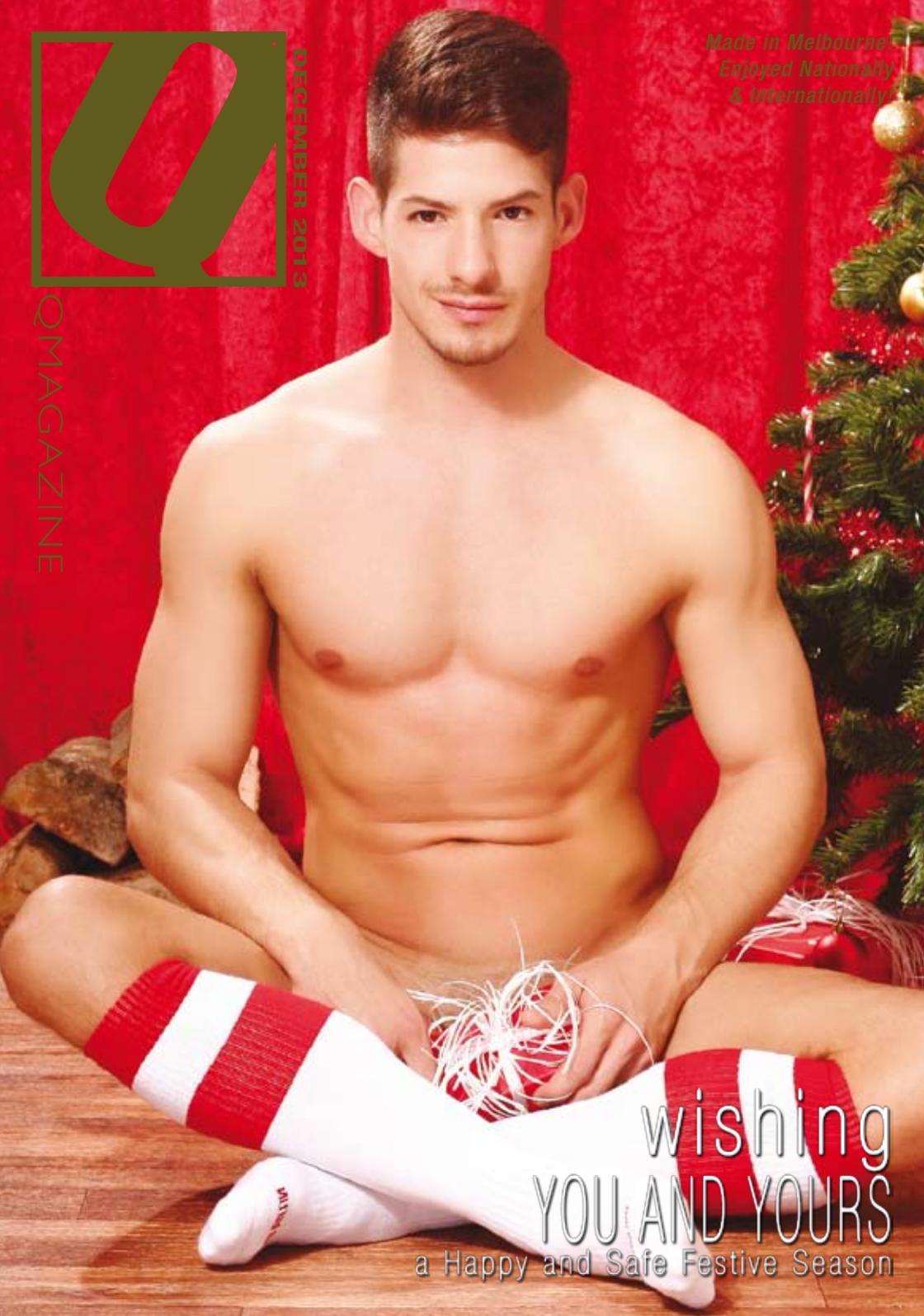




DECEMBER 2013

Q MAGAZINE

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q comment:



NJULEZZ is a small women's fashion label for women with mainly LGBTI-orientated clothes. Founded in 2011 by Sabrina Dirks, it made its first public appearance the same year at the largest German Christopher Street Day in Cologne. Since then shirts, hoodies, and much more have been available in the ever-growing online store www.njulezz.com, which has won customers from all over Europe and the United States.

Reactions to the label were very positive from the outset. Customers appreciate the high-quality shirts (many of them organic), patterns you don't see on every street corner, cuts that sit perfectly, and the unconventional, direct communication with the bosses. Germany's most famous lesbian magazine L-Mag has already had the label on its cover. In 2014 NJULEZZ is planning on representing itself on stalls at Prides throughout Germany, and for the first time ever in neighbouring European countries at Europe's largest purely lesbian event, L-Beach.

Dirks and her partner Kathi Lindner are fascinated by the idiosyncratic fashion of the LGBTI scene, which develops completely independently of the mainstream and is constantly reinventing itself. *"A lesbian as a trendsetter is not as unlikely as it was five years ago - and we want to be right at the heart of the action"*, is how Sabrina Dirks summarises her passion for the label.



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ABN 21 631 209 230



q feature: **STUART REARDON**

by Chris Jenkins

Care Bare Stuart Reardon Footballer Waxes and Shines for LGBT Causes

American footballers can learn a thing or two from their European counterparts, especially when it comes to standing up as LGBT allies. Professional rugby league player Stuart Reardon is the latest to raise his voice in support, arguing in recent interviews against Russia's inhumanity toward the LGBT community.

This month he announced he was partnering with Axiom For Men, the men's skin care line, in their effort to raise money and visibility for LGBT organizations. When customers buy any Axiom For Men product, the company donates a percent of sales to LGBT charities including Family Equality Council and The National Center for Transgender Equality, among others.

We sat down with the burly footballer to discuss how he is preparing for the upcoming season and to learn if the new partnership means he'll be waxing his front and rear-don.

The news has been reporting on bullying in the American football locker room. Does bullying exist in the rugby locker room?

I've never seen bullying in the locker room. We make jokes but it doesn't go any further than that. The coaches wouldn't tolerate it.

What is something a guy might get chided for?

Well, the fact that I model has been a good source of jokes.

Really, a big guy like you gets picked on?

Sure, but I don't mind. It's really all about the camaraderie. It never erupts into anything serious or personal. We're just trying to have a laugh.

How will they react to your being the new face of men's skin care?

Some might have a laugh but most guys use products these days. When they see all the loot in my gym bag, they'll be begging me for it.

You actually use it?

Of course. The hair removal cream, in particular, is an important part of my gear, not only for photo shoots but for when I play rugby. If my legs are hairy it gives opponents something to grip onto when tackling and also makes treating abrasions more painful.

How often do you wax?

Once a month. Luckily, I'm not naturally hairy. My legs are hairy, but my chest isn't.

Waxing probably helps your tats stand out.

Actually, that's true. That was how I first started using Axiom. Their cream is known for not fading ink. My tattoos are very personal and important to me.

Several rugby players have stood up as LGBT allies, among them: Ben Cohen, Nick Youngquest and now you. Why have rugby players stood up but not American footballers?

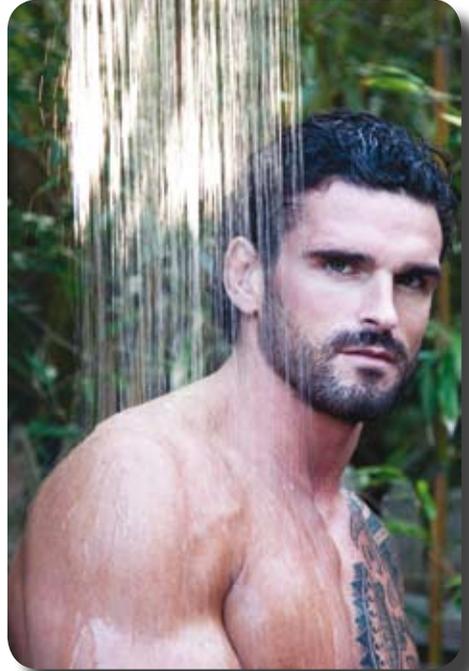
I don't know that much about American football culture. In the UK, times are really changing and people are much more open-minded than they were even a decade ago.

Have you played against Cohen or Youngquest?

I have not played Ben. I hear he's a good winger. I have played against Nick in the Super League. He's a great player. He'd have to be as he plays at the highest level.

Would it be safe for a professional rugby player to come out of the closet?

I think so. Gareth Thomas came out. He had a tough ride for a while, but he found acceptance.



How would you feel about having a gay player in the showers with you?

I wouldn't even think twice about it. It would be like showering with any other player.

What are your thoughts on Russia's new anti-gay LGBT laws?

They're disgusting.

Should U.S. and UK athletes boycott the Sochi Olympics?

I don't think so. If I were one of the athletes, I'd rather make a statement through competing. I'll always choose solving things on the field. It puts out a stronger message than boycotting.

How are you gearing up for the next sporting season?

I'm currently in rehab for my Achilles. I underwent reconstruction surgery three months ago so I'm spending lots of time with physicians and trainers, lifting weights and doing cardio. I can't run yet but I'm almost there. This is the time in the season to put on body weight, so I'm working on that too.



Your team was league champions last year. Are you looking forward to defending your title?

Coming back as champs means we'll face a lot more competition this season. But we've recruited well and everyone is excited about season. We're ready to battle.

But first, make sure you moisturize!

Of course, I aim to shine off and on the field.



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q money: with EVAN DAVIS

I recently visited a couple of clients. They had taken a few expensive steps with relation to overstepping their budget. Between an anniversary, a holiday, a significant birthday and the renovation of one of their properties their expenses had been piling up.

When they bought their property two years ago I'd helped them with their home loan. Since then, they had picked up two personal loans and several credit cards to pay for their various expenses.

This is an easy financial trap to fall into, however there are several strategies that home owners can employ to 'tidy' up their debts and to bring their collective repayments back down.

Tightening the belt is probably the least popular. It really is the debt equivalent of going 'cold turkey' and basically involves budgeting carefully and over paying the minimum repayment amount required on a debt to clear it faster.

Balance transfer cards can provide short term relief but are really only a temporary solution. Once the honeymoon wears off for you it starts for the bank. The interest rates spike once your transfer period is over and the temptation is still there to overspend on the new card.

Consolidation of the debts can sometimes be an effective solution. Take my clients for example. They have three credit cards at their combined limits of \$30,000 with a minimum repayment of \$900 per month. Two personal loans owing \$30,000 with repayments of \$600 per month and a mortgage of \$350,000 with a repayment of \$2,098 per month. This totals \$3,598 per month.

The strategy we discussed was to package all their debts together into their mortgage. This consolidation strategy has benefits and pitfalls and needs to be well understood before it is applied. The main benefit will usually be the convenience of a lower number of repayments to manage and also a lower overall repayment which helps with cash flow.

If the mortgage was in our scenario increased to \$410,000 to clear all the debts this would allow the clients to wipe out all their other borrowings and their new repayment would \$2,200 per month. This is a massive monthly saving to the clients of \$1,397, which sounds great.

The reason the repayment is so much lower is that the personal debt is now being repaid on a lower home loan interest rate and over a longer period of time. This is also the problem with this strategy. It increases the time it will take to retire the debt. Basically personal debt will be paid off over a home loan term which typically 30 years!

The only way to make a consolidation work is to be disciplined. Once the debt is cleared up then continue to over pay the mortgage. Assuming my clients paid \$3,000 per month on their new mortgage (Still approximately \$600 better per month) they would pay their new loan off in around a forecasted 17 years not 30.

Consolidation can be a useful strategy though I cannot stress enough the flaws of this strategy if you don't over pay the new loan.

Everyone's situation is different and this is a general description only.

Contact me for more details.



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q gay files: with MATTEO SNOOKS

Sex and the X

"Tis the season to be jolly," the New Year is upon us and this calls for a little refraction and openness to what lies ahead. Stories about people being cheated on or dumped constantly float around with film, television and friends all contributing to this negative aspect of life. We seem to only have compassion for the person who is receiving bad news. Remember... There's more than one person in a relationship... What about the other perspective? Never do we hear about them as we are quick to judge the individual who is ending a chapter in someone's life.

Telling your Papi "Adios" is never pleasant and more difficult when feelings are still involved. Every relationship is different and it's hard when your significant other is treating you unsatisfactory, yet you're in love but wrapped in confusion with your thoughts becoming an everlasting labyrinth. Whatever the reason, and I say this in a non-selfish way... It all comes down to your happiness! Cheating, picking fights, trying to change one's personality or simply just not understanding your crazy ways, are all signs screaming; NEXT!... Remember: "nobody puts Baby in a corner!"

It's frustrating when you're put on a pedestal and asked to prove yourself. You should be loved for who you are and both partners should be proud to be in each other's presence. I'm no expert but one thing I have learnt is that you should be in a state of happiness with oneself before entering a committed relationship. Otherwise all negative insecurities and past relationship issues may be brought forward and lashed out for one of you to deal with. Quite frankly, I'd rather be a virgin in manger giving birth to a pineapple than having to suffer for other people's mistakes. Relationships are about growing and learning together, not babysitting! However we learn more about ourselves and the minds of others through surviving tough times.

Yes, sometimes the honeymoon period ends and we need to work harder... but when a hidden demon starts to manifest... it's a sign to take a step back and view your destiny. I've always been against breaks, because love should be easy and just work. A break is your chance to work out the pros and cons and whether you're willing to stick around for chapter 6 after a huge load of time and emotion has been invested. Also Never be in competition or jealous of one another.

Whilst on a break and having sex with your partner, or recklessly with some random, will only mess with your head more like a Kitchen Aid whipping on crack. All though angry and make-up sex can be heaven, it gives hope to a chance of getting back together. To avoid more augments and increased doses of Valium, fight your sexual urges; otherwise that state of limbo will just linger on giving meaning to your Facebook states of "in a complicated relationship"

Is a meaning of LOVE "Never having to say you're sorry" because I believe that we need to admit when we are wrong, regardless if you're on the same page or not. It takes time for emotional scars to heal and you may find yourself still sleeping on the side opposite to where your partner once laid... Don't become haters, just forgive but don't forget. As annoying and unhelpful as this may sound when going through a break up, I assure you that time is the answer. When you look back and find the rainbow colours shining again... you may even find yourself sleeping back in the middle where you once started, happy and ready for Santa's surprise that he'll deliver from his sack.



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q people: JOHN CALDWELL

Growing up, John Caldwell didn't have the luxury of worrying about normal childhood issues. His family life was dysfunctional at best; his parents led lives of alcohol fuelled sex and violence and he spent most of his childhood hiding under the bed.

After being present when his dad took his own life with a shotgun at aged 11 and then being sexually abused by foster parents, John had taken all he could.

The problem only escalated at school. Being bullied for being poor, not having shoes, being gay - you name it. John would face daily ridicule from pupils and teachers and was verbally and physically abused each and every day of his life.

At 15 years old John Caldwell, like so many other teenagers, jut hit rock bottom. Jobless and homeless without anyone to turn too John thought life was hopeless. He believed the taunts that he was useless, pathetic, and worthless and he would never be anything. "Just kill yourself," the kid's would taunt... and he almost did.

John fought the urges to take his own life and found the strength to fight. He had to abandon his education to make money just to survive. He credits pure hard work for his success with a global fast food company. Having started at the bottom, John worked his way up to be awarded as one of the Top Managers in the world. Skip to today and John has now founded his own company, RWR Group, operating multiple recruitment brands globally. John lives a very flamboyant lifestyle and enjoys the fruits of his labour and loves showing people just what you can make of yourself.

"There is something about overcoming adversity that makes you stronger, makes you a fighter and gives you a 'never give up' attitude to life" says John. "I love sharing my story with people and showing them anything is possible"

After achieving corporate success John decided to turn his attention to helping people just like him. John works tirelessly with Angels Goal Anti Bullying organisation to help create awareness of the severity of the bullying epidemic in Australia and Globally. His work sees him speaking at schools, community groups, social events, one-on-ones and charity fund raisers. He bears his own story publically to help people see that there is light at the end of the tunnel and it really does get better. His shocking story inspires even the most hardened listener.

Recently named Australian of the year – Victoria John is also working with organisations in the USA and the UK to try and create unity among the countries to fight this growing problem. He is one of the few anti bullying advocates tackling the issues on a global scale.

"I create awareness and want to show people that they are not alone and there is hope. I aim to inspire people to live through this and make a generational change" John says of his efforts. "If we can reduce bullying we can save even more lives."

Full Throttle

Full Throttle book was released in 2013 and tells the story of life, business and partnerships in the fast lane. John's reveals the intimate details of his childhood, uncovering emotional memories that shine light on why John is so fervent in his quest to stop bullying. The no holds barred story is shocking and emotional, leaving readers on the verge of tears seeing the pain one young person can face. The story, like John's life, has a happy ending and inspires us all to want to do more and achieve more. It shows that it is possible.

What's Next?

Bullying shatters lives into pieces. Knowing the effect of bullying first hand, and being appalled by the stats surrounding suicide and bullying, John is filming a documentary 'Pieces' to shed new light on the effects and ultimately the tragic end. The documentary is being filmed around the world to highlight the global reach of this problem. The self funded documentary will see all proceeds donated to charity. John is also working with LA Based talent agency on a reality TV pilot based on Full Throttle.



q youth: with **TASMAN ANDERSON**

With the New Year only a few weeks away, I started thinking about New Year's resolutions and whether you really can start all over again simply because it's a brand new year. We've all heard about them at least once before. We make our own and promise to stick to them. Except, after a week or two, we've forgotten all about them and are back to how we were before. Yep, I'm talking about New Year's resolutions.

If you've never made a New Year's resolution then where the hell have you been?!? But just for clarity, New Year's resolutions are the little promises you make to change your behaviour for the better. For instance, Last year I gave myself multiple resolutions that I'm yet to follow through on. My resolutions were cheesy, really. I wanted to do better in my studies and spend less time obsessing over my career and more time with family. Of course, being a workaholic, this particular set of resolutions lasted about a week before I decided that I'd rather drown in work than slowly die of boredom. Okay, so maybe that's a bit of an overstatement but you get my point.

New Year's resolutions are actually a pretty good concept. The idea of accepting your negative traits and attempting to change yourself for the better is absolutely fascinating. The real issue though, is not in creating the resolution but sticking to it. There's nothing harder than trying to find the motivation to follow through on a promise that you made to yourself, especially if that promise is something that requires a whole lot of effort and very little gratitude.

I think the best thing about resolutions is that it gives you the chance to reflect on your life and really decide whether you're living it the way you want or the way everyone thinks you should. In fact, the only resolution I ever kept was probably the most important one I'll ever make. That resolution was to move to Los Angeles. The idea first came to mind when I was 9 and then again when I was 15. I stopped considering it until four years ago when I decided to start working towards the goal. Now I'm set to move early 2015.

It's funny really; we don't truly understand the meaning of resolutions until we finally complete one. They're not created to punish you or make you feel guilty for not achieving them. They are created to help you understand what truly matters or at least what you find to be the most important thing to you.

There is no right or wrong resolution, in fact, the only way you can go wrong about this is if you never set one for yourself in the first place. Just in case you've never set one before, here are a few suggestions to help get you started. . .

- Try a new hairstyle?
- Read more books?
- Drink less alcohol? (obviously not on New Year's, that would be insane)
- Call people more than text?
- Be happy with what I have?

So tell me, what's your resolution?

"Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colours. And the people there see you differently, too. Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving." – Terry Pratchett.



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q cabaret: MELBOURNE FESTIVAL

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Submissions are now open to perform in the world's second largest cabaret festival and one of Melbourne's key winter arts events.



Over the past four years, the Melbourne Cabaret Festival has grown to become an iconic Melbourne event much loved by audiences and performers. Following a successful Opening Gala at the Palais Theatre this year, the Festival will again kick off at the Melbourne icon on Thursday 19 June.

The fifth annual Melbourne Cabaret Festival will be held from Thursday 19 through to Sunday 29 June 2014. More info and to submit: <http://melbournecabaret.com> Earlier this year the Festival attracted 15,200 people, which was up 89% on last year and 375% on the inaugural Festival in 2010.

New arts partnership

The Festival is also thrilled to announce an exciting partnership with Melbourne's newest arts hub, Village Melbourne. Located on St Kilda Road, Village Melbourne (formerly Belgian Beer Cafe) offers the art deco grandness of Ormond Hall as a setting for a jointly presented program of cabaret shows.

q arts centre: IETM CONFERENCE

Performing arts leaders from Europe and Asia will descend on Melbourne next May as part of a knowledge and cultural exchange event to increase international collaboration and engagement. Arts Centre Melbourne, in partnership with The Australia Council for the Arts and Next Wave, will host the International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (IETM) will present the three-day meeting from Monday 12 May – Wednesday 14 May, 2014.

Australia Council Acting Executive Director Arts Development Collette Brennan said this was the first IETM Satellite meeting to be held in Australia, bringing together the most prestigious and innovative performing arts producers and presenters from Europe, Asia and Australia.

"IETM is the largest and oldest European network for the performing arts with more than 500 members from 50 countries, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan and Australia," Ms Brennan said. In the past decade IETM has sought to broaden its membership outside Europe and a number of the biannual meetings have been held in Asia, including Singapore, China and Japan. "The IETM Satellite meeting will start on the Monday and delegates can look forward to interesting presentations and speakers from some of the world's leading performing arts companies, workshops with industry peers and making new contacts within the sector."

Australian participants in the satellite meeting will be selected by an Expressions of Interest process. Artists and arts workers from across the nation with a proven track record of working in Asia are invited to submit an application. Applicants will need to meet selection criteria to ensure those participating are able to follow up on the opportunities created by this significant meeting. Interested companies should contact Australia Council IETM Collaboration Project Director Sophie Travers via email s.travers@australiacouncil.gov.au

"A meeting in Australia has been discussed for a number of years, and this event will build on the existing partnerships and artistic opportunities already established in the region. The event will bring together key players in the Asian, European and Australian performing arts sector to share expertise, build partnerships and create strong networks to facilitate the development of future projects.

For more information about the Arts Centre Melbourne go to www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

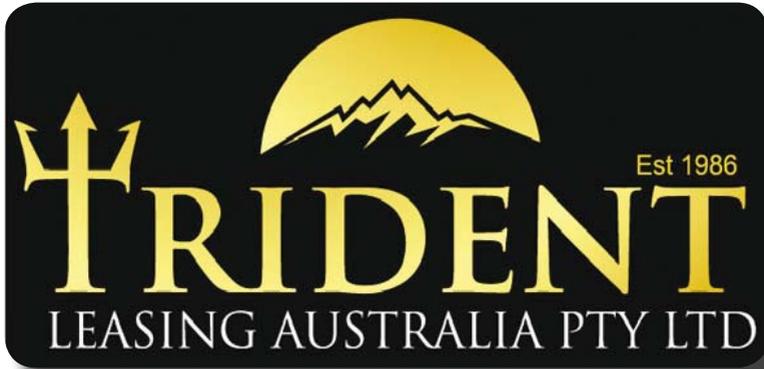
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q books/art: **BERLIN WHAT?**

Urban art, painting, photography, illustration and collage by 102 Berlin artists - A book, an exhibition tour and a labor of love. The art scene's fascination with Berlin is as strong as ever. The unique historical situation and the now legendary Berlin way of life continue to draw all stripes of creative types and artists to the German capital year after year. It is a place of desire, and the only constant is that it is always changing.

BERLIN WHAT? is a collection of over five hundred works by 102 German and international artists unified by one thing: Berlin as their home base. BERLIN WHAT? is both a book and an idea – as well as the basis for future exhibitions, art happenings and events designed to introduce the artists represented in this edition to a broader audience.

The persistence of affordable working and living conditions, empty buildings and an overabundance of culture – together with the possibility to do anything you want, 24 hours a day – has drawn and continues to draw international creative types to Berlin. Come one, come all. They are pouring into the capital from cities across Germany, Europe and the whole world, hungry for a taste of something new. They see the city as an opportunity and are optimally positioned to make the most of it.

Uwe Neu and Oliver Thoben opened Neonchocolate Gallery in spring 2010 in Prenzlauer Berg, Berlin. The gallery quickly made a name for itself with collectors and makers in Berlin's young art scene, often moving beyond the mainstream but always keeping an eye to the city and a finger on its pulse. By 2013, Neu and Thoben curated over one hundred shows dedicated to their passion for a mix of German and international, upcoming and established artists of many different styles, exhibited at art fairs and organized successful auctions. In the meantime they have been developing new approaches and creative concepts for art events, executed on the behalf of companies and institutions or on their own with a curatorial focus on Berlin's young generation of artists.



ARTISTS

44flavours, Adam Admon, Aitch, Amos Fricke, Anastasia Coyto, Angela Mercedes Donna Otto, Ann Besier, Anne Michaux, Antonio Sobral, Björn Hegardt, Bronco, Christian Awe, Christian Manss, Christian Rothenhagen, Clemens Behr, Czarnobyl, DAG, Daniel Maria Thurau, Danielle De Picciotto, Danny Gretscher, Danny Kurz, Deenesh Ghyczy, El Bocho, Elisa Gomez Alvarez, EMESS, Enrico Nagel, Evelyn Hahn, Felix Gephart, Florian Bayer, Francesco d'Isa, Frank Machalowski, Frau Grau, Frederik Schulz, Galina Troitzky, Gesa Glück, Golden Cosmos, Hara Katsiki, Herr Müller, Herr von Bias, Ink-a-zoid, Jäki Hildisch, Jan Feindt, Jim Avignon, John Reaktor, Jonathan Schmidt-Ott, Jorinna Scherle, Just, Karl Addison, Kata Lips, Kathleen Alisch, Katrin Rodegast, Kaveh Ossia, Kerstin zu Pan, Klub7, Lily Mae Martin, Low Bros, Lukas Feireiss, Marie-Lou Demeules, Martin Krusche, Matthias Gephart, Matthias Heiderich, Matthias Pilsz, Max Gärtner, Mentalgassi, Meyoko, Michael Kutschbach, Minon, Morten Andersen, Mymo, Nomad, Olaf Hajek, Oliver Rath, Oliver Wiegner, Paula Bogati, Peachbeach, Pisa73, Quintessenz, Robert G. Bartholot, Ryan Grees, Sabine Pieper, Sabine Schwarz, Saddo, Sebastian Haslauer, Sebastian Klug, Sebastian Neeb, Sebastian Schrader, Skizzomat, Stefan Fähler, Stefan Höderath, Stefanie Kabitzke, Steffi Lindner, Stephen Hiam, Stohead, Superblast, Sven Marquardt, Tim Dinter, Uli Knörzer, Various & Gould, VIP, Xooooo, Zeitguised, Zubin Zainai

For more information go to www.berlinwhat.com or www.neonchocolate.de

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q cuisine: with NATHAN MILLER

Christmas was once about a long hot summers day, running through the sprinkler in your new duds, staying up late with cousins in the front room of our grandparents house, fresh mud crabs, and trying to sneak the cooking whisky from the pantry.

These days it's more about preparing, planning, driving, shopping and stressing. As we grow older, the tables have certainly turned. Now it's our responsibility to ensure the younger of the family get a memorable Christmas with a stress and care free holiday.

Unfortunately this year, our children will be away in sunny Queensland, so that leaves just the two of us for Christmas day. With my partner and I both chefs, we have decided to make it extremely low effort with a romantic table for two at MAHA in the city for Christmas lunch.

After filling ourselves at Maha, we are going to have some close friends and family over for turkey and ham sandwiches in the late afternoon. There will be no pressure, just some tunes, some light nibbles, and a couple of glasses of chilled riesling.

This year I am fortunate to be in charge of the baked ham. Trying something slightly different, I am going to set the Webber just before we leave for lunch. The Webber should be ready to rock and roll by the time we get home, slightly under the influence of great food and wine. I will be able to just drop the ham onto the Webber and get a disco nap before people arrive.

I have my eye on Andrew's Choice Ham from Yarraville. These hams are amazingly smoked and cured. With my simple maple glaze, it's sure to be a winner this year.

For my quick and easy marinated Webber baked ham, mix 250ml of Canadian maple syrup, 100ml chicken stock, 3 tbsp. of brown sugar, 2 cloves, and a pinch of nutmeg in a medium bowl.

Remove the skin (if required) and score (cut 5mm lines across) the ham. Place into greased baking tray and rub 1/3 of the marinade into the ham. Cover with baking paper and foil and place into the Webber for 1 hour.

Remove, and take off the paper and foil. Rub in another third of the marinade. Return to the Webber and cook for a further 50 minutes or until golden brown, basting the ham with the marinade every 10 minutes. Remove when cooked and continue to baste until ready to serve.

May this festive season fill you with happiness and love.

For more reviews and views, check out www.ramblingrelish.com

q theatre restaurant: DRACULAS

Bloodbath, the latest vaudevillian spectacle to splash onto Dracula's stage, has seen a complete transformation from kitsch theatre restaurant cliché to sassy, hi-camp vampire burlesque. The show promises to submerge your senses in an evening of "slick jazz and sizzling comedy", that'll have you gasping for air! Bloodbath presents a fast-paced evening of shock-rock, vampire variety. It's an insane bouillabaisse of aerial acrobatics, suicide circus, mind-warping optical illusions and gender bending, tummy clutching comedy.

Showman and host Stewart Reeves delivers sparkling lip-gloss comedy with the suave demure of a Reno City swooner. Experience the zombie puppet lap dancer, the human syringe experiment, breathing marble statues, stilted cyborg robots and a skeleton that strips down to the bone. Featuring a talented cast of multi-skilled vampires, set to hypnotic live music, amazing stage effects and presented in the elegant cabaret showroom know as Dracula's.

Bloodbath is a truly unique, "must see" dining and entertainment experience. Splash out and book now while there's still room in the bath!



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q world: CELEBRATE WORLD PRIDE



WorldPride 2014 Toronto is fast approaching, and Toronto has been busily preparing for your visit! We are thrilled to be hosting this international celebration of community and culture, particularly at a time when the importance of the global LGBTI communities rising up and celebrating together is so clear.

The theme of the event is "Rise Up!" and that's what we're asking you to join people from around the world in doing in Toronto: rise up in celebration, rise up in music, love, equality and diversity.

Toronto is already host to one of the world's largest and most successful Pride festivals, with over 1.2 million participants in 2013, featuring the annual Pride

Parade, Dyke March, and Trans March, and a cultural festival with over 300 performers on 8 free-to-attend outdoor, open-air stages.

In 2014, to mark the first WorldPride celebration in North America, Pride Toronto is going even further—much further, to ensure a Pride you will never forget.

In addition to Pride Toronto's regular Pride activities and events, WorldPride will feature a spectacular opening ceremony in the City's largest public square, with top-tier entertainment and a dazzling light show. The week will include an important LGBTI human rights conference with participants from dozens of countries all over the world, sharing their stories and learning from each other. It will all culminate in closing ceremony featuring major artists and handover to the next WorldPride city: Madrid, Spain, which will host the event in 2017.

As a community, we are making great strides in global LGBTI rights in many places, but continue to face significant struggles. WorldPride 2014 Toronto will also recognize international achievements in support of the LGBTI communities when it bestows the WorldPride Award at a gala awards ceremony.



Toronto's cultural scene, and in fact the whole city, will have a role in welcoming you to visit us and celebrate together. We are working with some of Canada's top cultural institutions, like galleries, museum, theatres and even other festivals, to ensure there are more LGBTI offerings, in more places, than one person could possibly take in. And everyone is eager to impress you when you're here!



We will invite you to more than a parade and festival in the city's core while you're here. We're working with local organizations to ensure our Pride is everywhere across the city, in every community. With 50 per cent of its population born outside of Canada, Toronto is the perfect city to host the world and make you feel welcome in an LGBTI community that will feel like home.

While you're here, we hope you stay a bit and visit some of the inviting regions of our province, Ontario, including Niagara Falls, wine country, and our nation's beautiful capital, Ottawa. Toronto is a complete destination in itself, but is also a great hub for seeing so much more.

Toronto welcomes the world for WorldPride in 2014. We hope to see you here!



TORONTO. FEEL WELCOME EVERYWHERE.

Get ready. WorldPride is coming. We've invited the world to an international celebration of LGBTQ culture and human rights. For ten days, Toronto will completely transform - streets will turn into parades, parks into parties and strangers into friends. Because next year when we celebrate WorldPride, our pride will know no bounds.

Visit WP14TO.com for a chance to win a trip to Toronto for WorldPride.



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q drag: SISTERS OF SEQUIN

Around Easter this year Nova China, Jacqui Meoff and Sasha Fagg bounced onto the Peel Stage and The Sisters of Sequin were formed. Alan Mayberry knew then we were onto a winner, and boy have they blossomed since then. Nova China tells us about their highs and lows and future plans.

The Sisters were dreamt up in late 2011 when I was asked to put together a show for a now defunct nightclub. I'd always wanted to put together a drag show and had been cultivating ideas for many years. At that time I saw a gap in the market for three girl groups, so I decided to rectify that. I've always liked three-girl groups because I think they are visually attractive and can provide good onstage chemistry. Three-girl groups are also great because they can provide a fabulous show without being too costly for venues. At that time there were no three-girl groups, but since The Sisters started, three girl groups have become very in vogue.

Alas, the original show never went on due to a breakdown in communication with the club. So I virtually sat on The Sisters (we had 6 core numbers costumed and ready to go) and kept looking for an opportunity to stage the show elsewhere.

I started doing drag when I was 17 in Adelaide and saw many fabulous drag shows that inspired me. Since then I've been lucky and I haven't looked back. Since the days when I was doing the now infamous *Nova Gossip* website, I'd always known exactly what I wanted to do with a drag group – I wanted to capture old-school glamour and production value of groups of yesteryear like Pokeys, Les Girls and The Classics, and combine that with current songs and youthful performers. The Sisters have a very strong aesthetic in what we wear and no expense is spared on the costumes. Sequins and uniformity are two principles that The Sisters will always be based on. Sasha has an excellent understanding of what I hoped to achieve from a choreographic point of view and the group would not be the same without her. She is aware of our limits and pushes us just the right amount to make sure each and every number is fantastic.

I met Jacqui and Sasha watching them compete in drag comps on Commercial Road. When I was putting The Sisters together, both girls sprang to mind as ticking the 'uniformity' box that I knew I wanted to stick with. Sasha was also a choreographer, which was something that The Sisters would definitely need! When I approached them, I never knew them from a bar of soap. But since working with them, Jacqui and Sasha have been nothing but professional and I have absolutely no regrets about asking them to be The Sisters of Sequin. We have developed a great working rapport and have lots of fun along the way. I cut the music, Sasha choreographs it and Jacqui has emerged as our prop maker extraordinaire! That girl can make just about anything from faux microphones to flags and has even been known to find bricks on the side of the road when we need to weigh sets down!



Originally we were going to be called The Sequin Sisters (which delivered a sense of what our group was about – we all looked similar and sequins), however Barbra Quicksand suggested that I use The Sisters of Sequin because that would provide a good anagram – SOS. An anagram we are still to use! Both Barbra and Jane Claude Van Dome have been our biggest supporters and have given me much invaluable advice.

Australia Day weekend 2012 saw The Sisters debut at The Commercial Hotel and then The Peel for one-off special events. Facebook has been integral in marketing The Sisters, as it is with most drag shows these days. One of the major complexities was that in the beginning, because our gigs were so few and far between, we had to make sure our numbers were 'timeless'. We did this by choosing songs that were ingrained in gay culture. Now that we perform regularly, we are free to do more current and edgy material.

Recently Kama gave us the wonderful opportunity of finally having a home. The venue is fully supportive of us and it is a fantastic feeling after having struggled for so long to get the show off of the ground. We intend to channel all of our creativity into that show and do our part to make Kama Bar a huge success.

We have travelled to Canberra with the show twice now – performing on strange turf and lugging sequins and feathers cross country in planes is definitely our proudest achievement! We are also very proud of the fact that we've performed one-off events in four of Melbourne's gay clubs and 'owned' the stage at each and every one. It is always very difficult to win over audiences when you are not on your home turf.



We've had a few near misses with quick changes. Certain sisters, who shall remain unnamed, have lost shoes onstage. In Canberra, my peacock headpiece got attached to a water sprinkler on the roof and ripped my wig off as I was making my grand entrance onstage! There is actually a video of this but I'm not giving you the URL!

I have always taken inspiration from the iconic drag showgirls that combine aesthetics with personality and are just SO Melbourne – Vivien St James, Paris and Rita, who I was lucky to work with in the Classics at the Greyhound. I love Melbourne drag and think our style of drag is unique. I also take inspiration from the shows in Sydney as I feel that they have a very strong aesthetic and are so polished and manage to combine professional choreography with personality – a very difficult feat.



My favourite number is one of our original repertoire, *Peacock* by Katy Perry, with the blue feathers and I also love *Show Me Love*. Sasha thought I was crazy when I said 'please turn this banging club track into a glamorous showgirl number' but she did! I hope we'll still be doing that number in 10 years.



But drag is not my whole life. I love cake making and decorating as well as sewing – I'll make a great housewife some day! Originally I studied at the Melbourne School of Fashion, working at a uniform manufacturer and in bridal. I've just completed year 4 of 6 studying doing a bachelor of social sciences and psychology on the way to becoming a registered psychologist. I've applied to do my Masters, and fingers crossed I'll be accepted. If not I will be a social worker and defer the Masters. Sasha says the same. 'My life isn't a complete drag! I have a full-time day job as a store manager that keeps me fully occupied. I like to keep a balance between drag and my normal life. Sometimes drag can consume you and can get claustrophobic and it's hard to break out again.' Jacqui agrees and tries not to mix business with pleasure. All 3 agreeing what a pleasure it is being a 'Sister'.

Nova says she hopes that in five years we will have developed the show to a new level – adding male dancers (in which case I fully intend to rename the group *The Siblings of Sequin*) and pushing the boundaries as far as costuming and concepts go. I'd love to create something that is remembered as being iconic, like the The Classics were for a decade, and from which I learned so much and drew so much inspiration.

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q entertainment: CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL

RENT

Next Step Productions presents RENT - The show that changed Broadway Forever. Featuring an outstanding cast including Cameron MacDonald (Jersey Boys), Leigh Barker (Grease 2) & Zuleika Khan (Flower Children).

RENT is based on Puccini's opera, La Boheme and tells the story of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side under the shadow of AIDS. Witness the unforgettable story of a group of young artists learning to survive, fall in love, finding their voices, and live for today!

9-18 January



OPRAHIFICATION

In 2011, Oprah Winfrey closed the book on 25 years of world dominating television. Now she's back to present to you the ultimate interview!

This side-splitting, multi-award winning cabaret is brought to you (due to popular demand) by Rachel Dunham (Rock of Ages) whose extraordinary portrayal of the fading talk-show queen, coupled with an unforgettable original score by Shanon Whitelock, guarantees to have you screaming for more.

15-19 January

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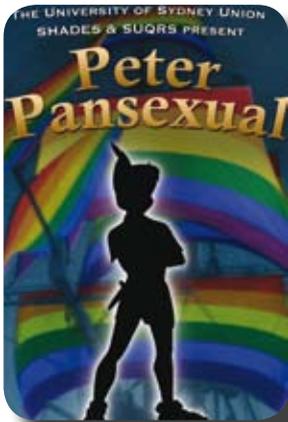
The Gay Marriage Plays
Deliciously Funny, Poignant,
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Starring a stellar cast including Spencer McLaren (The Secret Life Of Us), Pia Miranda (Looking for Alibrandi) and Michael Veitch (Fast Forward).



Two little words, and an A-list lineup of Broadway's finest writers, including Neil LaBute, Moises Kaufman and MoGaffney. Witty, warm and occasionally wacky, these plays are vows to the blessings of equality, the universal challenges of relationships and the often hilarious power of love.

22 January - 9 February



PETER PANSEXUAL

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Ahoy! Ye fabulous dogs! Come once, come twice and take a...long...hard look at the classic tale of Peter PanSEXUAL. Meet pirates with prophylactic proclivities! Siblings that abscond from heteronormative responsibilities! By the end, we will have you believing in fairies, life after love, and Never Never Having To Define Your Sexuality Again Land again!

In true revue style, Peter Pansexual has sketches, parody songs, drag, nude hijinks, original barbershop and dances that'll make you laugh, cry with laughter, and make you feel just a little bit naughty.

Thursday 23 January

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q festival: MELBOURNE'S FOOD & WINE

Melbourne Food and Wine Festival presented by Bank of Melbourne will reel in more than 200 events for a global celebration of the bounty of water, 28 February – 16 March 2014. Over 17 days food and wine lovers are invited to celebrate the world's ocean and river fare guided by the best seafood chefs, join exclusive behind-the-scenes tours both on and off the water, get amongst it at lively street parties, secure a spot at never-to-be-repeated dinners, and much more.

THE FESTIVAL HUB, 28 February – 16 March

The Immersery: Festival Kitchen, Bar and Raingarden, the centrepiece of the 2014 program, is a threelevel hub space on the banks of the Yarra River featuring a floating barge bar, open-kitchen eatery and skyline community space in the City of Melbourne's Queensbridge Square, open for 17 days of the Festival. Following on from the Urban Coffee Farm & Brew Bar in 2013, this ambitious project designed for the second year by HASSELL, is inspired by water's cyclical journey with the three levels of the installation each representing one of the three states of water – liquid, solid and gas.

The menu at the open-kitchen eatery on the concourse level will be designed by a local chef collective - Florent Gerardin (Silo by Joost), Jesse Gerner (Anada & Bomba), Joel Alderson and Adam Liston (Borrowed Space), Hamish Nugent and Rachel Reed (Tani Eat & Drink), and Daniel Wilson (Huxtable & Huxtaburger) - and will take the much-loved tradition of Chinese yum cha dining and apply truly global flavours from east to west while embracing a range of water-based cooking techniques. At the floating barge bar sample wine plus one-off cocktails and drinks celebrating the three states of water designed by some of the country's boundary-pushing bartenders.

Melbourne Water and HASSELL will create raingardens to 'green' the urban space throughout and allow visitors to learn about how water can be captured, filtered and reused before it re-enters the water cycle. A cloud-like canopy 'hovering' over the disused rail bridge running parallel to Sandridge Bridge will create a spectacular new elevated view of the city, if only for a short time.

OPENING WEEKEND, 28 February – 2 March

Festival favourite Bank of Melbourne World's Longest Lunch (28 February) gathers 1,500 lunching revellers at one 500 metre-long table to kick off the first day of the Festival along the banks of the Yarra in Alexandra Park. The three-course menu will be designed by Jacques Reymond, Adam D'Sylva, and Stefano de Pieri and brought to life by Peter Rowland Catering. Celebrating the world's waterways as the lifeblood of food and wine, each chef will draw on personal connections to the Amazon, Mekong, and Murray-Darling rivers respectively to create a menu matched to fine wines from Seppelt. Now at the core of the new dedicated wine weekend, 1 – 2 March, Acqua Panna Global Wine Experience returns with benchmark wine tasting guided by a panel of Australia's most influential winemakers, writers and sommeliers including Tim Atkin MW(UK), Aline Baly (Chateau Coutet, France) Rick Kinzbrunner (Giaconda, Beechworth) and Guill de Pury (Yeringberg, Yarra Valley). Rounding off the weekend, join four of Australia's best sommeliers as they go head to head at Battle of the Sommeliers (2 March) with Tim Atkin MW and Aline Baly's esteemed palates on hand to judge their wine at Botanical (South Yarra).

LANGHAM MELBOURNE MASTERCLASS, 8 – 9 March

At the hotly anticipated Langham Melbourne MasterClass, 8 – 9 March, learn from and taste the creations of the new wave of young gun chefs alongside global greats of the kitchen as they share their connection with the world's most precious resource. Chilean food forager Rodolfo Guzmán (Boragó, Santiago), seafood crusader and Spain's Best Chef Ángel León (Aponiente, Puerto de Santa Maria, Spain), three Michelin-starred Christopher Kostow (The Restaurant at Meadowood, St Helena, USA), and artisan produce champion Matthew Jennings (Farmhouse Inc. Providence, USA) are among the line-up. Also part of Langham Melbourne MasterClass, Perfect Match uncovers classic and quirky food and wine pairings guided by Victorian chefs, winemakers, sommeliers and producers. Presenter duos include Geoff Lindsay (Dandelion, Elwood) and Mike Aylward (Ocean Eight Winery, Mornington Peninsula) creating matches for fresh Vietnamese flavours, and Rosa Mitchell (Rosa's Kitchen, Melbourne) and Owen Latta (Eastern Peake Vineyard, Ballarat) sharing pairings inspired by 'God's Kitchen', the island of Sicily.



OTHER HIGHLIGHT MELBOURNE EVENTS

Melbourne's hottest restaurants will pull out all the stops to bring you dining experiences exclusive to the Festival. Brothers Matt and Andrew McConnell join forces for Blood is Thicker than Water, a street party between Casa Ciuccio and Cutler & Co with water and blood-inspired dishes; Darren Purchase (Burch & Purchase Sweet Studio) takes over the historic Johnston Collection for decadent desserts at Swan Lake's Sweet Seduction; chef Frank Camorra and food writer Richard Cornish will talk foodies through a gastronomic tour of southern Spain, from the secrets of Spanish seafood to tales of nuns making moreish doughnuts (A Gastro-Tour of Spain, MoVida Aquí), and the world-famous Nobu Matsushita will create a menu influenced by his 25 restaurants across the world for The Master and The Prodigy (Nobu, Crown Melbourne).

Learn about and taste our state's outstanding seafood at events on and off the water. Hook, Lunch & Sinker returns with a fishing trip and lunch at Stokehouse Upstairs lead by The Age Good Food Guide Young Chef of the Year Ollie Gould, or at Melbourne's Fish Mongrels at Sanford Australia, Melbourne's wholesale fish hub, take a 3am tour and a first-hand look at wild-caught seafood.

New for 2014, the Flemington Grazing Trail & Cellar Door combines the best of Victoria's wineries, craft breweries and artisan producers with Group 1 racing on Flemington's Super Saturday race meeting (8 March), offering trackside wine tasting and gourmet produce picnics just outside the city. And for those seeking to explore and debate the social and environmental issues connected with water, the Festival is collaborating with The Wheeler Centre for an evening of stories and reflections from a broad spectrum of extraordinary speakers for On Water: Eight Speakers. Eight Stories (11 March) at The Athenaeum Theatre.

REGIONAL WEEKEND, 14 – 16 March

Foodies are invited to tour through Victoria over Regional Weekend (14 – 16 March) with all Festival events taking place out in the regions. The weekend kicks off with 22 Regional World's Longest Lunches at spectacular locations across the state including Queenscliff Harbour on the Bellarine Peninsula, among the vines at Elgee Park vineyard in the Mornington Peninsula, and overlooking the ocean in Inverloch, Gippsland.

Water MasterClass - the Festival's famed outdoor MasterClass experience - moves to regional Victoria for 2014 with a progressive experience for 50 guests culminating in a spectacular feast at Campbell Point House on the Bellarine Peninsula (15 March). Aaron Turner (ex-Loam, Drysdale) returns to Australian shores to join Peter Gilmore (Quay, Sydney) and the UK's Michelin-starred Nathan Outlaw (Nathan Outlaw Restaurant, Cornwall) for fly fishing and fish smoking workshops, plus hands-on mussel and oyster demonstrations with seafood farmer Lance Wiffen (Sea Bounty, Portarlington).

Also over Regional Weekend, join the ultimate '60s themed cocktail party at The Dispensary Enoteca (Bendigo), James Bond vs. Don Draper, as they pit the signature drinks of the two smooth operators against each other. Feast at regional events embracing Victoria's waterways, from floating down the King River 'river sledding' on lilos followed by lunch at Dal Zotto Winery (High Country) for Lilos & Prosecco; to dinner with Ovens River produce in the Alpine Valley at Tani Eat & Drink's Down by the River.

This is just a small taste of Melbourne Food and Wine Festival 2014.

**The full program can be viewed at
melbournefoodandwine.com.au.**

All Festival events are on sale now.



q win: **TIS THE SEASON**

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9 thoughts: with KEREN WIGLEY

Bingle Jells! What is the best thing about Christmas for you? Is it the joyous, uplifting spirit of giving and sharing, happy smiling faces, being with loved ones, sharing gifts, or the sumptuous food and opportunity to party? What is the worst thing about Christmas for you?

For me, it is crossing the line into that beautiful realm of self-indulgence and then finding it difficult to get back on track. Not to worry, it will soon be a new year, bringing with it the opportunity to regroup and make New Year's resolutions.

On the road to the New Year, remember to be kind to yourself. If you do indulge, be sure to enjoy it. Why? Because the body does not really know the difference between a toxic substance and a toxic emotion. It can be affected by both. So if you are indulging in something you consider to be less than healthy, don't double the trouble by beating yourself up about it. Relish the pleasure.

Remember also that all is not as it seems! If you are coming down from the sugar roller-coaster of Christmas, any cravings you experience may not necessarily be for sugar. Your body may be looking for water, oxygen, nutrition, or the comfort of familiar territory. So if you don't want to surrender to delicious temptation, drink a glass of water, take three deep breaths, eat a small amount of protein, or give yourself a big hug.

Have a safe, loving and joyous Christmas. See you in 2014.



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q scene: **OUT & ABOUT**



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A sunset background with a tree silhouette and a bright sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow.

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Baan Souy Resort
Pattaya, Thailand



Baan Souy Resort
Pattaya, Thailand

A woman in a blue sequined dress posing in front of a 'Boys' sign. She is wearing a blue sequined dress with a matching cape and a large necklace. The sign behind her has the word 'Boys' in a stylized font.

Baan Souy Resort
Pattaya, Thailand



Baan Souy Resort
Pattaya, Thailand



Baan Souy Resort
Pattaya, Thailand



Baan Souy Resort
Pattaya, Thailand

q scene: **OUT & ABOUT**



Flamingos



Flamingos



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q scene: OUT & ABOUT



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Lotus Night at DT's Pub



Lotus Night at DT's Pub



Lotus Night at DT's Pub



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KAMA



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Lotus Night at DT's Pub

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, books for expats, as well as designing mobile apps and websites to promote the Canary Islands.

Kissing in the Canaries

I am often asked why I love the Canary Islands, and Gran Canaria, in particular, so much and what prompted me to make this small Atlantic island our home.



Well, I could move into lyrical mode about the wonderful climate, beautiful beaches, spectacular mountain scenery, the unhurried pace of life and the friendly unassuming nature of the locals... All this is true, but the main reason for moving here is none of these, although they are all part of the cocktail that led us to start our packing and head for the islands some years ago.

For me, it was and still is, the 'live and let live' attitude of the locals, and most of the visitors to this island, that made this a special place, and worthy to call 'home'. It has always been the case that most things are acceptable here, just as long as it doesn't hurt or interfere with anyone else.

I wonder just how many of our visitors attend the 'Welcome Meetings' that used to be the delight of many tour companies some years ago? A cheap glass of sangria was supposed to earn oodles of euros in commission for the tour reps, but sadly I never found their sales patter that convincing. I recall one tour representative begging us not to take the local bus to Puerto Mogan, because apparently the locals travel on the bus with baskets of live chickens on market days. A 20 euro coach excursion would apparently be much less pungent... All stuff and nonsense, of course, as we all know that the

locals much prefer to travel with a goat.

I contrast these islands' attitudes to Austria, for instance, where the Viennese authorities have recently banned kissing on the train, alongside eating smelly food and talking too loudly. Well, I am not sure what the good people of Austria would think of travelling on a Canarian bus, but talking, and indeed kissing, quietly is certainly not on the agenda over here. I remain convinced that Spanish and Canarian children are born with a volume control that is permanently glued in the 'Exceedingly Loud' position. Most find it impossible to speak quietly, and why should they? After all, they have many interesting things to say. In any case, the mobile phone networks are not too good over here, and so it is essential to shout loudly at all times when making a telephone call.

If you should happen to venture to Austria for a holiday, do please be aware that you are now subject to an immediate fine of 50 euros should you happen to show your affection by kissing on the train. Husband, wife, boyfriend or girlfriend, concubine or simply a 'bit on the side'; it simply does not matter whether it is a quick peck on the cheek or a tongue job; you will still be relieved of a crisp 50 euro note by a very cross man in uniform.



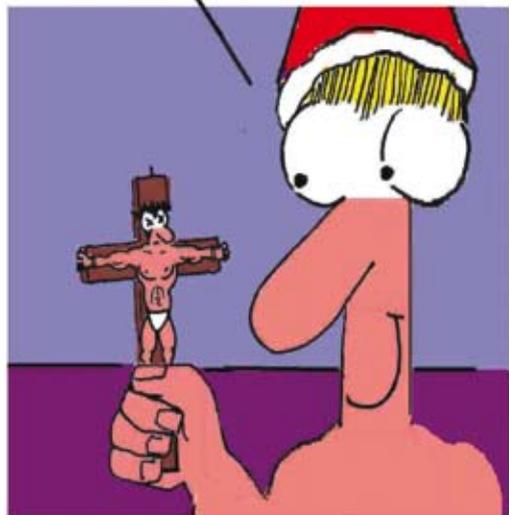
How about a nice bag of chips on the way home, a slice of pizza or, the Canarian's favourite snack, a sticky donut? Sorry, but if in Austria it won't just be an immediate slap on the wrists and a fine of 50 euros, but you will be thrown off the train by a specially appointed 'jobsworth', locally known as sheriffs, and they have a badge to prove it.

Apparently, these draconian rules have been introduced as a result of complaints from the good citizens of Austria, as well from the results of a public survey. Mind you, they might have a point since a couple were recently discovered to be having sex on board a train; well, I guess it is more spacious than having sex in a Mini. In another highly disturbing case, one wealthy couple took their pet horse, Helga, on the train for a ride. I find this a very disturbing story, since it is common knowledge that most horses will only travel first class nowadays. Sadly, both cases were judged as being far too serious for the appointed 'jobsworth' to deal with, but became police matters and the culprits were thrown into prison. However, I am not too sure what happened to the horse, but maybe she is still partying in Vienna.

Well, I know it takes all sorts to make a world, but I for one will be cancelling my holiday in Austria next year. Personally, I am really looking forward to my next journey on a Canarian bus.

If you enjoyed this article, take a look at Barrie's websites: www.barriemahoney.com and www.thecanaryislander.com or read his latest book, 'Escape to the Sun' (ISBN: 9780957544444). Available as paperback, Kindle and iBooks. iPhone/iPad and Android Apps: ExpatInfo, CanaryIsle and CanaryGay now available.

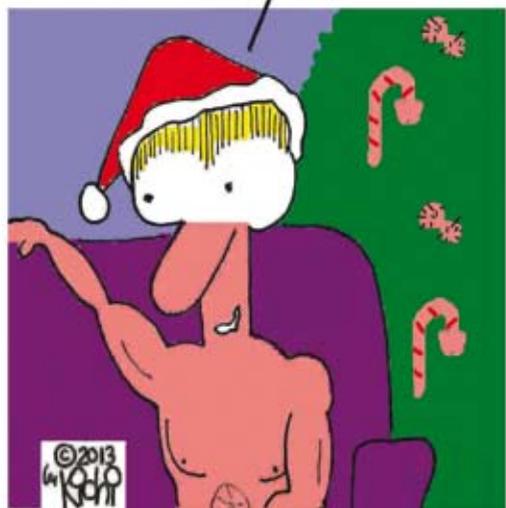
Thanks, Jack, but even a BUFF Jesus on a cross won't turn me Christian!
Now ... open the gift I got you



A "Rapture Survival Kit"? Thank you for respecting my faith, Gaylord, but ALL I see is a big case of "KY" lube



Your Church says Gays aren't good enough to ascend to Heaven on the FIRST day of the Apocalypse ...



... so you'll need lots of lube to try to squeeze yourself into the hole to Heaven as it begins to close





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