



APRIL 2018

Q MAGAZINE

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q comment:

The breathtakingly buff Brendan Irving is returning to the stage to play the character of Rocky in the naughty but ever so nice smash hit musical, *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Opening in Melbourne on July 13 at Her Majesty's Theatre, audience members should prepare for a night of fun, frolics and frivolity. Tickets are on sale now through www.ticketek.com.au

Brendan returns to the *The Rocky Horror Show* after thrilling audiences in the 2014 and 2015 sold out seasons. His credits include international exposure on stage performing in *Broadway Up Close* and *Personal* at the John F. Kennedy Centre in Washington DC and the Rick Jensen directed cabaret *Bound for Broadway* in New York. Back home in Australia Brendan has starred in *An Officer and A Gentleman* and *The Bodyguard, The Musical*.

Brendan is also an accomplished aerial acrobat specialising in silks and trapeze and is a resident aerialist of Sydney's Slide Lounge El Circo.

"I cannot wait to reprise the role of Rocky for Melbourne theatregoers, they have always been the most enthusiastic to giving themselves over to absolute pleasure!"

The *Rocky Horror* show starring Todd McKenney in the lead role of Frank n Furter and Shane Jacobson in the honored role of the Narrator is a guaranteed night full of hilarity and madness!

The *Rocky Horror Show* is a true classic and one of theatre's most endearing and outrageously fun shows. Millions of people all over the world continue to see productions and singalong to classics like *Sweet Transvestite*, *Dammit Janet*, *I Can Make You A Man*, *Touch-a Touch-a Touch Me*, *Over At The Frankenstein Place* and of course, *The Time Warp*.

Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne

Season: From 13 July 2018 (Opening night is July 18)

Performance Times: Tuesday – Saturday 7.30pm, Saturday 2.00pm, Sunday 1.30 & 5.30pm

Price: From \$55.00*

www.rockyhorror.com.au

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

q feature: THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

“QUIET PLEASE, THERE’S A LADY ON STAGE”

Jeanne Pratt AC, Chairman of The Production Company, announces her Company’s 20th Birthday Season, starring **ROHAN BROWNE, MITCHELL BUTEL, BOBBY FOX, SIMON GLEESON, NANCYE HAYES, GENEVIEVE KINGSFORD, AMY LEHPAMER, MATTHEW MANAHAN, ELISE MCCANN, BEN MINGAY, ROBYN NEVIN, ANNA O’BYRNE, CAROLINE O’CONNOR, RICHARD PIPER AND CHRIS RYAN.**

Jeanne Pratt AC said “I started The Production Company 20 years ago to provide opportunities for Australia’s extraordinary talent. Now as I look back on the hundreds of artists who have worked with us, it’s a veritable Who’s Who of musical theatre. We’ve produced 58 musicals in Melbourne, won multiple awards and toured interstate. Our shows have thrilled audiences of more than 600,000! I couldn’t be more proud. And now for our 20th birthday we’re celebrating with three of our favourites.

The Rodgers & Hammerstein masterpiece OKLAHOMA! starts the Season.

THE BOY FROM OZ also turns 20 in 2018 and to celebrate our joint birthdays we’re staging a brand new production. And finally an Australian premiere, A GENTLEMAN’S GUIDE TO LOVE & MURDER, all at Arts Centre Melbourne. With a landmark line up of stars, come and celebrate 20 wonderful years with Melbourne’s very own musical theatre company. I’ll see you at the theatre.”

OKLAHOMA! OPENS IN ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE’S STATE THEATRE ON MAY 26 FOR A SEASON OF 11 PERFORMANCES.

Rodgers & Hammerstein’s masterpiece OKLAHOMA! revolutionised the American musical; the first of their legendary shows, it won a Pulitzer Prize and set the standard for modern musicals. It tells the story of the Oklahoma Territory at the start of the twentieth century and of Curly, a farmer who loves Laurey. But Laurey’s not so sure about Curly and wonders if she really loves Jud. And Will loves Ado Annie, but Annie loves. . .well, everybody.

PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH VIEW FILMS AND ROBERT FOX LTD, THE BOY FROM OZ OPENS IN ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE’S STATE THEATRE ON AUGUST 11 FOR A SEASON OF 11 PERFORMANCES.

THE BOY FROM OZ is the dazzling, funny and moving story of the beloved Australian entertainer, Peter Allen. From singing in pubs at 11, to teenage stardom on television, he was discovered by Judy Garland and went on to marry her daughter Liza Minnelli. Peter achieved global stardom as a performer and multi award winning songwriter.

A GENTLEMAN’S GUIDE TO LOVE & MURDER OPENS IN ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE’S PLAYHOUSE THEATRE ON OCTOBER 27 FOR A SEASON OF 18 PERFORMANCES.

A GENTLEMAN’S GUIDE TO LOVE & MURDER is a brand new, drop-dead musical comedy about Monty, a penniless clerk who discovers he is ninth in line to be Lord D’Ysquith, the Earl of Highhurst. But the D’Ysquith family dismiss his claim then curiously the eight family members in line to be Earl start dying from unnatural causes! Meanwhile Monty woos money-minded Sibella but also finds himself drawn to young Phoebe D’Ysquith. . .what could possibly go wrong?



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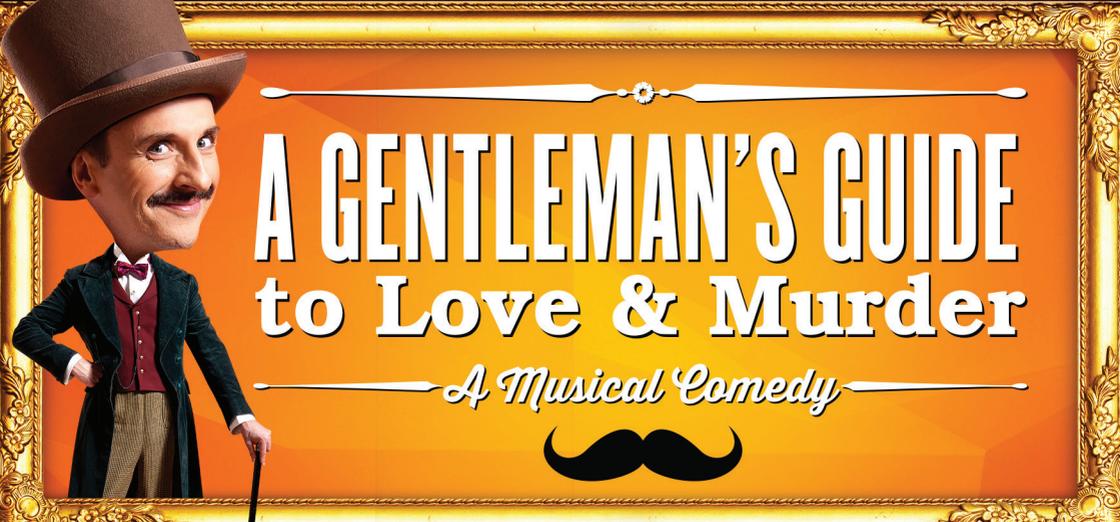
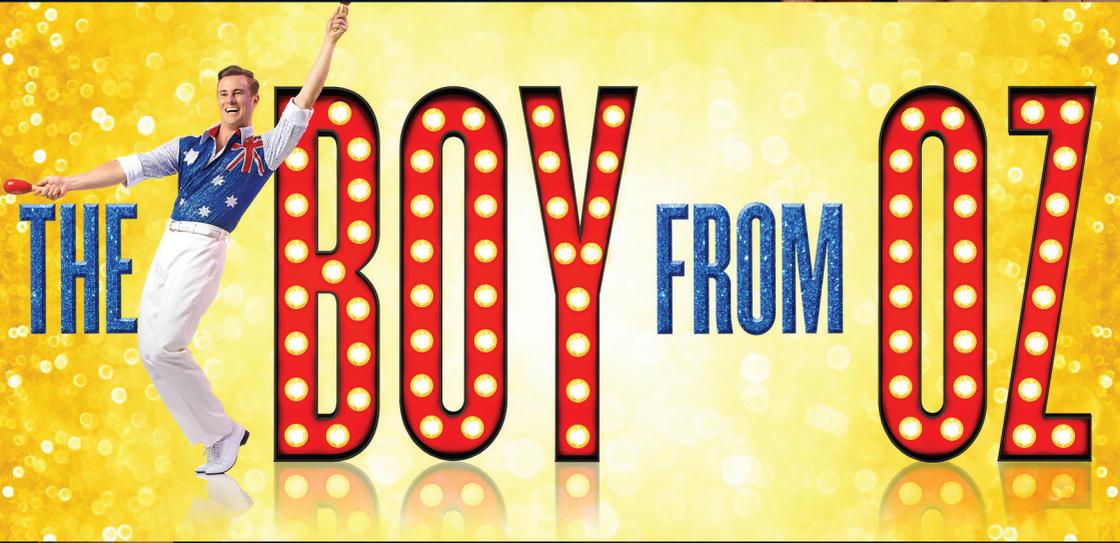


THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

OKLAHOMA!



A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE to Love & Murder

A Musical Comedy

q travel: with BARRIE MAHONEY

'Tweeters from the Atlantic'

Barrie Mahoney was a head teacher and school inspector in the UK, as well as a reporter in Spain, before moving to the Canary Islands to launch and edit a new English language newspaper. He enjoys life in the sun as a columnist and author, and continues to write a series of popular novels and books for expats.



Just Nuts About Almonds

We know that Spring has arrived in the Canary Islands when we see the first flush of flowers on the many magnificent almond trees that embrace the islands. These beautiful flowers, which begin to open after Christmas, create a magnificent and rich landscape of colour. At the end of January and the beginning of February, almond trees demonstrate their full glory, encouraging celebrations in many towns and villages. Canarians never need much of an excuse to have a party, so this spectacle of natural beauty to celebrate the beginning of a New Year, doesn't need much encouragement.

The Canary Islands were the crossroads between Europe and the Americas for many years. As a result, the islands can boast a rich and varied cuisine, offering a unique blend of flavours that is influenced by Africa, Europe and America. Without going into too much detail here, there is accumulating genetic evidence which suggests that much of the material used for horticulture in the Americas came directly from the Canary Islands. These islands had centuries of trade with Berbers, Phoenicians, and other ethnicities in Morocco, but were only under Spanish control for about 50 years before Columbus. Many believe that the booming almond trade in the United States originates from the Canary Islands.

Many people do not give much thought to almonds, but they have always been a most important part of the cuisine of the Canary Islands. Almond products are many and varied, and used in biscuits and cakes. Almonds can also be mashed into a paste that can be spread on bread - a bit like peanut butter, but without the butter. Almond milk, almond drinks, almond wine and marzipan, as well as almond cakes can easily be found in shops and markets on the islands for most of the year.

Almond trees are found on the greener parts of the Canary Islands. In Puntagorda, on the island of La Palma, a beautiful festival is held at the end of January or beginning of February each year. Parts of Gran Canaria and Tenerife become spectacular gardens of pink and white blossom, particularly around Santiago del Teide and the slopes of Vilaflor in Tenerife.



In Gran Canaria, a visit to the Almond Flower Festival in the village of Tejeda is always a must-visit destination at this time of the year. The festival has been celebrated in this beautiful village since 1972, which acts as a reminder of the importance of almonds to the baking industry of the islands. Dancing and songs against the spectacular and colourful backdrop of the almond trees can be an unforgettable experience.

Crowds of people make their way singing and dancing to native guitar music on the narrow road leading to the church. Many dress in national costume for the event and there are opportunities to sample the local wine and almond based products. There are also opportunities to watch the almonds being cracked and maybe hear almond pickers speaking about their trade.

Spain is the world's second largest almond producer after the United States, and with a large proportion produced in the Canary Islands. It is no wonder that these nuts are so highly prized, and well worth having a party to celebrate. It is also worth remembering where the nuts come from.

If you enjoyed this article, take a look at my websites: <http://barriemahoney.com> and <http://thecanaryislander.com> or read my latest book, 'Living in Spain and the Canary Islands' (ISBN: 9780995602724). Available in paperback, as well as Kindle editions. Join me on Facebook: @barrie.mahoney

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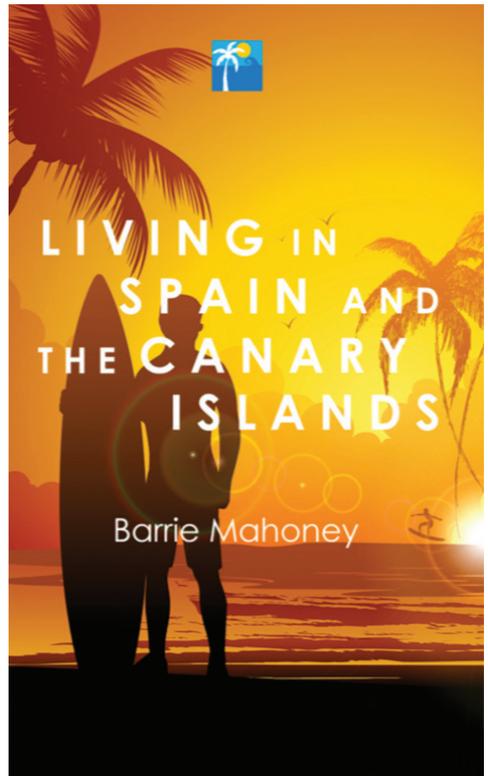





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q arts centre: ARCHIE ROACH TOUR

Archie Roach and Tiddas team up for a one-off national tour

2018 will see award winning Australian trio Tiddas reform to join Archie Roach for a series of one-off shows around the country in May and June. Across the 90s, Tiddas won the hearts of the nation and the world with their beautiful harmonies and songs. Now the trio, Amy Saunders, Lou Bennett and Sally Dastey, are back on stage to support the unearthing of Roach's album *Dancing With My Spirit* - recorded over two decades ago by producer Jen Anderson. Circumstances at the time saw the demo shelved and virtually forgotten, until now.

Feature tracks include 'A Child Was Born Here', 'Dancing Shoes' and 'Dancing With My Spirit', capturing Archie's voice at its best and affirming the contention that he is one of the best 30 voices in the world. Instrumentation back then was provided by Bruce Haymes (on keyboards), Dave Steel (guitars), the late, Stuart Speed (bass) and Archie Cuthbertson on drums. But the songs really came alive when Tiddas brought their sublime and bold vocal harmonies to the mix. Bruce and Archie Cuthbertson join Tiddas for these live shows.

"The combination of these 3 women and Archie singing together created a magic that's rare and precious, and I consider myself extremely fortunate to have witnessed this creation," says Jen Anderson. "I suppose it's just that Dancing With My Spirit has been waiting for the right time to reveal itself to the public. That time has now come, heralded by the Tiddas' announcement that they are reforming especially to sing with Archie once more, and to showcase the songs from the album via a series of performances around Australia... Some things are truly worth waiting for."



National Tour Dates:

Sun 6 May - Hamer Hall, Arts Centre, Melbourne VIC Wed 9 May - Enmore Theatre, Sydney NSW

Fri 11 May - The Tivoli, Brisbane QLD

Sun 27 May - Canberra Theatre Centre, Canberra ACT Fri 8 June - State Theatre Centre of WA, Perth WA

Fri 15th June - Odeon Theatre, Hobart, TAS

Fri 22nd June - Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, SA Sat 23rd June - Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, SA

For more information and tickets, head to www.archieroach.com/tour.

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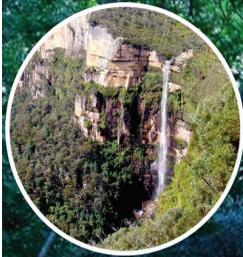
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q books:

Stella-Prize long-listed author Sonya Voumard's *Skin in the Game* is original, incisive and hugely entertaining. The daughter of a European refugee mother and a journalist father, Voumard recounts with aplomb her passionate but questioning relationship with journalism and the nature of the interview. There's a disastrous 1980 university encounter with Helen Garner which forms the seed for her fascination with the dynamics of the interview and culminates in her connecting again with Garner more than three decades later to work out what went so wrong. There are the insights of a career played out against the changing nature of journalism including the author's time as a Canberra correspondent. And there are revealing and tender portraits of Kings Cross, of growing up in suburban Melbourne, her father's love of journalism, and a family journey to the Bonegilla Migrant Reception Centre where her mother's Australian life began.

Throughout it all Voumard is a sharpshooter, never afraid to hold a mirror up to her own life and practices as a journalist, to dig deep into the ethics of journalism and the use of power, and to sensitively explore the intertwined nature of life and work and personal relationships. The writing is at turns sharp, funny, direct, strong and affectionate.

'I've immense admiration for how Sonya Voumard so deftly wields a writer's scalpel, both on her subjects and herself. Together, these dispatches provide a fascinating insider's account of Australian journalism and a forensic look into the myriad pitfalls involved in telling people's stories.' Benjamin Law, author of *The Family Law and Gaysia*

Sonya Voumard is a Sydney-based journalist and author whose work has been widely published in major Australian newspapers, magazines and literary journals. She has lectured part-time in creative non-fiction and journalism at UTS. Her first novel, *Political Animals* (2008) was inspired by her time as a political correspondent for the *Age* in Canberra. Her critically acclaimed book *The Media and the Massacre: Port Arthur 1996-2016* (2016) was longlisted for the prestigious Stella Prize in 2017.

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SKIN IN THE GAME

THE PLEASURE AND
PAIN OF TELLING

TRUE STORIES

SONYA VOUMARD

**'DEFTLY WIELDS A WRITER'S SCALPEL.
BOTH ON HER SUBJECTS AND HERSELF ...
FASCINATING' BENJAMIN LAW**

Why Social Media is keeping you broke.

It seems we are surrounded by visions of success and lifestyle in our modern world. With Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and Snapchat taking the world by storm we have seen the rise of twenty somethings sprawled out on a yacht on Sydney Harbour, get into huge debt to head over to Circuit in Barcelona, and let's not forget the never-ending discussions about smashed avocado! With the filtered and edited pictures of course come the seemingly endless hash tags that go with it that are designed to show off the amazing lifestyle they are apparently living. #wishyouwerehere #noworktoday #sorrynotsorry

We all know someone who likes to flaunt their incredible "insta-lifestyle" for a bunch of likes a bit too much. It's human nature for people to want their friends and family to be involved in the fun things they do. Not all this showing off is designed to stroke their ego, or to make you feel bad about your life. However, it seems to have become part of modern society that people will post only the good stuff online these days. All too often, these people are working a job they are not passionate about, and are using their hard earned after tax dollars to flaunt a lifestyle that isn't a true representation of their actual lifestyle. In fact, what they show us is often far from it. What is more worrying than this is that it's not sustainable.

I grew up in suburban Perth, and most of my mates were straight. I also didn't have any mentors in my life to help me build wealth. I left school when I was 16 – because I hated it. Back in 1996, being gay in high school not only wasn't very cool, it was downright dangerous. My sexuality was a huge secret, and I spent much of that time with the underlying fear, every day, of being beaten up. I hated the fact that I couldn't be myself and that others were able to dictate how I felt simply because of who I was attracted to. So, I left school as soon as I could to get a job and make some money, because what I learnt from observing successful people is that they took control of their financial life and didn't answer to anyone. In my case, I couldn't wait to get away from feeling like shit at school and taking on the world on my own. I wanted a lifestyle where I could do whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted and with whomever I wanted.

I was fortunate to experience the joys of dial up internet, ICQ and Nokia brick phones that would survive a 10 storey fall. I grew up playing on the road and I knew every kid in my street. I am so happy to have grown up when I did, and before we entered the digital world we live in now where there is both an online life and a 'real' life. Long before people became "Insta-famous", before 14 year olds could ever be labeled as "influencers", before 6 year olds had iPads and certainly long before you could video chat with that cute 32yo guy in Brazil from your apartment at 3:40am on a Tuesday morning.

So, what does this have to do with building wealth? Well apart from the fact that flights to Brazil are not cheap, to state the obvious; your online life is not real and will rarely help you financially. What really matters, is what your actual life looks like when you switch off all your devices. I've spoken to thousands of people over the years about investing and I've found the vast majority of people are drifting through life without a clear focus on their financial situation or with very little, if any, planning for the future. Building long term, sustainable wealth takes time, commitment and an understanding of the underlying principal of delayed gratification.

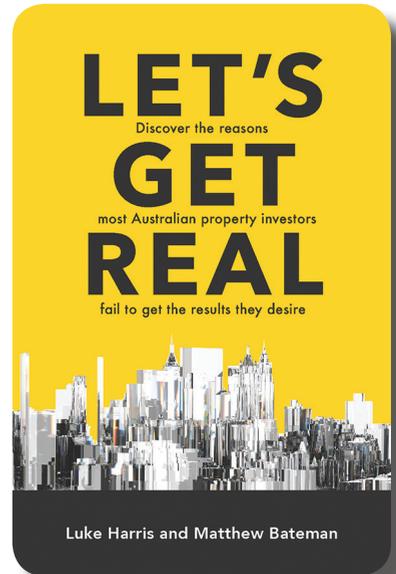
"I start early, and I stay late, day after day, year after year, and it took me 17 years and 114 days to become an overnight success"
– Lionel Messi

I love this quote, not because I have any real interest in soccer (apart from some of the players of course) but because the same principal applies to anything you want to become good at. Real success takes time.

With most things in life, finding the right balance is the key to success. It's okay to go on a cool holiday, or buy that new car, or eat out at that fancy restaurant (and it's okay to post pics to prove it) but unfortunately some people are not looking beyond the next bunch of likes, or feel good comments, and fail to plan for the rest of their lives.

Where do you want to be in 10, 20, or 30 years from now? What sort of lifestyle do you want to be living? The scary reality for a lot of people is that they are drifting down a river not realizing there is a steep waterfall coming up just around the bend. Regardless of where you are at in life right now, you have the choice to bury your head in the sand and hope for the best, or start paying attention to your financial life and take control of your financial future. After all, nobody is going to do it for you!

In the future, what will matter are the results you have been able to achieve through the plans you make today and the investments you make tomorrow. Ask yourself, is what I am doing in my life right now getting me closer to, or further away from what I want to achieve? #letsgetreal



q products: HOME ESSENTIALS

There's a situation we've all been exposed to. A childhood experience so tantalising wicked that it continues to tempt even the most mature of adults to this day: the act of spoon-licking.

For Melbourne-based siblings turned entrepreneurs, Chris and Alex and Jessica Reece, spoon-licking is no foreign concept. It is an impulse hatched from warm-hearted childhood memories of culinary delights, delicious kitchen creations, and endless days of mixing, baking and devouring mouth-watering cookies.

Inviting Australians to reminisce and relive their own childhood cravings, the entrepreneurial trio launched Cookie Doh Co. in 2017 to provide over 6000 postcodes nationwide with the spoon-licking joy of edible cookie dough.

Inspired by the American FMCG cookie dough phenomenon, Cookie Doh Co. sports 3 delicious flavours, Chocolate Chip, Apple and Cinnamon and Triple Chocolate, and is made from local shelved ingredients and Belgian Callebaut chocolate chips.



Free from eggs and pasteurised substitutes, Cookie Doh Co. is made from lab-tested, heat-treated ingredients that allow the product to sit unrefrigerated in ambient temperatures for up to 2 weeks; or if refrigerated upon receipt, up to 3 months in temperatures less than 4 degrees Celsius.

Fun to eat on its own or as part of a culinary kitchen creation, customers are encouraged to squish, smash, slurp and sprinkle their favourite dough in fun and unconventional ways, including dough filled cookie sandwiches, chunky milkshake beverages and delicious mid morning slice bars.

Each flavour in the range retails for \$8.99 rrp (250g) and is available nationwide at <https://www.cookie dough.com>

Every plant consists of stem cells, but unlike humans, every plant cell has the potential to dedifferentiate itself and grow into an entirely new plant. This regenerative ability to self-renew has been of significant interest to Melbourne-based skincare company, Enbacci, who harvest and utilise fruit and plant based stem cells in their targeted range of skin and body care products.

Enbacci's leading 3-step skincare system, Vitis Vinifera, contains the nourishing benefits of the purple grape and is scientifically proven to strengthen, shape and improve the structural and aesthetic integrity of human skin. During scientific studies prior to its release, the scent profile of the Vitis Vinifera range was shown to offer a number of sensory benefits to 96% of its users; evoking a sense of relaxation and familiarity, and elevating mood and general happiness.

Collaborating with a local Melbourne fragrance house, Enbacci today enters the homewares market by releasing two home fragrance products, a hand-poured soy wax candle and scented oil diffuser, based on the Vitis Vinifera skincare range. Enhancing ambiance and mood, both products include notes of citrus fruits, green tea and bergamot, as well as Enbacci's exclusive Vitis Vinifera 'happy' scent.



The candle (\$65 RRP) and diffuser (\$55 RRP) are available at www.enbacci.com and at their flagship store in Prahran, Melbourne.

q opera: A SEASON OF SPLENDOUR

Violetta wears velvet and lace and drinks the very best champagne from crystal glasses. Her parties are legendary, her company desired. She's free and free-spirited, living outside society's bounds, and for this courtesan, it seems like the party will never end. Could a little love really change everything?

La Traviata is so popular because it puts a life we can only dream of on stage, with its risqué glamour, joys and sorrows.

Verdi's music sings of freedom with flying melodies, makes merry with rousing drinking songs and leaves us, at the last, with passionate duets between breaking hearts.

This production by Elijah Moshinsky is one of our most successful, featuring lush party scenes in Paris and beautiful autumn afternoons in the countryside. Lavish, crowded sets and exquisite costumes combined with Verdi's famous tunes offer the perfect way to experience opera for the first time, or the chance to revisit a favourite with an exciting new cast.

Outstanding young American soprano Corinne Winters makes her Australian debut in her signature role.

ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, STATE THEATRE APRIL 17 – MAY 11, 2018

She lived for love. On this desperate day, can she find the strength to kill for it? Three ominous chords ring out of the orchestra pit and the mood is set. On stage, the soaring marble columns are brilliant with light, but somewhere out of sight, a shadow looms. A runaway prisoner bursts into the chapel, and the opera takes off: a gripping tale of love, lust and betrayal unfolding at breakneck pace.

Tosca has everything: a real and worldly love, an extraordinary heroine and the greatest villain in all of opera.

Tosca's dramatic music demands powerhouse performers. American soprano Latonia Moore takes on Floria Tosca, a role coveted for its vast dramatic arc and show-stopping aria, 'Vissi d'arte'. She leads a brilliant cast under the baton of sensational young conductor Andrea Battistoni.

ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, STATE THEATRE APRIL 24 – MAY 10, 2018

The hero no one needed embarks on one last noble quest. From a time where men were brave and bold comes the dreamer, **Don Quichotte**. He chases bandits. Tilts at windmills. Serenades the pretty girls. He's a hero like the knights of old, pursuing dreams the world forgot.

It takes a special performer to make you fall in love with this eccentric character. Ferruccio Furlanetto's Don Quichotte is famous.

He takes the dreams and delusions of the famous knight-errant and paints an earnest and endearing portrait of a man out of time. Furlanetto's Don Quichotte is brimful of whimsy and bursting with bravery. His sonorous bass finds all the colours of Massenet's lush, romantic score.

He performs with brilliant French conductor Guillaume Tourniaire and Sian Pendry as the damsel Dulcinée.

ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, STATE THEATRE MAY 3 – 12, 2018

For further information and bookings, goto www.opera.org.au



q film: LGBT HISTORY IN FILM

ACCLAIMED GAY MASS MURDER DOCUMENTARY, UPSTAIRS INFERNO,
NOW AVAILABLE ON DVD AND BLU-RAY IN AUSTRALIA

In 2013, during the 40th Anniversary of the deadly Up Stairs Lounge Arson (one of the most significant, yet often overlooked events in LGBT history), Camina Entertainment publicly announced the production of UPSTAIRS INFERNO, a comprehensive and compassionate documentary recounting (what was) the "Largest Gay Mass Murder in U.S. History".

UPSTAIRS INFERNO can be purchased at: <http://Purchase.AU.UpstairsInferno.com>

On June 24, 1973, an arsonist set fire to the Up Stairs Lounge, a gay bar located on the edge of the French Quarter in New Orleans, Louisiana. The fire ultimately killed 32 people and severely injured countless others. It permanently altered lives and was the root of many lifelong struggles.

With unique access (exclusive on-camera interviews from survivors, witnesses and friends/families of victims) and a fresh perspective (incorporating long lost artifacts, newsreel footage and photographs that haven't been seen in decades), UPSTAIRS INFERNO vividly examines this oft-forgotten story and is considered the most comprehensive and authoritative film about the tragedy and its aftermath.

Narrated by New Orleans' own New York Times best-selling author Christopher Rice, UPSTAIRS INFERNO is a mesmerizing mix of crime drama and human connections that captures the heartbreaking feelings of unconditional love and overwhelming loss. An unsettling snapshot of what was, until the early hours of June 12, 2016, the deadliest single event to affect the gay community in American history, UPSTAIRS INFERNO gets inside the hearts and minds of a handful of vibrant people who experienced one of the most important and underreported moments in LGBT History.

"While UPSTAIRS INFERNO recounts a historic event that occurred in the U.S., its underlying message crosses cultural boundaries", Director Robert L. Camina emphasizes. "It's easier for people to hate and fear things they don't understand. No matter your background, in the end, we are more alike than we are different. I think UPSTAIRS INFERNO reminds of us that."

Camina adds, *"We made the film hoping audiences would walk away from it with a renewed call for compassion: Compassion for those unlike us. Compassion for those who are hurting. Compassion for those in need. Because there definitely wasn't a lot of compassion when the deadly arson occurred."*

"Sadly, a lot has happened in the world since the film was released and we started spreading the message of compassion and the impact of hate", Camina continues. "It sickens me that mass murders have become so common. I think UPSTAIRS INFERNO's message is as timely as ever: the power of family, friends and forgiveness in the shadow of immense pain."

With the release of the documentary, Camina Entertainment plans to emphasize those themes, as well as the overall preservation of LGBTQ history. Hopefully, by the Up Stairs Lounge Arson survivors sharing their stories, it can provide strength to others in need. This year marks the 45th Anniversary of the deadly fire.

UPSTAIRS INFERNO had its WORLD PREMIERE in New Orleans on June 24, 2015: the 42nd Anniversary of the Up Stairs Lounge arson. Survivors of the fire, families and friends of the victims and witnesses filled the audience. Many traveled across the country to attend the Premiere. Some of the attendees hadn't seen each other in over 40 years.

The documentary went on to screen at 40 film festivals around the world, including Australia. It won 20 awards, including 11 Jury Awards and 4 Audience Awards. Frameline: the San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival awarded UPSTAIRS INFERNO with the JURY AWARD: HONORABLE MENTION, citing its "Special Contribution to Queer History". In addition, UPSTAIRS INFERNO received a prestigious invitation to screen at the U.S. Library of Congress in February 2017.



q life: A NAKED HOUSECLEANER

How I Became a Naked Housecleaner

By Gabriel Tabasco

A few months ago I moved from Europe to Australia, for personal reasons and was looking for a job. Back home I had a high-pressured job and upon relocation I realised that I missed the rush of work. In between interviews and sending off CVs I wondered how I could make some pocket money. To stave off boredom I needed to find something quickly.

I scoured temp jobs. All part time jobs wanted experience. One advert asked for 'three years experience as a Barista.' Wait... did they mean Barista or Barrister?

While cleaning my house an idea came to me: why not be a naked cleaner? I have always been comfortable naked and having mild Obsessive Compulsive Disorder I liked to clean. So why not? I put up an ad online.

Perhaps 75% of the respondents were time-wasters who wanted sexual services that I did not provide. Other men promised me various things such as swimming in their pool, going car racing in the outback, or going for drinks, but they never followed up.

When I arrived at one client's house he told me that he wanted sex, not clean his home. 'My wife does that.'

'I don't provide that service' I said, standing there naked.

'Well what can you do?' he asked.

'I can clean.'

'Then please clean quickly... my wife will be back from the hairdressers' any moment now.'

I had a vision of an older lady, returning home with perfectly-coiffed hair finding her husband staring at my bare bottom as I rinsed off the suds from her fine china.

Overwhelming my clients were friendly. One client was a bisexual businessman, open to his wife about trying something new. We spent half an hour talking about business strategy before I mopped his floors in the nude. Another man showed me his collection of Indigenous art and another taught me how to play pool.

There were some embarrassing moments too. 'Do they touch you?' asked one man. I went to answer but as I did so he rushed around the kitchen counter and cupped the tip of my erect penis. I looked down and saw that my pre-cum was about to drip into his dishwasher, so he rushed over to catch it. Though uncomfortable it was funny.

There were some disappointing moments. One man had a fetish for naked house cleaners (he had three!) and wanted to audition me. If he liked me he'd keep me on. As I cleaned his kitchen and we got on. We arranged to meet for coffee. He kept changing the date and then never replied to me texts. I was hurt more than anything else. I was new in town and thought I'd made a friend.



Most clients' houses were either spotlessly clean or derelict. For the men with clean houses, I felt bad cleaning them. They didn't need cleaning and I told them so. For men whose houses were dirty... I felt the full force of my compulsion to clean. I told one man, whose house was so filthy it was a health-hazard, that I would do extra cleaning and not charge him. He declined.

As a house cleaner I didn't want new clients; I wanted repeat clients. I did not want to become a cleaning one-hit wonder. However, a nude cleaner is a niche service. Not everyone has the luxury of time to watch me bending over on all fours collecting pennies from under the sofa.

In one case one client had me vacuuming while he sat on the sofa texting barely looking at me. Why have a naked cleaner then? Perhaps I did not measure up... to his cleaning standards?

I took precautions. I had a penknife in my bag and text a friend where I would be going. Although I was in other men's homes providing a service, my clients treated me hospitably. I never felt in harm's way. There was one exception...

Never judge a book by its cover but you can tell a lot about a person from their home. When I arrived at one client's house I had a sinking feel. The grass on the front lawn withering. The blinds were drawn. The whole house had a sad, forlorn look. It was odd to me because Australians are house-proud.

I rang the bell and was greeted by a young man. He had just moved into his home, hence its unkempt appearance. He had a strict look. I felt I was going to be told off if I missed a spot.

Having a naked cleaner is a scenario people are not used to.

A chat to eases people into it. But in this case as soon as I walked in the client said 'well, go on then!'. I undressed and set to work wearing my usual uniform: white socks, a baseball cap and a silver chain.

'Just hoovering and ironing please' he said. That would have taken me an hour and he had booked me for two and a half. Clients can change their mind like that. But he was kind. He offered me almost double my hourly rate for one hour's work, saying that he knew what it was like to be looking for a job and wanted to be generous. I guess appearances can be deceitful... just as deceitful as an ambitious ex-career man ironing your sheets in the buff in your front room. If those net curtains could talk...



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q orchestra: **AUSTRALIAN WORLD**

Since its inaugural concert series in 2011, the AWO has established itself as arguably the most exciting orchestral initiative in Australia's cultural history, dazzling audiences in Australia and overseas and performing to over 34,000 music lovers.

Dubbed 'the Soccerroos of classical music', the AWO brings together Australia's elite national and international musicians to present unrivalled performances of musical virtuosity.

Under concert masters Natalie Chee and Daniel Dodds, the 2018 ensemble includes 86 Australian musicians from the world's leading orchestras, including the Berlin, Vienna and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestras, the Chicago and London Symphony Orchestras, and musicians from the Australian state orchestras and local music ensembles.

Over the course of his stellar career, the 76-year-old Naples-born conductor, Maestro Riccardo Muti has led many of the most important orchestras in the world including the Berlin, New York, Vienna and London Philharmonics, and the Orchestre National de France. On his last Australian visit, he was made an Honorary Citizen of Sydney.

For this special three concert event, Maestro Muti will conduct a moving programme, commencing with Johannes Brahms' serene and idyllic Symphony No.2 in D Major, before leading the AWO through Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's life-affirming Symphony No.4 in F Minor, a work that moves from a mood of pervasive gloom to one of irresistible positivity, and as a noted Verdi specialist, including a Verdi surprise.

Maestro Riccardo Muti Conducts The Australian World Orchestra For 3 Extraordinary Concerts In 2018.

Wednesday 2 May (7pm) - Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

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q art: GOLIATH SIGNED WORKS



Contemporary art as well as photography underwent an incredible boom in the past 30 years. Reason enough, to finally build your own collection. If, when, how or why a piece of art increases in value can only sometimes be predicted. Unfortunately there is no guarantee. Rule number one is, to merely collect what you personally like.

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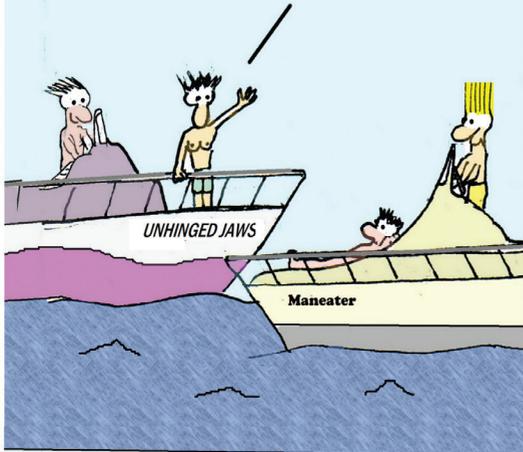
Featured artists: Bukikoshoni - black and white images, Walter Kundzicz - men in cowboy hats; plus Frank Petronio and Tonin Stamolis signings.



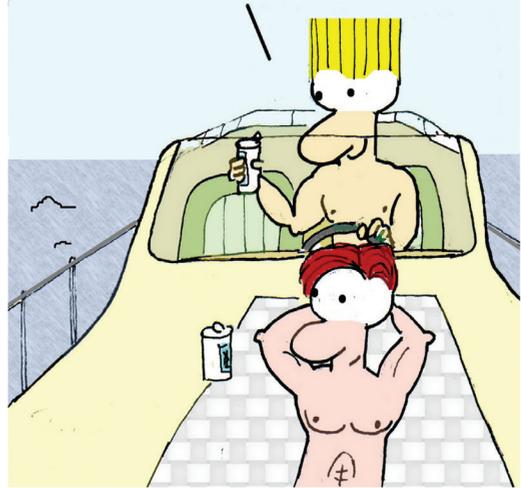
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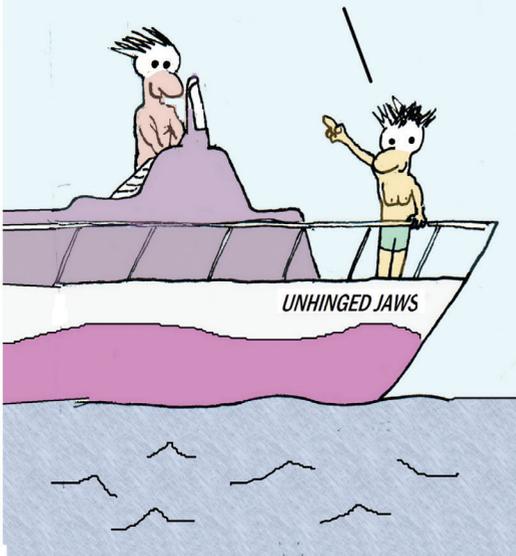
Ahoy. We're serving cocktails!
You're welcome to board us.



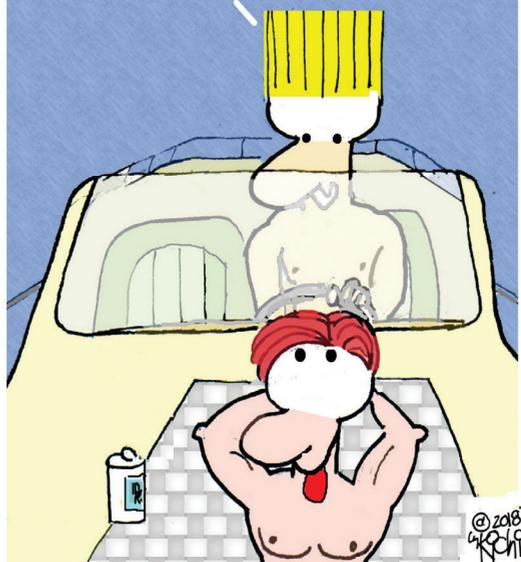
I think the correct nautical
term is "MOUNT US"



Captain and I love hot strangers
scraping barnacles from our hull!



all HANDS on
the deckhands!





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