



SEPTEMBER 2013

Q MAGAZINE

LGBTI  
World  
Lifestyle  
Community

featuring  
**ZACKARY DRUCKER**  
in conversation plus the queen



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## q comment:

**National LGBTIQ+ community grants  
program calls for applications**

**ANZ and Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi  
Gras provide support for second year**



To apply and find out more information, visit  
[www.anz.com/mardigrasgrants](http://www.anz.com/mardigrasgrants)

ANZ and Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras opened applications for its national LGBTIQ+ community grants program.

ANZ research shows that almost half a million Australian LGBTIQ+ community members 1 (1 in every 4) are still not comfortable being their true selves and discussing their sexuality and gender identity with their loved ones or friends.

The ANZ and Sydney Mardi Gras Community Grants program aims to increase support and inclusivity for the LGBTIQ+ community nationwide, providing grants of up to \$10,000 to LGBTIQ+ not-for-profit community organisations, charities and individuals.

Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Board Co-Chair, Kate Wickett said: "Last year's grants program provided funding to a diverse range of recipients under the LGBTIQ+ umbrella. We were able to highlight the incredible work of organisations and individuals making an impact to the community in everything from sports, arts, music, wellbeing and beyond. We continue to be passionate in helping support other organisations and individuals to continue touching the lives of the LGBTIQ+ community."

Applications for ANZ & Sydney Mardi Gras Community Grants are open from now until 6 October, with successful applicants announced on 28 October 2020.



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# q feature: THE QUEEN

THE CAPITOL PRESENTS  
FRANK SIMON'S GROUND-BREAKING 1968 DOCUMENTARY THE QUEEN  
WITH ZACKARY DRUCKER (PRODUCER, TRANSPARENT) AND DRAG ARTIST ASIS D'ORANGE IN CONVERSATION  
&  
QUEER AND TRANSPARENT GAZING | A MASTERCLASS ON THE QUEER GAZE  
FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER | THE CAPITOL, RMIT UNIVERSITY  
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Following its grand reopening in June, The Capitol is thrilled to present one of its first public programs on Friday 13 September 2019. Fresh off a packed house at MIFF, The Capitol will screen Frank Simon's ground-breaking film *The Queen* (1968), which followed the 1967 Miss All-American Camp Beauty Pageant, introducing audiences to the world of competitive drag and to activist and transgender pioneer Flawless Sabrina – who was the brainchild behind this film. Hailed by *Indiewire* as a "queer cinematic treasure", *The Queen* boasts appearances from the likes of Andy Warhol, Edie Sedgwick, Dorian Corey (Paris is Burning) and artist Larry Rivers. Long before Paris is Burning, Madonna's 'Vogue' and RuPaul's Drag Race emerged,

*The Queen* outed the first document of drag culture on screen, offering a mesmerising and tender vérité experience.

*The Queen* will screen at The Capitol in a resplendent 4K digital restoration from the original camera negative.

Watch the trailer [here](#).

Following the screening, The Capitol will host an in-conversation with special guests Zackary Drucker, the American trans artist, photographer and producer of Golden Globe-award winning TV series *Transparent*, and Israeli genderqueer drag artist, Asis D'Orange.

Drucker became something of a confidante to Flawless Sabrina before Sabrina's death in 2017. Drucker will speak to Sabrina's experience making the film, offering context and unique insight into the cultural fallout after *The Queen*'s 1968 release.

*The Queen* screens Friday 13 September, 645pm at The Capitol. Tickets and more info via [thecapitol.rmit.edu.au](http://thecapitol.rmit.edu.au).

[Our cover model] Zackary Drucker features in two events on Friday 13 September at The Capitol – an in-conversation following the screening of ground-breaking documentary, *The Queen* as well as Masterclass: Queer and Transparent Gazing, a conversation about the queer lens.

Information and tickets: [www.thecapitol.rmit.edu.au](http://www.thecapitol.rmit.edu.au)

Zackary also features in the Festival of Jewish Arts and Music on Sunday 8 September. Information and tickets: [www.fojam.com](http://www.fojam.com)





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# q cuisine: with HOBBY CHEF CHAPMAN

## GREEN TEA PANNA COTTA

Although made with full cream this Italian dessert seems very light, and especially when infused with a hint of Green Tea powder – a classic with a twist.

You will need four 1.5 dl holding glass or ceramic forms.

### Ingredients

5 dl	Full cream
1 dl	Milk
2-3 Tbsp	White sugar
1 tsp	Green Tea powder (Matcha)
1 tsp	Agar-Agar or 3 sheets of soaked gelatine
500 g	Blueberries
2 dl	Water
	Sugar and lemon juice to season



### Preparation Panna Cotta

1. Heat the cream, milk, and sugar and simmer for 10 minutes to reduce the liquid.

2. Add the Green Tea powder and the Agar-Agar or gelatine and whisk well until all dissolves. Simmer and whisk for another 3 – 5 minutes.

3. Wash the forms with cold water and pour the mix into them. Let them cool for a while then refrigerate for 4 – 5 hours or overnight.

4. Heat the blueberries in the water with two tablespoons of sugar and cook over low heat until the liquid is reduced by half.

5. Blend with an immersion blender and pass the sauce through a sieve.

Taste and balance the sweet/sour flavor with either a little sugar or lemon juice to your liking.



### Serve

Place the forms with the Panna Cotta in a warm water bath for 30 seconds and run a pointed knife around the top edge to loosen the content from the form.

Turn the forms onto the serving plates and let the Panna Cotta fall. Generously spoon some blueberry sauce over them and decorate with fresh blueberries.



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A close-up photograph of a person's mouth, focusing on the lower teeth. A dental implant is visible, appearing as a white, rectangular piece integrated with the natural teeth. The person has red lipstick on their lips and some facial hair is visible around the mouth.

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# q life: with GABRIEL TABASCO

## Stories from the Steam Room – Part One

A few years ago I signed up to my local gym that was within walking distance from my house. I decided to invest a little more and signed up to a more expensive gym the gym was expensive. Because it was exclusive it was in the CBD and predominantly gay which meant that there were many opportunities for sex in the gym.

Gays go to the gym to become fit, become bigger and stare in the mirror while doing so. Afterwards, to relax, they congregate in the steam room to let off steam, both literally and figuratively. Usually there is an eager volunteer to give them a hand while doing so. The benefits of a gym sauna is that it is cleaner than sex saunas and much more discreet. For married, closeted gay men a gym sauna provides a safe space where they can find pleasure with the sex that interests them while for out gay men, saunas in the gym provide an after workout thrill. Gyms make men behave in extremes, due to the feel good factor the endorphins release, or the sight of so much skin and the smell of men in the changing rooms.

A few months after joining the gym I bumped into a man I dated briefly and had not seen for over a year. We were alone in the Jacuzzi when at one point he slipped his hand into my swimming trunks. I was pleasantly surprised. He fondled me until I was erect and gently began to stroke me.

'Stop it. I'm going to come,' I said after a few minutes while trying not to.

'So come,' he said continuing.

Amid the bubble of the Jacuzzi I was becoming hotter and could feel my face flush.

At that very crucial moment two men walked up to the Jacuzzi and got in. My friend stopped abruptly pulling his hand away. There were no underwater explosions that day but I had to wait in the Jacuzzi for another few minutes until my erection subsided so I could get out without giving the game away.

A few weeks later, after my workout, at the gym's canteen I had a non-fat, power, extra-powdered milkshake (whatever that was meant to be). I overheard two men and one woman talking about a recent incident in the men's changing rooms. Overhearing their whispered giggled I learnt that just a few days ago, two men were caught in the changing rooms canoodling together.

'Did one of them bazinga the other?' guffawed the shorter, stockier man.

'Don't you mean bamboozled?' said the other, taller man.

'Apparently one was a banker,' said the lady. Then she added 'and the other one was married!'

'Well not anymore,' commented someone else.

'You mean they fired him from the bank?' asked the shorter one.

'Not from the bank. His wife fired him from his marriage.' She rolled her eyes.





'So the two guys were doing what? Like having sex?' asked the shorter, stockier of the two men, trying to seem less interested than he actually was.

'I heard only oral. In the showers,' said the lady.

'Which one of the two?' asked the short man.

'Well... aren't you interested?' said the lady to the man.

'You know... just to be careful around him. That's all.'

'In case he tries to blow you?' said the man. 'Mate, I saw you in the changing room man and let's say no King Kong will climb your skyscraper.'

The lady and the man both started laughing at the short man's expense who tried to laugh it off but was clearly bothered by the comment. I saw him in the changing rooms too and I seconded the taller man's opinion.

'In any case, they have been barred from the gym,' said the lady. 'Though they would be too embarrassed to come around here again.'

Despite its silly name it was the most interesting milkshake I ever had.

That story was even hotter than the one I heard of the student who was responsible for the laundry service of our university soccer team.

Gossip had it that he had an underwear fetish and every day after practice he would tip the laundry bin that was full of the uniforms and roll around in them while smelling the underwear and jerking himself off.

No one noticed until one day one of the football players forgot his backpack in the changing room and went to pick it up.

Not only did he find his backpack but he also found the student rolling around in the dirty clothes playing with himself thinking no one saw him.

He was reported to the school authorities and was kicked off the team and laundry duties.

Such stories were nothing compared to the stories that emanated from the steam room.

Most people think that gay men having sex in the gym is an urban myth, but there is no steam without fire.

More stories from the steam room next month...



**GIVE YOUR WORD. PROMISE  
TO STAND UP AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA,  
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# q performance: with ANDREW MAY

How to plan your ideal work week for optimal performance  
We all have the same number of hours in the week (168 to be exact). So why does that time look - and feel - vastly different to different people? Most of us are scrambling, like the proverbial hamsters on a wheel, we never feel like there's enough time and are never able to run fast enough to keep up with it all. Then there are those people who seem to have more space, achieve more professionally, fit in exercise, socialising, sleep and they don't even seem to break a sweat.

**What's their secret?** Many of the world's most successful people schedule their time with military precision — like Bill Gates whose long days are carved into “five-minute slices, with every meeting and handshake timed to the second”.

There is no need for us all to be this rigid, however a little planning can certainly help us move from the feeling of treading water to forward momentum and regaining control of our lives. As a result of this, we not only work smarter and improve our wellbeing, we create space to recharge and reconnect with ourselves and those we love. This enables both our productivity and the quality of our performance to increase.

Start by considering what your ideal day would look like and write it down. Be specific. Include everything from the glass of water you drink upon waking up, to coffee breaks, time for exercise, how you will spend transit time (listening to a podcast? Reading? Thinking?), when you would read your emails, how you will wind down and how you will spend time with friends or family. Consider how and when you would incorporate each of these elements into your day: Specific time to move; fuel; recharge; connect; think and play.

The process of writing down your ideal day gives you a framework and a vision. Think about your current day (non-controlled chaos) and then compare it to an Ideal Day (utopia). At the very least, meet me halfway and start taking control of your time, energy and attention.

Start by adding three or four simple activities to your morning routine. These can be as simple as a glass of water with a squeeze of lemon, a quick walk before work, a break for morning tea. These will then become performance habits — beneficial actions triggered automatically in response to contextual cues. Once you start to self-regulate and feel momentum from your new behaviours, add a few more. Then some more. Keep building upon this process over a period of weeks and you'll be surprised at just how much better your day can be. Once you know how much more time and energy, clarity and connection you can create in a single day, it's time to build a better week. This incorporates accountability and sets a clear vision for the future. Will it be ideal, even perfect? No. It's called life and “stuff” invariably happens. But will it start to feel better? Absolutely.

## TIPS FOR CREATING YOUR BETTER WEEK

- Prioritise what is most important to you. This might be family time, or recovery time, or exercise — it depends on your what you want to achieve.
- Stop reacting to other people's demands and take control by locking in the activities that are most important to you. And remember to plan some time alone for yourself.
- Include permanent meetings and bookings but remember that your goal is to strip out some of these to free up capacity.
- Don't worry if you find it difficult to plan your Better Week — if you find you've forgotten activities, for instance, or not allowed yourself enough time. It usually takes a few goes to get it right.
- Once you're happy with your Better Week, open your diary and book in the relevant training sessions and so on for the next three months. When the dates are in your diary, you'll be more motivated to stick to them.
- Review and update your Better Week plan every quarter to ensure that it stays meaningful and relevant.
- Acknowledge that you will need to be flexible as you strive to live your Better Week but aim high — there's no point admitting defeat before you've even begun!

Your Better Week won't happen perfectly and completely. But if you can regularly achieve 70%, you will feel more content and in control.

*Andrew May is recognised as one of the world's leading strategists on workplace performance and wellbeing. He presents inspiring keynotes around the globe and is the author of the newly released book, MatchFit. Andrew is coach and confidante to a number of Australia's leading CEO's and executives, elite athletes and performing artists. [www.andrewmay.com](http://www.andrewmay.com)*







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# q romance: with KAREN GATELY

**Navigating workplace romances – the do and don'ts in a #metoo era**

So, you're keen on that guy or girl in the office. That's OK, no need to push the panic button if you're worried about what pursuing a romance might mean for your career. Plenty of people meet at work, fall in love, get involved, walk down the aisle and even have kids. Of course, there are also the stories of people falling in love, making dumb decisions and ruining their professional reputations in the process. But that needn't be you.

In the #metoo era you can be forgiven for also feeling a little cautious about your innocent intentions being misconstrued, or worse, your consensual actions being used against you down the track. While sexual harassment is a big issue in many industries, the instances of people making fallacious claims against innocent people in my experience is rare.

With a modicum of decorum and a dose of respectful consideration you're unlikely to find yourself in hot water. Some of the most important do and don'ts of workplace dating include:

## **Take no to mean no.**

Even if you are certain your colleague fancies you back, if they are uncomfortable pursuing a relationship with someone at work, don't keep trying. It's fine to maintain contact and engage with them in a friendly way. Repeated requests for them to change their mind however, is stepping across the line.

## **Ask before you touch.**

To avoid being slapped, physically or metaphorically, make sure you've had a conversation about your mutual interest in one another, before deciding to touch your colleague. If for whatever reason you are reading the signals incorrectly, even putting your hand on their forearm 'too often' can become an issue.

## **Maintain respectful boundaries.**

While your love interest might at first feel the same way as you do, being demanding of their attention at work, or displaying affection that makes them feel uncomfortable, can soon have them changing their mind. Asking probing questions about topics you know they can't talk about, can be just as off putting and place unnecessary pressure on your relationship.

## **Know when to back out.**

Be alert to the early signs of things not working out. Be respectful by speaking up early if you find yourself unsure or no longer interested in a romantic relationship. Leaving someone feeling used and abused is one sure way to inspire them to turn on you and make life harder than it needs to be.

## **Don't get involved with people who report to you, directly or indirectly.**

Most employers will have policies prohibiting personal relationships between a manager and their staff member. Even if your employer is silent on the matter, contemplate the challenges you will face managing that person's performance, maintaining objectivity and avoiding concerns of favouritism and confidentiality from other members of the team.

## **Don't get drunk and handsy at work functions.**

Public displays of affection are rarely appropriate at work, including at work sponsored functions. When the person you're demonstrating affection toward hasn't signed up for the deal, you're well and truly in the danger zone. Alcohol and work parties, all too often lead to people pursuing office romances with people who just aren't interested. How big a problem that becomes depends on the purser's ability to get the message and move on.

The most important thing to remember is not to allow your lustful emotions to completely overtake your brain. While even the thought of a potential romance can be exhilarating, it can also make you lose perspective and make decisions that you otherwise wouldn't. No matter how irresistible you find your colleague, don't have sex in the office. Keep the office the office. In other words, the environment in which you get on with working and maintaining focus on what your employer is paying you to do.



*Karen Gately, founder of Corporate Dojo, is a leadership and people-management specialist. She is the author of The People Manager's Toolkit: A Practical guide to getting the best from people (Wiley) and The Corporate Dojo: Driving extraordinary results through spirited people. For information about Karen's Powerful Women at Work and Be Awesome workshops visit [www.corporatedojo.com](http://www.corporatedojo.com)*





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# q finance: with NANCY YOUSSEF

Simple daily actions that help keep your financial goals on track

Are you feeling overwhelmed at the enormity of your savings goals, thinking your home deposit is unachievable? Perhaps you are drowning in debt and unable to get ahead? Or you could be managing just fine, but you'd prefer to be a little more comfortable, or to be able to save for something special like a wedding or holiday.

While these big goals and dreams may seem like huge mountains to climb, if you spend a little time tackling the small stuff you just might find they're not as impossible as they first appear.

I've come up with a list of my favourite tips that have helped my clients in the past to keep their financial goals on track. Each one is simple and relatively easy to implement, but put them all together and you'll have a brand-new outlook towards managing your money, and a bank balance to match.

1. Having a financial tracker is important – The first step is to come to terms with the fact that you need a budget. If that sounds like a dirty word to you, try calling it something else such as "Spending Plan" or "Expenses Tracker". These novelty names can help encourage partners and children to jump on board, too! If you don't know what you're spending, how can you take charge of it? Bank statements are really helpful here, as they'll detail all those little purchases you've forgotten about by the end of the month. Which brings me to . . .

2. Being conscious of the unconscious spend – It's so easy to "tap and go" with plastic fantastic these days, and before you know it, you've drained the bank account. Some people prefer to use cash for splurge purchases like coffees and pedicures, because the visual of handing over the money helps them keep on track. Others have a separate account and when it's gone, it's gone.

3. Set a goal and put a price tag to it – What will your wedding, trip to Europe or house deposit cost you? Figure that out and work backwards, dividing the total figure by the number of pay cycles you have left before the event. Every time you're tempted to spend on a frivolous item, remind yourself it's only delaying you achieving this big goal.

4. Review where you can save money – Compare deals for your utilities, loans, insurance, credit cards, internet and phone plans at least once per year. Sometimes just making the phone call and saying you're thinking of switching is enough to convince your current provider to offer you a better rate or a month for free. When you lock onto a cheaper plan, direct the money you're saving straight into debt repayment or your savings account.

5. Seek out all the discounts – Another rule successful money managers live by is "never pay full price"! That might mean waiting until your favourite store has a 20% off sale and stocking up, or buying the kids clothes for next year at the end of the season when they're reduced to clearance prices. Savvy spenders know which shops will price-match, they scour the internet for discount codes and free shipping offers, and they make the most of sites like Groupon and their local Entertainment voucher book.

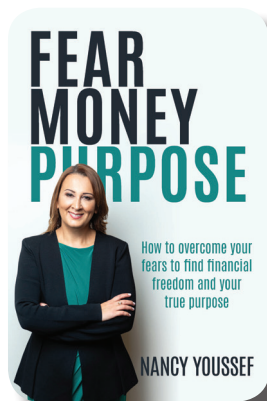
6. Buy what you need, when you need it – Australians waste So. Much. Food! And it's not only bad for our hip pockets, it's terrible for the environment. When you become more conscious of your food waste, you'll save loads of cash and be able to feed your family nutritious meals with fresh, seasonal produce.

7. Live as though you already have a mortgage – If it's a new home you're saving for, figure out how much your repayments are likely to be. If you're currently paying \$3,000 a month in rent, but your repayments will be around \$4,000, start putting the difference away in a separate bank account now. Not only does it boost your savings and help build your discipline, it also shows potential lenders that you can afford a mortgage.

Saving money and achieving financial security is really just a habit like any other. Imagine if you were training for a marathon – you'd work towards this goal each day, and if you had a setback like an injury or illness, you'd dust yourself off and keep on going. The same is true for managing your finances. If you spend a little too much one week, commit to spending the next week or two at home rebuilding your slush fund. It's never too late to get back onto the savings wagon.

Make it fun, challenge yourself to smash your goals, and don't forget to celebrate when you achieve them – you deserve it!

*Nancy Youssef is an award-winning finance broker, mentor, philanthropist, and founder of Classic Finance and Classic Mentoring. Recognised as a leader, innovator and industry expert, she is an ambassador for change both within the finance industry here in Australia, and in some of the world's most impoverished communities. Nancy is the author of Fear Money Purpose, which is designed to inspire others – women especially – to step out of their comfort zone and be inspired to achieve more. Find out more at [www.nancyyoussef.com.au](http://www.nancyyoussef.com.au)*



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# q music: STEWART TAYLOR

In “Mess Your Hair Up”, singer/songwriter Stewart Taylor encourages fans to be playful and adventurous with their significant others. Produced by David Pramick and John Silos, the R&B funk track is reminiscent of Off the Wall-era Michael Jackson and was inspired by Taylor’s own long-distance relationship. “I had recently moved to LA from New York and my partner sent me a super sexy picture,” he explains. “I told him I wanted to jump on him and mess his hair up! The chorus of the song came to me almost immediately afterwards.”

“Mess Your Hair Up” is a marked departure from “Liberation,” Stewart Taylor’s inspirational LGBTQ anthem from four years ago that was featured on numerous anti-bullying platforms, including Boston’s WHDH-TV. Stewart’s own coming out story was featured in Dan Savage and Terry Miller’s New York Times bestselling book, “It Gets Better”. As Taylor has grown and matured, so has his music. These days Stewart’s songwriting focuses less on coming out and more on navigating through the good, the bad, and the ugly of relationships.

*“Everyone deserves to be happy in and outside of the bedroom,” he reflects. “While ‘Mess Your Hair Up’ may appear simplistic and perhaps more superficial than my previous tracks, sometimes simple and fun is better. One of my favorite Prince songs is literally about wanting his lover’s ‘extra time and their KISS,” and it’s still iconic.*

Stewart Taylor has known he wanted to be a singer since he was seven years old. He attended Berklee College of Music in Boston where he had the opportunity to work alongside American Idol’s Kara DioGuardi. She introduced Taylor to Charlie Puth, who taught him the inner-workings of the studio. After graduating Berklee, Taylor moved to New York City to gig on the Lower East Side for two years before making his way to Hollywood in 2017. Since then, he has been writing and recording in LA and regularly pitches songs to artists like Justin Bieber and Shawn Mendes.

*“Show business is a huge hustle,” he says. “It involves a lot of rejection, tons of networking, recording sessions, and figuring out how you’re going to pay your bills and rent. I’ve worked so many part-time and dead-end jobs to make ends meet and have moved so many times, but I’m still here!”*

*“The biggest hurdle I’ve had to face has been being an out-pop artist,” he continues. “I’ve been passed up by major tv shows, executives, and record labels simply because I am out. Even with all the progress the LGBTQ community has made in the last few years, there still needs to be more LGBTQ visibility in music and entertainment. At the end of the day, so what if I’m not an All-American straight guy? All of my favorite artists and songwriters started from nothing and built empires, despite obstacles and adversity, and I aim to be the next out artist who breaks through.”*

His optimism shines through in the colorful music video for “Mess Your Hair Up.” *“I wanted to keep it fun like the song itself, with a hint of old classic Hollywood in the black and white scenes. The video celebrates white, black, Latino, and even drag queen hairstyles because all of it is beautiful to me. I also had the privilege of working with LA-based choreographer Johnny Rice (Taylor Swift, Adam Lambert) on the dance numbers in the video, so hopefully it makes people want to get up and dance, too.”*

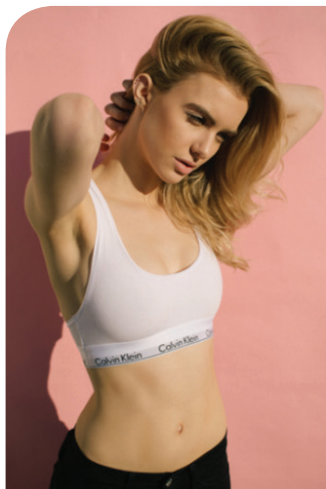
Stewart Taylor’s “Mess Your Hair Up” is available on Apple Music, Spotify and all digital platforms. Watch the video on Youtube [here](#).

For more information, visit [www.stewarttaylorofficial.com](http://www.stewarttaylorofficial.com) OR Follow Stewart at [www.instagram.com/Stewarttaylormusic](https://www.instagram.com/Stewarttaylormusic)



# q beauty: **AMAZING OIL'S SKIN**

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no parabens.  
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Magnesium is essential for the enzymes that support DNA repair and cell replication in the skin. Often overlooked in the anti-ageing category for more glamorous ingredients, this multipurpose compound supports the synthesis of collagen while improving elasticity and moisture, combatting free radical damage and balancing pH levels. Ideal for sensitive skin types, magnesium as a skincare active also serves as a detoxifying agent to help treat and reverse adult and teenage acne, rosacea, redness and inflammation.

Celebrated for their natural magnesium body range to help treat aches and pains, Queensland-based and family operated business, Amazing Oils, today launches their natural and organic range of magnesium-enriched, superfood skincare for the face.

Made in Australia and free from sulphates and parabens, the vegan-friendly and cruelty-free range includes a quandong fruit facial cleanser, kakadu plum vitamin C serum, brightening lilly pillie eye cream, nourishing magnesium hydrator and moisturiser, and their innovative blemish stick containing a high concentration of pure Australian-sourced magnesium.

Available nationally vis [www.amazingoils.com.au](http://www.amazingoils.com.au) Follow them on [www.instagram.com/amazingoilsmagnesium](https://www.instagram.com/amazingoilsmagnesium)

# q serial: THE HAREM BOYS - EP 8

By Gabriel Tabasco

Continued from the previous month...

Big Jake wanted to change the types of boys who became Harem Boys every year. Some years he wanted toned hunks and other times he wanted flashy types. This year's boys all looked different, from being tall and broad shouldered to short, cute and slight but one thing they all had in common, was that they had the boys-next-door look. They gave the impression of Friday night parties with friends, Nintendo and music, football games and jokes in the locker room complete with the jockstraps.

But boys-next-door, in their early 20s, sometimes skipped on a shower or a shave as well as substituting a proper meal with pizza and snacks. No one wanted to see a stripper with an untrimmed bush, armpit hair or a butthole that wasn't smooth. Nor did anyone want to see strippers who were out of shape. Without a doubt the presentation of the boys was incredibly important and so a regimen was set up for them. The team agreed that as this year's Harem Boys were real boys they would need extra support to look the part of professional strippers. This was in stark contrast to the professional strippers of previous years who worked out all the time and were so obsessed with their hair they did not want to get into crazy dance routines. This year we had to do things properly. As we did not know the hygiene habits of the boys we put a 'hygiene and personal grooming clause' in their contract.

As the Harem Boys (hereby referred to as the Employees) are the face of the Harem Hotel and its subsidiary businesses for this current year, the Employees are required to project a professional image to customers, clients and colleagues at all times, in keeping with high grooming standards. The Employees are required to follow a strict grooming, hygiene and dietary regimen. This includes but is not limited to the following requirements: shower/bath twice daily, haircut once weekly, shaving facial hair daily, removal of any excess or unwanted body hair and the method used is the discretion of the management...

The boys did not have any questions about this clause when they signed the contract; they were too interested in the generous remuneration clause and benefits to take proper note of anything else. Gio did not mind as he was well groomed anyway and Alfonso assumed it was shaving body hair. He was shocked to learn during his first week as a Harem Boy that the management could decide what parts of the body to remove hair from and how to do so.

'Wax my ass?' he said when the beautician came in. 'And get waxed by a guy?' Our beautician was a Scottish man in his 50s named Keith who gave up his corporate career to wax men's asses. He set up his beauty station in the large bathroom... but left the door open.

'There are no secrets in the harem,' he said 'so why shut the door?'

But it was really to lighten the mood. Not all boys wanted to get groomed and he thought it would be entertaining for the staff to hear that yelps of pain.

'You're not that hairy,' said Keith to Alfonso, much to the laughter of the boys, 'but we do need to remove the fuzz on your ass'. Cue more laughter.

Moments later Alfonso was on all fours on the beautician's table as Keith applied hot wax to his buttocks. With each rip Alfonso seemed to jump up; his dick and balls flopping around with him. Each time the waxing strip was torn off he let out a small yelp. Ten minutes later the ordeal was over and Alfonso sauntered off patting his freshly waxed and very smooth ass. He wanted to get dressed but as per the contract he had to remain naked. Not wanting to sit on his ass he lay on his stomach and began playing game consoles. He was joined by Alex who had hardly no fuzz on his ass and so did not need any grooming treatments, much to Alfonso's chagrin.





Mike and John shaved their chests and so only needed some waxing. Mike had little hairs on his legs so he too only got his bum-fluff waxed. John was much hairier on his legs so they had to be waxed as well as his ass and hole. He kept saying 'this is so wrong' as Keith pulled the wax strips from his asshole. But he liked the smooth feel of his skin and did not complain the second time around. Right after his first wax he went over to the mirror to feel his asshole. In fact he got so aroused he lay on the bed and jerked himself off feeling his smooth ass and balls.

Eventually John and Gio would get waxed together by Keith who would wax both boys at once. Two asses in the air. That was a first in the harem and one event that Big Jake invited some of his guests to watch through the one-way mirror.

Ray and Gio needed the most attendance. Ray had a hairy chest and legs with thick hair over his body. Being short it did not take him very long to get waxed. Keith needed more time with Gio who wanted his arms, chest, legs and buttocks waxed.

'Your whole body?' said Keith surprised. 'Your legs are the most hairy part of your body,' he announced 'and yes, we also need to get the fuzz waxed off your butt,' he said patting Gio's butt. Keith set to work waxing Gio's body waxing his arms and chest. Gio yelped lightly each time Keith pulled the wax strips off. 'It can't hurt that much can it?' said Keith. 'What happens when we wax your ass?'

Of course there were more yelps of pain as Gio was on all fours on the waxing table getting his butt cheeks and hole waxed. 'Lift your ass up a little more so I can get in there,' said Keith. Gio did as he was told: ass high in the air, his balls dangling freely, hole open and exposed for Keith to place the wax, then the waxing strips and then rip them off. Gio gave out a small yelp, jumped up slightly, his cock and balls going everywhere and Keith having a chuckle. When it was all over Keith rubbed cream firmly over Gio's ass making sure his finger accidentally slipped into Gio's hole. When it was complete Keith leaned over and... mwah... planted a small kiss on Gio's freshly waxed and scented butthole.

'Oh, that was a surprise,' said Gio smiling.

Eventually Keith waxed Gio's legs; first lower leg, then upper legs until he reached his upper things.

'Well... you've still got an erection,' said Keith.

'I do,' Gio laughed a little embarrassed.

'Looks like it's going to pop,' said Keith.

'Not far off.'

'Do you mind if I play with it?' asked Keith a little shyly.

'Go right ahead,' said Gio.

And with that Keith took Gio's cock into his hands. He added some oil onto his cock, making sure it was well-lubricated and began rubbing up and down methodically. The bathroom door was open and Keith kept looking outside to see if anyone saw them. He was worried if it was allowed or not. At that moment Big Jake walked past them with a glass of red wine in hand. He did a double take and entered the bathroom area. Keith was not sure whether to stop or continue so he stopped.



'Don't stop on my account,' said Big Jake in his deep, baritone voice. 'Please, continue.'

Keith, with Gio's erection in his hand, continued tugging away, albeit a little self-consciously. Big Jake sat on a stool in the bathroom and watched as Keith pleased Gio. It was only a few minutes longer when Gio began to breathe heavily.

'Keith... you give,' heavy breathing 'the best,' heavy breathing '...hand jobs,' gasped Gio. After that Gio let his cum fly loose over his waxed chest.

'Well... that was entertaining,' said Big Jake getting up and returning to the errands he needed to do.

'I'd say it was enjoyable,' said Gio who after the pain of the wax very much welcomed the release brought on by a hand job.

Suffice to say that with such servicing Gio was the most groomed boy from the group. Keith was happy to oblige giving handjobs and Gio was happy to receive. And from time to time Big Jake popped in to watch Gio pop.

Read on next month for episode nine...

# q book: EAST WEST SEX DEATH

What started out as a longform piece of travel journalism, a kind of tell-all exposé, an exploration into the strangest things Westerners do when they do East, has evolved into this beautifully dark and humid piece of narrative non-fiction. *Down and Out in Paradise* (Echo, September 2019) is a brilliant read. Part lyrical and poetic, part gonzo journalist mad memoir of madness and meditation, it is as breathtaking and claustrophobic as it is liberating and scary.

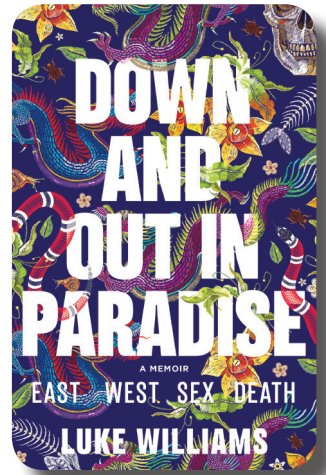
Well, how it really started – as most adventures do – is escape. Luke Williams had had enough of drug addiction, hard drugs, high rents and cold nights, and wanted to get the fuck out. So he pissed off. Airport. Bought a ticket and flew to Kuala Lumpur, coming down off crystal meth. No plans. No meth. Not much cash. Not much of anything else.

Less a destination than an escape, what follows in Asia – Thailand, Bali, Laos, Malaysia, India, the Philippines – is a three-year adventure in freelance journo work, sex work, drugs, Buddhism, prison and a psych ward. It's about getting out. Getting on. Drying out. Fucking up. Coming down. Coming to terms. It's about ghostwhisperers, opium smokers, moneyboys, ladyboys, lovers, murder, cults, cannibals, cheap living, cheap sex, and even cheaper drugs. It's an exploration of tropical beaches, fecund jungles, misty mountains and the lonely depths and hollows of the interior. Harrowing headspaces. Chance and change. Choice and class. Ego and freedom. Totem and taboo. History and belonging. It's wild, it's exciting. It's searingly honest.

Luke immerses himself fully. Goes beyond, way beyond, reportage. Luke pushes the button of what is gonzo, flips the switch, flips out, drops in, inserts himself into the narrative without dominating it, while aspects of his own history – his dreams, disappointments, urges, his struggle with inherited mental illness – begin to catch up with him. Luke has the keen watchful eye of the perpetually lonesome observer/artist/writer, and participates in the action while remaining a ghost. The Outsider. Luke's writing captures the nuances of his fragility and sensitivity, and pushes language into new places and new forms, the result of which is an experimental, innovative, fast-paced and ever-surprising travel-guide, a complex mix of memoir and reportage. Like Luke, it is edgy, mad, crazy and schizophrenic. It's also tender, raw, sad, and beautiful. So beautiful. His editor has worked with this, and with him, rather than against it, allowing the writing to breathe, giving it room, leaving it true and pure.

The overall effect is like a shot to the arm, a gutful of hot curry, a clash of catcalls and close living. A salad of sweat, smells, seediness and sex, and the strange peace and spent satisfaction that comes with an experience of South East / Tropical Asia. And, like the countries Luke visits, the book is impossible to pigeonhole. Less a destination, more than an escape, *Down and Out in Paradise* is a mad cacophony of a thing, like the sting of a chilli, it will leave you wanting more.

I'll leave you, the reader, to delve into, and discover what Luke finds. It will prise apart your head; it'll catch on your heart.



PARADISE  
A MEMOIR  
EAST. WEST. SEX. DEATH.  
LUKE WILLIAMS

Echo | September 2019 | \$29.99 | Trade Paperback

Luke Williams is a two-time Walkley journalist with a penchant for finding strange stories. He has a hot temper, a history of depression and a big heart. He comes from a long-line of white working class people with alcoholism or schizophrenia. He has degrees in law and history. He used to use intravenous drugs. He's been in rehab, a psych ward and jail. He's a former sex worker turned full-time book slut. His first book *The Ice Age: A Journey into Crystal-Meth Addiction* was nominated for both a Walkley and the Nib Waverley Literary Prize. He has worked at the ABC as a radio presenter, and as a reporter for Triple J and Thomson Reuters. His writing has been published in *Vice*, *The Guardian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The I-Paper* (UK), *The Sun* (UK), *The Daily Star* (UK), *Good Weekend*, *Good Reading*, *The Saturday Paper*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Adelaide Advertiser*, *Crikey*, *Triple J* magazine, *The Weekend Australian*, *Mamamia*, and *Eureka Street*. In 2013 he was nominated for a Human Rights Media Award for a long-form investigative piece in *The Global Mail*. A series of popular travel articles he wrote for *news.com.au* last year has been subsequently re-published in France, India, Brazil, Romania, Vietnam, Nigeria, Ghana and the UK. He lives in Bundaberg.

# q festival: QUEER SCREEN FILM FEST

Queer Screen Lights Your Fire at the 7th Queer Screen Film Fest:

The 7th Queer Screen Film Fest hits Sydney screens this month with tickets now on sale at [queerscreen.org.au](http://queerscreen.org.au) The full program runs from Wednesday 18 September to Sunday 22 September at Event Cinemas George Street, and thanks to the City of Sydney includes a free outdoor 30 year anniversary screening of the animated classic *The Little Mermaid* at Sydney Park, St Peters on Sunday 15 September.



queerscreen  
film fest  
18-22 September

Queer Screen Film Fest 2019 is ready to set your world ablaze with a diverse range of LGBTIQ stories across narrative features, documentaries, and shorts. Boasting 29 films from 12 countries, including 22 Sydney Premieres and a focus on romantic films set to light your fire.

*"With our theme of 'Light Your Fire' we are asking the audience to engage their hearts and minds and join us in witnessing passion on screen in a variety of circumstances. From sexy and intense romances, to passionate causes, strength in adversity, fanatical obsessions with camp classics and the incredible desire to create a family. Use the festival to embrace your passion for film and our community and ignite some passions of your own."* says Festival Director, Lisa Rose

- Kicking things off is the newest queer masterpiece, a slowburn 18th century lesbian romance, *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*. Winning Best Screenplay and the Queer Palm at this year's Cannes Film Festival, it's been acclaimed by critics and audiences alike.
- Another Cannes hit in the program, *Pain and Glory*, comes from queer film favourite Pedro Almodóvar, and stars Antonio Banderas and Penélope Cruz in a wistful, vibrant meditation on sexuality, mortality, and the bond between mother and son.
- Fresh from their Australian Premieres at the Melbourne International Film Festival, are the witty and sharply observed Benjamin from comedian Simon Amstell which closes out the festival, the very sensual and intriguing *End of the Century*, and the tender and profound documentary *Seahorse* which charts a gay transman's journey to birth his own child.
- We are super excited about what is sure to be a highlight of the festival, a camp double feature with *You Don't Nomi* that celebrates the trash masterpiece that is *Showgirls*. Revelling in all its hilarious flaws, this doco is a must for fans of this all-time camp classic. To be followed by the 1995 film itself in a stunning 4K digital restoration! Don your finest "Versayce" for a night you won't forget!
- Three Australian Premieres not to miss include Sidra Smith's episodic *A Luv Tale: The Series* a sexy love letter to queer women of colour, and a stylish celebration of modern day Harlem: its history, art, culture, and music. Festival guest Laurie Lynd's thought-provoking documentary *Killing Patient Zero* is a powerful cinematic exoneration of Gaëtan Dugas, the Canadian man falsely accused of introducing AIDS to North America. *Same But Different: A True New Zealand Love Story* brings the love and laughs for an attractive Kiwi odd couple in this funny, moving, cross-cultural romantic comedy based on the real life romance of writer director Nikki Si'ulepa and producer Rachel Aneta Wills, who will be guests of the festival.

Continuing Queer Screen's ongoing commitment in supporting emerging filmmakers making diverse LGBTIQ screen stories, sees the return of the second ever Queer Screen Pitch Off. Six filmmakers will spruik their film proposal to a panel of expert assessors, competing for a chance to win \$10,000 to produce their short film. This is just a taste of what is on offer, see [queerscreen.org.au](http://queerscreen.org.au) for the full line up and details on how to enter Queer Screen Pitch Off. Queer Screen Film Fest 2019 is proudly supported by The Star Sydney, City of Sydney and Event Cinemas George Street.

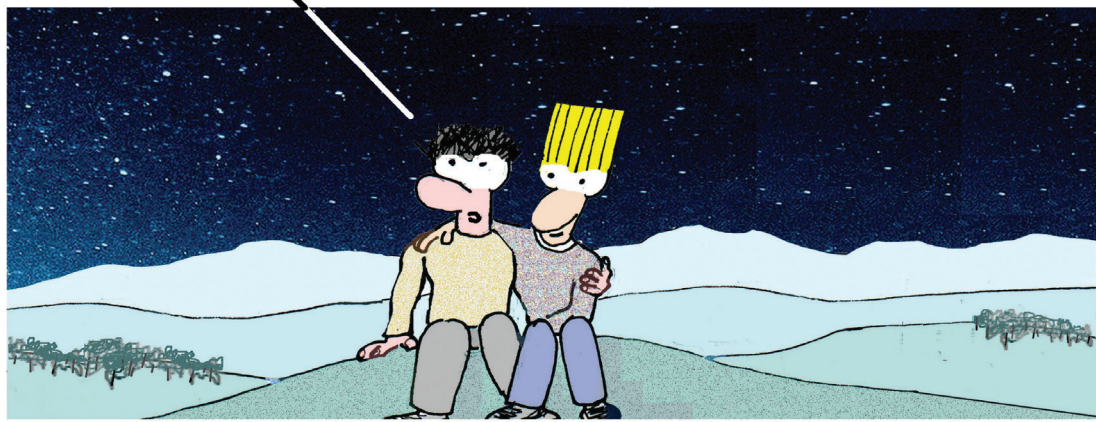


Tickets for all films are on sale now, including flexi passes to 5 films. Please visit [www.queerscreen.org.au](http://www.queerscreen.org.au) or the Queer Screen app to book or call (02) 9280 1533 to become a Queer Screen member for discounted tickets and priority entry.

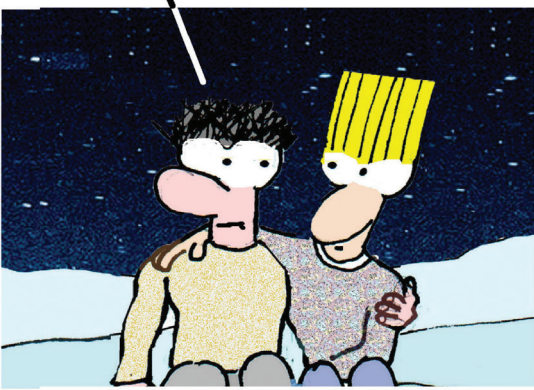


# Gaylord Blade

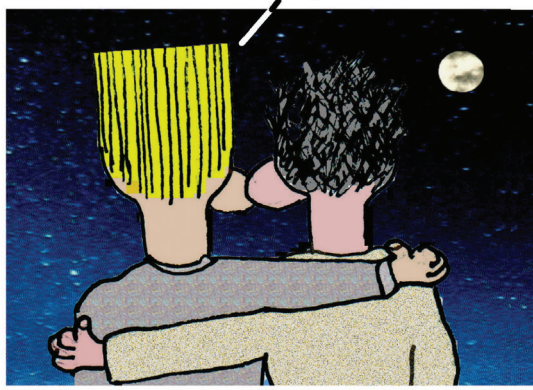
The universe is cruel. The stars might just as well be polyps in God's rectum ....



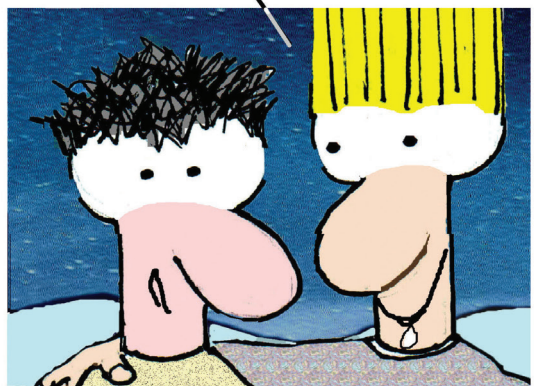
.... and we're just passing through it



now, now, it's not as bad as all that

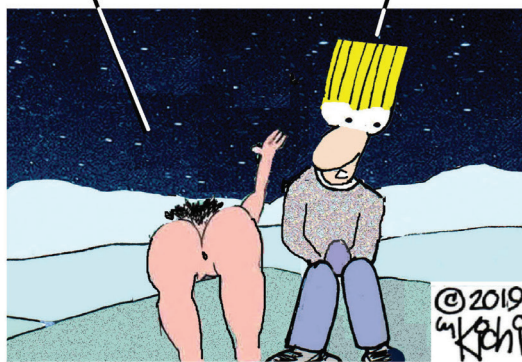


being in a rectum has its up-side

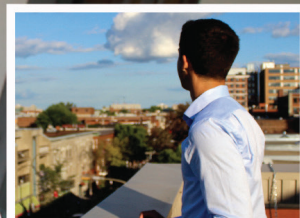


Eat your heart out, universe!

Where did you put the lube?







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