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be your girl



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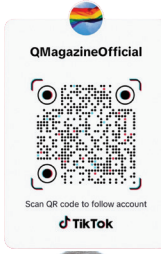
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q feature: JOHN DUFF DOES IT AGAIN

By Jamie Booth

John Duff's first single off his yet untitled debut album, "Be Your Girl," is a celebratory anthem from another time. Simultaneously harkening Tom Jones, Cher, and Frank Sinatra, "Be Your Girl" is equally fresh and familiar.



Written by Duff, Eren Cannata (Grease: Rise of the Pink Ladies, Demi Lovato), and Koil PreAmp (Timbaland, Danity Kane) the explosive disco number with its 1940's inspired arrangement and top line is a romantic showstopper about unrequited love. Classic as it may sound, there's a twist.

"In today's modern world, when so many queer artists are releasing authentically queer music, I thought it would be fun to retroactively go back and design a legacy artist that never got a chance to exist," Duff explains. "In this song, I'm imagining a classic-that-never-happened from the point of view of a queer artist-that-never-was." John Duff's "Be Your Girl" is available now on Apple Music, Spotify, and all digital platforms.

"The song is about wanting to be chosen," continues Duff from his Massachusetts home. He admits it's a feeling he, as an artist, can relate with. "Every time I put out a new song, I have to compete for attention. You'd think after six years of releasing music, I wouldn't still be so desperate, but alas - here I am again, begging to 'Be Your Girl'."

Every element of the music was played by human beings - creating a warm and timeless sound. John Duff produced the song with Koil PreAmp and Eren Cannata, with additional engineering by Niko the Kid. Eren Cannata played guitar and bass on the track. Drums are by Daniel Crean, with strings by Godfrey Furchtgott, horns by Aaron Janick, and Miles Dalto on keys.

The visual was creative directed by John Duff after a year of studying Busby Berkley films. He took his treatment to Shawn Adeli (who also directed John Duff's "High Heels" music video), to oversee the vision. It is glamorous and theatrical. "It's everything I want to see in the world, and simultaneously the antithesis of what is cool right now," Duff says. When it came to choreography, Duff called

his friend and collaborator Nico O'Connor (Britney Spears, Pink, Bad Bunny) and together they choreographed the homage to movie musicals. But that's not all - Duff singlehandedly costumed the entire video, outfitting himself, as well as the 38 other complete looks for the dancers - all of whom he personally selected with O'Connor. "It may seem like I micromanage, but I have a vision. My personal success is contingent upon its execution."

John Duff grew up in a suburb outside of Baltimore, Maryland, the youngest of two sisters and a brother. He describes his childhood as "cute." Like many young children, he faced constant bullying. "I couldn't even take the bus in middle school because other kids couldn't control themselves around me - they were so upset by my existence." He says he doesn't hold any animosity towards anyone, and is even grateful for all he experienced. "The world will never be safe - even nature wants to kill you. I'm lucky that I was able to understand the risk I was assuming in living authentically. Words are not scary."



John eventually left Maryland to study musical theater at Syracuse University and after graduating, he made his way to the bright lights of New York City. He worked professionally as an actor - performing regionally, Off-Broadway, and commercially for six years. He even directed a short-lived off-Broadway musical *KatDashian's* - a hybrid of *Cats* and *The Kardashians*. The musical closed early after Andrew Lloyd Webber took legal action.

Since that time, John Duff has released multiple singles and music videos that have gone viral on social media including "House on Fire" and "Hokie Pokie". "The first part of my music career was a tribute to the kid that wanted to sing Britney Spears' songs in the talent show, but wasn't allowed. This new chapter is for the kid that took his parents' advice and sang Elvis and Frank Sinatra. Because honestly, they weren't wrong."

"Be Your Girl" is the first single from John Duff's upcoming concept album. It and the music that is to come, focuses on musicianship and nostalgia, and Duff says he will continue working in this traditional format. "There's a reason people don't make songs like this anymore," he reflects. "It ain't easy. If I can do this, I can do anything."

John Duff's "Be Your Girl" is being distributed independently and is available on Apple Music, Spotify, and all digital platforms. Its video is available on YouTube. Follow John Duff on Facebook and Instagram @ iamjohnduff





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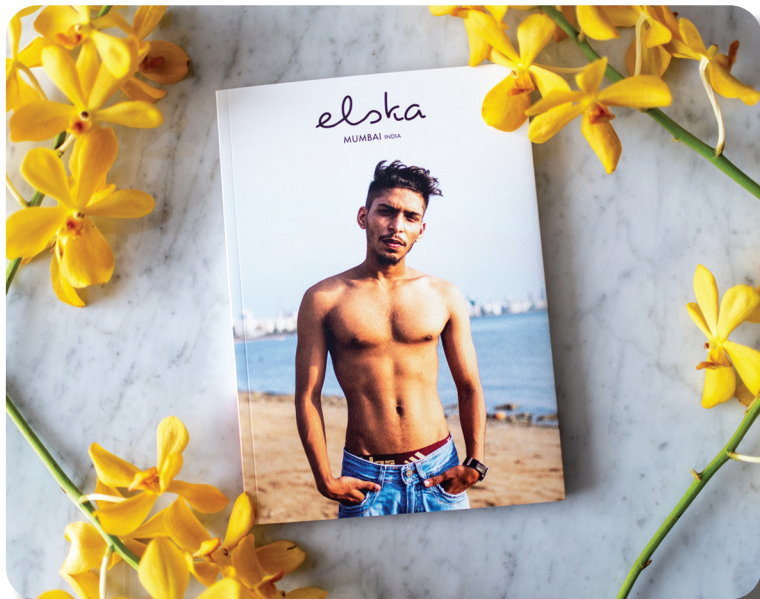
ELSKA HIGHLIGHTS THE BEAUTY OF INDIAN MEN IN NEW MUMBAI EDITION

Elska, a project dedicated to sharing the bodies and voices of LGBTQ communities around the world, has ventured to Mumbai for its latest edition. Inside, readers can get to know a selection of ordinary men from this iconic Indian metropolis through a combination of intimate and honest photography and personal storytelling.

"Quite soon after Elska was launched, people were describing it as a showcase for diversity, particularly in how it furthers visibility of different races, ages, and body types," says Elska editor and chief photographer Liam Campbell. "At first this was fully unintentional — the point of Elska was just to travel to different cities, meet a random bunch of local guys, and then share their images and stories in some sort of print publication

— but once people started describing how much Elska's approach meant to them, and how they felt more a part of the LGBTQ community for seeing 'people like us,' I felt a responsibility to keep going. It was then after a chat with some friends in LGBTQ media who asserted that the South Asian community sees the least representation that I decided to head to India for our next issue."

"This led us to Mumbai, which originally became the tenth issue of Elska" continues Liam. "However, the issue didn't do so well, becoming our all-time lowest seller at the time. However, as Elska has continued to grow over the years, having recently published our forty-sixth issue, I decided to do a reissue of Mumbai. While I'm not certain it will fare better this time, considering that South Asian visibility is still so low and undervalued, I'm absolutely proud of our Indian showcase, an issue that is one of my all-time favourites."



Inside *Elska Mumbai* and the companion zine *Elska Ekstra Mumbai*, readers are introduced to thirteen Mumbai men. Each was photographed in a natural, spontaneous style, both in their city's streets and in their homes, dressed in their own style or sometimes not dressed at all, creating a sort of sensual-documentary style.

The photos are then accompanied by personal stories penned by each of the thirteen subjects, letting you get to know them at an even more intimate level. The topics of these tales vary widely, including Rehaan D's series of imagined coming-out letters to his grandmother; Saif G's ode to chasing true love despite the impending doom of falling for someone of a different caste; and Faraz A's scandalously vivid poem about his love for foreskin.

'*Elska Mumbai*' is 180 pages and is available from a select group of shops around the world as well as for order online from the *Elska* website. In addition, the companion zine '*Elska Ekstra Mumbai*'

is available, including hundreds of pages of outtakes, behind the scenes tales, and the stories and photos of a few humans from beyond Mumbai, including work by the guest photo-artists Mitch Cullen and Alcibiade de Paros.

The list of stockists and details of the subscription service can also be found on the *Elska* website: www.elskamagazine.com



q world: FLAME CON EXPO NEW YORK

Flame Con, the World's Largest Queer Comic Convention, Announces New Guests for Tenth Annual Expo

ND Stevenson and Sara Myer will join previously announced guest Molly Knox Ostertag; RuPaul's Drag Race star Megami to host. Fireball: The Official Flame Con After Party Tenth Anniversary Expo to Take Place in New York City at the Sheraton Times Square Hotel on August 17-18, 2024 with the addition of a third floor featuring an expanded Gaymer Lounge



Flame Con, created and produced by the LGBTQ+ non-profit Geeks OUT, continues to celebrate its tenth anniversary this year with the announcement of new special guests and expanded programming on a new third floor! The tenth annual Flame Con expo will take place on August 17 - 18 at the Sheraton Times Square Hotel in New York City. Featuring a comics, arts and entertainment expo that showcases creators and special guests from all corners of the LGBTQ+ community of fans, the two-day venture will include thoughtful discussions, exclusive performances, cosplay and more.

Flame Con is also adding a third floor to this year's convention space as they expand their Gaymer Lounge, a gaming-focused area to kick back and get immersed in a multitude of board games, card games, video games and TTRPGs. The Gaymer Lounge is operated by NYC Gaymers, a community-led LGBTQIA+ non-profit whose mission is to uplift the voices of marginalized gamers and sustain a diverse and passionate space that reflects both New York City and gaming culture. Through the Lounge, Flame Con and NYC Gaymers hope to continue to encourage members to learn new games, meet new people, take part in tournaments, and participate in the official Flame Con game!

Flame Con is excited to announce two new special guests for the 2024 expo: ND Stevenson and Sara Myer. ND Stevenson is an Emmy- and GLAAD Media Award-winning cartoonist and animation producer. The cartoonist is perhaps most well-known for creating and producing the Netflix series *She-Ra and the Princesses of Power* and for writing the science fantasy graphic novel *Nimona*. The novel was adapted into an animated feature film by Netflix in 2023 and went on to be nominated for Best Animated Feature at the 96th Academy Awards. Sara Myer is a comic artist, writer and colorist whose graphic memoir *Monstrous: A Transracial Adoption Story* was a finalist for the 2023 L.A. Times Book Prize. The graphic memoir also appeared on several Best of 2023 lists including the New York Public Library's Top 10 Books for Teens and the Boston Globe Best of 2023. Myer is currently the illustrator and cover artist of several comic issues of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Saturday Morning Adventures*.

Earlier, Flame Con announced Molly Knox Ostertag as the first of this year's special guests. Molly Knox Ostertag is the acclaimed ABA Indies and New York Times bestselling graphic novel author-

illustrator of *The Deep Dark*, *The Girl from the Sea*, and the *Witch Boy* trilogy: *The Witch Boy*, *The Hidden Witch*, and *The Midwinter Witch*, as well as a writer for animation. An animated musical adaptation of *The Witch Boy* has been announced on Netflix.

Other previously-announced guests for this year's expo include JP Karliak and Kris Anka. JP Karliak has voiced iconic animated characters including Wile E. Coyote, the Boss Baby, Willy Wonka, and a slew of Marvel heroes and villains including Morph in *X-Men '97* and Green Goblin in *Spidey and His Amazing Friends*. In 2025, he'll star opposite Rihanna in a new animated Smurf movie. Karliak is the founder and president of Queer Vox, a non-profit training academy that advocates for authentic and equitable casting opportunities for LGBTQ+ voice talent. Kris Anka is a designer and artist best known as a lead character designer on *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*. He has also worked as a designer on *My Adventures With Superman* and as a comic artist on titles like *The White Trees* at Image Comics, and on Marvel Comics titles such as *Runaways*, *Uncanny X-men*, *Star-Lord*, and *Captain Marvel*.

To celebrate the expo and its special anniversary, *Fireball: The Official Flame Con After Party* will be held on Saturday, August 17 at Hell's Kitchen's Industry bar. *Fireball* is a 21+ celebration of queer geek culture featuring drag, burlesque, dancing and all the queer joy you can handle. This year's party will be hosted by Megami, cast member in the recent season 16 of *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

Of the convention, Nic Gitau, President of Geeks OUT, says: "For years, the constant refrain we'd hear attending other conventions was 'Wouldn't it be cool if..? Wouldn't it be cool if... there was a safe space for LGBTQ+ fans to connect?' or, 'Wouldn't it be cool if... there was a show that proved audiences were hungry for unapologetically queer storytelling?' Over the last ten years *Flame Con* has become a home for queer fans, championed queer stories, and celebrated queer creators as their careers have sparked and exploded. We're grateful for a community that's grown exponentially each year and we're excited to gather the best of LGBTQ+ comics and pop culture once more, in what will be a standout 10th anniversary show."

Tickets to *Flame Con* are available through Eventbrite and will feature daily and weekend passes, as well as passes to the official 2024 *Flame Con* party. Tickets can be purchased at flamecon2024.eventbrite.com.

For more information on Flame Con, please visit www.flamecon.org and for more information on Geeks OUT, please visit www.geeksout.org

Tickets available [here](#).

Gaymer lounge information is [here](#).



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q concert: MAXIM VENGEROV

Castiglione and Greg Hocking present
Grammy Award winner
Maxim Vengerov
live in concert in
Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney
from 5 August

Universally hailed as one of the world's finest musicians, and often referred to as the greatest living string player in the world today, Grammy award winner Maxim Vengerov will tour Australia in celebration of his 50th Birthday this August.

Joined by one of Europe's most iconic pianists Polina Osetinskaya, the master violinist will appear at Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) on 5 August, Arts Centre Melbourne's Hamer Hall on 7 August and Sydney Opera House's Concert Hall on 10 August 2024.

Classical music lovers are speedily securing their seats to Vengerov's Hamer Hall recital via Arts Centre Melbourne, while Brisbane and Sydney recitals are selling fast via Sydney Opera House and QPAC.



Vengerov recently completed triumphant, sell-out concerts at New York's Carnegie Hall and London's Royal Albert Hall. His last tour of Australia in 2015 was a highly lauded, sold out success, so this return in recital is eagerly anticipated by audiences across the country.

The superstar string player's 50th birthday program celebrates 42 years of public appearances with a program that will include demanding and exciting works by Ravel, Franck and Prokofiev as well as virtuosic encores.

Castiglione Arts and Culture is also proud to announce three exclusive masterclasses with the world leading violinist. The Sydney Masterclass on 12 August will see partner with the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, while the Melbourne Masterclass on 8 August is presented in partnership with Melbourne Youth Orchestras. The Brisbane Masterclass on 6 August is presented with Griffith University. Tickets to all masterclasses are extremely limited, and tickets are expected to sell out fast.

Vengerov and Osetinskaya have performed together extensively, including to rapturous applause at Carnegie Hall. In the season 2023/2024 Polina Osetinskaya makes a number of her solo debuts at the Berlin Philharmonic, in London and in Laeiszhalle in Bach's concertos without a conductor.

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Polina has repeatedly expressed her pacifist position. In this regard, her concerts in Russia were cancelled by the government. She has since toured the world extensively including to both North and South America.

Music lovers are invited to take part in this historic event, and witness true virtuosos live and in person at Australia's greatest concert halls.



q business: EVE'S SKIN SUCCESS

Melbourne Mum of 5 Rakes in High 6 Figures with Skincare Business
Now Taking Europe by Storm!



Mariam El Houli, a Melbourne Mum of five, founded Eve's Skin as she struggled to find a skincare product for her sensitive skin. She developed Eve's Skincare which is made in Australia, vegan, organic, cruelty free and safe for pregnant and lactating mothers.

Eve's Skin adopts a no nasties approach. All products are free from toxic chemicals and ingredients.

Mariam says: "I have extremely sensitive skin and struggled to find a facial product that not only matched my skin type but also lasted more than a few months. Quality skincare products are usually very expensive, so I decided to create my own solution. We are coming up to our 4th year in business and still going strong.

We now have an international fan base and have started a production base in Turkey which will help us expand to the European market."

Mariam runs the business from a purposely built farm. She also coaches other businesses, is an author of The Olive Tree which was featured on Times Square recently and will be adapted into a film.

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q life: with GABRIEL TABASCO

The Greek Ambassador's Son: Chapter 4: Three Types of Threesomes

Threesome #1: The Accidental Threesome

I met a guy online and he suggested I join him for a drink at his house. I was bored and had nothing to do that night, so I went over to his apartment. I was not intending to have sex with him but just to have a drink with him and pass the evening. Marios was in his mid-30s, with a head that he shaved (as he was balding). He lived above the Bulgarian he worked at as a sous-chef.

With him in his apartment was his best friend Klitos was sitting on the sofa bed watching the football. Panathinaikos was playing Olympiacos in such an important football match that even the gays were watching it.

I sat on the left corner of the couch with Marios next to me and with Klitos slouching on the far right of the couch, half listening to our conversation, smoking, drinking a beer and watching the TV. The man was quite the multi-tasker.

We made small talk as Marios was telling me all about Bulgarian cuisine, which he knew little about, as he had only been in that job for less than a month.

'Do you want to do something together?' he asked, trying to be nonchalant. 'You know... you and I?' he clarified.

'Sure,' I said, as if he asked me if I wanted to order a pizza. 'Now?' That took him aback. 'But Klitos is here. We have to go to the bathroom.' 'I can blow you here,' I said. 'I don't mind if he watches.'

There was a moment's pause and then I moved forward and touched Marios' crotch. As I guessed: he was hard. I unzipped his white H&M jeans and yanked them down to his knees. I pulled back his y-front. His erect dick jutted out. His was a nice size, a good above average and thick. It was the size that would make any woman happy. His balls and pubic area were shaved.

I bent over and sucked him. He exhaled and sat back, shutting his eyes to enjoy the blowjob. Klitos next to him tried to concentrate on the football but it was hard to pay attention to a hunky and overpaid man kicking a ball around a pitch on a small screen while someone is being sucked off right next to you. Overcome with jealousy and hormones Klitos occasionally glanced over to us before looking away as if he was giving up privacy. From time to time our eyes met me. As if challenging him I held them for a moment too long.



'Let's have sex' I said to Marios as he was tensing up.

'Here?' he said.

'Sure. Klitos doesn't mind. Do you?'

He shrugged. He was clearly jealous.

Marios brought out the condoms and lube. We undressed and I laid down, this time with my head near Klitos' lap. Marios laid on top of me naked and proceeded to enter me. It was painful. I was not completely relaxed but soon Marios was in.

'How is it?' asked Klitos, looking down at me in his lap and taking a sip of his now-warm beer.

'Man, he is so tight, even I am in pain,' said Marios.

'Want to join?' I asked and motioned to Klitos to unzip his jeans. Ignoring the football he did as told. His penis was smaller than Marios and thinner. I sucked him as Marios fucked me. What followed was a rushed threesome on a sofa bed. It was so small we kept sliding off it. The whole act lasted less than 15 minutes but we all came within a minute of each other. Marios came first, then I did almost at the same time while Marios was shouting out 'I'm coming' loudly. Klitos came at the same moment that Panathinaikos scored the winning goal. We were all winners in that studio apartment.

Threesome #2: The Annoying Man and the Teddy Bear

I met Marino at a beach party. He had just moved back to Greece from the US.

'From Michigan... or Minnesota... or somewhere' he said clearly drunk. 'Shit man... I can't even remember where I used to live' he laughed to himself.

The signs were there but it was not until the second time I hooked up with him that I realised he was an alcoholic. He drank vodka drink after vodka drink. Even I, who enjoyed drinking, could not keep up with him.

In fact months later, I would be in a club with my friend Matthew, when Marino showed up and spoke to him but did not acknowledge me (for reasons I will soon reveal). After he left I asked Matthew how he knew Marino.

'We met up one night for drinks and then I went over to his house' Matthew recounted. 'Marino said he was going into the bedroom for a minute but five minutes later he still was not back. I went to see if he was ok and it turned out that he was asleep on the bed. So I left and know he wants me back!'

Back to my story with Marino...

After we had sex for the first time he floated the idea of a threesome. I agreed and we arranged it for the coming week. As Marino was dating me I assumed he had good taste so I did not ask to see what the third man would look like. In fact I completely forgot about our arranged threesome until he texted me about it. That Saturday night I went to Marino's apartment and was met with a techno-nerd. I immediately forgot his name so let us call him Teddy because that is what he reminded me of. He was a stocky 25-year-old with thick-rimmed glasses and a build that would seem fat when he was wearing clothes but was well put together in the nude. Still, there was little attraction between us. We sat on the couch silently sipping red wine (red wine! As if it were a poetry reading). Sitting in silence we could hear the crickets outside and the hum of the fridge (stocked with Marino's vodka). Regardless of the lack of attraction we still proceeded with the threesome.

The threesome was clunky. The whole atmosphere was slow. There was more action in a library. Foreplay seemed endless. It reminded me of Maths class at middle school. It was like waiting for the bus. In fact, I heard the bus go by.

'If I hurry I can catch the next one' I thought to myself. And so I did.

'Hey, Marino,' I said as he was kissing the guy's big, fluffy thighs.

'Hmmm?' he responded, continuing to kiss and looking up at me.

'I'm not in the mood tonight, I think I'm going to go,' I whispered, feeling as if I was interrupting an important business meeting.

'Hmmm... ok... bye,' he said continuing his foreplay making his way up Teddy's thighs. It was so slow, it seemed more like the foreplay to foreplay.

I got dressed. Went home. Had a shower. And went clubbing.

'No more threesomes,' I said to myself. And I stuck to that. Until one day my date turned into sex that turned into a threesome that turned into a foursome.

Threesome #3: Champagne Celebrations

Though it was still hot, the summer was over. September in Greece, as everywhere, heralded a time for new beginnings. People returned to work after their sun-soaked days on the beach and kids going back to school. The rush of Athens was on full throttle. There were some people who put up a resistance wanting to prolong their summer daze and arguing that if it is still hot then we can still party.

One evening in early September one of my friends from university was managing a new gallery and invited me to its opening. Amid the glitterati and photographers from cheap tabloids I met Ali who, like me, was sipping champagne.

Ali was from Jordan, a few years older than me, at least a head shorter but with nice arms that he displayed in his cut-off t-shirt. He was with Imad, who, from their distant body language, I assumed him to be Ali's friend. We flirted over free flutes of champagne and art that was too hideous to put up and too expensive for us to buy. By the end of the night we ended up with a group of other gay guys by the dumpsters behind the gallery having decided that a gay party amid other people's rubbish was better than a pretentious posse of ladies in fake fur wanting to get into cheap magazines and gossip blogs. By the end of the night as Imad was talking to one man I kissed Ali next to the bin for recycling paper but not plastic. By the end of the night it turned out that Ali and Imad were a couple but had a very open relationship. They owned and managed a PR agency in Amman called Champagne Celebrations.

We agreed to meet the following week at their resort in the southern tip of Attica. I drove down to their hotel where we had dinner and then walked to some bars for drinks. It was inevitable that we would end up in bed together. Back at the hotel room, still in our clothes, Ali and I sat on the bed kissing. I was still undecided if I wanted a threesome or just wanted Ali. I much preferred Ali to Imad. He was sexual and smart and had interesting things to say. I had more of a connection with him. So it was a relief when Imad's phone beeped.

'It's that guy from yesterday?' said Imad. 'He says if he can come over for sex.'

'Sure, fuck him if you want but I'm not interested so much,' said Ali.

Around 15 minutes later, as I was sitting on the balcony with Ali sharing a bottle of champagne as Imad laid on the bed texting men when there was a knock at the door. It was the man who texted earlier on. Ali and I, a little drunk and giggly, went into the room to see what he looked like.

The door opened and I knew the man. He was a friend of Mike's. Erriko was a tall, likeable man who worked in a bank. I went to his house with Mike for drinks. He did not recognize me.

'What's your name?' he said, coming in. Ali said nothing and so it was left to Imad to make him feel comfortable.

'My name is Imad,' said Ali, trying not to snicker. That obliged Imad to call himself Ali. I used my actual name to see if he recognised me but he did not.

'I don't like that guy,' said Ali as we spoke on a balcony a little later. 'It's one thing wanting to get fucked but it's another thing looking like you want to get fucked.'

Ali sat outside smoking while I, who was ambivalent about Imad and not particularly attracted to Erriko, somehow ended up in bed with them. The sex was fine. Ali was right; Erriko was a big bottom who spread his legs for Imad as soon as he sat on the bed. Imad should have named his business Quick Champagne Celebrations because he uncorked his champagne bottle in less than three

minutes of sex. Erriko's hole still had not got his fill so I plugged in. Pumping away at Erriko, Imad slapped my ass as I fucked Erriko and kept saying 'go Gabriel, fuck him'. It was fun getting my ass fondled as I fucked a man though I wished he slapped me harder.

'Are you finished yet?' asked Ali from the balcony.

'Not yet,' I said, breathing heavily as I worked away on Erriko.

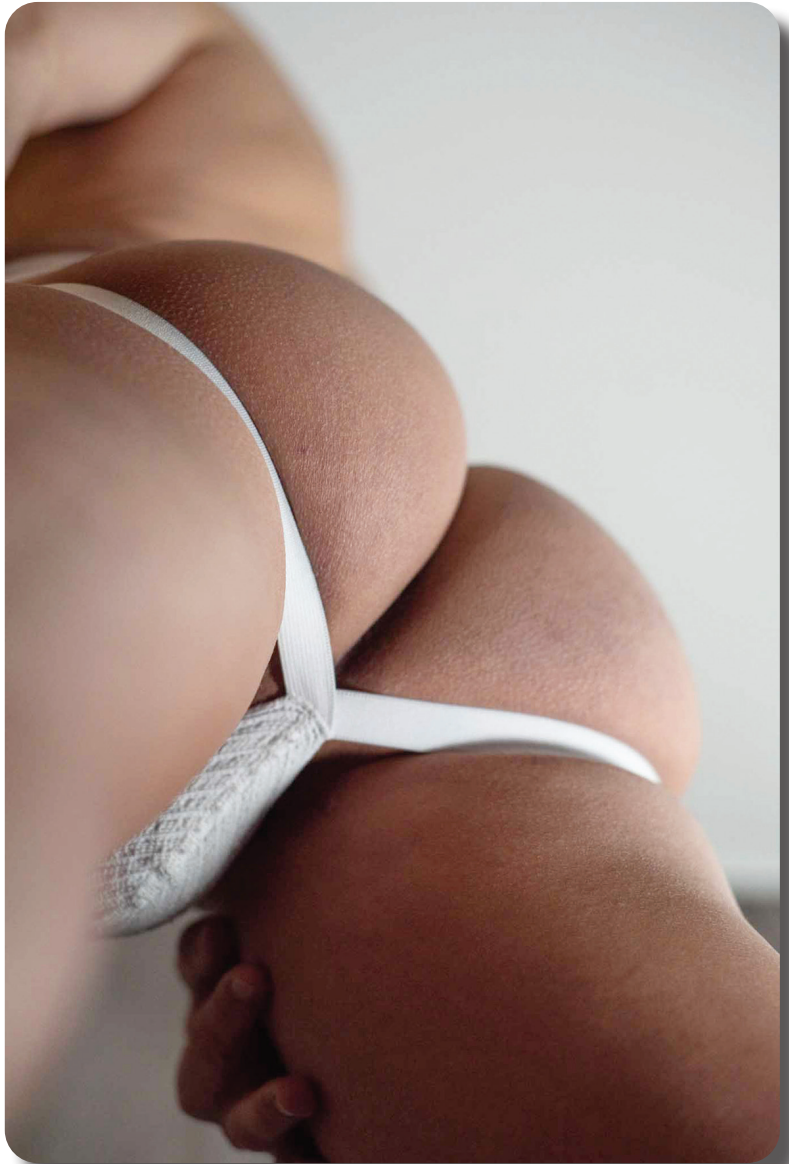
'Well, I was avoiding coming to see what I would find,' he said, 'but I might as well come in and watch.'

So Ali came in, holding his cigarette to watch Imad wank himself off as he cupped my balls, as I was about to come in Erriko's ass and for Erriko to shoot his load on his chest as he grunted like a warthog.

'Not bad,' said Ali, 'but not good either,' he said bitchily. 'I saw better threesomes in pornos.'

The look on Erriko's face showed he was satisfied and despite my better judgement I had a good time too.

I never saw Erriko again. He eventually got married, to a woman, when someone was going to expose him as gay to his family. I lost touch with Imad and Ali but I often wondered how they were doing.



*Were there not enough bubbles in your champagne?
You'd have ditched those losers if you had half a brain
But then you are a desperate little whore
Chasing cheap men for sex, always wanting more*

q icon: TASTY NIGHTCLUB ANNIVERSARY

Iconic 90s Club to celebrate milestone in Melbourne/Naarm Queer History 30th Anniversary of the notorious Tasty Nightclub Raid

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the notorious Tasty Raid, an event that forever changed Melbourne/Naarm's LGBTQI+ history. On this landmark occasion, the iconic 90s queer nightclub, Tasty, will be honoured with a spectacular one-night celebration on Saturday, August 10 at Inflation, bringing together the community to remember and rejoice.

The Tasty Raid occurred in 1994, when 467 patrons of Tasty were unjustly strip-searched by Victoria Police. The raid, later deemed unlawful, sparked international outrage and became a pivotal moment in Australia's LGBTQI+ history, often likened to the Stonewall uprising in the United States.

To commemorate this significant event, a fabulous evening has been planned at Inflation, one of Melbourne/Naarm's most renowned party venues. Tasty co-founder and DJ Gavin Campbell has reunited with long-time collaborators Gerard O'Connor and Jono Francisco to curate an event that spans four fantastic levels, including the venue's rooftop bar, Top Yard. Each level will be brimming with vibrant queer energy and entertainment.

The night will be soundtracked by three of Tasty's original 90s DJ legends, along with two 21st-century DJ additions and two current local favourites. Live performances throughout the evening will add to the excitement, making the Tasty Raid 30th anniversary the most talked-about club event of 2024.

Highlights of the night include an exclusive three-hour back-to-back set by original Tasty resident DJs Peter McNamara and Gavin Campbell, followed by another original 90s Tasty DJ, Arlen de Silva. Also performing is DJ legend Debra Walters, whose debut set at the Tasty Raid 20th anniversary in 2014 is still remembered fondly. Current Melbourne/Naarm favorites Hip Hop Hoe (Pony Club Gym) and Sugar Plump Fairy, the mastermind behind the quarterly dance sensation Bruno, will also grace the decks.

Inflation's ground-level cafe area will transform into a late-night performance space, featuring an extravaganza of queer talent, film and video screenings, and DJ Philvester, another eclectic Tasty favorite.

In the 1990s, Tasty introduced the concept of a safe, consensual play area/darkroom to Melbourne/Naarm nightclubs, infamously dubbed The Grope Maze. The Tasty Raid 30th Anniversary event will also include this feature, spanning the entire Inflation basement, created exclusively for Tasty by legendary Trough X producer and designer, Nik Dimopoulos.



Tasty Raid 30th Anniversary (18+) - \$40/\$50

Saturday, August 10th 9:00pm - 7:00am

Inflation, 60 King Street, Melbourne (rear entry via Geddes Lane)

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/tasty-raid-30th-anniversary>

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q equality: RAINBOW RIGHTS TOOLKIT

COTA SA RELEASES RAINBOW RIGHTS TOOLKIT FOR LGBTI+ COMMUNITY



COTA (Council of the Ageing) SA has released its new Rainbow Rights toolkit to help older LGBTI+ community members to understand and action their rights, including in the later stages of their lives, and build awareness amongst the people who will be part of their choices, supports and care. COTA SA has created this resource in partnership with the South Australian Government's Office for Ageing Well, to share information about services and programs that safeguard the rights of older LGBTI+ people. The toolkit focuses on topics including overcoming discrimination, housing, health, and planning ahead.

COTA SA Chief Executive, Miranda Starke, is proud to offer this toolkit to the rainbow community to assert and safeguard their rights over a lifetime. "The Rainbow Rights toolkit focuses on supporting older LGBTI+ people with information and the confidence to seek and accept help when it is needed, as well as to offer support to other community members," Miranda said. Through COTA SA's engagement with older LGBTI+ people, they have told us they have often faced discrimination through their lifetime and experienced challenges accessing services tailored to their needs. They are also less likely than the general population to access intergenerational and family support, due to being more likely to be single, childless and no longer in contact with their biological family.

"COTA SA will continue to advocate at a systems level to address the challenges facing older LGBTI+ South Australians, and our new Rainbow Rights toolkit is a great resource to help individuals really understand what services are out there to assist them in ageing well."

Rainbow Rights follows the success of COTA SA's Rainbow Horizons project, an important initiative designed to create greater cross-generational support in relation to end of life planning, care and dying for LGBTI+ people.

The toolkit was recently launched at COTA SA's Rainbow Rights in Action Forum by Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well Nat Cook MP, and featured broadcaster and journalist, Julie McCrossin AM leading a panel of experts who shared their views and lived experiences.

The Rainbow Rights toolkit is available online and is available to download at www.cotasa.org.au/rainbow-rights

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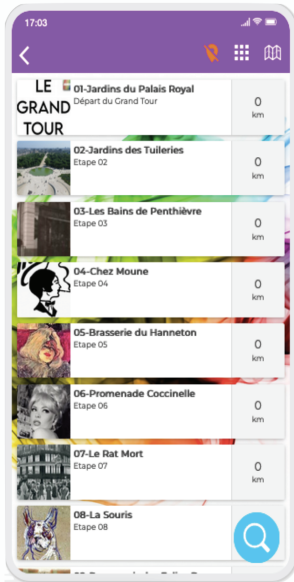
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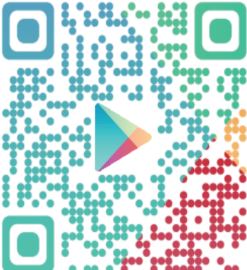
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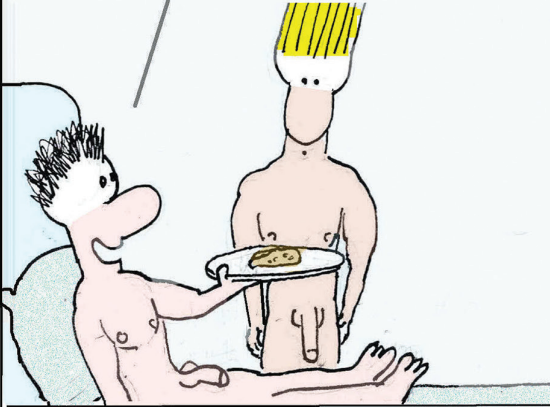


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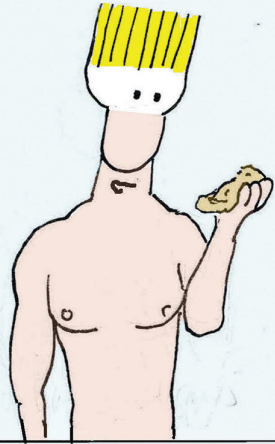
The Government of South Australia contributes funds to this program

GAYLORD BLADE

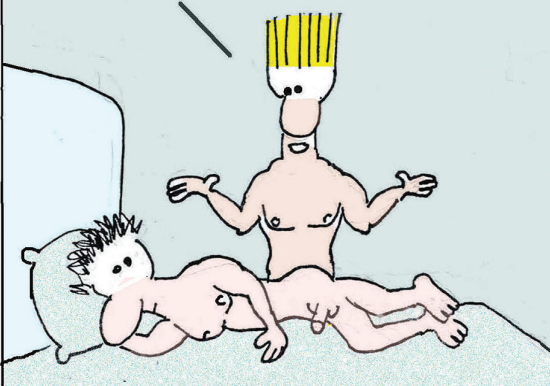
Have a scone! I made them during your refractory period.



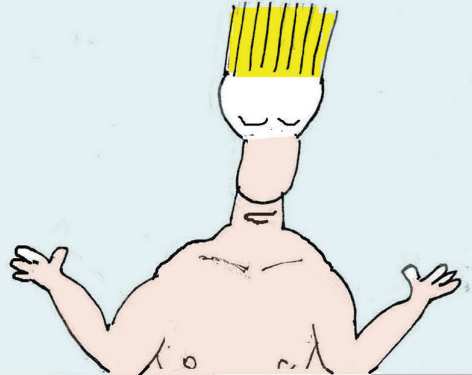
We need to talk!



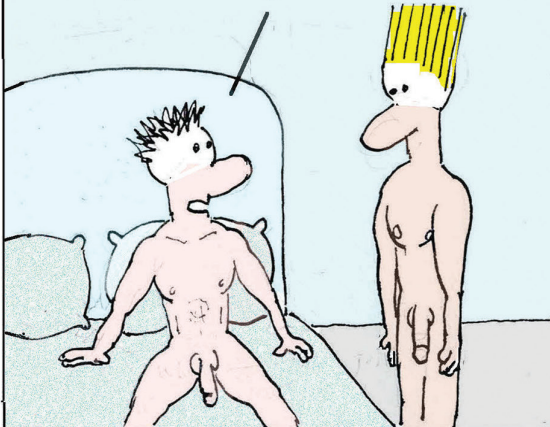
Your fucking, sucking, rimming and your scones are all boring



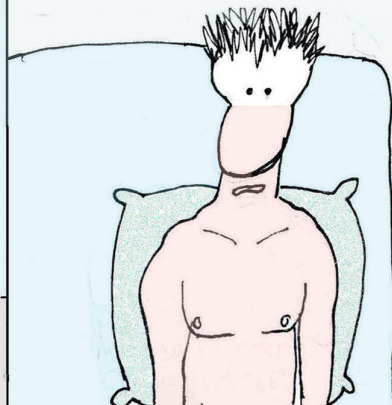
You and I know relationships can grow stale over time!

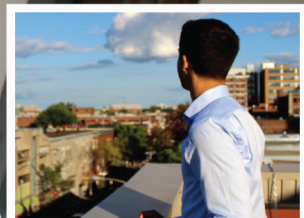


But I just met you last night!



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