

bent

ISSUE 150 // JULY 2011 // MAG.BENT.COM

CHERYL COLE

WHAT TO DO NEXT?

**JESSE TYLER
FERGUSON**

A MODERN FAMILY MAN

**PRIDE
SPECIAL**

TRAVEL

CYPRUS AND NEWFOUNDLAND



JOHAN'S BLOG
FILMS, BOOKS
MUSIC REVIEWS
& MUCH MUCH
MORE...



ISSN 1742-3030



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Burning down the house

After 13 years of sold-out events in New York City, Berlin, London, Las Vegas, San Francisco and Los Angeles, Hustlaball once again hit the U.K. shores last month, bringing a red-hot parade of international party people ready to get in on the fun. This year the party was held at London's epicentre of gay clubbing, the infamous club FIRE, with its seemingly endless array of glittering dancefloors, secret backrooms and lounges. Many of the biggest porn companies in the industry participated, with Raging Stallion, Hot House, Falcon, Lucas Entertainment, Bel Ami and Stag Homme

sending pornstars over for the party. Hustlaball is legendary for mixing the best of both the porn and dance music worlds, with cutting edge DJs appealing to everyone from high-energy contemporary electro-tribal fans to house music aficionados seeking slower, sleazier sets. A roster of international DJs performed throughout the club, with LED-light-and-sound installations, kink-themed rooms, and outdoor garden, offering distinct aural, visual, and sensual choices.

Photos: ChrisGeary.com





SM Gays



This July unique voluntary organisation SM Gays celebrates three decades of providing education and support to the gay male SM community. The occasion will be marked with two special events at the organisation's longstanding London base The Hoist.

SM Gays began when 20 gay men met informally in Brixton in 1981. Recognising the need for a non-judgemental and non-commercial social space for SM practitioners, and to improve understanding of SM safety, the group set themselves three objectives which are still

current today: to acquire new skills; to provide education; and to provide a safe, social space for people interested in safe, sane and consensual SM.

The organisation has been run throughout its history entirely on a voluntary, not-for-profit basis, and over the years has involved hundreds of volunteers. It regularly donates money to trusts and charities such as the Eddie Surman Trust, the Food Chain and Mildmay Hospice.

www.smgays.org

WEEKEND OF LOVE

30th June – 3rd July

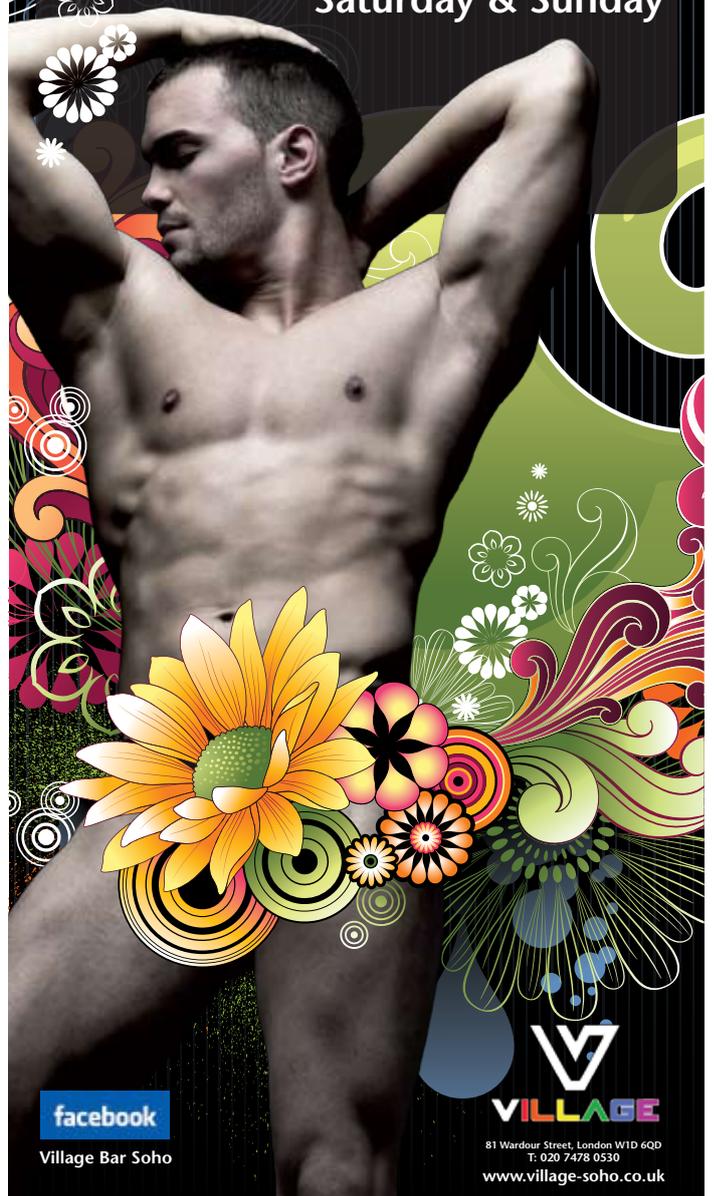
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Carnival

of Love



All go in Vauxhall

Over the Pride weekend the venues in Vauxhall are pulling out all the stops to make it an event to remember. The Friday night kicks off with I AM ONYX from 10pm – superlate @ Area Start your Pride as you mean to go on as London’s biggest Friday night Onyx joins forces with the uber-trendy afterhours A:M! Area is the party playground as these 2 brands collide in a spectacular Pride Eve affair. Expect 3 rooms of the best upfront and current sounds in the capital from the Onyx Allstar DJ’s and A:M late night superstars including Gonzalo Rivas, Paul Heron, Jonny M, Lee Harris, Verity Mayes, JC Christopher, Ariel, Lisa German, Tasty Tim, Jason Prince and James St James plus live percussion. Also get a free ticket for The Only Way is Orange Pride Official Closing Party!

The following night sees the official Pride Party -LIBERATION from 8pm-6am @ Fire & Lightbox Pride London’s very own party is back this year, hotter than ever before at Vauxhall Super-club Fire.

Now featuring more DJs and performers than ever before, the Liberation crew will showcase the best gay talents in London across four different musical arenas. Special guest Shawnee Taylor and live acts are guaranteed to make this the scene to be seen.

To wrap up a weekend of excess you can venture back to Fire from 8pm when the LATER FUNFAIR PRIDE PARTY kicks off. Roll up roll up! All the fun of the fair returns after last year’s legendary post Pride garden takeover. The £10 admittance includes spectacular rides and games, so, join the line up at the capital’s coolest Sunday afternoon session. Thrill-seekers can enjoy the unique Later al fresco party vibe in the garden whilst The Oli, D’Johnny, Jamie Head, Paul Martin and guests play uplifting house beats across Fire.

www.clubtickets.com



This year’s Pride London main event will be held on Saturday 2nd July when the theme will be - Carnival of Love Because of development works, this year the Parade will leave from Portland Place at 13.15. It will pass along Regent Street and Pall Mall before entering Trafalgar Square at around 14.30.

There will be loads of floats to keep the crowds entertained with DJs, go-go boys and of course the usual glittery show offs displaying their latest exotic creations. Despite the route change there will still be a number of stages and events across Soho. The Main Stage at Trafalgar Square will feature a special X-Factor/Britain’s got Talent live show starring Lloyd Daniels, Rachel Adedeji and Stavros Flatley, as well as a special line up of up-and-coming talent, including Chelcee Grimes, boy band Twenty Twenty and Six D - the 6-piece dance pop act currently on tour with JLS. There will also be a stage set up in Soho Square where all manner of entertainment will be on view.

Photos: ChrisGeary.com



Pride London is the largest outdoor event in the UK. Last year over 1 million people attended... for more info: www.pridelondon.org

FIRE



DEEPER PARTY

**THE OFFICIAL PRIDE LONDON PARTY
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FIRE

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1 MIN WALK FROM VAUXHALL TUBE STATION

PHOTOGRAPHY: DELIAN HOBBS DESIGN: O SHARP MEDIA



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Cheryl Cole



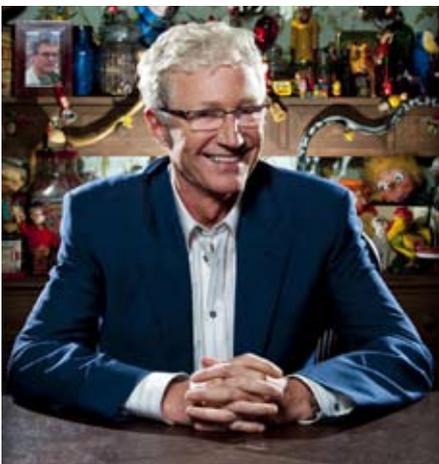
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Pride!



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Travel

Editor's Words

I was recently asked if I thought there were too many gay people on television: Alan Carr, Graham Norton, Paul O'Grady, Dale Winton, Stephen Fry...? It seemed like it was a list he'd prepared earlier.



I wondered what his motive was for asking me such a question when all I could see from this list was a bunch of much-loved personalities just being themselves... and in truth, I told him, I thought that is why they were popular and heading up prime time TV. He countered that perhaps it was more to do with them being stereotypes and not that offensive to 'normal' society. I bit my lip. I wondered if he'd ever seen any of these acts away from the TV. Certainly Paul O'Grady, in his former life as Lily Savage, could hardly be called inoffensive and I would suspect that Paul has a problem keeping a lid on opinions at the best of times. Alan Carr's stage act takes no prisoners whether he's being as bent as a nine-bob note or not, he'll tear you a new one if he's feeling that way out. However, TV has its own rules and in many ways it is this 'A' list of gays who are breaking the programme format mould and changing the way some members of the public regard homosexuals. They aren't afraid to say it as they see it. They talk about

things with no distinction as to whether it is a straight or a gay topic. It just is. The fact that there are more gay storylines in dramas and soaps is just the fact that we are more visible now. We have problems. We have lives. We have... well we have the same everything as everyone else. It may appear that all there ever seems to be is gay this or gay that but that is simply because we now refuse to be invisible and those that wish that we would slink back into the closet or just disappear... can, in the words of Lily Savage, "Go f@*k themselves". It has hardly seen the end of hetero storylines or happy families in sit-coms... after years of only one view of the world... it is great to see an alternative.

Meanwhile, it's great/pathetic (you delete as necessary) to see that every mention of the word gay is being picked over by the media. If it's not Anne Robinson suggesting to a vicar that his multi-coloured shirt was a "trifle gay" or one of the TV companies having to defend a gay kiss in some soap or other... the Stonewall slogan of the last few years has never seemed more appropriate - Some People Are Gay.... Get Over It.

On a similar theme? The United Nation's Human Rights Council has passed a resolution calling for universal rights for gay, lesbian, bi and trans people. It didn't pass with flying colours, a 23 - 19 split and with three abstentions, as those countries with an appalling record on rights for their citizens rallied against the declaration. I wish the UN well and hope that they will pursue transgressors with a great deal of vigour... no matter what religious, cultural or metaphysical twaddle they come up with.

And now you can see Bent News by logging on to: <http://mag.bent.com/news/>

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A reason to take it all

OK, OK. We all know that Bent can never get enough good looking boybands within its shiny pages but right now we're getting all hot and sweaty over a manband... The Reason 4.

By Lee Hudson

Since I received a copy of their new single - Take It All, a classy piece of pop that should see The Reason 4 ride high in the charts and gain them a cart load of screaming gay fans, I keep thinking, is this the new Westlife? Not that there's anything wrong with that particular bunch of chaps, it is though perhaps a time for a change.

The Reason were a minor success on last year's X Factor and the band, all grown up builders and labourers

who look the part of a bit of rough you'd probably want to have a long session with, created a bit of a stir. Unfortunately, they didn't create a big enough stir to keep them in the competition and they made an exit fairly early on. Now with a change of name - The Reason have become The Reason 4 after another band claimed the rights to the name - they have signed up to a large music publisher and got themselves involved with a major new entertainment agency fronted by hit maker Eliot Kennedy (integral to a few acts you may have heard of, Spice Girls, Take That, 5ive).

Meanwhile, the boys... sorry, the men - Nathan, Scott, Glenn and Marc - have created a pretty good sound that should show some longevity... something that for many X Factor hopefuls was never there in the first place.

First single, Take It All, slated for an August 7th release, is a euphoric slice of grown up pop. Produced by pop maestro Eliot Kennedy, this feel good pop ditty is the perfect introduction to the classic song writing and harmonies that the Reason 4 are set to define.

www.thereason4.com



Whats on // Manchester

Cruz down to the Corona Beach Party

The summer is officially here and that can mean just one thing..... It's time to dig out your "boardies", flip flops, vests and sun glasses and head down to the annual Cruz 101 Beach Party. Join Miss Cara & her beach boys for a week of fun and frolics at Costa Del Cruz! Plus we are giving away a holiday in sunny Benidorm for 2 lucky sun seekers! Visit the beach hut Cocktail Bar for some fantastic tropical drinks or ogle the sun drenched Adonis's. Join Miss Cara & her beach boys for a weekend of fun and frolics at Costa Del Cruz!

Big Gay Friday

Miss Cara slips into her bikini and trolls down to the beach for sun, sea and sexy things in shorts!

Saturday Experts in Pop

The surf is up!! And we are up for it too!! As the busiest and best Saturday in the Village goes into

beach party over drive, make sure you pack your shades because we will be dazzling you with a holiday giveaway for 2 lucky sun worshippers half board at The Queens Hotel in Benidorm including flights and hotel. www.queensbenidorm.com Sunday Night Screammers It's All Too Shocking! Pop, Disco, Dance, RnB & House Anthems from DJ Spook.

www.djspook.com

Monday Disco Inferno

Welcome to Club Tropicana where the 80's & 90's rule the decks! Tonight in honour of American Independence day we head state side to feature the stars of the US of A Cruz floor plays 70's, 80's & 90's Pop & Disco Classics courtesy of Dino

For more info go to www.cruz101.com



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Bites

Village People

They are buzzing at Besti-HQ with the fantastic news that the Village People will be judging our Rock Stars, Pop Stars and Divas fancy dress competition! Prime purveyors of classic New York Disco, Village People's predilection for dressing up as American cultural stereotypes made them one of the most iconic bands the world has ever seen, so there really couldn't be a better band to judge our world famous fancy dress shenanigans. All you have to do to enter is send a photo of you dressed up in your Rock Star, Pop Star or Diva get-up to fancydress@bestival.net and they will be posted on Facebook page www.facebook.com/bestivalfestival in a Rock Stars Pop Stars and Divas photo album. The Village People will



then choose either the most radically rock n roll, the topper-most of the popper-most or deliciously Diva-ish costume from all of the entries on 2nd September and the winners will get their hands on that coveted lifetime's supply of Bestival tickets, whilst two runners-up will bag a Bestival hoodie each, so make sure you email your pics in now for your chance to win!

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Rugby Win

The world oldest gay rugby club Kings Cross Steelers RFC, retain the title of European champions for the third time after winning the Union Cup 2011. This biennial tournament held in Amsterdam last month, saw the London-based club win the XVs section and the second team come runners-up in the Xs section. In a tense and gripping final, the Steelers XV beat their old rivals the Manchester Spartans who dominated the opening minutes of play. This however, could not match the experience, strong defence and the constant attack by the Steelers. With

expert passing and strong defence the London side won by an overwhelming 29-0.

Overall this tournament was a resounding success for all of those who took part. Eleven teams from the UK, Ireland and the continent played hard in two levels of competition, with many scoring their best performance yet. New teams from Europe included Straffe Ketten from Brussels and Dark Horses from Lisbon.
www.kxsrfc.com

Photo: kevinscott.org



THINGS NOT TO SAY ON THE FIRST DATE

1. "You look just like my father"
2. "I'm expecting a call from my ex."
3. "Sorry, what's your name again?"
4. "Have you thought about surgery?"
5. "My ex would love you... but he's dead" (then start crying)
6. "Not for me, I get violent after one drink."
7. "What are you thinking about?"
8. "Aren't you an ickle wickle sweetie."
9. "My therapist says..."
10. "Don't take this the wrong way, but..."

Leggy

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MANCHESTER ACADEMY, OXFORD ROAD, MANCHESTER



Joe McElderry

By Lee Hudson

I've always liked Joe, from his first audition in 2009's X Factor right through to him winning the series, I was there shouting him on, voting like mad and wishing him success. He was cute, unassuming and, a bonus, he could sing. His shy little crooked smile and a voice that could cope with just about any style of song set him apart from all the other desperate hopefuls on the show.

Apparently, being nice and talented isn't enough, and although Joe did all he was asked to do while signed to Simon Cowell's Syco label, it simply wasn't enough. Still, the Syco label and Simon himself have now moved on leaving this good-looking Georgie lad to fend for himself.

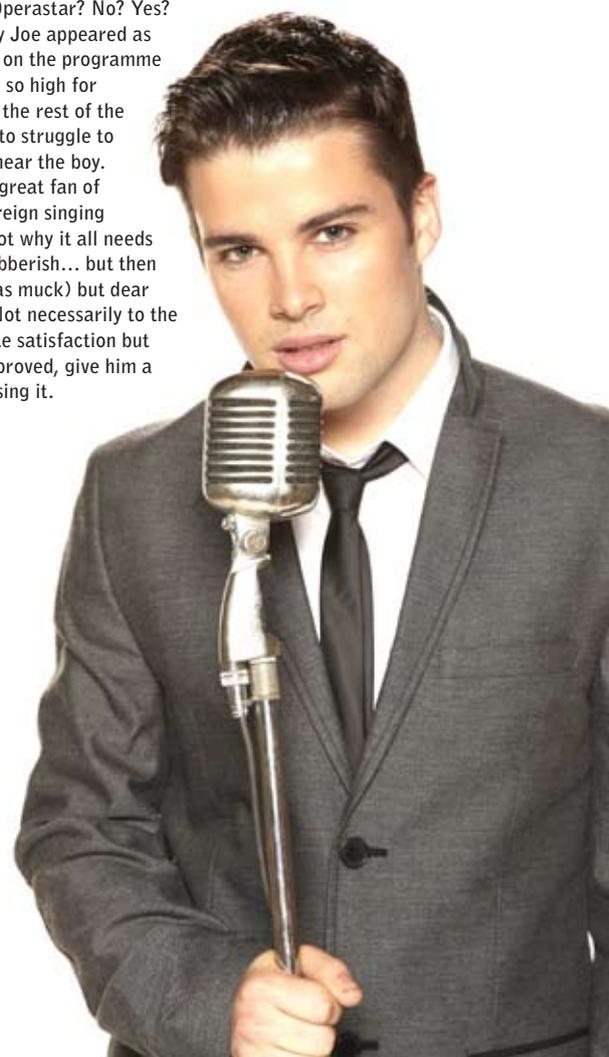
OK, did anyone see the first edition of Popstar to Operastar? No? Yes? Well, the lovely Joe appeared as the first singer on the programme and set the bar so high for natural ability, the rest of the cast are going to struggle to get anywhere near the boy. Not that I'm a great fan of all that silly foreign singing (never really got why it all needs to be sung in jibberish... but then I am common as muck) but dear Joe nailed it. Not necessarily to the judges complete satisfaction but once again he proved, give him a song and he'll sing it.

Personally, whether he wins this competition or not, I want to see and hear more of him. Musical theatre is obviously his first love, where he's at his most comfortable and I think the powers that be have jumped ship far too early on him and that he'll be back in the main frame soon... possibly taking the West End by storm and becoming the next Michael Ball or Michael Crawford.

Whatever the future holds I wish Joe success and can't wait to see him perform again soon, whether that's in a gay club or a Pride event... let us see your talent. In this day and age, it will be a nice change from just seeing someone's ego.

**Popstar to Operastar – ITV
Sunday 8pm**

Photo: ITV



ASA
Dreamer Girl
Out Now

'Dreamer Girl' is a chilled out, soulful kinda song, with echoes of both Corinne Bailey Rae and Sade, but possessed of a style that is uniquely Asa's. There are easy ripples of funk throughout this folksy little number, which unfurls with whispery vocals and a summer-soaked chorus. This laidback triumph invites the listener to daydream every bit as much as the protagonist, and revels in the tension between imaginative escape and the pull of the real world, which stops Asa from completely drifting off in a cloud of her own devising and roots this in a very tender appreciation of human frailty.



CEE LO GREEN
I Want You (Hold On to Love)
4th July

So the sentiment of this song is hardly new, but Cee Lo Green is adept at reminding us his voice is perfectly suited for more soulful songs as well as pop. This one lacks the upbeat irony of 'Fuck You', with its bouncy pop tunes and casually defiant lyrics, but nonetheless succeeds because of the reverberating, dark treacle that is Cee Lo Green's signature singing. The dance remixes really bring this track to life for an entirely more commercial crowd, too, ensuring that he won't lose the audience that loved him for 'Fuck You'.



BURAKA SOM SISTEMA
Hangover (BaBaBa)
4th July

Portuguese dance mash-up masters Buraka Som Sistema whisk dubstep, house and kuduro into a crazy froth of Latin grime. Fat basslines and a ridiculously catchy hook (the 'BaBaBa') are designed to keep your head nodding and your body popping. The tune is surprisingly simple compared to similar offerings spinning in nightclubs at the moment, and what you end up with is a pared-down throb that's all the more effective because it isn't drowned in production and white noise. I'd be lying if I didn't admit to shaking my backside to this one for at least thirty minutes straight.



CARO EMERALD
That Man
11th July

'That Man' is a swinging, 50s-flavoured camp classic. Full of jazz band energy, leg-kicking samba sass and infectious bossa nova highlights, this is a deliciously retro confection. Caro Emerald is one of those hourglass girls with a flower in her dark hair and red, red lips, and her lyrics are full of wit and confidence that can't help but endear her to us. This Dutch singer could teach Jessica Rabbit a thing or two about contemporary 50s chic.

MANCHESTER'S BRAND NEW GAY HOUSE NIGHT

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DANCE TRAX

With Jason Guy

Federation returned to Leeds in style last month, with the amazing summer garden party between Fibre and Queen's Court. Missed out? Then make sure you get there for part 2 on the 30th July where you can catch me play my trademark uplifting house at both of them – full details at www.clubfederation.com. As usual, you can download my monthly podcast - simply search for 'Jason Guy' in iTunes or download directly from www.jasonguy.podomatic.com. If you'd like to see your track, club, or event featured here, contact me at jason@bent.com.



Kid Massive & Peyton
A Little Louder (Transmission Recordings)

After months of preparation, deliberation, mastering and testing, 'A Little Louder', the first single to come from Kid Massive's debut album is here, featuring the vocal talents of Peyton (who needs no introduction to Bent readers). The soulful lyrics beg you to "turn things up a little louder", with the Kid adding the punch with his trademark funk-fused bass and blissful melodic flair. This release features a number of mixes, the standout one for me coming from Muzzaik who brings us a tech house interpretation, with whirring synths and choppy vocals.



Erick Morillo & Eddie Thoneick ft Shawnee Taylor
Stronger (3 Beat)

Morillo & Thoneick pair up once again (after last year's huge Live Your Life) alongside the amazing Shawnee Taylor on vocals for what will be one of the biggest tracks of the year. Stronger is all about house music - bringing incredible energy to the dancefloor with its huge hooks and infectious vocals. It's a record you just cannot ignore and already has been hammered by the major players. Uplifting, funky and bang on the money, you won't be able to ignore this all summer!



Andain
Promises (Black Hole Recordings)

Originally available on a limited promo a few months ago, this was jumped on by the likes of Ferry Corsten, Armin van Buuren and Marco V. Part trance, part chunky house, Andain's trademark beautifully haunting voice once again fits like a glove with the superb production of this track. Head straight for the Myon & Shane 54 Summer of Love Mix (bit of a mouthful there!) for an uplifting, progressive slab of quality house music.



RLP ft Barbara Tucker
R.E.S.P.E.C.T. (One More Tune)

A remake of one of the greatest soul records of all time – Aretha Franklin's RESPECT and already huge in Ibiza and across Europe this year. This time, the vocals are provided by another legendary diva – Barbara Tucker (most famous for hits Beautiful People and I Get Lifted). Pick of the mixes comes from Antoine Clamaran, with a tribal infused darker offering, full of swirling stabs and masculine chanting. What you want, baby I got it!

Bites



Smooth running

Already making waves across the pond, and coming soon to the UK, this cool piece of kit is the world's first self-propelled hubless skate. Just slot your feet into the space where the hubs should be and carve down a hill (like a snowboarder), or weave along the flat. The clever set-up lets you propel yourself along indefinitely, without ever taking your feet off the plates!

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Betwixt!

A new British comedy musical hits the capital this summer, Betwixt! In modern day New York, writer Bailey - suffering writer's block - and his roommate Cooper Fitzgerald are catapulted head first into a strange enchanted world. Their arrival fulfils a prophecy that tells of a brave hero and a great queen and they are tasked with searching out a fading daytime TV star who is the only hope for saving a pregnant princess from losing the throne... Sex-crazed nymphs, hunchbacks, cross-dressing mutes, dancing reporters, enchantresses (of the evil-world-dominating variety) and a disembodied head with a Bavarian accent are teamed with sitcom-styled dialogue and a toe-tapping score in a truly funny musical comedy.

Trafalgar Studio 2, Trafalgar Studios, Whitehall, London SW1A 2DY
www.betwixtmusical.com



Olympus

If retro styling is more your thing, then the Olympus E-PL2 is guaranteed to make a statement. This latest addition to the Olympus PEN series is lightweight and compact – designed to be as simple to use as a writing pen! SLR quality shots are made easy by the built in Live Guide, which teaches beginners step-by-step how to capture great shots, and interchangeable lenses give you greater flexibility with your photography. There is the essential e-Portrait to make your skin appear smoother, brighter and more youthful; for that perfect profile picture. Six Art Filters make any shot look as colourful or dramatic as you like, and with the option to layer filters the effects you can achieve are endless! The Olympus E-PL2 also has 12.3 megapixels, meaning you can blow your pictures up to poster size to show off your creations around your home.

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26th July – 20th August

Time to be colourful

The 'Too Late MASH UP' watches are set to be the must have accessory for 2011, and absolutely perfect for the fashionable festival goer this summer. Impact and water resistant and in various colours, these are ideal for those at a festival or on the beach and the silicone strap makes them light and incredibly comfortable to wear.

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Room 2 - Spektrum... Federation Classics with

LEE YEOMANS, DYLAN JEFFERS

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Cheryl Cole... what to do next?

Is she a 'Princess of Hearts', pop star, TV star, charity celeb, what? After an interesting month or two Simon Savidge puts his mind to just what on earth Cheryl Cole should do next.

Unless you have been on the moon/ in hiding/having a life or just not been that interested, you can't have missed the fact that the new 'Princess of our Hearts' (no, not Kate Middleton) Cheryl Cole 'quit the UK' in order to become a mega-star in America... only she didn't. Love her or loathe her we would bet you any money that quite a few Bent readers will have all been talking/ gossiping about her. Incidentally, Speaking of Kate Middleton, I am amazed she didn't pop up as a new X Factor judge, someone (Simon) missed a big opportunity there didn't they? Back to Chezza, I don't really care what went wrong, only that because it did I probably won't be interested in watching the USA or UK X Factor shows (OK I might as I'm fickle that way) but seriously, what is going on with the judges for the UK? I'd have chosen better... although from early reports

it seems that Gary Barlow has got the right idea about what constitutes talent!!

Meanwhile, good old Cheryl has managed to recover from a near death experience before so I am fairly sure she can recover from Cowell shoving her in front of the massive 'sacking machine' publicity stunt that promptly ran her over. The fact that currently she is in the position of being, like many people in the UK, unemployed (and she's a Geordie so she'll know all about getting her benefits) means she needs to take some stock while she is looking for the next opportunity. I mean she's not an X Factor judge; at the moment she's not really a solo pop star either as she has nothing out and... she's not currently a member of Girls Aloud - and with all the hate-filled gossip around that particular camp, she might never be again. Having said that, we saw with the Spice Girls what a few million quid waved under their noses can do.

This is the time where she needs to seriously stop. No new album within less than year, let's face it 'Messy Little Pop-Drops' wasn't what we had all hoped it could be was it? She also needs to stop hanging off Cowell's and Will.I.Am's every bloody word quick sharp and decide what on earth she wants to do. Does she want to be a pop star, TV star, a-list Hollywood celeb? Cheryl Cole is a manufactured good pop star, it's what she started with as a member of Girls Aloud, and it's probably what she should keep doing. But someone needs to tell her that maybe two albums (with enough good material on each to make just the one,) simply aren't enough to make you a

superstar... unless you're Lady Gaga of course, then again her live shows are just that LIVE and brilliant. Perhaps something Chezza should think about? TV wise... stop. The X Factor was a brilliant show for Cheryl. She was popular, funny, down to earth and seemed - on the face of it - rather genuine. Sometimes though it's best to quit while you are ahead and last year there was the whole 'Gamu-Gate' thing, and then Dannii became the most popular. She could of course do the whole reality TV series, I'm thinking a fly-on-the-wall 'Simply Chezza' style show where we follow her around and see just what japes and crazy things she gets up to and maybe fall in love with her all over again. She could always appear on 'Geordie Shore' MTV's version of 'The Only Way Is Essex' by all accounts it is all the rage. What she doesn't want to do is end up presenting a dating show, or family reunion show, nor should she end up behind one of the country's most famous soap pubs... unless she's doing a karaoke spot.

Sorry, sorry, being a bit facetious there. Her most notable move since the whole 'X Factor Fiasco' has been to set up 'The Cheryl Cole Foundation', no that's not a new line of make up for L'Oreal - it's actually a charity and one that I am sure will benefit from the publicity she has had (though I haven't seen much coverage of it, because sadly people are still to busy slating her - oops slight case of pot kettle and black there) and it aims "to support over 300 potential young entrepreneurs". Holy shit, Cheryl Cole wants to become Lord Alan Sugar! I suppose that's so she can say "You're fired" to someone else.

Ideally, I think Cheryl needs to stop listening to certain people in her life, have some time to herself, maybe she could buy her own island retreat (after all she reportedly got over £1.5 million for 3 days work on the American X Factor) or simply get back to her roots sharpish. It seems people are looking for their superstars to be themselves; be they as down to earth and delightfully common (that's a compliment) as Adele or as naturally cuckoo and bonkers as Lady Gaga. She needs to take some of her own advice (as mentioned on The Cheryl Cole Foundation website) and remember her roots "I was very lucky and had opportunities and family influences that stopped me going down the wrong road and making choices that could have easily led to a dead-end situation." Ditch the celeb advice and go with your family and long standing friends. Or return to the halcyon years when the four girls she hung around with produced a few years of pop bliss. Oh and leave that bloody ex-husband alone love, it'll only end in more heartache.

Failing all that she needs to do an exclusive interview. No, not a calculated PR-driven diamond tear filled interview with Piers Morgan... one with us at Bent, that'll show the world she's a normal lass and anyway, she's worth it... and so are we.

For more information on 'The Cheryl Cole Foundation' visit -

www.cherylcolefoundation.org

photos: Supersonic PR

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the pink picnic
courtyard afterparty at
THE NEW UNION

31st July 11
4pm-Late



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Sunday 31st July 2011

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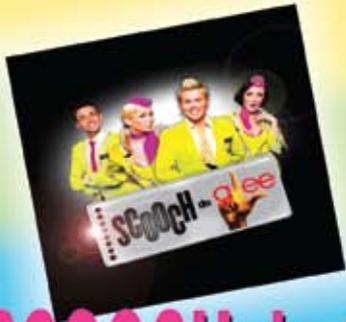
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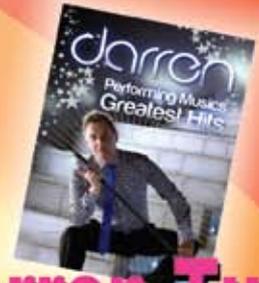
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Kira Live
female vocalist



Jamie McKnight
male vocalist

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Food stalls Fun fair

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Sorry, but you will not be
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No Bar-B-Q's Please.**

ALBUMS | By Adam Lowe



GYPSY & THE CAT
Gilgamesh
4th July

Gypsy & the Cat are Goldfrapp underwater. Their music is trippy, synth-driven, distorted, electro, pop-tastic and shimmering. From the moment you press play the waters close around you and sounds come in strange and thick, bubbling around your head and breaking in great waves which are felt rather than seen or heard. The overall effect is at once engaging, as you would expect from the surrounding imminence of being submerged, but at once distances you from reality. This is blissed-out summer pop in 80s glitz, a kaleidoscope in watercolours, and like the Sumerian hero of the album's title, this is a descent into some strange other world. But it's also a journey which, when you reach the surface again, leaves you washed clean, floating and buoyant.



BEVERLEY KNIGHT
Soul UK
4th July

Beverley Knight's seventh studio album is a collection of her favourite British soul tracks, reworked and reimagined with those telltale 90s vocals. The range of artists Knight covers includes George Michael, Jamiroquai and Junior. The standout track is a cover of Soul II Soul's club anthem 'Fairplay', which sweeps in with a funky groove and intro by Jazzie B himself, which tells us in no uncertain times that Beverley's back! This is British soul at its best, combining deliciously low-key harmonising with fresh, foot-tapping funk. Not only that, but Soul UK also proves UK artists can do soul as well as the States, with our own unique flavour. I seriously couldn't stop clicking my fingers. Go out and buy this now!



JUSTUS KOHNCKE
Fussmaschine
4th July

Fussmaschine is a deep-down funky assortment of the very tastiest remixes helmed by German DJ Justus Kohncke. The range of tracks is wide: from the 70s to the present. More than likely you'll only recognise the most mainstream of these artists: Human League, Space and Hot Chip. But there are some runaway masterpieces from less well-known names such as Bozswell, who opens with the delectably soulful 'I Can't Be What You Want Me to Be', to the dancier 'People Know' by Arj Snoek. Kohncke is more widely known through his day job as a creator of film scores in France, but here his love of music and his skills as a remix DJ are put centre stage and, for us in the office at least, suggest he should pack in the day job to do this full-time. Selfish of us, I know!



JESSICA CLEMMONS
Permanent
4th July

Texas-born soul singer Jessica Clemmons' voice runs thick, deep and luxurious as vinyl through the fingertips. In Permanent, she displays her talent in a range of songs from energetic dance sass to heartfelt ballads. Her vocals are matched by arrangements by Chicago impresario Carey Deadman, production by John Ravenhall (who's worked with Sting and Sir Paul McCartney), mixing by Beyonce's Larry Sturm, and strings by Chicago Philharmonic. There are flashes of synth-pop and rocking guitar pop laced with good old Texan style. This is a diverse and energetic first album which reveals a real love with music and revels in the variety of her influences.

Bites



Napoletango

A vivid and vibrant Italian production, Napoletango tells the story of the Incoronato family, a travelling troupe of 20 entertainers, known in Naples for their special art and passion for Tango.

Like a noisy travelling circus, the family used to perform in squalid taverns and town fairs but now for the first time they have been invited to perform in a beautiful theatre...

What unfolds is a mosaic of scenes taken from everyday life in the ghettos, narrated by the music of two different

traditions: the Neapolitan song and Tango. Starting with the set-up of the dance company, it mixes rehearsals with the dancers personal stories and the aromas of Italian cooking on stage and stunning Tango exhibition dances. But will the Incoronato family finally achieve their dream to perform on Broadway?

London Coliseum - St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4ES

4th-6th August
Box Office: 0871 911 0200



When Harry Met Barry... a romantic musical comedy

Matchmaking angel Betty Blue hits the streets of Soho where she sets up romances for trendy clubber Spencer with TV chef Harry and then bookshop girl Alice with hunky lawyer Barry... but she didn't count on the rekindling of an old friendship when Harry and Barry bump into each other in the back of a taxi! So it becomes a gay love story with some very cute boys. But as the reviews first time round were keen to point out this is a show for everyone, regardless of sexuality, so bring all your straight friends too! It is a story of young love and everyone's basic need for companionship, or even just a hug. Above the Stag Theatre:

15 Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DD

Dates: 5th July to 7th August
Box Office: 020 8932 4747



Hot Ice returns

The world's most spectacular ice show is back! The skating show features everything that is hot in ice skating with 28 of the very best performers from around the world taking to the ice in over 100 stunning costumes to a whole collection of mesmerising music, state of the art lighting system and explosive pyrotechnic fire effects. Hot Ice recently scooped "Best Show" at the Big E awards in Las Vegas, a glitzy ceremony that recognises all that's great in the world of big productions. The show was acknowledged for the best in ice-skating with stylish costumes, unbelievable feathers and glittering rhinestones that set the ice alight with sparkle.

Arena, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool from 6th July - 4th September

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SUNDAY 7TH

BRAND NEW SHOW



HOST
DANNY CHER BAILEY





BEYONCE

BEAUTY AND THE FREAKS

THE SOFT, THE SAD & THE FUGLY

We've all had some dodgy sexual encounters, right? Well, most of us have. And let me tell you: I've had more than my fair share.

I for one never do threesomes. Not any more. Orgies—yeah, why not! But not threesomes. For me, a threesome is usually about two people who want to shag very much, and a third who they can't get rid of, who obligation means must be invited (a boyfriend, for example). The other possibility is that it's a couple inviting a third to join them, which rarely works out the way you want, because it's all about them and you're just something for them to use. If anyone's going to be doing the using, it's going to be me!

I once had the misfortune to take part in a particularly awkward threesome. One of the boys was young and inexperienced. He wanted to sleep with me but I think both of us were less interested in the third: a loud, chavvy thing, barely 5'6" tall, from Liverpool. But being polite, the boy let him join in. Big mistake. The Liverpuddlian wanted to get straight down to business.

'Stick it in my mouth,' he said to the boy, who had been enjoying kissing and touching with me.

Next thing I know, the chav has the boy's pants down and is going for it, but the poor boy isn't yet 'in the mood', as it were. But things only went downhill from there.

'Are you gonna get hard, fella?' he asked, about three times. Talk about piling on the pressure! If the chav had known fuck all about fuck (and, in this case, suck) he'd have understood the boy needed the soft, gentle approach to warm him up.

Luckily, after I'd finally managed to get rid of the Scouse Mouse (as I've called him ever since), things were much simpler. The boy had no trouble getting it up, but he wanted all the kissing and stroking and ruffling of hair first. Which, call me romantic if you want (I'll kill you if you do, though), is half the fun, right? Just whacking it in, thrusting about and then coming is a little... dull. Maybe it's just me, but the chase and the seduction is what gives me the buzz. An orgasm is a nice crescendo, a happy ending, but I can manage one of those on my own.

There have been others who score highly on my 'Bad Shag' list, of course. One guy I didn't even shag, but I had been planning to. I think this happens a lot out there, but it was the first and last time it ever happened to me.

I was chatting to a guy on Fitlads. He was fit. Not super-duper fit, but boy-next-door fit. So I went to his house (a good six or seven miles away) for some good times and the bottle of champagne he said was chilling in his ice bucket. But when I got there and he opened his door, who should be stood there but a short, fat little man with paedo eyes, bottle of bubbly in hand and a towel round his waist.

Naturally I took one look at him, snatched the bubbly from his hand (as compensation, you understand) and marched in the opposite direction as he stood dumbfounded on the doorstep. How did he expect to get away with it? Did he expect me to be so horny and so desperate upon my arrival that I'd just shrug and do him anyway? As if!

He later tried the same trick again, with an entirely different picture I recognised from Blake Mason, but I was onto him right away. However, this second time there was a twist: he was messaging me and my best friend on Fitlads and asking if he could pay us for a threesome. This time it was my turn to be dumbfounded. Again: what did he think would happen? Did he honestly think we wouldn't see through it? And was he that desperate that he needed a porn star's picture and a wallet full of notes to get laid? Are men really that desperate?

I later learned he'd tried the same thing with at least four other friends of mine (all of them, except for me, blonde-haired and blue-eyed). More than half of them had fallen for the trick. I'm still unsure, to this day, how many of them stooped low enough to do him anyway when they realised their mistake.

But from these friends I built up a bit of a picture: he was big on orgies and threesomes, paid young boys and escorts to recruit shags for him, and he worked for the police! He nearly had a heart attack when I saw him on patrol at pride and pointed him out to a friend.

'Will you ever sleep with me?' he later asked me, when I bumped into him on a night out.

'Flap your arms,' I said. 'Flap them as hard and as fast as you can. Because do you know what—the day I sleep with you is the day that pigs fly!'

He turned bright red. I think he finally got the message.

Music Competition

Win These

Turn to page 62 for details

Cream Ibiza - Laidback Luke, Super You&Me

Super You&Me has taken the world by storm, with residencies across the globe.

Laidback Luke has created one of the most exciting club concepts in recent years. With party people encouraged to dress up as their favourite super hero or alter ego, the events are focused on fun and friends first. His remix credits read like a who's who of pop having retouched the likes of Black Eyed Peas, David Guetta ft Kelly Rowland, Robyn,

Dizzee Rascal, Calvin Harris, Wynter Gordon and Christine Aguilera. Out: 18th July – New State Music



To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic CD, just answer this simple question:
Kelly Rowland used to be a member of which top US girl group?

"THE JAM FILES" - PAST PRESENT FUTURE: AN ANNIVERSARY

Germany's most iconic dance label Peppermint Jam releases 'The Jam Files,' a very special anniversary compilation celebrating 18 years of the tracklisting of this triple CD aural feast reveals no less than the soundtrack to our lives: there's Ruffneck's groove-laden, hand-clap-driven 'Everybody Be Somebody'; Byron Stingily's falsetto worldwide anthem 'Get Up'; Boris Dlugosch's masterful rework of Moloko's 'Sing It Back'; and – of course – Mousse T.'s international award-winning 'Horny' (albeit in two radically new versions by Radioslave & Daniel Solar & Andi De Luxe).

CD3, crammed as it is with dubby funk and laidback house productions from fast-rising artists like Autodeep, Peavey, Daniel Solar & Andi Deluxe, Triad, Paskal & Urban Absolutes, all due for a release very soon.



Out now on the Peppermint Jam Label To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic 3CD collection, just answer this simple question:

Peppermint Patty is a character in which cartoon series:
A, Charlie Brown. B, The Simpsons. C, The Jetsons

And what of the Future? Well, it's clear as glass, of course: check out Peppermint Jam's singular vision on

Trance Nation - Rank 1

The greatest trance album series bar none, Ministry of Sound's Trance Nation brings together the hottest cuts and floor-fillers from the world's biggest dance music genre.

The first instalment of 2011 comes from Rank 1 aka Piet Bervoets & Benno de Goeij, one of Europe's most respected electronic outfits, and features tracks and remixes from Armin van Buuren, Eric Prydz, Avicii, Mat Zo, Super8 & Tab, Markus Schulz & Jochen Miller and many more.

Dutch legends, Rank 1, have maintained their position as leading proponents of the genre since breaking through alongside To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic CD, just answer this simple question: Tiesto and Ferry Corsten during trance's

'goldrush' years at the end of the 1990's, when their second single, 'Airwave', became a hit in over 40 countries and a Top 10 single in the UK. Since then, they've become established flagbearers for a movement that has taken over global dancefloors from the UK to South America, Russia and beyond.



Out: 25th July – MOS

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic CD, just answer this simple question:
What is the capital of Holland?

Queens Court, Fibre & Mission present the huge Leeds Pride street party



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LEEDSPride 2011 LIGHT

SUNDAY 7TH AUGUST

Fibre & Queens Court join forces once again to present the **mother of all gay parties** for Leeds Pride in the open-air courtyard between both venues.

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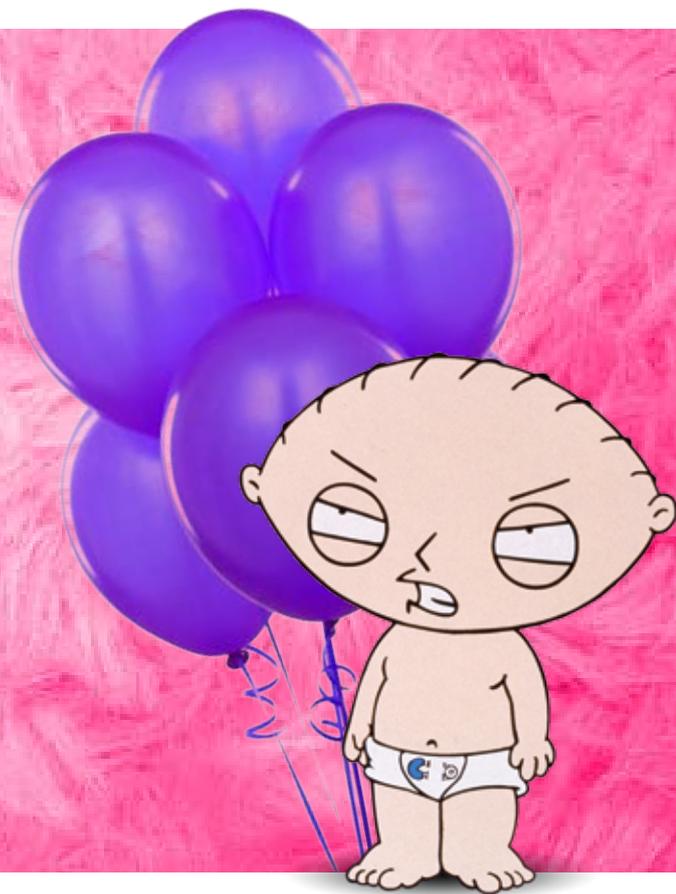
QUEENS COURT
LOWER BRIGGATE LEEDS

LEEDSPride 2011 LIGHT

Carry on Camping

(it up)

By Alex Wiggan



Family Guy's Stewie. Bungle. The 1960s Batman. Fanny the Wonder Dog. Andy Warhol. Cilla Black even Simon Cowell's one liners. All of them iconic, all of them loved, all of them camp.

Isn't life great with a dash of camp? It's not always easy to define, sometimes it's about being ironic, sometimes it's about exaggeration and sometimes it just is what it is. There's not always a definitive line for camp because a muscle Mary like He-Man can be just as camp as a weekend with the Nolans, so it's often something that just has to be accepted. Some love it, others loathe it and many refuse to acknowledge they do it, but at some point all the boys will delve into the camp zone from time to time. Yes even those lads who claim they like drinking pints and that they're the furthest thing from camp will start to wiggle their ass after a few beers. From here on out it's not long before the ill fitting vest is unveiled and they're asking for an umbrella and a sparkler in their

next Stella. It's fun, it's garish, it's lively, kitsch and enjoyable. It's jazz hands, Louie Spence, John Inman and handlebar moustaches. It's Lynda Carter as Wonder Woman, Elton's specs, Big Gay Al and knowing all the words to The Sound of Music. People are camp, songs are camp, Christmas is camp and even tits are camp.

Camp is what you want to be when you think no one is looking or what you can't stop yourself from being when everyone's eyes are firmly focused in your direction. It's camp because only you can see it that way when others can't. It can be born from musical theatre, from art and culture or from anything ever said or done by Dame Edna Everage. It's gay and yet it really isn't, as often things that are defined as camp owe this to being associated outside the realms of homosexuality. All the saucy goings on in a Carry On film between Sid James and Barbara Windsor? Camp. Heterosexual interior designer Lawrence Llewelyn Bowen painting a room purple? Camp. They're camp because they're examples of exaggerated behaviour set out to shock and amuse. It's not what you expect, it's often what you think it is and yet it's ever evolving, taking on new forms and assimilating wondrous iconic pieces into the camp collective. Sometimes things can become camp through the passage of time yet other times camp needs no measurement at all to take hold and shape an idea. Camp is what's fun when everything seems miserable and it brightens the day. Camp is the preposterous notions spouted by someone who so painstakingly wants to be taken seriously that they have entered

Campville and they have no idea on how to get out. It's a way of life, it's a bold statement and it's that feeling that some things can be steamrollered over if they're just plain absurd. It's something which has been embraced and used as a force for good to assert those who need a voice amongst the haze and the din. It can break down the borders and unite everyone who has ever giggled at anything straight laced. Sometimes it panders to stereotypes and sometimes it makes up its own rules. It's sharp, it's sassy, it's fluffy, pink, leather bound and studded. Without camp there would be no Manilow, no Midler, no Clary or O'Grady. There'd be no Zippy, no Skeletor, no Davros and no Danny Zuko. Camp exists in order to poke fun at anything and everything without being too offensive and it does it with a knowing wink that just can't be ignored. Celebrate it; invite it into your life because chances are it's crept in their somewhere even if you thought you'd escaped it. Maybe camp is hiding in the wardrobe amongst a row of T-shirts and maybe it's slotted into the DVD collection and in between the CDs. Wherever you least expect it chances are it's going to be there. Don't dismiss it, because you never know when you might use it to your advantage, as it can be your best friend if you'll only give it the time of day. A culture without camp isn't really a culture; it's just a collection of stuff waiting for a day of freedom when it can truly be what it has always ached to turn into.

So embrace it, love it, don't worry too much about defining it and just accept that camp happens.

HOMO

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VERSUS

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LEEDSPride 2011 LGBT

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SUNDAY 7TH AUGUST

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PRIDE!



Birmingham Pride 2011 – by ChrisGeary.com

The theme this year was celebrating "One Love - One World - One community". The message was evident in the parade, which saw hundreds of people making their way through the streets on foot, alongside a large number of superbly decorated floats.

The 2 day Pride event entertained tens of thousands of people with its packed schedule.

If DJs and dance arenas are your thing, then The Club Chic Dance Tent boasted two full days of live PAs and sets by local and well known DJs. In fact, 2011 was Pride's biggest Dance Arena experience

to date!
Over the two days, more than 20 DJs played to showcase some of the biggest tunes around, including an Exclusive 90 minute set from JUDGE JULES.

The hugely popular Cabaret Marquee had a great line-up of drag acts and funny folk who love to banter and entertain.

The Community Village Green is where they cover a local car park with grass for you to relax with friends, the chance to take-a-break from partying and do some chilling-out. Plus they had some fun Community Games to join in, bringing people

together. Surrounding the area were tents and stalls for local charities to showcase themselves and lots of shopping. Plus a fun fair to really wizz around and go upside-down.

The Nightingale Main Stage was the centre point of Pride with past star names and some destined for future success... and some that no Pride event should ever be without. A great time and as always, a terrific atmosphere in the UK's second city where the folk simply know how to party.

More info at: www.BirminghamPride.com



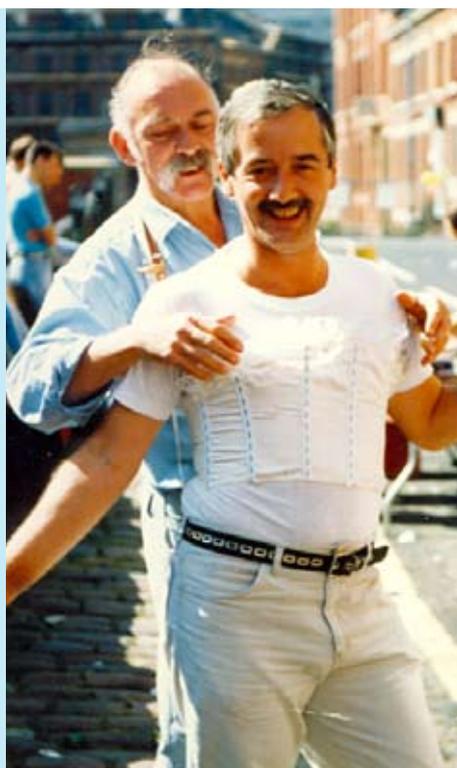
Coming of Age

Manchester Pride turns 21 this August and is marking the milestone with a commemorative exhibition, *Queer To Stay: 21 Years of Manchester Pride* at The Lowry, from now until 16th October.

This comprehensive collection of images, memorabilia, stories and more documents the festival's rich history and explores the impact Pride has had on individuals, community groups and charities in the region.

From its humble beginnings as a collection of bring-and-buy stalls outside the Rembrandt Pub in 1991 to its current inception as one of Europe's largest and liveliest celebrations, Manchester Pride has grown and developed with its audience to become a key date in the UK's festival calendar.

www.manchesterpride.com



Northern Pride

Make a date for Leazes Park in Newcastle on Saturday 16th July for Northern Pride. The organisers have an overall mission to reduce homophobia, promote awareness of equality and to unite LGBT communities across the region. They figure that the best way of doing this is to stage a series of events to bring LGBT people and their families and friends together in an environment where they can feel at home, feel safe and ultimately be themselves. So, mark the 16th in your diaries as a day for all the family to enjoy, as not only are there special guests on the main stage but a dance tent, cabaret, fairground, cafes and market area.

www.northern-pride.com

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DANNY MILLER & MICHELLE MCMANUS
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16TH JULY LIVE AND DIRECT FROM **Pride Eazy Street**
 ROOF TOP BBQ SHOW STARTS 7:00PM HOSTED BY VICKY PARIS MISS LUCY
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Blackpool Pride

With the rainbow flag flying from the top of the tower on the 11th June, no one could be under any misapprehension that Blackpool's 6th Pride was not underway. Despite the wind, the weather seemed almost kind and the crowds not only paraded through the streets but gathered at the North pier for some fun and a bevy of entertainment. The stages had everything from local drag, tribute acts, cabaret and even the legendary Toyah Wilcox who, regardless of not being in the charts for many

years, gave the crowd her hits and went down an absolute storm. Of course once the end of the pier shows ended the bars and clubs slipped into gear offering a night of dance, performance, total enjoyment and, it can't be denied, a touch of alcoholic access.

www.prideblackpool.com

Photos by Grizz.



Calderdale Pride

Calderdale Pride 2011 attracted a record-breaking 9000 visitors and the organisers delivered in spectacular fashion on their promise to bring one of the most vibrant and exciting Pride events to The Piece Hall in Halifax. X-Factor's Diva Fever opened the show and later performed a full set which included their signature tunes Barbra Streisand and Sunny before the excited crowds. The sun shone

throughout the day as crowds were treated to the sights and sounds of Haus of Gaga, Campersand, Patrick McCallion, Koocha and City Kids.

www.calderdalepride.org.uk



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LEEDSPride

2011 LGBT

Countdown to Glitz

The gay boys and girls of Leeds are sorting out their costumes and counting down to the city's Pride event on the 7th August when the organisers aim to make this the best Pride ever... all with a touch of glitz and glamour. The entire event starts at Millennium Square at noon where the main stage features special guests like: Stacey Jackson, Novena, Parade, Tameka to name but a few, all ably supported by the best local talent and of course the city's crème de la crème of drag. The parade at 3 through the city's streets eventually ends up at the gay village in Lower Briggate, which last year attracted thousands of

revellers all day and well into the night to celebrate what has become something of a defining part of the city's gay culture. As well as street stalls, all the bars and clubs will be hosting special events including the fabulous Meat in the Street, Homo Disco and surprise guests popping up all over the place.

It's not long now, so, if you've got a glitzy little outfit you can't wait to try out, come and be a part of Leeds Pride... you know you want to.

www.leedspride.com



Bradford Pride

Thankfully, it was a sunny day to welcome the city's 5th annual Pride event and saw a few thousand people flock to the Urban Garden to enjoy the festivities. Coronation Street star, and definite crowd-pleaser, Antony Cotton compered the event introducing an array of local and

Photos by Grizz.

national talent, including drag acts, stand-up comics, DJs, bands and singers. As evening approached the festivities moved a few hundred metres up the road to the gay quarter, where all the bars and clubs took charge for a night of music, entertainment and fun.



PRIDE IN BRIGHTON

The countdown is on to the biggest, brightest and most flamboyant day in the Brighton & Hove calendar: 'Pride, Out Of This World'...

On 13th August, Preston Park will come alive with up to 50,000 Out Of This World Pride supporters, their families, friends and allies as they enjoy hours of top entertainment, whether your thing is to boogie the day away, enjoy almost non-stop cabaret, more live music than you can shake a glitter microphone at, shop till you drop, or simply chill out, Pride has ensured that you will be catered for on the park.

Pride supporters will be pleased to see the main attractions are not only still a major part of the festival but with

overcrowding being an issue in 2010 the Main Dance Tent has doubled in capacity to 8,000 and has a line up to suit DJ Danny Rampling will be joined on the decks by Guy Williams, Paul Heron, Lee Harris, Seamus Haji, Hi Fi Sean, Dulcie Danger and DJ Mikalis.

For the first time in almost ten years there will be a live stage, the line up for this is strictly under wraps (until the ink is dry on the contracts anyway!) but you can be sure of a full day of the coolest and campest acts around. Watch out for further announcements very soon.

Ticket info: www.ticketline.co.uk/pride-in-brighton-and-hove-tickets or telephone 0844 888 9991

Pink Picnic

Plans are well underway for this year's Huddersfield Picnic which this year will be on Sunday 31st July.

The event promises to be as amazing as ever as The Pink Picnic will be returning to Moor End Farm, South Crosland, Huddersfield HD4 7BZ.

After some controversy over the move last year it became clear on the day that the decision to move was the correct one with the event proving to be hugely successful. Keep checking www.huddersfieldpinkpicnic.co.uk



for all the details of this year's event. The finishing touches to the day are still being put together but for now we can confirm that The Infamous MarkyMark will be back again to host the main stage.

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MODERN FAMILY

By Pedro Caiado



Jessey Tyler Ferguson, Eric Stonestreet
(Mitchell) (Cameron)

Modern Family is one of the most acclaimed American comedy shows on TV these days. It's filmed in a 'mockumentary' style but raises important issues for the gay community, such as gay marriage and adoption.

The cast includes a former Broadway star and out gay actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson, who plays Mitchell, half of a gay couple with Cameron (played by Eric Stonestreet), who are raising an adopted Vietnamese baby girl. In an age where gay couples are still fighting for the right to marry, it's an important landmark to present them on the prime time TV. Jesse came to London to talk about the success of the show, his character and comedy. "I think Cameron and Mitchell have definitely resonated with a lot of people", he said.

How did you end up taking this role?

I was in the middle of a snowstorm in New York at the time and I remember receiving the pilot script on my iPhone and reading it all the way through. I couldn't put it down. I was obsessed with it. I thought that it was an amazing show and I totally wanted the part.

How important to you is its portrayal of a gay couple?

It's very important to me. I take it very seriously and I love the responsibility that I have. I love Mitchell and Cameron.

Do you feel a massive responsibility in playing this character?

There is certainly a spotlight on both Eric and me right now. We are definitely a pop culture touchstone for the gay movement... or anyone who is looking for change in our country. Our objective at the end of the day is to make people laugh so, we don't have a big social message or political agenda with our show but we do also recognise the social ramifications that those characters have. I want the show to have the breathing space it needs to be a great comedy that just happens to have two gay characters in it.

CBS and NBC rejected the idea of Modern Family and ABC accepted and loved it. How did your life change after the show was aired?

After season one I was getting paparazzi on the streets (Laughs). I wish lawyers, teachers and doctors could have the same kind of reaction

from people saying - "I love your work". This is great. I love this.

We can see a great dynamic between the cast in the show. How do you achieve that closeness?

After we met each other for the first time, there was an immediate chemistry with all of us. It was something very natural. I do think that over time we are becoming closer and the chemistry certainly is getting deeper.

Is anything off limits with the humour? Why do you think you guys get away with jokes about sexuality, racism and positive discrimination?

I think the greatest humour is going to offend a few people. I don't think safe humour is funny. You need to push the envelope and I think people can always afford to be a little more light about things. Offending people is good, at times. There have been some jokes in scripts that haven't made it because the network considered a little bit "too far". I think that the audiences know that these characters are good people, so they let them get away with it.

Does the Modern Family working process allow for you to improvise or is it quite strict?

The writing is so spot on. Usually, whatever we come up with is not nearly as good as what they already have. But if, for some reason, something is not working, we sit down and write the scene together. However, that happens very rarely.

What's the main difference between Broadway and TV?

You get paid much more for TV. I love the immediate response you have with TV. But it's also nice to do the same show everyday of the week and understand what that character is. For the Shakespeare play I did in New York I had to learn my lines really well. When you're on TV, you try to memorize the material really quickly. By the time it's on TV, I've already forgotten what I said, but I can still remember my whole role from Shakespeare.

What's the best part of this job?

It's an amazing group of actors to work with, and I really enjoy all of them. I love playing Mitchell. It's been great. Every script has been better than the last; we have amazing writers. There's nothing hard about this job. It's a complete joy every time we come in. to work.

What's coming up?

We start filming Series 3 in August... I'm excited with the prospect of maybe getting another kid. I heard a rumour about a possibility of an episode involving a ranch where we pretend to be cowboys for a day. I don't know for sure.

Sky 1 are planning to re-run the entire two series in the near future but, if you can't wait, Modern Family is available on DVD.

THE DEFINITION OF A FETISH

By Mark Gray



When Madonna, in her ever-pressing efforts to spark controversy for attention, released her "Erotica" cd and "Sex" book in the early nineties, puritanical America was aghast.

Both featured graphic images of sado-masochism and Madge as a gold toothed dominatrix. The video was banned on MTV and the record was Madonna's first debut single off of an album that didn't reach number one on the charts.

Oh, how times have changed. Today, even pop sweetheart Rihanna is singing how chains and whips excite her in "S&M", and America isn't batting an eye. What has changed to make fetish acceptable? We spoke with Faith Michaels, the tranny who has taken the Florida scene by storm and whose Erotica-inspired track, "Fetish", is currently heating up afterhour dancefloors, to learn more.

What is up with America's fetish fascination?

I don't think it's so new. I've been subscribing to newsletters for all kinds of fetishes for some years now. Online, there are thousands of websites devoted to fetish. There are some real kinky people out there.

It used to be that we kept our fetishes hidden.

A fetish isn't a fad. It's not like a pair of orange pants that's all the rage one season and forgotten about the next. A fetish lasts a lifetime, baby, and it's who we are. It's time we embrace our desires.

How do you feel about role-playing?

I love it. The characters I play are always trying to get at my partners feet.

Feet?

I love feet.

What is about feet that turns you on?

I like well kept feet. Clean nails. I like a guy who knows what a pumice stone is. I also love the look of socks on a foot. The way the sock hugs the foot drives me crazy.

Do you get into smelling feet?

I love the smell of feet. Not a three or four day unwashed smell. That's a bit much for me. I prefer the natural smell mixed with the delicious odor from shoes.

Does a particular shoe get you going?

I get excited when I see a guy wearing loafers or boat shoes with no socks. Seeing their bare foot disappear into the shoe; I love it! Also, watching a guy slip their foot in and out of their shoe is a real turn-on for me.

Can you see yourself getting into exhibitionism?

I can and I have.

Do you have a story to share?

My boyfriend and I were in Phoenix for a runway show. We were young and broke and sharing a room with a straight friend who happened to be travelling through Phoenix too. When we thought our friend was asleep, we started getting frisky. The thing is, I'm not quiet. If you do something I like, I'll let you know. My boyfriend whispered in my ear, "he is watching us." I apologized to my friend but he

said it didn't bother him and that he actually thought it was kind of hot. So we kept right on going, and he kept watching, and it was pretty amazing.

How do you feel about a man in uniform?

I love a UPS man with those hot brown socks. A baseball player uniform turns me on too. Nothing beats the business man look, though.

What is the most popular fetish?

I would guess it is a tie between foot and leather. Both have a lot of groups and websites dedicated to them. The smell and look of leather can really be intoxicating. Have you ever smelled a leather candle? I have. It is tantalizing.

Have you heard about looners?

Yes, they enjoy the feeling of balloons against their skin. Or some like the sound of balloons popping. I would like to sit down with a looner and talk to them about their fetish.

What is the most misunderstood fetish?

Cross dressing is probably the most misunderstood fetish. Some straight men enjoy cross dressing. They love the feel of stockings on their skin or the way panties look and feel. Because I am a drag queen, I've had men come up to me and talk to me about cross dressing. I'm always happy to answer questions one might have about fetish.

Why is it important that we embrace our fetishes?

We should fully embrace every wonderful facet about ourselves. No one should be ashamed of what is natural to their self.

Visit: Faithmichaels.com



Photos: Guy Guido

[IN BETWEEN MEN]



A relatively new online show has been creating quite a stir Stateside - In Between Men follows the lives of four friends in New York City living "in between" a gay world whose clichés they don't relate to and a straight world they don't belong.

By Max Jiminez

They are Dalton, Dane, Jacob and Ben; four attractive, successful men who refuse to be defined by their sexuality. Through wild adventures, racy storylines, joys and pains, In Between Men examines the relationships they share with one another, their colleagues, lovers, and the city of New York.

At first glance, the show appears similar to past gay series like *Queer as Folk*. However, where the characters in *Queer as Folk* lived in an insular gay world (eating and breathing the LGBT community), In Between Men depicts out gay men living in a mainstream world, not fully subscribing to the practices of gaydom.

"In Between Men is not a show about men trying to be straight or denying their sexuality," says Quincy Morris, who

in addition to being the series' creator, is also the head writer and executive producer. "The characters are proud to love themselves and other men."

Dalton, the lead character of In Between Men, is based on Morris. Like the series creator, he is a young man at the top of his game. He finds little in common with the superficiality of most guys in the city and struggles with a lonely love life, wondering if he should settle for Mr. Almost-Right or hold out for someone better.

The role of Dalton was originally intended for a black actor, but when few black actors showed up to the three Manhattan auditions, Morris gave the role to Nick Matthews. According to Morris, "playing Dalton came so effortlessly to him. Nick captured the vulnerability and the strength of Dalton."

How much of Nick is in Dalton?
Nick Matthews: Dalton and I share a lot of the same characteristics. I can identify with his ambition and integrity; his work hard, play hard mentality. I'm juggling several jobs right now while I pursue my dream of being a full time actor.

What are your biggest differences?
I am a little bit more relaxed, less conservative, and I probably play a little bit harder than I work.

New York City plays a significant role in Dalton's life.
New York is the fifth character in our show. She is a silent character that speaks volumes; from the beautiful panoramic views of Central Park to the busy hustle and bustle on the streets, her presence is always there.

What is it about NYC that draws men like Dalton (and Nick) to it?
There's an energy and vibe to NYC. I've always been attracted to the craziness of the city and people. New York is one

of those places that you can go out any night of the week and meet a ton of new, interesting people from every corner of the world. People from every walk of life migrate here to try to make whatever dream they have a reality.

What led you to NYC?
Acting, but also for the freedom to be me.

Is NYC as dog-eat-dog as it appears on IN BETWEEN MEN?
I don't like to think that NYC is dog-eat-dog, because that doesn't help motivate me to get up in the morning. But, I suppose, in many ways it is. The entertainment business is straight up cut throat. I'm never surprised to hear the great lengths people go to just to land a job.

You mean?
Yeah, you know what I mean.

In Between Men turns gay stereotypes on its ear. Characters are depicted as regular guys that just happen to like guys.
It's so important to show that regular gay guys exist because we don't see many of them on TV today. I mean, it's great that shows like *Glee* and *Modern Family* are being pumped into the living rooms of all Americans to expose them to gay characters. But, so many of the characters depicted on the show tend to me real effeminate guys. It's time to break the image of the effeminate gay or at least show that other types of gay men exist. I don't think it's fair or accurate to constantly enforce images that are skewed simply for comic relief.

Are stereotypes dangerous?
Stereotypes are dangerous because they reinforce false notions. Young people within the community begin to mimic the stereotypes because they think it's the norm and the way they're expected to behave. Meanwhile, people outside the community feel they can use the

stereotypes to define the community. Of course, every stereotype is based on some truth, but it's not the reality for all.

What message do you have for teen fans watching the show who may be struggling with their own sense of self?
Life is about survival. At the end of the day you need to do what you gotta do to survive and get ahead. If you are struggling with who you are or who you feel you need to be, first weigh the situation and determine if the charade is necessary and what the consequences might be if you come out now.

Are you suggesting they hide their true selves?
I'm not advocating being a coward and living a lie. What I'm saying is that if coming out is going to put you in danger, maybe the charade is worth it momentarily. Of course, being your true self is always the best way to be but it's not always possible. IN BETWEEN MEN depicts challenges young adults face as they're trying to establish themselves in the real world. Sex, of course, is a challenge.

Is there really so much sex in the city?
If there is, I am not having it! I find New York to be a great place for dating. You can date every night of the week, but when it's time to move past the dating phase, that's when things become tricky. There is always one in the relationship that is more serious than the other, and usually the one that's less serious is afraid to risk missing out on what else might be out there.

Catch the series at:
www.inbetweenmen.com

TERRY GEORGE // TELLIN' STORIES

Last month started off pretty well, when [Number One Gay Hero](#) and rugby legend Gareth Thomas came to party at Leeds best [gay hot-spots](#). He toured the venues and the crowd at the [Viaduct](#) seemed very happy to see him so he returned the favour by [taking his shirt off](#). A little later he surprised me by showing just what he could do with a bottle of champagne. These rugby boys certainly know how to party.



Later in the week I'd been invited to a day at the races, and as I'd never visited a racecourse before and horses aren't my thing, I wasn't really all that bothered about going. However, it was to Royal Ascot, the premier social event of the year, and I just lapped up all the pomp and circumstance that surrounded this event. Even The Queen was there in all her royal splendour, we didn't meet, although I was in the box above hers and was looking down on her throughout the races. I was hoping for a few tips but couldn't get a proper look at her race-card. In the end I put a £10 each way bet, which ended up costing me £20, on a horse and was excited to see it romp home... second. I thought I must be well in the money so shot off to the bookmaker to claim

my winnings, a grand total of £23... not the most profitable day I have ever had. I just hope Her Maj did better than me.

Later in the day I was wondering past Lightbox bar in Vauxhall when I spotted Chrissy Darling, a glamorous door host I've known for years, he told me to go inside and enjoy the private party that was going on at the time. I pointed out that I hadn't got my invite with me but he would have none of it and insisted I go in. The place was all decked out with a Moroccan feel and the smell of lovely Moroccan tasty tidbits hung in the noisy air. There were also some leather-clad waiters dispensing willie-shaped cock-tails to the assembled throng. I'd stumbled

across Boy George's 50th birthday party and it was terrific to see him again. In fact, his half century of life on this earth seemed to be doing him nothing but good as I don't think I've ever seen him looking so well. Sipping from a bottle of water he had a word and a smile for everyone. We had a brief chat before he was whisked away to meet more of his guests that included Beth Ditto and Jodie Harsh, but I was really impressed at how he's seems to have turned his life around. There again, he is a very determined guy so I suppose I shouldn't have been so surprised.

Meanwhile, these events bring the highlife and a good degree of lowlife out of the woodwork and I'm afraid that some ex-celebs were more than an embarrassing and objectionable pain in the arse. I watched as Pete Burns was giving everyone who wouldn't buy him a drink... a bit of lip (sorry Pete but they are enormous). Steve Strange rocked on by and I was just telling a group of friends that included ex Frankie Goes To Hollywood singer, Holly Johnson, who was well on form and looking pretty good, Ollie Locke from 'This is Chelsea' and Daran Little (who had recently received a BAFTA for writing The Road to Coronation Street), a story about every time I'd met Steve in the past he always demands a drink... and guess what? Yep, the first thing he said was "Who's getting me a drink?" We all fell about laughing... except Steve who had no idea why we were in hysterics.

Later, I bumped into a tanned and healthy looking Will Young, who was enjoying the party and I mentioned I was looking forward to hearing his new album, which I hope will be out in the next month or two. He really is a sweet guy and an absolute joy to spend some time chatting to. All in all, it was a surprising end to a pretty brilliant day and one that I couldn't have planned better if I'd tried. So next year I think I'll go the whole hog and get a top hat and tails for Ascot, who knows I just might end up chatting and exchanging tittle-tattle with Her Majesty.



Incidentally, for those fans of Holly Johnson an extended version of his Number One album BLAST has just been re-released, check it out at: www.cherryred.co.uk



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Johan's Blog

Sex on the beach...but I prefer a hotel room.



To be perfectly honest, I really urgently need a holiday. After all, the last few weeks have just been way too busy!

We've finished the redesign of our streaming site, www.Homoactive.TV, and in the meantime I've been shooting countless new scenes for our internet club-site, www.RawFilms.net. But okay, I admit it – the shooting of these scenes has really been more fun than work. Indeed, it begs the question: can having sex with loads of cute boys actually be classed as "work"?!

Sometimes I actually wonder whether being a bottom for the camera might not just be a whole lot easier. After all, what exactly does a bottom do? They lie down on comfy pillows, lift themselves up and open their asses a bit. Okay, so they also have to moan every few moments for the camera, but that's pretty much it. Meantime, us tops have to do all the work. We fuck, we move, we penetrate – and in most cases we have to stand on little boxes just so that the director can get just the right angle to film us fucking the lazy 'bitch' who's comfortably snoozing on the couch, table, bar or whatever!

Nevertheless, I won't complain. In fact sometimes when I'm with my boyfriend I also take the opportunity to lie down

with my legs in the air so that he can service me!

Anyhow, back to my holiday needs, and with the summer now in full swing I want to enjoy as much time outside as possible – in the beer-gardens, at barbeques, and (of course!) cruising in the public parks. No doubt about it, I really do miss the beaches and the warm sunshine.

All that said, whilst I enjoy playing volleyball on the sand or having a nice cold beer in a lounge, I don't actually think much to having sex on the beach or in the dunes. My personal opinion is that it's totally overrated! Besides, I've had sex in the dunes countless times already – mostly for movie scenes for my studio, STAXUS – and I rarely enjoyed any of them. What's more, they're definitely not the place for "private" encounters.

I remember one of the last such sessions I had was on a sunny island in southern Spain. There was this sporty looking guy on the beach – maybe aged about 22, with black hair and (I guess) a 85% European/15% Asian

mix. Altogether, a very interesting proposition. We spent several hours engaging in some rather intense eye contact, until finally he came up to me, took me by the hand and led me into the dunes. After we'd found some isolated bushes, he went down onto his knees, pulled down my Speedos and gave me a really nice blowjob that I must admit I thoroughly enjoyed. But when it came to me sucking him I could only taste sand in my mouth! Obviously he'd been at the local nudist beach before and had got a lot of sand in his pubes and on his cock, so you can quite imagine that I didn't spend a great deal of time playing with his dick. Instead I focused on more essential things – especially after I realized that we'd already gained a bit of an audience, with approximately 10 people stood around us in a kind of circle watching our every move. So I rolled a condom onto my hard cock, spat on it and started to fuck him! Unfortunately, after just a few thrusts the guy started to complain. The reason? Well, the sand in his ass and on my dick had started to work like emery paper inside, and whilst some tough fisting type of S&M guy would've loved all that abrasive action it clearly

wasn't for my posh guy here. As a result we had to stop the anal session and finish off with a somewhat disappointing wanking session. Our audience – which by this point had grown to about 30 guys – clearly wasn't amused and started to shout out some rather stupid comments. Some of the older chaps even came up to us and tried to join in and whilst the session ended in a series of cum-shots, I can assure you that I didn't find it satisfying at all. I can only assume that our audience had more fun than I did, which is why I recommend forgetting the whole notion of having sex on a beach!

So whilst I'm hoping to have some holidays pretty soon – with lots of hot, sweaty and horny sex! – I'm planning for the action to take place in some plush, air-conditioned, comfy bedroom or perhaps in or beside a nice outdoor pool.

Enjoy the summer!

Kiss

Johan



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Books

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Delicious Darkness

By David Holly

Darkly lurid, deliciously homoerotic, hilariously funny and tantalisingly explicit, this collection of stories is all about hot immortals, demons, ghosts and magical devices. Bizarre plots and odd characters sprinkled with some sizzling sex scenes will entice you out of your shorts... and down to the coven.



£12.99 - Starbooks

Oversized

By Bel Ami

These young and well-hung men seem quite proud of what they have between their legs and all those who know their Euro-porn will be aware of the type of guy Bel Ami casts in his movies. Having a large dick is definitely a positive and the naughty grin on the faces of these overwhelmingly well equipped twinks makes it clear that they know how to handle their tools ... and appear to be looking forward to seeing if their partners can too.

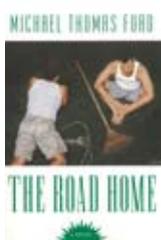


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The Road Home

By Michael Thomas Ford

After an accident leaves photographer Burke Crenshaw in need of temporary care, he reluctantly moves back in with his father in Vermont. There he begins an unexpected relationship with Will, the 23-year-old son of his high school best friend, and is gradually drawn back into the community he left behind. When he discovers a series of letters from a Civil War soldier to his fiancée, he begins researching a mystery that reaches into the present day.



£10.99 - Kensington



FINE ART SEX

By Tom Bianchi

When Tom grabs his camera he's always more than just an observer: He's a part of the sensual, erotic goings-on which he captures in his stunning photographs. His pictures are impassioned stills, charged with energy and sex, intuitive and without any distance. Like no other artist Bianchi is capable of capturing the

rough and spontaneous energy that the sex between two men sets free. Strength and tenderness, ecstasy and intimacy—these are the poles between which his work expands. Sex happens and you can join Tom as he and his models enjoy the moment.

£24.99 - www.brunogmuender.com



Albert Grape





edward scissorhands



Don Juan de Marco



Chocolat

Cry Baby

He was twice voted by American People magazine, The Sexiest Man Alive.

Has been snogged by Dawn French.

He's swashbuckled his way to the top of the worldwide box office once again.

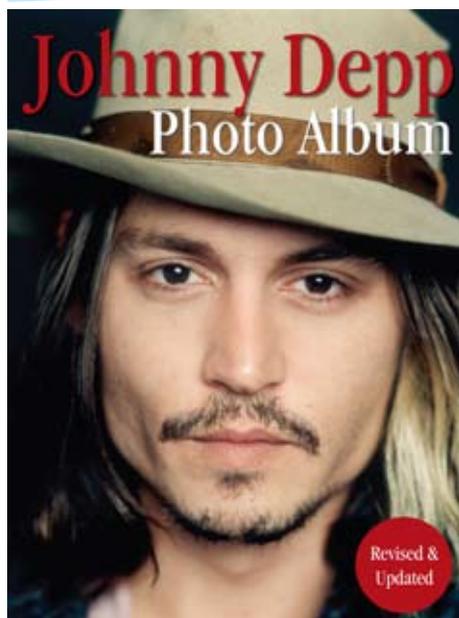
Was thrilled to say "Suits You Sir" in the last ever Fast Show comedy series.

There's a rock band called Gay For Johnny Depp.

He's Hollywood's highest-paid actor but maintains his cult appeal.

He owns enough hats to fill two rooms.

Yep, it's Johnny Depp!



JOHNNY DEPP PHOTO ALBUM

Win This
Turn to page 62 for details

By Christopher Heard

Irresistibly illustrated with more than 85 colour photos, the Johnny Depp Photo Album is a lavish visual biography of a uniquely gifted character actor. Charting Johnny's unstoppable rise from drunken bad boy to established star, all of his movies are recounted here – from beloved classics to current favourites like Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Tourist* and *Pirates of the Caribbean 4: On Stranger Tides*. Featuring a wealth of film stills and candid shots, it reveals the icon as you've never seen him. Rejecting his former life of high-profile hell-raising, Depp's chosen to escape the spotlight, devoting himself to his partner, French singing sensation Vanessa Paradis, and their children. This eye-catchingly designed tribute introduces us to the family man who also happens to be the greatest screen star on the planet.

£14.99 – Plexus Publishing

Bent and Plexus are offering you a chance to win a copy of this fantastic photo album of Johnny and all you have to do to be in with a chance is complete the title of this classic Depp film:

Edward _____?



Ten things about Nicolas Cage...

- 1 Nicolas changed his surname from Coppola to Cage. The inspiration behind this name change arose from his love for Comic Books-notably the character 'Luke Cage'.
- 2 Cage proposed to his first wife Patricia Arquette the day after meeting her.
- 3 In one of his earlier movies, 'Vampire's Kiss', Cage amended the script so that his character ate a live cockroach in place of a raw egg. He ate 3 cockroaches for each take on the shot.
- 4 Cage became the youngest ever winner of the Academy Award for 'Best Actor' for his role in Leaving Las Vegas.
- 5 Nicolas Cage suffers from vertigo.
- 6 Cage secured movie star Johnny Depp his first acting job.
- 7 Nicolas Cage has a Ghost Rider tattoo that had to be covered up for the movie, Ghost Rider (2007)
- 8 Nicolas is half German, half Italian.
- 9 Nicolas trains in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu under Royce Gracie.
- 10 Nicolas Cage has donated \$2,7 million to establish a fund for former child soldiers.



BENT // DVDS

Win These
Turn to page 62 for details

Season of the Witch



From one danger zone to another, a knight (Nicolas Cage) returning from the Crusades and his comrade (Ron Perlman) are thrust on a perilous and action-filled journey that will push them to their limits. After years of fighting battles in God's name and growing more and more disillusioned with their quest, they now have to prove themselves all over again or be forever cast as deserters. As they uncover the dark secret of a cursed girl and engage in battle with a mighty and sinister force, the fate of the world rests in their hands.

Out now – DVD & BluRay – Momentum
To be in with a chance to win a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question:
 Which Superhero was played by Ron Perlman: A, HellBoy. B, SuperBoy. C, BatBoy

ANGELO'S



The critically-acclaimed Angelo's is a comedy sitcom set in a greasy spoon cafe based in London's bustling Trafalgar Square amongst the grandeur of Whitehall and the sex shops of sleazy Soho. The show brings together a hilarious hybrid of surreal comedy characters!
 Heading up the gang is Italian cafe owner Angelo (Steve Brody) who has an intolerance for foreigners, especially tourists that spend all day sitting around drinking 'one cup of coffee'. One of the cafe's customers is Shelley (Miranda Hart), the man-hungry mini cab driver who is saving her virginity for Mr Right.

Out: 11th July - £12.99 – 4DVD
To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question:
 Miranda starred in her own comedy TV series. What was it called: A, Hart. B, Hart to Hart. C, Miranda.

Intern



Lolita star Dominique Swain stars in this sharp-witted story of an overworked and underpaid young woman's Cinderella-like ascent from the mailroom to the boardroom at an ultra-hip fashion magazine.
 Representing the first fashion flick ever to nail the scene the way it really is – complete with air kisses, model tantrums, lecherous photographers, maniacal bosses and bulimic editors, INTERN showcases an array of top designers – including Tommy Hilfiger and fashion icon Diane von Fürstenberg - former Elite model Paulina Porizkova and editors of Vogue, Harper's Bazaar and Marie-Claire.

Out: 26th July - £12.99 – Network Releasing
To be in with a chance to win a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question:
 What is Vogue? A, a music magazine. B, a listings magazine. C, a fashion magazine.

Country Strong



Soon after a rising young singer (Garrett Hedlund) gets involved with a fallen country star (Gwyneth Paltrow), the pair embark on a career resurrection tour helmed by her husband/manager (Tim McGraw) and featuring a beauty queen-turned-singer (Leighton Meester). Between concerts, romantic entanglements and old demons threaten to derail them all but then... isn't that what C&W music is all about... although in this one at least, the dog doesn't die.

Out: 18th July – DVD & Blu-Ray – Sony Entertainment

To be in with a chance to win a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question: What do the letters C&W stand for?

Animal Kingdom



This tells the gripping tale of seventeen year-old J (James Frecheville), as he fights for survival in a vicious criminal family and the detective (Guy Pearce) who tries to save him. Pope Cody (Ben Mendelsohn), an armed robber on the run from a gang of renegade detectives, is in hiding, surrounded by roughneck friends and family. Soon, Pope's nephew, J, arrives and moves in, but when tensions between the family and corrupt cops reach breaking point, J finds himself at the centre of a cold-blooded revenge attack that turns the family upside down.

Out: 11th July - DVD & Blu – Optimum Home

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question: Guy Pearce starred in which Australian soap: A, Home & Away. B, Neighbours. C, Skippy

Lake Mungo



In this Aussie chiller, sixteen-year-old Alice Palmer tragically drowns while swimming in the local dam. After her body is recovered and a verdict of accidental death confirmed, she is laid to rest; or is she? The grieving family soon begin to experience strange and inexplicable events and become profoundly unsettled. They seek the help of psychic and parapsychologist who tries to help them find answers. The family discover Alice had been hiding dark secrets and the terrifying truth awaits at Lake Mungo.

Out: 25th July - £15.99 - Second Sight

To be in with a chance to win a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question: Which of these are not a style of swimming: A, breast-stroke. B, back crawl. C, belly flop.

Unknown



Dr. Martin Harris (Liam Neeson) awakens after a car accident in Berlin to discover that his wife (January Jones) suddenly doesn't recognize him and another man (Aidan Quinn) has assumed his identity. Ignored by disbelieving authorities and hunted by mysterious assassins, he finds himself alone, tired, and on the run. Aided by an unlikely ally (Diane Kruger), Martin plunges headlong into a deadly mystery that will force him to question his sanity, his identity, and just how far he's willing to go to uncover the truth.

Out: 18th July – DVD & BluRay – Optimum

To be in with a chance to win a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question: Complete this title of a Liam Neeson movie: Shindler's _____?

Anuvahood



This comedic coming of age story about wannabe bad boy, Kenneth, has lost his job and his music career is going nowhere. He's a 'wasteman' and everyone knows it. Determined to reinvent himself as a respected local gangster and rapper, 'K' is determined to get rich or cry trying. With his motley crew in tow, TJ, Lesoi and Bookie, K tries his hand at a little drug-dealing, chica-chasing and gang culture, before getting them all on the wrong side of resident bully Tyrone. Abandoned, K has to figure out a plan to redeem himself, all over again...

Out: 4th July - DVD & BluRay – Revolver Entertainment

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question: In this context 'Hood' is short for which word?

The Resident



The story was inspired by the fact that every year, very many single women move into apartments for the first time. They do not know who lived in the apartment before them; they do not know their landlords, and they don't bother to change the locks. Hilary Swank stars as one such woman who, on finding her ideal apartment, also finds it becomes her worst nightmare.

Out: 4th July – DVD & BluRay – ICON

To be in with a chance to win a copy of this fantastic DVD, just answer this simple question: Complete this title of a Hilary Swank movie: Million Dollar_____?



Coming to a Cinema Near You...

Peccadillo Pictures, in association with TLA and Network Releasing, has launched POUT - a selection of new lesbian and gay theatrical titles that will be available to venues up and down the country. Many of the films in the POUT line-up featured in the recent BFI London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. These titles, together with new exclusives, can be booked directly from Peccadillo Pictures from July onwards.

Titles include Brit 'hot tickets' Break My Fall, Unhappy Birthday and The Cost of Love – all of which represent an exciting new wave of British independent queer cinema. Also included are French titles Man at Bath by Christophe Honoré, cult classic in the making, Gigola and Xavier Dolan's Heartbeats – all sell-out screenings at the LLGFF. Lush costume drama Sea Purple from Italy completes the line-up.

The following cinemas will be screening POUT films, with more to be confirmed in the coming weeks.

Selected cinemas will play host to cast and crew Q&A's.

London: Apollo, West End; French Institute; Shortwave; Greenwich Picturehouse.
UK tour: Watershed, Bristol; Cornerhouse, Manchester; Cinema City, Norwich; FACT, Liverpool; GAZE Festival Ireland...more tba.

Peccadillo Pictures is the UK's foremost LGBT film distributor and has a catalogue of around 150 titles comprising features and shorts.

To get more up to date info: www.peccapics.com

POUT



Film

By Chris Amos

Cell 211

There is something very homosexual about prison movies that gets me excited. Although here there is no gay agenda, there are some hot guys who don't disappoint. Juan Oliver is knocked unconscious during the prison tour on the day before he begins his new job as prison

Out 15th July

officer. He is rushed to the empty cell 211 and left to come around. Meanwhile, inmates of the high security wing break free and riots break out. When he awakes he realises he's trapped and has to pretend to be a new prisoner in order to survive... Engaging and intense,

Daniel Monzón's gripping prison drama Cell 211, swept the board at the Goya Awards 2010 (Spanish Oscars) with notable wins including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress. A must-see film.



The Tree Of Life

The Cannes' Palme d'Or winner will not be everyone's cup of tea but nevertheless some will find The Tree Of Life truly stunning. From Terrence Malick, the acclaimed director of such classic films as Badlands, Days of Heaven and The Thin Red Line, The Tree of Life is the impressionistic story of a Midwestern family in the 1950's. The film follows the life journey of the eldest son, Jack, through the innocence of childhood to his disillusioned adult years as he tries to reconcile

Out 7th July

a complicated relationship with his father (Brad Pitt). Jack (played as an adult by Sean Penn) finds himself a lost soul in the modern world, seeking answers to the origins and meaning of life while questioning the existence of faith. Through Malick's signature imagery, we see how both brute nature and spiritual grace shape not only our lives as individuals and families, but all life.



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2

Out 15th July

The much-anticipated motion picture event is the second of two full-length parts. In the epic finale, the battle between the good and evil forces of the wizarding world escalates into an all-out war. The stakes have never been higher and no one is safe. But it is Harry Potter who may be called upon to make the

ultimate sacrifice as he draws closer to the climactic showdown with Lord Voldemort. It all ends here. This is first Harry Potter to be screened in 3D, expect this to be the biggest film of summer, if not 2011.

MOVIE BUZZ

Director Tim Burton has dropped out of Walt Disney Pictures' Maleficent. The film is essentially a Wicked-style reworking of Sleeping Beauty that tells the famous fairy tale from the perspective of its villainous sorceress. Angelina Jolie is still attached to star.

Darren Aronofsky's latest passion project, Noah - a retelling of the Noah's Ark story that the Black Swan filmmaker promises will be closer to the adult tone of the Biblical tale in its original form. Meanwhile, Christian Bale has been rumoured to take the lead role.

Tom Cruise is mulling an opportunity to get involved in a new action-driven literature-turned-film series that revolves around the exploits of a man with the initials J.R. - and no, the role in question would not be that of Jack Ryan (which he is also rumoured to be looking at). Rather, Cruise could play ex-army cop Jack Reacher in an adaptation of Lee Child's novel One Shot.

One of the coolest underground movies of the year, yet to come out in the UK, Troll Hunter is to be given a Hollywood remake. Chris Columbus (director of the first two Home Alone and Harry Potter movies) has acquired remake rights, the film is a mockumentary about a group of students who discover trolls are real.

The Fighter was one of the best movies of 2010, and also one of most (pleasantly) surprising. Boxing fans know that Micky's rise to champion was only the beginning of his story - which is why Fighter star Mark Wahlberg has announced The Fighter 2 is in the works.



Beginners

From writer/director Mike Mills comes a comedy/drama about how deeply funny and transformative life can be, even at its most serious moments. Beginners imaginatively explores the hilarity, confusion, and surprises of love through the evolving consciousness of Oliver (Ewan McGregor). Oliver meets the irreverent and unpredictable Anna only months after his father Hal has passed away. This new love floods Oliver with

Out 22nd July

memories of his father who - following 44 years of marriage - came out of the closet at age 75 to live a full, energized, and wonderfully tumultuous gay life. The upheavals of Hal's new honesty, by turns funny and moving, brought father and son closer than they'd ever been able to be. Now Oliver endeavours to love Anna with all the bravery, humour, and hope that his father taught him.



Cars 2

Star racecar Lightning McQueen (voice of Owen Wilson) and the incomparable tow truck Mater (voice of Larry the Cable Guy) take their friendship to exciting new places in Cars 2 when they head overseas to compete in the first-ever World Grand Prix to determine the world's fastest car. But the road to the championship is filled with plenty of potholes, detours

Out 22nd July

and hilarious surprises when Mater gets caught up in an intriguing adventure of his own: international espionage. Adding to the fast-paced fun is a colourful new all-car cast that includes secret agents, menacing villains and international racing competitors. Pixar never get it wrong and Cars 2 is yet another jewel in their Hollywood box-office crown.



Larry Crowne

Oscar winners Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts reunite for a dramatic comedy about how the hard knocks from today's recession inspire one everyday guy to undergo a personal reinvention: Larry Crowne. Until he was downsized, affable, amiable Larry Crowne (Hanks) was a superstar team leader at the big-box company where he's worked since his time in the Navy. Underwater on his mortgage and unclear on what to do with his suddenly free days, Larry heads to his local college to

Out 1st July

start over. In his public-speaking class, Larry develops an unexpected crush on his teacher Mercedes Tainot (Roberts), who has lost as much passion for teaching as she has for her husband. The simple guy who has every reason to think his life has stalled will come to learn an unexpected lesson: when you think everything worth having has passed you by, you just might discover your reason to live.

TEN THINGS YOU
NEVER KNEW ABOUT:

CHRIS EVANS



- Read for a role in Cameron Crowe's Elizabethtown but lost out to Orlando Bloom.
- He has a dog named East, that is half American bulldog and half English bulldog
- Former vegetarian.
- Is of Irish and Italian descent.
- Has signed on to do three Fantastic Four films, two have been made so far.
- Has played the role of boyfriend/ex-boyfriend of former real-life girlfriend Jessica Biel twice: once in Cellular and again in London.
- Read for the part of Scott Smith in Milk (2008), but lost to James Franco.
- Got his break as an intern in a casting office in New York.
- His first noteworthy role was Jake Wyler in Not Another Teen Movie.
- Is tipped to star alongside Bradley Cooper in Luna, an action story set on the moon.

NEWFOUNDLAND



Adrian Gillan samples British colonial history, plus stunning wildlife and scenery, on the rugged East Canadian Atlantic coast of Newfoundland – scarcely 4 hours from London by plane!

The island of Newfoundland on Canada's East coast – like closer Gibraltar, dubbed "The Rock", on account of its craggy terrain - boasts some of the Atlantic's most dramatic and attractive shoreline; a wealth of notably British colonial history; and magnificent maritime wildlife. Magically combining remoteness with sincere friendliness, ½-million "Newfies" (Newfoundlanders), are scarce swollen in number by a mere smattering of Labradorians. The main "city" of St. John's has a core central population of around 100,000, plus a nice little, albeit tad mixed, gay scene.

Native Indians had, naturally, dwelled in the region for millennia. The first 'Europeans' to land here – and indeed on the North American continent, period - were Vikings, at now-named L'Anse Aux Meadows, high on the Northern Peninsula, in 1003AD, making a clear settlement, but seemingly not staying long. Shortly after Columbus pioneered a more permanent route with Europe in 1492AD, Italian explorer Giovanni Cabotto, working under English patronage (as plain 'John Cabot'), claimed the region for England in 1497 - thereby in fact making it the first English colony anywhere in the world!

Despite ensuing centuries of imperial disputes – mainly between England, France and Spain - Newfoundland remained a British Colony until

Confederation within a by-then-independent Canada, in 1949, narrowly voting to avoid independence itself. It subsequently renamed, as 'Newfoundland & Labrador', in 2002 - in more overt recognition of Labrador's own distinctive history and culture. The province's economy has, mercifully, happily switched from fast-depleted cod stocks to oil.

It certainly makes sense to fly Air Canada, which runs the only direct Heathrow - St. John's route, throughout the summer, until 27 Sept 2011 - the journey naturally being possible via other main Canadian cities all-year-round. The flight is only a fraction over 4 hours, at least with the Jet Stream behind you, with time difference being just 3½ hrs behind GMT. Merits even a mere long-weekender!

St. John's & Cape Spear

Overlooking St. John's historic natural harbour, the Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland (115 Cavendish Square, St. John's - www.starwoodhotels.com), with its spa, bar and eatery, is near all scene and sights.

Explore downtown St. John's, including the oldest street in North America, Water Street, with its

myriad boutiques, bistros and colourful wooden houses, all sloping down towards the harbour.

Eat at little Chinged - (www.chingedbistro.com), with its fresh, healthy, locally-sourced creative fayre - featuring anything from stinging nettles to exotic berries - plus equally fresh, charming young male staff; or at recently-opened Simplicity (223 Duckworth; T: +1 709 722 2522) with its youthful service and tasty specials.

Learn about Newfoundland's, nay our whole planet's, awesome geological history at the lively Johnson Geo Centre (175 Signal Hill Road; www.geocentre.ca) - including the true story behind the nearby sinking of the Titanic, including how locals spread word about the disaster and coordinated the rescue.

Then, for great views back down across the town, and out over ocean and bay, visit nearby Signal Hill (National Historic Site), including Cabot Tower, maybe hiking a portion of the North Head Trail which takes you along the surrounding rugged coastline. Note: Marconi received the first transatlantic radio signal on Signal Hill in 1901!



Air Canada offers a daily direct service to St John's in Newfoundland from London Heathrow throughout the summer months, 27 May to 27 September 2011. Prices start at £707.63 return, including taxes.

The route uses an Airbus A319 featuring Economy Class and Executive Class seating. There is a personal touch-screen TV with hundreds of hours of top-rated entertainment at every seat, in-seat laptop power and USB port for game controllers. Executive Class offers added comfort with guaranteed aisle or window seat, and includes Maple Leaf Lounge access plus other priority services such as extra baggage allowance, priority boarding, premium wines, spirits and cuisine plus additional Air Canada Status Miles.

Air Canada has won several awards over the last year for the quality of its services, and has more daily flights to Canada than any other airline in the UK. For info or to book:

visit www.aircanada.com or call Reservations on 0871 220 1111.

Dominating the town's skyline, as its newly pulsing cultural heart, tour The Rooms Provincial Museum, Archives & Art Gallery (9 Bonaventure Avenue; www.therooms.ca) – a wonderful mix of old and new, in both design and content - perhaps taking in lunch at The Rooms Café for arguably the best views out over the whole city and harbour. Try the tangy caribou bolognese!



Boasting – allegedly – one of the highest densities of pubs anywhere in the world, an evening out on raucous, nay infamous, George Street - (www.georgestreetlive.ca) is a must - renowned for its live, oft-Irish-flavoured music, an almost surreal kaleidoscope of bar-hopping gigs and melodious medleys!

You'll find anywhere here gay-friendly, but for the highest gay quotient, head for Club V (14 George Street; T: +1 709 738 1113); then late-night joint, Liquid Ice (186B Water Street, above Erin's Pub).

Escape the bustle of downtown St. John's for a couple of hours and make the 20 minute drive south to Cape Spear - the most easterly point in North America, with its dramatic, doubtless-haunted 1836 lighthouse - keeping an eye out for icebergs (May-July) and whales (June-Sept) in season.

Whilst out that way, also take in the picturesque little fishing cove that is Petty Harbour.

Avalon Peninsula: Baccalieu Trail & Irish Loop

If you're only in the area for a few days, after St. John's, dodge the odd stray moose and pick up a hire car (Newfoundland has no trains) to explore the wider Avalon Peninsula - notably the Baccalieu Trail due north west, taking in historic Dildo, Heart's Content, Cupids and Brigus; plus the Irish Loop due south, notably Bay Bulls and Ferryland.

Drive 1½ hours west out of St. John's to the aptly and joyously-named little town of DILDO, located on the Baccalieu Trail, perched on Trinity Bay.

Settle into the historic, late 19th Century, 5-star George House Property (www.georgehousebnb.com) and adjacent Inn on the Bay - (www.innbythebaydildo.com), both run by the gorgeous gay couple that are Dale and Todd whose passion

for hospitality and cuisine colours everything they do. After a slow jacuzzi, attended by no less than Bulgari bath products, sip a G&T in one of several lounges whilst browsing your hosts' best-selling cook book before gorging on their latest crab creation, gazing out at a pod of frisking dolphins in the bay below! Heaven!

Enjoy lunch at the nearby harbour-view Dildo Dory Grill - (www.dildodorygrill.com) before exploring the historic community of Dildo itself, and surrounding area. Visit the local Whaling & Sealing Museum, or take an aquatic zodiac tour, or a coastal hike, with Captain Dildo Expedition Tours.

North of Dildo, explore the picturesque coastal Baccalieu Trail, not least HEART'S CONTENT, featuring the Heart's Content Cable Station, to learn how the transatlantic telegraph cable advanced modern communications, from the mid-19th to the mid-20th Century.

Don't miss the historic community of CUPIDS (originally 'Cupers Cove') - the first 'planned settlement' in this New Founde Land, following John Guy's arrival here in 1610 - which has recently celebrated its 400th anniversary. Visit the excellent Cupids Legacy Centre, plus the nearby archaeological dig – surely worthy of 'national', not just 'provincial', heritage status! Enjoy lunch at the lofty

Cupids Haven B&B & Tea Room (www.cupidshaven.ca).

Drive a few minutes down the road to cutside BRIGUS, whose history dates back to around 1612, when said John Guy sold half the harbour to the Spracklin family. Visit Hawthorn Cottage (National Historic Site) - birthplace of arctic explorer, Bob Bartlett; plus the nearby reconstructed Stone Barn Museum.

Also explore the coastal Irish Loop in the southern part of the Avalon Peninsula, taking in BAY BULLS - home to O'Brien's Whale & Bird Tours (www.obriensboattours.com), offering a 2-hour sea adventure around the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve, boasting puffins, whales and icebergs in season.

A further ½-hour drive south, don't miss FERRYLAND and the grassy hills of the 1621-founded Colony of Avalon (www.colonyofavalon.ca) archaeological dig, followed by a leisurely hike along the footpaths to the Ferryland Lighthouse, with its well-nigh institutional picnics - (www.lighthousepicnics.ca) for a deliciously local 'hamper' lunch, amidst stunning scenery, including the 1870 lighthouse itself.

For more info on the province of Newfoundland Labrador: www.newfoundlandlabrador.com

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Cyprus

home of Aphrodite

By Adam Lowe

£34

Clubbing

Cyprus, rather lyrically shaped like a lute, is the birthplace of Aphrodite, goddess of beauty and love. It is the third largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, and at only four hours flight from Manchester Airport via Monarch, this is an accessible alternative to holidaying in Gran Canaria or Sitges.

Different Bar in Paphos is a trendy bar at 6-7 Ayia Napa Street. Things start getting into their stride about 11pm here. Expect the latest club hits and a cool vibe.

Secrets Freedom Club is the busiest and biggest gay venue on the island, which welcomes straight clubbers as well, if you're travelling with hetero friends. There are regular theme nights and special events, so it's usually best to check out secretsfreedomclub.com before you head out. There's a chillout lounge and internet access, and the entry fee includes a free drink. The club is located on Airport Road, 67 Artemidas Avenue in Larnaca.

Alaloum is the oldest gay bar in Cyprus, located at 1 Loutron Street in Old Town. The bar is hidden away, so you'll have to travel towards the old port road, turn left just before the roundabout and then walk down the little alley to get there. Expect a traditional gay experience, with a varied crowd and the island's local drag queens.

Escape Club, in the heart of Limassol, is at Makarios Avenue 81, opposite Bodyline, and is one of the trendiest hotspots on the island, with a late licence to keep disco dollies happy.

the rocks you'll find a stretch of beach that's almost entirely composed of sunbathing men (if you're lucky).

Dassoudi Beach in Limassol is a family-friendly beach, but at night the area behind Pizza Hut becomes very cruisy indeed. However discretion is advised, because you're as likely to come across straight people taking a late-night walk as you are gay men looking to do their thing.

Governor's Beach has beautiful white chalk bays, which are almost enough to distract from the men in trunks on the sand. Finally there's Nissi Beach in Ayia Napa, which includes family areas, nudist areas and a gay cruising spot.



Whether you want to hit the nightclubs of Ayia Napa or bask in the peaceful sun of Paphos, whether you fancy water skiing in the blue waters of Limassol or snow skiing in the Troodos mountains—Cyprus has something for everyone. What's more, the people all speak English and everyone drives on the left side of the road. For the discerning gay traveller in need of a tan, the decision is a simple one.

Beaches

Cyprus has plentiful beaches, from soft white sand beaches to pebble beaches, from nudist beaches to family beaches. There's always something to entertain the gay traveller.

In Coral Bay is Sea Caves Beach, which is just outside Paphos. The beach is popular both with nudists looking to get a tan and cruisers looking to get a man. Most of the beach is covered with pebbles, so flip-flops are advised, but there are some patches of sand.

Pissouri Beach, which is halfway between Limassol and Paphos, has its own nudist area too. Behind

Sights and Activities

Visitcyprus.com offers details of a number of tours that can be taken of the island, including the Aphrodite Tour, a tour of the religious routes and a tour for wine-lovers. There are ten Byzantine churches included on UNESCO's World Heritage List, which pepper the Troodos mountains with their wooden roofs, pious icons and ornate frescoes. For sporty types there are cycling routes as well. Events this year include the FxPro Cyprus Rally, the Lemesos Wine Festival, and 'Kataklysmos' Flood Festivals in Larnaca and Ayia Napa.

Consider also visits to the Archbishop's Palace, the Maa Palaeokastro Settlement from the Late Bronze Age and the wonders of the Tombs of the Kings.

The Flower Wave Swim Mini by Bruno Banani
www.deadgoodundies.com

With thanks

This trip would not have been possible without the kind assistance of Anita Hamilton and her colleagues at Hamilton Consulting. Thank you also to the wonderful Columbia Beach Resort, who made our stay extra special and put in 500% in terms of service and the welcome they offered. Thank you also goes to Leah Rosewell and Rebecca Cornell at Monarch Airlines, and the kind cabin crew we flew with. Finally, a big thanks goes to Lillian Panayi and everyone at the Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

www.columbia-hotels.com and
www.visitcyprus.com

Accommodation and Flights

The luxurious five-star Columbia Beach Resort in Pissouri on the south-west coast is offering special deals on 7-day bookings in a junior suite. There you'll be perfectly located to take advantage of the festivals and culture the island has to offer over the summer months, and you're close to both Limassol and Paphos. Any booking of 7-nights or more will see you upgraded to complimentary dinner with a complimentary room upgrade as well, with prices starting at just £225 per night in the summer and £125 in the winter. For the more thrifty holidaymakers, there is also the four-star Columbia Beachotel.

Located beside the sea, Columbia Beach Resort is well placed, next to one of the best restaurants in Cyprus: Limanaki, where owner and head chef Sam Kazzaz serves up an eclectic fusion of tastes in an al fresco dining experience you won't forget. We loved it so much, we spent most of our holiday there!



Columbia Beach Resort also sports a top-of-the-range health spa, where you can relax with a soothing massage, dip in a hot tub or have any number of pampering treatments. They have also just launched a new diving centre, to complement the windsurfing, Hobie Cat sailing and Sea Kayak packages already on offer. These are great if you want to explore the waters, which are home to sea-turtles and dazzling schools of multi-coloured fish.

Poolside rooms are available, as well as rooms in the mountainside, with a stunning view of the rising sun and the vast turquoise sea. With an extensive range of restaurants and bars located throughout the resort, there is little need to leave. But if you want to, the local shops and restaurants are close by.

Monarch offer competitively priced flights from Manchester, beginning at £59 each way. With their friendly onboard staff and tasty meals, they promise to make your flight an enjoyable one. The in-flight meals are well presented and the cabin crew are eager to meet your needs. Should you wish to forgo (or forget to order) an in-flight meal, there is also a tasty range of hot and cold snacks, such as sandwiches, at reasonable prices. One of the nicer touches is champagne available both in regular bottle sizes to share and a miniature bottle if you fancy an indulgent treat for one. The prices at around £25 for a regular bottle.

Staying with Pride

Gay and lesbian travellers are now spoiled for choice as nearly 100 Preferred Hotel Group™ members around the world have joined together to create Preferred Pride, a distinctive group of independently owned and operated hotels that understand and cater to the specific needs of the LGBT traveller. Whether traveling for business or pleasure, Preferred Pride offers consumers the extra level of reassurance many LGBT travellers seek when making their travel decisions. Preferred Pride members also stand for equality in their employment policies and services and are active supporters of the LGBT community.

To be eligible for Preferred Pride, hotels must be either TAG Approved® (Community Marketing's Travel Alternative Group) or belong to IGLTA® (International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association). Both organizations are universally recognized to set the standards for LGBT travel.

As part of the Preferred Pride program, diversity training is offered to hotels to provide insight in best practices in serving the LGBT community from check-in to check-out. Participating hotels may choose to assign an internal ambassador who has completed the training and will champion the activity within the hotel. Training suggestion examples include providing bathrobes, slippers, and toiletries befitting same sex couples; having a knowledgeable concierge who can provide a list of the area's best attractions, dining and nightlife; or simply including publications within the hotel that acknowledge the specific guest's interests. In addition, training will provide the hotels with ideas on how they can take a more active role in their local LGBT community through activities, sponsorship and support.

Visit: www.PreferredPride.com



THE HEAT IS ON

By Max Jiminez



Every summer, thousands of men from around the globe flock to the sun drenched beaches of Fire Island Pines for their three-day round-the-clock party, Ascension.

Since its premiere six years ago, Ascension has grown from a single event on the shore into the island's most anticipated and busiest weekend.

As if to emphasize the heat of its sixth season, spicy Latino Jorge Lopez was chosen as the face of Ascension. It's the first time a non-Caucasian model has been chosen to represent the island. Is this another sign of the browning of Gay-merica?

Congratulations on being the island's first Latino campaign model!

Thanks so much. I wasn't really aware that I was the first Latino model until recently. I was so honored to even be a part of the shoot. To be the face of the campaign is amazing.

How did the shoot come about?

I was initially put in contact with the team behind Fire Island's Ascension Party through a photographer I regularly work with.

Why do you think Fire Island Ascension chose to take a different direction this summer with their campaign?

Honestly, I think I may have been chosen because my dark features help me to stand out more in the group pictures. I don't think it was a decision to make the campaign more ethnic.

In your experience, what do you believe are the best assets of a Latino man?

Is that a trick question? It all depends. We are diverse so our assets are varied. There are the obvious ones: ass, package and the like. I do think the way many Latino men handle themselves is sexy. We tend to be confident and masculine.

What attracts guys to you?

I am not quite sure what it is that I do, but so far I have been very lucky.

Do Latinos face discrimination within the gay community?

Maybe I have been lucky, but I have yet to encounter real discrimination in the community. I also think it is up to each of us to represent our individual communities in the best light possible. I mean, if I show up one day with a Fabio ponytail and a chacha open button down shirt, then I would be asking for ridicule, right?

How do you feel about guys affectionately calling you 'papi'?

Funny you ask. I never like anyone calling me papi. I see it as an insult; as a way of categorizing me into a specific ethnic box. It wasn't until recently that I allowed one guy I was seeing to call me 'papo' and to be honest with you, I liked it. I guess it all depends on who it comes from and when it is used. There is something sexy when you hear, "harder papo" (laughs).

Latinos are known for being fiery in the bed, but also fiery in fights. Is that you?

Oh Lord! Did my ex-boyfriend put you up to this? Yes, yes, yes! That is totally true. The same energy that I put in bed, I also put in loving that special person, but when I get hurt I hurt a lot and it comes out when fighting. We Latinos wear our heart on our sleeves and all emotions are intense. I know I make up for any fiery fights in bed and truly loving.

Are you single?

Very.

What kind of guy are you attracted to?

I am attracted to many different types. All of my previous boyfriends have been very different in looks and personalities. One physical characteristic is big: big hearts and bigger well, you know what I mean. But seriously, a guy has to be masculine and muscular to get my attention.

Will this be your first time at Fire Island's Ascension party?

No, I have been going to the Ascension parties for years. I always have lots of fun at them. This year will be the first one I go to being single! Let's see what happens. As long as there are no cameras on me, I'll be fine!

For those that haven't been, can you describe Fire Island Pines?

Oh boy, the parties on the island are really what you want to make of them. They have very chilling pool side parties during the days, crazy hot muscle hunk pool parties later in the days and bayside parties at midday. Some of the best parties start at night and go until the wee hours of the morning. It is also important to mention that there are many cultural activities going on all week so get informed and take part in as many activities as you can.

What should guys pack for their Fire Island weekend?

A good number of hot tight bathing suits, two pair of sunglasses, lube, condoms... you know the essentials.

Ascension New York in Fire Island Pines takes place 19th-21st August

Visit www.ascensionparty.com for information.



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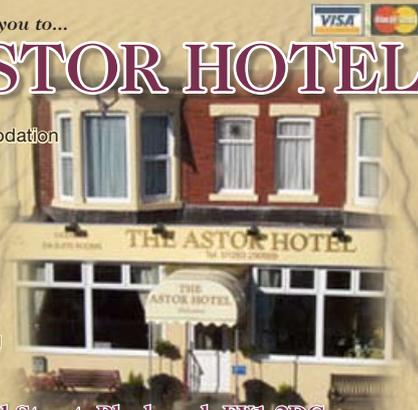
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Sauna Guide.

It won't be long now!

OK guys, it's what Nottingham and the surrounding area has been waiting for - the city's biggest NEW SAUNA COMPLEX called *CS2* opens soon in July. A place to meet, a place to sweat, a place to cruise and a place to enjoy yourselves in clean and comfortable surroundings.

It boasts a large sauna cabin, Jacuzzi, bespoke steam room, power showers and much, much more.

Email us at info@cs2sauna.com or join us on facebook for up to date info of our official opening party.

We look forward to seeing you all there soon in time for Nottingham Gay Pride.

CS2 @ 1 Lennox Street, Nottingham, NG1 1ER
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My First Time

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

My first time at a gay sauna was not as successful as your other correspondents. In fact it was bloody awful because I was just so nervous. Like most guys it took me a while to pluck up the courage to go to one in my home town. This was quite a number of years ago and the place was an absolute dump. I stuck to the manky wet floor in places and wasn't sure if it was just damp or something else. Thank god Health and Safety and real investment has gone into today's saunas, they are absolute palaces in comparison to that first experience.

Then, I paid my £10, collected a rather thin and tatty towel and shoved my clothes in a locker, which I have to say appeared to be the only thing that worked because, even though there was plenty of guys (I like my men older and hairier than me) on offer, my dick just refused to rise to the occasion. No matter how much stimulation was offered, and there seemed to be plenty of guys around

offering a helping hand or mouth, I just couldn't maintain a hard-on. It was strange that as one guy gave up, another, confident soul would step forward and give his all but alas to no avail. I think I became a bit of a project by the other punters and I thank them for their persistence but because I was so scared it was never going to happen. After about two hours of trying and failing one guy, brandishing a bottle of lube, suggested I just flip over and let him try a different approach. I ran out of that place so fast I hardly had time to pull on my pants.

Thankfully, my second, third and subsequent visits have all been quite exhilarating and I even met a past boyfriend in the Jacuzzi. That was the start of a whole new exciting episode in my life.

Paul, Leeds



My first experience of a gay sauna was in Austria. It was about 10 years ago and the place was fantastic, over several floors, with nooks and grannies, dark-rooms and the usual assortment of showers, saunas and Jacuzzi's. I was 25 at the time and although it was my first ever visit I was fairly confident about myself and had explored and enjoyed a few of the things (and people) on offer. Eventually, taking a break, I wandered into the TV area for a bit of a rest. There was only one other guy sat there watching some porn, he was quite hunky, had a great body and was just wrapped in a little towel. I nodded to him as I sat down next to him and he nodded back. After a few minutes of vaguely watching what was on the screen I noticed that his towel had 'dropped' open to reveal a thick and semi-hard dick. To be honest, I was bloody impressed, he was a lot bigger than me and I noticed he'd noticed me looking. His smile told me I could explore further so got down on my knees, you know, just to check it out even more. It didn't take long to

get it fully erect and he was more than a mouthful for me. He suggested we adjourn to a private side room where he pulled on a condom, theatrically lubed it up until it was shiny and slippery in the light, then lubed me up. Fifteen or so minutes later he'd finished with me but I was still as hard as nails. Smiling at my still hard dick he wondered off leaving me like that. As I wandered out of the room a young, slim hunk caught sight of my excited state and pushed me back into the room, lubed himself up and insisted (without using any words I might add) I shag him. I was more than happy to plough his little butt for about half an hour. It was a pretty good introduction to the pleasures of gay saunas and I've used them all over the world thanks to that first and hectic first time.

Simon, Cambridge

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

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Advice



Friends of Dorothy

Over a thousand supporters turned out for Terrence Higgins Trust's Walk for Life 10k fundraising event recently, including celebrities Beverley Knight, John Partridge and 4 Poofs & A Piano.

The event was the 22nd year of the Walk for Life, which this year had a Wizard of Oz fancy dress theme. Hundreds of walkers set off on the historic London 10k route, which started in Potters Fields Park, to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS as

well as vital funds to support people living with HIV in poverty, through Terrence Higgins Trust's Hardship Fund.

Sponsorship for Walk for Life closes at the end of September and all funds raised go to supporting people living with HIV in poverty, through Terrence Higgins Trust's Hardship Fund.

To donate visit
www.walkforlife.co.uk
Photo: Annabel Vere



Great Sports at Greater Sport!

Greater Sport, Greater Manchester's County Sports Partnership (CSP), recently became the first of 49 CSPs in England to sign up to the Government's Charter Against Homophobia and Transphobia in Sport. The signing took place during Pride Youth Games, part of the UK's annual LGBT multisport festival programme which took place in Manchester. County Sports Partnerships are local networks of sports clubs, schools, local authorities, primary care trusts and National Governing Bodies of sport working together to grow sport in England on a local level. Lou Englefield, Director of Pride Sports, the UK's LGBT sports

development organisation explains why the sign-up is so significant.

"County Sports Partnerships make a huge difference to grass roots sport in this country. They help develop volunteers, get people into coaching, grow community sport and provide information about funding. When you think that there are more than 100 local LGBT sports groups in England alone, you can see how important it is that we, as an LGBT community are able to access these resources."

www.pridesports.org

AKT NOW

The Albert Kennedy Trust supports LGBT young people (16-25) who are homeless or living in a hostile environment. Many of our young people have been rejected by their parents or bullied at school just for being brave enough to come out and be themselves. We provide Safe Housing, Mentoring, Training and Advice & Guidance. Sir Ian McKellen, Paul O'Grady, Sue Perkins, Samantha Fox and Andrew Hayden Smith appear in an emotion-jerking and moving advertising campaign portraying where they all could've been now had their lives been different.

The advert is part of a launch campaign called 'AKT Now' created by TBWA/London for the Albert Kennedy Trust, a charity set up specifically to help and support disadvantaged lesbian, gay, bisexual and Transgender individuals, up to the age of 25, who have faced homophobic bullying, abuse and homelessness. 'AKT NOW' encourages you to donate £15, give 15 hours of your time or even better donate £15 on a monthly basis, all of which is driven through the website: www.akt.org.uk

A little bit about AKT:

The charity was founded following the death of Albert Kennedy, a 17 year old who was the victim of a homophobic attack, ending in his tragic death falling from a multi-storey car park. Cath Hall, a heterosexual foster carer and

founder of AKT, noticed that a lot of young LGBT people were being thrown out of home by their families and set up the charity to help to help to deal with the increasing issues.

Since it began in 1989, the Albert Kennedy Trust has provided help and support to disadvantaged Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals up to the age of 25, who have faced homophobic bullying, abuse and homelessness. The services offered, including mentoring, advice help lines, education and long term re-housing, ensuring that these individuals get back on track and fulfil their potential. Some real stories:

"My brother told me he knew I was gay and would tell my parents. I thought they would try to kill me when they found out. I stood on the Tube platform and heard the train coming - I just wanted everything to be over. Then I thought to myself 'why do I need to do this?' I took a few steps back and then got on the train to go home. I knew I had to do something"

"The day after a teacher 'outed' me in the classroom the bullying got worse. On the way home on the bus some older guys from school started to shout abuse at me then one of them knifed me. As I ran from the bus I was petrified of how my mum would react when she found out I was attacked for being gay"



Yorkshire MESMAC's African Voices Podcasts

Being able to listen to your own language is one of the best ways of absorbing important information, with this in mind, Yorkshire MESMAC has produced a series of short podcasts on HIV and surrounding issues. The podcasts are in the following different languages: English, French, Luganda, Shona, Swahili and Yoruba.

Each podcast covers essential information for Africans on HIV in five segments:-

What is HIV?
How is HIV transmitted?
Getting tested for HIV

Being positive and visiting the clinic
HIV and medication

Listeners are also provided with contact details for the 'Do It Right' - Information and Advice Line on 0800 0976 500 which was set up to support African people with questions about HIV. To access the free podcasts online, go to:

www.mesmac.co.uk/sex/mesmac_resources.html

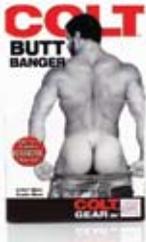


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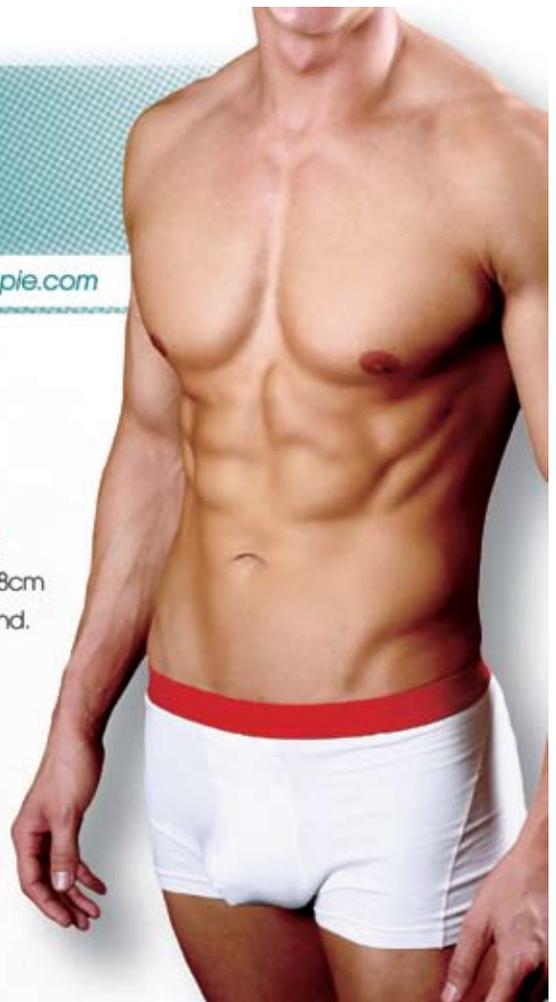
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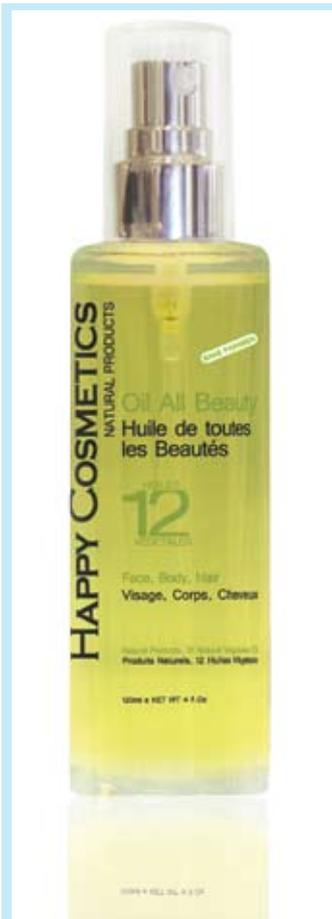
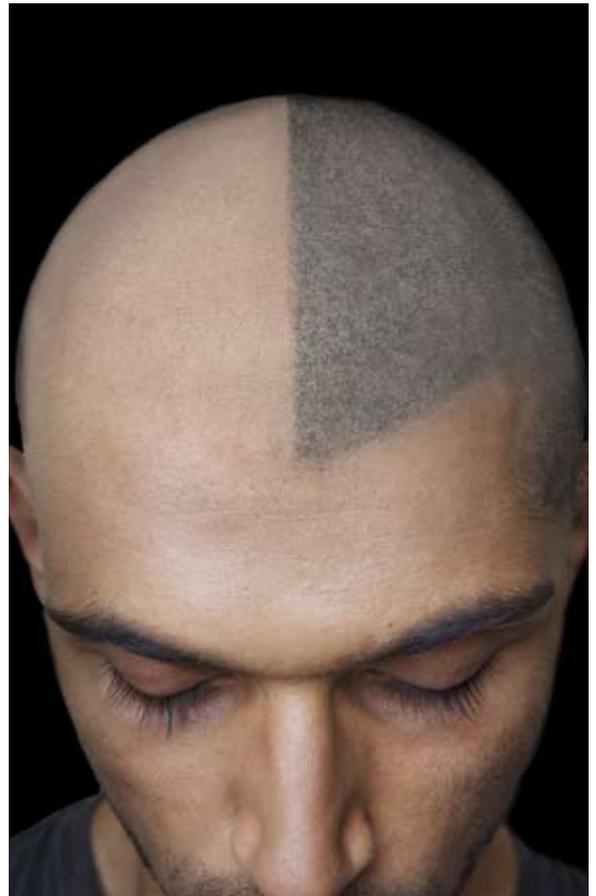
Hair Today

With all the media full of news that Wayne Rooney and a host of other celebs have taken to getting various procedures to hide their baldness (or receding hairline if the word bald makes you uncomfortable), there's a new, cutting-edge solution for that problem that is taking the male grooming market by storm.

Micro Hair Technique®, also known as MHT®, is the newest technology in male grooming, which provides an on-trend, sharp and no-fuss style to restore male confidence and style. The ground-breaking scalp pigmentation technique creates a natural looking simulation of micro hairs on the scalp, creating the appearance of the short cropped hair style as worn by the likes of Vin Diesel, Wentworth Miller and Jason Statham. MHT® is ideal for disguising early signs of hair loss, camouflaging male pattern baldness, any form of alopecia, thinning and receding hair lines. For those who are suffering from complete hair loss, MHT® can be applied to the whole scalp. Furthermore, the MHT technique is hassle-free, low maintenance and looks great! It involves no surgery, no scarring, no hair pieces and no down-time after the procedure, plus HIS Hair Clinic can customise the pigment to suit the individual's scalp and overall appearance.

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Total Beauty Oil

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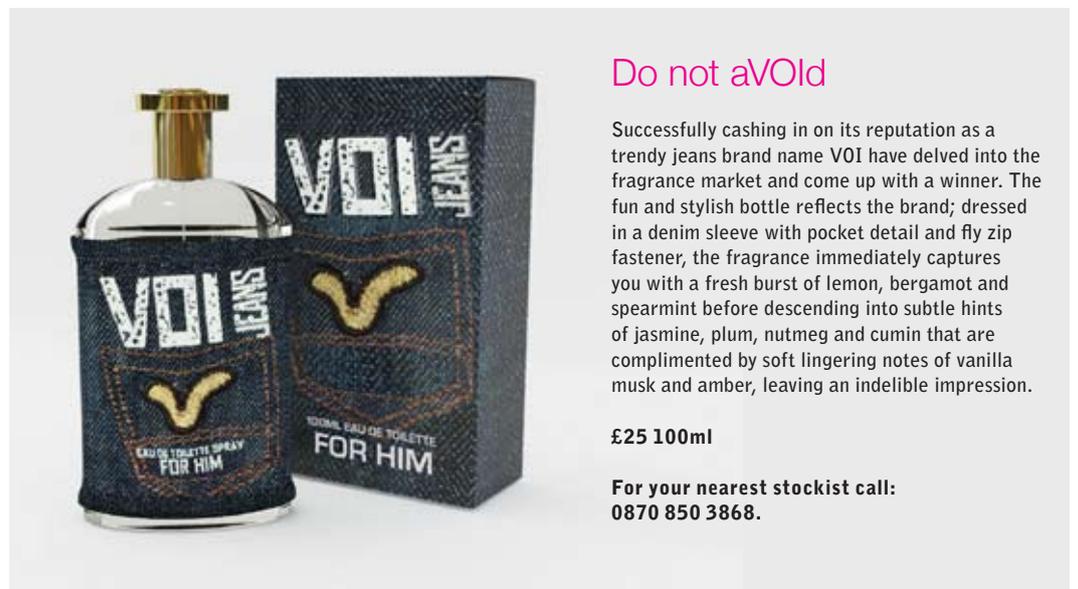
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Squash

By Markus Down

The best exercise



Since I was at school I've always had a thing about guys in sportswear. I remember even as a very young boy getting excited changing next to all the other lads in the school changing room. All those cute little bums running in and out of the showers and the sports master making sure we washed 'everything' after a sweaty game out on the pitch. I particularly loved it when we all climbed into our underpants; lovely little arses sliding into white briefs that gripped tightly. Now I'm 18 and have left school I've joined several sports groups really to keep myself involved with athletic, horny males - the type of spunky guys I go for.

My latest sports group is the best because of what happened the other night.

I played squash with this guy, who's about 15 years older than me; black, very fit, quite sexy and he wore a tight white Nike kit of shorts and shirt that was an unbelievable contrast against his dark skin. He looked like a winner even before he stepped onto the court. We played six matches, all of which he won easily but he made a game of it and had me running around the court like a man possessed. By the end I was worn out and sweating like I'd got an internal fountain going on. It was getting late and we were the last to

play on the court but after the game he told me to stand still to get my breath back. As I stood gasping against the enclosed court wall, and feeling the dampness soak into my shorts, he was smiling and looking me up and down. The lights in the court were movement sensitive and the court was suddenly plunged into darkness, all I could make out was the vague outline of his luminous kit. He immediately reached over and put a hand on my chest. "OK" he said, "fancy a new game?" I knew what game I wanted to play and was extremely happy when I found out it was the same one he did. That hand stroked down the front of my shorts and began to fondle my crotch. My cock was hard in seconds and as my own fingers explored... I found that his bulge was hard and demanding. So as not to re-ignite the lights he moved slowly and deliberately as he eased down my shorts. My God, the sensations were incredible - in the darkness his hands made every bit of my body tingle with excitement and expectation. My hardened cock reacted to his careful stroking and was ready to shoot in seconds. His thumb tweaked my piss slit and set off a sudden series of involuntary shudders coursing through my body. Suddenly and rather surprisingly his hot mouth found my cock and engulfed it in one long deep suck and, as he plunged down the length for a third

time, I could hold back no longer. I let loose the volley of salty semen I'd been desperately holding back and with a huge, relieving moan emptied my full ball sack down his throat. He used his hands to grip my arse, holding me tight, making sure every last drop was shot into his warm slicked mouth... then he slowly turned me around to face the wall. He used that mouthful of my own cum to lube up my butt hole and after a few minutes of rimming and deep tongue probing he stood up and rested his hips against mine. I could feel the hardness in his shorts against my naked bum and it wasn't long before he released his imprisoned cock and let it press up against my cum-slicked crack. The pressure increased and I was flattened against the wall of the court as my most intimate area was slowly prised apart. I panicked as the width suddenly became apparent and tried to writhe free but this only made his cock slip in further. I squeezed my eyes and my butt tightly as he forced his way in, desperate to hold back the pain that was mounting but he was insistent and pushed on through. His huge hand covered my mouth to stop me from screaming loudly and though I wanted to, I also wanted what was on offer. I was both panicking and yet in dire need to see this through as his hips worked a miracle and managed to force that big hard and potent cock all

the way in. He held it there for a few moments as I tried to get used to it. "Well done my boy." He whispered in my ear. "Now you're going to get just what you've been begging for since you signed up for the game. It's something we both want... and will enjoy" For the next ten minutes his cock worked in and out of my hole in smooth, long and satisfying strokes. My butt was on fire but I was loving it as that thick dick reduced me to a whimpering cum catcher. As he speeded up I was already on the verge of cumming again and this extra friction to my sensitive slicked hole had me erupting with no further stimulus. As my arse ring clamped in the throws of orgasm he yelled out and with half a dozen hard quick thrusts, the motion of which turned the court lights back on, gave me that orgasmic moan that told me he had reached the same sexual place as I had. We breathlessly laughed as we saw the state we were in, sweat pouring off us both and the undeniable dripping wall that bore evidence to what had just taken place. After a little bit of cleaning up we both pulled up our shorts and headed for the showers... there, under the hot spray, I got to know my badminton chum even better. Our matches now just don't take place on the court, although we still enjoy the thrill of a stolen shag at the sports centre.

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Aquarius

(Jan21/Feb19)

Of special interest to you, if you are romantically inclined, will be the new social opportunities coming your way. A business relationship or friendship could transform into something more intimate and exciting. If you are already half of a duo, make the most of your partner's support and encouragement. There is something you really want to do and you've been secretly longing for their approval. Very soon you will get it and this is the green light you need for you to push ahead with your plans. These are going to be a huge success.

Pisces

(Feb20/Mar20)

If you would like to increase your chance for love these next few weeks accept all social invitations coming your way. You could meet with love at first sight while on a journey you almost cancelled. Or a declaration of love will be made in a most unusual and unexpected way. If an existing union is sinking under a crust of routine, you will get the chance over the coming month to do something about it. Book a romantic holiday. Whether it is in the countryside or jetting off to the sun plan something special for just the two of you and make this a significant month for love.

Aries

(Mar21/Apr20)

You're going through one of your restless phases. You're ready to break out of your daily rut and you aren't going to let anyone stop you! You will only get more agitated if you don't escape your usual routines and no one will enjoy your company if you do blow your top! You realise this and they should too. Boredom will make you mischievous over the weeks ahead. You might use your charm to get others to agree to a risky venture or you might play one person off against the other to achieve your own ends!

Taurus

(Apr21/May21)

Your tendency to focus on your work and earning skills could take a toll on your love life or marriage. You might be bringing in the money but what good is this if it leaves your partner feeling lost, lonely and misunderstood? No job is worth a broken heart. If someone who is special in your life is feeling neglected, the next few weeks is a time when you should reaffirm your devotion. Single? Mixing business with pleasure over the weeks ahead could bring you both fun and profit!

Gemini

(May22/June21)

It is time to tighten your belt where spending is concerned. If you have been pushing the boat out recently, you will need to keep a strict eye on your spending. The good news is: your prestige at work will get a powerful boost when you successfully complete a project virtually without any assistance. Friends and loved ones will be inspired by your positive attitude and may start leaning on you for support. While their adulation will be flattering, it could get draining too after a time!

Leo

(July24/Aug23)

If you've never seen yourself as being particularly psychic, events now going on will sharpen your intuitive ability. Listen to your inner voice and over the next few weeks you could be surprised by how easy it is to tune

into the thoughts and feelings of those around you. Spending more time than usual with your partner or other loved ones will make you realise all you have been missing out on. This is why you might make more space in your diary this month for leisure and pleasure and doing the things you enjoy the most.

Virgo

(Aug24/Sept23)

These next few weeks will be fun and sociable but you could feel pulled in different directions. You feel drawn towards romantic and fun pastimes but you don't want to fall behind with your other commitments. Can you manage them all? You have many skills you can share with others and a leadership role in a club or group may be offered to you. Somehow you will manage to keep on top of regular routines while accepting new opportunities. Both mentally and physically you are super charged and ready for action!

Libra

(Sept24/Oct23)

Even when you feel exhausted you still want to assist friends and colleagues with their work and obligations. You may not see it as a problem but those who love you will be telling you to start standing up for yourself. You might think you're being assertive but when up against a really tough operator, you always tend to yield, back down and agree to do their bidding. Listen to your partner when they say it is time to say no. Even if they have to do it for you, this would be better than working yourself into the ground!

Scorpio

(Oct24/Nov22)

This is an ideal time to make a new start in areas connected with travel or education. A brief overseas visit will not be enough to satisfy your need to do some research or negotiations and it may be necessary to plan another journey fairly soon. Your partner is doing their best to make life easier for you. With all the hard work they're putting into your relationship it is bound to do your love life the world of good. Later in the month you could find yourself redefining your goals when the chance for a new venture or adventure is too good to turn down.

Sagittarius

(Nov23/Dec21)

Expect to have to devote more time to other people's interests over the weeks ahead. You may have to make some big decisions that will have repercussions on your family life and more directly, on your partnership. With you trying hard to please everyone you might start feeling emotionally or physically drained at times. Avoid treating yourself too lavishly or this could have a detrimental effect on your finances! Later in the month it will be necessary to take a realistic look at your life to decide which areas need improvement or reform.

Capricorn

(Dec22/Jan20)

The next few weeks will be a great time to join forces with another, whether this is for business, pleasure, fun or necessity. Impulses you have been trying to deny will come bubbling to the surface. People are starting to notice how you feel so why hide it any longer? Invite love into your life while you are feeling so positive and romantic. Say what you think to others now because they are paying attention. Go with the flow and get ready for a fun packed month ahead.

Cancer

(June22/July23)

You can confidently look forward to a month when everything goes your way especially in the broad area of romance, family life, career and long term ambitions. Your compassion for others makes you a trusted member of the community. You can count on friends and family for their support. With you being swept up by a refreshing wave of self-confidence, this is a good time to start new projects. If you're single and in search of your ideal mate, don't be surprised to find yourself drawn to someone who is distinguished, kind, attractive and very passionate!



Daniel Radcliffe 23/07 Celebrity Cancer

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 22/6 Meryl Streep | 06/7 George W. Bush |
| 23/6 Selma Blair | 07/7 Pierre Cardin |
| 24/6 Jeff Beck | 08/7 Kevin Bacon |
| 25/6 George Michael | 09/7 Tom Hanks |
| 26/6 Chris O'Donnell | 10/7 Jessica Simpson |
| 27/6 Tobey McGuire | 11/7 Giorgio Armani |
| 28/6 Mel Brooks | 12/7 Gareth Gates |
| 29/6 Ingrid Bergman | 13/7 Harrison Ford |
| 30/6 Mike Tyson | 14/7 Matthew Fox |
| 01/7 Princess Diana | 15/7 Bridgett Nielsen |
| 02/7 Lindsay Lohan | 16/7 Corey Feldman |
| 03/7 Tom Cruise | 17/7 David Hasselhoff |
| 04/7 Jo Whaley | 18/7 Vin Diesel |
| 05/7 Jean Cocteau | 19/7 Brian May |

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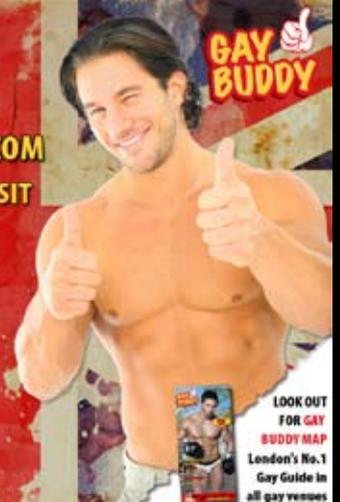
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