

# bent

Issue 151 August 2011

mag.bent.com

**WILL YOUNG**  
NEW ALBUM AND TOUR

**PENIS ENVY**  
THE PUPPETRY BOYS ON TOUR

**TURKISH WRESTLING**  
THE BEST USE OF OLIVE OIL

**PRIDE ROUND UP**



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GAY-GLASTO,  
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MUSIC REVIEWS  
& MUCH MUCH  
MORE...



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# Queer

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WISHING EVERYONE A  
SAFE & HAPPY  
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FOR A NON STOP DANCE PARTY WITH DJS  
**APHRODITE / ALAN STEVENS**  
**DAVID DUNNE / SCOTT WALKER**  
**STUART ROBINSON / NITRA-M**



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**PROUD**  
TO SUPPORT

Manchester  
**Pride**  
2011



**ESSENTIAL & MANCHESTER PRIDE  
PROUDLY PRESENT**

**PROUD**

Manchester  
**Pride**  
2011



**SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST 2011**  
**FIRE PRIDE SPECTACULAR**  
**11:00pm - 05:00am**

London's Top Gay Club is taking over Manchester's Biggest venue  
for a very special event to celebrate Manchester Pride

With an incredible laser show and production  
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**PAUL HERON / THE OLI / ALEX BAKER**

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playing chart pop and party sounds

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OFFICIAL AFTERPARTY

**BEYOND** Vs **MORNING GLORY**

**ESSENTIAL**

MINSHULL STREET | MANCHESTER

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WEB  
[WWW.ESSENTIALMANCHESTER.COM](http://WWW.ESSENTIALMANCHESTER.COM)



**PRIDE SATURDAY'S AFTERPARTY**

LAST YEAR THEY CAME FROM LONDON AND TESTED THE WATER.  
NOW LONDON'S BIGGEST AFTERHOURS PARTY IS BACK  
TO DO BATTLE WITH MANCHESTER'S BEST...

# BEYOND

versus

# MORNIN GLORY

Sat 27th/Sun 28th August 2011

4am – 10am

**MIKEY D, THE OLI  
ALAN STEVENS, APHRODITE  
SCOTT WALKER, NITRA-M**

# MORNIN GLORY

**PRIDE SUNDAY SPECIAL**

Sun 28th/Mon 29th AUG 2011

4am – 10am

**APHRODITE NITRA-M SCOTT WALKER DAVID DUNNE  
STUART ROBINSON ANDY DANIELS**



# Queer

**MONDAY 29th AUGUST 11pm-5am**

# ESSENTIAL THANK YOU FREE PARTY

**DJS APHRODITE ALAN STEVENS ANDY DANIELS**

**In The Pop Arena: NICKSY CARL HYLAND & KEVIN B**

**A MASSIVE THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR PRIDE SO SPECIAL**

**Free entry for everyone before 1am otherwise £5**

**Free entry and free drink to all pride workers and volunteers With ID**

**INCREDIBLE DRINKS OFFERS. MUSCLE BOYS AND DANCERS**

# ESSENTIAL

MINSHULL STREET | MANCHESTER

FACEBOOK  
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SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST 2011

# ONYX

VERSUS

# ESSENTIAL

11PM - 5AM

**LONDON'S FAMOUS GAY NIGHT STORMS INTO  
MANCHESTER PRIDE FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY**

For Onyx:

**LEE HARRIS**

**VERITY MAYES**

For Essential:

**APHRODITE**

**STUART ROBINSON**

In the Pop Arena:

**ALEX BAKER**

**NICKSY**

**CARL HYLAND**

**KEVIN B**

**TICKETS £10:**

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QUEER CAFÉ BAR OR ONLINE AT [CLUBTICKETS.COM](http://CLUBTICKETS.COM)  
LIMITED AVAILABILITY ON THE DOOR £12



**MINSHULL STREET | MANCHESTER**

[WWW.ESSENTIALMANCHESTER.COM](http://WWW.ESSENTIALMANCHESTER.COM) FACEBOOK: [ESSENTIALMANCHESTER](https://www.facebook.com/essentialmanchester)

OFFICIAL AFTERPARTY: MORNIN' GLORY 4AM - 10AM @ QUEER CAFE BAR \*RICHMOND STREET ENTRANCE)

**PROUD  
TO SUPPORT**

**Manchester  
Pride  
2011**



## ON THE COVER

Will Young  
Courtesy: RCA Records

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30th August

## BENT MAGAZINE

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**Publisher**  
Terry George

**Editor**  
Gordon Hopps  
08712 246 511  
[editor@bent.com](mailto:editor@bent.com)

**Advertising**  
Adam Gerrard  
08712 246 516  
[adam.gerrard@bent.com](mailto:adam.gerrard@bent.com)

Heather Ross  
08712 246 524  
[heather@bent.com](mailto:heather@bent.com)

**Features Editor**  
Adam Lowe  
[adam.lowe@bent.com](mailto:adam.lowe@bent.com)

**London Editor**  
Simon Savidge  
[simon.savidge@bent.com](mailto:simon.savidge@bent.com)

**Designer**  
Stephen Lubbock  
[designer@bent.com](mailto:designer@bent.com)

**Photo Editor**  
Mark Hawkins  
[mark@bent.com](mailto:mark@bent.com)

**IT Support**  
Chris Chrisostomou

**Finance Director**  
Ian Ellis

**Accounts**  
Louise Lee  
08712 246 516  
[accounts@bent.com](mailto:accounts@bent.com)

**Publishing Director**  
Michael Rothwell

**Astrologer**  
Philip Garcia

**Contributors:** Beyonce, Lee Hudson, Chris Amos, Jason Guy, Johan Volny, Les Lea, Terry George, Adam Lowe, Alex Wiggan, Adrian Gillan, Chris Geary, Allan Christian Hanson, Grizz, Mark Gray, Mark Hawkins, Simon Savidge, Ryan Houston, Ryan Doherty, Sebastian Reynolds, Paul Johnson, Marc Montemerlo

**Distribution and Availability**  
By Rainbow Line  
08712 246 516

**Bent Ltd.**  
APN House,  
Leeds  
LS11 8BP

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Adam Gerrard  
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International Call:  
+44 113 3449516

Tel: 08712 246 511  
Fax: 08701 222 666



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in over **5000+ restaurants**

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\* No payment details are taken so there are 'NO STRINGS ATTACHED' we just thought you may want to give it a try to see what you think! Please note this is a 1 month tastecard trial. This offer is strictly limited to new members only and one application per household



# Bites



## The UK's first National Lesbian and Gay Biker Rally

Are you a gay man or lesbian with a motorbike? Do you enjoy sharing your passion for bikes and bikers? Want to make some new mates for future biking trips?

On September 18th the UK's first National Gay and Lesbian Biker Rally takes place in the great seaside town of Hastings - home to one of the UK's largest biker meets. It's all happening around the Marina Pavilion situated right on Hastings

seafront with dedicated parking and enough space for hundreds of bikers. A big afternoon barbecue will be available and a few surprises are planned to keep you all entertained! Why not plan a lovely ride down and make a day of it.

It's going to be a really great day and lots of biker fun.

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

## Rufus fan forum

From a photo of Rufus as a baby in a guitar case to his upcoming residency at the Royal Opera House, the House of Rufus Memolane traces Rufus' colorful career and allows his fans to contribute their memories from when Rufus has touched their own life stories. The interactive timeline, a collaborative effort between UMG and Memolane, has been embedded within Rufus' official site:

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

Rufus' Memolane is the scrapbook that writes itself, automatically capturing his social media streams, including Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, LastFM, MySpace into one simple to navigate timeline, making it easy for his devoted fans to see, search and share all the great memories throughout Rufus career. Fans can actively contribute to the House of Rufus story by adding their own memories from photos and ticket-stubs, to YouTube videos, Last.fm scrobbles and social media updates to become part of the persistent collective memory of Rufus' career.



£2.50

## Not for all occasions

Who needs flowers when you can send a camp card? A company is producing a select, colourful, fun set of cards with sentiments you can't normally get from Clintons. Check them out.

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



## Whats on // Manchester

### Celebrate Manchester Pride!

Manchester Pride is officially the UK's biggest Pride event so it's fitting that it should be hosting parties by some of the biggest names on the dance club circuit. London's most successful gay clubbing brand BEYOND is joining forces with Manchester's biggest after hours MORNIN GLORY and ESSENTIAL

will be hosting parties with FIRE on Saturday 27th August with their incredible laser shows and production and hot international go-go boys and ONYX on Sunday 28th August with the UK's most talented DJs spinning a cutting edge sound of upfront house.





# WILL YOUNG

Over the past year Will Young has been a very busy chap. He's guest starred in an episode of 'Skins' for Channel 4 and also made a name for himself starring in the haunting TV drama 'Bedlam'.

Moreover he found time to run this year's London Marathon in aid of the Catch 22 charity having spent the last year fitting in training around the writing of the new album in London, LA, the Namibian desert and Sydney.

Now we get the chance to see whether all that work has paid off as not only does Will release a new album and single this month, he also has announced plans for a major UK tour. Will's new album follows up his platinum selling Hits collection and will be preceded by a brand new single, his first release since the acclaimed 'History' collaboration with Groove Armada that became one of the sounds of last summer.

Coming on the 10th anniversary of Will's first audition for Pop Idol in 2001, 'Echoes' is his fifth studio album in a career spawning over 8 million sales so far. August also sees Will host his very own primetime ITV1 Special, to be broadcast on Saturday 27th August, which will consist of live performances of tracks from 'Echoes' along with a selection

of his hits and a few surprise guests. 'Echoes' has been produced by Richard X (MIA, Kelis, Goldfrapp) who Will chose after falling in love with Steve Mason's (Beta Band) 'Boys Outside' album that Richard produced. With 'Echoes' Will has sidestepped some of his traditional sounds to move more into the world of electronic music, making an album of sophistry and gentility that pulses with the undercurrents of the dance-floor. The sweeping strings and key changes of his hit ballads have made way for synthesised melody, towards something sparer and more controlled. 'I had to learn to undo my musical muscle memory,' he explains. 'To allow space into the music.'

Following his hugely successful 2008 and 2009 sell-out tours and acclaimed summer festival appearances, Will is ready to astound audiences once more with a nationwide tour in October and November. He will be performing live versions of his new material along with favourites from his past albums.

## OCTOBER:

27 Swindon  
28 Bournemouth  
30 Belfast  
31 Dublin

Oasis  
BIC

The Waterfront  
The Olympia

## NOVEMBER:

2 Nottingham  
3 Oxford  
4 Ipswich  
6 Liverpool  
7 Blackpool  
8 Sheffield  
10 Aberdeen  
11 Glasgow  
12 Newcastle  
14 Manchester  
15 Llandudno  
17 Brighton  
18 Cambridge  
20 Birmingham  
21 London  
22 London  
24 Southend  
25 Plymouth  
26 Cardiff

Royal Centre  
New Theatre  
Regent Theatre  
Empire Theatre  
Opera House  
City Hall  
Music Hall  
02 Academy  
City Hall  
02 Apollo  
Arena  
Centre  
Corn Exchange  
02 Academy  
London 02  
Shepherds Bush Empire  
Cliffs Pavilion  
Pavilions  
St David's Hall

**New Single: JEALOUSY**  
Out: 21st August

**New Album: ECHOES**  
Out: 22nd August

RCA Records

Several eccentric bits of info about Will Young (which may be true or not)

**1** He still practices ballet and was offered the lead in Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake.

**2** His favourite disguise is when he's dressed as a granny.

**3** Before Pop Idol he had alternative plans for a life as a sailor.

**4** His 'rider' contract on tour means there must always be a chilled Aero bar waiting when he comes off stage and a glass of pink champagne.

**5** He has an aquarium where he's named all the fish 'Simon'.

**6** 6 is his unlucky number. However, the word six isn't.

**7** He only wears PVC underpants.

**8** He wants to marry Beyonce.

**9** He once walked out on a live TV interview, when the interviewer mistakenly called him Gareth and punched a passing badger.

**10** He plans to take up the trapeze/juggling/lion taming for his next video.





## Bites

### Bulge

GRAPPLE101 - BULGE - After the huge success of the sports-wear and underwear night for Fetish Week, they are now opening the doors with FREE entry before 10pm for anyone wearing sports kit, lycra or underwear.

**GRAPPLE101 - BULGE - is all about celebrating men who love a BULGE...**

Bulging Biceps, Bulging Pecs, Bulging Abs - Six pack or Party Pack! Bulging Bums & Bulging Balls but this isn't just about the body beautiful and massive muscles (although we fully encourage them); Sports BULGEs come in all shapes and sizes - from long distance lithes to rigger buggers. It's not about the size of the bulge it's about how you package it!

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

### THEY NEED YOU!

GRAPPLE101 has always been about you, so they wanted to create a new poster that reflected that.

They would like you to send us pictures of your bulges so they can create a BULGE Mosaic - A wall of beautiful BULGE. Remember this is a sports wear night so keep your pictures on-theme - this is about the package, not the pork... about the fetish not the flesh.

For a chance to have your BULGE on the poster; to see the pictures others have sent and to vote for your favourites.

GRAPPLE101 - BULGE - is Every Wednesday night at The Eagle London, 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, London SE11 5QY

The Gay Travel Guide For Tops And Bottoms is a very tongue and cheek (or Hot dog and bum) approach to travel for gay tops and bottoms. Our special travel duo of gay men set out to find the best places for gay tops and bottoms to travel for their future adventures.



Find out which European city has MORE TOPS THAN BOTTOMS! Find out which country has the best power bottoms!

This book is a must have to the anal minded traveller in search of romance, adventure, and a lot of fun.

**The Kindle edition can be obtained from Amazon.co.uk for around £7**

## FAIRYtales

by Allan Christian Hansen



### Homos in Sport

Recently, Just A Ball Game? ([justaballgame.blogspot.com](http://justaballgame.blogspot.com)) went live with a survey looking at homophobia in sport.

Just A Ball game? is inviting sport's people, in particular those who identify as LGBTQI to fill out this survey which will be live until 1st September 2011. The link for the survey is:

<http://app.fluidsurveys.com/s/justaballgame/>

It is very easy to complete and will take only around 2 or 3 minutes of your time to do so. You can complete the survey whether you are active in a sport or leisure activity or even if you only watch live sport as a fan. There is no limit to how many times you can take the survey so you are able to fill in details on the 17 questions, as a sports participant and then do so again as a spectator if you wish too.

In May this year Just A Ball Game? completed over 240 hours of research looking at homophobia found on the internet, from football fans forums and message boards and put out research findings from this. The research can be found with this link:

<http://justaballgame.blogspot.com/2011/05/media-release-were-not-homophobic.html>



### Storm Force

London fashion brand STORM is renowned for its exclusive watches and distinctive stylish fashion accessories. With innovative designs and minimalist inspiration, STORM offers a range of styles from contemporary edginess to sleek sophistication.

Here's your chance to win a STORM watch that is both fun and futuristic. The Special Edition Code is a timepiece aimed at techies who love to crack a mathematical equation. This block colour silicon strap watch features a series of LED light displays which each indicate a different unit of time and are further represented by a selection of colours for

different quantities. To tell the time, simply press a button and the multi coloured light display will appear, with some simple addition you will decipher the code. Let STORM keep you light years ahead with the unique Code watch.

Available in: White, Black, Blue, Orange and Green.

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

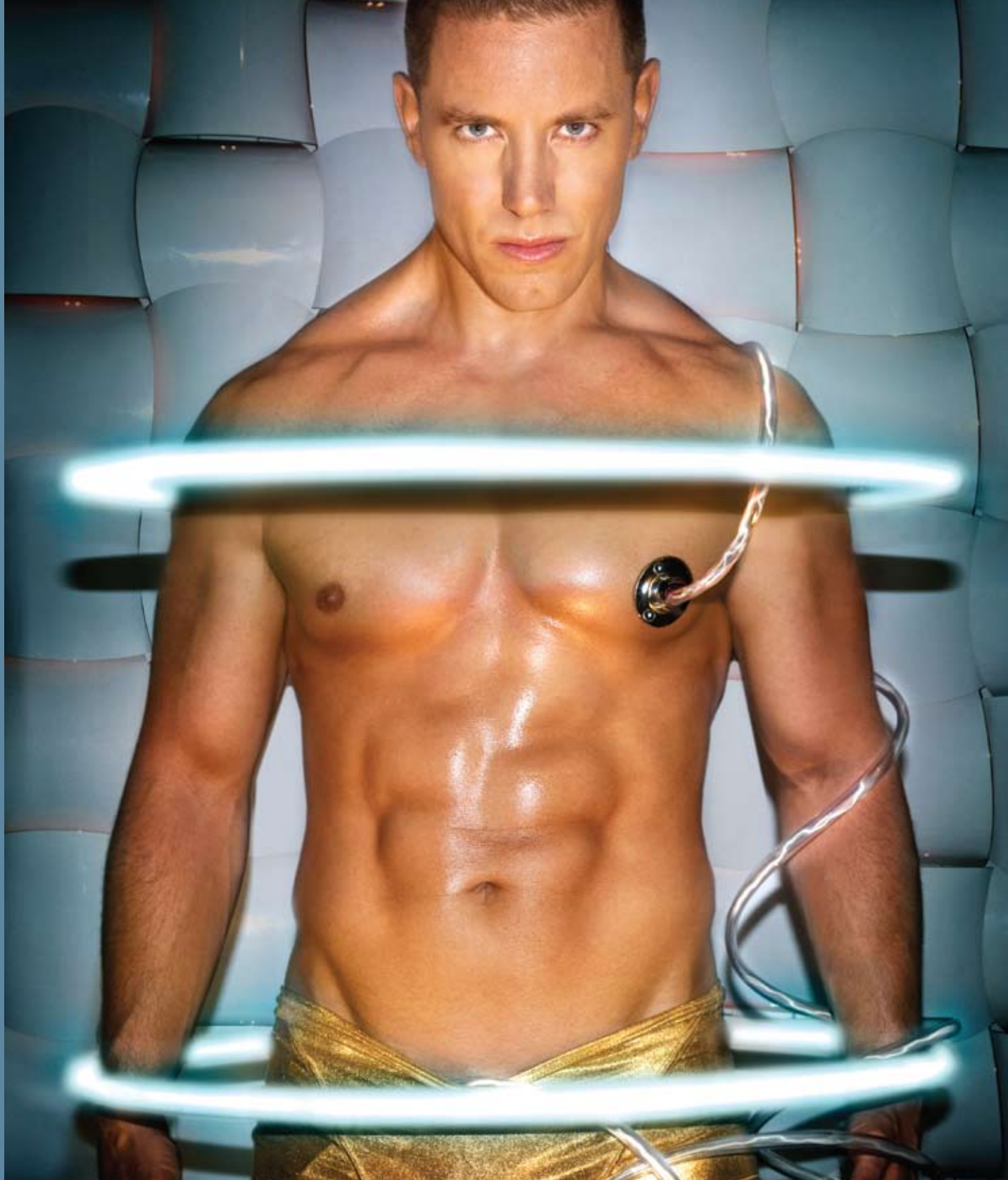
**To be in with a chance of winning one of these fabulously chic watches, just answer the simple question:** STORM is based in which British city?

Win This  
Turn to page 78 for details



£79.99





## INTELLIGENT DESIGN

WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CREATE THE PERFECT MAN,  
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Come and see what your new profile looks like to the other 6 million guys on Gaydar, or if you haven't joined yet take this opportunity to try us out for FREE. We've made Gaydar an even better place to show off your assets (so you always look your best), plus it's now much easier to use (so you can hook up faster), and a whole lot easier on the eye (superficial much?!) Check out the beta now at <http://beta.gaydar.co.uk>

  
**GAYDAR.CO.UK**  
WHAT YOU WANT, WHEN YOU WANT IT





# Taylor Dayne

Taylor Dayne stands out as one of music's most dynamic artists. Her unique vocal style has earned her numerous best-selling gold and platinum albums, which produced seventeen Top 20 singles, among them number 1 hits such as "Tell It To My Heart", "Love Will Lead You Back" & "Prove Your Love To Me". During the course of her career, she has sold more than 75 million albums and singles worldwide and garnered three GRAMMY nominations. Meanwhile, in 2010 she delivered a breathtaking spectacular in Cologne when she performed "Facing A Miracle", the official anthem of the "Gay Games VIII. Cologne", live at the opening ceremony which ended in a five minute standing ovation.

Taylor's brand new single "Floor On Fire" combines the iconic singer's big voice and the latest sounds to form an explosive blend. The song was written by her in conjunction with Swedish songwriters Niclas Kings and Ivar



Lisinski as well as Tania Doko from Australia. Hit producers such as The Thin Red Men, Marc Lime & K-Bastian or Zoned Out chipped in perfect mixes especially suitable for the European, British and international audiences. The single contains a total of eight different versions available in online stores now. Like Taylor's previous dance smashes, "Floor On Fire" is a driving up-tempo song and, once again, Taylor hits the nail on the head with her latest release and proves she is back.

Photo © Tony Duran



## SUGABABES

Following the announcement of the band's new signing to a joint-venture deal with Sony's RCA label group, Jade, Heidi & Amelle commented; "We literally can't wait for people to hear our new material. We've enjoyed taking our time in the studio and are excited to be coming back with what we feel is the band's finest material to date". 'Freedom' is an epic track, packed full of the Sugababes signature sass; the girls are back and boy do they mean business! The single is pure-pop unleashed and at its best with an anthemic killer-chorus and moody dub-step twist; the 'babes' are proving they still sit ahead of their contemporaries with yet another genius chart-worthy track oozing effortless musicality.

Sugababes continue to be one of Britain's most exciting and dynamic bands. With hook-laden songs, pure talent and total drama; they constantly surprise, transform and entertain. With over 7 million albums and 3 million singles sold they have also amassed more Top 10 singles than the Spice Girls, All Saints or Destiny's Child, to name but a few. With three triple-platinum albums, numerous sold-out tours and number one hits in over 15 countries, they have proven they're a force to be reckoned with.

**Sugababes new single 'Freedom' will release through RCA on Monday 5th September.**



## Whats on // Manchester

### Federation in association with Gaydar presents Out Of Africa

This August Bank Holiday, Federation presents a huge 'one room' production led event themed on everything that is wild!

On Saturday 27th August (Manchester Pride Weekend) we are moving back to the massive Academy on Oxford Road, which is the only venue in Manchester that can accommodate our planned stage set and shows. As well as the crazy antics of the Federation entertainers and dancers we are flying in an African dance troupe that have to be seen to be believed. The all-important funfair will also return to the back of the Academy along with plenty of room to chill out and rest those dancing feet.

Headlining trio of DJ's Gregg Holden, Jason Guy & Nik Denton will be bringing you Federations big room sounds.

Tickets are £18, which includes a donation to Manchester Pride and are on sale at [www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk) or in Manchester at Clone Zone, Taurus, Manto, Velvet, Village Off License and Spar (Oxford Road/ Piccadilly Approach & Piccadilly Gardens) and Fibre in Leeds.

Gaydar VIP lounge tickets £28 from Clone Zone Manchester and [ticketweb.co.uk](http://ticketweb.co.uk) Why not take a breather from the dance floor and join Gaydar in their VIP lounge complete with comfy chill-out area, its own bar and toilet facilities, huge balcony with spectacular views of the dance floor and stage plus fast track entry into the event via the guest list.

Federation Manchester Pride Joint tickets for both Out of Africa 27/08/11 & Sankeys with Pride 28/08/11 Priced £30 and limited to 100 from Clone Zone Manchester and [ticketweb.co.uk](http://ticketweb.co.uk)

Shuttle buses run from outside the Royal Bank of Scotland on Princess Street from 11pm until 1am

Federation in association with Gaydar presents Out Of Africa Saturday 27th August (Manchester Pride Weekend) 11pm-5am

**@ The Manchester Academy, Oxford Road, Manchester.**





# FEDERATION™

PROUDLY PRESENTS...



## OUT OF AFRICA

**SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST**  
**MANCHESTER ACADEMY**

**DJ'S: GREGG HOLDEN, JASON GUY & NIK DENTON**

**OPEN: 11PM - 5AM // TICKETS £18 ON SALE UNTIL  
8PM ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT FROM:**

**MANCHESTER:** CLONE ZONE, TAURUS, MANTO, VELVET, VILLAGE OFF LICENCE AND SPAR  
(OXFORD ROAD/PICCADILLY APPROACH & PICCADILLY GARDENS) **LEEDS:** FIBRE

**ON LINE:** [TICKETWEB.CO.UK](http://TICKETWEB.CO.UK) [WWW.CLUBFEDERATION.COM](http://WWW.CLUBFEDERATION.COM) / OR PAY MORE ON THE DOOR

●●★  
[gaydar.co.uk](http://gaydar.co.uk)

MANCHESTER ACADEMY, OXFORD ROAD, MANCHESTER

Manchester  
Pride  
2011



MANCHESTER'S FAVOURITE GAY VENUE

# CIRCUZ 101



# STARSHIP 101

**PROUD**  
TO SUPPORT

THUR 25TH  
MON 29TH  
AUGUST

Manchester  
**Pride**  
2011



# THE GAYEST SHIP IN THE UNIVERSE

CRUZ 101 BOLDLY GOES WHERE NO CLUB HAS GONE BEFORE!

facebook.com/cruz101manchester

Thursday 25th August • 11pm-5am • £5 Members

## BACK TO THE FUTURE BACK2BACK BIG WEEKEND PRE-PARTY

Cruz & Poptastic blast off at this Pre-Pride Party!

FLOOR 1 • John Hamilton • Poptastic Party Anthems

FLOOR 2 • Rob James • 90's Pop and Dance Classics

Friday 26th August • 10pm-6am • £6 Advance Tickets & Members

## ROCKET TO URANUS OFFICIAL PRIDE OPENING PARTY

Close encounters with Miss Cara & the Cruz team

FLOOR 1 • Darren Leasley • Latest Chart & Cheesy Pop

FLOOR 2 • Rob James • Funky Vocal House

Saturday 27th August • 10pm-6am • £12 Advance Tickets & Members

## STARSHIP 101

Journey to the stars with Miss Cara & her space cadets!

FLOOR 1 • Almighty Donald & Rob James • The hottest Pop, Dance & RnB

P.A. by GARETH GATES 'Sunshine' • 'Spirit In The Sky'

## AFTERSHOCK [www.clubaftershock.co.uk](http://www.clubaftershock.co.uk)

Manchester's biggest Gay House night

FLOOR 2 • Aftershock residents Nik Denton, Gregg Holden,  
Ross Homson, Darren Bewsher, Dusty

Sunday 28th August • 10pm-6am • £10 Advance Tickets & Members

## SCIENCE FRICTION

Double feature of Pop & Chart tracks plus...

FLOOR 1 • [www.djspook.com](http://www.djspook.com) • Pop, Disco, Dance & RnB

P.A. by ABIGAIL BAILEY 'Touch Me' • 'Show Me Love'

4am-Super Late • SUB 101 ENTRANCE • £8 Members • £6 with wristband after 5am

## AFTERSHOCK LATE PRESENTS

Get ready for the sequel!

FLOOR 2 • Aftershock residents Nik Denton, Gregg Holden,  
Ross Homson, Darren Bewsher, Dusty

Monday 29th August • 10pm-6am • £6 Advance Tickets & Members

PRIDE VOLUNTEERS FREE

## DISCO INFERNO OFFICIAL PRIDE CLOSING PARTY

The only place to end your Pride experience!

FLOOR 1 • Dino • Four decades of the greatest Pop & Disco Classics

FLOOR 2 • Rob James • Classic Vocal Trance

P.A. by ANGIE BROWN 'Im Gonna Get You' • 'Rockin' For Myself'



SOURZ



TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CLONE ZONE • [www.gaytickets.com](http://www.gaytickets.com) • 0843 2080 500  
101 PRINCESS STREET, MANCHESTER, M1 6DD • 0161 9500 101 • [www.cruz101.com](http://www.cruz101.com) • Limited wheelchair access



# ALBUMS

By Adam Lowe



## HERO & LEANDER

**Collider**  
29th August

At only four tracks long, Collider manages to perfectly reflect the scope of Hero & Leander's sound, drawing justified comparisons with Arcade Fire, Architecture in Helsinki and Belle & Sebastian. Lyrics such as 'Can't keep my mind on one thing at a time / Try my collider / Atom-smashing fun / Darling, would you like to go?' set the tone. Opening track 'Collider' is loud, urgent and ambitious, and is guaranteed to get under your skin. The vocals by Emily Sills and Gary Carsell work perfectly with and against Scot Lewis' insistent driving beat. 'One Mississippi' is a long-time live favourite, dripping with charm and featuring an awesome whistling solo, despite its yearning subject matter. 'Kettle' is a political number about the student protests and is fierce, angry and raw. The EP closes with the beautiful 'The Thought of Your Mind in Motion Puts Me to Sleep', leaving the listener poised for a future



## NO SURRENDER

**Medicine Babies**  
29th August

Blending hip-hop, electro, soul, synth-pop and indie-rock, No Surrender's sound is genre-spanning genius. Produced by Tricky's former muse singer Constanza Francavilla and European production team Radioclit (M.I.A., Santigold, The Very Best), this is an intricate sophomore effort with top-notch production values and a real zest for contemporary musical experimentation. Guest vocalists include Constanza, Niki Darling and Tunde Adebimpe.



## THE FANTASTICS!

**All the People**  
22nd August

The Fantastics! are back with a brand new album, intent to prove they're never comfortable with labels. All the People is a riotous blend of soul-jazz, blues, latin, funk and fusion, edged with a progressive aesthetic. Highlights include the beautiful summer love song 'Somewhere Finally', with its dripping soul, horn hook lines and delightful vocals from Sulene Fleming. There's also a wonderful cover of Ivan Boogaloo Jones' 'Sweetback', full of ska jump action; full on funk-rock frit in 'I Breath'; and blues-infected groove in the form of 'Cold Case'.



## RANDY CRAWFORD

**The Best of Randy Crawford**  
8th August

Bent readers will remember Randy from her hit UK singles 'Street Life', 'One Day I'll Fly Away' and 'You Might Need Somebody'. Luckily, all three songs are on this dazzling collection of the very best of a very talented R&B personality. Over an outstanding three decades, Randy has thrilled, delighted and melted hearts the world over. This is a must for anyone with a taste for classic soul, disco and groove.

## Superclub Ibiza

**Cream / Pacha / Gatecrasher**

Following the debut Superclub album last year, Global club brands Cream, Pacha and Gatecrasher team up once again on Superclub Ibiza, a triple CD focusing on each individual brand's summer on the White Isle making this THE essential Ibiza club album for dance music lovers.



Celebrating 17 years on the Island, Cream returns rocking out every Thursday at Amnesia, bringing the biggest and best names in dance music. The Cream mix features huge hits such as Save The World from Swedish House Mafia plus killer new tracks like Raise Your Weapon by Deadmau5, Heart is King by Axwell, Rock n Roll (Will Take You To The Mountain) by Skrillex.

Best known as the most stylish club on the Island; with stunning clientele, luxury décor, word-class DJs and performances are what make Pacha unique. Easily recognisable by the famous 'double cherry' logo, Pacha defines Ibiza glamour. Throughout August Gatecrasher takes over the biggest club on

the Island, Privilege, to host five mega events. Meanwhile, the Gatecrasher mix represents the vibe of the parties including tracks from Deadmau5 & Wolfgang Gartner Animal Rights, The Wombats Techno Fan (Afrojack Remix), Armin Van Buuren Feels So Good and Sander Van Doorn Love Is Darkness.

[www.cream.co.uk](http://www.cream.co.uk)  
[www.gatecrasher.co.uk](http://www.gatecrasher.co.uk)  
[www.pacha.com](http://www.pacha.com)

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic CD just answer this simple question:  
Ibiza is known as the White\_\_\_\_\_ what?

Win This

Turn to page 78 for details

# Jacksons

## RETRO BAR

12 noon - 12 midnight every day

Jacksons is situated in the Northern Quarter overlooking Piccadilly basin from its canal side terrace, with fun entertainment throughout the week



PINT and  
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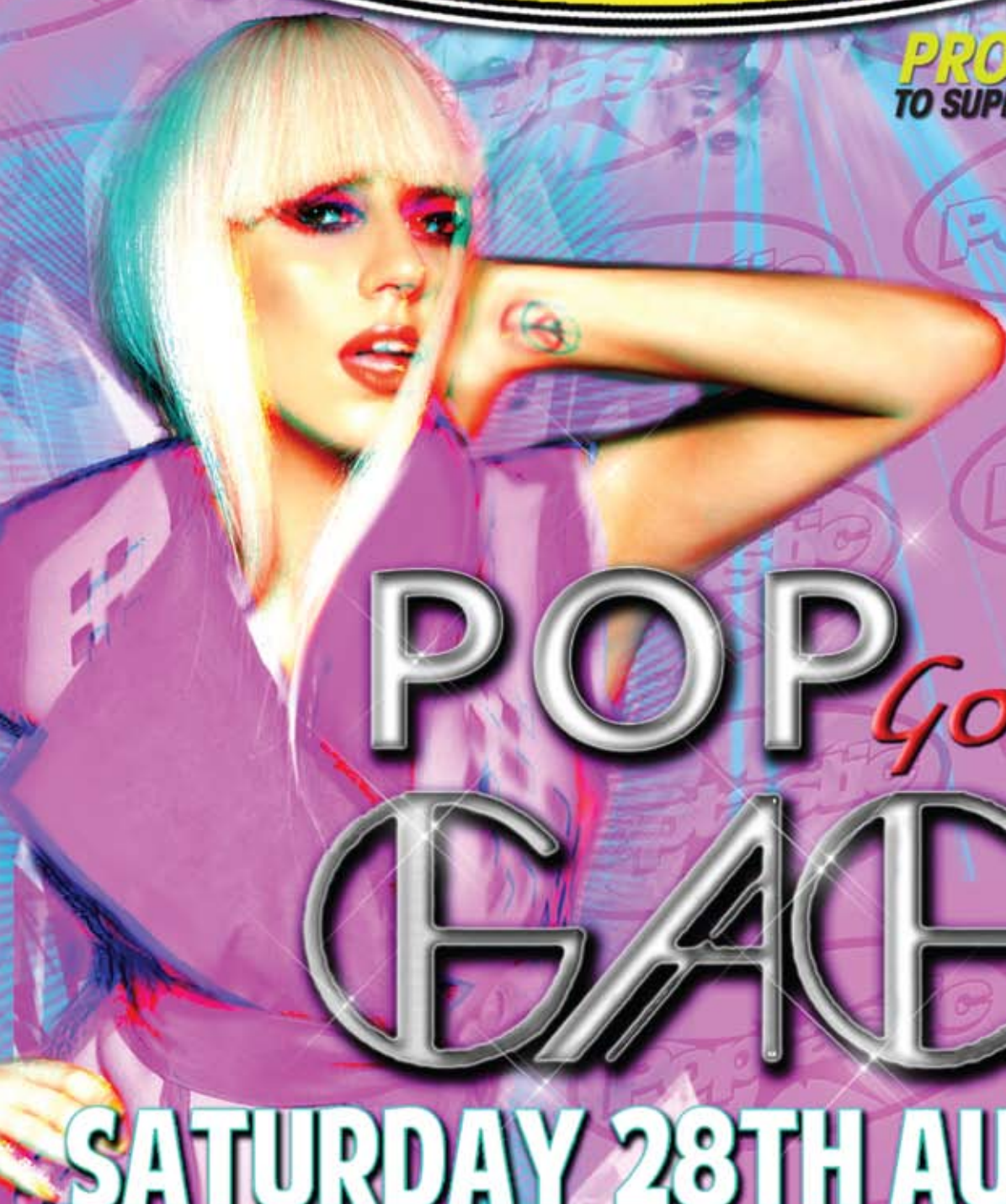






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TO SUPPORT**

Manchester  
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2011



# POP *Goes* PLASTIC

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TEL: 07974248247 [WWW.POPTASTIC.CO.UK](http://WWW.POPTASTIC.CO.UK)



# MUST BE A REASON WHY...

Hot sounds and smouldering looks combine as stunning Brazilian-Russian New Yorker J. Pearl teams up with one of the UK's premiere vocal talents Shayne Ward on Must Be A Reason Why... Perfect for those hot summer nights, the track is a blistering pop-fuelled dance feast based around the hook from Wamdue Project's international hit King Of My Castle and is tipped to set the charts alight.

Pop-focused imprint SIMPLY DELICIOUS - sister label to dance legend Strictly Rhythm - was bang on the money when it signed J. Pearl. Discovered singing karaoke at 3am in a Lower East Side bar and given a record deal within a week, Must Be A Reason Why... is J. Pearl's second release, following on from the US radio success of her debut, It's Getting Physical.

Produced by Lucas Secon (Pussycat Dolls, Kylie Minogue, Cee-Lo Green, Jordan Sparks and Britney Spears) Must Be A Reason Why... marks

a brand new and exciting direction for UK pop star Shayne Ward. When Shayne heard the track he immediately contacted Strictly Rhythm. Although well-known for his ballad-driven pop (his last single charted at No.8 and latest album sold over 100,000 copies), Ward has always been a fan of dance labels such as Strictly and is excited about his new musical path. Jean loved the idea and asked him to feature on the record.

"I loved recording with J. Pearl and working with Lucas Secon and Strictly," said Ward. "It's thrilling to be taking such a diverse direction in my career." The love is very much mutual; J. Pearl is equally keyed up about working with Ward. "Shayne is a real charmer," she said. "Working with him was an amazing experience."

**The track is scheduled for release on 8th August. Mixes come courtesy of Afrojack, Guy Katsav, Funkystepz, Rivaz and Costi.**



## SPARKLING WEEKEND



Early July saw the annual t\*girl grand get together in Manchester and what an event it turned out to be. Sparkle is a celebration of all things transgender, from workshops and talks to parties, meals and fun, it was a festival promoting the positive and at the same

time providing support, help and friendship for those who need it. The Ball was the highlight but the main event was the girls themselves who were out looking terrific, being cool and having fun.

Photos by Grizz





# Manifest

**PROUD**  
TO SUPPORT

Manchester  
**Pride**  
2011

matt\_leather\_london@yahoo.co.uk www.mattspikephoto.com

SUZIE KRUEGER'S

# HARDON

## SUNDAY 28 AUGUST

Doors Open 11pm

DJ's

Squaddie Pete - HardOn/Manifest/Alert  
Zack Hadfield - HardOn/Manifest/Tonker

Advance tickets £10

Clone zone/Rob shop/village shop/[www.manifest.co.uk](http://www.manifest.co.uk)

Strict dress code

Rubber/Leather/Uniform/Skin Gear or just boots! No plain jeans or trainers!

**ALTER EGO** 105 Princess Street Manchester M1 6DD





## Whats on // Manchester

### Federation from Sankeys with Pride

Brace yourselves as Federation brings Sankeys to its knees and Manchester Pride to a sizzling climax with a very special Bank Holiday event.

As a fitting finale to your Big Pride Weekend, we're going underground...hanging up our tassels 'n' tutus and feather boas, opting for a more nitty-gritty underground vibe. We present three rooms of music - all with that synonymous Federation soundtrack:

Get down and dirty under the lasers with bass thumpin' chunky upfront house in the main room, for sheer hands in the air hedonism the massive success of Federation Classics returns to Spektrum upstairs, whilst those who like to chill and relax, join us in the bar for a cool mix of New York style Electronic Disco or on our very own private beach out on the huge outdoor terrace.

Sankeys has been voted the number one club in the world by Mixmag readers and boasts state if the art sound and lighting. With

Federation's spectacular production, the hottest DJ's and entertainers there really is no better perfect blow out to your Big Manchester Pride weekend.

Join us on the dance floor, but don't leave it too long as this event is expected to sellout!

Tickets are £18, which includes a donation to Manchester Pride and are on sale from 1st July online at [www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk) or in Manchester at Clone Zone, Taurus, Manto, Velvet, Village Off License and Spar (Oxford Road/Piccadilly Approach & Piccadilly Gardens) and Fibre in Leeds

Federation Manchester Pride Joint tickets for both Out of Africa 27/08/11 & Sankeys with Pride 28/08/11 Priced £30 and limited to 100 from Clone Zone Manchester and [ticketweb.co.uk](http://ticketweb.co.uk)

Federation at Sankeys Bank Holiday Sunday 28th August 11pm - 5am  
**@ Sankeys, Beehive Mills, Radium Street, Manchester M4 6AY**



## ❖ PIXIE LOTT ❖

Manchester Pride has just confirmed that UK pop sensation Pixie Lott will be headlining its 'Big Weekend' later this year

Pixie shot to fame in 2009 when her debut single 'Mama Do (Uh Oh, Uh Oh)' hit the number one spot in the UK charts. Her second effort, 'Boys and Girls', did the exact same thing. Since, Pixie Lott has made various film and television appearances, enjoyed success with triple platinum selling album 'Turn It Up' and has watched three follow up singles make it into the UK top twenty. Pixie Lott more recently has also been a part of TV hit 'The X Factor' - as a guest member of the infamous judging panel.

Alongside Pixie will be Aussie 'trolley-dolly' Pam Ann; on the back of their recent Eurovision success, UK boy band Blue and, on the brink of launching their eighth

studio album, the most successful female act of the 21st century the Sugababes.

Other acts that will be featuring over the 'Big Weekend' include new girl band Soundgirl, fresh from supporting Justin Bieber on his UK tour, the fantastic Patrick Wolf and Manchester favourites Heather Peace and Bruno Langley. There will be a mixture of acts for all at this year's event, with music from the likes of Cosmo Jarvis, Santiago Street Machine, Twenty Twenty, Toyah Wilcox, Denise Black and the Loose Screw, Rowetta, Hazel Deal, Bucks Fizz, Horse, Angie Brown, Rubika and Zukas Fontaine. Manchester Pride's Big Weekend takes place from Friday 26 - Monday 29 August, and tickets are now on sale. For more information, visit:

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



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WITH  
LOVE!

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Sankeys, Beehive Mills, Radium Street, Manchester M4 6AY

**AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY**

**SUNDAY 28TH AUG**

Room 1 - The Club... **Federation Main room with**

**NIK DENTON, JASON GUY, GREGG HOLDEN**

Room 2 - Spektrum... **Federation Classics with**

**LEE YEDMANS, DYLAN JEFFERS**

Room 3 - The Bar... **Federation Electronique with**

**TRAFFORD LOVETHING**



**Tickets £18 on sale until 8pm on the day of the event from:**

Manchester: Clone Zone, Taurus, Manto, Velvet, Village Off Licence and Spar (Oxford Road/Piccadilly Approach & Piccadilly Gardens) Leeds: Fibre  
On Line: Ticketweb.co.uk and Sankeys.info / or pay more on the door

**[www.clubfederation.com](http://www.clubfederation.com) / [www.sankeys.info](http://www.sankeys.info)**



# INTERVIEW // IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE CLUBS TODAY...



CUBSTARS is the new pop/dance ManBand featuring young Cub lads from the Bear community, based in the North West of the UK.

Band member Martyn Thomas is the brains behind the concept of a working band where all the members are professional performers. "As an actor you spend the majority of your time out of work. All of the CUBSTARS are involved in other performance projects and CUBSTARS is an opportunity for them to rehearse and perform in between other work. It is a tough industry and we come together to do what we are trained to do and because it's what we love doing."

The band's music is a nice mix of exciting club versions of classic pop tracks as well as original material but all delivered with the main thought to get people up, have a good time and dancing.

**Who came up with the name... it's very clever?**

When we first auditioned for guys we thought it would be a cool idea to spin

our own version of reality talent show auditions and we assembled a collective of respected professionals from the industry to feature on our panel. The first reality show of this kind was Popstars that created Hearsay. In a natural progression our working title of CUBSTARS became a reality and the name stuck. And we are exactly what it says on the tin.

**The line-up has changed over time.... how come so many changes?**

We would love CUBSTARS to be our full time job but unfortunately it can't be.... yet. It does require a certain level of commitment but all the guys have other jobs that we have to work around, they have to earn a living. Andrew has recently left us but is still doing a couple of gigs with us over the summer. Andrew was our Businessman Cub and unfortunately as the band develops he couldn't commit to the project which is cool. I view the band as a Company of Performers and this is an acting job, anyone in the band could leave as they have their fingers in all sorts of pies. We have to be flexible and the nature of it means the line up will always rotate. For now it is very right and it's exciting.

**The look of the band crosses several gay groups/images who styles you all?**

We have been lucky to work with X Factor Stylist Rikki Finlay on our look. We want to look current but at the same time stay true to who we are. We work hard to capture our own styles and not try too hard. We certainly don't aim to be something that we're not. Generally we wear clothes that we like and hope that we appeal across the board. CUBSTARS is a community based Act and by that I mean we utilise the skills and talents of those in our community to work with the band. From Choreographers, Music Producers, Songwriters, Photographers, Graphic Designers and more, we are very lucky and grateful to all of them.



**How would you describe your sound?**

Dirty, sexy, electro pop.

**Are there any styles or fetishes we should know about that aren't up on stage?**

I love a good harness, there's something sexy about the combination of being restrained and on show. If I could I'd wear one all the time! ha

**What kind of reaction have you had so far?**

The reaction so far has been great. We have a very supportive fanbase. We gigged at XXL in London recently and my Grindr was going off all night!

**What do you think is the best thing about Pride events?**

God knows I love a good party. I think it's important that we can celebrate being who we are in an environment where we can fully express our sexuality and individuality. I also love anything that highlights the political/social issues we still need to combat as a community. Manchester's Candlelight Vigil is a beautiful example of coming together.

**Favourite style/brand of undies ?**

Nothing hotter than a nice white jock.



**How would you describe your sound?**

Happy Crowd Pleasing Dance Music.

**Are there any styles or fetishes we should know about that aren't up on stage?**

I'm kinda branded as the SportyCub and that's because I love to dress comfortably in a good old Addidas trackie. Just cal me Sue Sylvester! I'm not into overly 'styled' gear. I just know what I like.

**What do you think is the best thing about Pride events?**

A sense of community, and not just with gay people! It's having heterosexual people celebrating with no prejudice. Imagine that



happening 20 short years ago?? Hmmm. It's also a time when all your mates make the effort to come together and let their hair down. Mine's a Vodka-Lemo ta!

**Favourite style/brand of undies?**

Easy, ill keep this one brief!!! Get it? Terrible joke I know! I just love to be supported and feel like my balls are getting cuddled all day! I tend to wear Calvin's and Diesel. If you're really lucky you might catch me wearing a jock strap! That's only when im dancing though.



**How would you describe your sound?**

Pumping Hairy Man Dance with a Pop Edge



**Are there any styles or fetishes we should know about that aren't up on stage?**

Rugby shorts! Gggrrrrr!

**Who do you admire both musically?**

Musically I admire George Michael; he was always playing in the background when I was growing up. His song 'Freedom' is one of my personal favourites and has helped me through the good times and the bad!

**What do you think is the best thing about Pride events?**

The sense of community and the coming together to celebrate who we are in the cities we are from! Its great to be out and proud and to tell the world we are here! And also loads of fit eye candy to flirt with! hehehehe

**Favourite style/brand of undies ?**

Calvin Klein Black Briefs! Or commando!

We welcome anyone who thinks they have something to offer and in return they get to develop their own skills and portfolios. Our Creative Team work so hard and it is down to their talents and time that we are who we are today. I love and respect them all.

**Are all the members gay?**

All Band members are gay. We are gay act and no need to hide it. We are who we are and proud of it.

**What kind of reaction have you had so far?**

In the space of a year the reaction we have had has been overwhelming. I never had any expectations and the opportunities that have come our way and the support we've had has just been awesome. Of course there are some that don't buy into it but that's cool, we don't delude ourselves that we are going to be everyone's thing.

**What do you think is the best think about Pride events?**

It has to be everyone coming together, celebrating everything we are and how far we have come. It's also about supporting and promoting current and new initiatives and shouting about how important and good they are.

**Favourite style/brand of undies?**

JOCKSTRAPS grrrrrrr

**Where can people see or hear you perform?**

This year the schedule is packed. We have just performed at XXL in London for Bear Pride and also Sheffield Pride. We are doing Belfast Pride on the 30th July, Liverpool Pride on the 7th August, Cardiff Mardi Gras on the 3rd September and on the 25th September we head to Verona in Italy for a big Club Gig. Other Club Gigs across the UK are soon to be announced. It's really exciting.

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

Photos: Paul Smither



## HOLY LATEX AND ACROBATS... IT'S BATMAN LIVE!

Imagine a huge concert venue where for two hours you are thrown into a world of explosions, special effects and most importantly, men in tight rubber and latex. Add the tantalising fact of getting up close and personal with one of the most famous superhero's and you might just be able to conjure the image of Batman Live, which is now swooping into the major cities of the UK over the next few months. We sent Batman fan Simon Savidge to the opening night to see what he thought.

I think every man, of any age and any sexuality, has got a bit of a thing for Batman. Mine started with the comics, the begging to see the films and then was reignited with the slight love (and possible fetish) for a muscley man in a mask, cape and the tightest body armour imaginable. So it was therefore a bit of a dream come true to be sitting within feet of the man and all of the action for Batman Live. It also meant I had rather high expectations.

Well, after a lot of story setting, and lots and lots of acrobatics in the first half, I admit I was initially concerned. Batman had only flown through the audience three times, so, what was going on? This seemed more Cirque du Gotham than a live action movie right in front of my eyes. The stage and staging were impressive, the outfits (Penguin, Catwoman,

the Riddler... in fact every Batman baddie you could think of graces the stage) were spot on. But where was Batman himself, that's what I'd come for.

Well the joke[er] was on me it seems as the second half was nonstop action as the Joker takes over Arkham Asylum and we are drawn into the Batcave, follow the incredible floating high-speed Batmobile and watch Batman and Robin save the day. There cars, fireworks, guns, explosions and even a hot air balloon and more 'kapows' than in one of the old 1970's TV shows, I was gripped. It's like a mixture of the comic and latest films all thrown in front of you and is quite unlike anything I have seen before. I'd hope it would work and it did. And yes, I got an eyeful of more than just the fireworks.

I also became something of a hero as I'd taken my 12 year old cousin who thought it was 'the coolest night ever'. You don't have to have a child around to enjoy it but, if you want to keep that 'bat-fetish' a secret you might want a helpful disguise.

Batman Live will be touring the UK from now until November.

**For more information, videos and tickets visit [www.batmanlive.com](http://www.batmanlive.com)**





Bent On...

# Dolly

Boobs. Big boobs. That's what instantly pops into your mind when someone mentions the name Dolly Parton, isn't it?

By Alex Wiggan



Now Big boobs may not be the body parts that usually crop up on your radar, unless of course you're into guys with a little on top, but it's certainly something that most of us boys think about when we hear the name Dolly Parton. Of course just focusing on her ample assets alone would do her a great disservice, as the ultimate country singing glamour puss is more than just a large pair of breasts in a glitzy over-the-shoulder-boulder-holder. Dolly Parton is instead a true uplifting gay icon. A go-getter. A dazzling dynamo, who's part firecracker, part busty barmaid, with just a touch of sass thrown in for good measure. She's everything gay boys love about strong-willed passionate woman, who don't take no crap from no one – no way, no how! What should perhaps also be noted about Dolly is that she's had a career that's lasted longer than it takes most guys to get dolled up for a night on the tiles and is still going strong. Oh she might have more cleavage than a Page 3 photo shoot, but there's so much more to the flamboyant Queen of County than you might think and that's why she's been a fascination with countless gay guys for years!

Dolly grew up poor. We're not talking 'can only afford to buy one All Saints T-shirt this month' poor we're talking 'what's money?' poor. Yeah you think you've got it bad working in that call centre day in, day out, but Dolly probably wouldn't have recognised money even if it had been stuffed into her hand and she'd been told she could exchange it for goods. However a lack of cash didn't stop her from doing what she loved to do the most, which was singing and writing songs and eventually after a bit of persistence and a lot of hard work, someone took notice of her. From there she secured an album and sang her little lungs out for the best part of a decade

until her self-penned release 'Jolene' took the charts by storm, followed by the now immortal 'I Will Always Love You'. That was it, Dolly had made it and as the years went by she managed to rack up a number of impressive hits, cropped up on a variety of TV shows and even found time to open a theme park. She also won some awards, became a movie star, went on tour, set up her own record company and of course released her much loved hit '9 to 5' (from the film Nine To Five). Don't even try to claim that you haven't spent many a night dancing in a cheesy club to that particular tune, because in the official Gay Handbook it states that as a member of the Homosexual Fraternity you have to gyrate to it whenever it comes on! But work related songs aside, Dolly managed to do all of those things without straying too far from her trademark image as a buxom blonde, with a tiny waist and luscious lippy. You know the sort that fits into a stereotypical subsection that most people never take seriously. But they took Dolly seriously. She sang from the heart (with a number of her songs recalling childhood experiences), never stopped working hard and used her brain to walk through the doors that her boobs opened.

Dolly is a tiny stick of dynamite, with enough firepower to turn the heads of all the boys. She's a flawless performer with more attitude than a scene queen out on the pull. By her own admission she's no stranger to having a little nip here and a tuck there and it's all helped her to perfect her pristine persona. Without Dolly Steel Magnolias (1989) would have had to go without Truvey's beauty salon, Kenny Rogers would have had to sing 'Islands In The Stream' as a solo and Whitney Houston wouldn't have had her biggest hit. There would also have been a severe slump in the sales of hair lacquer and people would have dismissed country music as something sang by middle age blokes in Stetsons. Dolly is an inspiration, a force for good, demonstrating that dreams can become a reality despite initial setbacks. It's partly for this reason that many gay boys have found her so captivating and have seen within her a queer quality about remaining true to one self that resonates deep within them. There's no one quite like Dolly and so next time you hear her name maybe you'll think about who she really is and what she represents, instead of being distracted by her knockers. Come on boys, let's not take everything away from the straight lads.

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

## ★ HELLO DOLLY! ★

• Many years ago Elvis Presley had planned to cover Dolly's hit 'I Will Always Love You', however as part of the agreement he would have owned over half the rights to the song. Proving that she's a shrewd business woman Dolly turned him down and instead went on to make millions in royalties from the track.

• Dolly built her theme park, Dollywood, in Tennessee, which helped bring jobs and money to a once

deprived area. It was Dolly's way of turning things around so that others who had been in a similar situation as she had been as a child, would no longer have to struggle the way her family had.

• In response to her efforts to remain youthful, Dolly famously once said, "It takes a lot of money to look this cheap."

Win These

Turn to page 78 for details

## What Matters Most

The incomparable Barbra Streisand's long-cherished desire to release an album of music with lyrics exclusively written by her collaborators and friends, Alan and Marilyn Bergman, will be achieved with her latest release *What Matters Most* - Barbra Streisand Sings the Lyrics of Alan and Marilyn Bergman



"What Matters Most" is her first new album since the September 2009 release of "Love Is The Answer," which went to Number One on both sides of the Atlantic, making her the only artist to achieve number one albums in five consecutive decades.

The new album, which Streisand personally produced, is comprised of ten Bergman songs which Streisand has never previously recorded. Included in the set are the Academy

Award winning songs "The Windmill of your Mind", "So Many Stars", "Nice 'n' Easy" and "That Face".

The CD will be packaged in a jewel box with a 24-page colour booklet.

Out: 22nd August – Columbia Records

**To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fabulous CD just complete the title of this famous Streisand movie:**  
A Star Is \_\_\_\_\_?

## Nine Lives

With a career spanning 20 years, it might come as a surprise to some that 'Nine Lives' is



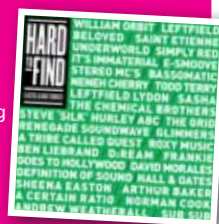
John O'Connell's first solo studio album. It represents a new turning point for him, Fleming being a dedicated supporter of the more specialist scene. John is going back to his roots, making music solely aimed for the dance floor with no care for the commercial mainstream. That's where the big difference lies. Music with soul. Music with passion. Music to represent the artist within. John explains 'Trance has become a dirty word, we need to return to the ethos of how this genre gained this tag in the beginning.

Out: 16th August - Joof Recordings

**To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic CD just answer this simple question:**  
In superstition a cat has how many lives?

## Hard to Find

This is a brand new compilation series bringing together great and lost remixes from old 12" vinyl collections and CD singles gone by, that are, well as the title says, hard to find. If you consider yourself a train spotter or a lover of quality music then this series is definitely for you. The sleeve notes give info on the releases and details of the selected tracks from a variety of brilliant artists.



Underworld, Arthur Baker, Norman Cook and Trevor Horn are just some of the talent that makes this double CD gem a must for the connoisseur.

Out: 18th August – New State Music

**To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic CD just answer this simple question:**  
What do the letters CD stand for?





# POWER TALKING.

## COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR LIFE

Have you always wanted to improve your communications skills so you can ask for what you want and say no to things you don't want to do? Want to learn to say no to sex you don't want and ask for the things you do?

This two day course will help you learn to communicate with the people in your life clearly and confidently, about all areas of your life – your sex life included.

All places on this course are free of charge to you. The courses start at 10.30am and finish before 5.30pm. BSL interpreters available by prior arrangement



Book your place online at [www.gmfa.org.uk/national](http://www.gmfa.org.uk/national) or call **020 7738 6872**

10th & 17th September		17th & 24th September		1st & 8th October	
City	Agency	City	Agency	City	Agency
Brighton	THT	Birmingham	THT & HGL	Leicester	TRADE
London	GMFA	Bristol	THT	15th & 22nd October	
Manchester	LGF	Leeds	YORKSHIRE MESMAC		
Newcastle	MESMAC NE	Nottingham	HGN	Truro	EDDYSTONE TRUST
		Southampton	GCHS		

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# Only in it for the Kixx

.....  
They've already performed in front of 40,000 people and been offered industry advice by Robbie Williams.  
.....

They played the 02 Arena - and have just completed a national tour with Olly Murs - a tour that completely sold out.

So, is this enough of a reason why should you take notice of The Kixx? Here, Ryan Houston chats to the band about their journey into the music industry.

The Kixx unique style showcases their musicality and creativity as a band that share vocal duties on different tracks and have all the hallmarks of a classic British pop band. Having all grown up close to each other in Reading, David, Robbie, Jack and Dave aren't some superficial pop-up band but have spent years growing as a group and perfecting their craft.

**What first got you interested in the music industry?**  
We grew up listening to the music that our parents were into at the time - artists such as The Beatles, Buddy Holly and Johnny Cash and it was those that inspired us to pick up musical instruments for the first time and make some noise. It kind of developed from there.

## Where can readers find you this year?

We've got a really busy summer planned with some big shows lined up so keep checking out our website for tour dates. It's great to be staying busy, we want to show fans that we have a lot more to give and we're really excited about embarking on a new tour.

## What's next for the band?

A second and third single, followed by an album at the end of this year. We'll be playing loads and loads of shows too. It's really important for us to keep the momentum up that we have gained from this tour. We've received so much positive feedback from the single 'Already Gone', so we really want to make sure that the album is perfect and fans want more from us.

## What advice would you give to readers who want to be the next big thing?

When we first started producing our EP we sold the result out of the back of a car. We've actually got better at everything by literally going out there and doing it ourselves. We didn't have any lessons, but we learnt as we played schools, pubs and clubs. We went from playing to 50 people in a pub, to playing Manchester MEN. Anything is possible, just set your mind to it.



The Kixx debut single, 'Already Gone' is out now and available from The Kixx's Official Website:

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

## ODE TO THE DANCEFLOOR

### TONY MORAN SHOWERS THE LOVE

By Mark Gray



"I wrote Can I Love You More to express the appreciation I have for the people that enjoy my music," says the Grammy-nominated producer/remixer and superstar club DJ.

The adoration is mutual. Three days after its release, Tony Moran's ode to the dancefloor nabbed the top spot on the club charts in the USA.

"There is a unique love that emanates from dance music," he continues. "It does more than make people move. Dance music inspires a level of passion, devotion, faith and satisfaction. I feel it every time I'm making music in the studio and when I'm playing it in the DJ booth."

Tony Moran has been a prominent force in club music for twenty years. When artists like Beyoncé, Rihanna, Madonna, and Jennifer Lopez want to reach fans in clubs, they call upon him for his hard hitting tribal house beats infused with the latest in cutting edge electronica.

The dance bug first bit Moran in the early nineties while on a night out at the fabled New York City nightclub, Sound Factory. "Frankie Knuckles was in the booth and I was captivated, completely in awe," he remembers. "I heard this voice inside me saying 'hey, I could do that.'"

He launched his career producing tracks with club artists. Prominent airplay in clubs and on dance radio brought Moran to the attention of music labels. Soon, Moran was writing, remixing and producing dance singles and albums for Michael Jackson, Gloria Estefan, Cher, Celine Dion, Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston, Mary J Blige, Kenny G and even the London Symphony Orchestra.

Simultaneously, Moran pursued a DJ career, becoming a favorite at clubs throughout the world. He regularly headlines parties in Europe, Asia, Latin America and Australia.

It was on a return trip from China last year that Moran formulated the idea for "Can I Love You More".

"On the plane, I was reflecting on the show I had just spun and a melody popped in my head. I was humming it in my seat while people around me were sleeping."

When he returned to his studio, Moran called singer Trey Lorenz, best known for his duet with Mariah Carey on the Jackson 5 cover, "I'll Be There".

Lorenz provides the euphoric verses on "Can I Love You More" while Moran sings the soaring chorus. Remixes are

## The Moran Touch

Tony Moran has produced hits for hundreds of our favorite dance divas. This summer, he introduces two new ladies to the world's gay dancefloors:

**Kelli**  
Gave Up on Love



"Once I heard Tony's remix of Gave Up On Love, I knew he had nailed it. When a remix is inspired and not forced, it brings the song to another level. He gives the track a powerful, concise musical sound."

**Dalal**  
Taste the Night



"A lot of remixes leave you breathless. Tony's remix of Taste the Night gives you air to breathe! It's refreshing. He doesn't choose a direction. He fills out the whole space with his sound."

by Ralphie Rosario, Loverushuk, and Warren Rigg, among others.

"Can I Love You More" demonstrates Moran's drive to develop and evolve the dance floor on his own terms. Released via Sugar House, it is available now on i-Tunes and Amazon.com.

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





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# BEYONCE

## BEAUTY AND THE FREAKS

### (WHY) ARE WE PROUD?

Last year I nearly had a small heart attack when a concerned citizen sent round a frantic email saying a very big pride event was going to have to cancel its parade because not enough people had volunteered to be stewards for the floats. Luckily, the person had got the misinformed end of the proverbial stick, and there was nothing to worry about at all.

But why did I care so much about pride? I thought about it and I thought about it some more. Pride is important for a number of reasons. It reminds us what we've fought for. It reminds us what we've gained and what (and whom) we've lost on the way. And it also shows the outside world that we're here, that we can be a formidable force when we get together—even if we are just throwing shapes to Kylie's latest record. It's an important part of making sure we're not forgotten.

It's also less overtly political than that. At pride I can see all my friends. I can be together with my friends and family and celebrate our togetherness. I can celebrate the fact that as a kid at school, growing up gay, it was never exactly easy. But with the help of my friends, my family and my community, I pulled through and became the person I am today. I can celebrate the fact that every time someone called me a queer in the street, I didn't let it get me down, and I'm still here, and yes, I'm still queer.

Pride also raises money for good causes. It raises money for gay men's health charities. It raises money for the local gay scene, which serves us, protects us and gives us a space to be exactly who we want to be, when we want to be it.

When people are getting killed all over the world just for being gay, it shows how

important it is not to be complacent. Even if you forget how hard those people have it, and how hard many of the older people in our community also had it over in this country, pride is a time to remember and count our blessings.

It seems every city is getting to grips with its gay heart and is throwing a pride. Oldham, York, Huddersfield—each has its own form of gay pride.

Speaking of Oldham Pride, Manchester's queer poet Dominic Berry said: 'There are those of us whose lives, thankfully, have become less restrained by homophobia and queer bashing, but that must never make us forget there are others whose lives are made living hells by continuing discrimination and prejudice. Pride is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate how far we've come whilst remembering how far there still is left to travel.'

That resonates with me and the rest of the staff at Bent. There are those out there who, quite rightly, say pride is often an excuse to get pissed. But then so is St Patrick's Day and New Year's Eve and your birthday. But in getting drunk, do you celebrate those things any less? Are the Irish any less proud of being Irish because they've gone out and had a good time? Are you not a year older if you get drunk and forget your birthday? Of course you are. The same goes with pride. We each have our own way of celebrating it, but in doing so, we're unified, even if it's only once a year, and isn't that the real point?

More importantly, pride is about choice: it's about the choice to celebrate, to march, to make a statement, to dress however the hell you want to dress—even if it's just for one day.

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## DRAG, DAZZLE & POP!

Sugar Pops is AXM's weekly Sunday night extravaganza. Expect a glam-trash palace ruled by gobby drag queens, camp tunes and sexy boys.

Hostesses Viva la Diva, Kitty Lashes and Miss Carriage join DJ Paul McAvoy from 11pm-5am, with a prompt curtain call at 12.30am. Entry is free all night with an AXM membership or before midnight without. After midnight the door tax is only a paltry £2 until 5am for non-members.

What's more, there's a wonderfully tempting two-for-one offer on drinks till 1am, which guarantees you'll be the right level of drunk to appreciate the onstage antics from the resident hostesses—and to pluck up the courage to ask out that boy you've been eyeing all night.

The drag queens are engaging performers with the right balance of spectacle and campy. Their outfits are well designed and pack a few surprises (like firework-shooting bras), and the performances combine games with traditional song-and-dance routines.

Paul McAvoy spins a contemporary confection of chart music and camp classics, designed to keep your booty popping and your hands in the air.

The barmen, as always, are deliciously handsome and the dancefloor gets pretty busy, with all the prettiest gay boys in town strutting their stuff.

Sod the day of rest—Sundays are about partying!

Photos: Jonathan Hughes





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# SINGLES

By Adam Lowe



**DRUMSOUND & BASSLINE SMITH**  
**Close**  
21st August

In the wake of their monster last single 'Freak', drum 'n' bass experts Drumsound & Bassline Smith return to drop their epic new single 'Close'. Having exclusively previewed on Mistajam's Radio 1xtra show, 'Close' is a d'n'b bomb that's ready to blow. The opening is rife with violins, an infectious piano riff and super-sultry vocals, the inevitable bassline builds slowly before bursting into full-fat force. The Radio Edit reels in the d'n'b excesses for a more mainstream cut that's guaranteed to be hitting dancefloors across the country right . . . about . . . now!



**JO BIRCHALL**  
**Wonderful**  
21st August

'Wonderful' is the debut release from life-affirming summery album Something to Say, which puts Jo Birchall right at the top of the feelgood pop list. She's down-to-earth, accessible and perfect for your mother's birthday. But we have to admit—gay boys will be slaving over her as well. With a tumultuous journey to this debut, which includes Take That, Children in Need and Westlife, as well as family trouble and a last minute change of record label, Jo still comes through shining on this uplifting sunshine song.



**MARC JB VS RITA CAMPBELL**  
**Let It Go**  
29th August

'Let It Go' is a summer vocal dancefloor anthem with shimmering beats, striking piano, a pulsing bassline and impassioned refrains. Rita's vocal soars and dazzles over the taut beats and a stellar list of DJs take up remix duties to put their own spin on this sure-fire club hit. Marc JB's past collaborators have included Angie Brown and Nightstylers, and he's a DJ in hot demand, with the likes of Armin Van Buuren, Roger Sanchez and Andi Durrant on his side. It's no wonder then that's he's been lauded by Juice FM, Hed Kandi, Vegad Baby and Gaydar Radio.



**SALTWATER BAND**  
**Malk**  
22nd August

Although it's a bit late on in the year, Saltwater Band's latest album turns up like much-needed spring after a winter of fallow music. 'Malk' is the titular track and first single from the album, which displays the very best of indigenous Australian roots music, with an exuberant and anthemic arrangement and the vocals of the wonderful Natalie Pa'apa'a. The Groove Terminator remix surprisingly delivers a very versatile track for the dancefloor, which opens the single to a wider audience.

## Bursting out all over

'Sunburst' is Cicada's third album, following this year's 'Fast Cars' and the forthcoming 'Come Together'. Musically, Aaron and Alex have returned to their roots with the alt-pop, quirky electronica and spaced-out disco sounds that characterised their early limited edition coloured vinyl releases. The result is a confident, accomplished collection of tracks that sees Cicada move far beyond the electro-pop stylings of their last album, 'Roulette'.

In addition to Cicada's trademark instrumental numbers, 'Sunburst' features guest vocal spots from Nick Valentino (ex-Lost Valentinos), Joel Pott (Athlete), hotly tipped Virgin artist, Elviin Smith, who's recently toured with Adele, Prodigy collaborator and Bollywood singer, Shahin Badar, former vocalist, Heidrun, and Megan Quashie (Black Cherry).

Though it's their first album to feature such an array of guests, Cicada's identity is firmly stamped across each

of the 10 tracks. The short, filmic 'Intro' opens the album and segues neatly into the disco stomp of the forthcoming single, 'Come Together'. Athlete's Joel Pott makes the first of his two appearances on the tightly wound new wave funk of 'Hit My Ego', while the bubbling synth lines of 'Fast Cars' are the perfect backing for Nik Valentino's signature indie tones.



Landing somewhere between Chromeo and Empire Of The Sun, 'Sunburst' sees Cicada back doing what they do best... out: 15th August

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

## OLLY OLLY OLLY

The last 12 months have been a hugely exciting and successful time for Olly Murs. He released his debut single in August 2010, which promptly shot straight to number one. His debut album followed in November and is about to be certified double platinum (600,000 sales). Earlier this year he played a sold out UK tour including three nights at London's Hammersmith Apollo. He is currently on tour with JLS. This new single, taken from Olly's forthcoming second album (due out later this year), features hotly tipped Brighton duo Rizzle Kicks.

Olly said: "Heart Skips A Beat marks the start of the next chapter for me. The song has a new sound, and getting Rizzle Kicks to feature on it was the icing on the cake. Those guys are amazing!"

The single will be released with the b-side 'On My Cloud', another new song co-written by Olly with Sam Preston and Mark Taylor.

**Single: "Heart Skips a Beat"**  
**Out: 21st August.**





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## ◉ GLASTO GOES GAY! ◉

By Adam Lowe

Mentalists Block9 broke the rulebook when they set up shop as Glasto's best and only queer clubbing arena.



Theirs is The NYC Downlow, where they returned for their fifth year of nocturnal mayhem. For a newbie, the experience was as sharp as a Kitchen Devil enema.

The NYC Downlow looked for all intents and purposes like a life-sized ruin of a New York tenement block with a car through the wall. Whether the NYC club kid spirit was trying to escape or some daredevil driver was trying to get in, it was a nice touch.

The music policy was a sleazy mash-up of disco, soul, funk and acid house, played all night, every night. But it's the performances that dazzle and disorient, making The NYC Downlow the experience that it is. Upon arrival you're led through a simmering interrogation, a filth-strewn brothel and the threat of casual violence before you even get to the dancefloor. The actors are in character from the get-go, so all we can say is: don't do this one if you're anything less than sober. That is, unless you really, really enjoy a headfuck.

Horse Meat Disco's DJs hit the decks alongside cabaret from Jonny Woo and Scottee. The stellar list of far-more-fabulous-than-thou acts included representatives from Botafogo Social Club, Disco Bloodbath, Dissident Records and Iz and Diz. All corners were covered and the crowd, although comprising only those lucky few who were in the know, was certainly alive!

thedownlowradio.com took over a brand new second room within The NYC Downlow: a black box with a fat sound system and a collection of the hottest vintage groove devotees this side of the Pond. The Pale Blue Door offered The Plantation—a house like no other. Imagine a place where you could have a lovely three-course meal below, with A Man To Pet and a show. The love hotel upstairs offered rooms by the hour, while an eight-meter tower spurted out clean sheets on demand. Hardcore ravers slammed 'moonshine' in the house

of the infamous Juana Fe before renting a room in the back with the in-character hosts and hostesses of this spaced out dreamworld. Meanwhile Vogue Fabrics took up residence in the Downlow basketball court, creating a kinky backroom in a field.

The arena's interesting No Moustache-No Entry rule stands as a parodic tribute to the legends that are The Village People. Those without the time to grow their own handlebars could fake it by buying a face wig at the Porn Kiosk for £2.00 each, with profits going to the Mother of Mercy AIDS hospice in Zambia. Or you could do as we did and nick a used waxing strip after your mother's Brazilian and glue it under your nose. Last year's effort sent a record £10,000 to the AIDS hospice.

If this year is anything to go by, Block9 will be the queer festival experience of the future, and I recommend you try it (at least the once)—if you have the guts!







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Denim specialists MQT are back with an industrial, raw collection with a hard yet contemporary edge. Showcasing their arsenal of denim and chinos in select accounts such as Selfridges and Flannels, this 3rd generation, family run label is taking attention to detail to the next level. This season's collection sees brave designs manufactured with innovative details with variations of the drop crotch style and elasticated ankles being a key look.

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

### Stripe up your feet

Bored of your plain multipack socks? These Mundo Unico Coral Socks dazzle in a horizontal striped pattern in red, turquoise, yellow, white and black with a turquoise toe, heel and cuff.



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## INTERVIEW

# David Morgan

The Edinburgh Fringe festival has become the 'bootcamp' for all aspiring comedians. Some go on and die a death, while others are feted and get their own TV shows.

We at Bent would like to introduce a star of the future - David Morgan is already wowing audiences throughout the country with captivating tales of dyslexic football camps, musical theatre, homophobes, jazz hands, and his most tantalizing talent: being gay (and he is awesome at being gay!).

**Were you the archetypal class clown?**  
Sort of, it was a defence. I made myself funny so that I became less of a target as I appear to be predisposed to being bullied when it wasn't for being gay I was being taunted for being a boffin.

**Why is Edinburgh such a draw for comedians... and isn't it expensive to do a show there?**

It's a right of passage. The ability to do something of substance with a narrative is very rare on the circuit so the opportunity to do it every day for a month is fantastic. Also, as we're all up and down the country every day it's hard to socialise with your colleagues so Edinburgh is like our comedians' convention. Yes, it is expensive, very, but it's also a showcase and hopefully things will spiral off from a successful Fringe run.

**I see you are appearing at Bristol Pride... will we see you at any others and what's your take on this annual excuse to run around in your underpants?**

Yes I'm lucky enough to be performing during Pride Week, I love Bristol and can't wait to entertain the gays! Well, I try to go to prides but, working most weekends makes it hard. I missed Birmingham Pride (my home and first pride) for the first time in 10 years because of gigs, there's nothing like topless boys drinking in the rain. Pride is important. It's great to be able to kiss your partner in a park without having to look over your shoulder. There's still a lot of work to do before we don't need to remind people we're equal any more.

**Are you a tweeter?**

Oh god yes, Obsessively, I'm @thisisdavid. Follow me!

**Do you think it helps being a geek to tweet?**

I don't think so any more. There's a steep learning curve but once you've got how it works it's amazing.

**They say these days that comedy is the new Rock n Roll with comics playing 10,000 seat arenas, would that work with your act?**

I would LOVE to do an arena spectacular. I think if you're going to do such massive shows it needs to be more than just me and a microphone. I'd do the full Kylie I think, fireworks and fountains. I'd be flown in.

**Recent reports to the BBC and in the Mail (all hail the Mail) suggest that there are too many gays on TV... do you think we have over saturated the market?**

It's ridiculous. No we haven't. If the people are talented it doesn't matter what their sexuality is.

**Where has been your worst and best audience reaction?**

Worst was Broadstairs in Kent during Christmas party season. They were not fans of gays. Best was the first showing of my hour, Triple Threat, at the Crumblin' Cookie during the Leicester Comedy Festival this year. It got nominated for an award so it must have been alright!

**Who do you like to watch?**

Oh so, so many, mainly people who are very different from my style. Frisky and Mannish are amazing, Tony Law is wild and brilliant, Tim Vine makes my cheeks hurt with his silliness and Andy Zaltzman is so clever it makes me jealous

**And a question we ask all our interviewees... what are your favourite undies?**

Short answer, I'm an Aussiebum boy. The long answer involves an hour presentation and I can't find my slides.

David Morgan will be performing his show 'Triple Threat' Just the Tonic's The Tron from 4th - 28th August throughout the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

**For tickets and more information:**

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





# GAY X CHANGE



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Athletic male  
621 metres



**Matty**

Friendly Lad  
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**Andy B**

Friendship & more?



**Hunky Lad**

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# Look Out Queers at the Fringe



Photo: Steve Ullathorn

## The Ballad of the Unbeatable Hearts

On perhaps a more challenging note, Richard Fry, whose previous track record at the Fringe include: *Bully*, *Smiler & Homo Asbo* (each with rave reviews) presents his latest production - *The Ballad of the Unbeatable Hearts*.

Suicide is the leading cause of death among young men in the UK yet the body count goes relatively unreported. Young gay men are three more times more likely to kill themselves than their heterosexual peers.

What would happen if we saved these brilliant young men? If we harnessed their talents and their energy? What if we gave them a reason or a focus? What can we learn from religious extremists? They find vulnerable young men and brainwash them to blow people up. What if someone helped and encouraged vulnerable young men to go out and do good in the world?

One man did. He founded The Unbeatable Hearts. Come and find out how a group of young men changed the course of the world forever.

**Venue: Gilded Balloon Teviot - The Turret 12.15  
3-29th August**



## Scott Capurro

Award-winning comic Scott Capurro returns to the Fringe with the world premiere of his new show *Who are the Jocks?*, a comedy about loss and cocaine. In it Scott examines, in one hour, middle age angst and the death of his mother, Donna. She's in a jar, while Capurro is in Cardiff coping with grief and monitoring his anti-depressants. When his comedy set unhinges an abusive audience member, Capurro reflects on the rocky path that led to his near strangulation by a Welsh closet case.

Meanwhile, in another venue, Scott adopts 'the position', which promises scintillating chat, along with fantastic musical numbers and a signature style that leaves no sacred cow un-skewered. Capurro deploys his coruscating charm to draw-out the most personal revelations from his guests about their lives, their careers and their ambitions. It's both side-splittingly funny and incredibly astute.

**Who are the Jocks? - Pleasance Dome - Ace Dome  
8.00pm 5th - 29th August**

**Scott Capurro's Position - Gilded Balloon - Wine Bar  
4.15pm 3rd-29th August**



## Andrew Doyle

Andrew Doyle's stand-up was recently described by one critic as "a crash course in depravity". He took this as a compliment, and has used it as the starting point for his debut solo show at the Fringe.

Moral degeneracy has never been so funny. Join him for this rather extraordinary journey through the darker side of human nature. With his typically cerebral bitchiness, he'll cover topics such as murder, sadism, terrorism, deviant sexuality, and Coleen Nolan. He'll be sharing rather too much, but it's all in the name of self-improvement. After all, he wants to confront his own vices and - who knows? - maybe he'll ask the audience to confront a few of theirs.

**Just The Tonic at The Store (formerly the GRV) 6.20pm 4th - 28th August (not 16th)**

Meanwhile, every Sunday throughout August the New Town Bar in Edinburgh organises a FUNdraisers to tie in the Fringe Festival. They have acts who perform, free of charge, to entertain the customers and also raise funds for Waverley Care. In the past they have had acts such as Jo Caulfield, Steven K Amos, 4 Poofs and A Piano, Ava Vidal and Jo Jo Sutherland. This year's hosts are Scottish Comedian of the Year Scott Agnew and Australian export, Bob Downe. Get along there, have a laugh and help raise some money for a worthy cause.

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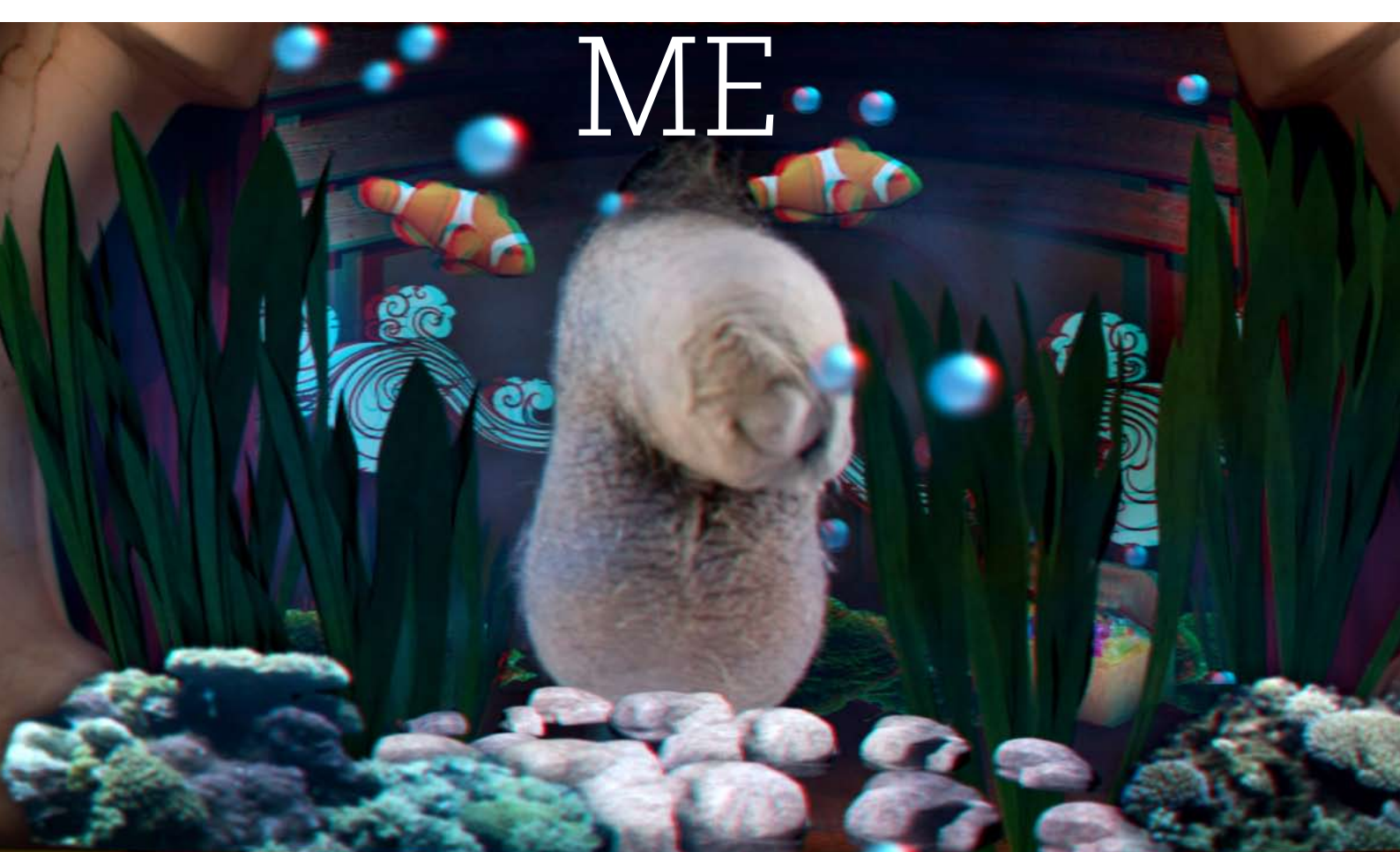
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# REACH OUT AND TOUCH ME







Now in its second  
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**PUPPETRY OF THE  
 PENIS** featuring two  
 strapping puppeteers,  
 who bend, twist  
 and manipulate  
 their **genitals** into  
 various **objects and  
 landmarks**, has  
 broken all **box office  
 records** worldwide.

They are back with a brand new show enhanced by using the very latest 3D technology, **PUPPETRY OF THE PENIS 3D** that will bring to life the duo's theatrical contortions as you've never seen them before.

Wearing 3D glasses for the duration of this mind-blowing, hilarious show, audiences will gain a whole new perspective on the pair's legendary genital gesticulations such as the Eiffel Tower, The Windsurfer and even edible delights like their signature dish, The Hamburger.

As every intimate shape will be captured on video camera, projected onto a large screen and then enhanced using special 3D effects, to create larger than life images that are so real you could almost reach out and cop a feel!

Once the boys have finished their stint at the Edinburgh Fringe, they set about scaring the maidens around this fair country as they embark on a massive UK tour from September. Bent thought it opportune to get the low down on what it takes to be a genital manipulator.

**Do you have to use special lotions and potions to keep your equipment in peak condition?**

No lotions and potions I'm afraid. Lots of sweaty handling seems to do the trick.

**Have there been many 'accidental' spillages during a show?**

Spillages! Good Lord no. That would get us arrested in the theatre. Maybe the eye got a tear in it on the odd night.

**You're world famous now so do people expect you to sign autographs... with the stars of the show?**

Well we are very aware that we just carry the famous ones around. Sort of like Lindsey Lohan's minder. I have on occasion left a sweaty ball print in one of our books.

**Have you ever felt the need for audience participation... and if so... how did it go?**

Oh we do it every night. Opening night in the West End in 2000. We have the Westminster lawyers in the theatre to make sure this is a "play" and we are not running it as a sex venue. There is a section of the show where I do the fruit bat, which involves me being upside down doing a handstand whilst an audience volunteer holds my ankles in the air. When we asked for a volunteer before we could say a word, a very excitable young man came sprinting down the isle, so we were left with no choice but to

ignore the several bachelorettes and invite him onstage. I launched and flipped upside down and he grabbed my ankles. All going well so far. He then in front of 1000 theatre loving guests, decided to ....lick my balls.

**Is there anything you wouldn't recommend folk try at home?**

The skateboard. Oh, and putting fresh chillies on your balls.

**Have you managed to encourage any of your many famous fans... to have a go?**

Oh yes. Hugh Grant told me he did the onion bhaji, said it was a lot like my KFC, but his scrotum was quite scarlet and wrinkly.

**How do you think your audience will react to the 3D element?**

I want to see them trying to swing from the penis's!

**You appear to be taking the 3D genre into another sphere... how does it feel to be theatrical pioneers?**

Well it's nice to be back there! 10 years ago a camera and a video screen was cutting edge. Now we are using CGI and the latest in 3D projection.

**Has anyone tried to impersonate your skills on any of the reality talent shows... what would your reaction be if they did?**

We're not precious. Happy for people to run with them. Just don't put capes on and sell tickets!

**When the stars have finished performing at night what do they like to get wrapped up in... is it a case of sexy budgie smugglers or something more prestigious?**

A nice woolly cocksock knitted by my Nana.

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



## Diary of a **Threesome**

By Darrel Moore

The threesome - also known as a three-way, ménage à trios, a gaysome [adjust number of partners to taste] a trilogy [no... wait that's Star Wars], a trio, and a triple-decker sandwich.

We all know them, we've all had them, and to be quite honest, we all love them. Don't we?

It seems we've stumbled upon a secret relationship bandage, a magic patch to heal the bruises and blur the cracks of any ailing couple. Feeling bored and tired with your man? Not feeling the zing you used to? Invite a guest star to play and watch your troubles fade away. Well that's what I thought would happen. Turns out things weren't quite as simple as that.

Apparently monogamy is dead. To even say the word is enough for the judging eyes of peers to glare at you as though you'd just killed and ate a small child in front of them. Monogamy is not hip. Monogamy is not trendy. In fact it seems so far away from where people are right now that it could almost be labelled a fad of the 90s, like denim jackets or Furbies. So when it came to even bringing up the subject with my boyfriend...well I didn't, and neither did he. It was an unspoken subject that both of us were afraid to mention.

Where it was once the case that one-on-one was the default setting of most relationships, more recently the ground rules have to be established beforehand,

like haggling at your local flea market to get the best deal. Couples need to know what's classed as monogamy, what's not, and with whom [or what]. For some, it's not cheating if you don't know your quickie's last name, or it's in a different country, or no fluids are exchanged, or if the moon's waxing on the third night of June at 7pm and the wind is blowing from the east. There can be endless conditions, rules and prerequisites that will get you through the whole 'monogamy' thing, giving you enough freedom to not feel guilty about going down on Fernando, the hot pool-boy while in Mexico. For some, like my boyfriend and I, it was the threesome.

Our six month mile stone was fast approaching and I, great bf I am, had planned dinner and a night in. That was until a friend of mine casually suggested that I make it a 'special one' and bring in a third to mix-up our proverbial cocktail. I'd never thought of it up until that point. My boyfriend and I were getting on great, we had loads in common, the sex was mind-blowing and I didn't even think about other guys. Threesome? There was no need - which was exactly my reply.

But then, as I smiled hard at my doubtful looking friend, I couldn't help but wonder. Was there a need? Did my boyfriend think about other guys? Were we beginning to get stale already and in need of another slice of bread in our booty to stop him going elsewhere for a...sandwich? Inadvertently my friend had awakened a powerful beast within me - my insecurity.

For the next few weeks I studied my boyfriend's actions as intently as I do my Robert Pattinson calendar every morning. When we were out and about I watched for him checking other guys in the street. When he was in the shower I secretly scanned his phone for illicit texts and searched his laptop for porn. I scrutinized over every aspect of his life, from who he spoke to at work to whether he picked movies with extra sexyfied hotties in.

I was fast becoming one of those boyfriends - and I didn't like it at all. All

I wanted was to find any scrap or hint that he was getting bored with us so I could pull out my trump card. But I found nothing concrete, so I let myself relax a little, convinced that we were fine and it was all in my overly imaginative head. We didn't need a threesome. He was happy with me and I with him; tea for two and two for tea. But our exclusive tea party didn't last for long.

As we sat in a café for lunch, a mutual friend who we bumped into from time to time walked in. He's the kind of guy you can never pin down; never had a boyfriend, and never wanted one. He spends all his free time at the gym and every time you see him you want to run your hand over his washboard abs the same way you would stroke a puppy in the street. He did what he wanted, with who he wanted, and that was all good for him. He gave us a quick wave after picking up his order and was about to leave, but my boyfriend invited him over to sit with us.

Suddenly my insecurities flared again. I couldn't help but feel there was some chemistry going on between them and all I could think was that that my boyfriend wanted to have sex with this guy; the eye contact, the overly friendly smiles, the touching each other suggestively on the shoulder. I was convinced, and I immediately made up my mind right there and then. To keep my relationship from sinking I would have to ask this dashing fellow into our bed. So that's what I did, and in the most personal way possible - I sent him a text. To my surprise and utter embarrassment my invitation was accepted with an enthusiastic '4 sure :))'.

The night in question soon arrived and I could just about control my nerves through dinner. I hardly ate a thing of the expensive meal I was paying for and couldn't muster up much conversation either.

Later, when we arrived back at his place, there came the knock I'd been waiting for all night; half with apprehension, half with nervous excitement. Our mutual friend had popped over on the 'off chance' we

were in. He'd also brought with him a big and convenient bottle of vodka.

The shot glasses came out and our underwear came off - simple as that. Our mutual friend had fun. I had fun. And my boyfriend had fun - which was the entire point of the evening. So when it was just us two again the next morning, I congratulated myself on being savvy enough to recognise the early signs of stagnation and for single-handedly saving our relationship. Now I'd set the bar, we could possibly experiment in other ways. The only problem was my boyfriend apparently thought that I had little too much fun that night. It seemed I'd inadvertently woken a powerful beast within him - jealousy.

He became distant and from then on regularly accused me of sleeping with our threesome buddy behind his back, which I wasn't of course, but there was nothing that I could say to convince him. The green-eyed monster had taken over and he was as sure of this as I was sure that we needed a threesome to begin with. Evidently we were both wrong. Eventually things finished between us after I found him in bed with another guy. He defended that it was only because he thought I was sleeping around and he wanted to get back at me.

When you've got insanely hawt guys running around the place and everyone screaming at you that gay men can't commit, it's hard to not feel insecure when you're doing the one-on-one thing.

I'd been so convinced that we needed a threesome to save our relationship but the fact was we didn't need one at all. Maybe if we'd set the ground rules, talked out the conditions to find out what we both wanted we might still be together now. One thing's for sure, next time I take part in a ménage à trios, I'm the one who's going to be the guest star.



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## Wet Pride

Even the downpours couldn't dampen the spirits of the revelers that turned out to celebrate Northern Pride in mid- July.

The event, now in its fourth year, attracted huge crowds in Leazes Park where both young and old managed to stay dry enough to enjoy the performances from Jamie Lambert, Lorraine Crosby and the headline act Ruth Lorenzo.

'The rain just adds to the atmosphere' was Ruth's comment as she stood behind the stage, umbrella in hand, 'I just love performing in Newcastle, and the crowds are always amazing. It's all go for me, there's no stopping. I have my album coming out later this year so it's time to get on with some hard work for my fans'. Pride organizers hailed the event a huge success.

Mikey Richards, parade co-ordinator, said: "Every year Northern Pride is getting bigger and better and we hope to carry on building on that success.



"It's a celebration and we hope everyone has had a good time."

## Brighton Pride



On 13th August Pride in Brighton & Hove invites you to celebrate equality and diversity, challenge discrimination and help raise funds for the local LGBT community while having an 'Out of this World' experience.

The Main Dance Tent is bigger than ever, featuring superstar DJ Danny Rampling alongside Guy Williams, Paul Heron and more. The Women's, BME and Bears tents all have new hosts, a new look and line-ups to match. For the first time in many years there will be a live stage; Pride were delighted to announce last month that x factor and Popstar to Operastar winner

JOE McELDERRY will be performing, alongside Sonia, Booty Luv, Angie Brown, Brighton and Hove Gay Men's Chorus, Fixion, Vida and many more. There is also eight hours of non-stop, cabaret, a fun fair, plenty of bars, food and the exclusive Pride Members Lounge.

The decision to introduce an entrance fee for the Main Park event was not taken lightly and the Pride team have worked hard to ensure the fee reflects a fair contribution to the cost of the event. Tickets are priced at £12.50 (adult), £8.50 (under 18s) and Free for under 12's when bought with an adult ticket. Buy your ticket now online at:

[www.ticketline.co.uk](http://www.ticketline.co.uk), by calling 0844 888 9991 or in person at outlets around the City, in London, Southampton, Kent, Bournemouth and Milton Keynes.

Look out for posters in venues selling Pride tickets or see a full list of venues at:

[www.brightonpride.org](http://www.brightonpride.org)

Please support Pride in Brighton & Hove and help us to support local LGBT groups.

Photo: ITV





# PRIDE OUT OF THIS WORLD

PRIDE IN BRIGHTON & HOVE A CELEBRATION OF LGBT LIVES

SAT 6TH - SUN 14TH AUGUST 2011  
PARADE & MAIN PARK EVENT:  
SAT 13TH AUGUST 2011



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# CARDIFF PRIDE



## Something to Di for (sorry!)

As usual there will be Main Stage, featuring top local and national performers, a Cabaret Garden with your favourite cabaret, drag and musical acts, fairground rides, market stalls, dance arena and much more. Mardi Gras will take place within a secured fenced site, with right of admission reserved.

In order to ensure the safety of all guests no alcohol is to be bought onto site. Soft drinks are permissible in sealed plastic containers.

Whilst we appreciate that this will be a disappointing decision for some, please remember that unlike many similar events Cardiff Mardi Gras remains free to all

to enter and we have been guaranteed by our suppliers that there will be no increase on last year's bar prices.

Cardiff and Wales LGBT Mardi Gras  
3rd September at Cooper's Field, Cardiff

<http://cardiffmardigras.co.uk>



## Not prejudice

Wakefield Pride not Prejudice will celebrate all of our diverse cultures and lifestyles and not just the LGBT, it will challenge the stereotypes that our mixed cultures have, break down barriers and hope to build bridges within the increasingly differing peoples that now call the City home. This diversity pride event will take place on the precinct in the city centre in front of the iconic cathedral. This is where Wakefield Pride first began in 2005 and it will be great to see the event back and raising money for chosen charities in the process. With a main stage, stalls and headliner acts throughout the day plus much more it's going to be one not to miss. The event kicks off at noon with the main stage acts including, Eurovision's Nicki French, Pink tribute act Missunderstood, Lady Gaga tribute Sarah Cave plus a host of others all set to entertain from 12.30.

**Wakefield Pride Not Prejudice**  
**Sunday 14th August**

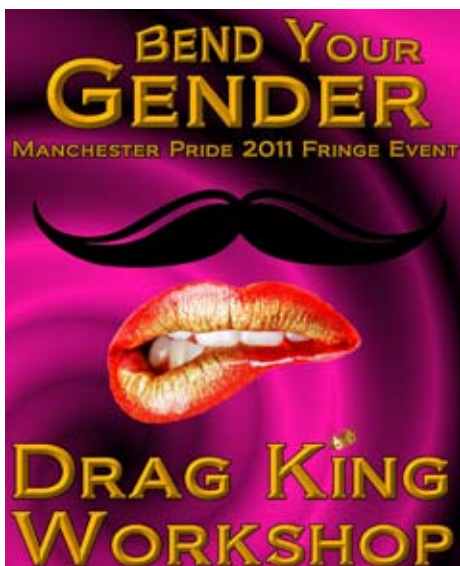
## Getting Head in Liverpool

Liverpool Pride is to move its main festival site for 2011 to the city's Pier Head.

The move comes after organisers agreed that the site was more financially viable in the current economic climate and also that it was better suited to this year's 'Summer of Love' theme. Moving to the city's waterfront will allow Liverpool Pride to deliver a festival which the city's LGBT community deserve and can be proud of. Despite the main festival site being

moved to the Pier Head, there will still be some activity taking place in and around the Gay Quarter. All of the Gay Bars and venues including those on Stanley Street, Victoria Street and Cumberland Street will remain open throughout the day and night for revellers to enjoy, while Gbar and Garlands are to join forces, producing a dance area that will be situated in close proximity to the Eberle Street venues.

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



## For King For Pride

The world is familiar with Drag Queens; now let's hear it for the Drag Kings! For one night only, as part of Manchester Pride Fringe, free Drag King workshop 'Bend Your Gender' is taking place at Via, Canal Street, from 7PM - 11PM on Tuesday 23 August.

The UK's number one Drag King, Valentino King, is hosting a workshop that will give women from the LGBT community an opportunity to explore their masculinity and bend it a little. Following an introduction to the world of the Drag King, Valentino King will demonstrate and educate participants about his hints and tips on what you need to know to transform into a Drag King.

This entertaining evening is free of charge and all required materials will be provided for participants upon arrival; however, to complete their new alter-ego, it is advised that participants bring a change of clothing.

Meanwhile, a short film featuring some of the cast of the hit TV show Shameless has been commissioned by Manchester Pride to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the festival. The film entitled 'First Time On Canal Street' follows a boy venturing out on to the famous street to celebrate his 21st birthday. There, he interacts with some of the area's famous faces, is seen in iconic bars and gets involved with LGBT groups showing the diversity of what the Village has to offer. The film opens with Ciaran Griffiths (Mickey Maguire) from Shameless, out with his girlfriend and being 'eyed up' from the birthday boy. In turn, Mickey finds it flattering and offers advice on where to go on the famous street. Then cutting to Queen's 'Don't Stop Me Now', the film hopes to drive ticket purchases for this 21st Anniversary of Manchester Pride in turn raising vital funds for LGBT and HIV charities and organisations.

<http://bit.ly/lQm0pZ> | [www.manchesterpride.com](http://www.manchesterpride.com)



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# PRIDE LONDON 2011

by ChrisGeary.com



Pride London is the largest outdoor event in the UK, with an estimated 1 million people attending.



Pride London is the largest outdoor event in the UK, with an estimated 1 million people attending. With a year to go till London is the focal point of the world; not only is it London World Pride ( [www.interpride.org](http://www.interpride.org) ) on Saturday 7th July 2012, but also of course the London 2012 Olympic Games (27 July-12 Aug). The main Pride Parade was held on Saturday 2nd July with a "Carnival of Love" theme. Leading the parade was the Smirnoff Miami Mix float, complete with a DJ playing the best Miami tunes and an array of dancers and performers to entertain the crowds including a team of Miami roller-bladers. Many of Her Majesty's service personnel and Police also joined the parade; while other great floats included British Airways who teamed up the boy band Blue, GLUG (The Gay, Lesbian Under Water Group), Battersea Dogs and Cats Home featuring the winner of this years Pride Dog Show competition, Plus thousands of walking percipients: colourful drag queens, butch lesbians, gogo boys and creative people in inspiring costumes.

The Main Stage at Trafalgar Square featured 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 were a few speeches, which appeared to attract little interest. Perhaps, for some of the youthful audience, the battles that gay people have fought for since the very first Pride event have all now been achieved and now these events are just an excuse to party and be out. Hopefully they are correct but it's best never to get too complacent and that this yearly festival is a reminder to many that we here, we're queer... get used to it.

More info: [www.PrideLondon.org](http://www.PrideLondon.org)







## DONCASTER PRIDE

### Pride on the move

This year Doncaster Pride has moved from the Racecourse and will be taking the event to the Keepmoat Stadium. Some thought that last year's brilliant Pride was perhaps a little straggled under the immenseness of the venue so -visitors will have the Lakeside area in which to picnic; great shopping at Lakeside Village only a 3 minute walk away and at the same time there will be a smaller defined area for Pride - suitable for the expected crowd numbers and helping to recreate the kind of atmosphere the organisers had when they first conceived the city's first Pride 5 years ago.. There will be the usual great Main Stage and all the things you've come to expect from Doncaster Pride.

The format of the event will be as usual:

Walk of Unity - this year much more **VISIBLE** with a route through the Town Centre:

Pride Gates open 2pm  
Main Stage 3pm  
Pride Close 10pm

VIP Experience – check online for details

Market Stalls  
Bigger and better Funfair  
Bars and Food – with a range of provision

Entry fee is £3 with under 16's free. The entry fee is vital to the future of Pride and last year's gate money has been used to help finance this year's event.

Doncaster Pride 2011 will take place on Saturday 20th August at The Keepmoat Stadium, Doncaster

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



### A Great Day Out

## LEEDS PRIDE

The Leeds and wider Northern Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) community are gearing up for our biggest party of the year. The Glitz and Glamour theme of Leeds Pride 2011 not only promises to exceed the 23,000 revellers of last year but to be even more of a spectacle! The fun kicks off at noon with the opening of the Real Radio Main Stage on Millennium Square. Headlining the main-stage is a rainbow of talent including top 10 chart sensation and the hottest girl band around, 'Parade', not to be outdone on the eye candy stakes the boys have upped the ante with the gorgeous boys from Eli Prime. Joining them are some of the country's most amazing divas; Stacey Jackson, Novena, Tameka and queen of the Yorkshire Gay scene, Kira.... And no Leeds Pride would be complete without the awesome sight of Bears Aloud grinding their ample haunches .

At 3pm the centrepiece of Leeds Pride – the Parade, takes to the street. Expect glitz and glam, outrageous costumes, and everyday day folk showing their love for each other and support for the LGB&T community.

The Pride Parade makes its way through the city centre to the pedestrianised

Call Lane and Lower Briggate part of town, where the party of parties is waiting for the huge crowds. Top DJs, over 20 bars, a funfair, market stalls and more international cabaret acts than you can shake a feather boa at on the 3 outdoor stages: Blayds Bar, The Viaduct Showbar and Lower Briggate Pride stages. Expect a high octane mix of high energy and cheese from the oldest LGBT venue in Leeds, the New Penny, whilst next door at the Bridge, dance yourself dizzy with camp chart tunes.

Queens Court, Fibre and Mission present 'Meat in the Street', the biggest, best and bangiest courtyard party of the year. For those of you with an endless supply of energy and Monday off work Homo and the Back Door Disco are hosting the official after Pride party keeping the revellers up until 4am.

For more details about Leeds Pride including a parade pack visit our website:

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

like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter: @LeedsPride







## TERRY GEORGE TELLIN' STORIES

It's deemed as one of the most unusual sporting events in the world but I love it. Although unfortunately I don't think we will see it at the 2012 London Olympics.

I'm talking about the 650 year-old tradition that is, the Kirkpinar Oil Wrestling Tournament. It's where Turkish men get together and toss each other to the ground. I seem to have become fascinated about this annual event and couldn't resist another trip to Edirne in the North-west of the country to photograph and enjoy this spectacular.

Edirne is a fascinating place and was awarded the title of European Tourist Destination of Excellence by the EU Commission. So after the Turkish Oil Wrestling it's worth a day seeing the sights.

This is a competition where the young (and not so young) men of Turkey come to prove themselves in the arena by a series of challenging wrestling events. What makes this infinitely more spectacular than anything the WWE can offer, and is as tough as cage fighting, is that it involves hundreds of athletic competitors in peak condition, wrestling in bespoke leather shorts (often customised with engravings and studs) while covered in olive oil.

For the uninitiated the rules may be difficult to fathom but basically you grab your opponent, at any advantage point you can, try and lift him up and throw him to the ground until they submit. Wrestling clubs from across

the country send their best men and boys (yes they start them young here) to compete because such is a win in this particular arena, fame is guaranteed and the club profile is dramatically enhanced.

The week-long event also features music, food and a few other sports but it is the oily men who attract the crowds. At times it may all seem a bit haphazard but it is a sport that has great honour for the winners and for the ultimate, the man who conquers all, he wins a gold belt that has been paraded through the town, to cheering crowds, before the event.

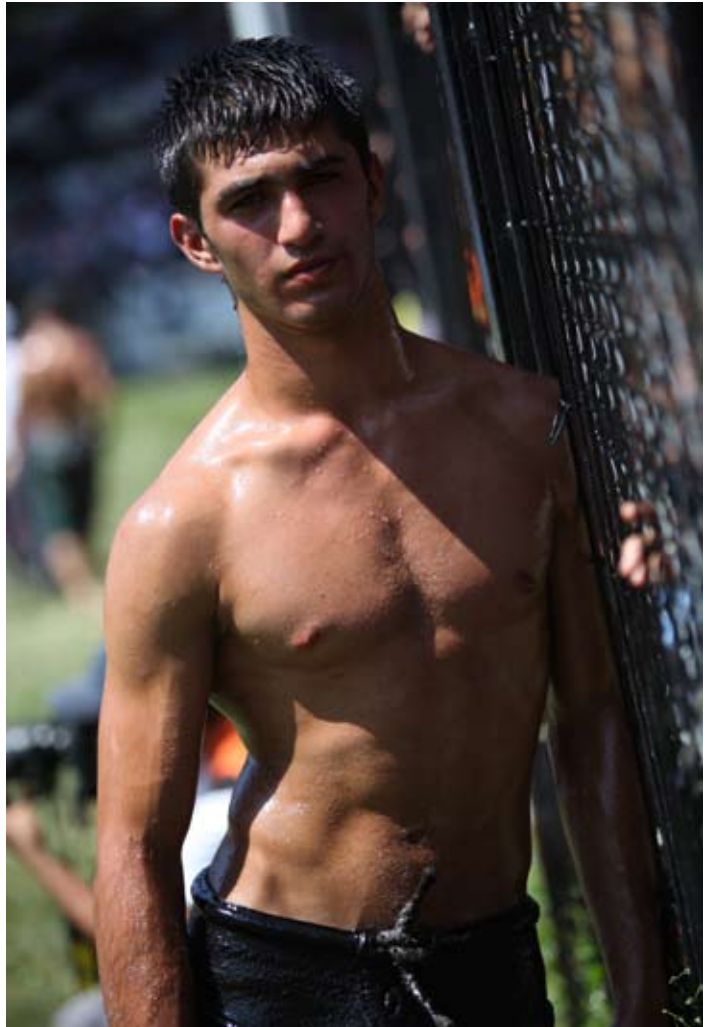
Each year the festival seems to get much bigger, with more and more visitors desperate to witness this oily clash of the Titans and as such, it becomes even more difficult to get access to the wrestlers themselves. This year the President of Turkey paid a visit so security was unbelievably tight but, you know me, never let a restricted area stop you getting that all important photo... I managed to click off some remarkable images see more at my site [terrygeorge.co.uk](http://terrygeorge.co.uk).

**with thanks to - Turkish Culture & Tourism Office and North Cyprus Tourism Centre**

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













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## SHOOTING FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!

.....

First of all, a great big thank you for all the kind messages that you've sent me via Gordon, the chief editor of BENT magazine. He forwards them to me every month.

.....

Some people who write want to book me for shows, others ask for an autograph or send me their photos for our porn castings; but whatever the subject, I always make the effort to answer every single letter. Most of you, however, want to know more about actually filming porn, so I thought I'd take this opportunity to give you some brief details and gossip about how we shoot a sexy porn movie at our STAXUS studios.

It all begins with a meeting the afternoon and evening before the actual filming. We have a light dinner – often a barbecue – and perhaps enjoy a few drinks together, which helps us all get to know each other and gives us the chance to discuss the scenes and pairings for the following day.

Of course, to help get us to know each other even better we eventually head with our forthcoming partners to our private rooms. This gives us the chance to sit, chat, kiss, cuddle and wank with each other a bit – though, of course, without coming, since we have to save ourselves for the shoot the following day! In short, you just try to find out more about the guy you've been teamed up with, including any special fetishes or erotic body parts he has. After all, this makes it much, much easier to have an intimate, erotic encounter in front of the camera the next day.

After that, you go to bed early and try to sleep – keeping your hands above the blankets, of course! The following morning you start with a very light breakfast – a coffee, juice or smoothie, plus maybe a little bit of toast. We try not to eat much because everything we eat will show in our stomachs. After all, the flattest stomach with a great six-pack is always the one that's the emptiest! And then the filming starts!

You take a shower – the bottoms taking extra care to clean and douche themselves – and then a make-up assistant takes care of any unsightly pubic hairs. Meantime, the other models spend the time relaxing in their rooms, playing cards or billiards, and waiting for their turn to be called onto the set by the director. When I say "set", of course, I'm basically referring to a bed, couch or table – something that you can fuck a cute guy on, and which varies depending on the "storyline". And of course what we wear also depends on the theme – smelly skater shoes (for the obvious German skater-style movies), khaki military clothes, scally-style trackies ... or (where the director has simply run out of ideas) our own stuff!

I know an old (cheap) farm in the north of the Czech Republic which has hosted in excess of over 150 different productions. Here we've shot military abuse, skater material, medical action – but never (ironically) anything to do with a farm! Everything depends on the background, and a cheap olive tarpaulin quickly provides you with a

military backdrop. But hey, it's a porn movie at the end of the day, not a multi-million Hollywood blockbuster!

When I first started out in my porn career I had to shoot my scenes with a lot of straight men – guys who were so-called "Gay For Pay". In those days, after all, gays were not as open in the Czech Republic as they are today. In recent times, however, more and more gay lads have started to do porn – in fact, it's almost become a kind of fashion to have shot a few movies and to show them around. In addition, porn and homosexuality have become more widely accepted in our country now. Indeed, you could say that the two biggest Czech exports are beer and porn!

A lot of the models in gay porn only ever do one or two movies, using them to help boost their escort career. After all, a porn appearance – even one that's little more than a shabby scene in a poor backdoor production – helps promote them as a "porn star" in their escort profile. The truth is that they get more money as an escort who has done porn because lots of clients will pay more to shag someone who they've seen on a DVD. In fact, I know one guy who regularly goes to Zurich once a month for five days, where he has around half a dozen clients per day who each pay him approximately €200/hour. As a result, he makes over €7000 in less than a week! And he's not the only one earning money like this. All that said, the job isn't really my cup of tea – though I wouldn't complain about getting that sort of money for one week's porn shoot!

In the 70s and 80s 'fluffers' were used. Guys who would help the actor keep his erection with an obliging blowjob. Nowadays, however, we have Viagra and injections, which are both cheaper than a fluffer and much more efficient. Porn actors use Viagra quite regularly – even boys like me who are very easily aroused and who can get a hard knob on demand within just a few seconds. For us, it's something of a psychological thing. Before shooting I take a half or a quarter of a tablet, then I say to myself: "I've had a Viagra now, so everything will be 150% fine!" As a result, I don't have to worry about the minimal risk of not getting an erection for some reason, and can instead concentrate fully on the scene ahead and on my partner. The one drawback, however, is that Viagra can delay the cumshot, so taking a whole pill can result in having to perform a tough hand-job at the end for a proper finish. And let's face it, nothing is more annoying than having to wait for your partner to have his final cumshot! Except, arguably, having your partner complain that your cock is too big – that's possibly even worse. Not that my cock is too big, mind – it's rather a case of his ass being too small or simply not trained enough! Like this American director I once worked for said to me: Even the biggest cock fits into the small ass! It's just about the bottom adopting the right mantra and breathing.

A few guys use cover jets and injections instead of Viagra, which are even more efficient and which work within a few seconds; but to be honest, I personally find the idea of injecting into your own cock quite disgusting. Besides, it can also be quite dangerous, resulting in damage to some important physical functions. I'm quite sure that no-one who sees porn as his career would ever use this course of action because they'd care too much about their body and their overall health. After all, a nice, big, perfectly working cock is their greatest asset – and the very reason why they're booked!

I hope I've given you some interesting insights into our daily porn routine. Please don't hesitate to contact me via [editor@bent.com](mailto:editor@bent.com) if you'd like any more information, autographs, etc.

If you're in a mind to book me and/or our STAXUS models for a show at your club or at a private event then please check: [www.StaxusOnTour.com](http://www.StaxusOnTour.com) or contact Carsten via: [Carsten@staxus.com](mailto:Carsten@staxus.com).

*Kisses,  
Johan*





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# BOOKS

## Afternoon Pleasures

**Edited by Shane Allison**

Aimed at bedtime reading for gay couples, this compendium of erotica offers irresistible fun and frolics while celebrating the coming together of souls as well as bodies. Bears, twink, environmentalists, loggers and even the wonderful ideal that is... breakfast in bed, are all applauded and appreciated in this sexy collection of short stories.



£10.99 – Cleis Press

## Brief Encounters

**Edited by Shane Allison**

A collection of some of the best, hottest and most creative 'quickie' erotica available on the market. Not your typical one-night-stand stories, the tales in this selection of 69 stories are intriguing, thrilling, unique and always surprising. So, as the cover suggests, make yourself comfortable and read on.



£10.99 – Cleis Press

## The International Homosexual Conspiracy

**By Larry-bob Roberts**

In this series of cultural polemics on an unexpected array of contemporary topics – from mistaken first impressions to sustainable yet unaffordable underwear to critiques of bourgeois mind-sets – the author offers hilarious insight into the absurdities of modern life and gay culture.



£10.99 – Manic D Press

## In the Dolphin's Wake

**by Harry Bucknall**

This is the tale of Harry's journey of over 5,500 miles, lasting 183 days, visiting 36 islands and every island chain plus Mount Athos, Athens and the Turkish mainland; involving 57 sea passages on 35 ferries, 4 landing craft, 3 hydrofoils, 1 fishing caique plus travel by sea plane, 1 twin prop aircraft, 11 buses, 2 trains, an open top Land Rover and a duck egg blue 1961 Morris Oxford. Oh yes... and the continual visits from 'the Spaniard' – Harry's boyfriend at the time.



£7.99 – Bene Factum Publishing

## Queer America

**By Vicki L. Eaklor**

A people's history of the United States is a major effort to popularise a long-overlooked chapter in the history of the 20th century. It provides a decade by decade overview of major issues and events in GLBT history including Harlem Renaissance, change in military policy, Stonewall riots, AIDS, same sex marriages, representation in the media and legal battles.



£12.99 – The New Press

## Games Frat Boys Play

**By Todd Gregory**

Eight years at a Swiss boarding school have given Jordy Valentine an impressive education. But the thing he really wants to learn – how to make friends and find love – have eluded him. At California University – Polk, he's hoping all that will change. From the start he is intrigued by the Beta Kappa fraternity and its leader in particular. When that leads to rejection he starts to work out and physically transform himself.



£10.99 – Kensington

## The Handsome Prince

**Edited by Neil Plakcy**

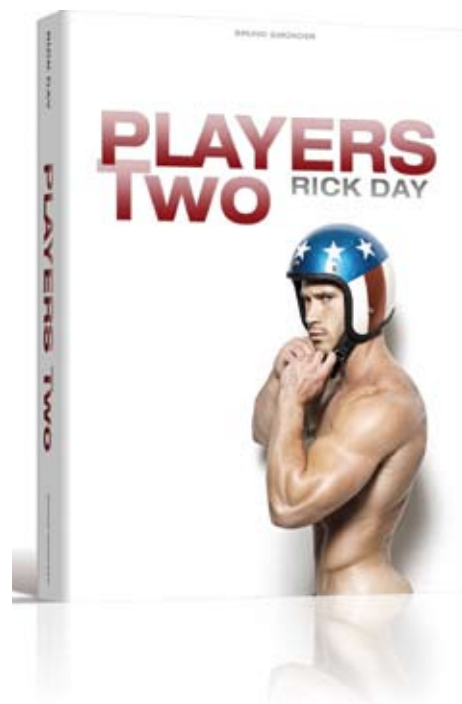
Tis is a mix of traditional and contemporary stories, each with a fairytale theme. Sometimes the prince himself is the one who needs rescuing; sometimes the prince emerges in unexpected guises – but one thing all these tales have in common is a happy ending. "Happy ever after" or "Happy for now" when these guys find their princes, hot and steamy sex is guaranteed.



£10.99 – Cleis Press







## PLAYERS TWO

By Rick Day

Like in the first volume the predominating stylistic device is the cool aesthetic appeal, reduced to the basics, that sets the focus completely on all these athletic guys. The intimacy of Day's pictures is unique; he always goes for direct confrontation—eye to eye with his models! And these men are border crossers, passionately they shape their bodies, they train every single muscle to reach perfection. Day is capable of picturing the passion and the will power of his models. His photos are incredibly sexy, tough minded—in one word: brilliant.

£79.99

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





## House of Boys

It is 1984. Frank is a determined teenager who runs away from high school to find an alternative lifestyle in Amsterdam. He finds a home and a job at the House of Boys, a bar-cum-brothel run by a strict Madame who has an eye for what his punters crave. Frank works his way up from barman to on-stage dancer and falls in love with some of his housemates. The first intimations of what is described as 'the gay plague', casts a long shadow over Frank's tight-knit group of friends. Yet despite the troubles that cloud the hopes and dreams of young Frank, his perseverance, along with support from a willing doctor, will carry him through. House of Boys is a glamorous, colourful coming-of-age story that lifts the lid on an exciting world of sex and music, where deep passions suddenly turn into a struggle for courage.

**Out: 22nd August - £16.99 - Peccadillo Pictures**

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

**Stephen Fry guest stars in this DVD but what is the name of the BBC quiz show that he hosts?**



Win  
These

Turn to page  
78 for details

## KABOOM

Cutie Smith's everyday life in the dorms - hanging out with his arty, sarcastic best friend Stella, hooking up with a beautiful free spirit named London and lusting for his gorgeous but dim surfer roommate Thor suddenly gets turned upside-down after one fateful, terrifying night. Tripping on some hallucinogenic cookies he ate at a party, Smith is convinced he's witnessed the gruesome murder of an enigmatic Red Haired Girl who has been haunting his dreams. What he discovers as he tries to find out the truth leads him deeper and deeper into a mystery that will forever change not only the course of his young life but the destiny of the entire world.

**Out: 8th August - £15.99 - Artificial Eye**

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

**The Big Bang \_\_\_\_\_ what?**



## Krabit and The Legend of the Satanic Mill

Medieval Europe has been devastated by the Thirty Years War and the plague. KRABAT, a fourteen year old orphan lives on the margins of society, travelling from village to village to beg out a meagre existence. Life is relentlessly grim, until Krabat's dreams direct him to a remote mill. The master of the mill keeper offers him the chance to stay, and KRABAT readily accepts only to find himself drawn into a world of magic and dark arts.

**Out: 1st August - £19.99 - Peccadillo Pictures**

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD just answer this simple question:  
**Satanic means. A. Made of satin. B. Evil. C, People of Saturn**



# RETRO



## ROCK HUDSON'S HOME MOVIES

"It was all up there." Says Rock Hudson (Eric Farr) at the start of this rule-breaking, dizzying assortment of clips from Rock Hudson's Hollywood career that make up Mark Rappaport's feature film. Employing a narrative commentary from beyond the grave, the film invests an eclectic form of biography. The closer you look at Hudson's films the more you see the actor is winking at us. An award-winning blend of dozens of clips, Rock Hudson's Home Movies sheds a new and provocative light on one of Hollywood's greatest legends. Also featuring Gary Cooper, Doris Day, James Dean, Karl Douglas, John Wayne, Elizabeth Taylor and more

**Out: 1st August - £15.32 - Bounty Film**

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

**Rock Hudson famously made his name in romantic comedies opposite which female star?**



## THE SILVER SCREEN: COLOR ME LAVENDER

The Silver Screen: Color Me Lavender A hilarious and provocative romp through the hidden and not-so-hidden gay undercurrents of Hollywood's Golden Years and, despite efforts to launder American cinema of even the faintest traces of gay influences. Through the use of ingenious film clips, along the director's signature witty insights, The Silver Screen: Colour Me Lavender brilliantly uncovers the unmistakable homoerotic flirtations, and the ambiguous behaviour that richly imbued the performances of Danny Kaye, Jerry Lewis, Cary Grant, and other film legends.

**Out: 1st August - £15.32 - Bounty Film**

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

**Lavender is what? A, a spice. B, a herb. C, a flower**



Win These  
Turn to page 78 for details



## Submarine

"I have been waiting too long for the film of my life. My name is Oliver Tate. This film will capture my particular idiosyncrasies, for example, the way I seduce my classmate Jordana Bevan using only my mind. Also, since my parents' marriage is being threatened by a man who runs courses on Mental and Physical Wellbeing, the film will probably feature some elaborate set-pieces of me taking him down. There will be helicopter shots. There will be slow-mo, but also transcendent moments, like when I cure my father's depression. Knowing me as I do, I will be surprised if this film runs to less than three hours. Note to the press: appropriate adjectives to describe this film include "breath-taking" and "irresistible" as well the phrase: "a monumental achievement"." Oliver Tate

**Out: 1st August – DVD & Blu-ray – Optimum Home Ents**

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD just answer this simple question:  
**Submarine mean 'under or below' what?**



## Source Code

When decorated soldier Captain Colter Stevens (Jake Gyllenhaal) wakes up in the body of an unknown man, he discovers he's part of a mission to find the bomber of a Chicago commuter train. In an assignment unlike any he's ever known, he learns he's part of a government experiment called the "Source Code," a program that enables him to cross over into another man's identity in the last 8 minutes of his life. With a second, much larger target threatening to kill millions in downtown Chicago, Colter lives the incident over and over again, gathering clues each time, until he can solve the mystery of who is behind the bombs and prevent the next attack.

**Out: 15th August – DVD & BluRay – Optimum Home Ents**

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD just answer this simple question:  
**Complete the title of this Jake Gyllenhall movie: Brokeback \_\_\_\_\_.**



## Scream 4

In this edition of the scary franchise, Sidney Prescott, now the author of a self-help book, returns home to Woodsboro on the last stop of her book tour. There she reconnects with Sheriff Dewey and Gale, who are now married, as well as her cousin Jill and her Aunt Kate. Unfortunately Sidney's appearance also brings about the return of Ghostface, putting her friends, family and the whole town of Woodsboro in danger.

**Out: 22nd August - DVD & Blu-Ray – Entertainment in Video**

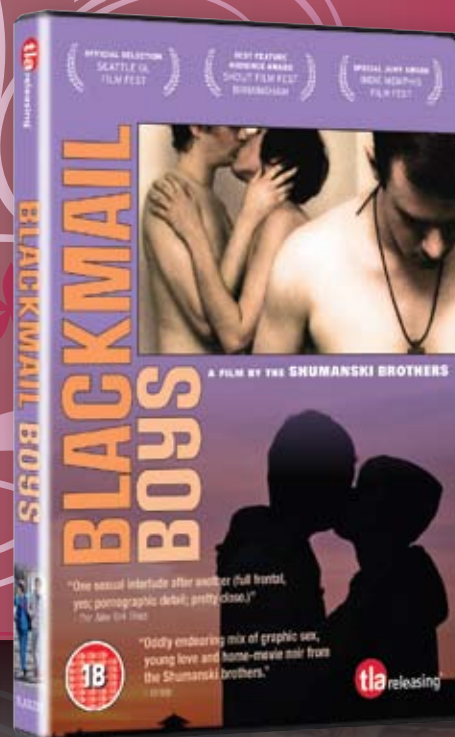
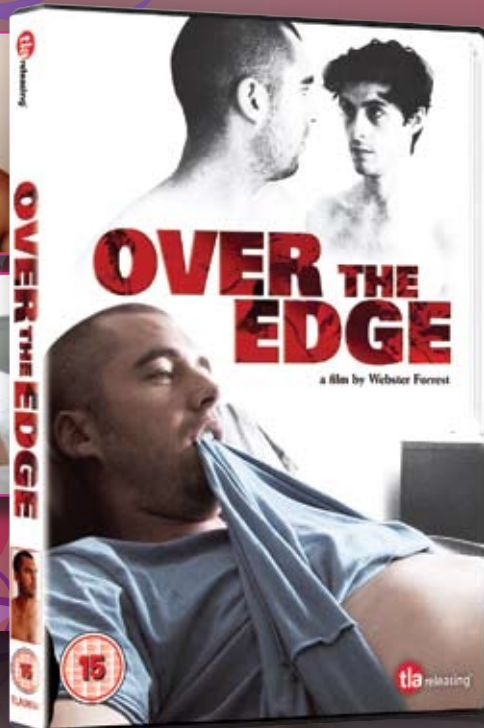
To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this fantastic DVD just answer this simple question:  
**Artist Edvard Munch's most famous painting is called what? A, The Shout. B, The Smile. C, The Scream.**



Over the Edge



Blackmail Boys



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## Super 8

Lost creator JJ Abrams has crafted a great feel-good friendship movie in the tradition of the Goodies and ET. In the summer of 1979, a group of friends in a small Ohio town witness a catastrophic train crash while making a super 8 movie and soon suspect that it was not

Out 5th August

an accident. Shortly after, unusual disappearances and inexplicable events begin to take place in town, and the local Deputy tries to uncover the truth – something more terrifying than any of them could have imagined.



## The Smurfs in 3D

When the evil wizard Gargamel chases the tiny blue Smurfs out of their village, they tumble from their magical world and into ours – in fact, smack dab in the middle of Central Park. Just three apples high and stuck in the Big Apple, the Smurfs must find a way to

Out 10th August

get back to their village before Gargamel tracks them down. Neil Patrick Harris, Jayma Mays, Sofia Vergara, and Hank Azaria star on camera opposite an all-star voice cast including Katy Perry as Smurfette and Alan Cumming as Gutsy Smurf.



## Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes

Out 11th August

Rise of the Apes is an origin story in the truest sense of the term. Set in present day San Francisco, the film is a reality-based cautionary tale, a science fiction/science fact blend, where man's own experiments with genetic engineering lead to the development of intelligence in apes and the onset of a war for supremacy. A single act of both compassion and arrogance leads to a war unlike any other – and to

the "Rise of the Planet of the Apes". The Oscar-winning visual effects team that brought to life the worlds of Avatar and Lord of the Rings is breaking new ground, creating a CGI ape that delivers a dramatic performance of unprecedented emotion and intelligence, and epic battles on which rest the upended destinies of man and primate.

## MOVIE BUZZ

✦ Dwight Yoakam and Helena Bonham Carter are in talks to join Gore Verbinski's *The Lone Ranger* with Yoakam poised to play the film's villain. The trio would join Armie Hammer (the twins in *The Social Network*) as the title character and Johnny Depp as Tonto in a story that follows the two heroes as they look to take down the Cavendish gang after they attack the Texas Rangers.

✦ Chris Pine (*Star Trek*) is rumoured to be MGM's top choice to take the lead in the upcoming *Robocop* reboot for writer/director Jose Padilha (*Elite Squad*). Should Pine land the role he would be a full ten years younger than Peter Weller was when he starred in the title role in the 1987 Paul Verhoeven-directed film featuring a Detroit police officer resurrected as an unstoppable cyborg.

✦ Chace Crawford (*Gossip Girl*) has joined the cast of *What To Expect When You're Expecting* for director Kirk Jones. He's joining a cast that includes Jennifer Lopez, Cameron Diaz, Rodrigo Santoro, Anna Kendrick, Chris Rock and Elizabeth Banks and he will play a character who reunites with an attractive old flame (Kendrick) after a turf war between he and a rival food truck driver (Rob Huebel).

✦ Harry Potter star Emma Watson may be in line to star in a live-action adaptation of *Beauty and the Beast* for director Guillermo del Toro who is also working on a live action *Pinocchio* movie.

✦ Tom Cruise is now confirmed to star in *One Shot*, an adaptation of the Lee Child best-selling book series in which Jack Reacher (Cruise), a former military policeman-turned-drifter, investigates a case in which a lone sniper murders five victims before being captured. Reacher discovers it's more than a simple open-and-shut case. Christopher McQuarrie (*Valkyrie*) is set to direct.

✦ After much speculation about what his first return-to-acting vehicle would be – Arnold Schwarzenegger is prepped to be back on the big screen in the action flick, *The Last Stand*. Schwarzenegger plays a cop who leaves the LAPD in disgrace and takes a job in a sleepy border town. There's little action until an escaped drug kingpin heads toward the town at 200 mph in a specially outfitted car with a hostage and a fierce army of gang member escorts.





## Cowboys & Aliens

1873. Arizona Territory. A stranger (Daniel Craig) with no memory of his past stumbles into the hard desert town of Absolution; the only hint to his history is a mysterious shackle that encircles one wrist. What he discovers is that the people of Absolution don't welcome strangers, and nobody makes a move on its streets unless ordered to do so by the iron-fisted Colonel

**Out 11th August**

Dolarhyde (Harrison Ford). It's a town that lives in fear. But Absolution is about to experience fear it can scarcely comprehend as the desolate city is attacked by marauders from the sky. Screaming down with breathtaking velocity and blinding lights to abduct the helpless one by one, these monsters challenge everything the residents have ever known.



## Conan The Barbarian

The most legendary Barbarian of all time is back this Summer. Having thrived and evolved for eight consecutive decades in the public imagination - in prose and graphics, on the big screen and small, in games and properties of all kinds - Conan's exploits in the Hyborian Age now come alive like never before in a colossal 3D

**Out 26th August**

action-adventure film. A quest that begins as a personal vendetta for the fierce Cimmerian warrior soon turns into an epic battle against hulking rivals, horrific monsters, and impossible odds, as Conan realizes he is the only hope of saving the great nations of Hyboria from an encroaching reign of supernatural evil.



## The Skin I Live In

Antonio Banderas reteams with director Pedro Almodóvar in yet another masterpiece. Ever since his wife was burned in a car crash, Dr. Robert Ledgard, an eminent plastic surgeon, has been interested in creating a new skin with which he could have saved her. After twelve years, he manages to cultivate a skin that is a real shield against every assault. In addition to years

**Out 26th August**

of study and experimentation, Robert needed a further three things: no scruples, an accomplice and a human guinea pig. Scruples were never a problem. Marilia, the woman who looked after him from the day he was born, is his most faithful accomplice. And as for the human guinea pig...

TEN THINGS YOU  
NEVER KNEW ABOUT:

## DOMINIC COOPER



- Trained professionally at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art
- Replaced Orlando Bloom in An Education.
- Auditioned for the role of Fandral in Thor.
- Auditioned for the role of Anton in The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus, but lost out to Andrew Garfield.
- Used to share a house with James Corden who he co-starred with in The History Boys.
- He never thought The History Boys would be the huge success it was, but felt he ought to accept the role "because it's Alan Bennett".
- Discovered in 2007 that he had a half-sister he did not know about after she got in touch with Dominic's father after seeing Dominic appear in Down To Earth when her mum said: 'Oh my God, he looks just like your father.'
- He maintains that, despite the sadness of his sister's death when she was five and parents' subsequent divorce, his childhood was largely a happy one.
- He only stayed on at school for A-levels only because the drama department wanted him to appear in a school play.
- Dated Mamma Mia! co-star Amanda Seyfried.



# TERRIFIC Torremolinos

Roll over Gran Can, make way Sitges! **Adrian Gillan** has his preconceptions shattered in overwhelmingly gay-bloke-teeming Torremolinos – Spain's "big gay secret"!

Inland hills swoop down to an old town, itself nestled on cliffs above Mediterranean beaches! Jewel of the Costa del Sol, just west of Malaga in southern Spain – a stylish haven for the likes of Sinatra until the jet-tourist boom of the late '60s – Torremolinos is more intimate than nearby, larger Marbella.

More to the point, Bent is delighted to report that Torremolinos is, in fact,

Spain's "big gay secret" – brimming with mucho macho locals in-the-know, perhaps the Spanish mainland's third largest scene after Madrid and Barcelona! Though maybe not as picturesque as Sitges or Ibiza Old Town, it boasts year-round sunshine and amazing beaches, plus loads of bars and horny Spaniards – and all just a 10 minute direct rail ride from Malaga airport! Perfect, even for a mere long weekend!

## \* \* \* \* \* **To SEE 'N DO** \* \* \* \* \*

Beaches – take your pick! Try Bajondillo, Playamar or Los Alamos with beach-bars for the young, mainly local hunks; or try the tad more family-orientated Carhuela stretch, awash with eateries.

'Old' Town – Romans, Moors and Christian knights may well have been in the area centuries back, but 'old' now mostly hardly predates the 1950s! That said, you'll find a medieval watchtower dominating cutsie Plaza Miguel. Watch out for a local history museum, set to open within months.

Botanic Gardens ('Molino de Inca') – peaceful haven, away from the beach, full of lush plants, old mansions plus working water mills! The nearest thing to being out of town without leaving it!

Battery Park – recently-renovated parkland, complete with old artillery guns that used to defend the bay. From the viewing tower, spy the Sierra Nevada – even Gibraltar, plus Morocco, on a clear day!

Aqualand & Crocodile Park – just inland, a tad north of centre, for kids and the young at heart!

## \* \* \* \* \* **To STAY** \* \* \* \* \*

4-star Meliá Costa del Sol (Paseo Marítimo 11; T: +34 902 144 440; [www.solmelia.com](http://www.solmelia.com)) hotel is situated on the classy, central Playa de Bajondillo, slap bang on the

waterfront, with all 500+ rooms boasting a fab sea view. Ace pool, restaurant and spa centre too. Close to scene, beach and rail.

£45

Calvin Klein Men's Swim Short  
[www.banglads.com](http://www.banglads.com)



Leading leisure airline Monarch offers year-round flights to Malaga (just 10 minutes by rail between Malaga airport and Torremolinos) from Birmingham, London Gatwick, London Luton and Manchester airports with fares, including taxes, starting from £37.99 one way (£61.50 return). In addition to year-round low fares, Monarch also offers a great range of products and services, both on the ground and in-flight. All customers are allocated a seat at check-in but, for those wishing to select where in the cabin they sit, seats can be pre-booked at £7.99 per one-way flight, to avoid the last minute free-for-all experienced on some other airlines; or, for only £17.99, extra-legroom seats are available, which offer up to six inches of extra space. Passengers travelling on scheduled flights can also avoid the queues at the airport and take advantage of online check-in which is available between 18 days and 4½ hours prior to departure. A wide selection of tasty hot and cold meals can be pre-booked or purchased onboard, with prices from £3. In addition to flights, Monarch also now offers a huge range of great-value holidays, hotels, car hire and travel insurance.

For more info or to book:  
[www.monarch.co.uk](http://www.monarch.co.uk)  
General info about Torremolinos:  
[www.visitcostadelsol.com](http://www.visitcostadelsol.com)

General info on Spain:  
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Spanish Tourist Office:

P.O. Box 4009, London, W1A 6NB  
020 7486 8077

[info.londres@tourspain.es](mailto:info.londres@tourspain.es)

## **To BOOZE 'N CRUISE**

Gay life in Torremolinos is hubbed around one eminently strollable central Nogalera district block – a kind of 'mini-Yumbo', and no less nice for that. Whether a bear, a drag, or just plain trendy: there's something for all! And think local! Less of those dodgy tourists you find hogging Sitges, Ibiza or Gran Can! Brace yourself for some serious Spanish passion! As ever in Spain, disco nap first – then dine from 10pm, booze from 1am, dance from 3am! With at least two-dozen venues, here's a mere taster...

Start off at the El Gato Lounge, a buzzing waterfront gay bar that sprawls right over into a terrace on jokingly-named Banana Beach, itself generally brimming with shirtless gay male torsos. As night falls, head under 5 minutes' walk back up the steps towards the Old Town and the gay Nogalera block to check out the likes of minimal style-bar Wow, cosy B-Bar run by friendly couple Neil and Dave, cruisy Men's bar, bear-brimming Bacchus or drag-teaming Morbo's – to name a very few!

[uk.gayinfotorremolinos.com](http://uk.gayinfotorremolinos.com)

If you fancy a bop into the early hours, start at youthful Parthenon club, with its basement disco; then move on to spacious, recently-open Home, before ending at massive Passion. Dark rooms all-round!

"Restless" by day? Then, apart from aforementioned El Gato and Banana Beach, let off steam at Sauna Miguel (Av. Carlota Alessandri 166). Otherwise, Guadalmar Beach, back towards Malaga, is full of male nudes. Contramano (Calle Danza Invisible, 3) shop sells boy-toys, vids and things.



Wales

**Cwmtylo**  
Bed & Breakfast

Cwmtylo is a beautiful traditional Welsh farmhouse. Nestling under the Arenig mountains, amongst its own 1,500 acre estate of beautiful farmland.

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# ViVa LAS GAYGAS

At the very top of my imaginary list of perfect holiday destinations was a place unlike any other, a place where you can go to the top of the Eiffel tower, ride a gondola down the canals of Venice, see the pyramids and even become a pirate all within one city... yes the glittering lights of Las Vegas were calling to me.

Words and photos by Mark Hawkins

This is a place for grown-ups and I was damn well going to enjoy myself. My journey began with a 10-hour flight from London (LHR T5) as Pam Ann would most likely point out. She would have been overjoyed as the plane filled with copious amounts of young men out on Stag do's with free In-flight booze... this could get interesting. So much so that half-way through the flight they announced they had run dry due to the excesses of the young and restless.

Nothing can prepare you for the most staggering part of your arrival... the heat. When you see the city it's easy to forget you're in the middle of the desert but 35-40 degrees hits you like you've been thrown into a hot oven. However, you soon forget about the heat when you arrive onto The Strip and see the magnificent hotels, well just to call them simply hotels I think would be an insult.

I had the extreme pleasure to be staying at the Encore Tower Suites where each guest is treated as if they had just won a million dollars in the casino. The suites are stunning with a view of the Strip to match. Encore, along with its sister tower Wynn, is a fantastic resort complex with casinos, delicious restaurants, designer shops, theatres, world famous

nightclubs and the only 18-hole golf course on the strip. Meeting my fellow journalists for breakfast, pancakes and maple syrup in "Society Café" at Encore was a real treat, yet another place that reflects the quality of the hotel. It didn't take long for polite conversation from us all to become hilarious yet totally inappropriate. We all seemed to get on so well, I knew this trip would be - faaaabulous darling!

Another fascinating treat - we were given a resort tour from "Roger Thomas" who designed both Wynn and Encore. In addition to this success, his designer portfolio consists of most of the major resorts on the strip making him the Flamboyant Gay Man who was friends with Sinatra... and designed Vegas.

All this exhaustive hard work meant we needed a break and the Spa at Encore seemed the perfect solution; from the moment you enter you feel relaxed, it's the closest I've ever come to paradise. We were offered a 'Senses of You' massage; 90 minutes of pure bliss, I never wanted it to end. I was slightly startled and titillated to discover the spa was a bathing suit optional facility, plenty of looking but no touching still... all this in the name of journalism.



But there was work to be done. The limousine waited to whisk me off to the next titillating encounter; Caesars Palace adulterous acro-cabaret variety show "Absinthe". This is a must see if you laugh when someone makes a penis joke or you just want to see two men in Lycra shorts contorting themselves into homoerotic positions, I will let your imaginations fill in the rest. It sounds a strange concept but I have never been so excited watching a show in all my life. Meanwhile, keeping things moving, there was a woman attached to a man with a rope around his neck, while he spins her... while roller-skating... on a small stage... very fast... it was fantastic. Like I said, a 'must see show!'

One of the latest additions to The Strip is 'The Cosmopolitan' and the name says it all. If your casino winnings can't reach you to the heights of exclusive Encore Tower Suites, then The Cosmopolitan is the place to be. I felt so comfortable here. The atmosphere felt electric with such a young clientele; a superb modern resort that bypasses the traditions of Vegas life and brings you contentedly into 21st century.

The resort also offers an extremely unique bar "The Chandelier" a 3-floor floating balcony bar surrounded by draped crystals that gives it its name. You can receive table service with an impressive and imaginative selection of cocktails but just gawping at its sparkly splendour was enough for me.







From the elegant to extremely cool; "Krave" at Planet Hollywood, has to be the best gay nightclub in Vegas, be prepared to queue for the privilege but it is so worth it! From the funky house music to the go-go boys on stage who look great in their Speedos but even better when they are wet from the shower-show they perform - you can't help but let your imagination run riot. But with the plethora of cute boys around you won't have to let it run far. This is truly the throbbing heart of Las Gaygas.

As the club is open until the very small hours you may still be awake at breakfast like a few of my new found journalist friends were. A perfect morning-after pick-me-up would be "Payard Patisserie" at Caesars Palace where in addition to the fabulous selection you get a little chocolate truffle treat at the end of your meal.

You may be asking yourselves about the debauchery associated with Vegas and all the famous 'drunken' weddings? Well, you may be surprised to know it's not how it's portrayed on TV. Weddings are taken very seriously here as we found out on a little trip to the "Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel" where we were kindly given a tour by the gay couple who own and run the chapel. With the opening line of the tour, "I've just got changed as 5 minutes ago I was dressed as Mr. Spock for the last wedding." You may think as gay marriage is not currently legal in all of the US, why is this important. Well, a high percentage of their customers are commitment ceremonies between gay couples and yes, Elvis himself could be the one presiding over your special day.

Now if you enjoy the drag diva glitz and glam of Cher, Madonna, Whitney or Celine to name but a few, Frank Marino's 'Divas' at the Imperial Palace is totally camp and fun to watch.

Finally, what better way to end a stay in a fabulous resort than at the extraordinary "Official Flaunt Party at Encore Beach Club" on a Sunday afternoon? Dressed in those all important Speedos, this gay friendly, sexy afternoon club-night, has the best atmosphere and man-candy for your ultimate viewing pleasure.

### Best Hotels

**Wynn and Encore** - [www.wynnlasvegas.com](http://www.wynnlasvegas.com)  
**The Cosmopolitan** - [www.cosmopolitanlasvegas.com](http://www.cosmopolitanlasvegas.com)  
**Bellagio** - [www.bellagio.com](http://www.bellagio.com)  
**Caesars Palace** - [www.caesarspalace.com](http://www.caesarspalace.com)  
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### Fantastic places to eat

"Society Café" at Encore  
 "La Cave" at Wynn  
 "Sage" at Aria  
 "Border Grill" at Mandalay Bay  
 "Jaleo by Jose Andres" located inside The Cosmopolitan Hotel  
 "Payard Patisserie" at Caesars Palace  
 "Sugar Factory" in Paris Hotel

### With Thanks!

I travelled from Leeds to London by rail with East Coast Trains: advance return fares, booked online, start from £26 Standard Class or £79 First Class: book via [www.eastcoast.co.uk](http://www.eastcoast.co.uk), call 08457 225225 or visit any staffed station.

I would also like to say thank you to Rooster PR and Leila Stocker for inviting Bent magazine on such a fantastic trip.





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# My First Time

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

Two years ago I went with my mate John to a sauna in London, it was my first time and though he said it was his, the way the guy on reception greeted him I think he must have been lying. Although I was a little bit nervous I'm not a kid anymore and fairly confidently walked around naked like everyone else. The place wasn't full but there were a few guys wandering around and as my mate seemed to have pulled fairly quickly I was left to look after myself. There was a sort of splash pool and I noticed a bear wallowing happily with his eyes closed at one end so I thought I'd slip into the water without annoying him. He did notice, opened his eyes, nodded acknowledgement and said a gruff "Hi". We chatted further and I moved up beside him so we weren't shouting across the pool at one and other. After a few minutes of being sat next to him I felt his hand stroking my thigh, which had an instant reaction on my cock. I reached for his and he was already hard... and big. I remember thinking

— huge guy, huge dick — and carried on playing with each other as we talked. It wasn't long though before the ache in our cocks was more pressing than our conversation that had suddenly developed into a lot of moaning and "Oh yeahs". He wanted me to suck him off under water and although the idea appealed, I didn't think I could control my breathing sufficiently to enjoy it. I wasn't planning on coming but his grip and sliding thumb suddenly hit the spot and I spurted into the water (I know, I know) but I couldn't help it. He smiled at what he'd done and then brushed my hand away from his dick and told me to leave it he was happy to have made me cum. A bit shame-faced I got out but he was already back lazing against the side of the pool with his eyes closed. I wondered if he had guys coming and playing with him all the time.

**David, Brighton**

A few years ago I'd gone to a sauna in Blackpool after being at Flamingo and the place was heaving with guys. There was so much going on I wished I'd arrived earlier as I watched this cute twink being escorted off to some dark and secluded corner by this middle-aged guy... it could have been me... I remember thinking. Anyway, after about 10 minutes I saw the twinkly lad again, just wondering around, naked and without a care in the world. He was attracting loads of attention, not that he was the only one, as some of the grunting and groaning and sloppy sucking noises had to be heard to be believed. Anyway, I was taking a shower, having done a bit of heavy petting in the sauna with a guy not unlike myself (I'm sure Freud would have a field day with that particular image) anyway, we both wanted to shag and in the end and neither of us was prepared to be the one taking it, so we sort of separated. I asked the twink, who was under the shower next to me, if he'd been busy. He said not really... just a couple of guys wanting to blow him but ... and he shrugged his shoulders. I was getting off on just talking to this

good looking dude and my dick was showing as much interest as I was. He saw my cock rearing up and leant in and touched it. I told him jokingly, that if he broke it he'd have to pay for it. He laughed out loud, which I wasn't sure was allowed in a sauna, but he took my hand and grabbing our towels, we made our way to a cubicle. While waiting for our turn, as there was loads of squealing coming from inside, we kissed and cuddled, which turned me on even more. An old guy and a young guy exited the cubicle and we slipped in. There was lube and condom already on a little shelf and he grabbed the lube while I released a condom from the packet. He was an unbelievably fantastic shag. Desperate to try new positions and angles and I was only pleased to do my bit. We were at it for about an hour and he made even more noise than the people who'd been in there before us. I just loved the fact that we could do such a thing and not worry about disturbing anyone else...

**Gary, Preston**





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## Civil Partnerships in the UK, 2010

This bulletin presents statistics on civil partnerships that were formed in the UK in 2010, as well as those which were dissolved. The statistics are reported by gender, age, previous marital status and area of occurrence. Figures on formations for Northern Ireland, Scotland and the UK are provisional and all dissolution data are provisional. Key findings:

- ✦ The provisional number of civil partnerships in the UK in 2010 was 6,385, an increase of 1.7 per cent since 2009
- ✦ For the first time in the UK in 2010 more female than male civil partnerships were formed
- ✦ The average (mean) age of men forming a civil partnership in the UK in 2010 was 40.6 years. For women the average age was 38.4 years
- ✦ The provisional number of civil partnership dissolutions granted in the UK in 2010 was 509

### Number of civil partnerships in the UK

2005 – 1953  
2006 – 16,106  
2007 – 8,728  
2008 – 7,169  
2009 – 6,281  
2010 – 6,385

Source: Office for National Statistics

### Number of dissolutions

To obtain a civil partnership dissolution in the UK, a couple must have been in either a registered civil partnership or a same-sex partnership recognised abroad for 12 months. There were 509 civil partnership dissolutions granted in the UK in 2010, compared with 353 in 2009 (a 44 per cent increase). Of these, 472 were in England and Wales, 34 were in Scotland and 3 were in Northern Ireland. The increase in the

number of dissolutions in the UK was to be expected as the number of civil partners living in the UK continues to increase.

2007 – 41  
2008 – 180  
2009 – 353  
2010 – 509

Source: Office for National Statistics

By the end of 2010, 1.6 per cent of male civil partnerships in the UK had ended in dissolution, while 3.3 per cent of all UK female partnerships had ended in dissolution.

Solicitor Christopher McIntosh, advises those going into and coming out of them on asset protection, asset splits, custody arrangements etc.

"This spike in numbers probably reflects the numbers of people who entered into a civil partnership in a burst of enthusiasm that gay marriage was suddenly possible in all but name. Now, however, the day to day reality may be setting in. Whether parties are entering into a civil partnership or simply deciding to cohabit, the key to avoiding unnecessary animosity and potential litigation upon relationship breakdown is clarity. Entering into a pre-civil partnership agreement (a pre-cip), a post-cip, or if you are cohabiting, a cohabitation agreement, allows you to decide at a time when emotions are not running high how assets will be dealt with upon the potential breakdown of your relationship. While pre-cips (and pre-nups) are not automatically enforceable, the presumption (following the Supreme Court decision in Radmacher and Granatino) is that if they are fair and comply with a number of safeguards, they will be upheld."

Chris McIntosh is a solicitor with Kingsley Napley LLP t: 020 7814 1287

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## THE DAY BEFORE PILL

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"This is a major scientific breakthrough which re-confirms the essential role that antiretroviral medicine has to play in the AIDS response," said Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). "These studies could help us to reach the tipping point in the HIV epidemic."

Meanwhile, THT's Policy Director Lisa Power, said: "These findings are a useful development. We need to employ every method at our disposal to drive down the onward transmission of HIV and this is likely to be one of a range of future options. We already know that if

someone has HIV, using treatment drastically reduces the likelihood of them passing it on, as does using condoms. We also know that if an accident happens, like a condom breaking during sex, then giving the HIV-negative partner treatment (PEP, or post exposure prophylaxis) also reduces the chance of passing on HIV. These trial results show that, to some extent, pre-treatment (PREP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis) also reduces onward transmission. What we need now are further trials, particularly with gay men, to see how the same level of protection can be achieved for them as was found for heterosexuals in this trial and to see how this can be optimised for all. There is no single method of prevention, short of nobody ever having sex again, that can on its own stop the transmission of HIV. PREP may become one of the many strategies we use to prevent it- but if you want to avoid HIV right now, don't stop using condoms. And if you've been at risk, get tested and look after your health."

[www.tht.org.uk/donate](http://www.tht.org.uk/donate)

## Alternative Families Show

On Saturday 17th September 2011 the Alternative Families Show will open at the Grand Connaught rooms, London. The show is a one stop shop for anyone wanting to become a parent and provides information on all issues and potential avenues, assisting visitors in making informed decisions on parenting. The show is also the only opportunity for the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual community to get ALL the facts in one place at the same time on same sex parenting.

The Alternative Families Show will give visitors exclusive access to advice and presentations from top industry representatives with scheduled seminars running throughout the day with sessions on fertility treatment, co-parenting, surrogacy, adoption and fostering, legal issues surrounding parenting rights and ethics surrounding parenting by single people or gay couples.

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





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# The Good Self



This month we look to the USA as we call upon Coach **Marc Montemerlo**, who is a celebrity fitness trainer, for advice on what it takes to stay in shape.

He has trained the likes of Chris O'Donnell, Marcia Cross and Reese Witherspoon through his various weekly classes. Now Marc is bringing his expertise to people who don't live in Hollywood, but want the same great tips and tricks the celebrities use to get fit.

Clients often come to me for more than physical training. They seek help in reshaping and re-centering their whole lives; in finding their Good Self. Although fitness training and life coaching are two different services I offer, it's sometimes easier to bridge the two rather than separate them.

One of the first questions I always ask a potential client is "Why do you want to improve what you already have?"

I expect them to answer "Because I have a personal goal to..." or "I want my outside to look as good as I feel inside." However, the replies are usually more like, "I heard that you

are a good trainer" or "I've seen your work with other clients and I like your approach."

People look to outside sources for inspiration and motivation. They rely on media, fitness dvds, social network programs, and guys like me. But I've realized that instead of inspiring people to add fitness to their life, these programs actually discourage people. They create negative and floored body images. The truth is many people will never look or be like the fit person touting the program.

I recently picked up a self help magazine. The headlines on the cover read "Drop 10 pounds, NOW!" "Improve Your Sex With..." "12 Ways to Boost Energy and Look Younger" and my favorite, "Burn Calories Without Even Trying!" If there's a way to burn calories without trying, sign me up! Trust me, there isn't.

The true road to creating the "Good Self" is a difficult and demanding one. It requires discipline.

We have all heard "what you give, you get back". That is my fitness philosophy.

Your good self comes from within. Your good self may not be as fit or as muscular as the model you see in magazines. Your body may never achieve greatness, but achieving good isn't bad, is it?

In the end, you are responsible for you. You can buy the DVDs, the expensive equipment, and books. But truly, the

self help gurus are not going to offer you a magic wand to shed the pounds. You are the only one who can make everlasting changes in your life that will impact your physical and mental wellbeing.

I believe the 'good self' is one who cares about nature and embraces the green effect. I believe you are empowered from within to maintain momentum in your life and you must constantly accept change and travel wherever life may take you. I believe that if you are seeking change, it's time for change and you must act on it immediately. Those small gut feelings we all get are tiny accelerators in our lives that keep us moving forward.

Yes by all means, approach a fitness professional for help in your fitness needs. Get the best help possible and the best eating plan that will work for you. Research the latest health and wellness trends. Be inspired and continue to inspire others. It all starts with you.

That's my philosophy and I live by it. Be well. Live well. Achieve your Good Self.

Achieving the good self... only takes 4 weeks!

Marc advises eating every 3 hours to keep blood sugar stable and your hands out of the cookie jar! Drink of choice is always water. Invest in a decent water bottle.

A healthy breakfast is the most important part of your day. Try to limit all late night eating and snacking.

## Coach Marc's Eating Plan:

**Breakfast:** 1 cup oatmeal with berries or a bowl of flaxseed cereal with cantaloupe in low fat milk.

**Snack:** 4 egg whites, Sliced turkey and avocado

**Lunch:** 1 cup steamed vegetables, 1 skinless chicken breast fillet or 1 piece of fish (Tuna/ Salmon/ White Fish\*), a medium size yam or 5 tbsps brown rice

**Snack:** Half a sliced chicken breast + small salad and handful of almonds

**Dinner:** Garden salad + steamed vegetables (don't be shy with your portions here).

## Coach Marc's Exercise Plan:

Forty minutes of cardio every day. Invest in a great jump rope and get ready to start your running career!

Twenty minutes of strength training, which includes upper, lower body, core and abs.

And don't forget to stretch!

For more information, visit Marc at: [www.skinnymenow.com](http://www.skinnymenow.com)



# SEX PROLONGS LIFE

By Les Lea



No matter what the church may say... sex is good for you. No matter what your mum and dad may say... sex is good for you and no matter what your partner (who has a headache) says - sex is good for you. So, why not have more?

For many years no one had studied the link between sex and death however, some early studies had noticed a correlation between masturbation and longevity. Taking this point on-board a group of scientists decided to research further and formed a study group of 918 British men between the ages 45 – 59 and gave them a complete clinical history and asked about frequency of sexual activity.

Over a ten year period these men were monitored and it was revealed that those who were healthier were those with the higher frequency of sex. Those who abstained or had a very low sex drive were more prone to disease. The prognosis was that having sex released chemical in the body that prolonged life, made us look and feel younger and the bottom line... were happier.

In addition to pleasure and its natural erotic connotations, sexual arousal and orgasm can improve respiratory capacity, benefit Cardiovascular system, counter depression and anxiety, help alleviate pain, provide flexibility, strength and muscle tone, reduce symptoms associated with , arthritis and osteoporosis and, as if that were not enough, you achieve significant psychological benefits. Safe sex is still the message but sex itself is good. Why not try having regular sessions, at least 3 or 4 times a week over the next month and see how you feel. One thing is for certain, if you know you are returning home to a sexy sex session, work doesn't seem all that bad... especially if he's going to do that... well, fill in your own fantasy - you don't need Bent for that.

# 'POWERTALKING'



Do you want to **improve** your **communication** skills, including negotiating the **sex** you want?

GMFA, the gay men's health charity, has announced the launch of their new workshop, 'Power Talking', which will be delivered by GMFA's CHAPS partners in 11 cities across the UK this autumn.

This two-day course will give you the skills to communicate with clarity and confidence. It will help you talk to people about all areas of your life, including your sex life. It will give you the power to ask for what you want and say 'no' to things that you don't want to do.

The course takes a look at the different ways that communication skills can affect our lives, in a relaxed and friendly group setting. You'll learn about assertiveness and building your skills in effective communication in a variety of situations, whether with friends, at work or with sexual partners. Plus, there'll be plenty of tips that you can put into action after the course, to make you a happier, more confident communicator.

Throughout September and October, the 'Power Talking' course will be run by trainers from local gay charities and healthcare services across

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

All of GMFA's courses and workshops are free of charge to participants but places are limited and must be booked in advance. To book a place, go to [www.gmfa.org.uk/nationa](http://www.gmfa.org.uk/nationa) or call 020 7738 3712

The 'Power Talking' course takes place on two consecutive Saturdays from 10:30am to 5:30pm. BSL interpreters can be arranged prior to the course. The dates for 2011 are:

- ✦ 10th & 17th September: Brighton, London, Manchester, Newcastle
- ✦ 17th & 24th September: Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Nottingham, Southampton
- ✦ 1st & 8th October: Leicester
- ✦ 15th & 22nd October: Truro

The national 'Power Talking' course is funded by CHAPS.



# SO YOU THINK YOU'RE A MAN...?

By Paul Johnston

The music swelled to a fantastic crescendo and the diva's voice took on even more drama. The words sounded like they were echoing around a cathedral and the rhythmic, pulsating disco beat drove the song along at a superb pace.

Paul was enjoying the feeling. Harry's hands were gently smoothing their way over Paul's rampant cock trapped inside his silk briefs. Minutes before the young visitor had been worried that his blue silk underwear would put the mockers on the evening's mood... but Harry had been delighted to see them. They clung straining to his slim hips as Harry gently cajoled and manipulated the lad's throbbing cock. In the soft light the curves and tightness of the material sent Harry into wave after wave of pleasure... his sense of touch seemed heightened and certainly he loved to watch the way Paul's young body reacted to each gentle caress.

Since being picked up in the pub 22 year old Paul had let the older Harry take command of the situation. He'd liked the look of this enthusiastic, witty man who had made him an offer he couldn't refuse as he sat at the bar feeling sorry for himself. Harry's insistence that he knew something that would bring a smile to the young man's face had sparked his interest. He desperately needed something to cheer him up and this

hunk of a guy in his work's overalls was just the distraction he felt he needed.

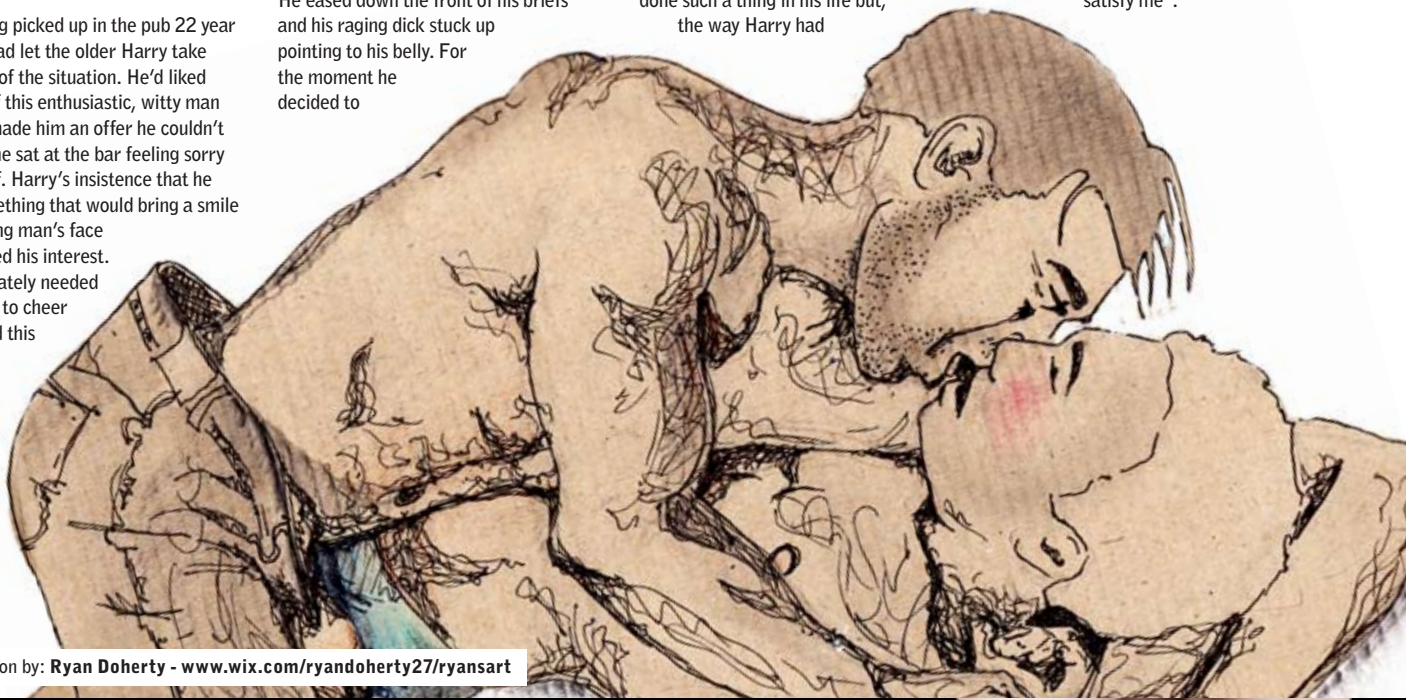
For almost an hour Harry kissed, cuddled, licked and nibbled at Paul's pale but nicely proportioned body. It was nice... nice and soft with hardly a muscle anywhere... Harry thought it was like touching a warm soft kitten. Paul gave himself completely to this much more knowledgeable, sexy and attentive older guy. The music relaxed him and comforted him and each song seemed to offer a new form of stimulation from Harry. Harry enjoyed the experience of such slow and obviously appreciated lovemaking but the ache in his groin was getting too much. He knew, from the way his fingers could slip easily into his visitor's buttocks without it being clamped shut that Paul was now at total ease with what was being done to him. He also knew that the next track on the CD was not only one of his favourites but was building up to Harry's sexual climax. He eased down the front of his briefs and his raging dick stuck up pointing to his belly. For the moment he decided to

just rest it in the cleft of Paul's soft and inviting bum cheeks. He slowly rubbed it up and down the smooth crack but could feel the blood racing and pulsating along its thick, nine inch length making it vibrate and painfully hard. Harry had decided that once the next track had got to the chorus he was going to sink his cock into the lad... he desperately needed to get some relief and, whether the lad was ready or not, he was going to provide it.

Paul heard the growling vocals of Divine and was surprised that such a song had found its way amongst all the other more atmospheric club tracks he'd heard so far. The song picked up and the chorus pumped in "You think you're a man but you're only a boy. You think you're a man but you're only a toy." At that moment he felt Harry's cock push its way into his hole. He'd been expecting it but also half of him had decided that not everyone was into shagging. He wasn't, he'd never done such a thing in his life but, the way Harry had

been so far he trusted him not to hurt him. Harry's stiff cock ploughed in and past Paul's widening butt muscle. Paul, who had a split second spasm of worry, relaxed as soon as the hefty piece of Harry dick pinned him to the carpet and all the strange new sensations flooding his body began to work his brain to a state of utter exhilaration. He came immediately all over the shag pile but to his surprise found he loved the feel of such a nice piece of Harry so totally filling him. Paul couldn't believe it. He wondered briefly why he'd never done this before... it was fantastic. He felt euphoric. God how he loved the feel of a dick up his bum... Jesus he could ride on this for hours. Harry was so pleased to have a hole to fill for the evening and hell... was the lad going to get the full works tonight.

Totally ecstatic, Paul hardly registered the words that meant so much to Harry "...but you're woman enough to satisfy me".



• Illustration by: **Ryan Doherty** - [www.wix.com/ryandoherty27/ryansart](http://www.wix.com/ryandoherty27/ryansart)

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## Aquarius

(Jan21/Feb19)

Expect to feel restless over the weeks ahead; you need positive outlet for your emotions. You might want to experiment with new interests and pastimes but friends and loved ones will show no interest. You're feeling very physical and in need of plenty to do but those around you just aren't as enthusiastic. What you need is to find ways of keeping yourself occupied, without looking to others for entertainment. This may mean joining a new group or society which could bring some subtle changes in your friendships.

## Pisces

(Feb20/Mar20)

The next few weeks will be sociable but not necessarily too romantic. You might feel attracted to someone and you're sure they feel the same way about you but don't be surprised if when they ask you in for 'coffee', that's all you get! Be patient Pisces. This person may be slow to show their feelings and they will want to take romance slowly but by the end of the month you could feel it was worth letting them lead the way. Expect some changes to occur on the work scene which may take some getting used to but they'll work out beneficial in the end.

## Aries

(Mar21/Apr20)

You need to try to understand what other people are going through over the weeks ahead. You could for instance become so engrossed in social affairs and outside activities that you don't take much notice of what's going on in your partner's life. They may have worries to do with their family, money or work. Focus on your love life and bonds will grow stronger and more meaningful. Not only this but you're in for some luck too!

## Taurus

(Apr21/May21)

You could be in for a shock when a long-term partner has something important to tell you. This is a busy time and it may take a while for the two of you to get a little time to yourself. For this reason your other half might insist that you devote a whole weekend in the not-too-distant future to purely twosome activities. There's every chance that the days ahead will bring some interesting romantic developments. Even for a few weeks after, you'll be in for a most loving, pleasurable and romantic time!

## Gemini

(May22/June21)

There's a lot of excitement in store over the weeks ahead. You're playing hard to get and a potential lover will enjoy the chase. It might seem as if you've found your soul-mate but this person doesn't stay interested in anything for very long. Rather than get involved with the wrong type, keep looking and very soon you will find your special someone. If you're already in a long-term relationship, you need plenty variety and stimulation to keep you happy. Your partner will be springing a few surprises on you over the weeks to come.

## Cancer

(June22/July23)

The next four weeks will be as romantic and loving as you wish them to be. If you're happy with group and family activities and prefer to put romance on the back-burner that's exactly how it will be. Equally if you're feeling passionate and affectionate and in need of some

love and excitement then go out and look for it as romance will never be far away. Although you're trying to be careful with your cash you're going to have to spend some money on necessary items especially where your home is concerned.

## Virgo

(Aug24/Sept23)

Being alone and choosing solo pastimes over the next four weeks is no way to find a lover. If you're without a partner, you should make the effort to try new things and get involved in different activities. How can you expect to meet the love of your life if all you do is sit at home fantasizing about them? If friends complain you're too wrapped up in yourself, listen to them as they are concerned about you. Join in social get-togethers and accept party invitations then by the end of the month you won't be feeling so lonely.

## Libra

(Sept24/Oct23)

Your social life could be hectic over the weeks ahead and this is all well and good if you share group interests with your partner. With you being mixed up in so many clubs and societies there is little time to be alone together. After a week or so, you will need to think about remedying this. Your partner could start worrying about what you're up to and whether someone else is getting the benefit of your undivided company. It will be up to you to reassure them otherwise!

## Scorpio

(Oct24/Nov22)

An arrogant neighbour or colleague will start to really annoy you over the weeks ahead. If for some reason you have to work with them, the more you see of them, the less you will like about them. You won't gain anything from being sarcastic back so try to be polite and agreeable, no matter what you feel inside! Give a new relationship time before committing yourself too heavily. You won't want to get involved with a shady character. Take everything slowly and by the end of the month you will have a better idea on how you want to proceed.

## Sagittarius

(Nov23/Dec21)

If you're thinking about arranging a romantic holiday over the weeks ahead, keep it to yourself. If a relative or close friend hears about your plans, they might invite themselves along. This will annoy you in more ways than one. You're in need of more personal freedom but there's not a lot you can do about your present situation. You can be prone to impulsive decisions and actions but, these next few weeks, your need for space will have to wait. This is no bad thing.

## Capricorn

(Dec22/Jan20)

You have so little time to spend with your partner and loved ones these days. You're doing your best to please everyone and that's why, over the weeks ahead, you will be spreading yourself too thinly. Grabbing a few minutes to catch up on group activities, a spare moment to text a friend and quick visits to check on an elderly neighbour leaves none of you happy or satisfied. You need to prioritise over the weeks ahead so you are able to spend most time with those you truly want to be with and who want to be with you!

## LEO

(July 24th - August 23rd)

If you are single, there's a strong chance that over the weeks ahead you will strike up a romance or friendship with someone who is exactly like you. This relationship will be challenging but also a lot of fun and if you're both looking for lasting love, it will have all the makings of being a long-term romance. Sometimes your partner or a close friend can be critical in the way they word things but they won't mean to upset you. This is something you'll grow to understand if you give this partnership time.



## Antonio Banderas 23/07 Celebrity Cancer

24/7 Jennifer Lopez	10/8 Antonio Banderas
25/7 Matt LeBlanc	11/8 Hulk Hogan
26/7 Helen Mirren	12/8 Cecil B. DeMille
27/7 Bobby Gentry	13/8 Alfred Hitchcock
29/7 Benito Mussolini	14/8 Halle Berry
31/7 J.K. Rowling	15/8 Ben Affleck
01/8 Yves Saint Laurent	16/8 Madonna
02/8 Peter O'Toole	17/8 Sean Penn
03/8 Martha Stewart	18/8 Edward Norton
04/8 Billy Bob Thornton	19/8 Bill Clinton
05/8 Neil Armstrong	20/8 Fred Durst
06/8 Andy Warhol	21/8 Kim Cattrall
07/8 David Duchovny	22/8 Tori Amos
09/8 Whitney Houston	23/8 River Phoenix

## Competition Time

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