every performance has attracted more and more fans to the cause. They aren't sure just what that cause is... but the sheer hard work they put into their dance routines, their changes of outfits (or pie breaks, as Bears Aloud knows them) and their hour-long act, has converted quite a few 'husky' gentlemen to wish they had been brave enough to don the occasional frock.

Gary aka Nadine thinks the world has gone mad. “At Leeds Pride we came off stage and mothers were emptying their prams of kids to thrust them into our arms for a photo. I mean, what is that kid going to grow up thinking...?” Martin aka Kimberley interrupted. “And the number of bears who've said that we'd not only given them a laugh but were envious of our guts (no pun intended) to get up on stage and ... well... do it. Also, we were surprised when professional drag acts began taking an interest in us... often suggesting us for shows and offering advice. It's mental.”

Their wigs (inspired by the women of Wallace and Gromit), their sparkly outfits and their sheer originality have set them on a path that might just lure them away from their daytime jobs. The future looks bright as they plan on adding more to the act; live vocals, more audience participation and chat ... and, if they have their way, more pies. Fans are already coming along with their latest Sarah Lee cake creations and appreciative savoury pastries to place at the feet of their sweating hairy idols (though not for long as they soon find their way backstage). So, all is looking pretty good in the Bears Aloud camp. I asked the cub-like Ginger (the slimline Daniel who is the quietest member of the band), where he thought they'd be in a year's time. A contemplative look formed on his youthful, un-hairy face as if in deep debate, fully considering the depth of my searching question. His eyes scanned the room as he looked from colleague to colleague. Then, as if in a natural rhythm with each other, they raised yet another foaming pint to their collective lips as he gave his opinion. “Re-hab.”

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







## A brief history of DIVAS

A cornucopia of camp as Terry Sanderson honours those women who appeal to that very special gay mindset that worships excess, melodrama and over-the-top glamour (with just a little bit of sleaze and self-deprecation thrown in for good measure). Terry has gathered together archive film of those performers who have grabbed the imagination and the emotions of gay men and women over the years. 'They've made us laugh and they've made us cry let alone inspired a thousand drag queens. Lavishly illustrated with a big screen presentation of some of their best performances, it's an evening that celebrates the gay sensibility and our playful sense of fun. Terry Sanderson says: "We've got something for everyone in this show. There are comedy queens, drama queens, tragedy queens and queens of the silver screen. This show will lift those gay spirits right up into the stratosphere."

**Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. - 5th & 6th November**

**Tickets £10 Tel: 020 7404 3126**

## "HAIRSPRAY"

The producers of "Hairspray" are delighted to announce that Phill Jupitus, Belinda Carlisle and Sharon D Clarke have all signed to join the cast of the hit musical, from 26th October.

Phill stars as larger than life heroine Edna Turnblad, who must help her big-haired, big-hearted daughter Tracy fulfil her destiny... if she can just leave the family apartment. Belinda plays Velma Von Tussle, glamorous white supremacist and controller of the local TV station, who is out to thwart Tracy's plans, and Sharon is Motormouth Mabel, celebrity DJ and owner of Baltimore's biggest set of lungs!

**Shaftesbury Theatre, London.**

**Box Office: 0207 379 5399**

**www.hairspraythemusical.com**



Photo: Hugo Glendinning

## Swan Lake

Premiering at Sadler's Wells in 1995, Matthew Bourne's triumphant modern re-interpretation of Swan Lake turned tradition upside down, taking the dance world by storm. This Christmas the multi award-winning hit returns to the theatre where it all began for a strictly limited run followed by a national UK tour.

Matthew Bourne blends dance, humour and spectacle with extravagant, award-winning designs, to create a provocative and powerful Swan Lake for our times. Now firmly crowned as a modern-day classic, this iconic production is perhaps best-known for replacing the traditional female corps de ballet with a menacing male ensemble.

**Sadler's Wells, London**

**www.sadlerswells.com**

**10th Dec 2009 - 24th Jan 2010**

**Tour dates 2010**

**26-30 Jan**

**Woking - New Victoria Theatre,**

**1-6 Feb**

**Milton Keynes Theatre**

**8-13 Feb**

**Birmingham Hippodrome**

**15-20 Feb**

**Stoke - Regent Theatre**

**22-27 Feb**

**Liverpool Empire**

**1-6 March**

**Salford - The Lowry**

**8-13 March**

**Cardiff - Wales Millennium Centre**

**16-27 March**

**Newcastle Theatre Royal**

**29 March-3 April**

**Bradford - Alhambra Theatre**

**www.new-adventures.net**

## Icons

Time Out's new talent 2008 Michael Twaits brings his latest show - a theatrical cabaret for the Heat generation. This multimedia adventure through the cult of celebrity leaves the fame game stripped bare, taking you on a dark excursion into the fascination and fixation with fame. Adoration. Idolisation. Impersonation. When do you cross the line from fan to fanatic? And when does the art end and the private life begin?

**Brighton:**

**The Komedia - Wednesday 4th November**

**Manchester:**

**The Lowry - Friday 6th November**

**London:**

**The Soho Theatre - Thursday 19th November**





# THE LADY BOYS OF BANGKOK

The sky's the limit as 16 of the world's most beautiful show-girls (who just happen to be men!) blaze a spectacular jet-stream of fun and glamour as they glide smoothly from the disco floor to the Broadway stage combining the heady spice of Bangkok's exotic nightlife with the glamorous showgirl appeal of Las Vegas.

It's the show everyone talks about - and the new high-altitude production is even glitzier and more glamorous than ever - if that's possible! It's pure entertainment - from the show-stopping choreography to the 400-plus fabulous designer-inspired hand-made costumes ... from the excruciatingly immaculate make-up to the sheer style and effervescence of the performance. And when it comes to costumes - hey! It's all the way from fabulous feathers to mind-blowingly miniscule!

Mama Mia! The feel-good-factor has never felt better - from Riverdance to Dirty Dancing from Katy Perry to Whitney Houston you'll be dancing in the aisles!

But it is not just "a show" - attending a performance of the Lady Boys of Bangkok is a complete experience. You know you've left the every-day world far behind from the moment you enter the fully carpeted foyer. The ambiance and aroma transports you to the heart of Bangkok's vibrant nightlife. Authentic Thai cuisine freshly prepared by Chef Thanpwat Phamee is so popular that a dedicated dining area has been created for those wishing to eat before the performance.

**The Lady Boys of Bangkok - Mile High Tour**

**16th -31st October, The Sabai Pavilion, Millennium Square, Leeds**

**Quay Tickets - 0871 702 9506**

**Online: [www.ladyboysofbangkok.co.uk](http://www.ladyboysofbangkok.co.uk)**



**Gandey World Class Productions**

**MILE HIGH**

**The Lady Boys of BANGKOK**

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> to Sat 31<sup>th</sup> OCT**  
**The Sabai Pavilion,**  
**Millennium Square**  
**LEEDS**

See website or call for further information  
**0871 705 0705**  
(Calls to this number will cost 10p per minute from a BT land line. Other networks and mobile networks may cost more)

**The Grand Box Office: 0844 848 2702**  
**[www.ladyboysofbangkok.co.uk](http://www.ladyboysofbangkok.co.uk)**  
**Box office on site from Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October**  
**11.00am to 9.30pm daily**

**The GRAND Theatre & Opera House Leeds**

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> & Sat 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**  
**All Seats £12**





## "Infinite Variety"

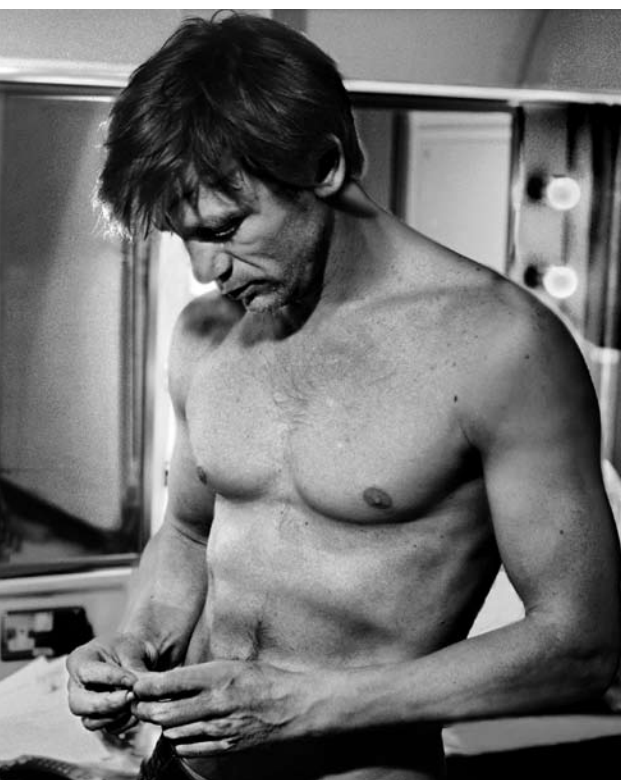
Combining the sexiness of Paris' Crazy Horse with The Whoopie Club's decadent arthouse aesthetic, the show will be a modern piece of cabaret delving into the visually surreal, where the cast and set become one. Whoopie bring vintage acts such as the Egyptian sand-dance and trapeze bang up to date with a pumping rock n' roll soundtrack a la Bowie and Peaches all in an opulent Christian Dior aesthetic.

Much of the costume and set will be made from folded paper giving the show a stylised look that will frame all the action. As well as being environmentally friendly, a show highlight is an enchanting routine in which both costume and set will be unfolded and created before your eyes, entirely from paper!

Infinite Variety celebrates the uncomplicated ambitions behind modern British variety: to impact the senses & provide simple delight. The focus will be on breathtaking spectacle.

**New Players Theatre, London. On Now until 1st November** [www.newplayerstheatre.com](http://www.newplayerstheatre.com)

**Whoopie Club** - [www.thewhoopieclub.com](http://www.thewhoopieclub.com)



## Celebs in the frame

This exhibition allows a rare glimpse into the more private moments of the country's most celebrated actors including Vanessa Redgrave, Gillian Anderson, Jim Broadbent, Martin Sheen, Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett, Kristin Scott Thomas, Holly Hunter, Daniel Craig (above) and Jude Law, in the intimacy of their dressing rooms.

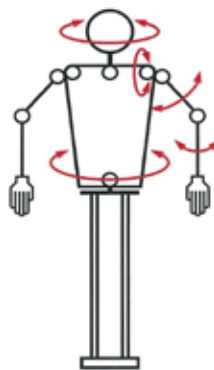
The portraits have all been taken during the 30 minutes before curtain up, known as 'the half'. The half is one of the most private times for an actor, a time for intense concentration to prepare for the performance ahead. It is a moment rarely captured on film.

**The Half: Photographs of Actors by Simon Annand**  
**The Lowry, Salford Quays (Free entry)**  
[www.thelowry.com](http://www.thelowry.com)

**Now on until 3rd January**

**A book of over 300 of Simon Annand's photographs has been published by Faber (2008) The Half is £30 hardback.**

**THE MIX**



KRAFTWERK

## Germany 8 – October 5

Electro Pioneers, living legends and globally revered masters of electronic sounds, Kraftwerk celebrate the 35th anniversary of their landmark 1974 hit 'Autobahn' by releasing digitally remastered versions of all eight of their albums. Remember, we are not machines but we came pretty bloody close. Kraftwerk Catalogue released 5th October on Mute records



## Gay Games VIII Cologne

The organizers of the 2010 Gay Games in Cologne, Germany, have announced that more than 1,700 athletes and artists have now registered to participate in the quadrennial sports & cultural event. Participants from more than 30 nations have already signed up including many from Eastern European countries where many who are openly gay or lesbian are still persecuted. Participation by the host country Germany leads all other nations with registrations from the United States and The Netherlands following close behind. Gay Games VIII runs from July 31 to August 7, 2010, and will open with an inspiring Opening Ceremony at RheinEnergie Stadium, the city's football stadium. Up to 48,000 people are expected at the Opening Ceremony.

[www.games-cologne.com](http://www.games-cologne.com).







**TERRY GEORGE  
TELLIN' STORIES**

# SWITCH ON WITH ALAN CARR



Blackpool's big 'switch-on' happened last month. It's that time when the entire Golden Mile is even more colourful than usual. Blackpool Illuminations have become a bit of a tradition in my household and every year we pile in the car and make our way to the west coast's most glorious (and gay friendly) seaside town.

Radio 2 were broadcasting the event live and a host of stars had gathered to help Alan Carr pull a knob. OK, that's me being a bit cheeky; he never needs any help from what I gather. I did cringe though when he recounted the tale of him and Lionel Blair saving the life of a man hanging from the pier a couple of years ago – his phrase was "Me and Lionel rushed to the pier and pulled him off!" It's a true story too he confirmed to me afterwards.

JLS were also on hand at the switch on, and needless to say, the girls and a few lads, were screaming their lungs out as they took the stage. Alan thought all the screaming was for him and wondered if anyone had told the girls they were barking up the wrong tree. The switch-on is always a great night and huge crowds fill the entire town... that then continues right through until the 8th November... so don't miss out on this de-LIGHT-ful extravaganza. Sorry.

Alan is a mate of mine so, after he'd done his duty he dragged me along to the after show party. We jumped into the waiting car along with Kate Thornton – she was on the phone to her mum who was saying she'd just heard her on the radio, which I thought was rather sweet.

Once we'd reached our destination, The Tower Ballroom, we jumped out of the car but couldn't find the correct entrance – it was like being in a siege situation as everybody was trying to get Alan's autograph.

Laurence Llewelyn Bowen was there, whom I've met several times in the past and always found him a bit aloof. Once Alan had introduced me to him, he seemed to take more interest in who I was and what I did. Funny that! Boxer Ricky Hatton was his usual fun and joyful self but people were taking the mickey out of him, as he's looking a bit 'chunky' at the moment. However, I know from previous meetings with the 'Hitman'

that he can put the weight on and take it off with relative ease. After a while Alan said, "Terry take me to one of these gay places around town" So I called Basil Newby owner of the Flying Handbag, Flamingo and really... he's Mr Blackpool... to check if it was OK to bring a few people along. What started out as just the 5 of us but it ended up being 30. Later, in Flamingo Alan was recognised and he was very accommodating and posed for photos with all the fans who gathered around him. Still, he ended up dancing the night away with singer Paloma Faith (who is going to be BIG) not caring at all. I don't know where he gets the energy.

I've never avidly watched Big Brother before but this time around, I was addicted as I knew some of the housemates – Rodrigo, Charlie and David. Charlie, who was a Mr Gay UK finalist a couple of years ago and Rodrigo, comes into Bar Fibre in Leeds.

I got a surprise call from Charlie when he got voted out, he rang up to thank me for some photos I'd done of him before he went into the house. He said they helped him with his confidence, which in turn helped at the auditions to get into Big Brother. I thought that was a lovely thing for him to do.

So, having a few friends round for Sunday lunch recently I invited him and Rodrigo. They were both lovely and it was bizarre as all the other guests wanted to have their photo taken with them. It must be a very strange feeling coming out of Big Brother and everyone knows who you are and knows so much about you. Some one said that it was like meeting your best mates who'd been away for a while, even though they



had never met them before. Both of them said they felt lonely since leaving the house –waking up without all the other housemates around was weird for them, but they don't miss the wake up calls!

I'm just waiting for the call to take part in the last Big Brother... I don't think I could go through with it though, there are too many skeletons in my closet.

**MR GAY UK**



**TRULY  
AMAZING!**

What a summer! What a mental, amazing summer.

I just got back from the trip of a lifetime to New York with my boyfriend and my two mates Sophs and Greg. It was spectacular! We walked the never-ending streets, saw a Broadway show, visited Miss Liberty, ate hot dogs from street vendors and sat in Time Square watching the hectic citizens of this incredible city go about their business. Then we travelled upstate and spent a week chilling out, watching American football games (those tightly packed hunks are really quite mesmerising, going to horse races, theme parks, and water parks... the whole shebang. It was ace.

Before the trip however, I worked with the National Youth Theatre. It was an amazing experience. We performed an amazing stadium arts piece of theatre at the end of it all – it'll be on [www.ideastap.com](http://www.ideastap.com) soon, check it out! So, I've just begun a brand new chapter in my life and started drama school. So far, it's amazing. I know it's going to be very tough but I'm excited and ready... I'm hoping that my need for a bit of drama in my life and my love of all things theatrical will hold me in good stead for my future ambitions treading the boards.

However, as a new chapter begins another finishes. As you all know my reign of as Mr Gay UK is very shortly ending. So here it is.... my final ever column as leader of the homo's! What can I say? It's been amazing and I've had such a great year! There have been so many wonderful experiences and I am thankful to so many people! I'd like to give a very special thanks to Darrell, Gordon, Terry and the whole Mr Gay UK team for being so good to me and making my year extra special. Also, a big thank you to the Jonathan Lipman team and an extra big thank you to my close friend Ryan. You legend. Last, but by no means least, a massive THANK YOU to all my readers and fans... if I have any – ha-ha. I've loved writing these little columns for you all – it's been fun and kind of therapeutic for me in a weird way. I've learnt so much and grown up a lot, I've made some amazing new friends for life, I've had lots of great times and some not so great times (told you I like a bit of drama) but all in all it's been bloody brilliant. Now I look forward to what the future holds and wish you all the very best of luck in what ever you do (follow your dreams! Ha-ha love a bit of cheese). So, I'm afraid it's bye-bye for now peeps!

Thanks for such a terrific experience...

*Dino*



## The rise and fall of Civil Partnerships

The number of same sex couples tying the knot has dropped, whilst partnership dissolutions have shown a significant increase, according to recent figures from the Office of National Statistics.

Civil partnerships have been available to same sex couples since December 2005 when the Civil Partnership Act was introduced, and according to specialist family lawyer Angela Davis of Nottingham law firm Berryman, it is unsurprising their take-up has steadily declined:

"Whilst statistics show a large fall in the number of same sex couples entering into civil partnerships, it is interesting that over the same time there's been a significant increase in the number of civil partnership dissolutions - the equivalent of marriage and divorce respectively - and further, a total of 33,965 couples have entered into premarital agreements since they became available.

"As with marriage, couples who enter into civil partnerships face an absolute bar from being able to dissolve the partnership until 12-months have elapsed from the date of the ceremony, meaning dissolutions would not have been available to those who entered into partnerships at the first available opportunity until late 2006/early 2007."

Angela adds: "The Civil Partnership Act gives civil partners almost identical rights to those of their married counterparts in the event of marital breakdown. Therefore, civil partners should seek legal advice in the event that their relationship breaks down whilst those contemplating entering into a civil partnership should also consider the possibility of a pre civil partnership agreement.

"Premarital agreements are increasingly popular and are finding increased favour with the Courts and can be just as relevant, if not more so, for same sex partners."

**Berryman is a Midland's law firm based in Nottingham, which provides an extensive portfolio of legal services. For more information, T: 0845 310 7200, or visit [www.berryman.co.uk](http://www.berryman.co.uk).**



## SHout loud about sexual health



Six leading sexual health and HIV organisations are launching SHout loud (Sexual Health out loud), a website which enables the general public, community groups and campaigners to have their say about sexual health, contraception and HIV services in England.

The new site, launching during sexual health week, is a joint initiative by the African HIV Policy Network (AHPN), Brook, fpa, the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health (MedFASH), NAT (National AIDS Trust) and Terrence Higgins Trust. Visitors type in their postcode to receive local data about sexual health, find out if sexual health is a priority in their area and can use the site to take action by contacting key decision-makers.

Everyone who is interested in sexual health will be encouraged to get involved from young people, to those living with or affected by HIV to anyone who feels it's an issue worth shouting about.

Teenage pregnancy rates are high across particular areas in England, one in 12 young people has chlamydia and more people are living with HIV than ever before. Individuals and community groups will be encouraged to get in touch with their MP, Primary Care Trust (PCT) and local authority to demonstrate that these issues matter to them and to try and ensure that sexual health, HIV and contraception services get the attention and funding they deserve.

Getting local people engaged in campaigning on local healthcare priorities is essential, especially during a recession when resources are limited.

**To sign up visit [www.shoutloud.org.uk](http://www.shoutloud.org.uk)**

## Gay Men's Sex Survey

The survey was carried out by Sigma Research and commissioned by Terrence Higgins Trust (THT), on behalf of the CHAPS partnership. It is the largest survey of its kind in the world, with over 6,000 men taking part.

The findings indicate a big increase in the number of gay men who have ever had an HIV test. Whereas less than half of all men surveyed in 2002 said they'd ever tested for HIV, the latest findings shows that 66% of men confirmed they have had an HIV test.

Among men that had ever tested, one-in-seven (15.2%) had tested positive for HIV infection. Testing for HIV and testing positive for HIV were most common among men living in London, men in their 30s and 40s and men with 30 or more male partners in the last year. However, testing and testing positive was common among all groups of gay men and in all regions of the UK.

Marc Thompson, Deputy Head of Health Promotion at Terrence Higgins Trust said: "A third of gay men have never tested and with a quarter of gay men with HIV unaware they are infected, the Gay Men's Sex Survey is vitally important when it comes to planning future sexual health campaigns and HIV prevention work. It's now recommended that gay men test at least once a year, or after any unprotected sex so if you have any concerns about your sexual health consider getting tested so you know for sure."

The report is available to download (or order for postal delivery) at [www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/go.php/reports/report2009f/](http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/go.php/reports/report2009f/)

## Liverpool and Everton football clubs join unions to tackle homophobia in sport

Liverpool and Everton FC joined with unions in Liverpool recently to step up the fight against homophobia in sport.

The TUC's lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) committee held a fringe meeting at the Jury's Inn Hotel during the unions annual Congress. The lively meeting heard what is being done to tackle the homophobia and transphobia that prevents LGBT sportspeople from coming out.

Participants, including representatives from both Liverpool and Everton FC, also discussed how to combat the anti-gay prejudice that continues in sport despite the big legal changes of the last decade.

Addressing the meeting - which was well attended by people from across Merseyside - were the Football Association's spokesmen Mark Hardcastle and Dave Raval, and Professional Footballers' Association Equalities Executive Simone Pound.

Also speaking were Kick it Out! Campaign Director Piara Powar and Rugby Football League spokesperson Sarah Williams. TUC General Council member and TUC LGBT Committee Chair Maria Exall chaired the meeting.

TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber said: "Professional sport remains blighted by homophobia and transphobia in spite of the big advances in LGBT equality over the last decade. "Due to the bigotry and narrow-mindedness that exists in sport, the majority of LGBT sportspeople are unable to reveal their sexuality for fear of discrimination or attack. This cannot be tolerated.





# The Laramie Project

**On 6th October 1998 Matthew Shepard was beaten and left to die tied to a fence in the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming. He died 6 days later. His murder became a watershed historical moment in America and the world that highlighted the violence and prejudice lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people face.**

A month after the murder, the members of Tectonic Theatre Project travelled to Laramie and conducted interviews with the people of the town. From these interviews they wrote the play *The Laramie Project*, which they later made into a film for HBO. The piece has been seen by more than 50 million people around the world.

The Lowry in Salford will join forces with theatres across the world to stage the first performance of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, an Epilogue. 120 theatres have been selected to present the new play on the same evening – 12th October 2009, exactly eleven years after the death of Matthew Shepard. Manchester based Hope Theatre Company has been chosen to present the UK Premiere, the play stars Warren Brown, Adam Zane is the driving force and its director.

I remember reading the play for the first time. I remember thinking I have to do this play, I have to tell this story. I made Dick (my now husband) read it and he said exactly the same thing – you have to do this. Before this I was an actor, I'd been in the original 'Queer as Folk' but I'd kind of fallen out of love with acting – there was only so many gay vets, gay doctors and gay comedy side-kicks I could play! 'The Laramie Project' totally changed me.

#### When was this first production?

I first directed the play with a group of university students in 2004. This was the first time that I felt as if I'd done something that I could be truly proud of. It really was a life-changing experience. I saw the journey that the students went on, they were so passionate about telling the story and I think it changed the way they viewed the world.

It was also Tectonic's 'verbatim' style of theatre that was a revelation. The actors felt a real connection with these characters – with the residents of Laramie. It's amazing really, a company of British actors connecting with cowboy country.

#### How did you set up Hope Theatre Company?

There's a line in the play where someone says 'the whole thing ropes around hope'. I set up Hope Theatre Company and our first production was 'The Laramie Project'. Some of the university students joined the cast and we took it to Manchester and Liverpool. After one show I arranged an after-show discussion with teachers, councilors and Manchester's Lesbian and Gay Foundation. Strangely enough a Minister was there from Wyoming. He'd been in Wyoming when Matthew was killed and had since moved to Salford, near Manchester. We all talked about what we could do next. We all agreed that we had to be in schools, talking about hate crime, homophobia and Matthew.

#### Tell us about the work you do in schools.

We set up 'Exceeding Expectations', funded by Manchester City Council and we are in our third year now. Our aim is to end homophobia through education. I created the verbatim play 'Outloud' about young people and how they cope with homophobia. One school I visited were putting together a presentation about homophobia. Some of the students had created a short film about Matthew. I hadn't told them about Laramie – they'd put it together themselves. It was really moving to sit in a school and watch a group of young people talking about Matthew Shepard. We now use that film in our play and every school in Manchester learns about Matthew.

#### What about the future?

There is still a long way to go. What happens when the play is over? It's up to the teachers to continue the work when we've gone. Pupils have come out after seeing the play, some have formed LGBT groups. We give them a pack that tells them about Matthew, The Laramie Project and where to go for help and advice.

#### The Laramie Project, 10 years later...an epilogue

**Directed by Adam Zane**

**12th October 8pm**

**The Lowry, Salford Quays, Manchester**

**[www.thelowry.com](http://www.thelowry.com) -Ticket: 0870 111 2000**





# It's all part of the job.

**My idea of heaven is a very relaxing evening with my boyfriend – sitting on the couch together and watching some porn movies. I know what you're thinking: how boring! But it isn't at all. Fact is, I don't always need to party every weekend. Indeed, spending a nice evening with the guy I love and having a hot, sweaty shag with him is all I need.**

photos: [www.staxus.com](http://www.staxus.com) Carsten Schlink

# Fit Lads

Britain once again becomes the watchword for chavish debauchery, as a second collection of horny members of the UK's underclass engage in a sordid series of ball-busting, cock-draining encounters. Tattooed and blinged, these foul-mouthed youths are the cream of their nation – producing it in copious amounts as if to underline the point. Preston Matthews makes a welcome return from the first instalment – this time as one half of a very randy pair of work-mates who literally can't keep their hands off each other once their boss has left them to their chores. Meanwhile, Danny Thomas and Chris Crawford savour a sweaty, ball-banging, ass-slamming suck-and-shag sesh; whilst Keiron Griffin and Kristian Kerner engage in a brief (but mesmerising) encounter courtesy of an online chat-room. Arguably the hottest pairing, however, is that between Harrison and Conrad Johnson – a couple of dark-haired wonders whose gorgeous physiques, thick, uncultured and nonchalant arrogance make for perfect scally-porn. In short, this is another superb effort from director Zack Hadley, whose eye for chav-candy is spot on and who has surely notched up another sure-fire hit in the process. Believe us, the dregs of British society really have never looked hotter!

Of course I watch porn all week as part of my job – cutting trailers, uploading material on to my site or even performing in front of the camera. As a result, I often don't really pay full attention and enjoy the action. I'm watching the timer, checking angles, making sure the production is pacey enough and that the sexy models are doing something exciting... but that's about it. But when it comes to watching porn with my boyfriend it's all totally different. We get a bottle or two of wine, some savoury snacks, a few lighted candles, pillows and a blanket, and then we cuddle up on the sofa to watch TV. Next to us is a huge box with more than 40 porn movies which I packed on a previous visit to the warehouse of my porn studio STAXUS in Amsterdam. Honestly, that office really is my idea of porn heaven. Can you imagine? A huge warehouse with 10 metre high shelves stacked with porn DVDs! Believe me, it's just great! But which movies to choose? Twinks, Sport Ladz, Czech guys, American beach boys? Well on this occasion we decided to opt for some twinks who were paired up with college types. But not any Czechs. Believe me, I see enough of them in the supermarket around the corner. Indeed, I have – and I really do mean have – plenty of Czechs in the showers of my gym. I certainly don't need to see any more of them in a porn movie, that's for sure. In the end, we had a lovely evening watching porn on the sofa – and needless to say we continued in bed with some activities afterwards. After all, we just had to practise some of the interesting positions that we'd seen performed just a few minutes before on the DVD. As always, however, it looked so much easier and hornier in the film than it did for us when we were doing it ourselves. Yeah, I know, it's totally stupid. I've been in the porn business and performing in movies for about 5 years now and yet I still get taken in by the tricks of the porn business, where everything is much more glamorous than the reality!

And maybe it is true what all my friends say about me. Sometimes I'm just thinking too much with my cock instead of using my brains.

I recognise this fact sometimes when I'm out shopping – especially when I'm shopping for clothes. Whenever there's a cute assistant who smiles nicely at me, who touches me in intimate places (to check the fit of the trousers, of course), and who tells me that I look gorgeous with his hard-sell pitch, you can guarantee that I buy the stuff immediately. Then I get home and discover that what I've bought is like some kind of old potato sack – but hey, the sales guy was just too cute! Recently I even bought a new kitchen table from IKEA – and all because there was a picture in the sales brochure with a cute, half-naked twink sitting on it. Alright, we needed a new table, but this one is just way too big for our small kitchen! As my friend told me afterwards when he helped carry the table back down the stairs to take it back to the shop, I really should've ordered the twink and left it at that!

Nevertheless, thinking with your cock can sometimes be helpful – especially when you're in the porn business. Indeed, my cock is a kind of guide for me when it comes to deciding whether a scene or a guy is right for my site or for the studio. When I see someone in a club and my cock starts twitching I just have to make an approach and talk to him. And I admit, sometimes it ends with sex – which, incidentally, is a much better test of whether the guy is worth a part in one of our porn movies. Such reactions will also help answer some of the letters that I receive from you all asking what it takes for a guy to be in a porn movie with me. In short, a nice body, a huge cock and the ability to stimulate my own hard dick!

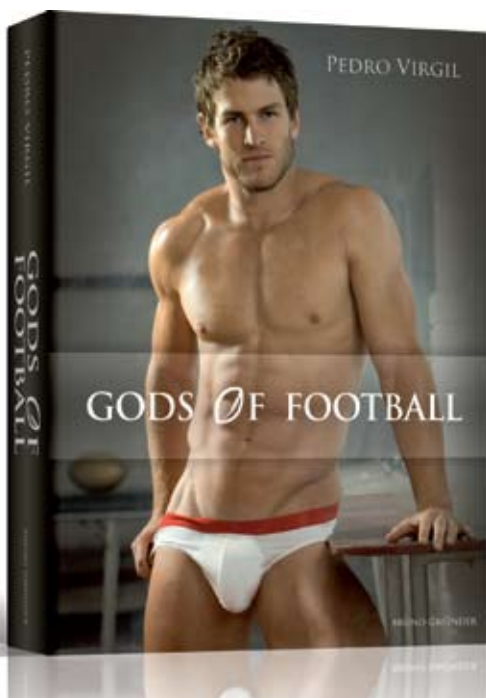
You see, I always follow my (sexual) instincts!  
**For more information: [www.Johan-Volny.com](http://www.Johan-Volny.com)**





## 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@googlegmail.com](mailto:greatgayreads@googlegmail.com)



### ◀ **GODS OF FOOTBALL**

Pedro Virgil

Fact...sport is an erotic experience for many gay men! After all, physical strength and fitness usually entail a well build body. Think about sweat, masculinity and a good looking man in addition—what more could our gay heart desire? In Australia they already discovered the value of certain sporty sex appeal and picked up a unique super team: Gods of Football. These adorable guys present themselves in a more alluring way than any hot August afternoon: The bodies are perfect, the faces are handsome, the poses are dominant and self-assured—in short: So sexy it hurts!

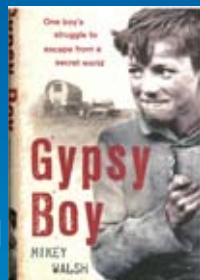
£49.99 – Bruno Gmunder

### ▶ **GYPSY BOY**

By Mikey Walsh

The story of a boy's struggle to escape from a secret world... the world of hard men, hard fighters, hard drinkers and con men... all encapsulated in his gypsy father. A world of anger and violence where being different isn't tolerated and being gay could lead to a family death sentence. Experience the physical damage wrought on a young boy who liked to play with his He-Man characters.

£10 - Hodder & Staughton



### ▶ **WHEN YOU'RE FALLING DIVE**

By Mark Matousek

Do survivors of life's greatest trials possess a secret knowledge? This is the question posed to people who, in adversity, rose to the occasion and drew power from their situation.

A spiritual book that isn't preachy, doesn't have preconceived ideas and might just explain how some people can find a positive in total negativity.

£10.99 - Hayhouse



### ▶ **99 CLASSIC MOVIES FOR PEOPLE IN A HURRY**

By Thomas Wengelerowski

Yes, all the big movies are here. Citizen Kane, Psycho, Dirty Dancing, Rebel Without a Cause... the list... well there's 99 of them all told in four, simple to follow squares. Sound impossible? Seeing is believing. Now you no longer have to sit through all that artistic dross - you get the picture without having to go to the pictures. Brilliant.

£6.99 - Nicotext



### ▶ **BETWEEN MEN 2**

Edited by Richard Canning

Can we ever get fed up reading about men on men action or their intimate relationships? Some of the world's best contemporary gay authors have contributed to this series of 18 short pieces of fiction, including; Alan Hollinghurst, Andrew Holleran and Jim Grimsley.

£9.99 – Alyson Books





# Lowe down?

**Troglodyte Rose is the new dark fantasy novel from Bent's own Adam Lowe. We thought it might be fun to have an interview by his psychotic, promiscuous alter-ego, Beyoncé Holes, where we get down to literary promiscuity, singing for Fatboy Slim and judging Drag 4 U.**

**Beyoncé: So who is Adam Lowe?**

Adam: Adam Lowe is a writer from Leeds. I've written for Fitlads, Bent, Pink Paper, The Leeds Guide and The Local Herald. I'm also known amongst readers of science fiction and fantasy as a short story writer and the owner of Dog Horn Publishing, which publishes a literary journal called Polluto amongst other things. Poetry lovers will know me as a poet. Hard house fans may know me as a curiosity who penned and sung the lyrics to one song by DJGRH and Paul Maddox, released on Fatboy Slim's Tidy Trax label.

**Beyoncé: So you're a literary whore then?**

Adam: Only in as much as you're an actual whore.

**Beyoncé: Touché. So what is it with all the different stuff you do?**

Adam: I don't know. I guess I just don't like to let people down. I get asked to judge Mr Gay UK and I say yes. I get asked to judge Drag 4 U and I say yes. I get asked to set up a new gay night in Leeds and I say yes. I think I'm a bit too busy. I'll have no hair left by the age of 25.

**Beyoncé: And why do they call you Beyoncé?**

Adam: They don't. They call you Beyoncé.

**Beyoncé: Where did the idea for this book come from?**

Adam: I was chatting to the publisher, who'd already submitted a story to my magazine, Polluto. He was asking for spectacular writers and artists I might recommend to produce books which would be a fusion of art and fiction.

**Beyoncé: And you recommended yourself?**

Adam: I think it was you who recommended me.

**Beyoncé: I get blamed for everything.**

Adam: You're an easy target. You're too out there. And you can never keep your mouth shut. It gets us both into big trouble.

**Beyoncé: That's like blaming Jekyll for Mr Hyde.**

Adam: One did make the other.

**Beyoncé: Whatever. And so you came up with the idea on the spot?**

Adam: Pretty much. I initially pitched a short story collection that would be illustrated by my pals Kurt Huggins and Zeldia Devon. They've currently got some artwork up at the Tor website, and they've worked with all kinds of wonderful people. Previously they won a Silver Award in editorial art from Spectrum Fantastic Art, which was for the cover of Polluto 1. They'd illustrated a story of mine about a woman who was half sewing machine, and they'd won an award for it. I was so proud and blown away by their talent—which is perhaps a little

selfish, since it was actually their hard work, but I like to think it was the weirdness of that story that enabled them to create this award-winning piece.

**Beyoncé: This sounds nothing like Troglodyte Rose so far.**

Adam: I'm getting there. Writers talk a lot. Now the publisher liked their art and my work, but felt a short story collection wasn't quite right, and he wanted a framing narrative. So I came up with an idea that the main character, Rose, would be tapping into the dreams of crazy people, with each dream being one of my stories. My stories would be prose and the overarching narrative would be a comic strip. But then it became a series of drug-induced trips, Rose lived underground and the short stories were replaced by journeys that fit into the narrative better.

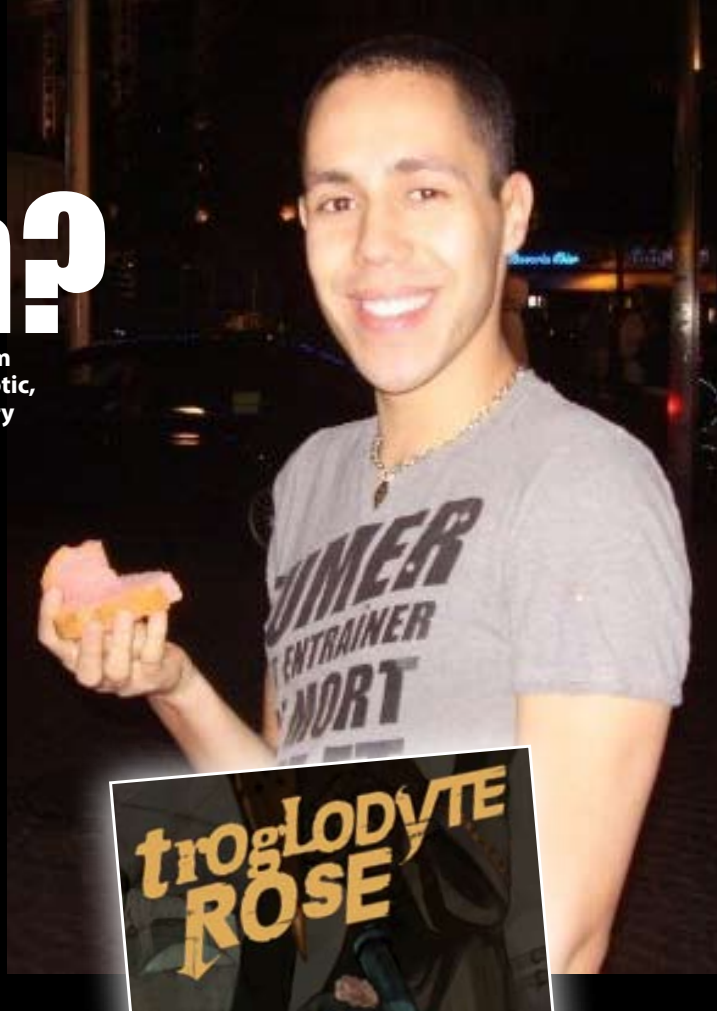
**Beyoncé: Sounds organic.**

Adam: It was. And then I set myself three months to write the first draft and, well, that's what I did. It was fun. I got some other writer friends to edit and proofread it, and then the final book was ready. I'd read a lot of Japanese light novels, which are slim, illustrated novels which specifically appeal to comic readers. As a result the book is high-octane, fast-paced and very visual. The artwork inside complements the very stunning imagery and locations.



**Beyoncé: So it's a drug-fuelled orgy of monsters, guns, cannibalism, tits and dicks?**

Adam: How did you know?



## ▲ WHO IS TROGLODYTE ROSE?

Set in an undetermined far future where mankind lives underground, enslaved by their own, more evolved descendants, the psychic Limbids, who live in a vertical city in the world above. Rose is the anarchic heroine, who blusters into the narrative with a gun and a bad attitude, accompanied by her hermaphrodite lover, Flid. Tiring of running from winged troops of genetically engineered monster-police, and sick of an economy that relies on slavery and cannibalism, she and Flid spend their days wallowing in computer games left over from a previous, lost civilisation and taking every high they can get their fingers on.

At rock bottom they try the most dangerous, illegal drug of all: the legendary Haze. They soon discover the real reason why it is illegal: the Limbids themselves rely on its mind- and reality-altering powers to fuel their own psychic abilities. And with the Haze in their grasp, they can journey to myriad alternate universes, meeting talking dragons, swimming amongst the sunken ruins of New York and rescuing alien princesses from eternal slumber.

But soon even that's not enough. Rose wants to see the sun. She wants to make a difference. So assembling a ragtag band of fugitives and liberals, she resurrects an old plot to overthrow the oppressive government and escape to the world above.

**Troglodyte Rose is due out 30th October, priced £8.99, and is available from all good bookshops, or direct at troglodyterose.com. It also features seven pages of full-colour artwork from award-winning TOR/DC Comics duo Kurt Huggins and Zeldia Devon, which can also be viewed at the fully-interactive website listed above.**



# BOYS ON FILM 3

AMERICAN BOY

BAD BOYS EMO BOYS SKATER BOYS  
LIKE WHATEVER, BOYS

7 SHORTS FOR ALL YOUR AMERICAN FANTASIES



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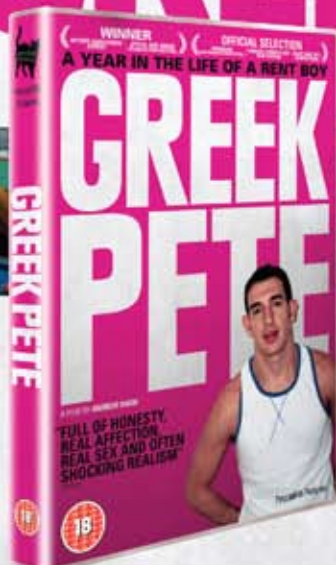
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OUT NOW



# Soldier, Soldier will you marry me...?

He won Best Actor at the 2004 GayVN Awards in 2004 for A Porn Star is Born! and Best Sex Scene in 2003 with Chris Steele in Cops Gone Bad! Lately, Michael Soldier has found another side to his many talents which some might think is a bit of a drag!



The new DVD Gay Bed and Breakfast of Terror is full of unspeakable horrors...

**what, in your career, has been the most unspeakable horror you've had to deal with?**

How nice of you to call it a career! But how can I possibly speak of an 'unspeakable horror'? If we speak of film/theatre...getting in drag before sunrise is an abomination. If it's porn...that time I snapped my nutflesh in a cockring during a scene that wasn't going that well to begin with qualifies. Ohhh... such tender skin! Who would have thought the old balls to have had so much blood in them? If it's massage therapy...leaning in on the glutes just in time to catch a blustery fart in the face beats all.

**The movie looks 'fun' but of course we all realise it is a parody of the global financial collapse and the possible end of civilisation - discuss (or not, depending if there's something good on the TV)**

I've grown so weary of waiting for the collapse. Artists always do better when everything's gone to hell anyway! I think the underlying message that drew me to our movie is that REAL perversion is the result of denying one's instincts and identity and making others suffer because of it. Bigotry and oppression are best discussed in the arena of a ridiculous, murderous farce!

**Having been a top porn star for several years... when and where did you find your feminine side?**

Well, I think of myself as an actor/artist first. I knew so many talented drag queens while in art school in NYC that inspired me to develop my 'Lady Friend'. It's a great way to embrace your inner sissy and grow fearless as a performer. Then the pendulum swung...

**Will you be bringing that character (or yourself for that matter) to the UK in the near future?**

I have only spent two days in London so far... if the invite comes I would love to perform

there! My weekly club 'BULB nightclub of the performing arts' and the revival of the Cockettes' musical 'Pearls Over Shanghai' have me very busy 'til New Year.

**Most of our readers will know you from your movies (and your terrific... erm butt) did you ever stop to count the number of times you had sex?**

My focus is on ART, not MATH. I don't do numbers so well.

**Do you have a specific type of guy that you go for?**

Fit, smart, tender, confident, and funny. I also have a special fondness for mixed race guys. The rest is all up to chemistry.

**In porn you have to keep hard and produce several loads... did you have a daily regime to help with the quantity?**

Stay hydrated and don't wank for a few days. Moderate viagra usage is just for porn insurance. Find chemistry on whatever level you can. Enjoy what you do and remember it will never go away so make it memorable!

**You're a licensed massage therapist... what exactly does that mean you can legitimately do?**

Legitimately, I am a licensed health care pro. I can help with stress, posture, exercise and rehabilitation. Anything beyond that enters gray legal areas...often, and for an appropriate fee.

**When, where, who with and how old were you when you lost your virginity... and was it good or a dud?**

Virginity has so many levels! The first time I got fucked was about as tawdry as I could come up with involving a pornstar that I was rather obsessed with in a Times Square 'hotel'. It lasted 8 hours. It was worth waiting for.

[www.facebook.com/michaelsoldier](http://www.facebook.com/michaelsoldier)

**WIN THIS**



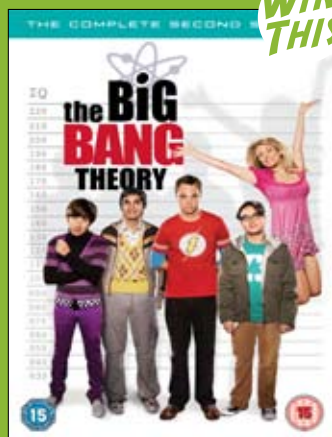
**THE GAY BED & BREAKFAST OF TERROR**

On the eve of the biggest LGBT blowout of the year, five gay and lesbian couples find themselves having to make reservations at the secluded Sahara Salvation Inn. What should have been the party of the century quickly turns into every gay and lesbian's worst nightmare when they discover that the hotel's proprietor is a god-fearing gay-basher with a penchant for mincemeat muffins! If that wasn't bad enough, a snarling, homosexual-eating Republican mutant starts to pick them off, one by one. A B-movie gore fest but who will survive?

**Out: 12th October - £14.99 - Peccadillo Pictures**

If you'd like to win a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question:  
**On which continent is the Sahara desert?**





WIN  
THIS

### ▲ **BIG BANG THEORY: SEASON 2**

Hyper intelligent room mates Leonard and Sheldon are back along with their brainiest of best friends Wolowitz and Koothrappali. The beautiful Penny still lives next door to the boys but chaos breaks loose as they finally overcome their inability to talk to girls and their love lives start to hot up.

**Out: 12th October - £24.99 - Warner Home Video.**

If you'd like to win this series boxset just answer this simple question:

Complete this Einstein equation  $E=MC^2$ ?



WIN  
THIS

### ▲ **BLIND DATING**

Blind twenty-something Danny (Chris Pine - Captain Kirk from the latest Star Trek movie) has plenty going for him - he's smart, witty, handsome and intelligent and he won't let his lack of sight get him down. When his girl-crazy, limo-driving brother discovers that he's a virgin, he's determined to help him. He sets him up with a series of hysterically disastrous blind dates with shallow girls that can't seem to get past his sight impairment.

**Out: 5th October - £14.99 - Universal**

If you'd like to win a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question: Who was the host of the ITV series Blind Date?



WIN  
THIS

### ▲ **HEROES - SEASON 3**

The addictive, smash-hit series returns with epic stories of ordinary people with extraordinary gifts, whose only destiny is to save the world. But this time, some of those breath-taking abilities are in the hands of some seriously wrong people. Packed full of fascinating extra content including alternate stories, an insight into the mind-bending special effects and an art gallery featuring Tim Sale's creations, it will keep you entertained for hours.

**Out: 12th October - £49.99 DVD - £59.99 BluRay - Universal Playback**

If you'd like to win a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question:

Complete this Heroes saying: Save the Cheerleader... save the \_\_\_\_\_?



WIN  
THIS

### ▲ **THE HILLS RUN RED**

You heard the story. The one about the goriest, bloodiest splatter fest ever, the one made in the '80s but mysteriously lost. Flash forward to now: Young fright fans search for the secret location where the movie was shot, hoping to find the film. What they find is that the mysterious slasher flick is more than a movie. It's real... and they're its newest stars.

**Out: 26th October - £12.99 - Warner Home Video**

If you'd like to win a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question:

Complete the title of this iconic horror movie: Night of the Living \_\_\_\_\_?



WIN  
THIS

### ▲ **LOOKING FOR ERIC**

Lifelong Manchester United fan Eric the postman is seeing his control of life slipping through his fingers. His family are in trouble and, despite some comical help from his mates, things are not getting any better. Time to call up that sage of the thoughtful footballer Eric Cantona. Funny and philosophical... what more do you need?

**Out: 12th October - DVD £19.99 Blu-ray £24.99 - Icon Home Ents**

If you'd like to win a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question:

Eric Cantona was an international football player but for which country?



WIN  
THIS

### ▲ **OUT AT THE WEDDING**

Ever tell a little white lie that got slightly out of hand? New Yorker Alex gets embroiled in a farcical web of mistaken identities - and sexualities - when she decides to keep her mixed-raced boyfriend a secret from her family at her sister's wedding. All goes well until her loose-lipped gay best friend Fred inadvertently suggests Alex is actually in a loving relationship - with a woman. Full of laugh-out-loud moments, swinging sexualities and crazy characters.

**Out: 19th October - £14.99 - tla releasing**

If you'd like to win a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question:

What is the name of the huge park in the middle of Manhattan?



WIN  
THIS

### ▲ **WASTING AWAY**

Zombies, you know 'em, you love 'em, but what do they think of you? In this hilarious twist on the classic Zombie tale, we see the world through Zombie eyes when a barrelful of Toxic Goo transforms four friends into the Walking Dead. Suddenly, unaware of their rotting undeadness, it seems everyone else has gone mad. So they embark on a bumbling quest to find the 'truth' - after all, Zombies are people too!

**Out now - £12.99 - Kaleidoscope Home Ents**

If you'd like to be in with a chance to win a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question:

What was the name of the Michael Jackson video that featured zombies and the voice of Vincent Price?



WIN  
THIS

### ▲ **X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE**

Leading up to the events of X-Men, this DVD tells the story of Wolverine's epically violent and romantic past, his complex relationship with Victor Creed and the ominous Weapon X program. Along the way, Wolverine encounters many mutants, both familiar and new, including surprise appearances by several legends of the X-Men universe whose appearances in the film have long been anticipated.

**Out: 19th October - Blu-Ray £24.99 - 20th Century Fox Home Ents**

If you'd like to win a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question:

In which country was Hugh Jackman born?

**COMPETITION TIME**  
Turn to page 73 for entry details



# 10 THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT HEATH LEDGER

- 1 Was originally set to star in Oliver Stone's *Alexander* (2004) before Colin Farrell took over the role.
- 2 Jake Gyllenhaal is the godfather of his daughter Matilda Ledger.
- 3 Was set to star in Baz Luhrmann's *Australia*, but backed out to play *The Joker* in *The Dark Knight*.
- 4 Was one of seven godparents of Elizabeth Hurley's son Damien.
- 5 Directed three music videos for Australian artist N'fa and Ben Harper.
- 6 First acting role was as Peter Pan, at age 10, at a local theater company.
- 7 After his death his body was returned to Perth, Western Australia, where it was cremated at Fremantle Cemetery, with his ashes scattered in a family plot at Karrakatta Cemetery, next to two of his grandparents.
- 8 Played the character of Scott Irwin in the long-running Australian soap opera *Home and Away* for 10 episodes in 1997.
- 9 In both his first and final complete roles, he portrayed a clown.
- 10 The day after he died, he was supposed to meet with Steven Spielberg to explore the idea of playing Tom Hayden in a movie about the Chicago 7.



This month acclaimed director Terry Gilliam releases the last film ever starring Heath Ledger. The adventure fantasy - *Imaginarium Of Doctor Parnassus* comes out on Friday 16th October.



## ▲ THE INVENTION OF LYING

**Out: 2nd October**

From Ricky Gervais, comes the new romantic comedy which takes place in an alternate reality where lying—even the concept of a lie—does not exist. Everyone speaks the truth and nothing but the truth with no thought of the consequences. But when a down-on-his-luck loser named Mark suddenly develops the ability to lie, he finds that dishonesty has its rewards. In a world where every word is assumed to be the absolute truth, Mark easily lies his way to fame and fortune. But lies have a way of spreading, and Mark begins to realize that things are getting a little out of control when some of his tallest tales are being taken as, well, gospel. With the entire world now hanging on his every word, there is only one thing Mark has not been able to lie his way into: the heart of the woman he loves.



## ▲ ZOMBIELAND

**Out: 7th October**

In the horror comedy *Zombieland* focuses on two men who have found a way to survive a world overrun by zombies. Columbus (Jesse Eisenberg) is a big wuss – but when you're afraid of being eaten by zombies, fear can keep you alive. Tallahassee (Woody Harrelson) is an AK-toting, zombie-slaying' bad ass whose single determination is to get the last Twinkie on earth. As they join forces with Wichita (Emma Stone) and Little Rock (Little Miss Sunshine's Abigail Breslin), who have also found unique ways to survive the zombie mayhem, they will have to determine which is worse: relying on each other or succumbing to the zombies.



## ▲ AN EDUCATION

**Out: 30th October**

A star is born in Carey Mulligan. Already generating Oscar buzz, *An Education* is set in London in 1961, and is an unforgettable coming-of-age story. Attractive, bright, 16-year-old Jenny is stifled by the tedium of adolescent routine; she can't wait for adult life to begin. One rainy day her suburban existence is upended by the arrival of a much older suitor, David (Peter Sarsgaard). Urbane and witty, David instantly charms Jenny and introduces her to a glittering new world of classical concerts, art auctions, smoky bars, and late-night suppers with his attractive friends. He replaces Jenny's traditional education with his own more-dangerous version. Channeling the spirit of a young Holly Golightly, Carey Mulligan makes Jenny's character blossom on screen from a girl into a woman, and transforms herself from an actor into a star.

Word has it that not only will we see Will Smith back in the title role of *Hancock 2*, but Charlize Theron and Jason Bateman are also set to return for the sequel to the critically panned 2008 box-office success *Hancock*.

Film to look out for is fashion designer Tom Ford's directorial debut. A *Single Man* already earned star Colin Firth the best actor award at the Venice Film Festival. The film takes place in the 1960s and stars Firth as a gay British college professor attempting to cope with the death of his partner. college professor attempting to cope with the death of his partner.





### ▲ THE FANTASTIC MR FOX

**Out: 23rd October**

Based on one of Roald Dahl's most beloved books telling the story of a crafty fox who finds himself and his family targeted for death by the three dumb, pug-ugly farmers who tire of sharing their chickens with the critter. Heavyweight star voice line-up includes George Clooney, Bill Murray, Jason Schwartzman, Meryl Streep, Willem Dafoe, Owen Wilson, Brian Cox and Adrien Brody - clearly Dahl book lovers. Superbly crafted and highly entertaining, a real crowd pleaser.



### ▲ UP (3D)

**Out: 9th October**

From the Academy Award-awarding Pixar comes Up, a comedic adventure. Carl Fredricksen spent his entire life dreaming of exploring the globe and experiencing life to its fullest. But at age 78, life seems to have passed him by, until a twist of fate, and a persistent 8-year old Wilderness Explorer named Russell, gives him a new lease on life. Up takes audiences on a thrilling journey where the unlikely pair encounter wild terrain, unexpected villains and jungle creatures.



### ▲ MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT

**Out: 30th October**

Director Kenny Ortega of High School Musical fame has quickly put together Michael Jackson's farewell movie tribute which is hitting cinemas worldwide for a limited 2-week engagement. This is It will offer Jackson fans and music lovers worldwide a rare, behind-the-scenes look at the performer, his career, and the stage spectacular that would have been. The film will provide moviegoers with an unforgettable front row experience compiled from extensive footage that shows Jackson's meticulous preparation for his 2009 London shows.

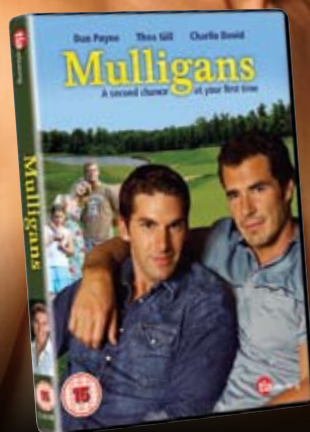
It seems Clint Eastwood and Matt Damon haven't had enough of one another just yet as The Hollywood Reporter brings word the two are reteaming for Hereafter. Eastwood recently directed Damon in the upcoming awards season contender Invictus, the South African-set drama in which Damon plays rugby player Francois Pienaar, which will be released in December. Meanwhile, Bourne 4 is in the works for Damon too.

**tla** releasing.co.uk

## Two to take home from TLA

Available at:  
**amazon.co.uk**

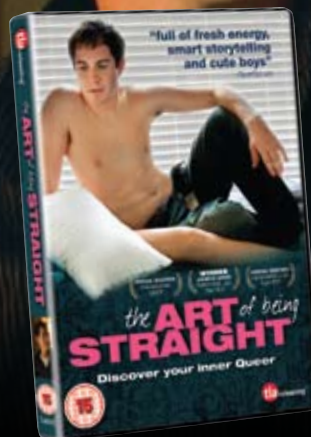
**"A warm and witty gay flick with oodles of soul"** - BOYZ



### Out Now

Sleeping with your best friend's sexy father - is it every gay man's secret fantasy or the ultimate betrayal?

**"An unpretentious dramedy of postcollege confusion"** - The New York Times



### Out Now

It's not easy being attracted to guys when you are stuck in a straight man's body... at least that's the hurdle Josh faces after arriving in L.A. to begin a new life.





### ▲ **ABSOLUT ROCK**

It's hard, it's cool and it's the drink in the world of Rock. Now those nice Vodka people have confused hard rock with a tinge of S&M to produce the kinkiest bottle for their premium brew. Wouldn't be out of place on the set of The Rocky Horror Show.

£14.99



### ▲ **SUNRISE ALARM CLOCK.**

30 minutes before the time you set your alarm the clock glows and gradually brightens. Though you may still be asleep, the photons of light reaching your eyelids will begin to gently stir, resulting in the most soothing and natural wake up call you could ever experience!

£19.99 [www.paramountzone.com](http://www.paramountzone.com)



### ▲ **BUGGER IT**

If you want a bit of fun on your desk at work... why not adopt a Hexbug. This clever little robotic insect will skitter around your desk, bumping into things then find its own way in the world. Hell, it's already clever than me.

£9.99 [www.hexbug.com](http://www.hexbug.com).

### ▲ **LAMBORGHINI LAPTOP**

The wonderfully sleek ASUS-Lamborghini VX5 notebook contains an array of simply outstanding futuristic technology that delivers super- performance coupled with attentive design finishes – all amalgamating into a luxurious and user-centric product truly deserving of the Lamborghini badge. With striking lines, elegant curves and a textural combination of mesh, chrome, ceramic and leather, the VX5 is a true reflection of the futuristic style and quality of its supercar counterpart.

£1999 [www.asus.co.uk](http://www.asus.co.uk)



### ▲ **A CLOSE SHAVE**

A wealth of technology ensures this deluxe bit of shaving kit gives an exceptional shaving experience and an exceptional end result. With Titanium & Teflon® coated foils, the Remington F7790 protects skin from irritation, with results that are 45% smoother than Stainless Steel. Ultra stylish in silver & charcoal with black non-slip rubber and hi-tech digital power gauge, no wonder it's got its own high gloss charging stand!

£119.99







▲ **TV DVD COMBO**

With an integrated DVD player, you can play all your favorite DVD's without the need for a separate player or any unsightly cables to worry about. This series with integrated digital Freeview has a beautiful high gloss black finish and petite 19 and 22-inch screen versions, complete with invisible speakers, to complement any space in your home – perfect for the bedroom or kitchen. It also has Energy Saving credentials.

£TBA [www.lge.com](http://www.lge.com)



▼ **X TRAINER**

Bremshey's most popular home exercise machine makes its debut in stunning matt black livery this autumn - exclusively from John Lewis.

£TBA [www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com).



Wall Art Canvases start from £53.00 for 46 x 46 cm  
Roller Blinds start from £115.00 for 600 x 1000 mm  
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[www.digetex.com](http://www.digetex.com)





### The Nerve of it

Nerve's mission is to create a menswear brand, which gives new and funky interpretations to tradition features, fabrics and shapes of masculine fashion.

£35 - Scarf

£75 - Shirt

£80 - Knitted tank

£95 - Jeans

£10 - Socks

£90 - Shoes

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



£34.99 - Diego Hoody  
£19.99 - Basic Jog Pant  
[www.republic.co.uk](http://www.republic.co.uk)



Inspired by classic horror films, such as Hitchcock and the gothic hammer horror movies, menswear label, Custom Deluxe, has released a new range of 'Horror' t-shirts.

£19.99

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



£25 - Torch T-shirt

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





£199 – Remus; grey short coat with funnel neck, buttons and pocket detail.  
Stockist 0121 784 6161



£70 - Tan Brogue Boots from NEXT



Add a touch of exclusivity to your autumn wardrobe with these Limited Edition 'Suede's' from PUMA.

£44.99 [www.size.co.uk](http://www.size.co.uk)

## Wearing your art on your sleeve

Arty cufflinks may not be your idea of an investment but, with a limited edition of only 1000 pairs, designed by some of the best contemporary and cool artists... it certainly makes you think. These delightful silver enameled cufflinks won't break the bank and will make the perfect arty statement for a mate or partner.

£35 [www.castlegalleries.com](http://www.castlegalleries.com)



£21.50 - Red Devil, Halloween inspired undies from Clever Moda  
[www.deadgoodundies.com](http://www.deadgoodundies.com)



# Take Me Back To Tel Aviv

It's fair to say that since August, when a lone gun-man shot dead two young gay lads and injured 10 others in Tel Aviv, which led to a temporary closure of the cities gay nightlife, Israel is seen as a homophobic and violent place to visit. However, we sent a nervous Simon Savidge to find out what happened and what the city, with a huge gay population, has to offer in future.





Once you arrive in Tel Aviv and get used the cloudless sky, the hot temperatures and the attractive men, you are instantly hit by the warmth of the people. Everywhere you go, should you be walking along the shopping streets, in the markets, on the beach and in the bars, anyone and everyone will happily talk to you. "And that is why people were so shocked by the shooting," said Shai Doitsh, National Board Member of Gay Tourism. "We don't have homophobic things happen here in Tel Aviv, it's a very cosmopolitan forward thinking city. We don't have a gay ghetto as bars can be everywhere and anywhere. You can see gay couples kissing and holding hands and no one cares. That's because, after compiling research, we discovered that around 35% of Tel Aviv's population is gay."

Though there may be some dispute about that exact figure there is no disputing that people don't bat an eye lid to both female and male couples kissing and holding hands in the street. In fact, it was possible that it was me who was the most shocked, as even in London, unless you're on Old Compton Street, people still stare. On my tour through this, the second largest city in Israel, we stopped at the community centre and saw the huge amount of candles outside. My guide Igal Zeevi said "It shocked people so much, even the Prime Minister came to see what had happened and to urge people to try and find whoever did it. As a straight man in Tel Aviv there are gay people all around you and I am out all the time with them. We have a community culture and it was shocking that this happened."

The city does have huge community spirit. Later on the tour we visited the actual 'Gay Centre' for Tel Aviv, (which isn't as reported where the shooting happened) which sits in one of the cities most beautiful parks and not too far from the gay beach. "You see," Igal adds laughing, "the gay community run this town... they get the best park for their building and they have the

best beach". The centre is quite something; it has a café, a baby-creche for gay couple's children, its own small hospital and medical centre and dance studio. There are classes for acting, safe sex, dating, you name it and they will have it... Clearly not a sign of a city with a dark underlying homophobia.

So, what apart from the forward thinking does the city have that would attract the gay tourist? I mentioned the endless sun and the gay beach, which alone make it the perfect getaway. There are also the men. Walking into Evita, one of the city's ever growing number of gay clubs, you have every sort of man you could wish for under the one roof - twink, latino's, bears, curious, straight!! There is also the endless shopping opportunities in little boutiques and markets in Neve Zedek, the history of the old Jaffa Town to explore, plus the movie set like art deco White Town, with its amazing restaurants - the food in Tel Aviv is just awesome. It is the perfect short or long stay destination to relax and enjoy the good things in life. Plus the next 12 months are going to be the perfect time to go as Shai explained. "After the success of our own Pride event we want more parties and so, very soon, we start the Love Weekends, which are going to just make the city even gayer". He looks at me quizzically. "You must tell everyone... it is going to be brilliant."

**Simon Savidge travelled to Tel Aviv with [www.gaytelaviv.co.uk](http://www.gaytelaviv.co.uk) and BMI**

**[www.flybmi.com](http://www.flybmi.com) Packages start from £544 per person based on two sharing at the luxurious Neve Tzedek hotel for three nights from Thursday to Sunday in**

**November, includes return flights with BMI and all taxes. To book visit**

**[www.gaytelaviv.co.uk](http://www.gaytelaviv.co.uk) or call 020 8515 4698.**



Photos courtesy: [www.glbti.org.il/tourism.php](http://www.glbti.org.il/tourism.php)



# Chicago

## What's Hot in the Windy City

As the temperature drops and the thought of cold dark nights loom, Bryan Herb wants you to think about Chicago for your next summer vacation. It's the place rapid becoming a surprisingly new gay playground for our American cousins... and he'd like us Brits to come and join them.

There are several things that make Chicago the perfect place to spend some time. While Chicago may get a bad wrap for its winter weather, its summers more than make up for it. Chicagoans enjoy warm sunny days and gentle breezes in one of the nation's greenest cities. Most restaurants open outdoor seating to take advantage of the fabulous natural light and fresh air that blows off Lake Michigan. The lake, with its sun-ignited aqua and turquoise hues is perhaps Chicago's biggest attraction in the summertime. However, the city would never forgive me if I didn't mention that it also gave the US its latest President, Barack Obama.



Of course, many people would consider Chicago's best feature to be the people who call it home. Famous for their friendliness and charm, Chicagoans love their fair city, and welcome tourists with open arms. This isn't one of those places where locals snarl with distrustful sneers at the out-of-towners. Rather, Chicagoans desire nothing more than for visitors to love their city as much as they do. This attitude finds itself into gay bars and restaurants as well, where you will find little, well, attitude.

Chicago has a thriving nightlife, located in two main areas: Boys Town and Andersonville. The most concentrated section of gay bars, restaurants, coffee shops, and gyms can be found on two

parallel streets, Halsted and Broadway, between Belmont and Grace Street. No matter what you're into, Chicago offers a little something for everyone.

The city's gay nightlife is outstanding, but it is not a city that never sleeps. Especially in the summertime, Chicagoans wouldn't want to risk sleeping away the best part of the day. Whether they're window shopping, dining in outdoor cafes, or exercising along Chicago's lake shore, Chicagoans know how to make the most of a beautiful day.

If you're gay, this definitely includes a visit to Hollywood Beach. Located off Lakeshore Drive to the North of the city at Hollywood Avenue, Chicago's gay community swarms here in the summer time to escape the mild humidity and to gaze at turquoise waters and the man candy that abounds on the beach. Most people arrive here by bike, but you can also drive, or even take a cab. The beach has a private feel, and there is a concession stand at the top of the beach where one can buy ice cream, burgers, nachos, etc.

However, you will not want to spoil your appetite, because at 4:00 PM the beach begins to clear, and the gay boys walk or bike to Big Chicks bar for vodka lemonade and free grilled burgers, salads, hot dogs and more. You would think that since the food is free, it couldn't be very good, and you'd be wrong-it's delicious, and well worth the long line that amasses as the day goes on. This is the perfect post beach hang out! In addition to life in the gay scene, Chicago has so much to offer to help you round out your stay: some of the world's best museums, riverboat architectural tours, world class theatre, outdoor recreation, and more abound.

One of Chicago's most highly acclaimed attractions is Millennium Park ([www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org)), which has impressed even the most scrutinizing of Chicagoans. This award-winning centre for art, music, architecture and landscape design features the work of world-

renowned architects, planners, artists and designers on 24.5 beautiful acres in down town Chicago.

Just down Michigan Avenue from Millennium Park, you'll find one of the city's treasures, the Art Institute of Chicago. The Art Institute is one of the world's most famous art museums, particularly known for its collection of French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings by artists like Monet, Renoir, Seurat and Caillebotte. Its permanent collection is magnificent, and travelling exhibits keep the museum's atmosphere fresh and exciting.

Chicago's most famous street, Michigan Avenue, commonly referred to as The Magnificent Mile, has abundant shopping at your favourite stores. You'll find Barney's, Hugo Boss, Kenneth Cole, Louis Vuitton, Diesel, Puma and many more. To break up a busy day of shopping, check out the RL restaurant next to Ralph Lauren for lunch, but be sure to make reservations.

Speaking of restaurants, when in Chicago you will not suffer from a lack of delicious food. Old favourites like MK continue to please patrons with consistently mouth-watering American Cuisine.

Tru continues its reign as the trendiest upscale eatery, while Japonais gives it a run for its money, with sumptuous sushi creations.

For something quick, less healthy, and totally satisfying, you can't leave Chicago without trying its famous deep dish pizza.

Few cities offer gay travellers such a modern, well-rounded experience, and there is no better time to be in Chicago than the summertime. With the International Men of Leather (IML) party, and Boys Town's weekend festival, the Halsted Street Fair taking place around August, make sure your summer vacation plans include Chicago.

### Direct flights from the UK are available at:

Virgin Atlantic	<a href="http://Virgin-Atlantic.com">Virgin-Atlantic.com</a>
British Airways	<a href="http://britishairways.com">britishairways.com</a>
BMI	<a href="http://flybmi.com">flybmi.com</a>

Flying into Chicago's O'Hare International Airport

The CTA's Blue Line, located at the lowest level of the main parking garage, may be the best option for getting downtown, especially if you are arriving during rush hour. Trains depart every 10 minutes. Travelling on the Blue Line will take you 45 minutes to get downtown. Cabs are also accessible, but be prepared for a possible wait, depending on the time you arrive, and it will take you about 25 minutes to reach downtown.

### To get to know gay Chicago better:

[www.chicagopride.com](http://www.chicagopride.com)  
[www.gaychicagomagazine.com/](http://www.gaychicagomagazine.com/)





# Be S.M.A.R.T

So many people find that the most difficult part of their fitness programme is sticking with it. Often we drift from programme to programme, becoming passionately dedicated to step classes one month, then Pilates or yoga the next. Sometimes we drop fitness altogether, opting for life back on the couch.

The problem is motivation. The core of any personal fitness programme is staying interested and, as a personal trainer, my role is to keep my participants coming back for more. If I don't, then I'm out of a job. The law to which all PT'S conform states: No participants; no classes. No classes; no money.

Motivating participants means goal setting. I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, "Great! He's going to tell me if I set a goal to become a power lifter, I'm going to stay true to a fitness programme forever." Nothing could be further from the truth. A broad goal like becoming a power lifter doesn't take into account specifics such as how to train, when or where to train, or how to tell when it's time to enter competition. It leaves no room for evaluation.

It's not a SMART goal. A SMART goal is Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic, and Time-bound.

## 1. Goals Need to be Specific

A specific goal is one that takes a

component of the overall goal and states it. For a power lifter, it may involve improving muscle endurance, stance, and strategy. In other words, it's a set of clearly defined goals rather than one broad one.

## 2. Goals Need to be Measurable

A measurable goal could refer to time, distance, times per week, numbers of repetitions, or mass. If your goal is to do more squats, your goal would state that you want to be able to squat with 120 KG of weight.

## 3. Goals Need to be Action-oriented

This part means that you're going to go to the gym and use the squat rack to carry out your goal four times per week.

## 4. Goals Need to be Realistic

Once you begin weightlifting, you'll become familiar with the weights and what your limits might be. You can develop a strategy to gradually increase the weights until you reach your goal.

## 5. Goals Need to be Time-bound

How long will it take to reach your goal? Is this something you can do in six

weeks or will it take six months? Identify your timeline.

Using the SMART criteria, you can generate a SMART goal to improve muscular endurance. It might read:

"Within 30 days, I will increase my squat resistance on the squat rack from 100 to 120 KG by training four days per week and increasing my weight by five KGs per week."

If at the end of 30 days you reach your goal, evaluate how this fits in with your overall fitness goal of becoming a power lifter. You may wish to set a new or different goal. If you didn't reach it, ask whether there might be a reason. Perhaps you had the flu, or the goal wasn't as realistic as you thought. Formulate a new goal and time interval. SMART goals can be useful in many aspects of life that involve motivation—not just fitness. Use SMART goals in your relationships, for career change or advancement, and to improve eating habits. Any aspect of life that requires motivation is open to the application of SMART goals.



## Rehydration Man

Men's skin faces the worst time during winter. Their lower level of skin hydration and dryness caused by shaving is compounded by the humidity and cold temperatures, which lead to dehydration and dryness in the skin. Lock in the moisture with Maximum Hydration Face Lotion.

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## ON CAMERA AT THE GREENHOUSE

Ever the innovators in style and class and often setting the benchmark for the quality saunas... those clever people at GreenHouse Health Clubs have come up with another brilliant idea.

Their new website has a host of new features, including member's video, galleries, blogs, chat, events and a camera room. No, they are not fitting web cams to every room but now, through their computer ports, you will be able to chat in vision to others on line. This means you can arrange to meet up, check out and get to know other sweaty chums at the various GreenHouses around the country. Every Saturday in October and November there will be a live show from the Luton venue, which will see gloryhole demonstrations, medical scenarios and fetishes for everyone. If you want to take part you are being encouraged to go nip down and do so. For those who are a bit shy, but still would like to be on the live broadcast to all the other on line venues, GreenHouse will supply balaclavas. Perhaps not quite fun for all the family but certainly a huge plus to a company that always wants to give its customers that little bit more... and after all... who doesn't want a little bit more?

Check out what is on offer:  
[www.gay-sauna.com](http://www.gay-sauna.com)





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For more info see their web site  
[www.citysteam.co.uk](http://www.citysteam.co.uk)  
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See the main advert for the events on offer, log on to [www.steamcomplex.co.uk](http://www.steamcomplex.co.uk) or call 01132 798885.

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**NEW LOOK WEBSITE [WWW.THEPIPEWORKS.COM](http://WWW.THEPIPEWORKS.COM) LAUNCHING SOON**



# Whatz On

**EVENT OF THE MONTH**

## Soho Live

by Chris Geary.com

The annual Soho Pride festival was cancelled this year due to lack of funding, so Gaydar and the Edge Bar got together to make sure the free event continued, only a month late. It was rebranded "Soho Live" and expanded with more fun fair attractions, market stalls and entertainment.

The event is just a guilty excuse to have a party, shutting down the streets to traffic and bringing together Soho's bars and businesses, scene socialites, clubs and new additions from the fashion and sports communities. QSoft Consulting Ltd, owners of Gaydar and GaydarRadio formed a joint venture with The Edge Bar (Soho Square) to deliver the event. The Edge was responsible for logistics while Gaydar were responsible for marketing and generating sponsorship for the event.

The Gaydar Radio main stage included DJ's Nathan6, Phil Marriott, Oliver M, The Freemasons, Steve Pitron and Paul Heron. Plus we spotted several celebrities and PA's from Bailey Tzuke, Abigail Bailey, Katherine Ellis and Tara McDonald.

More info: [www.SohoLive.co.uk](http://www.SohoLive.co.uk)







# Rocky in the Basement

The scene is set as we join that Sweet Transvestite from Transsexual Transylvania Frank N. Furter and his weird and crazy gang for the Rocky Horror Halloween Party on Saturday 31st October at Legends & The Basement Club

It's a Science Fiction - Double Feature with Colombia cruising Legends Bar on the lookout for the craziest of Halloween costumes. Those lucky enough to be chosen will win spooky prizes.

After midnight she will be joining our Sweet Transvestite Frank N. Furter down in The Basement Club for the second half of the Science Fiction - Double Feature. Where they will be looking to make themselves a man!

Become one of their scary house guests and enjoy the tunes from the musical as Frank N. Furter and the gang take you on a time warp through the best house and chart tracks. If you are lucky you might even catch a glimpse of Brad and Janet as Frank readies his man. Plus they'll be some very special Rocky Horror Show guests.

So warp yourselves down to Legends & The Basement Club the Rocky Horror Halloween Party. The party starts in Legends Bar at 8pm on Saturday 31st October.

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31-34 Marine Parade,  
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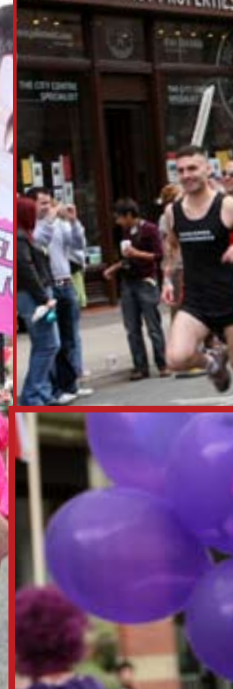
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# MANCHESTER



## Manchester Pride

Despite the weather not being able to make up its mind, this year's Manchester Pride was a huge success. When you get thousands of happy party-goers hitting that very special bit of gay Manchester a good time is guaranteed... and the organisers pulled out all the stops to make sure that happened. The event has blossomed over the last few years to include a huge range of events, which take place over a ten-day period at the end of August. This has helped broaden its appeal and raise substantial amounts of money for charity from a host of different sources. The Heroes themed parade through the city attracted nearly 100 floats, which were cheered on by friends, supporters and the just plain curious... no one was disappointed. Marching bands, sports teams, clubs and bars... as well as a cornucopia of glammed up drag stars entertained the crowds. Over in the wristband area, the stage hosted top class acts including; man-of-the-moment Peter Andre, trendy Little Boots, the ever popular Bananarama and current faves Frankmusik, amongst others.

With tens of thousands of ticket holders revelling in the gay village the organisers are still totting up the total from the event but local charities are set to receive a boost to their funds... and the excitement that it will all happen again next year.



Photos: Mark Hawkins and Darrell Hirst





# Eazy on the pocket

Eazysleep Manchester is a clean and comfortable budget Hotel in Manchester City Centre. Located on Canal Street – in the famous gay village – the Hotel is surrounded by cosmopolitan bars, restaurants, nightclubs and shops all minutes away. All 14 of Eazysleep's bedrooms are fully en-suite with fantastic views overlooking the Canal and the bustling, exciting street outside. All contain freeview televisions and tea & coffee making facilities. Ideal for people visiting Manchester for a weekend to experience the city's nightlife, Eazysleep offers superb comfort and value for money with rooms starting from as little as £19 per night!

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



# MANCHESTER



## Don't be scared!

October is upon us and with it comes one of Cruz 101's favourite and most popular events...The Halloween Ball! Last year's spectacular happening was filled to capacity and with 31st October falling on a Saturday this year the entire thing promises to be huge.

The club will undergo a complete transformation becoming an interactive, haunting experience for those who dare.

Mistress Cara will be climbing out of her coffin to preside over events hosting Cruz 101's annual fancy dress competition, with the chance to win a huge cash prize. Last year was a riot with some amazing costumes, check out the web for the ghastly selection of Ghosts, Goblins and Ghouls!

Kelly Wilde will be live on stage performing her fantastic Halloween Show - with monster party anthems galore, perfect for the midnight hour!

Outrageous entertainment & unbeatable drink offers make Cruz 101's annual Halloween Ball a night to miss at your peril.

The Halloween Ball

11pm - 6am

Selected drinks offers from £1.90 and premium doubles at £3.80

Contact the club on 0161 9500 101 - [www.cruz101.com](http://www.cruz101.com)





Manchester's Favourite  
Gay Venue

**CRUZ  
101**



# THE HALLOWEEN BALL

Join Mistress Cara & her living dead bar team for a night you won't forget!

**Saturday 31st October / 11pm - 6am**

**Live On Stage**

**The Kelly Wilde Halloween Show**

Kelly will be belting out spooky party anthems galore,  
perfect for the midnight hour!

**Fancydress Competition**

**Win a Monster Cash Prize for the best transformation**

Check out [cruz101.com](http://cruz101.com) for pictures of the amazing Ghouls, Werewolves,  
Zombies & Vampires who entered last year's competition!



Pop, Disco, Dance & RnB Anthems / DJ Spook - Vocal Trance & Bouncy House / Little Miss Natalie

101 Princess Street, Manchester. M1 6DD. T: 0161 9500 101 F: 0161 2373 412 [www.cruz101.com](http://www.cruz101.com) Limited wheelchair access



# MANCHESTER



## Get Your Freak On!

Last month saw the launch of a new gay club in Manchester. Formally known as 1 Central Street, The Number One Club opened its doors with a host of fresh new club nights - so we took a look at their new Saturday flagship night Freakshow from the guys behind Federation and the huge Manchester Pride event Uni Challenge.

"Freakshow is a spin off from the Federation Brand." Explained Federation Promoter Gareth Chapman. "The idea came about because we wanted to do something new and more frequent in Manchester, with Federation Events only running on the bank holiday Sunday's in Manchester."

The organisers say they wanted to create a fresher, new, more interactive atmosphere in such an intimate area. Their Freak Circus personal will be on hand to... well you'll just have to get along to this event to find out.

"Our Manchester events are the ones my whole team look forward to the most, the crowd and mood are second to none; we wanted to create something more personal for a new weekly crowd of cool clubbers. A venue where we could take the music we're known for to the next level." Gareth continues. "With Federation being such a huge event the music needs to appeal to a broad cross-section of fans, however with Freakshow we go on to a later time so we're able to make the music a little tougher and dirtier. It's also important to us to involve the customer and make them part of the party, we love interaction so we have a horde of freaks just waiting to freak out on the dancefloor with you."

You can catch Freakshow each and every Saturday @ The Number One club, 1 Central Street, Manchester from 11pm until 6am. Followed by the After Show party from Organic @ Audio above Spirit on Canal Street until freakishly late.

For more info go to [www.clubfreakshow.com](http://www.clubfreakshow.com)







FROM THE CREATORS OF UNI-CHALLENGE AND FEDERATION

# FREAKSHOW

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**Every Saturday @ the No.1 Club  
Manchester**



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Gregg Holden (Federation/Organic), Lee Yeomans (Matinee/Trade),  
Baby Jane (Federation/Organic), Oliver M (Matinee),  
DJ Devilish (Matinee) and guests on rotation

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Manchester's hedonistic clubbers.

1 Central Street, Manchester  
11pm until super-duper-late

£8 pay on the door /  
£7 NUS or before Midnight



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



# BLACKPOOL



## Small and friendly

The Lonsdale is a small friendly Gay, Bi, Trans & Gay friendly Hotel. Owned & run by Stephen & Karl, now in their 21st year. There are Premier en-suite rooms with balconies, some with sea/Tower views, smoking is permitted on balconies. Premier rooms have free view TV, DVD, music system, fridges, iron & ironing boards & hairdryers. Prices include freshly prepared full English or Vegetarian breakfast.

There is free secure gated and garage parking, and is situated only a few minutes walk from railway and bus stations, and also from the bars clubs & saunas.

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



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# BLACKPOOL



## The Athol Hotel, Blackpool

Situated in the heart of Blackpool's gay village, The Athol Hotel has been in the same ownership for 11 years – the owners Colin & Mat specialise in providing comfortable, modern accommodation for the discerning LGBT traveller & their friends. The hotel prides itself on its unique relaxed, home from home atmosphere. Prices are structured to suit your budget & the hotel provides full off street car parking & offers extra's such as a complimentary ironing service - meaning the only thing you have to worry about during your stay is where to spend your night out on the town!



**Westfield House**  
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# BLACKPOOL

## Illuminating experience

Billed as the greatest free show on Earth, the world famous Blackpool Illuminations shine until 8th November. Illuminating 6 miles of dazzling displays as they shine non-stop for a massive 66 nights, with more than 100 miles of festoon lighting and over 1 million lamps, an army of over 3.7million visitors will make the trip to wonder at this unrivalled festival.

The Flying Handbag presents the perfect pre-club experience, with nightly cabaret and events with Friday Night Live bringing you the top names in comedy, song, drag and strippers, why not pay a visit on your next trip to Blackpool.

The Flamingo continues to present Ultimate Friday, with a host of cabaret and events every Friday throughout October, including the last Foam Party of the year on Friday 9th October.

Clubbing sensation Federation takes up its regular third Saturday extravaganza at Flamingo on Saturday 17th October, presenting Boywatch. Expect horny shows from the Federation hunks in trunks, and their legendary entertainment troupe clad in swimwear.

So why not light up your October, and make a trip to Blackpool - experience the illuminations, and visit the world renowned Flamingo, where, no matter which night you visit, you are guaranteed nothing less than an astounding night packed with style, the finest of entertainment, and the biggest night in town.

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





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with 80's 90's and 00's



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## [wednesday]

contents : plenty of fizz  
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\* contains £2 drinks

## [thursday]

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cheap drinks night



\* contains £2 drinks

## [friday]

contents : a classic mixture,  
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and the funkiest theme  
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## [saturday]

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\* now with added  
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are fierce, the mix  
bold and the crowds  
eclectic

## [sunday]

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\* contains cheap doubles

Blackpool Illuminations shine until 8th Nov



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# DARLINGTON



## Darlo-licious

Still creating quite a storm at Joes in Darlington is the fabulous Gaylicious every Monday night. The boyz and girlz are coming out in their droves to one of the best nights of fun and entertainment in the north east. Frock up or dress down, everyone is always welcome and encouraged to be themselves. The venue is attitude free... as is the entry... so make a note in your extensive party calendar and enjoy this drag-anza... or have we just made that word up?

For more information join the Gaylicious Group on facebook, or call 01642 244777





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# BARNSELEY



## Drag4U all

Drag 4U is a national competition now into its third year and was designed to find the best drag queen in the land, while in the process raising much needed funds for the Terrence Higgins Trust. The competition has grown to be a hugely successful event in the drag queen calendar and has thousands of supporters across the country, culminating in the exciting grand final. Heats have been attracting a great deal of interest from both the public and contestants and the final looks set to be a fun and mind-blowing evening of high camp and high heels.

Tickets for the event are now on sale and cost just £10 when booked before the end of November, tickets after that time will cost £13. Businesses in the local area are also being encouraged to sponsor a table for the evening that includes a 3 course meal with waitress service and can seat up to 12 people. Tables cost just £150.

For further information, or to book your tickets please contact Kevan Riggett the Drag 4U event co-ordinator on 01226 730060 or visit [www.bpl.org.uk](http://www.bpl.org.uk).



## A first for Barnsley

Drag 4U is a national competition now into its third year. The very first Barnsley Pride took place last month. Taking over part of the town centre the bars and gay organizations pulled together a very well organized, and as the day developed, quite a good sized crowd for a first attempt. The Mayor & Mayoress of Barnsley, Cllr John Parkinson & Mrs Linda Parkinson formally opened the event and spoke enthusiastically about the contribution of the gay community. There are a few mayors and councilors in neighbouring towns and cities who could take a leaf out of the mayor's positive outlook. Meanwhile, the main stage hosted by the "Faaabulous Daahlings Faaabulous" Anna Glypta, saw many local acts showing off their talent and keeping the ever-growing crowd amused. The action then moved to Chicago Rock for the official After-Pride party into the early hours.

Words and photos: Darrell Hirst







# Drag 4 U

## DRAG QUEEN PAGEANT

**DISCO INFERNO FANCY DRESS  
Xmas Grand Final - 5th December 2009**

**HOSTED BY ANNA GLYPTA**

Performing - Libby and Nick Sweet Rebellion

**Live at the Metrodome Arena — Winning Prize for Best Fancy Dress  
REGIONAL HEATS:**

**Viva La Diva @ Vida Lounge - Worksop contest - 1st October**

**The Albion - Scarborough contest - 11th October**

**The Viaduct - Leeds contest - 18th October**

**The Pineapple - Bristol contest - 8th November**

**Zeus - Wakefield contest - 15th November**

**Propaganda - Hull contest - 22nd November**

for entry please contact your closest venue or visit the BPL website  
fuel clubs: HULL, Leicester & Nottingham heats to be confirmed



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**FOR FURTHER INFO: [WWW.BPL.ORG.UK](http://WWW.BPL.ORG.UK)**

**FOR TICKETS: 01226 730 098**





# LEEDS



## Re-open Back Door

Back Door Disco burst back onto the Leeds party circuit last month with a mega-sized re-launch celebration. The night returned when its host venue, Mission, reopened after a huge overhaul. The club is now back with an enhanced interior, new management, new door staff and a brand new weekly line up.

The promoters behind BDD promise that it will be bigger and better than ever before, with more DJs, big brand sponsors and special offers. Almost all drinks are priced at £2.50 and the door tax is just £5 all night. Despite the changes, clubbers can be sure it's still the best weekend party experience in Leeds with free shots from the Back Door Disco team and legendary mix masters Scott Kelly and Philip James on the decks. The re-launch party saw the night rammed to the rafters as the hottest gay boys and girls in the city came out to take a look at the new and improved Mission. Muscle-bound gym bunnies, well dressed fashionistas and a decidedly trendy under-25 student crowd filled the club right until dawn, dancing hard to an irresistible mix of modern-to-the-minute pop and commercial house.

Expect lots more in the coming weeks plus a Disco Bloodbath at the Halloween fancy dress party.

Back Door Disco takes place every Saturday from 11pm at Mission 2 on Lower Briggate. For more info, go to [www.backdoordisco.com](http://www.backdoordisco.com)





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**2**

**MISSION 2**

mission  
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# LEEDS



## DJ Relay and Scene Screams

Have you ever found yourself on the Leeds scene wishing you could stay in the same spot and get your favourite DJ to come to you? Have you ever in a flight of fancy thought what it would be like to go on a pub crawl with Leeds' top drag acts? Have you ever wanted to raise money for Yorkshire's leading LGBT charity? Well your wishes, fantasies and desires are about to come true and in one night too. Friday October 23rd will see all the Leeds venues join forces to raise money for Yorkshire MESMAC in a massive, unique joint fund raising night. The 'DJ Relay' will see DJs from all the Leeds venues spinning their 12 inches of plastic pleasure as they themselves rotate around the scene in a dizzying night of fun. Expect random and unexpected pairings - think Sassy Susan Platt playing Fibre, Anna Glypta shouting the odds in Mission, and Scott Wilson wowing the crowds at The New Penny.

One of the organisers, Gordon Hughes from the Viaduct, told us, 'This is going to be a fantastic night, all the venues are up for it, not only will there be great DJs working around the scene, but you can also choose to follow your favourite DJ on Drag led pub crawl or as we like to call them - Scene Screams.'

For more information visit the Yorkshire MESMAC website [www.mesmac.co.uk](http://www.mesmac.co.uk) or follow them on Twitter search for [yorkshiresmesmac](#)

Yorkshire MESMAC



**Fibre**

**homo**

**MISSION 2**

**the VIADUCT**

**Backdoor Disco**

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**SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER**

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# LEEDS



## Make Over

Queens Court Leeds extreme makeover is complete and now offers an amazing drinking, dining and clubbing experience. Their delicious menu is served everyday from midday until 9pm. Happy hour every day from 5pm until 8pm with fabulous drink prices.

Monday night features the original and the best 'Pinkpounder' with loads of top brand drinks only £1 all night. Two floors of fun with the legendary Miss Orry and DJ Marky Mark - bring you the best of chart and camp tunes.

Thursdays from 8pm bring is the amazing student night 'U-POP' with drinks from only £1.

Friday night in the Loft from 11pm offers 'Flashback', DJ Marky Mark bringing you the best clubbing experience with the very best mix of bubblegum pop and dance from the 80's and 90's... with special guest DJ spot every week. All drinks just £2 all and free admission all night!

Saturday night in the Loft features 'Queer' with the amazing Amanda Hammond on the Decks and all drinks only £2.50



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# hedkandi

## **Saturday 31st October 2009**

**(the last Saturday of every month)**

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**Colin Airey**  
**Dean Oram on Percussion**

**Room 2: Federation Classics**  
**Jason Guy**  
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# Morning Horny

By Les Lea

I love early morning sex and the guy on the chatline called 'MorningHorny' seemed just the type of guy I'd go for. His profile said he was 6'2", athletic build, short blond hair and blue eyes... with a large cock, I thought he was too good to be true but the shots of his cock pushing out from behind various pairs of tight boxers made me want to get in touch and check him out. Early one Wednesday morning I sent an e-mail and he told me to come on over right away as his ball bag was bursting. As I hadn't had such an enthusiastic offer for quite some time I replied that I was on my way.

I arrived at his home within 40 minutes and this hunk, who looked even sexier and hotter than he did in his profile photos, greeted me wearing just a pair of tight white cotton boxers. He was all he said he was, which in itself was quite a change, and he guided me straight to his bedroom. I had noticed his package looked nice but nothing I couldn't handle so, as he eased me out of my clothes, I was looking forward to my morning mouthful. When I was down to nothing but my pale blue nylon briefs he kissed me gently on the lips... but after only a few seconds of this tenderness pushed me to my knees. I knew what was needed. I stroked the front of his boxers and eased his cock and balls through the fly; it was nice, soft, uncut and clean. I set to work licking and sucking immediately... he tasted wonderful and was quickly leaking pre-cum with every lap of my tongue. To begin with I could fit the whole thing in my mouth however, in minutes I was struggling to take even the tip of this huge beast between my lips. How the hell something so small could have grown to that size truly amazed me. I tried my best but I just gagged every time he tried to force it to the back of my throat. I could tell he wasn't happy with my performance as, despite my protests, he still kept trying to frustratingly ram the thing as far down as possible. I licked and nibbled the entire length of his shaft in an effort to give him some kind of sensation that would make him cum. I have to say I was looking forward to experiencing a thing that size spurt all over my face. I saw him looking

down at me as I lapped at his piss-slit and I could see he was thinking about something else. I began to feel useless and assumed he was going to tell me to 'clear off' as I'm sure he had a host of guys who could service his needs better than I was. A few minutes later he said that we should get comfortable and guided me to his bed. I was glad about this as my knees ached from being being in this submissive position and I was also happy that he hadn't just told me to go. This boost to my confidence made me even more determined to please him in whatever way he wanted me to. As we stretched out on his bed he slipped his hand inside my briefs and rubbed at my hard cock. It felt wonderful, as this was the first time that he'd made any attempt to stimulate me. I was in no doubt that I was there mainly to supply his early morning desires but was hopeful that he would repay the compliment at some point. He pulled at my briefs then flipped me over on to my stomach to pull them off completely. He then lay across my back and I felt a finger scratching at my bum-hole. One thing I do know is that my arse is tight and my arse cheeks are firm, one of the few things I'm pretty proud of, and he seemed to be pleased about that as well. I heard a sigh of appreciation as a finger sought admission but my tight sphincter just gripped this invading digit and not allowing immediate access. Although I'd been shagged before it was a rare occurrence and something I didn't encourage. However, I heard the bedside drawer being opened and a few moments later felt lube being dribbled into my arse crack. I even detected the sound of a condom being released from its foil prison. I turned my head to look over my shoulder and tell him to 'forget it' as I knew I couldn't take that now, even larger, throbbing 'thing' up my butt. He said that I shouldn't worry because he'd be very gentle, take it slow and stop if I couldn't manage it. Unfortunately, whilst pinned under this athletic stud I found... he wasn't gentle... he just rammed it up and even more of a surprise... I did take it all. For a week afterwards my arsehole was really sore but despite this I wanted a another early morning shag session with this hunk. Sorry to say he never responded to any further emails.

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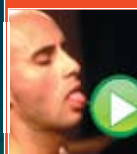
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# Simon says...

Dear Simon

I lost my partner a few years ago and everyone is telling me that I should have met someone else. I didn't think I was ready and then I thought 'well why not' I have been out on a few dates and have even had a few overnight stays. The thing is every time I meet another man or sleep with a man I start comparing them and then start feeling guilty like I am cheating when I know I am not. I would like to meet someone special but am worried that it's never going to happen. What should I do?  
Dan, Birmingham

Dear Dan

**There is no time scale to the feeling of loss. Everyone is different and people are affected in many different ways. I'm sure your friends are only trying, in their own not necessarily helpful way, to encourage you to start to live again. It is inevitable you will compare anyone new with your partner but you need to give them a chance to prove what they have to offer. Your partner's gone. He's not coming back. Your choice now is... what do you do about it? Don't feel guilty, you have nothing to be guilty about so, go out and meet new people, you don't have to find anyone to be your new partner urgently. Take your time and soon enough I am sure you will meet someone and everything will just click.**

Dear Simon

I have recently come out to my parents. I was really worried that my dad would have a real problem with it, he is your typical northern builder but it's actually been my mother that has had the biggest problem with it, in fact she isn't talking to me. If I walk into a room she won't look at me and will then leave. This has been happening now for about 3 months and it's really hurting me as I love her so much, I don't know how to make it all ok?  
Liam, Barnsley

Dear Liam

You don't say how old you are Liam but I'm guessing, still quite young and I assume you are still living at home. The fact that your dad seems to have accepted that you are gay is a positive step, and you need to talk

**to him to see if he can speak to your mother. If that isn't happening then you need to confront your mother yourself. I know it sounds scary but you need to find out what her problem is. For mothers it can be a terrible situation that: she has lost her little boy to a life of perceived degradation, she might have had hopes of grandchildren, she might blame herself, she might just be thinking about your happiness!!! You need to try and convince her that it was because of your happiness that you came out in the first place and that you couldn't stand the thought of living a lie. It might take time, she will have a lot take in but leaving the situation, I don't think will help anyone.**

Dear Simon

I got incredibly drunk a few months ago and ended up having a mercy shag with a guy I so didn't fancy but it was the end of the night and so I thought 'why not'. Now he isn't attractive but oh my god the sex is amazing and actually he really makes me laugh, not at his looks you understand? The thing is the idea of introducing him to my friends or even saying he is my boyfriend just is so wrong in so many ways. I know they will judge him as I am judging myself. He is a really lovely guy and he makes me explode in bed, it's a problem!  
Nathan, London

Dear Nathan

**You are so Charlotte from Sex and the City, no really! I think if you like the guy and the sex is mind blowing what's the problem? OK, your friends might be a little surprised but so what... is a good-looking, no personality clothes horse some kind of ideal? If they do slag you both off behind your back then what friends are they? The main question to ask yourself is what type of person are you. We all have an ideal of what your partner should look like but more often than not the ones we fall for aren't the ones we thought we would. Just go with it and have fun; amazing sex and a good laugh don't come around that often.**



# EATING FEET

Okay. This is the curse of the gobby, opinionated columnist. Occasionally (perhaps frequently) we put our feet in it. This is perhaps why we're perfect as columnists. We don't mind saying whatever we want to say. But unfortunately, it will ultimately be our downfall.

Gossips like me can't help but gossip. It's not necessarily about malice (although, when people get angry, we all say things we shouldn't). It's usually because it's expected of you. The columnist is a gossip with the privilege of getting their words in print. When you're out and about, people expect you to regale them with interesting stories, shocking statements and outlandish acts. So you do. Society probably needs it, because without these morsels of salacious interest life would be a hell of a lot more boring. If we can't show people how outrageous and morally dubious we are, how can your Average Joe measure himself against us? How can everyone else know they're not that bad if they don't allow us to be bad instead?

Indeed, there does seem to be a recognition of this. Gossips seem to get away with gossiping, because most people just roll their eyes and say, 'Beyoncé's at it again!'. It's kind of our licence to thrill. And in a way, they want us to be naughty. They want us to be bad. It reminds people that even though they abide all the rules and act with perhaps too much obedience, they do have the option of rebelling against social etiquette and being an iconoclast—simply because we gossips do.

However sometimes we cross the mark. It can be easier than you'd think. Especially because we're expected to be controversial anyway and each individual has differing levels of acceptability when it comes to just how controversial they want us to be. Some friends will forgive you for headbutting them during drunken New Year's Eve parties, whilst some will get frosty with you for tugging on their hair. I guess in these cases you have to ride it out. Gossips do get a lot of leeway, and often people will take a while to cool down before coming round anyway, and chalking it up to 'one of those things'.

I'd say, though, that rather than being nasty people, most gossips are the opposite. They are overly social. They flit from crowd to crowd, entertaining as they go along, and usually cock up mainly because they're trying to please too many people at once. Tip: you can't. If you piss someone off, let them cool down and get on with their own lives, and don't stoop to getting petty. After a while they'll realise you have no problem with them and it was just an innocent mistake, and then will feel guilty for holding a grudge themselves, before relenting.

*Beyoncé*

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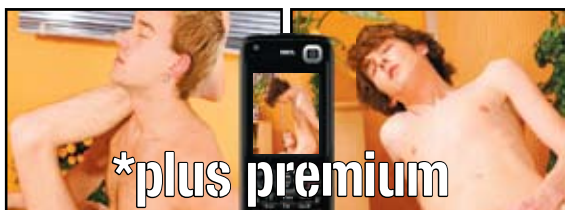
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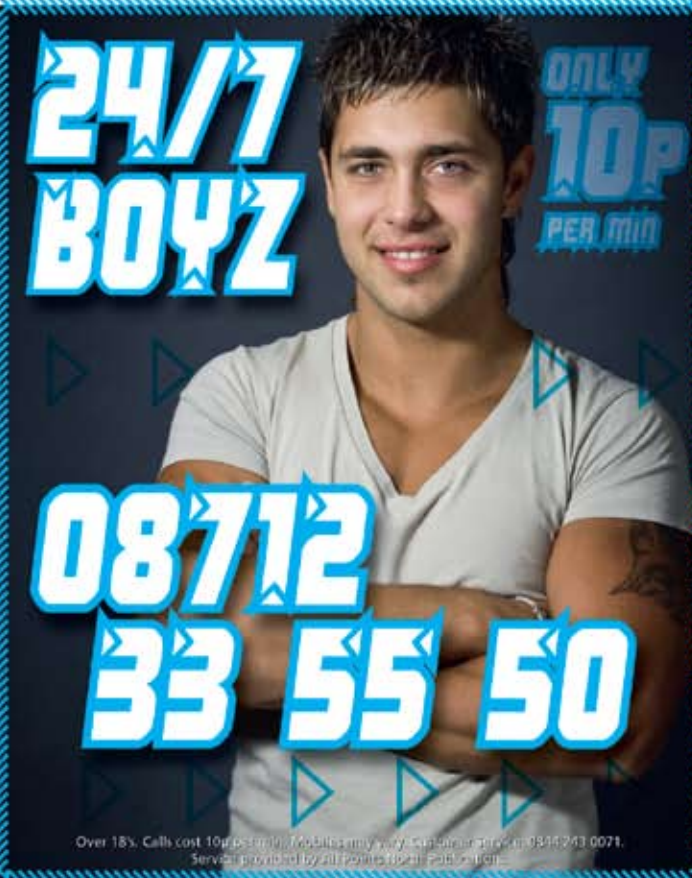
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## Libra (Sept24/Oct23)

A little self promotion wouldn't go amiss over the weeks ahead. Ambitious plans in the pipe-line will soon come to fruition as long as you believe in yourself and your abilities. What have you got to lose from blowing your own trumpet? Your intuition is high and you can safely take a calculated risk. Your love life comes into full bloom as a wave of self-confidence engulfs you and your personality shines.

### CELEBRITY LIBRA

24/09 F.Scott Fitzgerald  
25/09 Catherine Zeta-Jones  
26/09 Olivia Newton-John  
27/09 Avril Lavigne  
28/09 Gwyneth Paltrow  
29/09 Jerry Lee Lewis  
30/09 Martina Hingis  
01/10 Julie Andrews  
02/10 Sting  
03/10 Gwen Stefani  
04/10 Anne Rice  
05/10 Guy Pearce  
06/10 Britt Ekland  
07/10 Simon Cowell  
08/10 Matt Damon  
09/10 Sharon Osbourne  
10/10 Mya  
11/10 Dawn French  
12/10 Hugh Jackman  
13/10 Margaret Thatcher  
14/10 Usher  
15/10 Sarah Ferguson  
16/10 Oscar Wilde



17/10 Eminem  
18/10 Jean-Claude Van Damme  
19/10 Divine  
20/10 Viggo Mortensen  
21/10 Carrie Fisher  
22/10 Catherine Deneuve  
23/10 "Weird" Al Yankovic

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)

Close friendships and partnerships will come into their own over the weeks ahead. Old disagreements are settled and where there has been misunderstanding, no offence is taken. A work mate might hint they'd like to put your relationship onto a more romantic footing. Be sure it's what you want to do before making a binding decision. Expect a generally social feel to the weeks ahead; you will be going out of your way to make others happy.

## Taurus (Apr21/May21)

Fatigue is your enemy these next few weeks. If you're feeling out of sorts don't fight it; find things to do that don't call for a lot of energy. Stress and tension could take their toll on a close relationship. Romance will be far less fractious if you tried to be more patient with your partner. Medical matters need to be dealt with as soon as they arise. You might be thinking about changing jobs or improving existing working conditions.

## Gemini (May22/June21)

If you're lost in dreams of a future that cannot be, it is time to face reality. Once you discover the person you fancy isn't available or isn't interested, be sensible and accept this relationship was never meant to be. Some unusual hobbies and pastimes will grab your interest these next few weeks, leading you to join a group or society. Some money luck could come your way and this will give your home-improvement plans a boost.

## Cancer (Jun22/Jul23)

Be ready to welcome minor changes that occur over the weeks ahead. These will help advance your work interests and improve efficiency on the job front. You're thinking about your long-term future but this isn't such a good time to look too far ahead. You don't want to overlook your immediate objectives. These next few weeks expect to see a marked improvement in your closest relationships. The more you talk, the greater you will understand each other!

## Leo (Jul24/Aug23)

A sociable and more relaxed phase begins. This will suit your outgoing temperament. Communications are fun; you're feeling energetic and enthusiastic. There will be no complaint about life being boring over the weeks to come. Whether it's your choice or purely circumstance, there will be new interests, new people and new activities to keep you busy and happy. Domestic matters claim your attention late October.

## Virgo (Aug24/Sept23)

You have sound money judgement and this helps you guide you to money-making outlets. You can see past a friend's foolish expectations and will try to talk them out of making a mega financial blunder. This is a good time for building bridges or strengthening those already built. Visiting an old friend or relative will get you thinking about new plans for the future. The social scene brings interesting new opportunities late October.

## Scorpio (Oct24/Nov22)

It might not be easy to put your trust in a new partner in a personal or even business sense but this is what you now have to do. You can't possibly do everything that's expected of you over the weeks ahead; your mental and physical capabilities do have their limits. Accepting help from others is the only way forward. A cordial and optimistic social atmosphere will give your spirits a boost while the home front is likely to see an intriguing development.

## Sagittarius (Nov23/Dec21)

Friends and loved ones are in a particularly lively frame of mind. Their enthusiasm is contagious and a sense of well-being and contentment will prevail over the weeks ahead. You might even persuade someone who has been relying heavily on you, to have the confidence to stand on their own two feet. It's a great time to break free from routine and if you want to get on and do more with your life, this is when you should be letting other people in on the fact!

## Capricorn (Dec22/Jan20)

You will benefit from the new ideas and schemes being put forward now. An experience helps you adopt a live-and-let-live attitude towards those sharing your world; you enthusiastically welcome newcomers to your circle. The work scene is more to your liking when new projects capture your imagination. Support will come for your ambitions for the coming months, from unusual sources. A relative may need your help with a money problem.

## Aquarius (Jan21/Feb19)

A lively and expansive atmosphere will keep you on your toes these next few weeks. You can let your zest for action go to your head and put new ideas into practice. You're keen to speed up the progress of new ventures, long-term plans and travel. If you're waiting for a loved one to make their mind up about something you can afford to be a little more outspoken in your personal life. You might even feel inclined to make their decision for them!

## PISCES (Feb20/Mar20)

Financial problems of the past are lifted. The green light should now be shining giving you the go-ahead to get on with a project you've been longing to see launched. Others will react enthusiastically to your plans over the weeks ahead. Don't keep them to yourself for fear of getting a negative response. Learn to rely on your sixth sense when dealing with people as it won't let you down. being in a relationship.

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