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JUNE 2015

Q MAGAZINE

featuring
MARRIAGE EQUALITY
Vincent et Bruno BOILEAU-AUTIN



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Q MAGAZINE





q comment:

LGBT TOURISM ADDS VOICE TO MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Global momentum is growing for same-sex marriage equality and there will be clear benefits to tourism and industry as a result of this change in Australia, according to the country's lead LGBT tourism body.

Gay and Lesbian Tourism Australia (GALTA) President Rod Stringer said that the international shift to embracing marriage equality was creating new tourism opportunities for progressive nations and Australia could benefit from an estimated weddings revenue of over \$1.2 billion should legislation be passed.



"GALTA is encouraged by the recent momentum in Australia and is supportive of this leading to new legislation welcoming marriage equality, ideally by the end of this year.

As the lead membership body for LGBT tourism in Australia, we believe our members will directly benefit from an invigorated inbound trend to choose Australia for destination weddings. There is also considerable pent-up demand from the domestic market, with couples keen to celebrate the long-awaited opportunity to legally wed."

At present, 19 European nations, 37 US states and Canada's District of Columbia recognize same-sex marriage and these destinations regularly feature in preferred destination lists for LGBT travellers.

"GALTA supports the view that reform will lead to economic stimulus in the form of destination wedding revenue, in addition to the enhanced view of Australia as a welcoming holiday option for LGBT travellers," said Mr Stringer.

"To demonstrate this support on behalf of our members, GALTA is happy to pledge a donation to Australian Marriage Equality and we look forward to celebrating the realization of this organisation's efforts, in partnership with many other support agencies, in the very near future."

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Brett Hayhoe t/a Q Magazine
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q feature: VINCENT et BRUNO

To recognise marriage equality and its impending success legislatively in Australia, below is a story written by Antoine GUIRAL, in the newspaper "Libération", published in 2013, to highlight the wonderful, loving and caring marriage between the first two men to be wed in France. I am honoured to call both men my friends and will, in fact, be their guest at Montpellier Pride in July this year. The translation is not perfect, but you will get the idea. A truly beautiful love story of two incredibly lovely people.

And the original link: http://www.liberation.fr/societe/2013/05/20/vincent-utin-et-bruno-boileau-les-maries-de-l-an-i_904279

Vincent et Bruno BOILEAU-AUTIN, married of the year 1

Their story will quickly get into the history books. Imagine the photo caption: "Vincent and Bruno, the first same-sex couple officially married in France." This will be in Montpellier. The self-proclaimed "gay friendliest city in France" is preparing to celebrate a kind of marriage of the century. "Imperative Accreditation" at the town hall for the ceremony and cameras will wall as witnesses. Without being fooled by anything, Radio, TV, and Newspapers have run the issues. Their portrait is displayed even in the News Journal May. The only limitation put on by Vincent Autin is *no reality or docu trash*. "I do not see myself go turkey on NRJ12."



Everything is ready for this marriage, which no longer expected that the promulgation of the law. The couple was received by H el ene Mandroux Mayor (PS) Montpellier has already knitted his speech. The "wife" mention has been replaced by "spouse" in official papers. No marriage contract but community property: "We hope that this is forever, but if it were to stop, it will be like everyone else: equal deal with troublemakers," laughs Vincent. For the ceremony, the Mayor chose the gigantic "meeting hall" rather than a wedding hall, which was considered too small. Great as two football pitches, the square of the Town Hall will be open to the public. Sponsors have sensed the good shot, that offer their interested gifts. But others like this Alsatian stylist, this editor of Perpignan and the Spanish hotel ready to offer a week in the eye, they just want to please them. For the rest, "costumes, alliances, shoes ... it's done," says Vincent Autin. "Lack of the car, the DJ and the nanny for the guests children," says Bruno Boileau. At night, it will be private. And classic: 140 guests, seated dinner and then "big party" in an undisclosed location.

In late September 2012, the Government spokesman and Minister of Women Law, Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, arrives in Montpellier. Vincent Autin, who chairs the Lesbian and Gay Pride, has already crossed during the Presidential election. That day, in Montpellier, the Minister announced that the first gay marriage will be held here. Open mic, Vincent Bruno called to request the marriage: "It lasted fifty-seven seconds on the phone, I had put on speaker." Bruno : "I was surprised ... I said yes. Then I started thinking leaving my

work colleagues to go cut myself in a kind of closet ... It's weird when you know what is the closet for gays".

Like all lovers, Vincent and Bruno Boileau Autin want to believe that their story is not trivial. They were found in 2006 on a forum devoted to the singer Christophe Willem. Vincent lived in Montpellier, Bruno, he resided in the Essonne. Among the ten chatters forum, three decided to meet. Vincent takes the train to Paris. After dinner at the restaurant, he stays with Bruno. Cling-cling ... Nothing on the first night, but they decided to meet again. "It is with Vincent, ten years my senior and I discovered my homosexuality assumed," says Bruno. Vincent: "I was the first man." Bruno who had previously "of girlfriends' called his parents settled in the Sarthe. The father is a retired police officer. The mother's carer in a nursing home. He also has two sisters who are her wedding witnesses. To his mother, he announces to be "in love with a man." And asks him to tell his father: "I wanted right away they encounter Vincent and see a person not imagine many things on homosexuality affair clichés so often." Vincent: "His Express coming out stunned me and reassured about our relationship. "One month after the lightning strike, these are in the Sarthe. On arrival, Bruno's father did not shake hands with Vincent but kisses. Both often use the word "Care Bears" about their romance. "All that mattered to my parents, was to see that I was happy," says Bruno, who "do" has never speaks again with them. "They are not projected in him but remained with parents. I have a real admiration for them," Vincent cut. The Sarthe parents missed the demonstrations of marriage for all but parade to the next Gay Pride.



The hand on the knee of his companion, Bruno Boileau listen now Autin Vincent , son of divorced whose father died when he was 17 . His homosexuality , he has never spoken to him , only with his mother about his 16 years in the apartment they then occupy in Deuil -la-Barre (Val -d'Oise). He says, "Mom, I have something to tell you ... mutes the TV ... I'm gay. " The reaction is not immediate. And then, "she laughed. It made me very uncomfortable. She was laughing at me? She was going to put me out? " Nothing like that. His mother reassures him, and days later, puts "a sweater rainbow sky Kenzo" to take his son to the Gay Pride. Now retired, she moved to Montpellier, pilot the "pole parents" of the LGBT and paraded through the winter with his sign "Mother of gay son and proud of it."

Back in bisounours. Bruno Boileau, 30, state official, "office worker ", he said, was mutated in Montpellier after a year and a half of round trips by train. He loves riding, " The Voices of Women" Queen. Last movie seen: Iron Man 3. Vincent, he said like "charisma, it exudes quiet strength, physical...". "Stop," blushed with happiness his lover. "But if, what, you're brilliant ... very smart. A bit grumpy and also hyperactive. "

Vincent Autin, 40, needs four hours of sleep a night. He set up a computer service box and moved to Montpellier twenty years ago. Then resold. Created a com agency, put on stand-by since he works for the tourist office in town. It was pacsé, lived "eleven years with someone." It sets you squinting, reads "pretty lips" because it means that 37% as a result of a tumor. He loves activism, discovered late in life, fights against all forms of discrimination, "Unlike those crimes," he said. He made the LGP Montpellier-a showcase of the movement. Both voted Holland in 2012, want to "talk about love by putting [their] faces on a bill that must incarnate after so much hate" and wish to adopt a child. They are also connections on "sexual fidelity", "superheureux together for seven years" and find meaning in section 212 of the Civil Code stipulates: "The spouses owe each other respect, fidelity, assistance" - in short, they are ready to sign.

5 significant dates:

1973 Birth of Vincent Autin. 1983 Birth of Bruno Boileau. 2006 Meeting on an internet forum. April 2013 Adoption of the law on marriage for all. May 29, 2013 Wedding in Montpellier (France).

q youth: with **TASMAN ANDERSON**

Tassie's Bucket List: #198 "Accept Myself"

It surprises me that after all this growth and advancement in self-love and positive body image, we still manage to have moments where we are targeted for perceived flaws. However, what is perhaps the most shocking thing is that most of these attacks come from our own gender.

I know that this argument has been made so many times now that I can only imagine your eyes rolling while you read this. We've all seen the articles about celebrities who have fought against fat shaming and those who argue that plastic surgery is horrid when done for the wrong reasons. However, I never really thought much into this until I found myself in a similar situation.

A few weeks ago, I went to a newly opened skin clinic to see about microdermabrasion. After going through six months of continual stress and sleepless nights leading up to my university graduation, my skin really suffered. While I tried every beauty product imaginable to correct it, nothing worked and so I went to this place as a last ditch effort.

As I walked into the clinic, I could already tell that I wasn't going to like it. The lady at the front desk had a permanent 'bitch face' in place and was quite condescending when explaining the treatment to me. While she was pushy with recommending other treatments, I wasn't too upset. I was a retail assistant as well so I knew that it was only part of her job. However, what did upset me was how she said it. She wanted me to consider lip fillers because my lips were "looking a little flat". Although some of you may see this as me simply overreacting to a comment, I can't stress enough how wrong she was.

While she may have been doing her job in recommending other treatments, she chose to go about it in a way that not only made me feel small but also left me thinking that there was something wrong with my lips. Instead of suggesting options and seeing whether I was interested in fillers, she chose to insult and belittle me in order to make a sale. You would think women wouldn't play on others insecurities considering they of all people would know how it feels but surprisingly, that isn't the case.

In fact, it had me questioning why women felt the urge to tear others down in the first place. After centuries of being seen as the lesser sex, or merely objects to trade, use and toss aside, you would think that we would band together and protect a woman's right to be themselves and not conform to just one form of beauty. However, that's not the case and interestingly enough, it is often the men in our lives who tell us that we don't need these surgeries or treatments.

Now before you have a go at me, I'm not saying that there is anything wrong with having plastic surgery, as long as it's what you want and not want you think others want from you. In the end, I did book my microdermabrasion at the clinic. I found that my actual technician was absolutely wonderful and only recommended treatments that were related to the issue with my skin. While I may not have had a pleasant experience with the first lady I met there, it did give me an opportunity to really look at how I viewed myself and how women viewed each other.

Although the world may not be perfect and we may continue to shame people for ridiculous things, I found that I'm just a little bit stronger for it and that I accept just that little bit more.

QUICK NOTE: an email address has been set up for you guys to comment on the content covered in Q: Youth, ask me questions or just to let me know what you're thinking. If you want to get in touch, shoot an email to qmagyouth@gmail.com



q money: with EVAN DAVIS

When did you last have to negotiate? I mean really push hard, set some boundaries and basically push and shove to get yourself a great result?

Negotiation can be a little stressful though there has never been a better time to negotiate a great deal on your money! The finance industry in Australia has always been a highly competitive place, though now more than ever by simply doing some research and asking a couple of smart questions you can stand to come out in front.

There are great transaction accounts available. As hum drum as it is we all need to visit the ATM from time to time. One of my favourite accounts available is the ING 'Orange every day' account. As long as you pay \$1,000 a month into the account ING allow you to use any Australian ATM fee free! This is a great deal and SOOOO convenient. Even with part time or casual work crediting a \$1,000 per month should be easy. The account also comes with a VISA debit function. This is handy for online purchases though many of us still need a traditional credit card.

There are great deals out there for cards with no annual fees. Also many banks are offer tempting balance transfer terms where you can potentially pay 0% interest for a period of time to get your card debt back under control. It is best to budget and clear your card every cycle in full so you pay no interest on the account, though if you have had an expensive patch a balance transfer card can really help. Even calling your bank and simply asking them to lower your card rate can sometimes work as well. Particularly if they think you are likely to refinance your card debt elsewhere. It pays to ask the question as you may get a way better deal.

Money is cheap for big things too. Especially big things with motors. Talking to a motor finance expert or negotiating hard, a dealership can get you a great rate. For applicants with good credit histories and some assets behind them, getting car finance at home loan rates is actually achievable. Negotiating at the end of financial year can get you a big saving too.

Home loan rates have NEVER been this low and for those who push a little harder, it is possible to get them lower still. If you are thinking about buying for the first or the umpteenth time or simply want to see if you can get a better deal talk to a good broker. i.e. ME! I can easily shop your loan and even a small tweak on rate or fees could save you thousands over your home loan term.

Never a fun topic though - reviewing your LIFE Insurance with a broker every few years will make sure your cover is adequate and also the most affordable cover you can have for your current situation.

It pays to ask both in life and in money. At the moment you may well receive, but don't take the first offer!





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q cuisine: with ALESSANDRO RUSSO

There are many versions of pasta with arugula, and especially the summer versions include the use of chopped tomatoes. In the recipe that we propose today, unlike that of spaghetti with rocket it suggested some time ago, the secret is but nell'ingrediente used in cooking.

In fact, the rocket goes with boiled pasta, and with it drained, then mix it all with oil flavored with garlic and anchovies dissolved. This preparation is widely used in recipes from Puglia, even in those with turnip greens. The pasta that suggest with this dressing are the orecchiette durum wheat or shells.

Ingredients for pasta with rocket salad (serves 4):

400 g short pasta (shells or orecchiette)
300 g of rocket
8 tablespoons olive oil
2 cloves of garlic
3 anchovies
Grated pecorino q.s.
salt

Preparation:

In salted water you started to boil the rocket. Halfway through cooking, pour the pasta in the same water. While the pasta is cooking, let brown the garlic in a pan with the oil quantity indicated, then melt the anchovies in the same. Drain the pasta and season with this preparation, sprinkle with a handful of grated pecorino.



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TRANSPHOBIA & BIPHOBIA. ALWAYS.

Arts Centre: SKIN TRADE

An unfinished novel by 20th century literary giant Dylan Thomas has been adapted for the stage and is coming to Arts Centre Melbourne courtesy of award-winning Welsh theatre company Theatr lolo. *Adventures in the Skin Trade* is a gloriously surreal coming-of-age story about Samuel Bennett, who leaves his home in Wales to pursue a life in London.



Published posthumously in 1955, Dylan's text has semi-autobiographical themes and comprises three short stories. Thomas had intended to develop three of his short stories into a coming-of-age novel that would be a sequel to his autobiographical novel, *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Dog*. The story has been "finished" and adapted for the stage by writer Lucy Gough, who has written extensively for TV, radio, film and the stage. She has been shortlisted for the BBC Wales Writer of the Year awards and the John Whiting Award and was a recipient of an Arts Council of Wales Creative Wales Award.

This is only the second time the Thomas estate and the granddaughter of the acclaimed poet has granted the rights to adapt one of his stories for the stage. The only other professional UK stage adaptation to date was by Andrew Sinclair, which was performed at Hampstead Theatre, London in 1966. Theatr lolo presented *Adventures in the Skin Trade* as part of the centenary celebrations of Thomas' birth in 2014.

The production follows Samuel Bennett as he leaves his home in south Wales to pursue a career in London. Setting out with an attitude of reckless, nihilistic purpose, he encounters a nightmarish city. A room full of furniture, an assortment of bizarre characters and an embarrassing first sexual experience in a cold bath. Audiences are invited to follow Samuel as he meanders through this dreamlike world, all with a beer bottle stuck on his little finger.

"Adapting it for the stage has been a wonderfully wild, funny and surreal journey into the unknown. The novel is at the same time both fiercely crazy and yet also sensitively observant of a teenage boy's interior world and rite of passage," said writer Lucy Gough. Director Kevin Lewis said the work should inspire younger audiences to explore Thomas' work.

"What I do hope is that our younger audiences, who might not know much about Dylan Thomas or be that interested in him, will see our production and then want to find out more about his work, the themes of which are pretty timeless and universal."

Theatr lolo is an award-winning theatre company based in Cardiff which has been creating powerful and compelling work for more than 25 years. As one of the UK's most respected theatre companies, Theatr lolo has toured extensively throughout Wales and the UK, and internationally across Europe, Russia and South Korea. They have performed in theatres, forests and even in a cowshed in Austria!

**Arts Centre Melbourne presents Theatr lolo's
Adventures in the Skin Trade**

7pm, 5 – 8 August Fairfax Studio, \$25

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q dental: with DR ADAM MATTSSON

Missing a tooth? What are the options?
People may lose a tooth for a variety of reasons – from playing sports, to an unwanted punch, a car accident, or from gum disease or smoking.

When a tooth is lost, the teeth next to it tend to drift into the gap (the reverse effect of braces). The other reason to fix that gap is that a missing tooth or teeth makes it harder to chew food, and this can cause problems with your nutrition and digestion as well. So those missing teeth at the back are much more important than you may have first thought.

That's why the dentist will often suggest you have a root canal to save a tooth (as its cheaper in the long run than dealing with a missing tooth – AND its always more comfortable to have your own tooth than a false one).

Gone are the days when a denture was the only way to fill the gap if you lost a tooth. A denture or plate is by far the cheapest of the available options – but now there are more advanced options available.

Denture

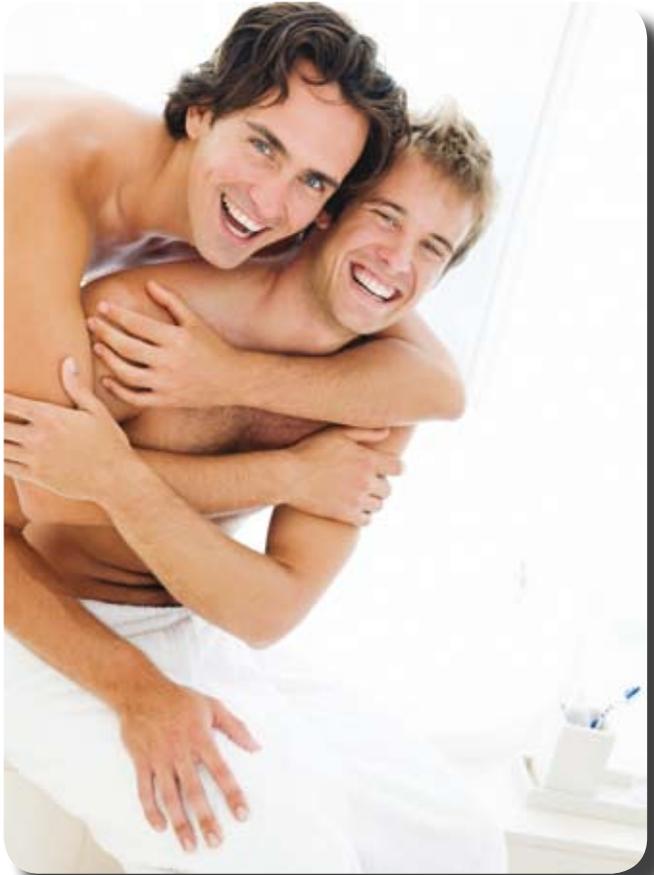
Acrylic teeth are attached to a resin or metal frame. The base is supported on the other existing teeth. While being the cheapest option, dentures are sometimes uncomfortable to wear, and may make eating certain foods impossible. They also require regular maintenance and cleaning. The time line can vary from 2 to 6 weeks to prepare a denture. Price range \$600 - \$1500 for most patients.

Ceramic Bridge

A ceramic bridge is a fake ceramic tooth, supported on the neighbouring teeth. This does rely on the adjacent teeth, and the gums, being healthy. Can usually be prepared and fitted in under 2 weeks. Price depends on the number of missing teeth but will often be \$3000 - \$4000 for a 3 unit bridge (1 missing tooth) for most patients.

Dental Implant

Over the past 30 or so years, the technological advances mean that a Dental Implant can be placed as a routine procedure with a general dentist who has the relevant training and qualifications. Dental implants can be used to replace 1 or more teeth, or to stabilise a denture. The suitability for dental implants is based around nerve location, sinus location, and the quality / strength of bone. Dental implants often may require a period of stabilisation before they are ready to hold the final ceramic crown (and hence can be a longer time line than a bridge). Dental implants will cost in



the range \$3200 - \$4000 per tooth, however some patients costs will be higher depending on their particular circumstances.

Whichever option you choose, ask your dental professionals about how your health insurance can work best for you (as there are some easy fixes to help get you the most from your insurance, that many dentists WON'T help you with). Also ask about payment plans, as a number of dental practices now offer no interest, no credit check payment plans (with 20% deposit, and monthly payments for up to 2 years).

So if you have a missing tooth, and you want to find out your options, then remember that there are many more options than there once was. But you should always remember that whatever option you choose, the best way to protect that investment is to have regular check up and clean appointments every 6 months with your dentist and dental hygienist.

Dr Adam Mattsson is a practicing dentist at Hampstead Dental, Suite 2 / 44 Hampstead Rd, Maidstone 3012. You can find out more about the services offered at www.HampsteadDental.com.au



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q drag: CHRISTINA ANDREWS

Christina Andrews has a great track record when it comes to drag. Nothing is easy, especially trekking round the world with *Drags Aloud* and recently being the toast of the Comedy Festival. Alan Mayberry found out a how it all began.

I'm an Army brat so I've grown up all over Australia, changing schools many times – due to relocation not misbehavior! Born in Melbourne I have lived back here since high school. I was smacked regularly in primary school usually for making others laugh (or being disruptive as he called it)! That trend continued through high school, minus the corporal punishment. While I did well academically, I did tend to talk a lot and play the class clown, and consequently spent many a period sitting in the hallway. Bullying at school was never a problem. I didn't have too bad a time apart from the usual Neanderthal ignorance and name calling. Mainly because I could sing, act and dance, by my west-suburban alpha-male classmate's standards, I was automatically assumed to be gay long before I had any idea that I was. That said, I was a quick-witted smart ass and I think I used humor and being the clown as my defence and coping mechanisms. I played the lead in the school musicals, but that was possibly because I was the only male participant, so they really had no other choice.

In regards to family I'm very lucky. I'm the oldest of 3 boys and have countless uncles, aunts and cousins owing to my European heritage, or perhaps just very promiscuous ancestors who enjoyed world travel! My family are not only accepting but incredibly supportive. I came out to my mother first and then my father several years later, which was interesting. Both my mother and I were equally petrified of how my father would react, but he claimed to have known all along and simply said 'You're my son and I love you regardless!' You'll find my mum in the audience at most of my shows, she's very 'Dance Moms'!

I'm currently a National HR Manager. Over the years I've worked across a number of industries including Transport, Mining, IT, Warehousing, etc. I work long hours, but I've always had fairly understanding employers who give me the flexibility to attend auditions, rehearsals and shows.

I kind of fell into drag by accident about 12 years ago now. A friend of mine (Oleander Poisonous Bush) dressed me up for a laugh and it went from there. I entered *Miss Melbourne Drag* around the time The Showbags dominated the Greyhound Hotel. I learnt a lot working backstage and dressing troupes like The Showbags and The Classics. Actually my earliest drag memory is donning a wig and dress that my mother had worn to a costume party when I was 8. I lived on an army barracks in regional NSW and invited all the neighbors into my lounge room and embarrassingly recall singing live to *I've Had the Time of My Life!*

Another embarrassing moment was at PINK, when I managed to unintentionally stage dive out of a pirouette and landed in the arms of a startled audience member, and later getting breath-tested in full face in a V8 Ute wearing trackies and a baseball cap!

Performing can be a great escape from reality, and I think like any performer or artist, the highs and lows are just part of the package. I'm not much of a drinker and I don't use drugs, so being on stage is one of the biggest highs I experience. For me it's about balance and maintaining that when the curtain closes. When it comes to favourite venues, I love any venue with an appreciative audience to be honest. There's no better feeling than the energy that comes from an audience that love what you do, and I get that when I work at Circuit and The 86 in Smith Street.



There is no great story when it came to my drag name. It was a pretty lazy decision on my part. Vivien St James said to me, 'Oh girl! all the classy girls have a male first name as their surname!' Well of course I wanted to be as classy as Viv, and Christina Aguilera was on the radio at the time so Christina Andrews was born.

I always make time to relax, loving dinners and movies or just hanging out. I enjoy going to the gym when I can be bothered. And meditation. I love cars and getting out on the open road whenever I can, either down the coast or through the country. And, believe it or not, I find I can unwind mowing lawns and cleaning. If that doesn't get me a husband I don't know what will!

I don't watch a lot of TV but *Wentworth* and *Family Guy* are my current and long-standing obsessions. I do watch *Drag Race* but this season hasn't grabbed me to be honest. But in general I think the *Drag Race* franchise has obviously done a lot for drag in terms of staging it as a legitimate art-form. My only criticism is that while we're bringing their stars here to do a lazy spot number or 2, there are many performers in Melbourne who are as talented, if not more so than the *Drag Race* girls, and they aren't given an opportunity to show their talents.

I guess drag career wise I've been lucky. The chat-show concept is something Jillette Jones and I have used in our *Spag N Drag* show for many years. Then came touring the world with *The Showbags*. I don't know how I managed to put on a face up to 25 nights in a row with the strength of my beard and body hair! Seriously, the visually impaired could've read me in braille from the razor burn on my neck alone! I toured 2 years running with *Drags Aboud* and it was an incredible experience and achievement that I'm extremely proud of and thankful for. We toured *The Sound of Music Drag Show* in 2007 and then *Grease the Drag Show* in 2008. Both years we were part of the Adelaide Fringe Festival, Melbourne International Comedy Festival and then the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

North Side Story was first staged as pop-up style shows across a few hours for The 2014 *Melbourne Fringe Club*. It proved to be very successful so Geoffrey Masters and I decided to develop it into a full live show for the 2015 *Melbourne International Comedy Festival*. We basically parody *West Side Story* using the real-life 'turf war' that sometimes exists between the queens on the North and South side of the Yarra. It proved once again to be successful and I dare say will resurface in the near future in one form or another.

While all that was going on, Stephen K Amos asked me to join him for the debut of his infamous *Talk Show* here. Yet another great experience working alongside not only Stephen, but many of the biggest names in the Australian and International Comedy Scene and hopefully a great foundation for future projects. The festival was an incredible experience bringing back memories of the Edinburgh Fringe and that same indescribable high that I get from performing. Closing night was a little depressing going home to iron shirts for work the next day, but it's definitely lit a fire under my padded ass that I'll continue to stoke and burn.

When it comes to success in my drag career, I've just done what I do and go about my business because I enjoy it and I think that's the key. There's a lot of competition and I've learnt the hard way, that unfortunately not everyone plays fair, so my integrity and perseverance have definitely served me well. I think you need to believe in yourself, surround yourself with people who believe in you and never give up. It's a cliché, but just BE YOU!

I love to perform and as long as I enjoy it, I'll keep doing it. I've always had an agreement with anyone I've worked with that the minute it's no longer fun, it's time to stop. If we're not enjoying what we do then the audience will see and feel that, and at the end of the day if the audience isn't enjoying it, the satisfaction starts to dwindle.



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.



Island Pride

Visitors to the Canary Island of Gran Canaria may be forgiven for thinking that it is a non-stop party island. The recent successful vote in Ireland for equal marriage, the Eurovision Song Contest and Maspalomas Pride have created an atmosphere of one long, heady party. The Canary Islands are blessed with one of the best climates in the world, which lends itself to an endless succession of parties and outdoor living. However, I can assure readers that we do get down to doing some work as well, but at our own pace.

Maspalomas Pride, which is often billed as 'the largest Pride event in Europe', once again drew thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual, and transgendered visitors to the island from all over Europe and further afield. There were also huge numbers of straight visitors too; many having visited in earlier years, and had such a good time that they come again each year to relive and share the experience.

Maspalomas Pride is a huge two-week party, with many spin off events, but above all it is a time to demonstrate equal rights, tolerance and equality, as well as a time to remember that respect and acceptance are not concepts yet shared across the world. The rainbow flag remains the centrepiece of the celebrations to remember those people across the world that still suffer from appalling discrimination and cruelty. Maspalomas Pride seeks to celebrate and give thanks for the freedoms enjoyed in Spain and the Canary Islands, as well as other countries that respect this equality. This event was one of the biggest Pride events ever seen on the island, with more than 80,000 visitors and residents lining the parade route.

Visitors often ask me why Gran Canaria, which is the third largest Canary Island by landmass, has become such a draw for gay and lesbian tourists. Gran Canaria has a well-deserved reputation for inclusivity and equality that has embraced gay and lesbian visitors for many years. People of all races, colour and religions live and work on the island and, in the main, happily coexist together. It is an island where the old adage 'live and let live' still strongly applies; as long as your activities don't hurt anyone else, then you are welcome. After visiting the island over many years, this was one of the main reasons that my partner and myself chose to move here; it was a decision that we have never regretted.

The Yumbo Centre, which is the main 'gay centre' and the centre for Pride is an uninspiring building, built 40 plus years ago as an arena. Over the years, it was slowly converted and now houses 40 plus gay bars, saunas, sex shops, drag shows, supermarkets, gadget shops, cafe bars and restaurants. To some, it looks like a badly worn multi-storey car park, which by day is a rather tacky commercial centre. However, by night, this uninspiring heap of concrete transforms itself into a throbbing and lively centre with something for everyone. From its early days, the Yumbo Centre became a beacon of hope for many gay men and women, and a place where they could relax and be themselves. It is a place where many relationships have begun, and ended, but above all it continues to be a place where gay men and women continue to feel safe, welcomed and valued.

So how did all this begin? I recall a conversation that I had with an elderly man, an ex-soldier, many years ago when I first visited the island. He told me that during the Spanish Civil War, the dictator, General Franco, would exile any soldier who was found to be gay to an island penal colony that was far away from the Spanish mainland; that island was Gran Canaria.

As the Pride procession and parties take place, my mind often goes back to this story and the fight for equality that has taken place over the centuries in Spain, as well as elsewhere in the world. The fight for equality and acceptance continue, but I am sure that those exiled Spanish soldiers would be very impressed with the part that this small island in the Atlantic has played in the fight for equality and justice for all.

If you enjoyed this article, take a look at Barrie's websites: www.barriemahoney.com and www.thecanaryislander.com or read his book, 'Expat Voice' (ISBN: 9780992767174). Available in paperback, as well as Kindle. iPhone/iPad and Android Apps: ExpatInfo, CanaryIsle and CanaryGay now available

q festival: 2015 INDIAN FILM

THE 2015 INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE TAKES EQUALITY AS ITS THEME

'Equality' is the theme of the 2015 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM), the southern hemisphere's greatest annual celebration of Indian cinema, taking place this year from 14 – 27 August.

This year's Festival's opening weekend coincides with Indian Independence Day on August 15. All day celebrations of India's vibrant culture will culminate in the second IFFM Awards taking place at the National Gallery of Victoria with a host of Indian stars and industry leaders in attendance. The awards will feature a charity fashion show of Australian designs with all funds going towards The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation.



The equality theme will be explored through a curated program of films, the Western Union Short Film Competition and a special panel event featuring Australian and Indian guests.

Festival Director Mitu Bhowmick-Lange: *"This year we are delighted to celebrate India's national day through ceremony, dance, fashion and the recognition of excellence in our film culture. In the Equality program we have Indian filmmakers – from independent short film makers to our most powerful directors turning their gaze to issues of freedom and diversity in the contemporary world and celebrating the diversity that defines us all."*

Highlights of the 2015 Indian Film Festival:

Following the extraordinary success of the inaugural IFFM Awards last year, the 2015 IFFM Awards will take place at the National Gallery of Victoria with many of India's finest stars and industry figures in attendance, celebrating the country's multi layered, ever evolving and fiercely independent film culture.

The IFFM Awards will feature a fashion show of costumes by iconic Indian designer Anamika Khanna and Australian designers (stay tuned to this space for more information) showcasing unique collections modelled by Australian models, celebrities, Bollywood stars and people from various walks of life. The garments will be auctioned off during the evening with all proceeds going to The Royal Children's Hospital in an exciting new partnership.



Independence Day celebrations will include the raising of the Indian Flag at Federation Square followed by the Telstra Bollywood Dance Competition judged by a panel of the Festival guests.

The theme of equality is explored in a number of critically lauded features and documentaries including Umrika, (2015, Prashant Nair) winner of the World Cinema Dramatic Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival, a 'mythology of America and more generally, how cultures perceive each other'; Naanu Avanalla, Avalu (I Am Not He..She), a day in the life of a transgender; and PK (2014, dir Rajkumar Hirani, starring Amir Khan), a film that has polarised audiences in India due to its courageous and bold discussions of religion and religiosity while breaking box office records world wide.

A panel on equality featuring high profile spokespersons from Australia and India will focus on issues of gender, race, gender, disability and sexuality and how both Australia and India manage equality on our screens and in society in general.

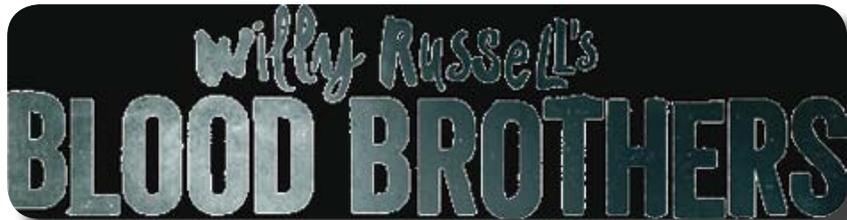
The Western Union short film competition has called for entries from Indian and Australian filmmakers, referencing the 2015 theme 'Equality'. The winning films are to be screened at IFFM. The winning Indian filmmaker will travel to Melbourne and the Australian winner will travel to Mumbai, the home of Bollywood.



For more information go to www.iffm.com.au

q theatre: **BLOOD BROTHERS**

Enda Markey will present his acclaimed production of Willy Russell's Blood Brothers at Melbourne's brand new theatre complex - Alex Theatre St Kilda - for a strictly limited three-week season, following an extended Sydney season early this year, which sold-out at every performance, with plaudits from critics and audiences making it the talk-of-the-town.



Book, Music & Lyrics: Willy Russell

Director: Andrew Pole Musical Supervisor: Michael Tyack Musical Director: Kellie Dickerson

As Mrs Johnstone - one of the most coveted roles in musical theatre - Helen Dallimore will lead an acclaimed ensemble cast, including Bobby Fox as Mickey, Josh Piterman as Edward and Michael Cormick as Narrator, in one of the most popular musicals of all time... with Matt Edwards, Erin James, Jamie Kristian, Bronwyn Mulcahy, Christy Sullivan.

Blood Brothers is the hilarious, provocative and heartbreaking musical that tells the unforgettable story of the Johnstone twins. Separated at birth when their mother cannot afford to keep them both, Mickey and Edward grow up streets apart, becoming best friends but never knowing the truth of their heritage. The prophecy that twins who are separated at birth will die on the day they find out their heritage brings this stunningly crafted musical to its shattering but inevitable conclusion.

With a book, music and lyrics by Willy Russell (Educating Rita, Shirley Valentine), the London production of Blood Brothers ran for more than 24 years, winning every British "Best Musical" award along the way. It is one of only three musicals in history to play for more than 10,000 performances - the other two are Les Misérables and The Phantom of the Opera. Blood Brothers plays at Melbourne's exciting new theatre venue - Alex Theatre St Kilda - for a strictly limited three-week engagement and it is a rare opportunity for Australian audiences to witness this musical theatre masterpiece with a thrilling cast in an intimate setting where it becomes even more powerful.

Enda Markey produced the 2011 Australian tour of Side By Side By Sondheim starring (at various times) Rachael Beck, Geraldine Turner, Michael Falzon, Lucy Maunder and Jessica Rowe. In 2012, He presented a gala concert of the show featuring more than twenty-five of Australia's leading theatre and television personalities, headlined by West End and Broadway superstar Ruthie Henshall. Since 2013, he presented the international tour of Boublil & Schönberg's Do You Hear The People Sing? starring Michael Ball and Lea Salonga which has played to enormous acclaim in Shanghai, Manila and Taipei with numerous other productions (including Australia) in development.

Enda Markey presents

Willy Russell's

BLOOD BROTHERS

Alex Theatre St. Kilda

135 Fitzroy Street, St Kilda

Performances from 16 July 2015.

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All preview seats \$60*

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q tour: THE BEACH BOYS DOWN UNDER

The icons of the Californian sound, The Beach Boys, are bringing high water mark classics to Australia in a national tour from 11 November which encompasses Townsville, Canberra, Sydney, Bribie Island, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

One of the most influential and enduring bands in Pop history, The Beach Boys are the Sounds of Summer with album sales of over one hundred million, thirty two American Platinum and Gold awards, an induction into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame and a Lifetime Achievement Grammy.

Captained by Mike Love, The Beach Boys music defines youth and Fun, Fun, Fun, evoking places where life is renewed through sun drenched days in the surf and glorious nights in the sand.

Their catalogue spans five decades and has produced a swell of more than fifty timeless hits including - California Girls, Good Vibrations, Surfin' USA, Sloop John B, God Only Knows, Sail On Sailor, Kokomo, Surfer Girl, Help Me Rhonda, Barbara Ann, Wouldn't It Be Nice, Surfin' Safari, I Can Hear Music, The Warmth of the Sun, Little Deuce Coupe, I Get Around, Heroes and Villains and so much more.

The Beach Boys play an astoundingly hectic schedule of concerts, averaging 150 shows a year and this visit takes them to concert venues and outdoor festivals, coast to coast.

Surf's up for the fabulous Beach Boys with our own legends John Paul Young & The Allstar Band, Glenn Shorrock, Colleen Hewett and The Whitlams, plus Busby Marou, Kim Churchill, Sahara Beck and Good Oak, catching a wave.



THE BEACH BOYS

Wednesday 11 November	TOWNSVILLE Entertainment Centre With Busby Marou	www.tecc.net.au 07 4771 4000
Friday 13 November	National Convention Centre CANBERRA With Busby Marou	www.ticketek.com.au 132 849
Saturday 14 November	Bondi Beachfest! SYDNEY With The Whitlams, Busby Marou, Kim Churchill and Sahara Beck	www.bondibeachfest.com www.ticketek.com.au 132 849
Sunday 15 November	Sandstone Point Hotel BRIBIE ISLAND With Busby Marou, Kim Churchill, Sahara Beck and Good Oak	www.ticketek.com.au 132 849
Tuesday 17 November	Jupiters Hotel & Casino GOLD COAST With John Paul Young & The Allstar Band	www.ticketek.com.au 132 849
Wednesday 18 November	Palais Theatre MELBOURNE With Colleen Hewett	www.ticketmaster.com.au 136 100
Thursday 19 November	ADELAIDE Entertainment Centre With Colleen Hewett	www.ticketek.com.au 132 849
Saturday 21 November	Pioneer Women's Memorial Kings Park & Botanic Garden PERTH With John Paul Young & The Allstar Band And Glenn Shorrock	www.ticketmaster.com.au 136 100

For further information, go to www.bluehawkpresents.com and www.thebeachboys.com

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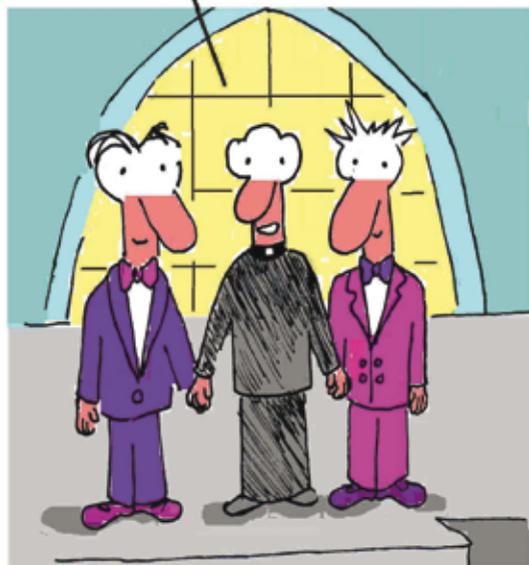
Hampstead Dental



Gaylord Blade

by KICHI

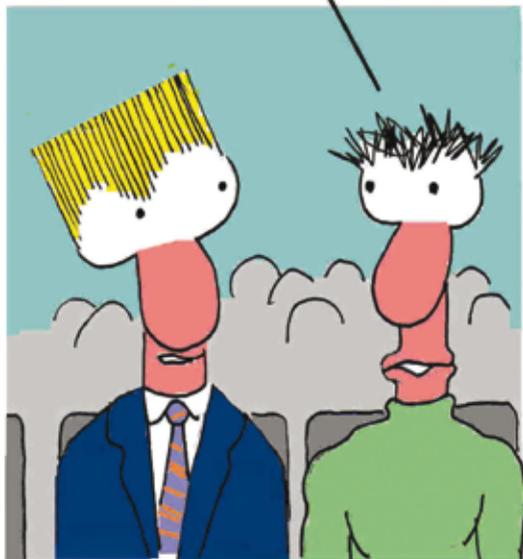
So, if anyone objects to this marriage
speak now or forever **HOLD YOUR PEACE**



I object! Gays don't need wedlock to
mask guilt about sex. We're not heteros!
I have no guilt .. nor do those two sluts!



If you shut-up, I'll **HOLD YOUR PIECE**
through the rest of the ceremony



No thanks, the choir held it earlier.
But if you agree to give me your slice
of wedding cake, I'll be a good boy



Be an Angel for Animals
ALWAYS ADOPT. NEVER BUY.



Save a life by adopting from an animal shelter, and always give your animal companions the love and care that they deserve.

Yvonne Strahovski

WITH CHAZZIE & WILBUR FOR

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