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KYLIE

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NEW YEAR - NEW PARTNER?

IT'S THE TIME FOR RESOLUTIONS AND CLEARING OUT ALL THE NEGATIVES IN YOUR LIFE TO START OFF POSITIVE IN THE NEW YEAR - SO THE QUESTION IS: JUST HOW CONTENT ARE YOU WITH YOUR PARTNER?

You're both out for a quiet drink, then you spot a cutie, do you...

- A.** Follow him to the toilet while your bf isn't looking and shag him in a cubicle?
- B.** Stay with your bf but eye up the lad all night and probably arrange to meet up with him another day on your own?
- C.** Tell your bf about him and both of you eye him up hoping it leads to a 3 in a bed romp?

How do you rate having sex?

- A.** Do you have to sleep with different people to enjoy sex?
- B.** Do you go through the motions with your bf but are actually thinking of someone else?
- C.** Do you sleep with just your bf making it the best sex you could both ever have?

Your boyfriend has just lost his job, both of you have no money and if it continues you'll have no home or car... do you....

- A.** Find someone with money and leave him?
- B.** Tell him if he doesn't find another job you're off?
- C.** Tell him there's nothing to worry about, you love him and find a job together?

A friend has sent you a new porno DVD which you want to watch and have a good wank to, do you...

- A.** Wait till he's out of the house for some fumbling fun?
- B.** Get ideas from the DVD and surprise him when he gets home?
- C.** Watch it together and have a 'mutual' afterwards - or during if you're that keen?

If you could choose between a hot porno star and your partner who would that be?

- A.** Porno every time?
- B.** Depends which porno star?
- C.** The boyfriend?

Do you trust the man you love?

- A.** Do you confide in your mates and leave your lover in the dark?
- B.** Tell your partner what you think he wants to hear and the truth to others?
- C.** Talk openly and honestly at all times?

Your partner takes drugs and you disapprove, do you...

- A.** Tell him to clear off?
- B.** Throw all his drugs down the loo?
- C.** Be understanding and try to get him some help?

Things you do for fun?

- A.** Do you cottage hop for that anonymous shag?
- B.** Spend hours on gaydar in an effort to find someone better than the one you're with?
- C.** Find a 3rd person to spice up your love life?

Do you spend time in watching TV because...

- A.** He doesn't like going out and you feel a prisoner?
- B.** There's so much to see?
- C.** You'd only be going out to pick someone up and happily those days are behind you?

He surprises you with flowers, do you...

- A.** Immediately become suspicious and wonder what he's been up to?
- B.** Wonder if he knows what you've been up to and blames himself for not being romantic enough?
- C.** Love him all the more because he knows you love this type of thing?

If you've answered more **As** and **Bs** than **Cs**...

you really shouldn't be with him. Time to break free and get someone you think you deserve. Just remember, your next partner may be answering more **As** and **Bs** when you're content with **Cs**!

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EDITOR'S WORDS

So here we are at the start of another year. Have you made your resolutions? Have you vowed to save, save, save and to get into the best physical shape you've ever been in? Have you promised no more negativity and that from now on you'll only be positive and enthusiastic about everything? No? Well don't beat yourself up, as I have never met anyone who has ever kept to any resolutions made at this time of year. The cold, dark nights (and occasional days) really aren't conducive to giving anything up and there's always that bottle of vodka (or whisky or dry sherry) left over from Christmas... that just might make you feel a little more 'alive'. However, if you are serious about a healthier new year you could do worse than visit our fitness specialist Jarrett James and discover his pointers for sticking to a routine that will produce results.

It's quite a girlie issue to kick off 2009 as we feature X Factor's Spanish singing sensation Ruth Lorenzo, chart topper Anastacia and a rather strange 'meeting' with Kylie who graces our front page exactly 2 years since she last received that accolade. We even take a peek into the near future and see if we can predict what the trends will be... citing a few new singers that we at Bent reckon will be the stars to watch over the next 12 months.

So, for the next year keep this copy close to your bedside or toilet (depending on where decide to read this opus) and see if we get even close with our prognostications.

That's it from me for now
Hugs to one and all

Gordon

2009... the year that Nostradamus (1503 – 1566) prophesised that "something not straighte... yet not that it be brokened... shall risen up and proclaim itself gratis for all gay folken" and who can argue with that? Meanwhile, a final thought... I started out with nothing and I still have most of it left.



bent

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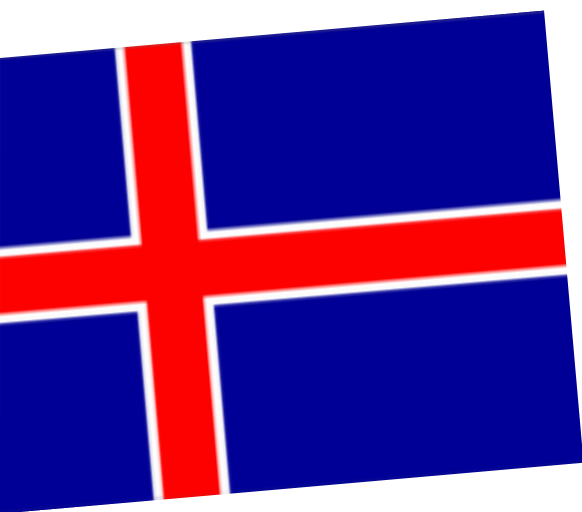
THINK YOU'RE STILL NEGATIVE?

THOUSANDS OF GAY MEN HAVE HIV FOR YEARS
WITHOUT KNOWING

THT DIRECT > 0845 12 21 200

WHAT'S HOT FOR 2009? FASHION

Bizarrely 2009 seems to be all about Tartan... we aren't sure how we feel about that but it's a look. There will also be a real theme of pastels and checks in the summer alongside all things naughty and naval. Gant are the must haves for bags all year round and docksides are the shoes all of you will be wearing, even if you don't work on board a ship.



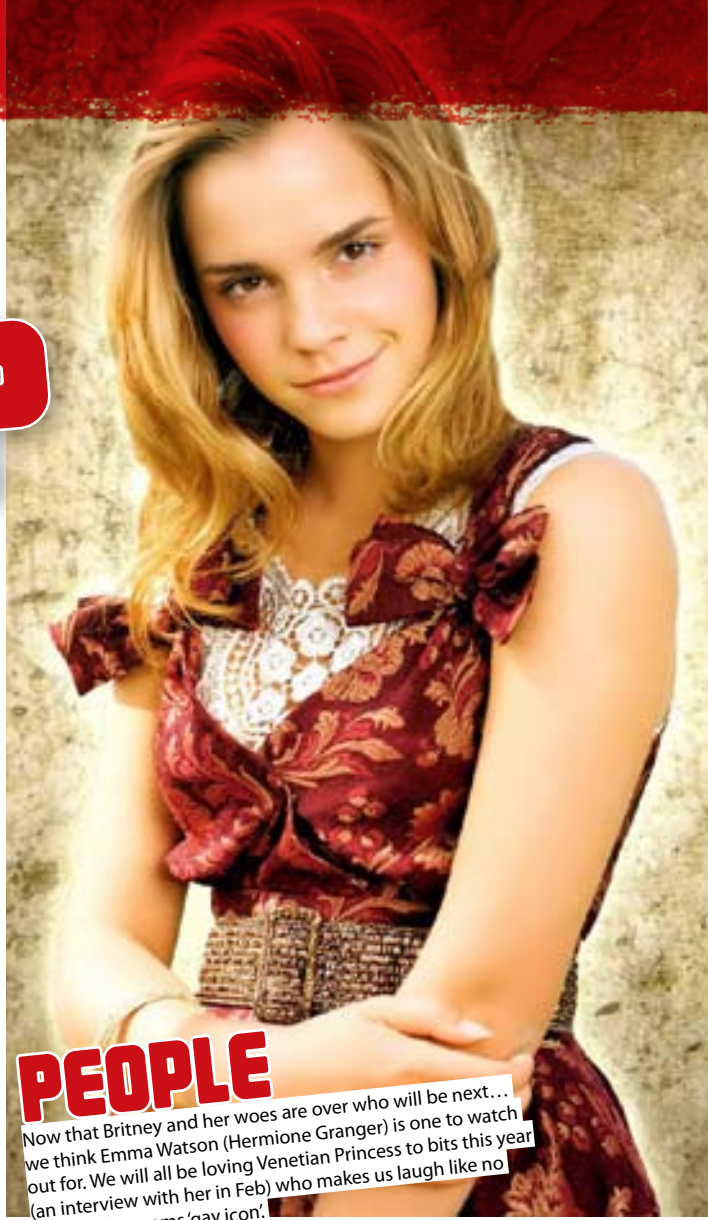
PLACES

Iceland despite being bankrupt will host the IGLFA (gay football world cup), Zurich will be hosting Europride. We also predict that Shoreditch will be the new Soho, everything is shifting that way.



PEOPLE

Now that Britney and her woes are over who will be next... we think Emma Watson (Hermione Granger) is one to watch out for. We will all be loving Venetian Princess to bits this year (an interview with her in Feb) who makes us laugh like no other and screams 'gay icon'.



MUSIC

2009 will see new albums from Pet Shop Boys, Lily Allen, Christina Aguilera, and Natalie Imbruglia. Sadly nothing new seems to be coming from Kylie or Madonna however, we are so onto Lady Gaga now does it really matter? We are also praying the best European girl band ever Monroe decide to come this way. If you are looking for new favourite acts for 2009 our pop picks are Eliza Doolittle the new Lily Allen/Adele/Wino roled into one, Julian Velard musically the next Elton John, Furiku the new New Order, Petros an electro god and the amazing Pastiche - think BWO on speed in a gay club! Also keep your eyes peeled for Little Boots, Shontelle, Stonefoxx, VV Brown plus our favourite ever X Factor contestants Ruth Lorenzo and Alexandra Burke.



THEATRE

Thriller the Michael Jackson musical seems to be getting hyped to the max along side Sister Act, which means no more Sound of Music. No question that the highlight of the year for us will be Jason Donovan in Priscilla; Queen of the Desert.



MOVIES

Of course next year there is one Superhero movie that's getting us a little over excited. Wolverine Hugh Jackman is donning his claws again for the prequel to X-Men and we can't wait. The latest Harry Potter will also be arriving on the screen and we are finally technically allowed to fancy the cast now they have come of age. Top highlights of the year for us will be Jude Law playing Watson to Robert Downey Jr's Sherlock Holmes, and Colin Firth and the cute Ben Barnes (Prince Caspian) as they take on Dorian Grey which we will probably see several times... in a row.

VODDY TO THE STARS

RECESSION... WHAT RECESSION?

Kicking off the New Year in style is the drink that only those in the know are knocking back by the neckful. A classy, sparkling concoction that mixes Premium Vodka with bubbles to produce, what is essentially, the champagne of vodkas. Camitz Sparkling Vodka is a unique and extraordinary 100% all natural and refreshing Sparkling Vodka made in Sweden. This special 40% alc/vol is made using water from the underground springs and icefields of Tölsjö and grains from the fields of Västergötland near the distillery. The vodka is distilled five times before carbonation and has a distinctive 'pop' on opening.

Camitz Sparkling Vodka around £25 for a 70cl bottle

WIN
THIS

Bent, in conjunction with the makers Camitz/Lindberger, offers you a chance to win a presentation box of Camitz Sparkling Vodka, which includes shot glasses, stopper and cocktail book valued at £75.

All you have to do to be in with a chance to win is answer this simple question: Which country is the home of Camitz Sparkling Vodka?

COMPETITION TIME

Turn to page 58 for entry details

THE BEST...

ROB IS VOTED THE BEST FETISH CLOTHING SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR AT THE LONDON GAY SEX AND FETISH AWARDS 2008.

With more than 30 years experience RoB has always been a byword for quality leather and rubber for those in the know. This all changed on Saturday 6th December when they were awarded the first ever "Fetish Clothing Supplier of the Year" award as the result of a public online vote.

"This year has been special" says RoB's Manager Andy Brodie. "We've re-built the London shop, added lots of great new lines to our range and this award just tops it off. It's fantastic to be recognised by our customers and we'd like to thank everyone for their support during 2008"

In 2009 the boys are now going to give RoB Manchester some attention, with a new look and better range of gear to suit the Manchester scene"





FUCKING MEN

Taking its lead from Schnitzler's *La Ronde* *Fucking Men* is a portrait of ten men searching for love, sex and intimacy in modern day America. This insightful drama looks at a succession of couples and strangers as they negotiate the before and after of lust, love and betrayal and the pursuit of sex. Some stories are poignant, some hilarious, but collectively they provide a fascinating snap shot of the modern-day male. A fearless dissection of homosexuality that will fascinate male and female audiences of every persuasion.

The Kings Head Theatre; 115 Upper Street, London, N1

Dates; 7 – 25 January

Box Office: 0844 412 2953



TURNER ROUND

You just can't keep a good turn down and even if she is a pensioner... there are few acts that can hold a candle to the dynamic Ms Turner. As well as wowing London, Manchester and Birmingham, Tina Turner will also be visiting Sheffield Arena on 12th March. Back in 2000 she sold 55 thousand tickets at the city's Don Valley Stadium sending the capacity crowd absolutely bonkers.

www.sheffieldarena.co.uk

FRAMED

DIRK BOGARDE

Originally born Derek Jules Gaspard Ulric Niven van den Bogaerde, which isn't the most glamorous of names but is ultra camp in its own odd way.

His friend Helena Bonham Carter believed Bogarde could never come out as gay in later life, after his movie stardom had ended, because he would not have been able to deal with the fact that he had been forced to live a lie during his career.

Bogarde was approached in 1990 by Madonna to appear in her video for *Justify My Love*, citing The Night Porter as an inspiration. Bogarde declined the offer... we can't imagine why?

Morrissey was also a huge fan because of the controversial roles he often chose to play.

Bogarde starred in the landmark 1961 film *Victim*, playing a prominent homosexual barrister in London who fights the blackmailers of a young man with whom he had an emotional relationship. *Victim* was the first mainstream British film to treat the subject of homosexuality seriously and the film helped lead to the changing in the law.

The first film he starred as an extra (which he was never credited for) was 'Come On George!' in 1939, the name alone makes us snigger!

His brother Gareth Van den Bogaerde confirmed in a 2004 interview that Bogarde was engaging in homosexual sex at a time when such acts were illegal, and also that his long-term relationship with Tony Forwood was more than simply that of a manager and friend.

Not only did he have a prolific film career, his novels and memoirs are hugely respected in the literary world.

Bogarde served in World War II, being commissioned into the Queen's Royal Regiment in 1943. He reached the rank of major and served in both the European and Pacific theatres, principally as an intelligence officer. In April 1945, he claimed he was one of the first Allied officers to reach the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany, an experience that had the most profound effect on him and about which he found it difficult to speak for many years afterward.



Know your HIV status

Find your nearest HIV testing clinic and
more information at www.gmfa.org.uk/testing



CAN WE BE YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND - RUTH LORENZO

AFTER BEING VOTED OFF THE X FACTOR (QUITE WRONGLY WE HERE AT BENT THINK) WE SENT SIMON SAVIDGE TO BEFRIEND SPANISH GODDESS RUTH LORENZO AND WAS SURPRISED TO DISCOVER THIS WAS HER VERY FIRST GAY INTERVIEW!

What's the campest thing you have ever done?

I don't know if this is camp but it's quite fabulous, it was one Valentines Day and I took this boy to the beach and danced for him under the moon in the sand. It was beautiful... and do you know what.

I didn't even get a snog, nothing. I think the campest thing is still to come, on the X Factor Tour. I want to rock but with loads of glitter and make the whole place fabulous. Oh I bought tampons, am I allowed to say that, in Boots while signing autographs. That was strangely camp I guess.

Though very romantic and slightly like a Mills and Boon, the beach dancing we felt could do better. The promise of glitter made us happier, the signing autographs when buying tampons made us hysterical. 9/10

Kylie or Madonna?

(Instantly) Kylie, and not because of Dannii Minogue I swear... Honest. Dannii makes amazing pumpkin soup you know?

We believe her... we think, extra points off being so definite and telling us about the Minogue Soup. 8/10

Do you have any dressing room demands or will you have any?

Hmmm, let me think... I don't want my hair touched every five minutes or my make up every two seconds and seriously don't put too much on me. Let me hug people and be scruffy sometimes. OH MY GOD and do not make me wear things that I don't like, never ever.

We like a down to earth diva who is strong knows what she wants and wants a hug. Frankly, as for wardrobe demands... we are so with her. 8/10

What's your best put down line?

I don't have one, well I don't need one... I just have a look! (She then does the look and we do indeed feel quite scared.) It's all in the eyes. No words.

You don't want to get on the wrong side of the eyes. 8/10

How many gay friends are too many?

(Looks outraged) None! I want all of them; gay men are the best friends you can have... apart from Alexandra Burke. I want the whole nation of gays in fact all the UK and Spanish gays and still I would have space for more. I have heard I am getting a gay following, which is the best thing that I have heard all year. You guys are fighters like me... I have given you my number haven't I?

She loves her gays what more can we say? She however loses a point for yes giving out her number but being a very poor texter! 9/10

Prada or Primark?

(Looks as if I am crazy) Prada! It's not even a question. I suppose if you teamed Primark with some nice Gucci shoes then that looks nice. Come on if you are giving me the choice then I am going to say Prada of course... I am not crazy!

She can team with a theme which we like, and at the same time she would ram raid a Prada store. 10/10

What's the biggest diva strop you have ever thrown?

(Gasps) I was eleven, yes a diva at eleven. I was auditioning for some competition and the first song was from Phantom of the Opera, I got through and they said 'okay Ruth but no more musical numbers' which I didn't like for a start. So they gave me this horrible German song to sing. I learnt it... looked very sweet in my beautiful dress... the music started and I forgot the melody so I made it up. They said 'Miss Lorenzo that's not correct start again' so I did and I sang the wrong words. Again I breathe in and start... another fucking different song (cackles) so I gave up and threw my papers as hard as I could on the floor, flicked my hair, stamped my foot and stormed off. My music teacher was so cross.

We love, love, love this story. A diva at eleven! 10/10

Spanish men or English men?

(Looks very saucy and a bit shy at once) A mixture of both... it would have to depend on the day really.

Oh you fickle little Madame... we so get where you are coming from. 10/10

Do you like a gossip?

Oh my god yes, of course. My best gossiping partner is Alexandra Burke, its awful we can't stop. I actually mostly like to listen rather than add... Do you know though the papers here haven't said any gossip about me, I don't know what to do? I started stealing toilet paper from the TV studio, but nobody knew so that didn't work.

Stealing toilet paper without getting caught hmmm, not so rock and roll. She loves listening but not spreading gossip - must try harder. 7/10

Can you tell us a dirty joke?

I could in Spanish... it wouldn't translate though. I can tell you this (sips drink) I don't know how to have sex in English! (Cackles) I have never had sex in the English language. All the love I have made... has been in Spanish; there you go that's an exclusive.

Saucy minx and if we knew Spanish we reckon the jokes would be pure filth! 9/10

89/100 We have to say Ruth Lorenzo is officially the sexy Spanish senorita who out camps them all. Loving her work and we are officially becoming her new best friend, she said so!

'Ruth will be appearing on the X Factor 2009 Live Tour in February, you simply must not miss her. For tickets and info go to www.bookingsdirect.com

PEP TALK

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A SITUATION WHERE YOU THINK YOU COULD HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE RISK OF HIV TRANSMISSION? DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A COURSE OF MEDICATION CALLED PEP THAT YOU CAN TAKE WHICH COULD REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF HIV TRANSMISSION? BUT WHAT IS PEP?

PEP stands for Post Exposure Prophylaxis. It is a treatment that may prevent HIV infection after the virus has entered the body. When thinking about PEP, there are some things you might consider about it:

- It could reduce the chances of HIV transmission
- It does involve taking HIV medication for four weeks
- PEP must be taken ASAP after exposure to the virus and must be taken before 72 hours.
- There can be side effects on occasion
- It is not guaranteed 100% to work

PEP is available from sexual health clinics and hospital accident and emergency departments. Some men have reported difficulty in obtaining PEP on some occasions. You may find enquiring at a sexual health clinic or an A & E in a hospital, which has a specialist HIV clinic.

Remember, PEP is not a cure for HIV and is not guaranteed to prevent HIV. Condoms and lube used correctly during sex are the most effective way to reduce HIV transmission.

MANBROSIA

An online art gallery specializing in gay themed art. The art is present in a contemporary form on canvas. We chose canvas as it provides a more rustic texture to the art. The art is produced, scanned and digitally enhanced, adding to the contemporary feel.

We have art ranging from abstract to pencil sketches, with a special section devoted to gay lovers. The gallery website has been designed to enhance the art and is easy to use. Choose the art piece, purchase and within seven working days the art will be delivered. We even offer free postage. Manbroasia believes in gay art for all. www.manbroasia.com



PEP

Post Exposure Prophylaxis

HOURS MINUTES SECONDS
-72:00:00

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

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

On occasion people do experience side effects.

PEP is not a cure for HIV.

There is no guarantee that it will prevent HIV transmission.

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

Yorkshire MESMAC:
0113 2444 209

The Brunswick Centre:
01422 341 764



WHEN FEAR GETS IN THE WAY

BRUMMY SINGER/SONGWRITER KJ IS ALL SET TO MAKE 2009 HIS OWN BUT IT ALMOST DIDN'T HAPPEN AS THIS YOUNG CUTE ARTIST SUFFERED FROM PANIC ATTACKS, WHICH GAVE HIM DEPRESSION AND A FEAR OF PERFORMING.

How old are you and where do you call home?

I'm in my early 20's that's all I'm saying! Home is split between two cities, Worcester and Birmingham. I live in Worcester currently but was born in Birmingham so will always have an attachment to the city.

Is KJ short for anything... or were you influenced by Jay Kay?

I was born Kevin John Slade and when I started writing at the age of 8 I decided to use Kevin John as my stage name because whenever I said my surname friends made the relationship with the group Slade and started signing 'So here it is Merry Christmas...! Slade got dropped soon after that!

Can you tell our readers about the panic disorder you suffer from and how it affected your writing.

Panic attacks were the start of my condition and due to me not being

aware of help and support I ended up suffering depression. I don't actually think it's affected my writing as due to suffering panic disorder I ended up writing 'When Fear Gets In The Way' which was a song about my coping techniques through my disorder. This song was later put onto my MySpace and out of all the tracks on there my soon to be manager really related to the track as he had suffered a similar condition.

Did you ever think that you'd get to appear in front of a big audience like you did at last year's Pride events?

Absolutely not. It was only ever a dream and I never thought I would have the opportunity to live a dream. It's taken a lot of courage and time for me to fight my demons and I have to thank my friends, family and of course my fans for their support and belief, I love those guys.

How was it going into the studio for the first time?

Excitedly and nervous at the same time if you know what I mean. It was fun developing tracks along with the producer and take them to the next level. We started with 25 songs but only 12 will make it to the final album, it will be almost 3 years hard work before my album is finally released.

Are you in a relationship?

No, single and waiting for the right person to sweep me off my feet. I know it's a cliché but I'm too busy right now and travel most weeks so never know where I am going to be which wouldn't be fair on a partner.

Who would your ideal partner be?

Louise Redknapp in the week and Johnny Depp at the week ends, lol. I don't look for anything in particular, the most important thing to me is to feel secure and happy with someone.

Do you have any guilty pleasures?

Sex outdoors and I haven't been caught yet. Oh and McDonalds!

What does 2009 hold in store for you?

With two Top 10 club tracks under my belt my label is ready to take me mainstream. We're looking to release a new single in Spring and hopefully tour with a major recording artist, sorry I can't mention who just yet. 2009 should see the release of my debut Album. I can't wait to see the physical CD.

And finally, what style and colour of undies are your favourite?

When I wear them I like Calvin Klein 365 boxers in mad patterns and colours. They also make my bum look great when my jeans are sagging, lol.

www.myspace.com/kjofficialuk

FAERIE CIRCLE

Eurofaerie Gatherings are retreats for queers, co-created by all present in a spirit of openness, love and community. Here is space to slow down, open up and grow your wings... to talk, to listen and be heard, to meet other queers from the heart, to share what is important to us and to charge up with energy, strength and purpose to empower our lives beyond the gathering. Faeries meet out in nature away from the pace and commercialism of the scene in an atmosphere of light, joy, laughter, song and celebration. These are spiritual gatherings where the god is found in nature and in the hearts of all present.

Albion Faeries Winter Gathering February 5 - 13th
Featherstone Castle, nr Haltwhistle, Northumberland
<http://uk.geocities.com/albionfaeries/>



MELLEEFRESH

THE WOMAN, THE MAUS AND THE CARE BEAR

Hi Melleefresh. Firstly, what do you prefer to be called? The full Melleefresh? Just Mel? Fresh? Or something else altogether?

Since we just met maybe we should stick with Melleefresh, but my friends call me Melleeeeeee

Famously, you were the one who discovered Deadmau5 a few years ago, who has since gone on to be one of the most in demand DJs in the world. Describe the moment for us?

In 2004 I was producing a remix project for Canadian icon Carole Pope - that was rock music turned into dance mixes spearheaded by DJ Iain - he suggested using this kid, Joel Zimmerman aka Deadmau5 from Niagara Falls to do a remix. I finally tracked him down and told him I had some money for him. When we did hook up he asked me if I had anything else he could remix. I gave him the Melleefresh track Beautiful Rich n'Horny. The response was so exciting and our working relationship was great, so we solidified our arrangement with a management and publishing deal through Play Records. We decided to go for world domination and as you can see... Joel has succeeded quite nicely.



Describe your own music style.

A dirty mix of filthy, trashed-out, and downright sexy electro-house.

What's coming up in the world of Melleefresh?

Constantly searching for that next Top100 DJ extraordinaire. Working with some exciting hot new international DJ/producers I recently discovered in my travels and online. Planning a world-wide tour, a new wardrobe and I want to pimp my Porsche.

Are there any more collaboration planned with the mau5?

That sure would be nice!! But he's so incredibly busy these days and his musical taste has become a lot more techno driven, which doesn't leave a lot of room for vocals. I get letters all the time from people saying how much they love our tracks, so let's hope so!

And were you the voice of a Care Bear?

Yes it's true you discovered my secret identity! I was two bears - Cheer Bear the pink one with the rainbow on her tummy and Tugs Bear, the little boy bear in a diaper. Can you say bi-sexual? Maybe a little Bi-polar, especially when I did the voices back-to-back, speaking to myself.

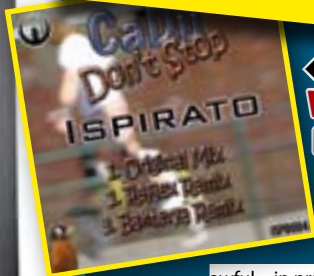
REVIEW
DANCE

BY JASON GUY

FORTHCOMING RELEASES



TRACK of the MONTH



◀ **KEVIN RUDOLF FT LIL WAYNE - LET IT ROCK (ISLAND)**

One of the biggest selling tracks in the US in 2007 is finally making it to the UK. The 7" edit is a mix of electro, pop & hip-hop. On paper this sounds awful - in practice, it's one of the catchiest tracks you'll hear for months. Standout mixes come from Liverpool based Cahill (especially the dub), who turn this into a peak-time charging anthem with some of the best dancefloor reactions I've seen for months. Little wonder that his myspace page was showing 26 million plays of this track! www.kevinrudolf.com



◀ **ERCOLA FT DANIELLA - EVERY WORD (CAYENNE)**

Hailing from Finland, this is another track doing well in the US. It's already been the number 1 Dance Airplay record over there and has started to pick up plays in the UK from the likes of Steve Smart (Kiss), Tiesto, Out Of Office and Pagano. The January release will be packed with 11 different mixes and edits, with my favourites being the beautiful Wendal Kos vocal mix or the slightly tougher offering from Bastian Laval. www.myspace.com/ercola



▶ **BENJAMIN LEUNG FT AMANDA SAMPSON - DON'T CARE (TOOLBOX HOUSE)**

A celebration of the high standard of house production in the North of England. All three mixes on this latest release come from Manchester based producers. The original mix is the one I'd head for and it's perfect for the tougher, more progressive floors. When label honcho dropped this into his set at Federation Manchester on New Year's Eve the crowd loved it. www.thehardheart.com



◀ **NATURAL BORN GROOVES - CANDY ON THE DANCEFLOOR (3 BEAT BLUE)**

Reaching number 2 in the club charts at the beginning of 2007, NBG's infectious anthem never seemed to get the commercial cross-over success it deserved. It's probably because it never became mainstream and overplayed that many DJs, including myself never stopped playing it. The 2009 release now features excellent new mixes from the Wideboys and Warren Clarke for storming, funk injected house tune. www.threebeatrecords.co.uk



◀ **HAI & EMANUEL FT BEVERLEY KNIGHT & BRYAN CHAMBER - THE PRESSURE (BIG LOVE)**

What do you get when you combine 2 of the most respected producers (Seamus Hai & Paul Emanuel) and 2 amazing, soulfull voices with an old Sounds of Blackness song? One of my favourite tracks from the past 6 months, that's what! Perfectly sung vocals by Beverley (she's been awarded a MBE you know) and Bryan (one of Ms Knight's backing singers). Combined with H&E's trademark charging, chunky backing track and it causes tingles down your spine. Just try not dancing to this! www.biglovemusic.co.uk

BY ADAM LOWE

SINGLE of the MONTH



LE CORPS MINCE DE FRANCOISE

Bitch of the Bitches
Out: 26th January

Le Corps Mince de Francoise means 'The Slim Body of Francoise', and their music is as suited for the gays as Girls Aloud are to trowelling on foundation. This is dancy, punky, poppy electro with similarities to Robyn, The Knife and CSS. This French-named, Scandinavian, all-girl group are destined to entertain gay fans the world over for years to come.



ALBUM of the MONTH



JOHN TEJADA

Fabric 44

Out: 12th January

Tejada started playing the drums at 8 and DJing at 12. Since then he's become a techno legend, who has no trouble finding a welcoming audience despite his tendency for experimentation. This marks his first Fabric outing, and the 44th in the series, but Tejada still proves he can maintain the Fabric standard. Offering mixes of Alex Cortez, Spooky and Orbital, Tejada's is a strong and eclectic mix well worth the RRP.

MR OIZO

Lamb's Anger

Out: 12th January

Treble-heavy, synthetic and riddled with detours, this album is a head-banging, chicken-necking masterpiece harking back to the 90s infectious monotony of 'Flat Beat' but with more variance to stop it becoming boring at the LP level. This time there's no Flat Eric, but there's still tonnes of Oizo madness.

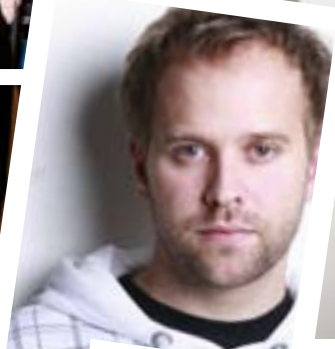


CINNAMON CHASERS

Jetstreams/Luv Deluxe

Out: 12th January

Russ Davies, AKA Cinnamon Chasers, is the son and nephew of Dave and Ray Davies, who founded The Kinks, and hung out with music royalty like Joey Ramone and John Carpenter. As such his music is flavoursome, knowing electro-pop any gay man will love.



JON ALLEN

Dead Man's Suit

Out: 26th January

This debut album from South Devon musician Jon Allen is a rootsy blend of 60s and 70s folk rock with bluesy overtones and touches of Ryan Adams. You'll recognise single 'Going Home' as the song lashed all over the Land Rover adverts, which was downloaded almost 20,000 times from Allen's website alone.

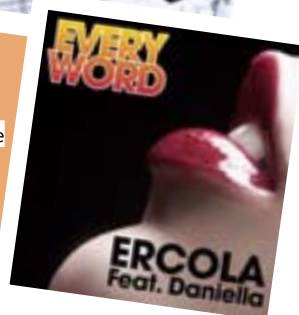


ERCOLA FT. DANIELLA

Every Word

Out: 26th January

Ercola's latest single is currently topping the Billboard Magazine Hot 100 Dance Airplay Chart and looks set to do well on our shores as well. Ercola is a Finnish songwriter with arrangement skills matched only by his production talents. Sublime energy meets rampant musical ability in this masterful dance record. Definitely one for the post-NYE parties.

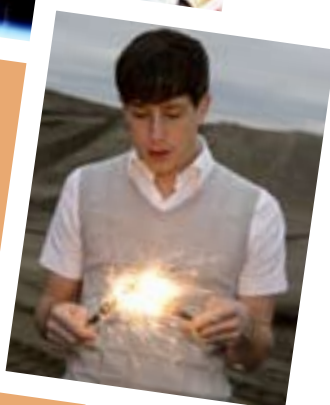


CIRCLESQUARE

Songs About Dancing and Drugs

Out: 19th January

Circlesquare comes on like a molasses drip laced with Codeine, taking Leonard Cohen, Pole, Angelo Badalamenti and Chris Isaak and chucking them in an underground electro blender to make shit-hot, opiated rave-up dance music. Circlequare's voice, too, is deep and rich, providing a liquid, sensual core to the granulated, kaleidoscopic backdrop of the music. Luscious stuff, ready for the most cutting edge of dancefloors.



TIMMY VEGAS & BAD LAY-DEE

Another Dimension

Out: 5th January

This high-octane mash-up of street toughs and house music breaks all the rules and creates a new genre while its at it. Elements of Crystal Waters and the Beastie Boys collide in funky up grooves with urban edginess. Pete Tong, Judge Jules and Scott Mills all rave about this urban-dance hybrid and with good reason. Add it to you iPod and play it loud on the bus. It'll certainly chase away those winter blues.



HE CAN'T GET HER OUT OF HIS ...

BENT'S ROVING REPORTER SIMON SAVIDGE IS BECOMING RENOWNED FOR BEFRIENDING ALL THE CELEBRITY LADIES HE INTERVIEWS. HOWEVER, ONE CELEBRITY AND ICON OF HIS, MISS KYLIE MINOQUE HAS ALWAYS MANAGED TO AVOID HIS ADVANCES AND INTERVIEW REQUESTS. VEXED BY THIS HE HAS BEEN SULKING IN A DARKENED ROOM AND DREAMING OF THE ELFIN ONE.

As she glides along Old Compton Street, everything comes to a sudden standstill. Gay men stop mid pout, turn and stare as a petite dream of loveliness passes by as if in slow-motion carried on 'angel's breath'. As her feet grace the beaten old pavement slabs they become part of the yellow brick road. I turn to a mangy old stray in the gutter (no not Ami) and say 'I don't think we are in Soho anymore Toto'. A vision in Gucci, she would sit smiling in front of me and in unison, we would order 'a nice strong cuppa'. Surrounded in a mist of Showgirl (and I don't mean sweaty corsets and bodices) the meeting would be to discuss her 'new' remix album 'Boombox'.

'Boombox' is a collection of remixes from 2000 to now and if you didn't think that 'Slow' could sound any dirtier... you haven't heard the awesome Chemical Brothers remix. Sadly, it isn't a new album to make all our lives that little bit more complete but privately she would whisper a promise... there would be one on the way soon. In the meantime, there is the new stupendously brilliant title track to keep all the boys up and jiggling to the early hours. When the drinks arrive and the waiter has picked his jaw off the floor, I would ask Kylie why she hadn't decided to release the single 'Boombox' as the lead from the album. I can see it now- Kylie looking like a pop punk, kissing her teeth and walking through fabulous neon graffitied streets of Shoreditch - shouting it out from the roof tops, make it drop let it rock, baby I'm your Boombox. We could even dig out the neon hoodies from the 'Fever' tour. She'd tell me ruefully it was all beyond her control.

Eventually I would bravely admit my disappointment in 'X', not because it was a bad album but because her A&R people should be fired. Why didn't she release safe Kylie pop 'Wow' first? 'The One' second, swiftly followed by 'No More Rain' and 'Like A Drug' two of the finest pop moments from her in eons. In fact, we would talk about the whole 'X' debate the gay scene and online forums seem to have been having since the tracks started to leak almost two years ago. Did she really say it wasn't her favourite album or had some random bitter queen had made it all up?

By this time, we would have become such firm friends that I could ask her anything and everything. For instance why she knew nothing about my twenty-year long relationship with her? Could we have a new album please and possibly 'Kylie the Musical'? How big is Jason Donovan's winkle? Did she ever really want to make an album of Jazz standards? How much glitter really is too much? The questions would be endless as I basked in our private and intimate chat.

With this now beautiful bond cemented we would skip off hand in hand through the streets of Soho for a night of disco diva delights and boys in hot pants, perhaps stopping for a quick MacDonald's on the way.

Well a boy can dream can't he?

The DVD of Kylie X2008 is also out now www.kylie.com



WIN THIS

BOOMBOX

The album features some of Kylie's most popular tracks, and a few lesser known gems, remixed to perfection by some of the best dance producers around including Chemical Brothers, Fischerspooner, Mylo and Sebastian Leger. The tracks have been available previously, but this is the first time they are available on one release.

Album Out: 5th January released through Parlophone

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fab Kylie Remix CD just complete the title of this well known Kylie hit. I Believe In _____?

COMPETITION TIME

Turn to page 58 for entry details



MANCHESTER PRIDE 2009

MANCHESTER PRIDE, THE CITY'S ANNUAL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) FESTIVAL, IS CALLING ON INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR ITS 2009 TEN-DAY EVENT.

The festival, which this year raised £105,000 for local HIV and LGBT charities, is seeking everything from theatre, comedy, music and exhibitions to help showcase LGBT culture and diversity as part of next year's celebrations. The team are looking for applications from both commercial and community based events. Successful applicants will have their event incorporated into Manchester Prides official schedule, with details appearing in the Guide to Pride 09 and on the festival website.

To download an application pack, visit www.manchesterpride.com (The deadline for inclusion in the Guide to Pride is 23rd March 2009).

Manchester Pride 2009 Friday 21st - Monday 31st August 2009.

BOURNEMOUTH'S PRIDE FESTIVAL IN 2009

SOME FOLK JUST DO NOT LET THE GRASS GROW UNDER THEIR FEET AND THOSE NICE PEOPLE DOWN IN BOURNEMOUTH REALLY SHOW THE REST OF US UP. IT HAS NOW BEEN REVEALED THAT BOURNE FREE, BOURNEMOUTH'S PRIDE FESTIVAL, WILL BE TAKING OVER THE SEASIDE RESORT FOR 3 DAYS IN 2009, FROM FRIDAY 10TH THRU SUNDAY 12TH JULY!



The 2008 event attracted thousands of people from across the UK with a "Support Our Services" themed parade, a Live Show in the gardens and an extended Street Party. Even more is planned for 2009, with the Bourne Free Committee already working hard to put together a packed programme of entertainment and finalising a

unique new theme. Lawrence Roots, executive committee member, comments "Every year Bourne Free gets bigger and better and 2009 will be no exception". He adds, "The event has reached a stage where, due to rapidly growing popularity, we can make some very exciting changes". Book your trip well in advance it looks like they're going for a biggie!

Keep up to date with all the latest news at www.bournefree.co.uk





ABSOLUTELY POSITIVELY FABULOUS!

NOW WE ALL LOVE A GOOD DIVA, A STRONG WOMAN WHO LOOKS FABULOUS AND IF THEY HAVE A GOOD VOICE HOW CAN WE RESIST. ANASTACIA IS ONE SUCH WOMAN. SIMON SAVIDGE ALMOST WEPT WITH JOY WHEN WE SENT HIM TO CATCH UP WITH HER...

So Anastacia...

So... Simon Savidge... is that really your name? Oh my god that is like great, I think you are destined for Simon Savidge stardom that is so sassy... I love it.

Well 'Anastacia' is a really cool name...

I know don't you love it? It is so totally, totally 'diva', which I am not to be honest. My mum so knew when I popped out that I was gonna be different and she was so right, did I just say different or difficult (laughs).

Well your Mum was on Broadway and your Dad was a club singer, so did you think it was always a sure thing that you were going to be famous?

Oh no, n-n-n-no, no. I didn't want it at all, I think because it was so instilled into what I knew from my parents it wasn't something I was bothered about in anyway. I mean, they saw I had a gift with my voice and I guess I knew that it wasn't bad (laughs). My mum always said I would mimic people off the radio so she knew I would do something entertainment-wise one day. I always thought I sounded like I was on helium (laughs).

Did you enjoy your singing?

I have never done things that I don't enjoy, life's way to short but when it comes to the business of being told how I should and shouldn't look or sound... that has always been the biggest thorn in my side. I have always said it's about the voice.

Do you feel you should change all the time?

I think everyone needs to be fluid and be able to do different genres but at the heart of it, it should always be a reflection of you. I personally went through a metamorphosis as part of growing up (laughs) I just grew up later than most. I think every album I have done has had a different sound to a degree - how boring would it be for you or for me if it stayed the same. That Madonna started it all, and Cher of course, always being ahead of the game and changing, that to me is part of being 'iconic' and look at their careers.

Madonna is now doing the whole 'R&B Diva' thing, which is odd as she seems slightly behind.

I think Madonna was way ahead with Confessions because look... everyone is so into the Euro Pop sound again. I think Madonna doesn't care if she is popular or not, her fans love her regardless and she will make the unpopular - popular and move on before we even notice it. At the same time, if you listen to people like Rihanna, who I love, her sound is electro and pop and I think everything is merging and mixing and that's fabulous. I mean, my fans wondered what happened to the more 'rockier' sound that was on my last album. I just say.... I had cancer and wanted a harder feel to my music.

Do you think we saw a darker side of you?

Totally, I mean, in a way when you are recovering and everything you still have the darkness. I think I was feeling more reckless and wanted a sound that showed that. No matter what people say, when you are an artist your life will seep into your work. I don't think I was aware how much it affected everything at the time I just thought 'this is my new sound' and it didn't stay. I just wanted everything to be surrounded by guitars.

Tell us about Heavy Rotation.

It's a really eclectic mix but my favourite song is the title track, which I think embodies me and is upbeat and crazy. The whole album is very 'happy'... I mean I have a good ballad or three. I think of it like a book; I want points where people are like 'oh my god, I can't believe that just happened' I want something that hits all emotions. This album is also post-cancer. And cancer was cancer, and Anastacia is super happy right now.

Now you have a huge gay following...

I love that so much. I know everyone says that but it's totally true. You guys get me and I love that. I did G-A-Y, which I loved, though I had a tummy bug and wasn't totally on form. I wanna go back. I sang live though. It's so nice seeing everyone at those more intimate gigs though. Why do I have a big gay fan base? Because I am fabulous (laughs) I'm kidding. I'm waiting to see a drag queen of Anastacia though, you have Kylie, Madonna, Cher, Tina Turner, I would love to be included in that line up. Come on queen's... drag up as me!

The single 'Absolutely Positively' is out on 26th January and the fabulous album 'Heavy Rotation' is out now on Mercury Records. www.anastacia.com



TERRY GEORGE TELLIN' STORIES

BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT

SO THERE I WAS, MINGLING WITH ALL THE STARS AT THE RECENT ROYAL VARIETY PERFORMANCE AND I HAVE TO SAY YOU REALLY WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE DIFFERENCE IN ATTITUDE OF SOME OF THESE CELEBRITIES.

I was chatting to Take That's Jason Orange after their fantastic performance and was really pleased to see that he and the rest of the band hadn't gone all 'starry' on us. He was funny, friendly and chatty, which is how I remember him from Take That's early days when they'd turn up at one of my 'gay club nights' in their tight lycra shorts to perform a sexy, action packed routine to their latest single. He was saying how he still appreciated all the attention again and when Howard popped over to chat, it was like old times. Howard was saying how much he enjoyed DJing and was hopeful that he could still perform his sets alongside his Take That commitments.

Peter Kay's latest incarnation as Geraldine was a firm favourite on the show... and it was fun... and maybe this is an exclusive... to see Geraldine and Cliff deep in conversation and giggling like a couple of school girls! When I could prise Cliff away from the chuckling chanteuse, I asked him about the rumour he might be appearing in this year's Celebrity Big Brother. He told me that he liked the idea and was pleased he'd been asked but that it wasn't possible for him to be involved at the moment.

Meanwhile, actor and general heartthrob Josh Hartnett was there to introduce some of the acts but was too intimidated by the whole 'Royal' event to hang around after his 'bit'. And while we're on the subject of Americans... Rihanna... I love your music gal but for heaven sake... dump the fucking attitude. Cliff has been at the top of his game for over 50 years and I didn't see him diss anyone. Britain's Got Talent winner dancer George Sampson was obviously excited at being there surrounded by all those stars and asked her for an autograph. Turning her back and waltzing off and demanding her cohorts jump when



she says so, was more than a little off putting. Is it necessary I ask? Does it promote anything but negativity towards that artist? It's a sign of 'stardom' that really gets my goat.

Meanwhile, for those who just cannot get enough of my hectic lifestyle here's a heads up on a new series that starts in February on the Biography Channel - Two Queens and a Castle. It's a six part series that saw a TV crew follow Michael, my partner and myself around for the past year. It's all good fun and I can heartily recommend it... but then again I would wouldn't I?



MR GAY UK WHOOO WHOOO HAPPY NEW YEAR

Hey guys, I've been having a load of festive fun here in the big smoke the past month! Had a wicked Xmas party in my halls - we decked our kitchen in decorations, we had name tags, a seating plan, mulled wine the lot - not quite what you see in those posh schools in period dramas... but it was ace!

Aaaah this month's been crazy. I had a photo shoot with Fresh Images in London and got to wear loads of clothes and pose a bit - ha-ha. As you know... erm... that isn't me at all... I had to be forced into some really nice outfits but I'm sure you'll only be interested in the photos of me in my undies. You'll have to wait until next month to see the results but I want to say a BIG thanks to everyone at the studio for being so cool... photographer Rafal and Donna who organised the shoot and all the make-up and technical guys who made me look and feel terrific. It was so much fun - at the end of the shoot, they wanted me to pour a bottle of water over my head and let it sensual trickle over my body. That was the idea but the water was freezing and I think I looked more shocked than sexual!

I recently filmed my first short film in Tottenham Court Road tube station; it was all very dramatic and exciting. I played a young businessman who's lost in the station and keeps going around in circles getting more and more distressed, it went really well. I hope I pulled 'panic' off OK as I've been lost a couple of time in the underground myself since I came to London. It's being entered into the British Amateur film festival amongst many others - get in!

As much as I love London, I can't wait to get back to Cardiff and see all my family and friends! First, though I'm heading off to Tignes to go snowboarding for a week!! Yeees! I'm so excited; it's going to be great! I still haven't bought my snow gear yet and I'm leaving in a few hours so I've got to get going! So unless I break something pretty important... I'll see you guys next month!

Have a wicked 2009!

Dino
X

NOT SUCH AN INNOCENT BOY?

DECLAN BENNETT IS A NAME TO WATCH OUT FOR THIS YEAR. HIS PREVIOUS ALBUMS HAVE A RAW AND HONEST APPEAL WITH GREAT VOCALS AND ACOUSTIC POP BEATS. BENT CAUGHT UP WITH THE OPENLY GAY SINGER TO DISCUSS BOY GEORGE, BOY BANDS AND BOYS!



How would you describe your music to people who are yet to have heard you?

(Laughs) Oh god you have to think these answers through or you sound really wanky. If I says it's not like anything else that sounds wanky, if I describe it in a really edgy way that's gonna make me sound wanky too. I would say its acoustic pop with a folk twist. I would say pop poetry, no one's done that yet have they? (Laughs)

There was quite a break from your first album to the last one why was that?

Well after I put the first album out I was diagnosed with testicular cancer, so I kind of went into this weird zone where I just was all over the place. A situation like that makes you completely rethink everything and puts you in a very strange place physically and mentally. That was a hard time but you get through it and then I was like, right, time to make another album.

Now this wasn't your first brush with fame was it as you were also in the boy band Point Break did you always know you wanted to do music?

Yes, I knew from school that that it what I wanted to do. I didn't really think there were any other options. Point Break was a real learning curve for me, in two years I learnt so much, I mean we were a manufactured boy band that did okay here and amazingly in Asia. However, I can count the number of times we sang live in two years, how bad is that? It used to really piss me off.

You also went into theatre didn't you?

Yes, after the whole Point Break thing I wanted to do something completely different. Straight after Point Break I was actually working in the Sausages & Mash Restaurant on Portobello Road so it's not all glam but it was the best summer job ever, and I had a hoot. Then I auditioned for Taboo and I got it, I couldn't believe

it. It was a real highlight for me; it was like being in a play with fucking great songs rather than a musical. Then I got Rent and seriously couldn't believe it, I had auditioned for that before Point Break but they felt I was too young... so to do that and then do it on Broadway and on tour in America was amazing. I had always wanted to be in Rent, I think being gay something really clicked with me.

You toured with Boy George last year didn't you?

Can you believe this I caused controversy at a Boy George gig!?

How and why?

(Laughs) Because of the swearing in my music! There was discussion about me having to take the swearing out and I refused as if I didn't swear on stage and then they bought my album they would be outraged in their living rooms, it was weird. So then I ended up just saying when I got on stage 'I am going to swear... sorry'. After meeting him in Taboo we just clicked and that was that.

Has being gay yourself given you a large gay audience?

Do you know what it hasn't, which I kind of mind and kind of don't. I am not sure you know that's made me think; maybe I should do a survey on Myspace. I'll tell you what though despite what people say it's never been an issue in America with my audiences, I think a lot of people are scared of coming out there as there is a big deal in films more, plus I have my audience who have seen me in Rent etc so they know already and it's no issue.

The album 'An Innocent Evening of Drinking' is available now, with a follow up later in 2009. You can see Declan at The Soho Revue Bar on Thursday 19th February. www.declanbennett.co.uk

Recently voted People Magazine's Sexiest Man Alive, hunky Hugh Jackman stars with Nicole Kidman in the epic adventure Australia out now.

10 THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT HUGH JACKMAN

1. Has two adopted children; a son, Oscar Maxmillian Jackman, in May 2000 and a girl, Ava Eliot Jackman in July 2005.
2. Met his wife – who is also an actress – while co-starring in the Australian TV series Correlli (1995).
3. He was a last-minute addition to the X-Men cast. Dougray Scott was originally cast as Wolverine, but Mission: Impossible II required two extra months of shooting.
4. Favorite curse word is "bullshit".
5. Won Broadway's 2004 Tony Award as Best Actor (Musical) for his portrayal of gay Australian singer/songwriter Peter Allen in The Boy From Oz.
6. His parents separated when he was 8. His mother then moved to England, leaving his father to raise him and his four siblings by himself in Australia.

7. Once said in an interview with Jay Leno that he is a fan of the Friday The 13th film series, and he became an actor because he wanted to play Jason in one.
8. Was School Captain during his final year of high school.
9. Is left-handed, although often seen doing things right-handed (such as shooting, much like actor Keanu Reeves).
10. Upon meeting Olivia Newton-John (John Travolta introduced the two while he and Jackman were filming Swordfish), he confessed to her that under his desk in elementary school, there was a poster with Newton-John on it, and he would kiss the poster every day.



▲ THE SPIRIT

Out: 1st January

Adapted from the legendary Will Eisner's graphic novels, The Spirit tells the visceral, action-packed story of a man who fakes his own death and fights crime from the shadows of Central City. The Octopus – who kills anyone unfortunate enough to see his face – has a different mission: he's going to wipe out the entire city. The Spirit tracks this cold-hearted killer from Central City's rundown warehouses, to the damp catacombs, to the windswept waterfront... all the while facing a bevy of beautiful women who either want to seduce, love or kill our masked crusader. In the vein of Batman Begins and Sin City, The Spirit takes us on a sinister, gut-wrenching ride of a hero who is born, murdered and born again. Scarlett Johansson, Samuel L. Jackson and Eva Mendes all star.



▲ MILK

Out: 23rd January

Academy Award nominee Gus Van Sant directs Academy Award winner Sean Penn as gay-rights icon Harvey Milk. Mr. Milk (1930-1978) was an activist and politician, and the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in America; in 1977, he was voted to the city supervisors' board of San Francisco. The following year, both he and the city's mayor George Moscone were shot to death by another city supervisor, Dan White. Mr. Milk was previously the subject of the Academy Award-winning documentary feature The Times of Harvey Milk, but Milk is the first non-documentary feature to explore the man's life and career. The cast includes super cute James Franco as Milk's boyfriend and Emile Hirsch as a gay activist. The most important gay film since Brokeback Mountain... and a bit of a tear-jerker too.



◀ **THE WRESTLER**

Out: 16th January

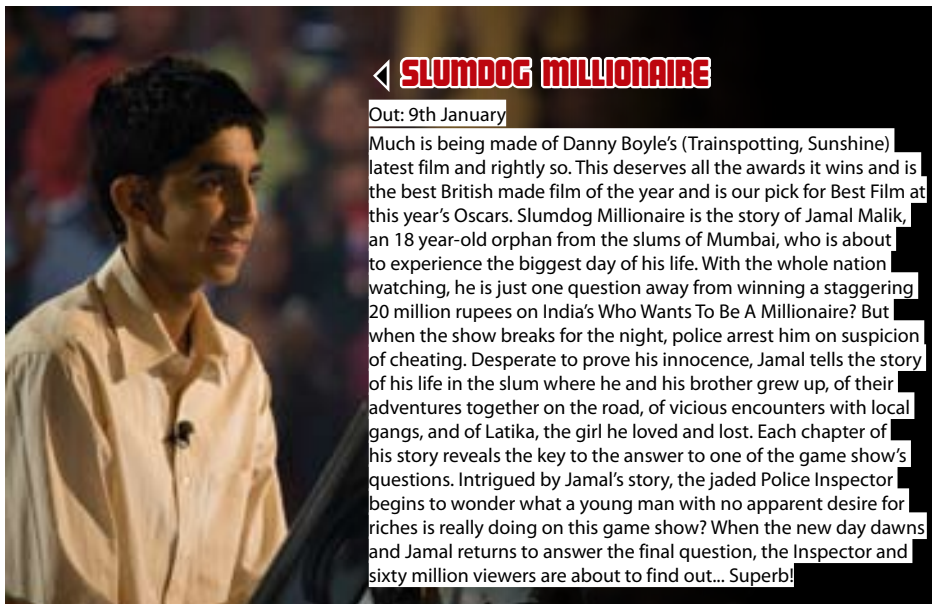
A hugely successful professional wrestler in the late 80's, Randy "The Ram" Robinson (Oscar-worthy comeback by Mickey Rourke) now ekes out a living performing for diehard wrestling fans in high school gyms and community centres around New Jersey. Estranged from his daughter, unable to sustain any real relationships, Randy lives for the thrill of the show, the adrenalin rush of combat and the adoration of his remaining fans. But when he suffers a heart attack in the middle of a bout, Randy's doctor tells him he needs to lay off the steroids and stop wrestling, for good. Forced out of show business, Randy begins to evaluate the state of his life. He tries to reconnect with his daughter (Evan Rachel Wood) and strike up a romance with aging stripper, Cassidy (Marisa Tomei). Winner of the Golden Lion award at the 2008 Venice Film Festival this is a heart-warming drama with Oscar buzz all over it.



▷ **SEX DRIVE**

Out: 9th January

With all the heavy dramas on offer this month some light relief comes in Sex Drive. Eighteen-year-old Ian Lafferty sets out on a cross country drive with his best friends Lance and Felicia in order to lose his virginity to a red-hot babe he met on the Internet. But the journey, filled with hilarious misadventures and raunchy escapades, teaches all three more than they expected about life and love. Randy, raucous and unexpectedly romantic, Sex Drive follows three friends on the road trip of a lifetime! For what it is, Sex Drive is actually a pretty good comedy worth checking out.



◀ **SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE**

Out: 9th January

Much is being made of Danny Boyle's (Trainspotting, Sunshine) latest film and rightly so. This deserves all the awards it wins and is the best British made film of the year and is our pick for Best Film at this year's Oscars. Slumdog Millionaire is the story of Jamal Malik, an 18 year-old orphan from the slums of Mumbai, who is about to experience the biggest day of his life. With the whole nation watching, he is just one question away from winning a staggering 20 million rupees on India's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? But when the show breaks for the night, police arrest him on suspicion of cheating. Desperate to prove his innocence, Jamal tells the story of his life in the slum where he and his brother grew up, of their adventures together on the road, of vicious encounters with local gangs, and of Latika, the girl he loved and lost. Each chapter of his story reveals the key to the answer to one of the game show's questions. Intrigued by Jamal's story, the jaded Police Inspector begins to wonder what a young man with no apparent desire for riches is really doing on this game show? When the new day dawns and Jamal returns to answer the final question, the Inspector and sixty million viewers are about to find out... Superb!

movie BUZZ

The classic 1984 movie *Romancing The Stone*, which helped launch the Hollywood career of Michael Douglas, is set to be remade.

Google "Proposition 8 Musical". Hollywood funnyman Jack Black plays a heavenly role in America's gay rights movement – he portrays Jesus in an online skit which mocks California's decision to ban same-sex marriages. The three-minute comedy sketch also stars openly gay actor Neil Patrick Harris, John C. Reilly and Margaret Cho.

Veteran actress Meryl Streep is keen to bring movie musical *Mamma Mia!* back to the big screen for a second time – but only if movie bosses can "get those fabulous boys back".

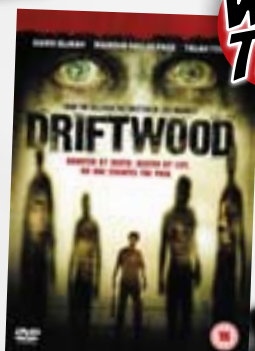
Shia LaBeouf is in for more action on the big screen after movie bosses tapped him to star in an upcoming legal thriller. The Indiana Jones actor has landed the title role in the movie version of John Grisham's new book *The Associate*, scheduled to hit shelves in January.

James Franco's kiss with Sean Penn in Harvey Milk biopic *Milk* left him feeling uncomfortable – because his co-star wanted to act out a full-on love scene. Franco, who plays San Francisco politician Milk's gay lover Scott Smith in the Gus Van Sant film, knew he'd have to pucker-up with Penn – but was shocked when the director told him the Oscar winning star wanted to take it further. He tells *Elle* magazine, "In the original script I read, there was only one real kissing scene." A month after Gus asked me to do it, they sent me another script, and on Page 5 there was a full-on love scene. And I was like, 'Gus, what the heck?' He says, 'Well, it was Sean's idea'."

Supermodel Gisele Bundchen is making secret plans to wed her boyfriend – and the sexiest man in American sport – Tom Brady in March, according to new reports.

British lothario Russell Brand is poised to reprise Dudley Moore's lovable rascal Arthur in a remake of the 1981 hit.

WIN
THIS



► DRIFTWOOD

Deeply affected by his involvement in the sudden death from a drug overdose of his elder rock star brother, 16-year-old David Forrester becomes withdrawn and obsessed by death. Concerned by his behaviour, his misguided parents send him off to Driftwood, a prison-like attitude adjustment camp for troubled youths run by the sadistic and homophobic Captain Kennedy. Naturally rebellious, David doesn't fit in too easily at the camp, a situation that is further exacerbated by his frequent run-ins with Kennedy and his brutal young henchman, Yates

Out: 26th January - £15.99 - Anchor Bay Entertainment

To be in with a chance to win a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question: **How old is the film's central character David?**



► THE TIMES OF HARVEY MILK

To complement the release of Milk starring Sean Penn, this award winning documentary commemorates the twenty-fifth anniversary of Harvey Milk's assassination. In 1978, Harvey Milk was elected to the San Francisco city council, becoming the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in California. One year later, he and Mayor George Moscone were shot and killed by Milk's fellow council member, former police officer Dan White. The Times of Harvey Milk recreates the tumultuous story of Milk's grass-roots political organising and election, through the shocking murders and their repercussions. Out: 26th January - £12.99 - Drakes Avenue Pictures

To be in with a chance to win a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question: **Who stars as Milk in the forthcoming movie of the same name?**

► THE LIVING END

The Living End explores the sexual and fatally romantic consequences of gay male attraction in the 90s. Propelled by a hardcore industrial soundtrack, the story focuses on the dire relationship between a pair of young outcasts - Luke the rootless hustler, and Jon, and HIV-positive freelance writer. With literally nothing to lose, they set off into the desolate, quasi-surrealistic American Wasteland. Gregg Araki's road-movie heralded the New Queer Cinema movement of the early 1990s.

Out: 26th January - £19.99 - Strand Releasing

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question. **Complete the title of a previous Gregg Araki movie - Totally ***** Up**



► BABYLON A.D.

Set in the post-apocalyptic future, Toorop (Vin Diesel) is a mercenary hired to deliver a package from the ravages of post-apocalyptic Eastern Europe to a destination in the teeming megalopolis of New York City. The secret package is a mysterious young woman carrying an organism with potential to become the next Messiah - and everybody wants to get their hands on it.

Out: 29th January - DVD £19.99 BluRay £24.99 - 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question. **Vin Diesel previously starred in a movie called The Chronicles of *****?**



► DORIAN BLUES

Capturing the quirk, candour and teenage angst of Napoleon Dynamite and My So-Called Life, this movie contemplates the tortures of high school as Dorian, resident outcast and butt of all "fag" jokes, makes his way through the perils of adolescence. But things finally click when the teen realises that he's gay. Before his Nixon-loving father can give him the conservative boot, Dorian is off to the bright lights of New York City for a whirlwind of exciting firsts - S&M clubs, coffee bars and attractive men.

Out: 26th January - £14.99 - TLA Releasing

To be in with a chance to win a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question: **Who wrote the book - The Picture of Dorian Gray?**



► NO REGRET

Set in Seoul's sleazy rent-boy scene, this is a startling erotic thriller, exploring the complexities and pressures of gay life in South Korea's burgeoning queer community. Orphan Sumin is doing all he can to make ends meet. When he is abruptly fired from his job at the local factory he faces no other option but to accept work in the city's leading upmarket male brothel, X-Large. The line between sex and love soon blurs when businessman Jaemin appears and it seems his fate is irrevocably tied to Orphan's.

Out: 12th January - £14.99 - TLA Releasing

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question. **What is the capital of South Korea?**



► SUNKISSED

Young, handsome and inquisitive novelist Teddy sets out into the American desert to clear his mind and cure his writer's block. Upon arriving at his agent's isolated house he meets the beautiful and enigmatic Leo, a mysterious lodger who helps him settle in. Before long, the pair enter into a passionate affair, yet amongst the oases and windswept dunes all is not as it seems. As Leo is plagued by dark visions of murder and violence, Teddy begins to question not only Leo's true identity, but his own grasp on what is real and what is fiction.

Out: 26th January - £14.99 - Peccadillo Pictures

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this DVD just answer this simple question. **Where will you find the Joshua Tree... in the Mojave or Sahara Deserts?**



COMPETITION TIME

Turn to page 58 for entry details

YES MORE GAY MOVIES!!!

The boys are back and they're as horny as ever! Packed with celebrity cameos and total gross-out humour, this outrageous follow-up to *Another Gay Movie* centres around the Spring Break adventures of Andy, Nico, Jarod and Griff when they enter the Fort Lauderdale "Gays Gone Wild" contest (a contest to see who gets laid the most). The frisky foursome become entwined in all sorts of sexual misadventures in this scandalously funny un-PC comedy!

Following the huge worldwide success of *Another Gay Movie*, comes the outrageous sequel comes from acclaimed director Todd Stephens (*Edge Of Seventeen*) and is packed with star turns from the likes of RuPaul, Perez Hilton, Amanda LePore, Lady Bunny and porn superstars Colton Ford and Brett Corrigan. Packed with special features, *Another Gay Sequel* is not to be missed!



"THE MOST HILARIOUS GAY SPOOF EVER MADE!"

— GAY.COM



Join Perez Hilton, RuPaul & everybody's favourite frisky foursome from *Another Gay Movie* at a "Gays Gone Wild" Spring Break in Ft. Lauderdale!

Packed with over 1 hour of outrageous bonus features!

Out December 29

tla releasing.co.uk

Available at madbad.co.uk



Considered Mother Nature's very own health spa since Biblical times, the Dead Sea is one of the richest sources of concentrated minerals on Earth. With this in mind, the experts at Dead Sea Healthcare have used the finest ingredients nature has to offer in its new grooming range for men. The neutrally scented DSH range combines the latest cosmetic technology with the mineral-rich resources of the Dead Sea to provide a fresh approach to male grooming.

The range from £4.99 - £14.99 Waitrose or from www.deadseahealthcare.com



£65 Floral shirt
£625 Mink jacket

www.feraud.com



Shirt £50

Knit £70

Trousers £60

Gloves £30

www.austinreed.co.uk



£29.99 Cobalt blue check hoody

£59.99 Coat

£39.99 Jeans

£39.99 Hi-tec funky hi tops

www.riverisland.com



Xen-mas

Don't let the lack of winter sun get you down. Perfect for self tan novices the quick-drying, gorgeously scented Xen-Tan Dark Mousse dispenses as a whipped foam and the instant colour helps to guide your application for a streak-free even tan for up to 5 days.

£21.95, 118ml - The whole range available from House of Fraser



£20 colourful T's www.terratag.com



£120 - Trainers www.realrealgenuine.com

**WIN
THIS**



◀ A PRETTY CLEVER I-DEA

The innovative and compact design of the i-Station25 can accommodate the iPhone/iPod in vertical or horizontal orientations. This stylish and sleek unit also features a built in accelerometer, which allows the i-Station25 to be positioned on its side for Video playback, whilst maintaining stereo sound positioning. Furthermore this clever functionality will automatically adjust to replicate the orientation of the unit. The i-Station25 Delivers an amazing power output of 8 Watts RMS from four 40mm Speakers.

£69 www.logic3.com

To be in with a chance of winning one of these fantastic and versatile speaker systems just answer this simple question: **How much power output is there from the 4x40mm speakers?**

COMPETITION TIME

Turn to page 58 for entry details

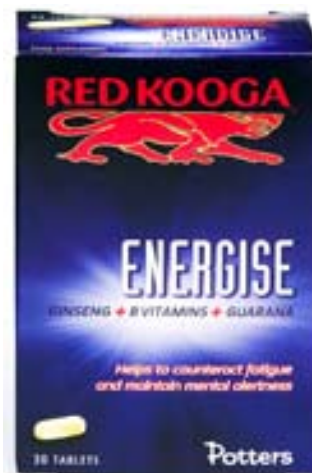


Product price: £201.00
www.vavawatch.com

◀ HAIR TODAY...

There are times when hairs that are sprouting up everywhere need to be attacked and tamed by a multitude of blades. The Philips QG3190 9-in-1 Deluxe Grooming Kit has enough attachments and cutting systems to keep you buff and beautiful no matter how hirsute you are.

Around £40
www.philips.com



▲ PAINT THE TOWN RED

With the New Year almost upon us, there is more pressure on us all to be the life and soul of the party and not to run out of steam. Fatigue can affect anybody and almost everyone will experience low energy levels in varying degrees at some point in their life. Red Kooga Energise is a supplement, containing ginseng and guarana that can quickly help to counteract fatigue, maintain mental alertness and assist in revitalising the mind and body

From £4.49
www.pottersherbals.co.uk

COME TO CUMBRIA!

CITY AND SEA, MOUNTAIN AND LAKE: ADRIAN GILLAN CHECKS OUT QUEER CONTRASTS IN WILDEST CUMBRIA!



Cumbria mesmerised Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter. It bore Stan Laurel and Melvyn Bragg - but won't bore you! It created Mint Cake and Cumberland Sausage - not to mention gurning!

Carlisle

The northernmost English city, Carlisle also has the smallest population but largest land area - plus can even boast having had the first letterbox on mainland Britain!

Stay at still-elegant Victorian Lakes Court Hotel (Court Square, Carlisle; T: 01228 531 951; www.lakescourthotel.co.uk) - out the front of the mail railway station. Nice bar and restaurant. Or, if peckish, try nearby Michelangelo's (www.ristorante-michelangelo.co.uk), for fine filling Italian fodder.

In addition to modern Lanes shopping precinct, browse the award-winning Market Hall - now one of the few remaining covered Victorian markets in the UK.

Discover times past at the Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery (www.tulliehouse.co.uk); Carlisle Castle (www.english-heritage.org.uk/carlislecastle) - fleetingly home to Mary Queen of Scots; or Carlisle Cathedral (www.carlislecathedral.org.uk) where Sir Walter Scott married his French bride. March in the footsteps of legions, along the Hadrian's Wall National Trail (www.historic-carlisle.org.uk) - or even bus it, savouring some of the friendly market villages en route. Visit the fascinating ruins and visitor centre at Birdoswald Roman Fort (www.english-heritage.org.uk).

Check out some of the more gay-frequented bars on Botchergate, near the rail station, such as friendly Solo's and chic Unit - the latter currently hosting a gay night on the first Monday of every month.

Workington

A half hour's pleasant train ride west of Carlisle, Workington is an ancient market and industrial town at the sea-battered mouth of the River Derwent - some parts north of which dating back to Roman times. It was in the 18th Century, with the exploitation of the local iron ore and coal pits, that Workington expanded to become a major industrial town and port - the place where Henry Bessemer first introduced his revolutionary steel making process. With the decline of the steel industry and coal mining - and closure of the main plant in 2006 - the town has, of necessity, diversified.

Stay at Osborne House B&B (31 Brow Top, Workington; T: 01900 603 400) - a charmingly run old Georgian property near the town centre, a short walk from Cumbria's only gay pub! Eat at the nearby Bounty (Finkle Street) or Caspian (Derwent Drive).

There are numerous churches throughout the town - imposing St John's Church having been built in 1823 to commemorate the battle of Waterloo.

The Helena Thompson Museum (www.htmworkington.com) displays pottery, silver, glass and furniture dating from Georgian times, recording the social and industrial history of Workington and the area. Once one of the finest manor houses in the region, parts of Workington Hall, in the nearby park, are 14th Century.

The Steam Packet Inn (51 Stanley Street, Workington; T: 01900 62186; www.steampacket-inn.co.uk) is Cumbria's only full-time gay venue, rocking through 'til the wee small hours all week long. Try out its notorious FishBowl drinks offering (lemonade, wine and six - yes six - spirits) - straws included! Great Sunday lunch - with all the trimmings! Heaps of sexy locals. Puts the cum in Cumbria!

Keswick & The Lakes

South of Carlisle and east of Workington, the stunningly located small town of Keswick - nestled on the shores of Derwentwater, amidst the Northern Lakes, in the Lake District National Park - has a wide array of shops, restaurants and galleries - even a busy theatre (www.theatrebythelake.com).

Explore major lakes (Derwentwater, Bassenthwaite Lake, Crummock Water, Buttermere and Thirlmere) nearby, plus picturesque valleys and unspoilt villages - with the mountains of Skiddaw (931m), Scafell (964m), Scafell Pike (977m) and Helvellyn (949m) all within easy reach. For those less keen on steep ascents, many of the smaller hills such as Latrigg (367m), Catbells (445m) or even little Castle Crag near quaint Grange afford splendid views for modest effort. Level lakeside walks abound.

Cast off from any Keswick Launch (www.keswick-launch.co.uk) jetty to take in wondrous Derwentwater scenery, afloat. Jump ashore at one of its stops to enjoy sites and walks, including Brandelhow Park, Lodore Falls, Chinese Bridge, Catbells, Friar's Crag and, of course, lovely Keswick itself. Stay at Howe Keld (5-7 The Heads, Keswick; T: 017687 72417 / freephone 0800 783 0212; www.howekeld.co.uk) - a well-positioned property offering modern chic eco-sensitive 4* B&B.

The trip was hosted by Cumbria Tourism which can be contacted on 015398 22222; or visit www.golakes.co.uk or www.lakedistrictoutdoors.co.uk. Lake District accommodation booking line: 0845 450 1199

Other useful websites: www.cumbriatourism.org; www.gaycumbria.com; www.historic-carlisle.org.uk; www.keswick.org

Carlisle, Penrith and the Lake District are just 3-4 hours away from London Euston, and around 2 hours from Glasgow or Edinburgh - by Virgin Trains: www.virgintrains.co.uk



Website: JarrettJames.moonfruit.co.uk Mobile: 07876525392
Location: London Center

A MAN WITH A RESOLUTION

YES BENT READERS IT'S THE NEW YEAR AND THIS IS THE TIME WHEN MOST OF US DECIDE TO MAKE SOME NEW AND SERIOUS CHANGES IN OUR VERY HECTIC AND CRAZY LIFE. THESE CHANGES ARE NORMALLY RELATED TO OUR HEALTH. STOP SMOKING, START TRAINING, LOSE SOME BODY FAT, START EATING HEALTHIER AND SO FORTH.

This is the probably the worst time to make changes in your life. For one, it is highly ineffective and from previous experience, there are very few of us who actually stick to them! Only 20% of us actually stick to those new promises we make to ourselves. Most resolutions are the same every year, and, tend to fade away come Valentines.

Don't let the statistics determine your success. I will offer you some inside tips to help you become that 20% and ensure you resolutions remain intact and become achievements. Never again will you need to make any New Year resolutions.

Develop a Support System - Tell your friends and family about your goals and how you will achieve them. Better still, set some mutual goals with your friends and work together. Ask them to follow up with you on your progress from time to time to ensure you are on top of things.

Make your Resolutions Attainable - Don't try to conquer Rome in a day. All goals must be realistic and achievable. Give yourself the best chance possible at achieving them. Don't plan to run a Marathon by March. Aim to participate in a 10km walk or a fun run for charity. There are plenty of small events you can choose from.

Make a Plan - If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Just as a business is only as successful as its business plan, your lifestyle works on the same principles... write down specific dates to achieve your goals.

Break it Down - If your goal is to lose say 5kgs, then write out step by step, just how you will achieve this. If you have tried to achieve this before, also write down the obstacles you experienced that prevented you from achieving them. Then set out to minimise them. If work is one reason why you can not get to a gym, then go for a walk at lunch time or speak with your superiors or HR department to introduce workplace health and fitness initiatives.

DON'T DIET!!! - We all know diets don't work. Changing your eating habits does not constitute dieting. Eat sensibly. Eat 4-5 smaller meals per day. Include plenty of vegetables, protein and minimise carbohydrates. Do not eliminate them,

Reward Yourself - With gifts, holidays, weekends away, hot boys off Gaydar, a spa package, massage or go shopping. Refrain from using food as a reward. You can also set yourself financial rewards. Set aside a certain amount of money each day or week for getting to the gym X times or eating your five planned meals for the day.

Keep a Journal - Write down everything you eat and what time you ate it. Record your exercise duration and if possible your total energy expenditure (calories). When things aren't going to plan, you can look through your journal and make adjustments accordingly.

Get Professional Assistance - Employ the services of a professional. Find a personal trainer or fitness coach who can devise the most appropriate exercise and nutrition programme that you enjoy and can stick with. They will help you stay on track and help you work through the tough times. check www.jarrettjames.moonfruit.com

Make sure your New Years Resolutions for 2009 are not on your list for 2010!



PAIN BARRIER

If you are a gym bunny or take your exercising seriously, occasionally you'll end up with aches and pains that you could do without. This new, home use, ultrasound device increases blood circulation and reduces inflammation. It's all very technical but has been scientifically and medically proven to treat a range of medical conditions.

£129 - Special introductory launch price.

www.ultralieve.com



Whatz On



FITLADS.net



CLUB OF THE MONTH

CRUZ NEW YEARS EVE

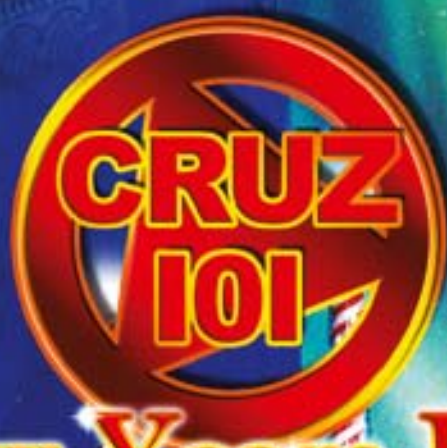
Living up to its reputation, as the best night out in the North, this New Year Manchester's busiest Gay Club Cruz 101 hosts two mega parties for the sexiest clubbers. As we enter 2009 things are kicking off with an amazing New Year's Eve Party on wed 31st December. The club will open a full hour earlier at 10pm giving you more time to get those drinks in before counting down the seconds to the spectacular show at midnight. Miss Cara and co will be causing mayhem and ensuring your transition into 2009 is a memorable one. To help you combat the credit crunch Cruz will be putting on a range of affordable drink offers including premium doubles with postmixer £3.80, double Smirnoff Vodka £4.20, Carlsberg bottles £2.50 and Baby Blue and Pink £2.50. Your soundtrack to the evening will be Pop, Disco, Dance & R'n'B Anthems courtesy of Almighty Donald and Rob James.

Now in its 8th year on Thursday 1st January Cruz and Poptastic will be nursing you into 2009 with the 'Village Recovery Party' and the first Back2Back of the year. John Hamilton and Paul Mcavoy will be playing the Poptastic brand of Pop, Disco, Dance and RnB upstairs in Cruz while downstairs in the Sub depths Rob James plays Progressive and Funky House. Check out the Cruz advert in this edition of Bent for Credit Crunch Busting Vouchers valid throughout January with reduced entry and cheap drink offers.

If you were one of the lucky ones to buy a Cruz Early Bird New Year's Eve ticket make sure you keep hold of them after the event as these tickets give you entry to the club throughout January at members prices.



Manchester's Favourite Gay Venue



New Years Eve

Wed 31st Dec / 10pm - 7am / Advance tickets £9 til 24th Dec

Join the Cruz team as we welcome in 2009 with a spectacular pyrotechnic display & plenty of shenanigans from Miss Cara & co with a host of offers to make the credit crunch less crunchy!

Premium Dbs £3.80 / Dbl Vodka £4.20 / Baby Blue & Pink £2.50 / Carlsberg bottles £2.50

Pop, Disco, Dance & RnB Anthems / Almighty Donald, Rob James

Thu 1st Jan - 11pm - 5am

Back2Back Recovery Party

Jump into bed with Cruz & Poptastic as we unleash the Village Recovery Party & the first Back2Back of 2009

Poptastic, Pop, Disco, Dance & RnB Anthems / John Hamilton, Sidekick Paul - Cruz Funky & Progressive House Rob James

**FREE ENTRY
VOUCHER**

**Valid on
MONDAY**

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Jan 2009

This voucher holds no
monetary value
R.O.A.R.

**£1 ENTRY
VOUCHER**

**Valid on
SUNDAY**

4th, 11th, 18th, 25th Jan 2009

This voucher holds no
monetary value
R.O.A.R.

**Baby Blue & Pink
Carlsberg Bottles**

**£1.50 with
this Voucher**

Mon, Wed, Sun Jan 2009

This voucher holds no
monetary value
R.O.A.R.

**Sourz
Shots**

**£1.50 with
this Voucher**

Mon, Wed, Sun Jan 2009

This voucher holds no
monetary value
R.O.A.R.

101 Princess Street, Manchester. M1 6DD. T: 0161 9500 101 www.cruz101.com Limited wheelchair access



fitlads.net

NORTH

Photo: Darrell Hirst



NEW YEAR ESSENTIALS

With our sexy boys and delicious dancers, and of course the Essential muscle boys why not make a date to join our New Year at Essential with celebrity host Chrissy Darling and her Door Dolls. It's the biggest party in Manchester and as it's an all-nighter the place will be rockin' right thru 10pm til 7am. Essential and its sister bar Queer are always ahead of the game when it comes to giving their super sexy customers all the things they want... so start the year with a few positive resolutions and make Essential part of your fantastic 2009.

Visit www.essentialmanchester.com for photos from the club and details of all up-coming events.



WHAT A NIGHT

Eat your hats X Factor thingy, Via in Manchester had some budding singing stars in the making at their recent Corona Challenge Karaoke Final... and boy could they sing... well... most of them could anyway. Even the ones that didn't make the top three were pretty good - choosing an incredible range of songs from Sinatra to Snow Patrol.

With £500 in cash prizes up for grabs, Via was packed with the finalists, their supporters and a huge crowd just wanting to be there for the spectacle. Needless to say, manager Tony and his team didn't disappoint by putting on a fab nights entertainment. However, there could be only one supreme winner and that was Neil who sang a couple of pretty good RnB numbers and walked off with the coveted title and a £250 cash prize.

Photo: Darrell Hirst





essential

Masquerade

NEW YEARS EVE

ALL-NIGHTER ALCOHOL SERVED THROUGHOUT

WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

10PM - 7AM TICKETS £12 (+BF)

Main Arena: APHRODITE, THADDEUS, ALAN STEVENS

Pop Lounge: NICKSY (Key 103), CARL SPENCER (Galaxy Manchester), DJ GOLDEN, DJ OVERTONE

Hosted by: CHRISSY DARLING, THE DOOR DOLLS AND THE SEXY ESSENTIAL DANCERS & MUSCLE BOYS

Pre-Party at

Queer

FROM 7PM

**WITH ALL THE ESSENTIAL DJS
AND ENTERTAINERS**

Followed by

CLONK

4AM - 10AM

**ADMISSION £6 IF BOUGHT IN ESSENTIAL
£8 ON THE DOOR**

fitlads, for fit lads

NORTH

CELEBRATION

Prepare yourself for the definitive party night of the year, from 9pm to 9am - don those glad rags for the grand finale to 2008, and welcome in 2009 in style; as the Flamingo brings you the ultimate end of year extravaganza. Expect nothing less than an astounding night packed with style. Enjoy uplifting anthems, memorable classics, a stunning light and visual production, the Flamingo dancers and entertainers, and a live performance from the voice of the Freemasons, Katherine Ellis - making a welcome return to Flamingo bringing her inimitable style and glamour to the best party in town. Advance tickets are now on sale for only £12 (saving £3), by calling the booking office on 01253 624901, but hurry they are selling fast. For those party animals amongst you, the party continues after 9am with the breakfast club at The Flying Handbag. But no time to rest after this frenetic celebration as Angie Brown is live on stage on New Year's Day, and Friday 2nd January sees X Factor finalist the Spanish singing siren Ruth Lorenzo entertain the crowds. With an enviable 26 years long reputation of bringing you the finest of entertainment, and the biggest nights in town, there is only one place to visit this New Year - Flamingo Blackpool.

New Years Eve Party 2008

9.00pm - 9.00am

Special Guest Star

**Katherine
Ellis**
The Voice Of The Freemasons

Advance Tickets **£12**
Now On Sale **Save £3**
Box Office : 01253 624901

New Years Day

11.00pm - 4.00am

**Angie
Brown**

Live On Stage

Friday 2nd Jan

11.00pm - 4.00am



Ruth Lorenzo
Live On Stage

Wherever You Are For
New Years Eve, Flamingo
Wishes You A Happy And
Prosperous 2009



44 Queen Street, Blackpool, FY1 2AY.
Tel: 01253 649151. www.flamingoonline.co.uk

fitlads, for fit lads

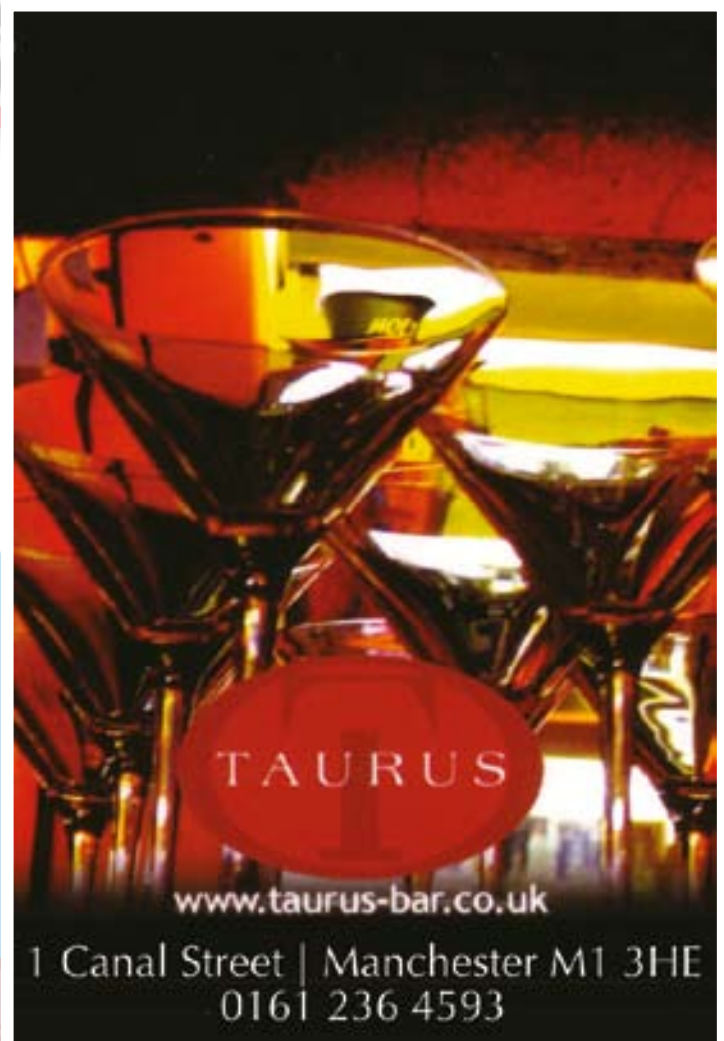
Photos: Darrell Hirst

NORTH



TAURUS

Come to Taurus on New Year's Eve and spend the night getting all the gossip with Polly. See in 2009 as we light up the sky with our fantastic midnight firework display! Don't be alone at midnight! Free Entry! Hot boys and lots more delights! As the countdown begins Polly, Ian and the Team will be on hand to give that lovely warm body rush to help greet the first day of a new year. And of course we do thank you for the kind support and custom in 2008' and will bring more of the same in 2009... plus... a few surprises along the way!



TAURUS

www.taurus-bar.co.uk

1 Canal Street | Manchester M1 3HE
0161 236 4593

NOT MANY BARS COME OF AGE!



**AMAZING BIRTHDAY PARTY SPECIAL
LIVE P.A. | GIVEAWAYS | DRINK OFFERS**

FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 2009

**BOUNCE BACK
JANUARY**

**25%
OFF**

**A FANTASTIC CREDIT CRUNCH BUSTING
DEAL... GET 25% OFF ALL DRINKS* THIS
JANUARY. COLLECT YOUR SPECIAL
DISCOUNT CARD TODAY FROM THE BAR!**

* Discount offers starts 1st January and ends 30th January 2009. Excludes Champagne and other offers. Discount card must be shown.
46 CANAL STREET, MANCHESTER, M1 3WD | WWW.MANTOBAR.COM | 0161 236 2667

Fitlads.net club nights in:
Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Blackpool, Cardiff

www.fitladsparty.com

Photo: Darrell Hirst

NORTH



ORGANIC

Every Saturday a visit to Spirit in Manchester makes for an Organic night. One of the city's leading after-hours clubs has Funky House high on the agenda with a team of DJs led by the brilliant Gregg Holden and the inspired Nik Denton. On New Year's Eve they host the post Federation Party where they are joined by Ben Hamilton, Babyjane and a special guest who will be announced before the event. Organic will be keeping their door price the same as always £6.00 with a ticket stub/discount voucher or £7.00 without. If you would like to know more on Organic and what they get up to when most people are asleep... check out their myspace group www.myspace.com/oranic.





ROCK AROUND

AT ORGANIC THIS FESTIVE SEASON

home of the jam nitty gritty

BOXING DAY AFTERHOURS

THE FIRST OF OUR TWO FESTIVE
LATE NIGHT GATHERINGS, PROVIDING
THE OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY FOR
FEDERATION'S ANNUAL BOXING DAY
EVENT AT THE RITZ

Featuring our rockin' DJs
NIK DENTON
GREGG HOLDEN
PAUL FURLEY
ROSS HOMSON
LEE YEOMANS

NEW YEARS EVE AFTERHOURS

FOLLOWING FEDERATION ON
NEW YEARS EVE ORGANIC WILL
ONCE AGAIN SWING OPEN ITS
DOORS AS THE OFFICIAL
AFTER PARTY

Featuring our rockin' DJs
NIK DENTON
GREGG HOLDEN
BABYJANE
BEN HAMILTON
AND SPECIAL GUEST

2am until 5am

SPIRIT | CANAL ST | MANCHESTER | M1

£6.00 WITH FED STAMP/TICKET STUB | £7.00 WITHOUT

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/CLUBORGANIC



ORGANIC...

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NORTH





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Pack of 10 Party Shots £7

Party Cocktail Jug £9.75

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View | Canal Street | Manchester | M1 3HW | Management reserve the right to change or withdraw these offers at any time. Subject to availability | View welcomes responsible drinkers

NORTH

MANTO MAKEOVER

Manto Bar on Manchester's world famous Canal Street first opened its doors to the gay community back in 1991. Over the years the name may have changed a few times but to those who have loved this venue from the very beginning it has always been known as Manto's. As it fast approaches a landmark date that few only ever dream of, Manto Bar has under-gone a make-over and put itself back on the map. The dreary dark coloured decor has been replaced with an array of colours and designs that make it look unique and very much a part of the gay village. In addition, they have added a cool playstation area where customers can play the latest games and have fun. This corner of the bar also comes with multi-coloured bean bags so you can relax and unwind with your friends. Not only has the venue been modernised, but there are also some fantastic drinks promotions available from the bar. With a new range of shooters (30 in total) and a selection of great tasting cocktails that are 2-4-1 from Sunday - Thursday before 9pm the venue is definitely aiming at gay people in a way it never has before. They even have their own draft lager called Poof Juice (4.1%) on sale for only £2.25. Under the new ownership of Craig Mathewson, we're told all this is only part 1 of a 3 part phase in the redevelopment of Manto Bar. So it makes you wonder what else is in store in the future! Manto Bar will be celebrating its 18th Birthday on Friday 30th January 2009 and promises to bring you a spectacular night with a live P.A., great giveaways and special drink promotions on the night. Top that off with a 25% discount campaign running throughout January and you know you're going to have a great start to the year with Manto Bar.





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In the Red Corner
Gregg Holden
Jason Guy

In the Blue Corner
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£10 in advance / More on the door

EXPLODE INTO 2009 IN STYLE

NEW YEAR'S EVE

WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

Join us for the party of the year as Federation explodes into 2009 in style featuring the biggest tracks of 2008 & some future anthems yet to come in 2009.

Plus the return of our entertainers & dancers with full stage shows, awesome new lasers, sound system & special effects. The count down to 2009 comes courtesy of some very special celebrities.

with DJs
Gregg Holden, Jason Guy & Nik Denton

£15 in advance / More on the door

10pm - 4am @ The Ritz, Whitworth Street, Manchester

Tickets available from Clone Zone, Spirit, Manta, Taurus, Velvet, Spar (Oxford Road and Piccadilly)
or online from www.ticketweb.co.uk

www.clubfederation.com

Join the Official Federation Facebook Group



NORTH



FED HEADS INTO THE NEW YEAR

New Year's Eve. Join us for the party of the year as Federation explodes into 2009 in style with residents DJs Gregg Holden, Jason Guy and Nik Denton with some of the biggest tracks of 2008 and some future anthems yet to come in 2009 plus the return of our entertainers and dancers with full stage shows, awesome new lasers, sound system and special effects. The count down to 2009 comes courtesy of some very special celebrities.

For more info and tickets go to www.clubfederation.com or join our official facebook group.

New Years Eve – Wednesday 31st
December 08/09
10pm until 4am
© The Ritz, Whitworth Street,
Manchester.

Photo: Mark Hawkins



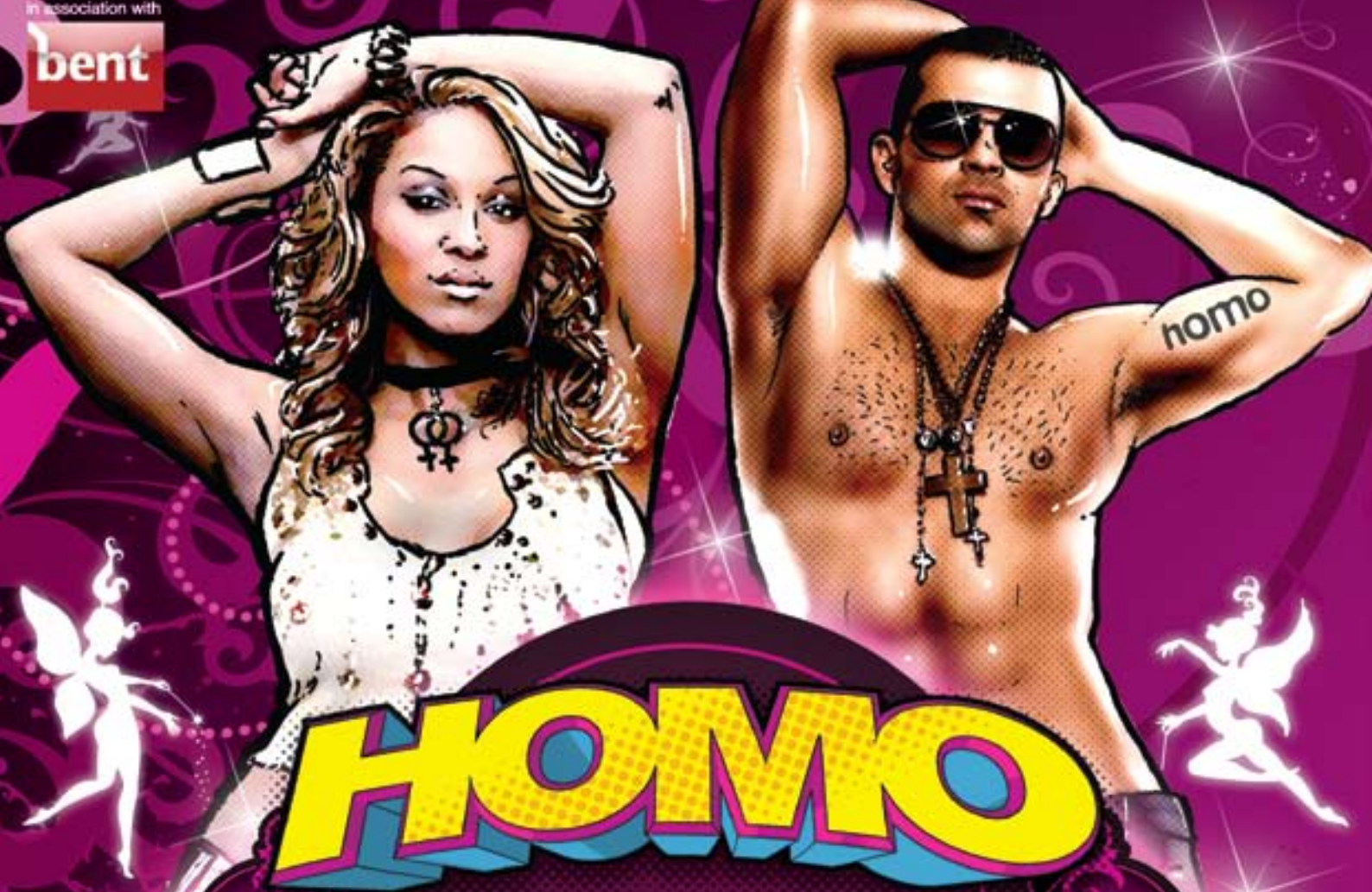
NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH A MISSION

Set to take the clubbers of Leeds from 2008 well into 2009 - Mission is having a Fairytale themed NY eve, with the Homo boys and Vanilla (of Manchester) girls. With Scott Kelly (Climax, Sheffield) in the POP room giving some cheesy poptastic hits, Mark Park (Funky Dory) releasing the best in funky vocal and up lifting house, and DJ Riv of Vanilla crunching the dirty and lively Indie, rock combo. The full club is open for the New Year's extravaganza that appeals to every style you can imagine and with the Ice cannons getting you ready for the best countdown in the north of England, we are going to blow you away with the experience, on the one night of the year you don't want to forget.

Opening at 21.00 till super late and admission prices in advance only £8 (Available @ Fibre, www.ticketweb.co.uk 0844 477 1000, Clone Zone and Mission) and only £10 on the night with selected drinks £2.50, it's the Homo place to be this New Years Eve.



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HOMO

*New Year's
Eve*

Fairytale Ball



December 31st 2008, 9pm - 4am.
Club Mission, Heaton's Court, Leeds
See us on Facebook (3Sum Official)

Tickets
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www.ticketweb.co.uk
& Clone Zone
£10 on the door

Selected
drinks
£2.50

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All customers at the Homo NYE event can
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IN:SESSION after-hours which runs from
4am until midday on New Years Day!

**3
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mission



fitlads.net

NORTH

Photo: Darrell Hirst



RAT PACK AT THE VIADUCT

The year ends with a flourish at the Viaduct in Leeds as it goes all Pink on 28th December for a charity fund raiser. Tribute acts and a Pink theme will guarantee a night to remember so frock up and wear Pink. Meanwhile, the venue has definitely come up with a fantastic New Year's Eve celebration featuring the music of the Rat Pack. Robbie Williams and a host of other contemporary stars have tried to emulate the greats like Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jnr but the guys themselves were legends. The Viaduct has a 'Sinatra' singing those fabulous tunes and the entire evening is given over to a Las Vegas feel. Free nibbles, champagne and a fun casino will add to the merriment of a fabulous 50s inspired night. You are encouraged to come as one of those super sexy superstars of the 50s - think classy and sparkly.

Tickets are on sale now so contact the venue to reserve your place.

The New Year sees a few changes to the DJ line up but the place will still have that fun buzz it has become famous for. Thursday and Sunday will see Miss Carla Jackson bringing her undoubted talents to tease and taunt her audience. Friday has the incorrigible Lucy Lastic treating us all to loads of silly games and giveaways. Sunday... yes you guessed it, the fantastic Anna Glypta will be on hand to play those rocking, poppy, disco hits that everyone loves.

Check out the Viaduct myspace for all the latest news and gossip.

Hayley and the team say they would like to thank all their customers who have made the Viaduct one of the busiest places on the Leeds gay scene and wish all those friends a fantabulous 2009

Viaduct, Lower Biggate, Leeds
Tel: 0113 391 2741



Winter at...



the VIADUCT

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Karaoke with DJ Jackie

Tuesday

Chillout Night till 2am

Wednesday

Mix of Modern Music open till 2am

Thursday

Glamour with Miss Carla Jackson

Friday

Lucy's Laundry with Lucy Lastic

Saturday

Camp Attack with in-house DJ
Anna Glypta

Sunday

Sunday with Carla Jackson

Opening Times

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Thursday: 12pm - 4am

Friday & Saturday: 12pm - 6am

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www.fitlads.net

NORTH



COURT IN THE PINK POUNDER

Due to popular demand Queens Court is pleased to announce the return of "PinkPounder" every Thursday night from 8pm until 3am. Expect a trendy crowd of sexy boys and hip girls, whipped into a froth by DJ Scott Kelly of Homo and Climax. There are two dance floors where the music policy promises to be funky, slick and fresh, with a commercial soundtrack perfect for all those who like to start their weekend early. Dirt-cheap "beat the credit crunch" drinks are available all night, including premium spirits such as Smirnoff and Bacardi and a top range of draught beverages. Door tax is £2 before 10pm and £3 after, half price with NUS card. Drag host Chelsea Denton will be on hand to greet guests at the door and ensure everyone has a glamorous night, in her own inimitable way. So party the night away with style from 8pm to 3am at Queens Court Leeds. Don't miss out on Queens Court's happy hour every day between 5pm and 8pm when all drinks are virtually half price! Queens Court, Lower Biggate, Leeds Tel: 0113 245 9449





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Feeling drained and exhausted after the chaos of Christmas? Why not treat yourself to a relaxing sauna, steam and Jacuzzi at Plastic Ivy in Dewsbury. With a range of discounted entry prices, and free membership throughout January, you'll be sure to start the new year in a relaxed mood, or a raunchy one - if you've got the energy!

If you haven't been before, Plastic Ivy is a busy, clean, and stylish sauna located just outside of Leeds next to the motorways, and is very popular with married & bi guys, as well as those wanting discretion.

The new year sees the continuation of the successful 'Discount Thursdays @ Ivy', where entry is reduced all day for everyone. On top of this, all evenings after 6pm are still just £5 in - something that's proving very popular with those looking for a quick stop off just after work or college.

You can find Plastic Ivy on the web where you can check out the special offers, Christmas opening times and photos of this discrete and friendly venue. So what are you waiting for, go on, treat yourself, and your wallet too.

www.plasticivy.co.uk | Open every day except Tuesdays | 12noon-11pm | 33 Leeds Rd, Dewsbury, WF12 7BB | 01924 455 600

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The Pipeworks in Glasgow is situated in a discreet location within easy walking distance of the city's main gay venues. Inside you'll find excellent facilities maintained to a very high standard with hygiene and customer service being the top priorities in this establishment. The staff are welcoming and friendly. The huge 25-man stainless steel spa pool is the hub of the club and along with the 20-man dry sauna and 20-man steam room there's lots of space to get all hot and bothered. The Pipeworks also boasts individual rest rooms, some for the more adventurous (prison cell anyone?), and some even fitted with their own plasma TV screens. The sling room, dark room and glory holes get their fair share of action too. The internet cafe and TV lounge are always busy with lots of guys of all ages and with the newly extended weekend opening hours (open 'til 9am every Saturday & Sunday morning) there is now even more time to explore, relax and unwind in this stylish and friendly environment.

Pipeworks: Tel: 0141 552 5502





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RELAXED AND EASY

With cheap flights to Mallorca (Majorca) being readily available from most airports across the UK it seems incredible that the capital Palma is often overlooked by British tourists. The city has always been popular with the rest of Europe but we here in the UK have flown in, hit the more commercial holiday centres and left this absolute gem of a place alone, which is a great shame. Perhaps surprisingly, the city also has its own fantastic beaches, while many of the other famous hotspots around the island can be reached easily by the efficient, and relatively cheap, bus services.

The Hotel Rosamar is situated in the middle of the gay, bohemian area of Palma known as El Terreno. This "barrio" in the sixties was where all the hotels, restaurants and bars were established as it was not until the late seventies that areas such as Magaluf and Arenal became popular near the sea. El Terreno was where the rich of Palma had their holiday homes and there used to be direct access to the sea but that has all long gone with the creation of the Paseo Marítimo, a man made, six-lane road running the length of the sea front. Within easy walking distance of the Rosamar are several gay bars and venues, elsewhere in Palma you can count on another ten gay or gay friendly establishments. Amongst all this the Hotel Rosamar carries on with its relaxed, easy atmosphere and reputation second to none for cleanliness. The plants and trees on the garden terrace have matured and with the construction of a permanent bar, the terrace has become the central meeting place for all the gay visitors to the area. The Hotel Rosamar enjoys a large returning guest list of truly valued clients.

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TAKING A READING

By Les Lea

My tenth reading of the day and it was still only 9am. Most people were either already out at work or hadn't got up yet so when I knocked on their door or rang the bell I'm either greeted with silence or some grumpy person, annoyed at being woken early, reluctantly beckoning me in. I've been reading meters now for the last 6 months, a job I was grateful to get having finished University but with no idea what I wanted to do. My Sociology degree seemed useless, as everyone appeared to have one and getting a job had proved harder than I imagined. Therefore, when this opportunity came up I grabbed it. It wasn't hard work but you had to fulfil a quota every day so you're working against the clock nearly all the time.

I knocked again, I was just about to post a card through the letterbox telling the homeowner I had called, when the door opened, and an absolute vision greeted me. His huge black body was all muscular and seemed to gleam close-up. He was only wearing a tiny pair of shiny red silky shorts and I could see a very nice outline pushing against the revealing fabric. He saw me looking and said without any apology, "I always wake up with a hard-on." He allowed me in and pointed towards a small door under the stairs.

"With your body," I fawned as I set about my task, "I bet you don't often wake up alone." I felt cheekily brave as I peered into the dark recesses of the cupboard struggling with my torch... and my suddenly uncomfortable dick as it tried to escape from my grey work pants. I tapped the details in to my hand-held computer and emerged from that dimly lit space slightly embarrassed at my developing stiffness. I hoped he wouldn't notice. Who am I kidding? I'd been bent over wagging my arse around whilst searching for those illusive numbers and hoped that he found my tight but shapely bum enough of a turn on. As I turned to face him and tell him I'd completed what I needed to do he flexed his muscles and posed as a strongman for a second. "You like it?"

"Sure," I enthused, taking in his rather superbly developed body, "and I bet it takes quite a bit of work to keep it like that."

"I was talking about my cock," he smiled.

A quick glance at that lewdly developing shiny red pouch had me hotter than hell.

"So was I" I quickly lied, it seemed like a good response. He looked me over and I could see there was plenty going on in his head. Eventually he scanned down to my crotch and observed I was having a similar reaction to this early morning situation as he was. Although my work uniform is pretty drab, all grey with the company logo printed in yellow on the back of the shirt, the pants are a whole different story. Tight and cheaply shiny... apparently, only the best polyester would do for the company, and I wore them well. They formed around my bum and my slim hips an absolute treat, and my not unsubstantial crotch, give me a sexy workman look. I'd had plenty of looks from both women and men as I'd poked around in their various cupboards and closets looking for the correct meters; you'd be surprised how many people have no idea where they are situated in their own home. I digress. The point is... I know I look hot... and I was hoping to make some kind of connection on this occasion.

His bulge had grown considerably since I'd entered his home and whilst I was still on my knees crawling out of the closet I could see he'd made a decision. He tugged down the front of his shorts and out sprang his goliath of a throbbing cock. "You'd better take a reading on this... I'm in urgent need to plug something!"

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Simon says...

Find more out about Simon or
message him your problems at

www.myspace.com/simonsavidge

Dear Simon

I don't know if you can help me but I'd love to be in a porn movie. I want to spend my days having non-stop sex and showing off in front of the camera. I have made quite a few little private videos for my own use and just love performing. Problem is, I'm quite short and haven't got a huge cock - although I am quite slim and developing tight abs... and eager to do whatever it takes to appear in a really hard core porn video. My mate thinks I'm mad, saying I'd just end up a scrubber taking dick for a couple of quid a go... but why isn't there an XXX Factor where I could audition and get a professional opinion?

Anon, Manchester

Dear Anon,

Down in the depths of London there was once indeed a thing such as Porn Idol but that seems to have disappeared of late. From what I have heard I don't think it is 'taking dick' for a couple of quid, if you are good you can earn a fair amount. My advice would be to contact companies such as Triga, indeed most porn sites have details on how to audition and what they require. I don't think size is always a big deal, excuse the pun, I think it's more aesthetics... depending on what your role is and who is making the film. Good luck with it all.

Dear Simon,

For the past few months my boyfriend and I have been having less and less sex. I'm worried that we're losing attraction and he is getting bored. We have been living together for a few years now and this is the first time we've had a problem. Sometimes there are even weeks that we don't do it. I know we have stressful jobs and usually get home very late and tired but I was hoping you could give me some suggestions to jump start our sex life.

Steve, Bradford

Dear Steve,

It is a wrongly held belief that if you're in a relationship that sex is all you really get up to. Though it is indeed part of a relationship you will have dry spells and times where jobs, social lives or even being just plain knackered will come into play. If anything it shows you are both comfortable enough not to base the relationship on sex alone. If this is something that is truly bothering you then simply talk to him. As for jump starting the sex again I would advise you to think of his deepest fantasy and times it by ten.

Dear Simon,

My best friend and I have this thing of acting as a couple when we go out - having a bit of a laugh and causing a scene. The thing is, one night we actually ended up kissing and some feelings emerged for both of us. However, it seems to have all soured and though we are still going out as mates it always ends in bickering and one of us storming off. I don't want to lose him as a friend, cos I think he is amazing but I don't know if I could be faithful to him if we were together.

Ray, London

Dear Ray,

In all honesty this sounds like a bit of a nightmare waiting to happen. Not too sure why you want to pretend to be a couple and end up quarrelling... is this some sort of 'performance art'? Despite most gay men saying they don't equate sex and kissing with emotions there is some involved somewhere, it's just some people are just better at dealing with these feelings than others. I guess you could become fuck buddies but that could open a whole new can of worms which could ruin your friendship forever. You need to decide just what it is you want from this mate... instead of playing dumb games.



My friends always seem to end up with toxic guys who only leave them in a state. I try to tell them, but it's like throwing snowballs in a blizzard at the North Pole. There are many ways to distinguish a toxic man, so take heed.

If he's ten years older than you, he probably thinks of you as ten years younger. Which means he either sees you as immature and childish, so you should dump him before he dumps you, or he sees you as some easy-to-manipulate boy cock he can fuck at whim and abuse as he pleases. Grab a whip and show him who's boss.

If you love him but he doesn't love you, then that's a clear sign you should get a grip. If he, despite knowing how you feel, still offers to shag you, slit the smug bastard's throat and steal his Gucci loafers to sell on eBay. He's clearly using you for his own perverse amusement and has total disregard for how you feel.

If he gives you an STD six months after you both checked out clean, he's obviously cheating. Put a needle under your tongue right before you go to give him his next blowjob. You get top points if you can slide it down his urethra before he notices.

If he spends all his time with his ex-boyfriend but ignores you, even on Valentine's Day, then chances are he's boning the ex. Especially if you don't have sex anymore, you have to call him first and he plans weekends away with the scabby queen he used to go out with.

Similar to above, if he always talks about his exes and tells you he loves you after a

fortnight, he's probably a desperate serial monogamist willing to jump headfirst into any doomed relationship he can get his hands on. Pity the poor suckers who end up with his rapid cycling bi-polar and self-harming mood-swings for more than a month.

If he makes you clean up his piss from the white carpets after a tragically messy night out, or if he makes you pay his bills and have sex on demand, whilst giving you nothing in return except the clap, he likely sees you as a maid/parent/slave and not the equal you (maybe) deserve to be. Then again, if you agree to do it you deserve everything you get.

With that in mind, it's always worth carrying a waterpistol in your Vivienne Westwood pirate boots (which are almost as out of fashion now as that neck-scarf thing), just so you can fend off the clamouring masses of toxic boyfriends, who roam the clubs like zombies wanting to leech you of any fabulousness you may possess. As soon as they display any of the above symptoms, aim for the head and then get out of there ASAP. Whatever you do, don't whinge to your mates, in case they decide to shoot you instead.

Ignore these words of wisdom at your own peril.

Beyoncé
xxx

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Capricorn (Dec22/Jan20)

Give a new relationship a chance. You aren't going to become best mates over night but in time this could be a strong and binding union. Events this January could bring some upheaval and big changes are ahead. This will make you feel nervous and slightly irritable too. Even if you accept changes will be for the better, they'll still take a bit of getting used to!



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28/12 Denzel Washington	13/01 Orlando Bloom
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30/12 Tiger Woods	15/01 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
31/12 Anthony Hopkins	16/01 Kate Moss
01/01 Cate Blanchett	17/01 Jim Carrey
02/01 Cuba Gooding Jr.	18/01 Samantha Mumba
03/01 Mel Gibson	19/01 Dolly Parton
04/01 Michael Stipe	20/01 Will Young
05/01 Marilyn Manson	
06/01 Rowan Atkinson	

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)

Don't do anything stupid as 2009 begins, just because you're feeling bored. Before you know it, life will get hectic and you will wonder why you didn't enjoy the peace while you had the chance! You've always been fond of a challenge but avoid anything too risky or dangerous. Resolve to learn a skill over the months ahead such as a language, photography or go for a subject that might help enhance your career. It is not the time to make drastic changes in your love life.

Taurus (Apr21/May21)

With emphasis on your travel zone, ideally you'd love to get away from it all. You aren't at ease with yourself feeling so restless but you can't ignore a need for something different either. Rather than make changes at the last moment, plan ahead for 2009 and you will feel more confident. You might enjoy a real mind-expanding experience as January comes to a close. There'll also be something fun going on to amuse you too!

Gemini (May22/June21)

If all the interesting things seem to be happening to your friends or your partner; don't let them see you feel resentful. Your disappointment is only temporary as there's plenty opportunity on the way for you to start enjoying life too. Watch a tendency to go overboard on your spending this January. Single? Whether it's giving up your place in the grocery line, smiling at the guy serving your coffee or giving a neighbour a lift, romance could spring up unexpectedly.

Cancer (Jun22/Jul23)

Let go and enjoy yourself especially if your partner is trying to persuade you to have some fun. As 2009 begins, indulge your romantic and sexual fantasies and share your feelings to get the best out of your relationship. If your partner needs some space later in the month, be sure to step back and oblige. After all, relationships aren't bound with the expectation that a partner is responsible to make you whole. It will be good to let him see you're happy to be independent for a wee while too.

Leo (Jul24/Aug23)

Someone you meet this January could bring you luck in an unexpected way. You're inspired by visions of a new romance if you are single. If you are half of a duo, your ideas for the future are changing as relationships show signs of moving on to new levels. It's worth spending time with a partner revising and coming to terms with new joint goals. Someone needs you around the 16th. Make yourself available.

Virgo (Aug24/Sept23)

With Venus moving into your opposite sign expect to feel a stronger than usual desire for enduring relationships. If your partner's acting a little strangely, be patient and ask him how he's feeling. If he doesn't want to talk, don't worry, if the love is still there, your

relationship will work out as the weeks wear on. You will feel more in charge of your life by the end of the month after a heart-to-heart.

Libra (Sept24/Oct23)

Your ruler Venus gives your career prospects a helpful nudge as it changes signs. Everything's now going in the right direction. An old skill you haven't used in years could come in useful these next few weeks. You might also be creative this January if you're trying to spice up romance. Your partner will appreciate the little things you do for him like running a bath, washing his back, preparing a candlelight supper. Single? You aren't imagining it if you feel a friend of a friend fancies you.

Scorpio (Oct24/Nov22)

Something's holding you back; you suspect someone is promising more than they can deliver. Give yourself some time to find out whether your instincts are correct. Partners and friends are fun-loving over the month ahead and you feel you can speak your mind in close relationships without fear of being misunderstood. You're starting to feel more optimistic about a new romance now.

Sagittarius (Nov23/Dec21)

Your ruler, Jupiter moves into Aquarius as the month begins. Relationships with siblings and neighbours will show definite signs of improvement. If you're a student, learning will come so much easier over the months ahead. In a close relationship it's important to be who you are and seek your own happiness first. Don't feel you must make sacrifices for a partner. To do this you will place a major burden on him; partnerships thrive where there is a balance of give-and-take.

Aquarius (Jan21/Feb19)

You will love it if you have met someone who is spontaneous, easy-going and thoughtful. A partnership is getting better and better this January. You might chose to do things he won't expect to keep him wanting more. Leave him a note on what you might do together if he comes home early one day. Think of things you will both enjoy over the weeks ahead. You're putting your heart and soul into making this relationship work and you can be sure your partner appreciates this.

Pisces (Feb20/Mar20)

Press ahead with your most cherished wishes over the weeks ahead. Make it your aim to fulfil a lifelong ambition in 2009. This January, you have plenty reason to be excited about the future. A close relationship is not destined to disappointment or imminent failure just because you've not been seeing a lot of each other lately. Once you get together, you have plenty to talk about and share. A busy social life will put you in touch with people who might help you achieve your goals.

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