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THE MONEY**

JULY 2008

Q MAGAZINE



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q comment: **TIME IS FLEETING**

My how the year is flying by again, with half the year gone already...but what can you do?!

People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA Victoria) celebrated its 20th Anniversary last month with two separate functions: Planet Positive and a Dinner - both at the Stingo Hotel. The latter of which was attended by the Honourable Minister for Health, Daniel Andrews. I am grateful to the Minister for taking time out of his hectic schedule to be there with us, and thank him, from the bottom of my heart, for his kind words about our organisation and its work advocating for the positive community of this State. A special thanks also to David Menadue who walked the invited guests through a history of the organisation. I am honoured to be the President and incredibly proud of the organisation's achievements.

On the 13th and 14th of June I attended the **Brisbane Pride Festivities**. Wally Cowin invited me to speak at "Travel Talk" held on the Friday Night at the Spring Hill Hotel (where I stayed in a lovely room for the duration) hosted by the Brisbane Gay & Lesbian Business Networking Co-op. My speech was about InterPride and I was so happy to spread the word about the organisation I am Region 20 Director of. The following morning I joined the massive crowds at Musgrave Park for the March, Rally, and Fair Day. I spoke with Scott Hampson, President of Brisbane Pride, who informed me that numbers had doubled this year for the march - which was extremely pleasing given the south-eastern corner of the State's reluctance to embrace tolerance and acceptance of our community. Hopefully this is an indication of the tide turning. I would like to particularly thank the fine folk from GALTA for making me feel so welcome throughout my visit. See pictures from the event on our q scene extra page.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Doctors, Nurses and staff at the **Alfred Hospital** for looking after me so wonderfully during my recent two stays. Without going in to the finer details about the reason for my visits, suffice to say both started in emergency and both ended extremely well [obviously, or I wouldn't be writing this]. It is comforting to know that when things do go wrong with one's health, there is a hospital full of professionals to look after it all. We are blessed.



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Brett Hayhoe t/a Q Magazine
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q feature: CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Jason “Farmer” Clark is certainly an interesting character - and not shy at all. I first met Jason when he was helping out at a Commercial Road night club and again when he started working at the Stingo Hotel. We became very close friends very quickly and have (to my delight) maintained that friendship ever since. In conversation over this time, I found Jason’s life to be very interesting so I jumped at the chance to speak candidly with him about his life, work, and being a Gay boy from the country. I started this interview by asking him where he came from.

I was born, grew up, and went to school in a place called Camperdown in Western Victoria, did my further education in Cobden, moved on from there and did an agricultural course, a sports medicine course, and then started working in Ballarat. I was there for nearly a year, got promoted to foreman, at the same time getting involved with a hotel in Darlington - so I would commute between the two - and eventually moved into the Elephant Bridge Hotel (Darlington) which is the oldest continuous hotel in Victoria - opened in 1842 and has never been shut. I was there for eight years while maintaining my work in Ballarat then moved a little closer to home and built a land fill for a company in Melbourne, went back to my previous work once that had been completed to build a 145 house lot sub-division on Geelong Road in Ballarat, finished that job as foreman, the pub was sold, moved to Bendigo (at a Gold mine) then John Holland poached me to work on the East-link tunnel (so I moved into an apartment in Clifton Hill).

So you never had any desire to pursue more stereotypical Gay work e.g. hairdressing, interior design etc?

No!

So you have always had a propensity toward the more “butch” lines of work?

Yes! I am good with my hands [smirks].

Obviously people come out at different times in their lives. When did you know you were Gay?

Certainly when I was younger, in the country, I didn’t have any idea what “Gay” was. No idea. I would look at boys and think they were very cute, and it sort of got the better of me. When I was in Ballarat the feelings got more intense, then when I moved to Melbourne, I went to the Prince of Wales Hotel, picked someone up one night and had my first Gay sexual experience.

Had you experimented with girls prior to this?

When I was in Camperdown I had a girlfriend for

nearly three years, and when I was in Darlington at the pub, umm let’s say I was a bit of a skank [giggle].

So was there ever a time when that was a battle? Being in the country, having feelings for guys and not knowing how to deal with those feelings?

It was frustrating, and I thought there was something wrong with me. There was no one around who I even knew was Gay, didn’t know anything about “Gay” - I thought I was the only one. But no one knew if I was or wasn’t. A lot of people still say to me today that they don’t believe I am Gay. I’m sure however there are a lot of people who could vouch that I am [laugh].

Once you had come out, how was that accepted by your family, friends, acquaintances etc?

It couldn’t have been accepted better! Right through to my Grandmother, my Nan, the whole family...I still think a lot of them still don’t actually quite believe the fact because they think a Gay person should act in a certain way, but I was accepted and never had a problem.

I couldn’t wish for a better family or upbringing. I look back now and think how easy it was. The only stress in my life was the fact that I thought there was something wrong with me.



Did you ever have thoughts of self harm?

No...I always rose above that. The jobs that I seemed to put myself into were pretty intense, long hours, dealing with people all the time...I sort of didn't have much time to think about it. I tried to put it behind me.

So given all of that, what would you say to a young person growing up in rural or regional Australia who might be going through what you went through?

I don't know. I think it is good the way I did it as I worked things out for myself.

A lot of times you see a car accident (or something similar) where someone has died, and sometimes I think back now, thinking of the tendencies of the person involved and it sticks in my mind that maybe it wasn't an accident after all.

Do you think it has become easier for kids in the bush now given the increased number of Gay characters on television, radio, and press?

Certainly! It's got to get out there cause there's nothing wrong with you at all, although some people will say that there is, and I think it is starting to move around a lot more - people are becoming more aware of what is happening in the world and more accepting and the world is changing. It is getting easier and hopefully the people in the country can see that and have someone to talk to about it all. The internet is a great source of information (although I never got into it myself) and things generally are more accessible now than they were for me, but I still think there are a lot of people who don't make it through the journey.

Given your choice of work, have you ever found any problems being openly Gay in the workplace?

Occasionally I get the odd sort of snigger or remark, but at the end of the day they look and realise that I am not any different from them. I operate the same machines as them, running sites, controlling teams of guys, I have a lot of responsibility and I'm out there doing it as well - not sitting in an office demanding things to be done. I have always been very hands on when I have done jobs and try to involve as many people as I can and keep communication as much as I can as I believe if you're in contact with everyone a lot of the time, you don't seem to have problems with people

getting out of touch, getting out of rhythm, and getting their backs up against things, so I think the more you can stay close to people and in touch with people in a working environment (or personal) - whichever you are in - it tends to keep the group together. They tend to learn something off you and you off them in return.

As an openly Gay man in a less than stereotypical working scenario, what advice would you give others contemplating the same sort of path (in particular the question of whether one should come out or stay in the closet etc)?

You don't have to run around with a big sign on your hat saying "I am Gay", but you've got to make sure that you stick to what you are and don't try to hide the fact and don't try to shelter the fact - where you have to hide and be careful of what you say or do - questioning yourself all the time. You've just got to go with your gut and make sure that what you are doing is right, and if you think you are doing the right thing, everyone else will probably think the same.

So being Gay to you (if we could paraphrase it) is simply your sexuality and not a lifestyle "choice"?

Exactly...you are absolutely right. You are another part of the team. There are a lot of people on earth and I am sure there are a lot who haven't come out and every day of their lives when they wake up, they know exactly what they want to do but they don't do them - so they live a sheltered life and end up being very miserable.



q money: with EVAN DAVIS



G'day and welcome to the first instalment of Q Money. Together we will be exploring different aspects to money and our personal finances. Recently many clients, friends and loved ones have asked me for advice on credit cards. The humble credit card has to be one of the most used, abused and little understood financial products available. That said they do have their place as an extremely useful financial tool when used properly.

On applying for my first credit card my father said "Credit cards are like razor blades; you can shave with them or cut your throat wide open!" The reason for this dire warning is credit cards allow the consumer to purchase an item or service on credit. That is to say someone else's money.

The full or partial payment is then generally due in 55 days depending on the provider. If the payment is not made in full then credit card interest is then payable on the outstanding balance. So what? Buy now and pay later - great! Credit card interest rates vary enormously. Some credit cards attract interest rates of well over 20%! With very high interest rates you may quickly find that a significant chunk of your income is simply paying your credit card interest each month.

Some credit cards come with a rewards program. Check the details and costs of these rewards carefully. The benefit you get from them may not always warrant the extra cost. Generally, these cards attract higher annual fees and interest rates. A card with no fees may suit you just as well and save you money.

There are now dozens of transfer cards available. These offer extremely low or even zero interest for a certain period of time on balances (debts) transferred from other banks. These products can be useful for bringing an existing debt under control. Though watch out, often new purchases on these cards may attract a higher interest rate than the amount transferred. Also lenders may approve you for higher limit than you need. Always be careful. Don't over spend and have a budget in place. Without a plan of attack people often transfer the debt and then it grows on the new card.

When used properly however, credit cards can be extremely useful. A savvy consumer can make all their purchases on their credit card, meaning they won't attract excessive transactions on their savings

account. This strategy can greatly reduce the fees you pay your bank. The prerequisite to this strategy working is always paying your credit card off entirely before the due date. Therefore you will NOT be paying any interest on the card. Having a set budget helps this process no end. Credit cards also offer flexibility of payment and for some people the reward programs can be a great bonus.

Perhaps the greatest benefit to a credit card is you'll never be lonely again. Just try missing a couple of payments and all sorts of people will start calling you. Just kidding, don't shave too close!

Joke of the Month

Two aliens landed in the desert near a petrol station that was closed for the night. They approached one of the pumps and the younger alien addressed it saying, 'Greetings, Earthling. We come in peace. Take us to your leader.' The pump, of course, didn't respond.

The younger alien became angry at the lack of response. The older alien said, 'I'd calm down if I were you.' The younger alien ignored the warning and repeated his greeting. Again, there was no response.

Annoyed by what he perceived to be the pump's haughty attitude, he drew his ray gun and said impatiently, 'Greetings, Earthling. We come in peace. Do not ignore us this way! Take us to your leader or I will fire!' The older alien again warned his comrade saying, 'You probably don't want to do that! I really don't think you should make him mad.'

'Rubbish,' replied the cocky, young alien. He aimed his weapon at the pump and opened fire. There was a huge explosion. A massive fireball roared towards them and blew the younger alien off his feet and deposited him a burnt, smoking mess about 200 yards away in a cactus patch.

Half an hour passed. When he finally regained consciousness, he refocused his three eyes, straightened his bent antenna, and looked dazedly at the older, wiser alien who was standing over him shaking his big, green head. 'What a ferocious creature!' exclaimed the young, fried alien. 'He damn near killed me! How did you know he was so dangerous?'

The older alien leaned over, placed a friendly feeler on his crispy friend and replied, 'If there's one thing I've learned during my intergalactic travels, you don't want to mess with a guy who can wrap his penis around himself twice and then stick it in his ear.'

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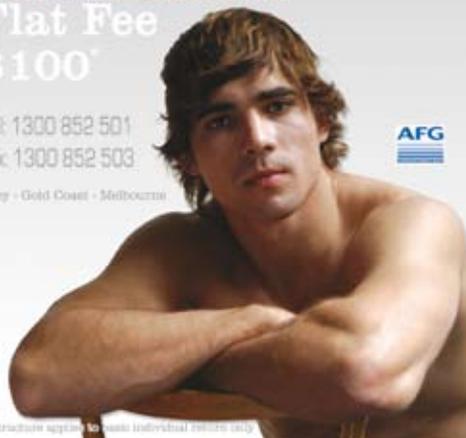
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q websites: BEYOND MASCULINITY

BEYOND MASCULINITY: ESSAYS BY QUEER MEN ON GENDER AND POLITICS EDITED BY TREVOR HOPPE

What does it mean to be a queer man? Beyond Masculinity is a groundbreaking collection of 20 smart, insightful essays from a diverse group of writers that all tackle this question. All published online and available anywhere in the world, 24/7, for free. Readers will find a tremendously diverse group of queer men thoughtfully reflecting on their experiences – and using those experiences to build powerful analyses of their social worlds, including:

Qwo-Li Driskill's "Shaking Our Shells: Cherokee Two-Spirits Rebalancing Our World": A poetic plea for Native American Two-Spirit peoples to search for their histories and become leaders in their communities

Brian Lobel's "Penis. Vagina. Penetration. The End": A hilarious and moving recounting of the author's quest to lose his virginity to a woman before a surgery to remove a cancerous tumor that threatens to leave him unable to ejaculate ever again.

Rob Day-Walker, "Jesus of San Francisco: Can

Jesus be a Resource for Queer Masculinities?: A careful dissection of Biblical scripture, set against his own experiences as a Christian gay man, in search of a Jesus that is feminist and decidedly queer

Daniel Solís y Martínez's

"Mestiza/o Gender: Notes Towards a Transformative Masculinity": A brilliant attempt to understand how to build a queer identity that incorporates both his Latino/a heritage and Western ideas about homosexuality

And this is just the tip of the iceberg. From an 80-year old gay man's reflections on living life "between" male and female (Autrey's "Somewhere in Between"), to a transgender man's plea for bottoms to please (Macey's "Top to Bottom"), Beyond Masculinity collectively breaks through the typical and boldly describes a resilient, challenging understanding of being a queer man in the 21st century. Beyond Masculinity isn't your traditional anthology. Readers become listeners when they subscribe on iTunes and download essays recorded as podcasts. Built using blogging software, anyone can log on anywhere in the world and comment directly on the essays. In short, not only does this project break topical ground, but it also explores the potential power of the Internet to provide new tools for sparking smart dialogue on sexuality and gender. About the Editor: Trevor Hoppe is a graduate student in the joint PhD program in Sociology and Women's Studies at the University of Michigan.

BEYOND MASCULINITY
ESSAYS BY QUEER MEN ON GENDER & POLITICS
<http://www.beyondmasculinity.com>

q plays: CHAPEL STYLE

Human Sacrifice Theatre has pleasure in presenting the Australian premiere of The Late Henry Moss. A new play by Sam Shepard.



A father abandons his sons. Two brothers are separated. When he dies, they will reunite.

Bernalillo, New Mexico, Ray and Earl return home to mark the passing of their estranged father, Henry. Over a bottle of bourbon and a box of old photographs, tales of their childhoods emerge. As they encounter Henry's bizarre collection of friends, including his wild voracious lover, the colourful circumstances surrounding his death provoke violent suspicion.

"The greatest American playwright of his generation; the most inventive in language and revolutionary in craft" - New York magazine.

"... sparks of theatrical magic light up the dim landscape of THE LATE HENRY MOSS. (Shepard's) singular gift has been for building mysteries out of the ordinary ingredients of American family life..." - The New York Times.

The Late Henry Moss will be directed by David Myles.

Cast includes: Mark Diaco, Justin Hosking, Bruce Kerr, Lee Mason and Marcella Russo. Appearing at Chapel off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel Street, Prahran - Bookings - (03) 8290 7000 Tickets - \$27 (full) \$23 (Con) www.chapelloffchapel.com.au, www.humansacrificetheatre.com



Left to right: Mark Diaco, Bruce Kerr, Marcella Russo and Justin Hosking

q revolution: MUSIC ACADEMY RADIO

RED BULL MUSIC ACADEMY RADIO

Forget everything you've ever known about radio. redbullmusicacademyradio.com is set to revolutionise the way we listen to music. With traditional forms of radio becoming seemingly more redundant, redbullmusicacademyradio.com has gone about creating the Mecca of online radio. There are over 800 shows available on demand, as well as constant live streaming 24 hours a day. These aren't just any old of shows either, they are the biggest names in the industry hosting their very own broadcasts, bringing you exclusives that can not be sourced anywhere else in the world. Never doing anything in halves, Red Bull has gained access to the world's top musical talents and will be transmitting live from the worlds biggest music festivals – think SXSW and Sonar and you'll be on the right track.

Making sure Australia is well represented, down under's very own music whiz chick Lorna Clarkson will be presenting two shows, Inside Out and On the Floor.

Kicking off in the first week of July, Inside Out will be an online haven of Australian content. Orbiting, but not exclusive to electronic styles; Inside Out will include techno, house, reggae/dub, dubstep, drum n bass, electro, indie, jazz, soul and everything in between. The show aims to refocus and redefine what Australian music is.

Clarkson believes that an all Australian show is vital 'in order to overcome the communication issues that face the Australian music network. So often what is happening in Sydney doesn't make it to Melbourne and what's happening in Dubbo doesn't make it Brisbane'. Inside Out will demonstrate to the world what is happening under the radar musically in Australia. It aims to uncover and give attention to those artists, bands and passionate people who are making things happen, but often go unrecognised.

Band and artist will guest program the show garnering different perspectives on what Australian music is. Inside Out is a show of discovery, featuring the known alongside the unknown in order to give a rich and varied perspective on Australian creativity, on the stage and in the studio.

Complementing Inside Out will be On the Floor. A portal into the world of live performance, On the

Floor will include live shows and DJ sets from local and touring artists. With the aim of bringing the freshest and most exclusive live

content from Australia, On the Floor will be the show for those who want that live experience, but don't want to leave their couch, desk or bedroom.

redbullmusicacademyradio.com streams 24 hours a day and thanks to the latest in 'on-demand' technology, is where you can pick and choose from the most exciting and innovative artists across time and beam them straight into your living room or workplace. redbullmusicacademyradio.com has become the leading resource of cutting edge music in the online radio market. For an example of Inside Out and On the Floor content for July, please see below.

Week 1: Inside Out Australia - Overview on what's happening across the country
Week 2: On The Floor - Bleepin J Squawkins
Week 3: Inside Out guest programmer - Tom Ellard (Severed Heads)
Week 4: On The Floor - Jamie Lloyd and Jimmi Polar



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q style: with CRAIG MICHAELS



**Ok it's Sale time!
Where do I start?
All the signs are up and
the ads are in the paper
but how do you save
time and money with
style?**

Well you need to do a little bit of planning before you race into that cute boy to

get yet another pair of jeans - just because he is hot!

Remember last month's article was "what do I need" and "what I should have" in my wardrobe and this is a perfect time to add those extra fabulous pieces that were too expensive through the season.

- Have a look in your wardrobe and look for any gaps that exists
- Think about what you can wear with that great winter coat to create your own style
- Consider buying something that you would not normally since it is now on sale

Where to find the best buys:

Check out which of your favourite stores are on sale. Yes that's right, all the stores have started their gimmicks about "come in now we are up to 40-50% off". However when you go in to the store nothing that you like is on sale or they tell you "Oh yes that has already sold out". Ask the shop assistant when does the sale finish. This is a sneaky way to know find out when the last week of the sale is and when they will do their biggest mark down.

What do I look for?

You must look for the stores that are genuine about their sales. The ones that say 50% off everything in the store with 1 or 2 exclusions. These are genuine markdowns and you are receiving the benefit of a real sale. At First Impressions Count we don't play games (unless you want us to) with our sales. We just give our clients the best value and fun service.

Ok it does help if the staff are cute. But don't let that sway your choice of the sale item that you choose to put in your bag. Be sure not to lose your own sense of style.

If you are struggling to define what your style is, at First Impressions Count we have several gay friendly consultants who can help you create your own look.

How do I not get ripped off?

One of the biggest rip offs happens in the department stores. This is where the buyers will negotiate with suppliers to clear stock so that they can both achieve a profit margin without the stores being left with the product. This is when stock is purchased on

Sale Of Return. The easiest way to find out if you are being ripped off or it is a genuine discount is to pay attention to the sale swing ticket. If the ticket has the words "recommended price \$100" and "sale price \$70" then you know this has been purchased just for the sales and it may not be a true reduction.

When you see that stores mark their swing tags down with a red pen this means they are planning on not carrying this stock anymore. They are eventually going to mark these items down below cost to make room for the new stock.

Times are tough!

Owning a business in these economic times really highlights just how desperate wholesalers are about clearing stock So it is up to you to negotiate the best price you can. There is nothing wrong with asking if you can get a better price if you buy a few pieces or a large item.

At First Impressions Count we get at least 5 companies a week trying to sell us something. That tells us that companies are sitting on a lot of stock and want to move it so that they can re-invest in their new range. The good news is that at our store we have been able to buy some great new pieces at a fantastic price so that we can pass the savings on to you.

This is your time to maximise savings on new pieces in your wardrobe.

What's on sale?

Our entire store at First Impressions Count at 53 Chapel street is 50% off original prices except for 2 (x)ist that we are offering 10% off retail prices.

This means that we have:

- Pure wool suits from \$200
- Jackets from \$100
- Pants from \$50
- Scarves from \$35

So come in and meet our friendly flirty team at First Impressions Count.



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headlines for JULY

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q lifestyle: with PETE DILLON

A monthly review of the world of Food, Bars, and Wine



When you think Melbourne region wineries, it's always to the east and south east that our mind travels. Immediately one conjures up images of the Yarra Valley in the winter with open fires, crisp, foggy mornings and gallons of excellent red, or Mornington Peninsula in spring/ summer with beaches nearby, lazy days in the sun lounging over a few bottles of cool climate whites and lashings of fresh seafood.

Rarely does the mind wander, however, to Sunbury. Yes, Sunbury in the North West of Melbourne.

The region extends from East Keilor to Bacchus Marsh, Craigieburn to Riddells Creek and produces some absolute quality grog.

Goonarra in Sunbury was established way back in 1863 by the then Premier, JG Francis. As well as producing some quality booze (their cabernet merlot is a ripper), an old bluestone building serves as a great venue for a function.

Bacchus Hill is in the Bacchus Marsh Valley amongst market gardens. In a lush cold climate environment, this very new venture has a lot to offer. They have a tantalizing array of local produce, delectable provender products, and mouth watering fresh gelati, at the cellar door, looking out over the winery complex. The cellar door has been opened a year and is worth the 45 minute drive from the GPO.

Galli Estate in Rockbank is now 10 years old and produces some sensational wines. Their 2004 Pint Noir is a jaunty little number. Some intense fruit on the palate combined with a mossy oak finish really strikes a great balance and at \$16 a throw, it's worth grabbing a case, as it will age nicely over the next 3-4 years or you can hoick it down the screech now with some roast pork.

Ten minutes north of Tullamarine Airport is Yuroke Vineyards. Reaching 900 feet above sea level, Yuroke Vineyards has 360 degree views including a magnificent city skyline view. They grow predominantly reds and their 02 Shiraz is an absolute cracker. It is an award winner and the vines have been planted for about 10 years and are starting to show some maturity now. The cellar door is in progress, so try and get hold of these wines if you can.

Next time you are thinking that you want a wine trip, travel 45 minutes the other way and sample what the Sunbury region has to offer. There is also some great dining at some of the 20 vineyards, especially what is on offer at Witchmount Estate's Avanti. It boasts a modern Italian cuisine and I recommend the boned quail that are chargrilled and politely plopped on a magnificent polenta. Add that to their world beating Shiraz announced recently and I think you will be more than pleased with their offerings.

Oh and the booze is all good – cold climate style wines in beautiful surrounds - see you in Sunbury.

q latest news



Liberation Music has announced that they will partner with New Found Frequency to launch Jimmy Barnes new album using USB technology: Alive Drive - a cutting edge, new technology delivering exclusive audio, video and image content, along with live updates to fans across the country via the web; all through a branded, USB wristband.

Jimmy Barnes is the first Australian solo artist to use the new format for the much anticipated Tour Edition of the 'Out In The Blue' album which also features a full blown concert recorded live at the legendary Playroom on the Gold Coast in 1984.

At the forefront of this technology is Melbourne-based music company New Found Frequency, who are bringing the patented USB wristband and software, otherwise known as Alive Drive, to the technologically savvy Australian marketplace. Alive Drive opens a world of opportunities to both recording artists and record labels with the need for new and clever merchandise to keep fans engaged.

Jimmy Barnes and Liberation were keen to embrace this new format for the re-package of the #1 platinum album 'Out In The Blue' album as it allows them to converge Jimmy's recorded music and bonus content with the live concert experience on one very robust and portable device.

The 'Out In The Blue' USB Wristband can be purchased from Jimmy Barnes shows or at select retail outlets.

q show: **FOR CHEESE LOVERS**

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Cheese lovers are invited to indulge, tantalise and finesse their cheese tasting skills with a selection of over 300 Australian handmade speciality cheeses at the twelfth annual Melbourne Specialist Cheese Show on Sunday August 17th at Crown.

Visitors are encouraged to roam the room to find their favourite curds and whey amongst the soft oozing camemberts, creamy blues and crumbling cheddars. Award winning Australian specialist cheeses on show will include varieties produced from cow, sheep, buffalo and goat milk, coming from prime cheese making regions across the country and includes producers from Yarra Valley Dairy, Donnybrook, Red Hill Dairy, Apostle Whey and By Eleni dairies.

Cheese enthusiasts wanting to broaden their cheese knowledge have a once in a life time opportunity to meet with 30 of Australia's dedicated specialist cheesemakers who devote their time and energy to creating world class cheeses and will be on hand at the show to guide you through your tastings as well as answer those tricky cheese questions.



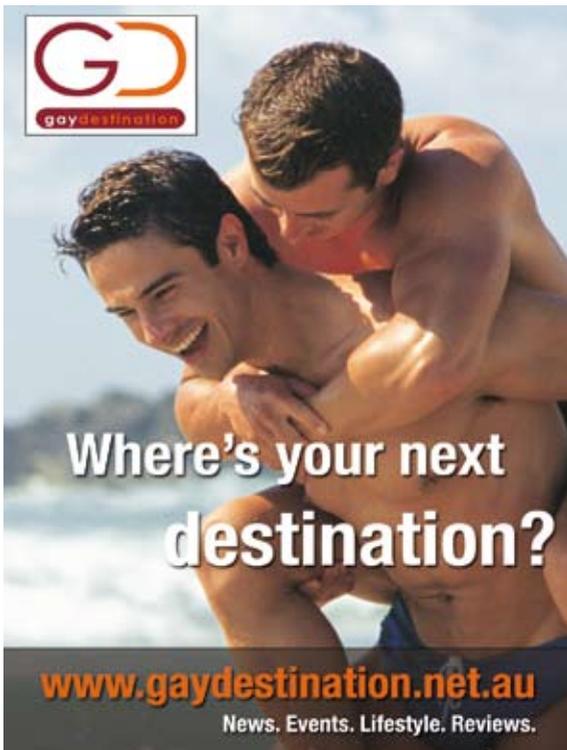
Sunday 17th August, 11am – 4pm Palladium Room, Crown Entertainment Complex Show Tickets are \$40. Includes unlimited cheese tastings and five wine and/or beer tastings.

Children under 15 admitted free.

Limited tickets are available on the door.

For all bookings contact Laurie Gutteridge on (03) 9381 1777 or australiancheese@ihug.com.au

For more information www.australiancheese.org



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The Gallery

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q pets: ANIMAL TALK WITH LIZA CALLEN



The Lost Love of Little Bit (Bird Memories). I was called out one evening to help a couples bird with his chronic feather pulling Little Bit is a large African Grey parrot with intelligent beady eyes and a particularly sweet nature. He lives with John and Mary, his human companions and Winston and Sara his dog friends. His feather's or lack of then, made him look like something the cat dragged in. I was very concerned; there were obviously no cats here. Little Bit was pulling himself to pieces, feather by feather.

Little Bit is a great communicator. Earlier that day, as I meditated on the situation, he telepathically told me why he pulled his feathers. 'I want a little green bird in my life. A female bird, that loves to sing. That's all I want. Please tell them. It will fix everything, he pleaded. So as I sat down with Mary, one of the first things out of my mouth was. 'Mary, I don't usually come in and suggest people to get another animal, but Little Bit is very clear on what is going to fix him. He wants a small female bird friend.'

I walked over to Little Bit. 'What else do you need? Now is your time my friend, tell me.' 'When I pull my feathers, my skin gets really itchy, it drives me crazy. I need clay real bad. I'm craving the trace minerals. There are colored salts and minerals, white, red and brown.'

As Little Bit speaks I get a picture in my head, a memory of the Macaws licking clay on the banks of a large river in the Amazon Jungle. I must tell you of that time as it was a defining moment for me. Not 10 minutes before I witnessed the colorful sight of a hundred or so Macaws having their mid morning clay snacks, I accidentally and dangerously changed the course of my life.

Picture it, a jungle path .in the Amazon. I didn't need a machete, but I did need to watch my footing. The roots of the huge trees had woven their belonging across the trail. My eyes turned up to the canopy looking for monkeys as I stumbled and fell on to my destiny - The Blow Dart Tree. I don't know the official name for it; there are probably a million species of plants in the Peruvian jungle. All I know is that they are the sharpest looking black thorn darts I have ever seen and twenty six of them are in my right hand...Rosa the guide, who has been so informative, teaching us about the plants and animals here, begins to talk about this deadly yet useful tree.

'Oh Mon Dias, the Blow Dart Tree! The Indians use these thorns for blow darts.

They milk Curare from the poison frog and place a drop of fluid on the end. One dart will kill a large monkey in less than a minute. These thorns are poison too Liza. Quick, lets get to the river, there's more light there. We have to get them out NOW...Rapido Rapido!'

In less than a minute, several lives past before me. How many of the regular poison darts can kill a monkey? I think. Is this the end? Oh no, don't freak out, stay calm. I say to myself. I dredge around in my shadow- self looking for any and all bad habits to give up to God, in exchange for not dying on the spot. Several came to mind immediately while I was already wondering in a guilty sort of way, why did this happen to me?

We reach the clearing at the river just as the first birds reached the clay lick. Using a needle first and then a pocket knife Rosa dug out every dart she could as she explained to the rest of the group theories on why the Macaws come to this place at a certain time every day.

I can't tell you how painful it is as she cut out the darts, but I can say I feel a strong compulsion not to scream too loud in case the birds left. I watched those birds as my hand began to swell and color with poison. I stared at them till Rosa had cleaned out every dart she could.

My thoughts swung like a monkey in my mind from the wonder of the birds, to the unreal and scary situation I had put myself in. I know without a doubt those beautiful birds had kept me calm enough at a time I truly needed it. It had slowed the poison circulation and had allowed me to get back to the hut before going unconscious for about six hours.

No, I did not experience a shaman's trip. I went deep into nothingness. I traveled back to the beginning of creation and merged into the blackness and stayed there for a long time.

I woke up from this Absolute Void as the Howler Monkeys nearby, screeched my name. Hans and Peter my Dutch buddies were shaking my shoulders violently and Rosa was praying to the jungle god to bring me back to home to my body. That night I enjoyed a great meal and a couple of Peruvian beers. I figured I'd better enjoy every moment I had as I knew I was not 'out of the jungle yet'.

Have you got a question for Liza?

Send an email to pets@qmagazine.com.au with your pets name, breed, your first name and general location, if you have other pets as well and of course the main problem/s you are experiencing with your pet.

Your answer will appear in the following month's issue.

 Liza Callen

The next morning I awoke (with relief). I was still alive and the canoe was coming to get me out of here. I looked at my hands both were covered with red, yellow and green spots. My right hand still had some broken pieces in it, and looked and felt like it needed urgent medical care.

My mantra that morning as we putted down the river was, "I'm not going to die in the jungle. As I caught the jungle bus, then airplane to Cusco it became "I'm not going to die in Peru. Now you think that was scary? What do you think three days and surgery in a Peruvian Hospital is like? That was much scarier. I had great trouble explaining what plant had poisoned me. "La Planta Blow Dart" I said. Unfortunately we were at an elevation of 12,000 feet so no one had heard of blow darts here.

I had left my suitcase at the hotel, and the Andes Ambulance took me to an old hospital partly encased in Incan walls. All I thought to carry like any good traveler was my pouch holding my money, passport and thankfully a small Queecchua phrasebook. Queecchua is the language of the Inca's. It is still spoken throughout Peru.

I was hooked up to an I.V. of drugs with dangerously long Spanish names.. I waited till it was time for extraction of the broken darts. No one spoke English. My spanish was basic, so I began to talk to the nurses and doctor in Queecchua... "Nama wasaan maki maki. I am in pain hand, hand. I cried. Allichu ama chyta ruwaychu. Please don't do that! 'Chaki washan I am thirsty. It sounded a lot like Japanese. It was a dark comedy of which I couldn't escape. I had a very kind nurse at night and a mean Nurse Hattchett type by day. I woke up in the middle of surgery, and swore my head off. (in English) until they knocked me out good and proper for half the night. I knew I had to get out of there, 'Rapido'. My lungs were not affected by the poison. I figured by this time I had nothing to lose so I basically shouted up a storm. My voice could be heard in the graves of the Incan Kings buried down the road.

Two hours latter I was out of there and ready to continue my vacation. I had spent a fortune getting here, I had dreamt of coming to this country for a long time. I was going to enjoy this holiday, if it was the last thing I did.

My extraordinary journey to Machhu Picchu, Lake Titicaca and the Inca Valley will be expressed in another story at another time I arrived back in The States a month later with red spotty hands, a damaged liver and gratefulness for my life I'd forgotten I could feel.

My health has returned even better, after many months of herbs, health food and no beer. I have lost my Australian palate for alcohol, I just don't like it. If that isn't some sort of miracle I don't know what is! Thanks for reminding me Little Bit. This is the first time I have written this experience down. I certainly had no plans to relive all that in my mind. It feels good to let that memory out. Who knows what sort of weird phobia I could have developed over it? Fear of trees perhaps or fear of adventure, how awful!

Ok so now back to Little Bit and his story. He shares his home Winston and Sara, two special Highland terriers. They both love Little Bit. He can wander high and low and he is always safe with them. However, Winston particularly loves to hunt. 'Squirrels, mice, birds, anything that moves in the desert...He tells me 'I'm pretty good, and I have to taste my kill. 'That's probably why I throw up from time to time, he says.

Mary mentions Winston has a bad time in the car. "He barks like crazy. It's like he is having an anxiety attack. He really is difficult. Please ask him what's going on." Winston answers, "I need to be told every thing. Absolutely everything! I do not like not knowing what's going on. I'll try anything. I love adventures, I may be a dog, but I like to be treated as an equal being. Love goes along way. I love my life here, but Animals have Rights that most humans have never considered."

John enters in the midst of our conversation. I catch him up on everything and we discuss what type of bird Little Bit would like as his new feathered friend. Little Bit has convinced everyone, that was going to help him stop plucking his feathers. I get a picture once again in my head. I see a beautiful little female bird. 'It's small and it's green. Not pale green, bright green. I say. 'Oh my God! Splutters John. "When I broke up a relationship, nine years ago, we split up everything. We had 2 birds. I took Little Bit and she got Baby Bird. Baby Bird was small and bright green." "Was that when he started pulling his feathers out John?" I asked. "Yes it was, he replied. We all looked at Little Bit in astonishment. He had lost his love nine years ago and had never forgotten.

I serenade Little Bit with some Cell Singing. I am strangely humbled as I stand before this sentient being. I feel like I'm in some sort of Galactic Talent Show. Giving it my all, I share my sounds and I am mesmerized by his presence. Music is one great way to reach any species. Winston and Sara hear it as a lullaby, and fall into a deep healing sleep. As I am standing up to leave, I put my handbag over my shoulder. "Bye now" Little Bit says to me. "Bye now Little Bit," I reply. Nine days later I am quite surprised when I get a call from Mary. She sounded very upset. "Liza I got a little green bird for Little Bit. He's so happy. Winston is calm in the car now, it's great, but as soon as he saw the new bird he went crazy. He wants to kill her. He's so strong I could hardly control him. What will I do? She asks. 'Did you tell Winston you were getting a birdfriend for Little Bit? I ask. No, it didn't occur to me. 'You know he needs to know everything that's going on, absolutely everything. 'Oh no! 'He's furious I can feel it. The first thing you have to do is go outside and apologize to him for not sharing such an important decision with him,' I advise. 'Have a talk and explain why there is a new green bird. Separate them, and I'll be over tomorrow. I add. I cross my fingers and send a telepathic explanation to Winston and a 'Hang in there, to the new bird.

It didn't take long the next day to settle everything down. I talked to everyone, explained it all very, very clearly. I got a promise from John to take Winston hunting (a hike in the desert, looking for any creature that moved). Apparently it had got his juices flowing thinking about Baby Bird in a murderous way for the last 24 hours. I got a promise from Winston that he would leave the bird alone. Which to this very day he has! For sometime after this experience, I pondered the nature of memory. The old imprints of pain or fear often etch deep at the edge of our awareness, haunting the joy out of our life. Whether it's feathers you're pulling out, or Blow Darts. You better find out what makes you happy.

q whispers: with ADDAM STOBBS

One of the best things to happen to me was to discover when I was 18, that I was homosexual.

My coming out was non-traumatic, probably because I had good self esteem, and partly because then, as now, I am a completely self centred arrogant prick. "He's such a 'me' person" pretty accurate, but if it's so terrible, what's the alternative? Thought so! One of the good things about coming out young (ish) is that we develop the social skills required to facilitate a gracious and polite attitude to journey through life with all of the vagaries of communal living and intimate engagements. Coming early can have draw-backs, but none of them seem to be significant. Not a lot of cash, career uncertainty, tendency to have too much sex etc.

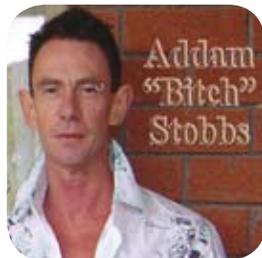
On the other hand coming out later in life whilst frequently a lot more traumatic, is also laden with other consequences. Many older Gay men and Lesbians who come out later in life have to re-establish themselves in their personal and family relationships, and also with the rest of sentient creation. It is a monumental task. I have so much admiration for them in this endeavour. There is however an awkwardness that accompanies the recently discovered sexual identity of older people. Recently I have had experiences that have brought this to the forefront of my mind, because as much as I acknowledge that I am not the most sensitive person around, I do sometimes wish I didn't have to react so bluntly.

I've just had a rush of old men who have just come out try to pick me up, in the most vulgar circumstances. Because I am a 'little bit' older and slim, the more rotund and hirsute, elderly and recently gayed try it on me because I am not a pretty strut-slut, and as a slightly older male, I must be interested in anything else that is male. They also perceive "no thanks" as "be more persistent"

This has driven me to distraction lately, and it begs the question, what is acceptable behaviour in these matters? I like to think self respect is a good indicator. I frequently try to look at myself objectively and rationalise my behaviour (believe me, I am good at this), cuing in the rain to get into some poxy venue at 1am is not a good sign of self respect. Let this be our guide, self respect is good.

Sometimes when at some of these venues I look

at the wilting wall-flowers of lonely old men, and hope they find something like vintage men, it's a wonderful community group, I have come to know many of them recently and I love them, one day I will be with them (if they'll let me). There are many community groups and good venues for us more mature people, old men in teeny bopper venues is so not a good look.



Gay men who have been out for a reasonable time have learned the social skills and know what's regarded as acceptable behaviour. All power to the latent homosexual, and good on you all for discovering this aspect of your life and changing. I have only heard two instances of Homosexuals discovering they were actually not homosexual in later life, and they were both lesbian women, who fell in love, and got married (to men). The older people in our community are a total inspiration, I have so much respect for them, in particular Vintage Men, The Matrix Guild, and, my total favourite is POW - the Performing Older Women's Circus, how's that for breaking down stereotypes. They're awesome and when I grow up, that's exactly what I want to be like.



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q notices:

TRANS DEDUCTIBLE: NEW ERA FOR TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN VICTORIA. The achievement of Deductible Gift Recipient (tax deductible) status by Transgender Victoria has ushered in a new era for Victoria's transgender people.

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'equity' part of our mission far more than previously" stated spokesperson Sally Goldner. "Individuals and businesses will be able to donate \$2 or more to a transgender-specific cause and receive a tax deduction. Equally, this gives us obvious advantages in applying for funding from charitable trusts requiring that the recipient of the grant has DGR status. It is also excellent timing given the focus of Victoria's transgender community on permanent premises to offer services including counselling and referral. Given the high risk of suicide for transgender people, we believe the establishment of such services as vital". To make a donation: 1 - Via credit card (VISA, Mastercard or Amex - secure online facility) ourcommunity.com.au/transgendervic 2 - Please send your cheque or money order to PO Box 762 South Melbourne 3205. Please include an email address (as well as other contact details) so we can email your environmentally friendly receipt. 3 - Phone (03) 9517 6613 for BSB and account details.

Brecik's Latest News

My good mate, and Q Magazine's cover boy from November 2005 has released some new material for your listening pleasure. Check out his MySpace page, and become a friend of his to make sure you get the latest information at www.myspace.com/brecik.



JOY 94.9 - Australia's only gay and lesbian radio station has just celebrated its first membership drive from its new home at the Melbourne City Village, 225 Bourke Street.

For the first ten days, the station was buzzing with happy chaos as the

JOY volunteer presenters broadcast from a temporary studio, while within earshot, crowds of lively phone volunteers weaved between builders and half-completed walls to excitedly take memberships.

You haven't missed out though: become a member before July 18 and you will still go in the Major and Specialist draws.

Call (03) 9699 2949 or find full details at joy.org.au

The ALSO Foundation has moved to their new premises at City Village, Level 8, 225 Bourke st in the CBD. Ph: (03) 9660 3900 or Fax: (03) 9660 3950

How to get there:

Melways - 1B P5

Tram: No. 96 & 86 trams directly run down Bourke Street and the

stop is wheelchair accessible. Train: Close to Melbourne Central and Flinders Street stations and a direct tram ride up Bourke Street from Southern Cross station. Parking: A comprehensive list of city parking is available at www.thatsmelbourne.com.au Building access: Press the buzzer on the right hand side of the door for level 8 - wheelchair access during business hours is via the cafe.



Please see Q Community for an explanation about the new ALSO logo.

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q business: **NEW PRISCILLA'S@153**

A new era is about to commence for an old Commercial Road girl. DIVA Bar will be getting her make-up touched up, many new frocks made for her and a name change to Priscilla's@153. I had the opportunity to speak with my dear friend, Mitch Daly, about the venture and started by asking him to please clear up the rumour and innuendo surrounding the closure of DIVA Bar.

Yes I've heard some of the rumours and most are so far from the reality. To be honest, whatever the reason DIVA closed, it has no bearing on our upcoming operation and plans for the club. I will say this though - there has to be some major building works done to get the club re-opened.

When can we expect to see the opening of Priscilla's@153? And will you be having a gala event accompanying this?

We will open later this month (July) and yes, we most certainly will be having a grand opening with some very special guests on the night - so stay tuned on that.

Why did you decide to enter the (often dubious and cut throat) world of night clubs?

As you know, we actually do have a long history of involvement in the hotel and nightclub industry (especially in marketing). You've met some of our very dear friends in the hospitality industry who will lend a hand when needed. Having said that, we have a lot more experience in hotels and clubs than a lot of people are probably aware of.

As for the cut throat and dubious - are we talking about the same industry here Brett?

But seriously, on the whole, I think Commercial Road has been a positive experience for Priscilla and I. My philosophy is that whatever we do at Priscilla's@153, it will have a positive effect on the strip. I also look forward to concentrating on our club and getting on with the job at hand.



What changes will punters expect to see from the new Priscilla's@153? And do you have any special nights planned for the rest of 2008?

Without giving too much away, quite a lot of building works (as I said before). This will include a new undercover smoking area abutted to the building, a new fit-out, new sound lighting and staging - but really Brett, you're going to have to wait and see. I think people will be pleasantly surprised at how much has changed, as well as how many of the positive aspects of the former club remain the same - such as the friendly bar staff and atmosphere. As for ongoing special nights, big things are afoot!

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q travel: with SHEK GRAHAM

Pictures by Shek Graham

Our Great American Adventure

We had wanted to visit friends in Canada for several years but kept putting it off because of the expense. Our friends were now talking about moving back to Australia, so we decided it was now or never. Now if you're going all the way to Canada from Australia, you might as well visit the USA at the same time and take in some of the sights! We decided to do a road trip taking in some of the places we had always wanted to visit.

Where to start...we visited our friendly local travel agent and looked at the possibilities. One of the cheapest ways to fly was via Guam and Hawaii... what a hardship! As keen divers we thought it would be a fantastic opportunity to spend a few days diving around Palau (a short island hop from Guam) and perhaps take in Hawaii on the way back. We put our deposit down and had ten months to start saving madly for the trip.

September arrived and it was time to go! Saying a sad goodbye to our beloved pets, we packed warm woolies for Canada, shorts, T-shirts and our dive gear for Palau and Hawaii, and of course all our camera gear and a lap-top. Used to travelling light we were appalled by all the luggage, and started unpacking some stuff thinking we could buy a few things as we needed them. The suitcases were a little less heavy – but it still looked as if we had enough luggage for 50 drag queens putting on a show with 10 costume changes each!

Enough already of the preparation! What about Palau? Well, it's just beautiful. We got picked up from the airport in a mini-bus. It was already very late and with the tiny twisting roads, we expected a scary trip to our hotel, but the driver took off at a sedate 20 miles per hour (around 30 k.p.h.) and we cruised our way gently into the night, having a fascinating conversation about his life on Palau. Like many of the hospitality workers, he was from the Philippines and had come to Palau for a better life.

In the morning we awoke to a beautiful day with gorgeous views across the bay. The climate is similar to Cairns and the seas are warm and full of tropical fish...and just a few sharks! Palau is actually a chain of small islands connected by causeways and bridges. There are not many sandy beaches, but there are literally hundreds of

limestone pinnacles around the shore lines forming many calm and private lagoons to enjoy a swim or to kayak around. The diving was exceptional. We saw manta rays galore, many sharks and some amazing caves and rock formations.

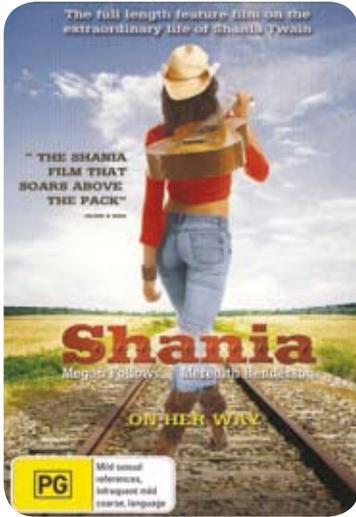
The highlight of the diving was at Blue Corner. This site is at the very edge of a reef that drops off many hundreds of metres to the ocean depths right in front of you. The cooler deep waters rise up here bringing food for millions of little fish. These bring in schools of mackerel and giant trevally which in turn bring in the large predators, the sharks – a whole food chain unfolding in front of us. By attaching ourselves to a rock with a hook in the strong currents we were able to watch a dozen sharks including white, silver and black tipped sharks, as well as grey reef sharks cruising round and round just a couple of metres from us. There were also manta rays, giant Napoleon wrasse and green turtles in the same location. My only frustration was that I had flooded my camera on my second dive in Palau, and couldn't take any underwater photos!!

I can definitely recommend Palau as a great diving location. The people are friendly and accommodating, tipping is considered embarrassing, but giving them chocolate makes friends for life! The hotel was clean, comfortable and air-conditioned, and the dive company professional and considerate. The town has some nice restaurants and there are a couple of places to party. We will be back!



Palau as a great diving location. The people are friendly and accommodating, ferrying us around the island without charging.

q movies: ENTERTAINMENT PLUS



Two very different releases for you this month - both from the Eagle Entertainment stable, both exceptionally good viewing, both getting a 4 and a half star rating from me. Both available to hire or buy from your local video store right now.

Arguably one of the finest female vocalists to hit the world stage is *Shania* Twain. This film, although not having any direct input from the artist herself, was endorsed as a true record of her life. It's a story of triumph, tears, and determination. It's a story about a young lady (Eileen Twain, aged eight) and her struggle to be recognised as a person with talent and a voice worth hearing.

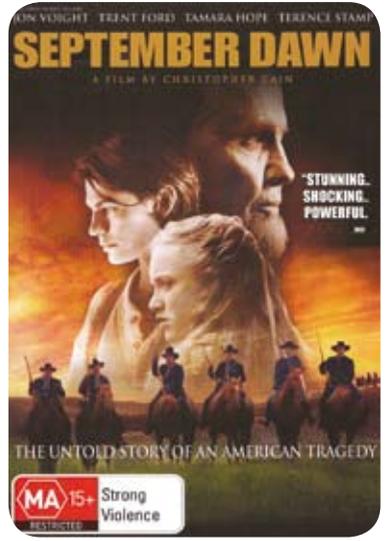
Battling a somewhat over-bearing "stage" Mum and a less than affluent upbringing, the girl who would eventually be known world-wide as Shania did the hard yards. She battled failed relationships, the death of both of her parents at the same time, siblings who resented all of the attention being placed on her, and a whole heap more. She did however end up coming out the other end a woman who has won hundreds of awards and sold over 6.5 million albums world-wide...remaining to this day as one of country music's biggest celebrities.

and in the name of God, 120 men, women, and children were savagely murdered. *September Dawn* walks the viewer through the events leading up to this atrocity and challenges the possible reasons behind such blatant breaches of human rights, morals, and dignity.

Jon Voight (one of my favourite actors) executes (pardon the pun) his role with all the strength and greatness you would expect from such a seasoned actor. What is also interesting is his character's interaction with his two sons - one of which is clearly more willing to blindly follow the doctrines of the Church than the other.

The storyline is quite complex, dealing with their leader's personal demons, historical hatred against the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and the unbelievable faith some people can have in a Church and its leaders. Disturbing would be an understatement.

The massacre scene is quite graphic and should not be viewed by minors. This untold story of an American tragedy however is something to behold. The scenery is stunning, the acting flawless, the joining of the many different aspects seamless, and although not suitable for the whole family - something you really should see.



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q fashion: with LUKE ADAM-ALLDER

Fans of Catherine Tate will understand when I say I am bovered, yes bovered!!

Why am I so bovered?

Because fashion has gone from the buff man to the skinny man - if the first one was not achievable, the second one makes it so much harder for those of us that are big boned, or who cant squeeze ourselves in to something size 28.

Milan's look this Autumn (Milan's Spring Shows) works well with the skinnier man. Dolce and Gabbana's Stefano Gabbana explained that the catwalk would be emphasizing a pajama theme, though there would be a multitude of other options available back in the showroom.

Understandable that he felt such a clarification might be necessary - would the Dolce man who was so well-served by last season's studly chunk be ready for bed?

The pajama-striped, shawl-collared suit that opened the show comfortably established the manifesto: no shirt, just a scarf. Even given the exaggeration one allows the catwalk, Dolce and Gabbana were clearly onto something.

Chic-but-comfy is the grail of enough guys that the combination of tailoring and trackies should spell kaching.

Armani was somewhat different. The latest men's offering from Armani could almost have been channeling Yul Brynner in The King and I.

The most powerful impression the collection left was the sheen of silk shantung in intense oriental shades of lilac, cyclamen, orange, and imperial purple. It was cut into what looked like cropped dhoti pants, the uniform of Giorgio's model posse in the finale.

Anyone who loves Morocco or the written works of Paul Bowles or the music of Devendra Banhart could rightly take exception to Roberto Cavalli's adopting their allure as the wellspring of his latest collection. In this case, they were an of-the-moment hodgepodge to drape around the show's concept, "Bohemian Safari."

Miuccia Prada cited her inspiration as a man poised between fragility and power, hanging in the balance - in other words, between extremes. As usual, her

enigmatic comment cast an illuminating light on the collection we'd just seen. The first outfits out were a parka and blouson hanging off the models' shoulders on straps.

Once upon a time, Helmut Lang offered up the same idea, but where his version suggested fierce refugee pragmatism (you have to be ready to carry your world on your back), Miuccia's made a nice portrait neckline for her new batch of boychicks.

Overall, I have to say that what we can look forward to are clothes that are eminently more wearable for the seasons ahead and clothes that suits skinny boys and some of those that might be, well, like me, Fat!



If you have any questions for Luke, or you would like him to cover any particular aspect of fashion, please email him at fashion@qmagazine.com.au

q grooming: YOUR Q & A SECTION

Q. How can I help revive my legs after a long day at work, followed by a gym session?

If you get tired legs, if you're on your feet all day or if you're doing a lot of exercise, you want and need better legs! For healthier legs, massaging in a firming/detoxing serum can help provide muscle relief. Massage stimulates blood flow and can also help varicose veins, and encourage damaged skin to heal and regenerate itself. You can also help revive your legs after a long work out by relaxing in a warm bath. Keeping legs nourished, soothed and moisturised will help ensure you get the most from your gym workout and alleviate injuries or discomfort.

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in bed with: **BEN**

Is He Really That Into You?

Sick of being led on by a guy who doesn't want to commit to a relationship?

Well, with the news that the soon to be released book, "He's Just Not That Into You" has been made into a feature flick featuring, Ben Affleck, Drew Barrymore and Jennifer Aniston, I thought I'd revisit the everlasting question of, "How the hell do you tell when a guy is really interested in you?"

Let's face it; guys aren't the most apt at sharing their feelings with you. Unless of course you get them pissed, then in that case they seem to love everyone. So to help men along the way of the dating path, I've created my list of sure fire signs he's just not that into you for gay men.

1. He calls you once a week. If a guy is really head over heels into you, he will be texting you at least every couple of days and phoning you frequently. Be careful not to respond every single time however, otherwise he'll think you're too easy and run a mile. Guy's like a chase, if you don't give it to them; they get bored and move on elsewhere.

2. He's always busy and never commits to a time to catch up with you. This one should be ringing alarm bells but what typically happens is that you have really great conversations in the interim leaving you with a sense of hope that something is going to come of it. Forget it! If he's not making actual plans to catch up with you then he's just not that interested. Save your time for someone who's willing to give you their time (in person).

3. He doesn't return your calls within two days. Ok, in this instance he could be playing Mr cool with you and being hard to catch but let's face it, if he's not returning your calls or text messages within a couple of days forget about it. If a guy really likes you, it doesn't matter how busy he is, he'll return your messages as soon as possible. In the car in peak hour traffic, while he's in a lift or on his lunch break. And never ever, ever ring to see if he got your message! That screams sad and desperate. Let it go and move on. If you're really keen on him then he's going to have to work extra hard to get your attention and respect from now on.

4. Changes plans last minute. Paint the picture, he's asked you out on a date, it is one hour before you're meant to meet and he rings to cancel on you. This reeks of disrespect. Ok, fine if there was a

real emergency that's ok but it's not ok if he does it to you more than once. If you let him get away with it you're setting up the foundation for a relationship in which he will get his way every single time and it will always be on his terms and not yours. A guy must give you three days notice before a date and you must never accept a last minute date. Trust me it's more detrimental than what you might think.



5. You only meet at yours or his place and never go out for dinner with friends or even to leave the house. If this is the case, MR you are an F Buddy. If you're ok with this then that's fine, if you're interested in more than that then ask to go out one night, if he makes excuses you know exactly where you stand.

Use these tips to empower yourself in your dating experience. If your love life sucks, go out and buy the book, "He's Just Not That into You" and "The Rules." They are bibles for dating.

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Grooming Simplified

Atlanta based catalog and internet skincare retailer, Grooming Simplified introduces its newest product - Ochos Rios Sunless Tanning Mist. Ocho Rios is a self tanning mist that creates the look of a tropical tan without the sun and without the pitfalls of traditional self tanners. Simply airbrush on the brown water-based tanning mist and the results are instantly noticeable and instantly sexy. Ocho Rios was designed so that you can see where you are applying the product, therefore giving you the ability to control where it goes and how much you apply - thus avoiding the typical mistakes in applying self tanning products. With a sweet almond scent, Ocho Rios doesn't smell like your typical and recognizable "fake tanners. Ocho Rios, named after the Caribbean city, is designed to be noticeably different than most self tanning products on the market today," said Joshua Harrell, CEO and Founder of Grooming Simplified - a Red Diamond Worldwide Company. Ocho Rios Self Tanning Mist is available at www.GroomingSimplified.com So get your fingers working and email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with *grooming simplified* in the subject line to play and look your tanned best this winter. We have five bottles to give away.

Central Station Records

Strap on your heels and pour yourself a Cosmo as for the first time on DVD, Stonewall Hotel presents the *Campest Clips Ever!* Join celebrity presenters Maxi Shield & Candy Box as they take you on a hilarious ride through some of the campest moments in music video history. Whether it's George Michael's tiny hot pants, Cyndi Lauper's outrageous fashion or Frankie's leather-clad boys that got banned around the world, there's more deliciously flamboyant moments than an Elton John birthday party. Loaded with plenty of attitude, bitchiness, dresses & wigs, it's one big party in pink, sequined box! So get your fingers working and email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with *campest clips* in the subject line to play. We have five copies to give away. The DVD will be available from mid this month. Have a read of the interview we did with the girls later in this Issue.



Doc Johnson

Adult novelty mega-manufacturer Doc Johnson has released its newest product for men seeking the ultimate orgasm - the Pro Pal™ Man's Pleasure Wand - a non-vibrating version of the original, is a male prostate tool that effectively massages the prostate and perineum simultaneously, allowing the user to reach new heights in pleasure. Cast in phthalate-free ABS plastic, the Pro Pal™ features a bulbous head designed to provide maximum prostate stimulation. As safe as it is satisfying, the toy also includes a convenient ring shaped pull-handle for ease of movement. "Our Pleasure Wand line has always done exceedingly well among the male demographic," says Chad Braverman, Doc Johnson's Director of Product Development and Licensing. "This latest version is the first non-vibrating Pleasure Wand toy we've created, yet its larger head is designed to provide a one of a kind stimulation. Based on the success of our previous releases, we're expecting this to be a hot item for men." The Pro Pal™ Man's Pleasure Wand marks the third such release from Doc

Johnson. The toy is available in two colours: matte black and high-polished white and we have five up for grabs. So work those fingers and email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with *doc johnson* in the subject line to play [with yourself hehehe].



Ric Trent

Local Melbourne artist Ric Trent has just released his debut track 'So Pretty' a brilliantly catchy and uplifting pop electronic track. He has a sound and look that is bound to grab anyone's interest. 'So Pretty' is a cleverly crafted song about the power of instant infatuation. The song captures the listener with its excellent blend of pop melody and catchy chorus. Ric performed his EP as part of the 2008 MIDSUMMA Festival and is receiving rave reviews of his track on JOY 94.9. The EP is the result of collaboration between 2 of Australia's most talented new producers Gerard Sidhu and Lionel Towers, polished by one of Australia's best, Paul Wiltshire known for his work with Australian Idols, who was the executive producer on this project. To try your luck at winning one of five ep's we have to give away, email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with *ric trent* in the subject line.

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



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q scene: **OUT & ABOUT**



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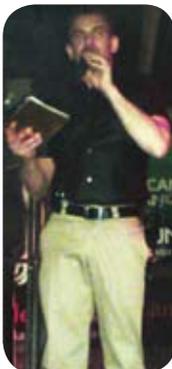
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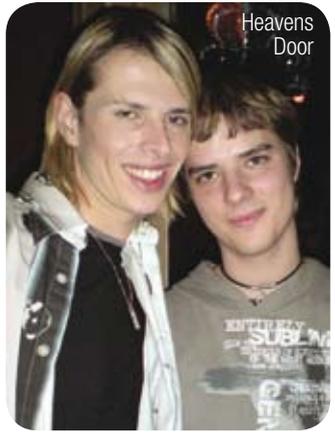
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Heavens Door



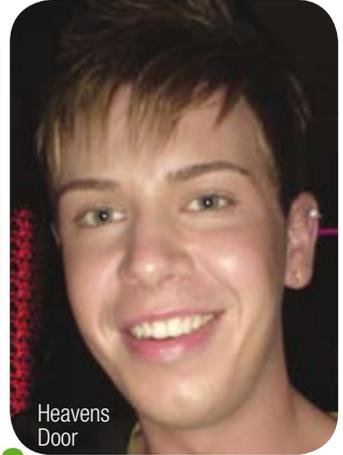
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q scene: OUT & ABOUT



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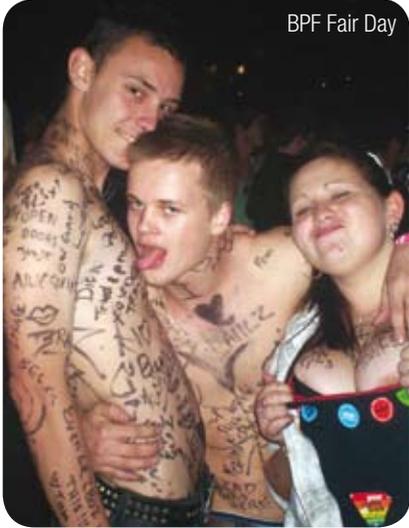


Flamingos
Birthday



Flamingos

q scene extra: BRISBANE PRIDE



q cabaret: IT LIVES FOREVER

Isabel Hertaeg is MARILYN MONROE

In the last year Isabel brought us "The Lounge set – A lady's guide to etiquette and suitable behaviour". Taking the lady theme a step further, Isabel now presents to you the life and music of Marilyn Munroe.



Thursday 17 to Sunday 20 July
Times: Thurs - Sat at 7.00pm; Sunday at 6.00pm \$20 full / \$15 concession and for groups of 8 or more

Lola The Vamp in MILONGA DEL ANGEL

A romance with a Venetian mask, a parasol dance and a classic striptease.

Milonga Del Angel is Lola The Vamp's spellbinding new show. Performed inside a 1790s sedan chair, this is a showgirl solo to captivate & dazzle. Accompanied by the hypnotic cabaret artist Buella Blue on piano and vocals.



Thursday 17 to Sunday 20 July
Times: Thurs - Sat at 9.00pm; Sunday at 8.00pm
\$25 full / \$20 concession and for groups of 8 or more
More info: www.myspace.com/olathevamp

What?! We have a show!

An improvisational show that's part Saturday Night Live meets Whose Line is it Anyway? that could go surprisingly well or terribly wrong ... just depends on how you look at it; half glass full or half glass empty?

Wednesday 23 July at 8.00pm \$20 full / \$15 concession and for groups of 8 or more.



B 'n B – BOB & BRIDGETTE

Recent winner of Australia's highest music award (the \$60,000 Don Banks Music Award 2008), jazz piano legend Bob Sedergreen teams up with another consummate performer, Bridgette Allen. These intimate shows will celebrate the music of Jazz masters Dave Brubeck, Thelonious Monk, and Carmen McRae together with some of Bob's finest originals and a sprinkling of surprises.



Thursday 24 to Saturday 26 July, all shows at 9.00pm \$25 full / \$20 concession and for groups of 8 or more

REGULAR NIGHTS

DR SKETCHY'S ANTI-ART SCHOOL

DR SKETCHY'S is what happens when cabaret meets art school. The perfect antidote for boring, typical art classes. Hostess Miss Louie brings fun, excitement and a bit of cheek back to life drawing with kooky contests and bodacious burlesque beauties. We don't mind if you draw for your supper or just for fun, we are happy to have you! So forget your easels and messy mediums, just bring a sketch pad and your pencils!



Wednesday 27 July at 8.00pm (last Wed of every month) \$15
More info: www.myspace.com/drsketchymelbourne

THE BUTTERFLY GLEE CLUB

If you really want to do something that makes you feel good inside - just SING. THE BUTTERFLY GLEE CLUB is conducted by the gorgeous and talented



Vicky Jacobs (Green Room Award Nominee for Musical Direction) who never tells anyone off and lets all singers drink as much wine during rehearsal as they like!

Wednesdays at 6.30pm \$10 More info: go to www.myspace.com/butterflygleeclub or email glee.club@optusnet.com.au

The Butterfly Club 204 Bank Street, South Melbourne Tel 9690 2000 thebutterflyclub.com / myspace.com/thebutterflyclub facebook.com/group.php?gid=5748653981 / The club is Open: Wednesday through Sunday from 5.00 pm til late.

q community: CHANGES



After 27 years under the banner of the much loved ALSO logo, the ALSO board this year embarked on a process of 'organisational make over' aimed at improving the diversity, vibrancy and professionalism of the organisation and recently launched their brand new visual identity.

Generously supported by the widely respected creative team 'Cheeky Pup', ALSO has been fortunate in being guided to a new profile that is energetic, engaging and flexible in a range of applications, including on line.

"The present ALSO symbol was derived from a Korean family crest and served the ALSO Foundation and ALSO Care and Benevolent Society well for 26 years. It was chosen for its simplicity and stylish design - a great identifier in the days when many people found it more comfortable to stay in the closet. Despite various attempts to ascribe qualities and meanings to the symbol it retains a subtle and intriguing challenge." Mac Ronan, Founding Member

The Also logo is made up of two elements: the typeface letters for the word 'also', and the curly brackets. The curly brackets are used to convey that notion that everything contained between the parentheses is of equal relationship. In addition, it symbolises togetherness and belonging as well as conveying a nurturing relationship.

"The warmth with which this new presence has been greeted underscores the need for ALSO to keep growing and communicate effectively across our whole community" Neil Paterson, President. The new tagline 'for all of us' reflects the twin roles of advocacy and support - recognising the role of community identity and belonging. Bringing us together as a community.

Consistent with the ALSO vision and keen to honour the proud history of the group the board sought to create a visual identity that was contemporary and robust - reflective of the diverse and celebratory nature of the community we serve.

"ALSO has worked hard over the past 18 months to find out what our community want and to create a visible and attractive profile across our community. 'For all of us' represents a powerful statement of intent and commitment to inclusion and diversity of which we are most proud" Lyn Morgain, CEO "This reflects a dynamic and strong direction for the organisation that we are confident will serve us well", Lyn added.



q music: WHEN MUSIC IS YOUR LIFE



Vinyl Pusher

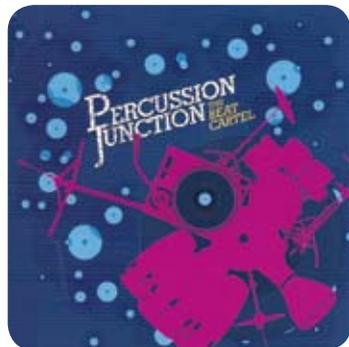
Following on from their highly successful range (including "addictions", "pure", "rush", and "move" - out later this year) come a fabulous double CD of simply the finest Trance - mixed brilliantly by DJs Jewelz and Papa Smurf. Regardless of whether this music is your kind of stuff, you will love this gem. Get it today from all good music stores.

Warner Music

I doubt anyone alive today missed hearing about Olivia Newton-John's trek across the Great Wall of China. As a person who has survived Cancer, I can not express strongly enough how terrible this condition is - regardless of where it

attacks. "A Celebration in Song" is part of Olivia's Cancer Centre Appeal and should be supported by all Australians. Please do your part and grab your copy today.

A CELEBRATION
IN SONG
OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN
AND FRIENDS



Beat Broker

Most bands would say one drummer is enough, but more is more in the world of Percussion Junction. Packing beats like soldiers pack bullets, the boys have declared all out war on dance floors' across the nation. Their debut album 'The Beat Cartel' is a 100-proof brew of Afro-Latin drumming distilled with hip hop, reggae, electro, house and breaks. As an organized funk syndicate, 'Junction' composes with an orchestral army of percussion. Kane Goodwin (drum kit) Matty Bourne (congas, bongos & djembe) and Paul Issa (Doumbek) are backed by Benjamin 'Bentley' Chinnock on decks. In all responsible stores now.

Liberation

Sydney four-piece Youth Group have just released their fourth album 'The Night Is

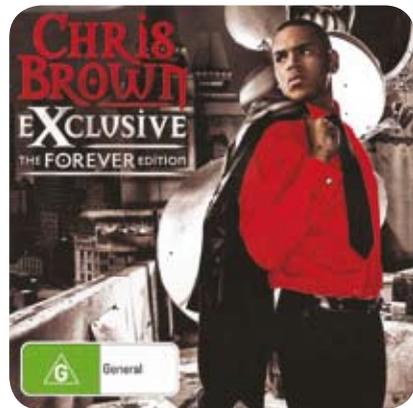
Ours'. The highly anticipated album follows on from their top ten ARIA-Award winning album 'Casino Twilight Dogs'. Recorded and produced by Tim Kevin and Anthony The and mixed by Tim Whitten (Augie March, Powderfinger, 78 Saab) and Youth Group's good friend Chris Walla (Death Cab For Cutie), 'The Night Is Ours' saw Youth Group employ a less than traditional recording process. Over a couple of months late last year, the band holed up in a near derelict 1920s mess hall on Sydney's harbour to create the record. They turned a vacated building into a studio, and brought in all of their own gear to create an inimitable recording environment which allowed them to work at their



own pace. The old dining room morphed into their 'band room' and the old bathroom became the 'control room'. This unusual approach helped to shape the 10 songs that make up the personality of 'The Night Is Ours.' In all good record stores now.

SonyBMG

This IS the ultimate CD/DVD set from the incredible Chris Brown. 14 fantastic tracks (including his smash hit "Forever"), 2 bonus tracks and an additional 4 bonus tracks for this release (including an excellent Picture Perfect remix featuring Bow Wow and Hurricane Chris) then the DVD of Chris on tour - a 30 minute look behind the scenes at the sold out Up Close and Personal Tour of this year. The DVD also includes a gallery of never-before-seen scene photos of Chris Brown. Extremely well packaged, this CD/DVD release is one for everyone's collection - don't miss out - get it today from all good music retailers.



q people: **MAXI SHIELD & CANDY BOX**

Two of Sydney's brightest stars - Maxi Shield and Candy Box - are the presenters on a brand new release coming out from Central Station Records. I caught up with them both late last month and had one of the campest conversations I have had for quite some time. The obvious opener was to ask them how it all came about.

It's coming out on the 19th of this month and we're very excited. It's obviously a DVD filled with lots of fabulous clips. We tried to pick video clips that made us dance...or made us giggle like girls. You know those clips like Cindy Lauper's "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" - whenever it's played, every gay boy and girl (we're not discriminatory) bop along, wave a hand in the air, or wiggle their asses to it. We've also tried to mix it up a bit with clips from Dannii Minogue, Wham, Bearforce One and many others.



How did you two girls get involved?

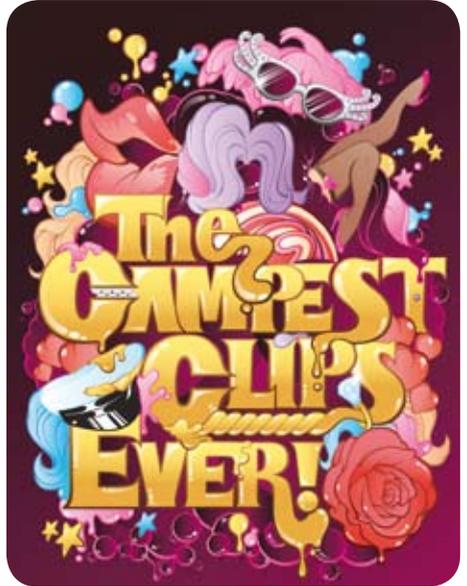
Well we worked with other down on William Street [giggles] - no, we work together at Stonewall and Central Station and Stonewall came up with the idea, wanted a couple of Drag Queens to do the job and thought we would be right for the job. Basically we link the DVD together. It's broken into different sections e.g. men and camp, women and camp, camp history, and we try to have a bit of fun in between so people aren't just looking at "straight" video clips [well, they definitely won't be looking at straight clips giggles]. It will have its release at the Stonewall Hotel and hopefully nationally from there.

It's a fabulous little spot [Stonewall] - it's one of my favourite places in Sydney.

Well you'll have to come up and have a drink and say hello next time you're in town. You can share my bar tab - although I generally get it on a Monday and it's gone the same night.

So is the DVD suited to a broad audience?

Definitely! I think Drag Queen's have become quite commercial - you know you see them on tv and people are used to seeing gay boys now, so I think anyone can buy the DVD and still enjoy it. It's just fun and colourful and full of clips that I am sure people will want to get their hands on to add to their own collections. I think it would be perfect to throw on at a party - there's dance stuff and "oh I remember that" stuff and quite a few modern tracks as well. And we're just doing it in the hope of getting a job on Channel Nine News. People will be so used to seeing Drag Queens that they won't mind seeing Candy Box reading the news [and me - Maxi Shield - as the weather girl].



Finally, how long did it all take to put together [from concept to choosing the clips and doing the final production]?

The concept started just before Mardi Gras - it is quite a long process coming up with everything from the artwork to getting permission to use the songs, shooting the video and then going back and getting it rated. The filming wasn't the most lengthy part - we all tackled it very professionally - story boards and the like - then getting in and doing the job. It was more the paperwork. We probably had two full-on days of shooting in Drag in total.

Girls I wish you all the best of luck with it and I hope it is a huge success.

And we'll see you soon for that drink Brett.



q awards: QANTAS SPIRIT OF YOUTH

Are you the next big thing?

The Qantas Spirit Of Youth Awards help young creative innovators to expand their horizons, build up their business base, and learn the ropes from leading industry figures and some of the greatest creative minds in the world. Think big. Stand out. Win the world.

The Qantas Spirit Of Youth Awards (SOYA) are Australia's leading grants program for new creative talent. The big news in 2008 is that as SOYA moves into its fifth year, the Awards are open to even more Australians than ever before.

SOYA rewards Australia's best young fashion designers, musicians, artists, designers and filmmakers with an incredible career boost - \$5000 in cash, \$5000 in flights from Qantas, and a year of mentorship with icons and industry leaders in each creative field, from Marc Newson in Industrial Design to John Polson in Film to Elizabeth Ann Macgregor in Visual Arts.

SOYA 's success in 2007 - attracting over 40,000 entries from 4,600 creative young Australians - has led to an expansion of the Awards in 2008.

Firstly, the age limit for entering SOYA has been lifted from 25 to 30. This development recognises the reality that, for many young creatives, their early 20s are now spent in 'creative apprenticeship', learning the ropes of their chosen fields by working in established studios or for more senior practitioners, in order to develop a greater understanding of their industries before launching their own projects. This development is a reflection of SOYA taking on board feedback from entrants and an acknowledgment of the current state of play in the creative fields - and will certainly result in even more high quality, original entries in 2008.

Secondly, 2008 marks the first year for a new SOYA category - Visual Communications. This category has been established to provide opportunities for graphic designers, web designers, illustrators, collage artists, art directors and more - well represented in SOYA entries, but without a tailored outcome - until now. This category will be supported by a stellar new addition to the SOYA stable, mentor Vince Frost, considered internationally to be the best Art Director Australia has ever produced. Vince has shaped the pages of the most respected publications in the world,



while his design firm, Frost Design, has directed projects including the re-branding of the Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Dance Company. This is a significant development for all students and practitioners of design across Australia.

HOW TO ENTER

Registrations for SOYA 08 open until July 31, and all entries must be submitted to www.soya.com.au. Entrants must be Australian citizens or residents aged 30 and under (at closing date) to enter SOYA. Entrants must create a profile and submit work in one or more of the seven SOYA categories. Entrants are advised to provide at least three different examples of their best original work with descriptions and provide supporting material to demonstrate how they are clearly developing their practice and working towards defining their own unique style and approach to their own creative fields or art forms, including evidence of how they are exhibiting, presenting or distributing their work in their fields. Entrants are advised to include details of any websites, magazines, or other media that have covered their work, distribution outlets or events which have presented their work. Entrants are also advised to include details of their professional web presence, study or work experience.

In the case of Film and Animation submissions, if work is too large to upload, please mail ONE DVD of work to SOYA - Film and Animation G.P.O. Box 2227 Sydney, NSW, 2001.



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