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QMAGAZINE

JUNE 2013

featuring
ART SIMONE
Where Drag Meets Art



Do you use drugs when you're out?

Researchers from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre would like to speak to people who use drugs when they are out. Face to face interviews will be conducted during June. The interview takes around one hour and is held at a convenient location for you. Interviews are anonymous and confidential.

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(you do not have to use your real name).



q comment: **HAPPINESS AND ...**

Forward Roll Productions proudly bare all with The Happiness, The Heartache.

The evolution of a new Australian TV show featuring some well-known faces, and some new people...who are equally likeable and totally talented.

Created by, and starring, well known Australian actor Lulu McClatchy, THE HAPPINESS, THE HEARTACHE is an irreverent look back at everything that was weird and wonderful about the most successful TV soaps of all time. A time when shoulder pads and big hair ruled, and audience enjoyment went up in direct proportion to how twisted a plot. Plots that proudly displayed a blatant disregard for what was logical, possible... or even what hap-pened the previous week.

They may not have the reach of Zach Braff, but Forward Roll Productions are Crowdfunding to raise money so they can shoot the pilot episode for this new series. They're doing this in order to have it professionally produced, with the endgame of creating new Australian-made content for our screens and to generate more work within our industry. The Crowdfunding journey looks to be just as exciting as the show ...

A homage to the greatness that IS The Bold and The Beautiful, THE HAPPINESS, THE HEARTACHE also has a champion in Ron Moss, who played Ridge Forrester in the long running series. Having recently had his last, wistful embrace on the show, Moss has been vocal on social media about his support for the proposed series and it's fundraising efforts.

To donate go to <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/the-happiness-the-heartache-tv-pilot>



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Art Simone by Art Simone



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Brett Hayhoe t/a Q Magazine
ABN 21 631 209 230

q feature: ART SIMONE

Melbourne is blessed to have a great new breed of young drag performers. Art Simone is among the most creative. Alan Mayberry finds out what is the secret to her unique approach to performing.

I was born near Mornington surrounded by the sun, surf, sand and seagulls. When I was around 3 Mum moved our family away from the tea-tree and settled us closer to Melbourne in the outer-eastern suburbs, to give us kids a better chance at the big time! I went to Mullauna College in Mitcham (haven't heard of it? No-one ever had). It was a fantastic school giving me lots of freedom to discover my interests. I was one of those all-rounder kids everyone hated – on the debating team, 3 school bands, the drama club, form leader, 3 times dux of my year, music captain and of course school captain. You can imagine how well I went down with my classmates!

I always knew I was gay, and my poor 'girlfriends' during school knew as well. In later years they've been so excited to see me out of the closet – and wearing half of it as well! However, I only came to terms with the fact I was gay later in high school when the hormones set in. All the other boys were interested in getting girlfriends, while I was more interested in talking to THEIR girlfriends and finding out where they all had their hair done!

Drag came into the picture when I was around 16. I was obsessed with make-up and transforming myself into somebody different, I wasn't happy with who I was, so I created someone who was much more exciting and fascinating. I was obsessed with horror movies and the macabre. So I created the alter ego 'Count Jackula'. I then realised that there was only so much blood I could cover myself with before I got bored – so I started to play with gender transformation, what would happen when I put on a wig or a fierce cat-eye? After that I was hooked and I haven't put down a tube of lipstick since!

Men didn't come into the picture until the end of high school, when I fell in love with a boy in the year below me. When I left school I got to hand my school captain title down to him – imagine the scandal, two school captains dating each other! I learnt a lot from that relationship, it was a great time of my life, but sadly 'Art Simone' didn't fit in the entire picture with us. A queen is very high maintenance and I think it'll take a very talented (or stupid?) person to attempt to swoon me and my 70 odd wigs and make it work. I'm not declining offers though, there's a perfect spot for a prospective man hiding under some sequins and props in my flat!

My first ever performance as a queen was at the GH Hotel for one of the *Minus 18* dance parties. I had hair everywhere, balloon boobs, my heels were about 1 inch high and I was wearing my sister's old formal dress. But I felt FIERCE!

I'm currently the resident drag queen at Dracula's Cabaret Melbourne, where I play 'SCABatha' (like Tabitha, but fiercer!). I help confuse and shock guests 5 nights a week. Dracula's is my full-time job. As well as being resident drag performer, I'm also the retail and photographic manager. They give me full creative freedom when it comes to make-up, costume and my overall character – quite a unique and special workplace! When I'm not at Dracula's, I grace various stages, like the GH and others around the East Coast of Australia.

The first drag show I ever saw live, was The Classics at the GH. That night I saw Paris, Nova and Millie on stage and it has stuck with





me ever since. I absolutely fell in love with the craft and it was amazing to see a room full of people applauding and appreciating all the work they had done. From that moment, it's been my goal to set foot on that stage myself, and 12 months later I can happily tick it off my list.

I'm known as the 'Prop Queen', but I'm really more like a hoarder who collects things to use on stage. I never pass up an opportunity to swipe something special that I can bring to life on stage. My sources for props aren't just from my local K-mart, I've had *Ex-Runaway Show* headpieces shipped in from Germany and costumes made from synthetic skin, but one of my favorite places to search for props is hospital. This year I've been in and out of hospital quite a lot, but as one who looks on the positives I've managed to (cheekily) collect a heap of show items while there. From surgical masks, syringes, IV Drips and a full set of hospital gowns, I'm set!

In high school I discovered my passion for the art world. My final art pieces in Year 12 were accepted for display in The National Gallery. The following year, I was very fortunate and accepted into the Victorian College of the Arts to study Fine Art Photography. However, I found it really difficult – I tried hard, was there from 9-5 every day, but was constantly told that my work wasn't 'Art', that I would never be an artist and that my work wasn't valid. It was hard for me because while this was all happening, I was receiving extremely positive reviews on my work hanging in the NGV. The school environment was contradicting the real art world, which praised my style of work. None of it made sense to me, and made my time there very difficult. I didn't get along with the

students and didn't fit in. For the first time in my life, I wasn't the weird kid – in fact I wasn't weird ENOUGH!

I lasted a year and a half, before I decided to leave. It took a while for me to touch a camera again, but I'm now producing new posters weekly for my Facebook profile.

My inspirations and role models vary widely, from performance artists, to public figures and academics – but as for queens, 2 have helped shape who I am. The late Pussy Willow was a big help for me when I was still experimenting with drag. She would contact me with little tips and pointers on how I could improve – and she'd always say: 'Don't tell anyone I'm being nice to you, otherwise I'll bitch behind your back and tell them all that you're lying!' Sensation is also a big role model, from styling wigs to doing outrageous, alternative and creative drag.

I now live in Mooroolbark, which isn't exactly a quick and cheap cab ride home after a long night, but I manage to make it work! Since joining the drag world, I've learnt to never mix my personal life with my public profile as 'Art Simone'. In fact, I'm personally quite against the idea. However I want to remind each and every one of you, that behind the face of a drag queen, is a human being just like you. Drag is a lot of work, it takes over your entire life and can mean the end to a lot of special things that you love. Every drag queen has made countless sacrifices for their craft and that's something that needs to be respected. Just remember, there's a strong and wise man hiding under every wig, and you should celebrate and not criticise that. And to all the queens out there, don't get lost in the illusion, remember who you are.

I'm very superstitious when it comes to revealing my goals and plans, I don't like to tell anyone because I believe they won't come true. But let's just say I've got a lot planned, a lot in the works and this is just the beginning!

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q gay files: with MATTEO SNOOKS

Shape up or Ship out!

Have you ever waited for that call that never came? Are you shagging the married man who's promising a future? Is the guy your dating, so far up the brown tunnel you're wondering when he's going to ask, "And how was your day?" Do you find yourself, always having to make the effort? Or are you simply dating the guy, who endlessly uploads gym shots to facebook? For those of us looking for love in all the wrong places, I can sisterly advise you that, mistakes are not only negative, but highly positive; because without the screw up's we wouldn't be the fabulous boys we are today. Like a drug, if it wasn't for past illusions, we wouldn't have been thrown over the edge. An important rule us camp creatures should know; when it comes to dating, regrets are kept in the closet.

A friend likes this queen, who for two months now, acts, treats and talks like a boyfriend. Everyone assumes there together, as there joined at the hip. This guy goes straight for the tonsils, right in the middle of our G&T. Sounds heaven right! Wrong! He's then pashing other fellers on the dance floor whilst his Grindr profile buzzers in his pants. We need to read between the lines, and try not to obsess over mixed signals. Why waste time worrying, when there's plenty of sausage hanging in the market. Each disappoint may draw you closer to that one special person.

It is healthy to be gay with oneself, and to wear that heart on your sleeve, but to an extent (as messages can be misunderstood). Be honest with yourself and others. Romeo will come a-knockin', due to the fact he is interested in your flamboyant self, not the fake and desperate individual hidden behind last season's Prada.

It is hard to trust, when it comes to opening your heart, but it is through our experiences, an additional box can be added to our relationship check list, like new squares such as possessiveness, narcissistic, and bipolar. Love is blind they say, which is true when swept off our feet by prince charming, distracted by that state of euphoria he has inflicted on us.

Looking back on past dramas, it is easy to see the signs of potential dysfunction. I don't understand those relationships that last two weeks, yet (they say) they were in love. How many times have we heard "he cheated on me, he can't commit... Blah blah blah." Honey! Open your eyes and smell the lubricant: you were just a fling. In some cases people never grow out of this silly behaviour, and tend to make the same recurring mistakes when it comes to the need for penis. Just because it looks at you with one eye doesn't mean it will blow kisses. It's quite simple; if a man is interested he'll be there, (even after you have lifted your heels to Jesus), but in some cases, don't expect poached eggs in the morning.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm a true believer in this sickness called romance, but in order to diminish disappointment, it is best to never expect anything. Live life to the fullest and do what feels right, ensuring everyone's on the same glittered page.

I hate the word 'game' in reference to relationships but, unfortunately it is. However, this can be an exciting, new adventure down the journey of the yellow brick road. Let's face it, if it doesn't work out, you can keep the peace but at the same time gain liberty through deleting and blocking, which will hopefully lead you to stating, 'NEXT!' A good example of your progress to finding Mr Right..? I'd say.



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q money: with EVAN DAVIS

Life Coaching

Sometimes it is hard to identify a financial stupidity and sometimes not. Sometimes it nearly reverses over you while it's trying to parallel park a late model Hyundai Getz wrapped in stupidity branding. This particular stupidity is actually comparatively easy to notice and also very expensive as I found out.

Recently I was nearly cleaned up by two very prissy Life Coaches on their way to an appointment in St Kilda. It was their late model Hyundai that nearly knocked me down. The branding on the side of the car made grand promises:

'Quit smoking, stop procrastination; achieve happiness, etc, etc... Start Life Coaching NOW First session valued at \$379 FREE!'

Why is the session worth \$379 I asked them, because of their qualifications and expertise I was told.

Okay I'm a sceptic, a huge sceptic. I tend to believe that the self help industry is a self perpetuating money pit of woe which preys on the same customers time after time. I think I lot of self help is socially pretty harmful and very often comes from well intentioned but unqualified individuals.

I have yet to see evidence to the contrary though; in an attempt to be fair-minded I went online in an attempt to discover whether coaching was for me. The first little obstacle was navigating past the plethora of sponsored links. There seems to be an abundance of companies that make more money from the sale of the 'qualification' (Cert IV and Diplomas) than actually providing any coaching to their clients.

I found a website (one of the major companies) and took their quiz to see if I'd make a good coach or client. It took about 45 seconds to read, search my soul and answer the very probing and profound questions. The quiz suggested that I was a perfect candidate either to be a coach or be the recipient of life coaching.

Both, how strange? Either I was a mess and in need of help, or perhaps I was SUCH a mess that all I could do was teach others to avoid the dreadful mistakes I'd made in my own life. The next link took me to the course guide and I was staggered at the cost for the various 'qualifications' and the almost laughable time commitments required for each. It seemed that a lot of them were intensive weekend courses or completed via correspondence, but all at high expense.

I also ask the coaches that nearly knocked me down. Their sessions were \$500 per month (Minimum) and this consisted of in their words of about 'two-ish hours of mostly over the phone work with their clients...'.

Lawyers and many doctors charge less than this for their time. Also they are qualified, with actual degrees! The description I got from the coaches as to their services sounded like something my friends provided for free. They listen.

Perhaps life coaching is valuable for some people, maybe people with too much money and too few friends.



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q fashion: HIMARK MARTIN TAILORS

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GIVE YOUR WORD. PROMISE
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TRANSPHOBIA & BIPHOBIA. ALWAYS.

q youth: with TASMAN ANDERSON

This month I planned to discuss how people tended to be worried more about their relationship status than the actual relationship. However, after experiencing firsthand how it felt to not be accepted, I thought it was more important to discuss a different kind of worry people have. It's the type of worry people seem to have with image and following what is normal.

I'm going to apologise in advance if this article seems like a rant or an attack because that is definitely not my intention. It's no secret that I don't really have a filter and that I tend to get a little too personal with my column but I just couldn't shake this feeling of disappointment that I got and I felt like this topic really needed to be discussed.

I've always been just a little bit different from my family and friends. Growing up, I was more content spending my time in my room and writing than I did going to events and partying. Fortunately, I realised that I was just a writer and not some serial killer in waiting so that was a relief. I ended up focusing on my manuscripts and over the past year, I decided that I would be relocating to Los Angeles once I graduated from University.

Making that decision was terrifying and even now the idea of leaving everyone and everything behind scares the crap out of me but I know it's what I need to do to live the life I've always wanted. I shared this with my family and friends knowing that I had their support but after a comment was made from one of them, I realised that it wasn't all that peachy.

Some people have this preconceived notion that finding a man, buying a house and having a few children is the ideal life. I'm not saying everyone does but it is a common desire in my family. Settling down with a comfortable nine to five job and growing old with your children and grandchildren surrounding you is the dream for a lot of people and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that.

I'm a strong believer in personality types and the difference between career and family minded people. Sure, you can have both but one will always be more dominant than the other. I'm a career person with an almost non-existent family side. I have no desire to start my own family now or even ten years from now but I don't think that's necessarily a bad thing. However, after someone commented on the fact that I needed to sort out my priorities, I realised that not everyone is as open-minded about it.

I know it would be stupid to preach about unacceptance to you because if anyone was going to understand how it feels to be pushed aside for the way you are than it would certainly be all of you. I guess what I really wanted to know was when did settling down become the number one goal of life? Wouldn't it be better to do what made us happy rather than what made everyone else happy?

People are strange and beautiful creatures. We all have different dreams, ambitions, desires and beliefs. Some of us want children and the comfortable job while some of us want the adventure and the career of our dreams.

I think what I really want to know is who the hell gave everyone else the right to dictate on what is most important to us? If there's one thing I want you to take away from this angst-ridden article, it's the knowledge that your dreams are just as bright and as beautiful as everyone else's. In the end, it will be you that will have to live with how your life turned out so do you really want to hand the decision of who you should be over to someone else?

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q cuisine: with NATHAN MILLER

WOW West 48

Discovering your own backyard can bring the greatest of wonders. West 48 on Essex Street in West Footscray is one of these gorgeous gems.

A petite venue with a rustic embrace fills the charming space. Warm and comfy, you will want to kick back all day. A friendly greeting, a seat at the tall table, immediately I knew this was going to be a good day.

Perusing the breakfast menu, I was pleasantly surprised at the selection, as their kitchen was smaller than my own at home.



The graphic features a large yellow sunflower logo at the top left. Below it, the text "Leukaemia Foundation Sunflower Club™" is displayed. In the center, the words "Bring sunshine this June!" are written in a large, stylized font. At the bottom, there is a photograph of a field of sunflowers under a clear blue sky. A text box contains the message: "Finding a 'sunny side' to life can be hard with leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma. From buying an official sunflower bunch to daring to do the Skydive or Speedo Dash, you can help to bring sunshine to people with blood cancer this winter." At the very bottom, the website "sunflowerclub.org.au" is shown in white text on an orange banner.

The latte was smooth, well extracted with good body and clean. Just the way coffee should be served. The selection ranged from the basics of muesli and bacon to eggs, through to salmon with eggs and their homemade sweet chili sauce.

Often breakfast dishes are simple, lacking imagination, and plain boring. W48 however, have a selection of dishes that will seduce your taste buds, and satisfy your aching needs.

I opted for the dukkah eggs with hommus. Served on freshly toasted sourdough, the hommus was smooth, creamy with a hint of lemon. The eggs were perfectly fried, as the yolk was able to run through the hommus and blended the dukkah topping to create an eruption of tastes.

Having eaten breakfast out more than in recently, this would be the best breakfast I have sampled in the past year.

The staff are amazingly friendly, the service is quick, and combined with the ambience, W48 sets a new personal standard for breakfast/brunch in Melbourne.

Open early until 4pm 7 days a week, W48 provide great gluten free and vegan options for breakfast/brunch.

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q theatre: LITTLE ORPHAN trASHLEY

Trevor Ashley's Little Orphan trAshley comes to the Comedy Theatre in July with an all-star cast

After a sell-out season at the Sydney Opera House in December, adults-only panto Little Orphan trAshley comes to The Comedy Theatre in Melbourne for a limited season. Starring the extraordinary Trevor Ashley (currently receiving rave reviews for his solo show I'm Every Woman at the Famous Spiegeltent at the Arts Centre), joined by Melbourne's own favourites Rhonda Burchmore and Gary Sweet and SYTYCD's Rhys Bobridge.



From the writing team that brought us the smash hit Fat Swan (Phil Scott and Trevor Ashley) and the director of Smoke & Mirrors (Craig Illiot), Little Orphan trAshley is a guaranteed night of hilarity. Trevor Ashley is Fannie, a 10-year-old inmate of the Sutherland Shire orphanage for talented children run by washed-up boozy matron Miss Trannigan (Rhonda Burchmore). But she is a girl with a terrible secret: she's not yet all woman. But to get her long-overdue gender reassignment, she'll need the help of multi-millionaire acclaimed photographer Daddy Warhorse (Gary Sweet) as well as her trusty ex-sniffer dog Bullshit (Rhys Bobridge).

Featuring songs, audience participation, and more parody than you can poke a stick at, this brand new adults-only panto will have you in fits of laughter... and have you wishing that you too could be adopted by a sexy bald millionaire.

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q books: WHERE THE RAINBOW FELL DOWN - A NEW ZEALAND MEMOIR

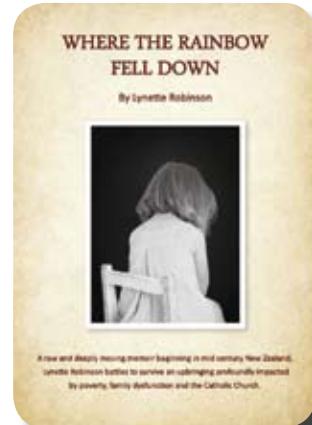
Set in mid-century New Zealand, Robinson takes the reader on a spellbinding journey back to post-war New Zealand and beyond. She then brings us forward as she shares the nation's triumphs and tragedies – alongside her own personal ones.

Robinson was tormented by the four deadly fears she inherited from her mother – God, the Devil, her Father and the Catholic Church. Although a feisty child with a dazzling measure of determination, this did not save her from coercion into marriage to an older man when she was a teenager. Years of marital unhappiness follow.

Opening paragraph

I was born 16 months after my brother Billy, four years after the end of World War II. Mum was refused permission by her priest to practise birth control and when she discovered she was pregnant with me, poverty and desperation made her seek the services of an abortionist (for a second time). But I refused to die. A 'successful' abortion was performed between Billy and me, after which Daddy discovered her lying in a pool of blood on their bed and rushed to get the nurse from next door. She took one look at Mum and ordered my father to call an ambulance; but abortions were illegal back then and he hesitated. She screamed at him, "Just do it or your wife will die."

Even as my mother fought for her life, the medical staff tried to force her to identify the abortionist, and when they finally realised they were not going to get any information the doctor angrily told Mum she was "reckless and irresponsible for covering up for a butcher". She didn't tell them in case she needed the 'butcher' again. When she got out of hospital, Mum went to confession and received absolution for the abortion. She then asked for permission to practise birth control. "You don't need to practise birth control, my dear, just practise self control," her Catholic priest informed her.



INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lynette was born into an impoverished New Zealand post-war culture in 1949 and has always lived there. She is a married mother of five and the co-director of a property investment company. She also practices as a Human Relationship Consultant and specialise in counselling, clinical and professional supervision, stress management and psychological coaching group training facilitation.

Pages 91 – 93

After a year of delivering telegrams, I got promoted to the telephone exchange. Although there was now direct dialling for local calls in all of the main centres, toll calls still needed to be put through by an operator; but when popular television programmes were screened the switch boards went quiet. This gave me the opportunity to chat with the other operators, who were all older than me. Sometimes I sat next to Baxter a tall, thin man in his thirties. His flamboyant mannerisms fascinated me and I observed he giggled a lot. One of the older women told me Baxter was a homosexual and I did not let on I didn't know what that meant, so I just nodded knowingly.

Soon after this I was seated next to Baxter, so during a quiet moment I asked, "Baxter, are you a homosexual"?

"I am," he replied with an amused twinkle in his eyes.

"What does that mean?"

"It means I'm a bit like you, Ducky, I fancy blokes."

"Ohhh," I said, trying to get my head around that one.

Baxter seemed to take an interest in me and the more I got to know him, the more I liked him. He always wore sunglasses at work and one day he confided in me he had asked his doctor to write a letter stating he needed to wear them for medical reasons. He said he had been repeatedly censured for wearing eye shadow to work and was under threat of dismissal, "so I wear sunglasses to hide my eyes." and he slid his glasses down the bridge of his nose and showed me his baby blue eye shadow.

"Cool," I said, and it really was.

I slowly learnt that beneath Baxter's flamboyant exterior lurked a sad and lonely man. His affluent parents quickly disowned him when he 'came out' years ago and the only family member who remained in contact with him was one of his married sisters. Because he was a talented classical pianist, Baxter's sister sometimes invited him to entertain her guests at dinner parties and cocktail evenings but only after his niece and nephew were in bed. However, he was allowed to say goodnight to them in their room, but only with his sister present.

"She thinks I'm a pervert and that homosexuality is contagious," he said, and the tears rolled down his cheeks, making runs in his face powder. Baxter's pain was not so much about being ostracised, or even being exploited for his musical talent, but rather for being considered a predatory risk to the niece and nephew he adored.

"I know I am never going to have children, so it saddens me I can't be involved in their lives," he said. I agreed it really was sad because I would have loved an uncle like this man.

Baxter expressed himself in many ways and one of these ways was as a cross dresser. One afternoon the police picked him up for walking down the street dressed as a woman and I thought it was heart breaking that such a talented and sensitive man could be thrown into a cell overnight and treated like a criminal simply for dressing a way that pleased him. I asked him, "Why is it legal for women to dress like men, but men can't dress like women?"

"It's all to do with Queen Victoria, darling. She passed a law making it illegal for men to practice homosexuality, but she did not believe that women were like this so the law only applies to men," he explained.

"But what's that got to do with how you dress? "You tell me," he said and threw his hands in the air. So I decided our laws were crazy, but then again, this was New Zealand in the 1960's, when homophobia was endemic and discrimination and persecution of homosexuals was a legal commitment – in spite of the sexual revolution.

After I left the telephone exchange I lost touch with Baxter, and when later I learnt of his suicide, I cried, and wished the peace that evaded him in life was found in death. I also hoped he was buried in a pretty dress, wearing his baby blue eye shadow.

WHY IS THIS BOOK IMPORTANT?

*The narrative of this sometimes shocking memoir shows an embracing understanding of the frailty of human existence and the loves and losses we all share. In particular it portrays the challenges New Zealanders faced throughout the developing post-war years, eventually evolving into a better life for all.
As such the story is of sociological and historical significance.*

The second half of the memoir tells the story of the Catholic priest Robinson fell in love with. Easily coerced into the priesthood at a young age, the expectation to put catholic dogma ahead of human needs is an ongoing struggle for him. He then meets Robinson and his love for her sets him on a collision course with the church.

Where the Rainbow Fell Down is a powerful memoir that will have you both laughing and crying. With a refreshing absence of the self-pity genre, it is a riveting and inspiring read.

Where the Rainbow Fell Down by Lynette Robinson
Published by BJ & LM Coker Family Trust ISBN 978-0-473-23338-9
Paperback: NZ\$29.95 from www.WhereTheRainbowFellDown.co.nz
Kindle: US\$7.99 from Amazon.com Kobo: US\$7.99 from Kobo.com

bev@marriageceremonies.co.nz', and 'w: marriageceremonies.co.nz'. At the bottom of the cover, a banner reads 'Combine your nuptials with a holiday at one of the beautiful Far North beaches resorts. Refer to my website for options.'"/>

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q world: CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Tickets on sale through Ticketek NOW

MICHAEL JACKSON THE IMMORTAL WORLD TOUR.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.

For tour schedule and ticket information, please visit www.cirquedusoleil.com/michaeljackson.

The Estate of Michael Jackson and Cirque du Soleil have announced that Michael Jackson The Immortal World Tour™ will arrive in Australia in September this year. This once-in-a-lifetime electrifying production uses Cirque du Soleil creativity to give fans worldwide a unique view into the spirit, passion and heart of the artistic genius who forever transformed global pop culture. Written and directed by Jamie King, the show includes 49 international dancers, musicians and acrobats. Since its world premiere in Montreal in October 2011, the enormously successful arena production has thrilled audiences across North America, Europe and Asia.

The four week Australian tour will include strictly limited engagements at Perth Arena (18 to 22 September), Sydney's Allphones Arena (26 to 29 September), Brisbane Entertainment Centre (2 to 6 October) and Melbourne's Rod Laver Arena (10 to 13 October).

Michael Jackson The Immortal World Tour is a riveting fusion of visuals, dance, music and fantasy that immerses audiences in Michael's creative world. Aimed at lifelong fans as well as those experiencing Michael's creative genius for the first time, the show captures the essence, soul and inspiration of the King of Pop, celebrating a legacy that continues to transcend generations.

THE IMMORTAL World Tour takes place in a fantastical realm where we discover Michael's inspiration and the wellspring of his creativity. The secrets of Michael's inner world are unlocked—his love of music and dance, fairy tale and magic, and the fragile beauty of nature.

The underpinnings of THE IMMORTAL World Tour are Michael Jackson's powerful, inspirational music and lyrics - the driving force behind the show - brought to life with extraordinary power and breathless intensity. Through unforgettable performances Michael Jackson THE IMMORTAL World Tour underscores Michael's global messages of love, peace and unity.

Writer and Director Jamie King is a multiple Emmy Award® and MTV Video Music Award® nominee and has choreographed some of the most popular music videos and directed some of the highest-grossing concert tours of all time. For the past 12 years, he has served as Madonna's creative director, and most recently directed world tours for Rihanna, Celine Dion, Spice Girls and Britney Spears. King has worked with an array of superstars including Ricky Martin, Christina Aguilera, Mariah Carey, Shakira, George Michael, Elton John, Diana Ross and Jennifer Lopez. This is Jamie's first show with Cirque du Soleil.





IT'S NOT SEX...

WHEN HE CHANGES HIS MIND

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q community: THE FUNDRAISER

Have you got a favourite Australian comedian? How about Claire Hooper? Joel Creasey? Cal Wilson? AGENT 284 in association with the Victorian AIDS Council / Gay Men's Health Centre will host THE FUNDRAISER, a Comedy Night Fundraiser on Saturday 29 June 2013.

Hosted by the gorgeous, not to mention very funny and award winning Kate McLennan, this is sure to be a night to remember. You will be entertained by some of Australia's most fabulous comedians, including Joel Creasey, Claire Hooper, Nicolette Minster, Harley Breen and Cal Wilson!

There will also be a silent auction (how does a pair of tickets to P!NK or King Kong grab you?), a little trivia and some great surprise give-aways! All ticket proceeds and money raised throughout the evening goes to the VAC/GMHC.



Comedy Night Fundraiser
The Gallery Room at AGENT 284
284 Smith Street, Collingwood, VIC 3066

Saturday 29 June 2013, 8pm - \$55 all tickets – includes champagne on arrival and canapés.
BOOK: In person at AGENT 284, by phone 0432 232 688 or by email info@agent284.com.au

***This is a licensed event, food and drinks will be available for purchase on the night.*

q web: LGBT ONLINE BINGO

FierceBingo.com – a new Gay Bingo website, which is now live, is a concept that has been developed to give the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community a fierce and fun place to win money and prizes whilst chatting to other like-minded people. It is the first of its kind, exclusively for the LGBT community. The site has been carefully selected, designed and implemented with LGBT exclusivity in mind.

Bingo is a pastime that has intrigued many over the decades, and it is not only a game for little old ladies anymore; more and more young people are taking up playing Bingo and having great fun doing it. There has been a resurgence of the Bingo Hall in the UK, including gay venues, featuring callers in drag, which have taken off like wildfire, so it was only a matter of time for the online world to follow suit.

Registration with Fierce Online Bingo comes complete with an attractive sign-up bonus, and also to look forward to are promotions, a Free4All Room, giveaways, and loyalty benefits. The site also features a lively and exciting Fierce Chat Room which is a monitored/bully-free zone where players can get to know one another, banter or swap some tips and tricks for the games. The aim of this is to allow players to join the fun online while comfortably sitting at home, or groups of friends could come together to play against each other.

All transactions on the Fierce Online Gay Bingo website are secured via the SSL Protocol with 128 bit encryption which is the same as is used by major banks; this secures all transactions and makes it impossible for anyone to gain access to any confidential details. Payout requests can be made at any time and will be processed within 48 hours. Payments methods include Delta, Maestro, MasterCard, Neteller, PayPal, Paysafe Card, Ukash, and Visa.

Fierce have made their concerns for the welfare of the LGBT community at the forefront and have therefore made it their mission to give back to the community. One of the ways in which they will be doing so is by donating a portion of their annual turnover to various LGBT organisations.



q tour: THIRTY LIVE IN CONCERT

Anthony Callea, one of Australia's finest vocal talents, is thrilled to reveal details of his upcoming headline tour. The 'THIRTY Live In Concert' tour will see Anthony take the songs from his new album 'THIRTY' to audiences across the East Coast, kicking off July 13 at The Palms at Melbourne's Crown Casino and continuing through NSW and QLD.

THIRTY LIVE IN CONCERT Tour Dates - Tickets on-sale now

Saturday 13 July – The Palms, Crown Casino Melbourne – VICTORIA
www.crownmelbourne.com.au/events 1300 795 012 www.ticketek.com.au

Friday 26 July – Bankstown Sports Club – NSW
www.bankstownsports.com 02 9722 9888

Saturday 27 July – Dee Why RSL – NSW
www.deewhysrl.com.au 02 9454 4000

Friday 2 August – South Sydney Juniors – NSW
www.thejuniors.com.au 02 9349 7555

Saturday 3 August – Belmont 16 Foot Sailing Club (Newcastle) – NSW
www.16s.com.au 02 4945 0888

Friday 9 August – Broncos Leagues Club – QUEENSLAND
www.broncosleagues.com.au 07 3858 9000

Saturday 10 August – Twin Towns Resort – QUEENSLAND
www.twintowns.com.au 1800 014 014

Head to <http://www.anthonycallea.com/shows.php> for more information



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q cabaret: MELBOURNE STYLE

The 4th annual Melbourne Cabaret Festival will burst forth across the city in 16 venues with over 150 performers in over 60 cabaret shows from Wednesday 26 June until Sunday 7 July.



Featuring eight overseas shows never before seen in Melbourne, the 2013 Melbourne Cabaret Festival has grown again to present Melbourne's biggest ever program of cabaret – with double the venues, 50 more performers and twice as many performances. The Festival will kick off with the Opening Gala on Wednesday 26 June with Motown royalty and founding member of The Supremes, Mary Wilson. She will headline a star-studded line-up of six international acts presenting excerpts from their shows, including New York cabaret icon Joey Arias; USA's Tony Award-winning composer and lyricist Adam Guettel; and David Pomeranz (USA) who has had over 40 million album sales worldwide.

Highlights of the 2013 Melbourne Cabaret Festival program includes:

- The London sensation Spanky returns with a new show sure to shock, called Dead Bitches, and will host a night celebrating the 35th anniversary of the iconic Fleetwood Mac album Rumours – presenting the album in its entirety with a little help from his/her artistic cabaret family.
- As part of their American Songbook Series, Melbourne Recital Centre will present Stormy Weather: The Lena Horne Project, starring Mary Wilson; winner of the coveted Time Out London and Soho Theatre Award, Lady Rizo; and Mary Carewe in Over the Piano.
- Award winning jazz vocalist and leading lady, Fem Bellini, brings to life the independent spirit and wistful romanticism of Blossom Dearie, the 'childlike' vocalist with caviar taste in songs and musicians.
- Jazz harp goddess, Tara Minton, comes to the Festival direct from the UK.
- Music theatre stars Melissa Langton, Libby O'Donovan and Mark Jones present Everybody's Got Something To Hide (Except for Me and My Monkey): The Lennon & McCartney Songbook.
- Prepare for an uproarious 'Orphan's Christmas' with the adults-only panto Little Orphan TrAshley featuring Trevor Ashley, Rhonda Burchmore, Gary Sweet and Rhys Bobridge.
- Australia's favourite man-band, Suade, present VocalTronics: a sublime mix of comedy, music and theatrical shenanigans.
- Sally Bourne and Mark Jones will premiere Sitting With the Fat Man – The Songs of Randy Newman.
- Melbourne's very own diva extraordinaire and cabaret provocateur Yana Alana returns to the stage in Between The Cracks, a bent cabaret of blues, burlesque and blame.
- Marika Aubrey celebrates Sophie Tucker's brilliant life and career in The Last of the Red Hot Mamas, a personal salute to the original red hot mama.
- Cabaret stalwart Jon Jackson brings all his acclaimed characters to the stage in the one show for the very first time in Brinkering On The Teet.
- Naomi Price shines in Rumour Has It: Sixty Minutes Inside Adele, a wicked new cabaret for anyone who's ever cried along to 'Someone Like You'.
- Michaela Burger presents an intimate, original presentation of vintage French pop songs made famous by Edith Piaf.
- The next generation of Melbourne's musical theatre talent are brought centre stage to give voice to Matthew Robinson's songbook in New Voices.
- Mic Conway from the original Captain Matchbox Whoopee Band presents his trademark surreal brand of vaudeville.

The Closing Gala will present a star-studded sampling of acts from across the Festival and beyond at Ormond Hall on Sunday 7 July as Melbourne's cabaret community comes out in support of equal marriage rights.

The Festival hub venues are Chapel Off Chapel, the Kew Court House and Ormond Hall (part of the new Village Melbourne complex). The Butterfly Club will host the Festival's 'Best Of The Fest', Bohemia Cabaret Club will host the Festival's late night piano bar, and new venue The 86 will host the Festival's open mic night, called 'CabaretOke'. Other participating venues are 45 Downstairs, Comedy Theatre, Dracula's, Globe Cafe, Melbourne Recital Centre, Old Treasury Building, Paris Cat Jazz Club, St Kilda Memo, Palais Theatre and Thornbury Theatre. The Festival includes a professional development program for emerging and mid-career cabaret performers, offering master classes and workshops including Adam Guettel's only public master class in Melbourne. The Melbourne Cabaret Festival is made possible through the generous support of the City of Port Phillip, City of Boroondara, the Ron and Margaret Dobell Foundation, Palais Theatre, Yarra Trams, Yamaha Music Australia, Pom Pom Grafix, the JMC Academy, eFirst, Joy 94.9, RRR, Quest and TressCox Lawyers. Tickets from \$15. Bookings: <http://melbournecabaret.com>



arts centre: WALK THIS WAY



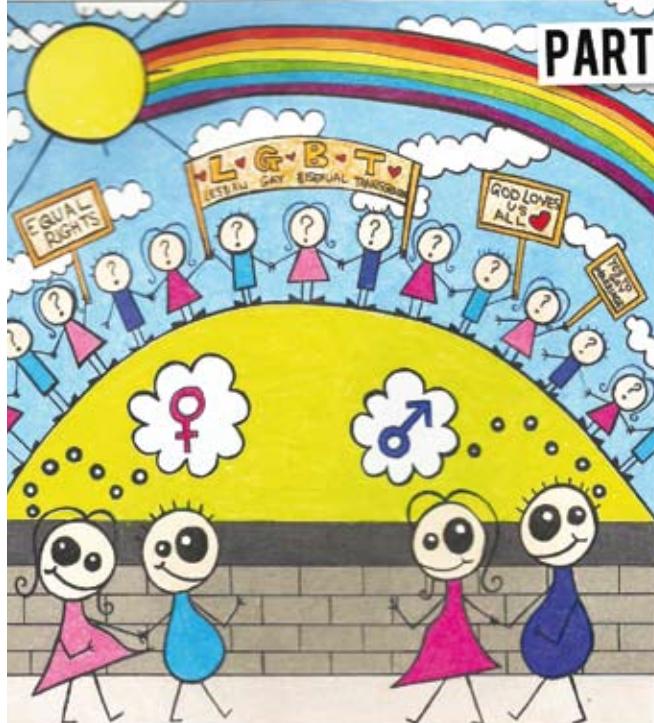
Arts Centre Melbourne is publicly launching the Melbourne Arts Walk, a limited series of crafted plaques honouring the arts to be embedded into the footpath surrounding Arts Centre Melbourne's famous buildings. The plaques, an Australian first, which feature quotations from famous artists celebrating the creativity and passion of the performing arts in Melbourne, can be purchased for \$25,000 each.

Taking the idea of Hollywood's Walk of Fame a step further, each plaque will feature an inspiring, uplifting quotation from a leading artist or renowned creative, recalling their experience of performing in Melbourne. Notable performers who have provided quotes for the Melbourne Arts Walk include Guy Pearce, Olivia Newton-John, Paul Kelly, Tina Arena, Silvie Paladino, Robert Lepage, Cliff Richard, Marina Prior, Reg Livermore and many more.

"Melbourne's Arts Walk will celebrate the creativity, passion and inspiration of the performing arts and is a wonderful opportunity for arts lovers to be indelibly linked with the creative and artistic landscape of Melbourne," explained Judith Isherwood, Chief Executive, Arts Centre Melbourne.

Founding supporters who have already purchased plaques, which will be installed by late 2013, include Kylie Minogue OBE, Miss Betty Amsden OAM, Mr Rino Grollo & Mrs Diana Ruzzene Grollo and Mr Graham Smargon AM & Mrs Annette Smargon. Designed by Victorian artists Simone Leamon and Edmund Carter, the design of the plaques take their inspiration from an imagined spotlight shining down from Arts Centre Melbourne's famous spire, casting pools of light onto the walk ways below. The plaques, measuring one metre in length, will feature a performer's quotations which can be chosen from a selected list, with each plaque created from bluestone, brass and granite.

The \$25,000 Arts Walk plaques are an important fundraising initiative for Arts Centre Melbourne, who receives around 20% of its operations funding from the Victorian Government, with the remainder from self-generated income and private, philanthropic and corporate partnerships. In recognition of a tax deductible Melbourne Arts Walk donation to the Arts Centre Melbourne Endowment Fund, supporters will be recognised on a plaque alongside their choice of artist quotation. For more information visit artscentremelbourne.com.au or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of Arts Centre Melbourne on facebook or follow @artscentremelb on Twitter.



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q comedy: THE BIBLE

The Good Book Just Got Better. It's 'apocalypse now' as the three cultural guerrillas of the Reduced Shakespeare Company set their reductive sights on the good book with The Bible: The Complete Word of God (abridged). Can bolts of lightning be far behind? This show is an affectionate, irreverent rollercoaster ride from fig leaves to final judgment as the boys tackle the great theological questions: Did Adam and Eve have navels? Did Moses really look like Charlton Heston?

Whether you are Catholic or Atheist, Muslim or Jew, Protestant or Purple People Eater, you will be tickled by the RSC's affectionate romp through old time religion as they attempt to condense two Testaments into one hundred madcap minutes. Remember... 'Someone is watching'.

Reduced Shakespeare Company is a three-man comedy troupe that takes long, serious subjects and reduces them to short, sharp comedies. The "Bad Boys of Abridgement" have created seven stage shows, two television specials, several failed TV pilots, and numerous radio pieces – all of which have been performed, seen, and heard the world over.'

Since its 1981 origins as a 'pass-the-hat' act in California, the Reduced Shakespeare Company's itinerary has included stops at the White House, the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center and in London's West End.

The company's first three shows, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged), The Complete History of America (abridged) and The Bible: The Complete Word of God (abridged) ran for nine years at the Criterion Theatre in Piccadilly Circus. They were London's longest-running comedies, and the RSC had more shows running in the West End than Andrew Lloyd Webber. They were also funnier. The Company tours most frequently across the U.S. and Great Britain, and has also performed in Belgium, Holland, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Barbados, Bermuda, Israel, Ireland and of course Australia, where they have had great success since touring with their first show The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) in 1989.

Long before The Book of Mormon was The Bible – now live onstage – it puts the "fun" back into "fundamentalism".

Melbourne

Athenaeum Theatre August 5 – 18

T: (03) 9650 1500

T: Ticketek 132 849

www.ticketek.com.au

Tickets on sale May 20

Canberra

Playhouse Canberra Theatre Centre August 21

- 24

T: (02) 6275 2700

www.canberratheatrecentre.com.au

Tickets on sale May 23

Brisbane

Brisbane Powerhouse August 27 – September 1

T: (07) 3358 8600 Brisbane

www.powerhouse.org

Tickets on sale May 29

Sydney

Playhouse, Sydney Opera House September

3 – 15

T: (02) 9250 7777 sydneyoperahouse.com

T: Ticketmaster 136 100

www.ticketmaster.com.au

Tickets on sale June 10

Tickets \$59.00 - \$79.00

Booking fees may apply



q music: JOAN BAEZ RETURNS

For the first time in more than 25 years Joan Baez returns to Australia for a series of concert performances in August. Joan Baez is a musical and political force of nature whose influence is incalculable – she marched on the front lines of the civil rights movement with Dr Martin Luther King, inspired Vaclav Havel in his fight for a Czech Republic, sang on the first Amnesty International tour and stood alongside Nelson Mandela when the world celebrated his 90th birthday in London's Hyde Park.

Her earliest recordings fed a host of traditional ballads into the rock vernacular, before she unselfconsciously introduced Bob Dylan to the world in 1963. Her Grammy nominated and most recent album, Day After Tomorrow (2008) recorded in Nashville and produced by Steve Earle, carries on Joan's tradition of serving as an interpreter for a wide array of songwriters, with material by Earle, Tom Waits, Elvis Costello, T Bone Burnett, Patty Griffin, Thea Gilmore and Eliza Gilkyson.

It's 54 years since Joan Baez, then 18, was introduced onstage at Newport Jazz Festival. Baez bought her first guitar when she was 15 and quickly became the central figure of the powerful folk movement, gracing the cover of Time Magazine when she was 20. Bob Dylan met her in Greenwich Village and she introduced him to the world as the two became musically and romantically entwined.

Baez is recognized as an outstanding, courageous activist whose beliefs can't be separated from her music. She sang about freedom and civil rights from the backs of flatbed trucks in Mississippi and on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at Dr Martin Luther King's march on Washington in 1963. Baez brought the Free Speech Movement into the spotlight at Berkeley; organised resistance to the war in South East Asia, travelling to Hanoi; performed at numerous benefit concerts and recently, Baez performed at Occupy Wall Street in New York and contributed to the 'Occupy This' album.

In 2009 the PBS American Masters series premiered a documentary of her life story, Joan Baez: How Sweet The Sound, which screened on ABC1 earlier this year. She has recently been awarded the Amnesty International's inaugural Joan Baez Award for Outstanding Inspirational Service in the Global Fight for Human Rights. Today, Joan Baez's voice is as extraordinary as ever but carries with it the gravitas of a life well lived. This will be a rare opportunity to experience one of the world's greatest and most inspiring performers. For the Australian concerts, Joan Baez is backed by both her son, Gabriel Harris on percussion, and multi-instrumentalist Dirk Powell on banjo, guitar, keyboards and fiddle.

Tuesday 6 August | Adelaide Festival Theatre Tix: BASS 131 246 / bass.net.au

Thursday 8 & Friday 9 August | Melbourne Hamer Hall Tix: 1300 182 183 / artscentremelbourne.com.au

Monday 12 August | Brisbane Concert Hall, QPAC Tix: QTIX 136 246 / qpac.com.au

Tuesday 20 & Wednesday 21 August | Sydney Opera House Tix: 02 9250 7777 / sydneyoperahouse.com



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q circus: ONE FALSE MOVE

A new circus work featuring NICA's second year artists

Opening on June 19, One False Move... features NICA's second year artists in an original and fast-paced circus show that draws inspiration from the events and characters that inhabit the fictional world of the Film Noir genre.

Stylish, bold and contemporary, One False Move... is a quirky circus montage of dynamic aerial escapes, comic acrobatic chases, dangerous balancing feats and surreal characters. Vibrant and entertaining, the ensemble show cuts across different eras, events and styles to create unexpected moments of suspenseful, playful circus.

The show is co-directed by NICA's Head of Performance, Megan Jones, and NICA's dance teacher, Meredith Kitchen. Megan has a formidable 30 year career as an actor, director and performing arts educator. Meredith started teaching at NICA after a dance career with the Australian Dance Theatre, Dance North and Compagnie Philippe Genty. Together they also directed NICA's hugely successful performances, Made to Fit (2012) and CODA (2011).

"The show is underpinned by the tension that comes from potentially making one false move and is simultaneously funny and edgy," says Megan.

The ensemble performance is an integral part of the 22 students' artistic and physical training as it prepares them for wide and varied careers after they graduate from the Bachelor of Circus Arts.

NICA is one of eight national arts training institutes and offers Australia's only Bachelor of Circus Arts. Graduates of NICA have gone on to pursue exciting careers both locally and internationally, as well as contributing to the development of Melbourne's vibrant circus arts industry.

Tickets for One False Move... are on sale now at www.nica.com.au

National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) presents:

One False Move...

19 – 29 June 2013

NICA National Circus Centre

39 – 59 Green Street, Prahran

Adult \$27 / Conc \$22 / Child U16 \$18 Groups (min 10) \$20pp



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q helpful hints: by HAIRY LEMON

How To Maximise Your Energy

With life busier than ever, we have all felt tired and run down. Juggling work and family commitments can leave us struggling to get through the day, with sleep often last on our priority list. Luckily, there are fast and effective ways to stay energised, many requiring hardly any effort at all. Try these five simple tips to help maximise your energy:

1. Get moving.

Exercise is one of the best ways to beat fatigue and boost energy. If you don't have time for a full workout, try doing 20 push-ups or star jumps first thing in the morning and you'll be surprised at the difference it makes to your energy. It takes just over a minute and is a good alternative to wake up your system.

2. Replace coffee with fruit. Instead of a cup of coffee, have a piece of fruit to increase your energy levels.

Fruit contains natural sugars and healthy carbohydrates that will help fuel your body, giving you the energy you need to get through the day. Fruit will satisfy your hunger cravings and save you money if you're used to buying coffee at a café.

3. Hydrate.

It's not uncommon to confuse hunger with thirst, but did you know that thirst can also masquerade as fatigue? Water is our main source of energy and not having enough can leave you feeling light-headed and fatigued. Australian recommendations suggest that women should consume at least 2.8 litres of water per day, which increases during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.

4. Stay positive.

Negative emotions like fear, frustration and worry can significantly decrease your energy levels. While it might be easier said than done, try to avoid stress and stay positive. A positive attitude is your best source of perpetual energy.

5. Energy supplements.

A quick and convenient way to support your body's daily energy needs is through energy supplements. Some supplements contain B and C vitamins, as well as low levels of caffeine for an immediate and long lasting energy boost. While acting as a source of energy production, Vitamin C also helps the body's immune system to fight disease. Try a product like Hairy Lemon, which has added ingredients like Ginseng and Biotin for a well-rounded energy lift. Take one or two tablets daily dissolved in a cool drink of water to help optimise energy levels and improve your mental alertness.



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q win: MID-YEAR GOODIES

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The days of a chivalrous shave is not dead! With the RazorPit, every shave can be that of a James Bond cut-throat razor quality, with maximum coverage and smooth result guaranteed after each clean. The secret is in the soft-textured quality of the rubber based RazorPit surface, which sees your blade be rid of hair and residue that inconveniently make the blades feel blunt.

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All in all, RazorPit is the investment that will reap you all of the economical, derma logical and environmental benefits. RazorPit is the gift that keeps on giving, allowing you to save face time and time again!

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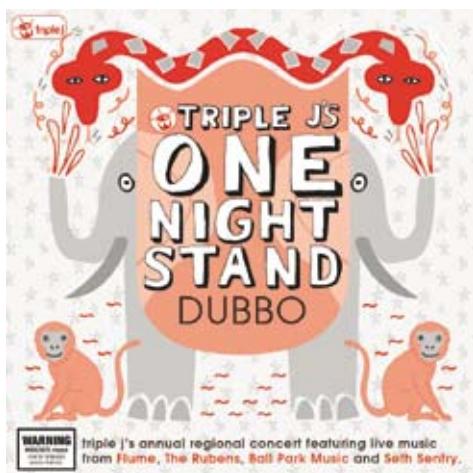
TRIPLE J'S ONE NIGHT STAND

This CD/DVD features live tracks from four of Australia's finest acts, including electronic sensation Flume, four piece indie darlings The Rubens, Brisbane pop outfit Ball Park Music and favourite Aussie hip hopper Seth Sentry. The DVD also includes backstage artist interviews with triple j's the Doctor!

Each year triple j holds a free all ages, drug and alcohol free concert in an Australian regional town. They ship the best Aussie acts out to a different town and have a massive free party for a day: that is the One Night Stand.

In the past the One Night Stand has been to places like Alice Springs, Tumby Bay, Dalby and Sale with acts like Hilltop Hoods, Silverchair, 360, John Butler Trio, The Living End, Birds of Tokyo, Matt Corby, Pnau, Arts vs Science, Bluejuice, The Jezabels, Washington, Stonefield and heaps more.

We have five to give away. Email getfree@qmagazine.com.au with **ONE NIGHT STAND** in the subject line to see if you're a winner.



* All prizes are open to everyone, except those which specifically state you must be over 18 to enter. Entries close on the final day of each calendar month with the prize draw taking place at 5pm the following day at Apt. 7, 16 Westbury Grove, St. Kilda East 3183. Names and addresses of people winning prizes valued at or over \$250 ONLY will be published in the following issue of QMagazine. All monthly winners are notified by email.

q scene: OUT & ABOUT



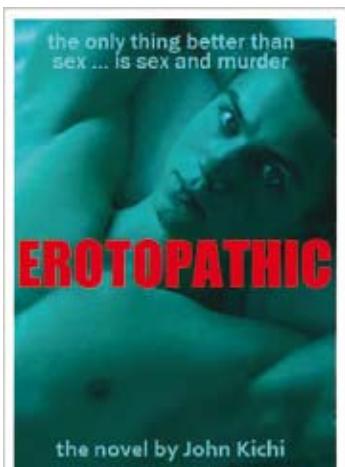
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q scene: OUT & ABOUT



Celebrate the 44th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots at a forum to discuss

Trans and gender diverse liberation and the socialist feminist project!

- Pay tribute to the sex and gender diverse folks who, in 1969, fought back at the Stonewall Inn!
- Learn about the origins of trans oppression and its link to feminism
- Be inspired by young trans activists on the front lines of the struggle today

Panel:

- **Sim Kennedy:** trans and gender diverse activist, recent youth work degree graduate, feminist young man
- **Ashley Ihasz:** a student, musician, trans woman and committee member of the youth queer support group, YGender
- **Alison Thorne:** veteran Marxist feminist, historian, Stonewall celebration organiser, active in queer liberation since the late 70s
- **Patrick Scally:** young gay CPSU member, clinic defender and student striker, will chair.

Join a lively discussion welcoming both your questions and your ideas!



Thursday, 27 June
6:30 pm

Solidarity Salon
580 Sydney Road
Brunswick

Dinner served at 6:30 pm for
a \$10 donation.
Panel discussion
commences at 7:00 pm.

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q travel: with BARRIE MAHONEY

'Twitters from the Atlantic'

Barrie Mahoney was a teacher, head teacher and school inspector in the UK, as well as a reporter in Spain, before moving to the Canary Islands as a newspaper editor. He is still enjoying life in the sun as a writer and author.



'Wall to Wall Homosexuals' - 'Twitters from the Atlantic'

As a columnist, I expect to receive a spot of criticism from time to time. Although it is good to receive praise and favourable comments from readers, this is unlikely to happen all the time. We all have our own points of view and, thank goodness, we live in a part of the world that still allows freedom of expression. I hope that I can express views and ideas in a way that is enjoyable and amusing, but also in a way that is sometimes intended to extend ideas and to challenge conventional thinking.

In the run up to Maspalomas Gay Pride in Gran Canaria, which is one of the largest in Europe and lasts for well over one hectic, but most enjoyable week, I wrote an article called 'Some People Are Gay, Get Over It'. Sadly, poor Colin, one of my readers, is currently skulking in the mountains to escape "Wall to Wall Homosexuals", as he put it. He did not get over it, and wrote me a most unpleasant, yet very sad, email. Although I will not reproduce the message in full here, as it is offensive, Colin criticised gay men and women for not being sensitive to the views of "normal" people" (I still have to find some of those), and finds the idea of "two men (or women) having a physical and sexual relationship both repulsive and disgusting".

It was sad to read that Colin and his wife fled "this hotbed of evil" to escape to the mountains, where they would find "peace, tranquillity, and no raging homosexuals kissing and cuddling". However, they will no doubt be shocked to discover that they are now surrounded by some rather randy goats.

Well, there we have it. I was certainly put in my place and although I try to respect everyone's opinions, I would have respected Colin's opinion even more if he had given me the right of reply. Yes, you guessed it, his email address was of course not in use and I doubt that Colin is his real name anyway, although from what I hear from other readers, Colin has already been identified; after all, it is a small island.

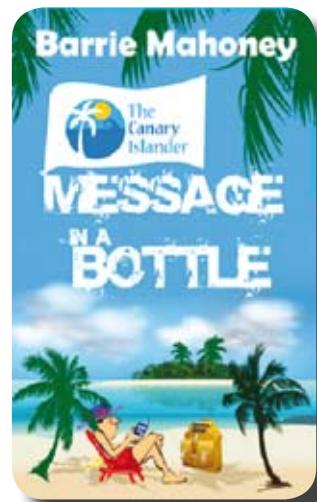
I am not about to repeat the reasons here why we defend the rights of gay men and women to be themselves in an outward demonstration of solidarity during Gar Pride. Others have already done this, very successfully, many times, and in many different ways over the years. However, what I will say quite simply to Colin and others like him is that no one has a monopoly on love, nor do they have the right to choose whom we love.

Several people have complained to me over the last few days about the disruption, noise and inconvenience that Gay Pride brings to the island each year. They may choose to forget the huge amount of money from tourism that this spectacular event brings to the islands' economy each year, during what used to be 'the quiet season'. Not any more; additional flights, full bars, restaurants and hotels all greatly benefit from the huge increase in business, which many survive on for the remainder of the year. For most, it is time for a great party and a huge celebration of what has been achieved by gay men and women over the years.

Gay Pride is not all about business, making money and dressing up for the occasion; it is much more serious and challenging than this. It is a time when we can remember those who have fought for equality, and remind others and ourselves that gay men and women across the world still struggle in their daily lives. To those that say the battle has been won, and we should no longer have Gay Pride and Gay Parades, they have only to read the newspapers and watch television to realise that we do not have true equality. The vicious and on-going debate about gay marriage, the torture and execution of gay men and women across the world are just two examples of struggles that continue.

Then there is Colin, who is still skulking in the mountains and complaining about "Wall to Wall Homosexuals" at every opportunity. Well, as this wonderful island is already highly inclusive, with a strong 'live and let live' attitude, I suspect that Colin may well now be in the minority this week. I am sorry that my 'Some People are Gay, Get Over It' article offended Colin and others like him, but he should be aware that some people are straight, and we have had to get over it.

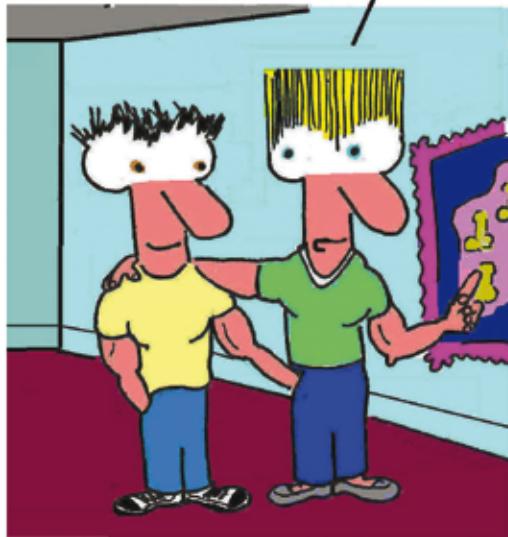
If you enjoyed this article, take a look at Barrie's websites: www.barrymahoney.com and www.thecanaryislander.com or read his latest book, 'Twitters from the Atlantic' (ISBN: 978 1480033986). Available as paperback, Kindle and eBooks. iPhone/iPad Apps: ExpatInfo and CanaryIsle now available from the Apple Store.



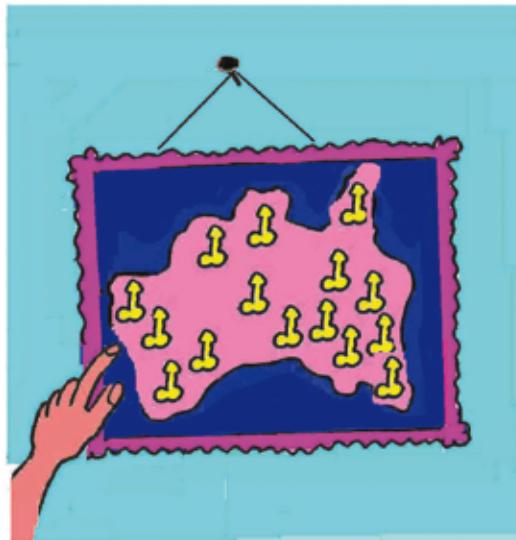
Gaylord Blade

Young, Gay & Hot-to-trot

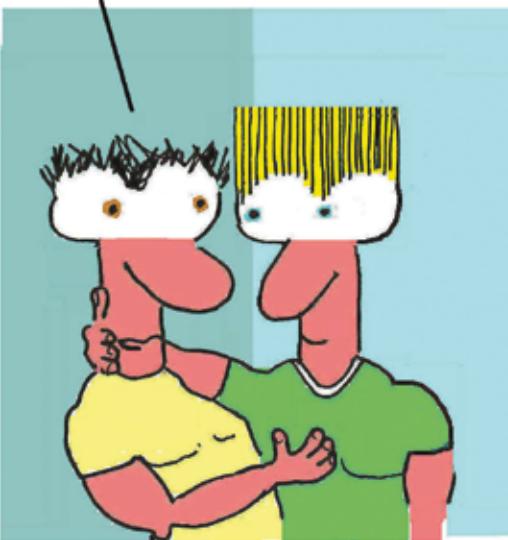
I'm flattered by your proposal of marriage, Gordon, but there is something you should know



... each Golden Penis on this map marks a location where I plowed hot ass ...and just THIS week!



Slutiness is okay by me, Gaylord. MY sex map is covered with Golden BUTTHOLES, many in North Korea!!



But my point is: can wedlock work if no one's home feeding the cat?





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