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featuring:

ALEXANDER ANANASSO

star of sex love venice



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q comment: POLICE WITHDRAW FROM PRIDE MARCH



As an early riser, I take advantage of the quiet hours each morning to browse news services with minimal interruptions. You can imagine (I hope) my surprise and dismay when I came across this headline:

'Police withdraw from major pride march due to uniform ban'

Whenever I question my Liberal beliefs, I can simply revisit that headline. It is utter nonsense and foolishness. With careful consideration (which seems to be diminishing daily), MIDSUMMA Festival must navigate a diverse range of self-serving interest groups when making decisions (as is the nature of collective action), but for the sake of everything that has been fought for AND WHAT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO - today is NOT a good day for anyone.

Victoria Police - I commend you, I honour your colleagues who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and I regret the treatment you have received from the 'faceless provocateurs.' Unfortunately, with major LGBTIQ+ organisations supporting their disgraceful actions, this situation will persist, regardless of the facts, historical context, or basic human decency.

I recognise how challenging this decision must have been, but sometimes it is necessary to stand firm and reject the demands of those whose sole purpose is to disrupt and destroy. It is time to reflect on the fundamental principles of Pride and why millions of good people worldwide strive to uphold and expand this vital event.

I am certainly not in any position to change this codswallop, so I will hope that someday sense prevails and the snowflakes triggered by a uniform find a good therapist and leave public events of such importance alone.

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Brett Hayhoe t/a Q Magazine
ABN 21 631 209 230

q feature: SEX LOVE VENICE

Alexander the Great

Alexander Ananasso stars as Marco in the LGBTQ romance film Sex Love Venice
By Gerard Passaro

Alexander Ananasso brings his signature blend of soulful intensity and Italian charm to the role of Marco in the eagerly awaited queer romance film, *Sex Love Venice*. The Rome-born out actor delivers a spellbinding performance as the charismatic Venetian who guides Michael, a man jaded by hookup culture, toward rediscovering intimacy and love. Set against Venice's enchanting canals and iconic architecture, the film explores themes of desire, patience, and self-discovery, with Ananasso's portrayal anchoring its emotional core.



It's been a long road to this point. How excited are you about the release of *Sex Love Venice*?

Alexander Ananasso: I can't wait to see myself on the big screen and I'm so hopeful that moviegoers will love the film as much as I do!

What initially attracted you to the role of Marco?

Marco is very different from the man I am and he presented a challenge that I felt up for. He gave me the opportunity to turn on my magnetism and charm, but also tap into my vulnerability and quirkiness. I couldn't make him come across as too self-assured! I think Marco's playful and curious, which I am too.

Marco believes in the transformative power of cultivating desire, maintaining that the things we long for most are infinitely sweeter when savored with patience and intention. Do you agree with him?

Yes, I do. I'm a very patient person. If something or someone is worth it, I can wait and put my energy into preparing and building up to a climax.

Have you tried the transformative power of cultivating desire in real life?

I think I have. Not sure I was as disciplined and determined as Marco is, though.

As an out actor, what does it mean to bring authentic representation to the screen in a love-themed film?

It is great to see real LGBT people on screen portraying LGBT characters. It is inspiring and motivational, and makes me feel like I belong when, at times, I often feel like I don't. As an actor, it's not only a privilege to be the one chosen for a role, but also an honor. It's incredible to think that someone out there might be inspired and touched by what I do and say on screen.

What was the most memorable moment on set during filming?

There were many! One scene I really enjoyed filming was the one we shot in the famous book shop, Libreria Acqua Alta. It is often visited by tourists, so we weren't sure we were going to be able to get permission to shoot there, but that day they opened the shop a half-hour earlier and kept the customers outside for us to shoot. The scene we shot wasn't the one we originally had planned on doing. The dialogue wasn't in the script! Daniel and I were able to improvise with each other and create on the spot, which was fun.



I'm surprise you didn't say the bed scene.

Well, yes, I suppose if I had to pick one really memorable moment in the film, the bed scene would be it. It was really beautiful and powerful.

You and Daniel have wonderful on-screen chemistry. If you could pick any celebrity to star alongside you in your next romantic film, who would you choose?

Andrew Scott. He's my favorite actor. He communicates vulnerability and emotions so specifically and powerfully. I love watching his work.

What do you hope audiences - both LGBTQ+ and beyond - take away from Sex Love Venice?

I hope the film stimulates them beyond their regular way of thinking and that it

challenges them to be more open-minded and open-hearted when meeting new people, whether they be potential friends, colleagues or lovers.



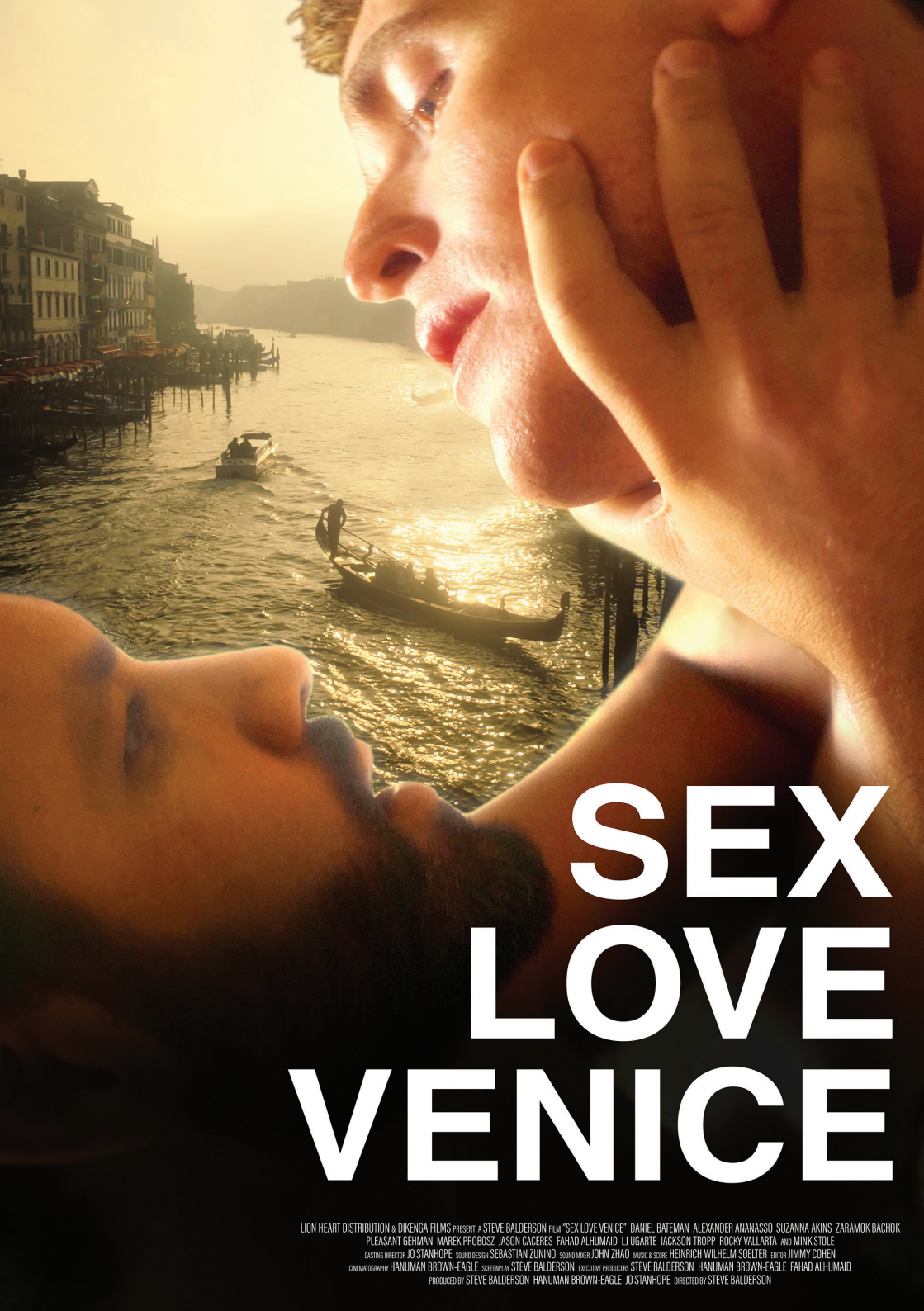
What's next on the horizon for you?

I love theatre and I would love to bring my solo show A God Who Can Speak to the states. I'm also writing a new piece about online dating and mental health.

Is mental health important to you?

Everything I do has to do with healing and personal growth. I'm a big believer in self-discovery and awareness.

Sex Love Venice opens in select theatres on Friday, February 14, as well as on streaming platforms including Amazon Prime and Apple TV.



SEX LOVE VENICE

LION HEART DISTRIBUTION & DIKENGA FILMS PRESENT A STEVE BALDERSON FILM "SEX LOVE VENICE" DANIEL BATEMAN ALEXANDER ANANASSO SUZANNA AKINS ZARAMOK BACHOK
PLEASANT GEHMAN MAREK PROBOSZ JASON CACERES FAHAD ALHUMAIM LJ UGARTE JACKSON TROPP ROCKY VALLARTA AND MINK STOLE
CASTING DIRECTOR JO STANHOPE SOUND DESIGNER SEBASTIAN ZUNINO SOUND MIXER JOHN ZHAO MUSIC BY SCORE HEINRICH WILHELM SOELTER EDITOR JIMMY COHEN
CINEMATOGRAPHY HANUMAN BROWN-EAGLE SCREENPLAY BY STEVE BALDERSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEVE BALDERSON HANUMAN BROWN-EAGLE FAHAD ALHUMAIM
PRODUCED BY STEVE BALDERSON HANUMAN BROWN-EAGLE JO STANHOPE DIRECTED BY STEVE BALDERSON

q connect: CONNECTing FOR A CAUSE

'CONNECT' is Australia's first federally funded program that dispenses free HIV self-test kits from vending machines. The project aims to strengthen pathways to services, treatment and support while addressing barriers to testing experienced by newly arrived migrants, international students, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Led by SAMESH since March 2022, and now Thorne Harbour Health SA, the eight vending machines around the Adelaide metropolitan area have been gaining traction with people from all walks of life wanting to self-test for free. Accessing a HIV self-test kit is simple, anonymous, completely safe and includes links to confirmatory testing and care. Just head to one of the vending machine locations, scan the QR code, answer a few confidential questions and provide a valid mobile number, then follow the instructions provided.

As the most successful project of its kind globally, CONNECT is proving that the distribution of free HIV self-test kits via vending machines increases testing amongst priority populations. This plays an important role in reaching the UNAIDS targets in Australia. The Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care recently approved funding for a national rollout over 2 years, so CONNECT will be available in every state and territory nation-wide very soon.

SAMESH is a partnership between SHINE SA and Thorne Harbour Health that provides community-based support, education and training about Sexual Health and HIV.

For more information including vending machine locations head to the CONNECT webpage: <https://samesh.org.au/connect-free-hiv-test-kits>



Free HIV self-testing kits available from a vending machine near you!

Quick, easy, accessible and totally confidential!
Just visit one of our vending machines to get a free rapid HIV self-testing kit for you to use at your own convenience.

HIV Self-testing kit Vending Machine locations >

University of Adelaide

North Terrace Campus, The Hub, Level 2, All Gender Bathroom
North Terrace Campus, The Hub, Level 3, Main Staircase

UniSA

City West Campus, Student Lounge
Mawson Lakes Campus, Student Lounge

Flinders University,

Student Hub, Bedford Park

TAFE SA

Regency Park Campus, Student Cafeteria
Salisbury, Adjacent to the library

Pulteney 431 Sauna

431 Pulteney Street



SAMESH

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SHINE SA & THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH

I'm
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connect >



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hivconnect.org.au

q book: ALL THE COLOURS OF THE RAINBOW

ALL THE COLOURS OF THE RAINBOW
RAE WHITE (Author) AND SHA'AN D'ANTHES (Illustrator)

"When I was growing up, I rarely came across books that explored gender or identity. And if such books existed, they certainly weren't as accessible or as visible as they are today.

When I began writing All the Colours of the Rainbow, I knew I wanted to write a book about identity, acceptance and love – for people like me, for my amazing friends, and for all the wonderful rainbow families in my life."

— Rae White (they/them), Author of All the Colours of the Rainbow

All the Colours of the Rainbow is a gentle children's book for readers aged 4+ about gender diversity, acceptance and expression, and rainbow families. It's publishing in time for Transgender Visibility Day (31 March 2025) and International Non-Binary Day on 14 July 2025.

It follows the story of Jem – a kid who loves wearing yellow dresses and also blue jeans; a kid who feels like a girl when searching for bugs and lizards in the backyard, like a boy when running around in fast circles, and like both a boy and a girl when the clouds have vanished and there's a rainbow in the sky. Some adults in Jem's life only want to see in black and white, but with their Mum's help, Jem learns people are like rainbows – each colour is different, and you can choose to be any colour of the rainbow.

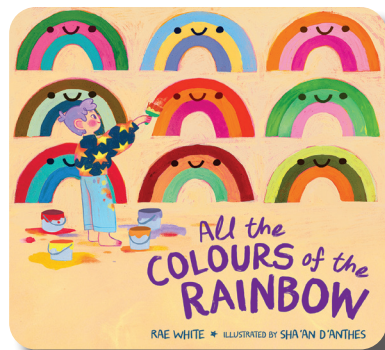
Rae White said: "I hope [this book] encourages young people and readers of all ages to embrace their identity and individuality with confidence and compassion. Through Jem's journey, I want readers to realise that it's okay to explore who you are, even if your identity doesn't fit into traditional societal expectations or gender roles."

Rae White (they/them) is a non-binary transgender writer, educator, poet and zine maker based in Brisbane.

Their poetry collection Milk Teeth won the 2017 Arts Queensland Thomas Shapcott Poetry Prize, was shortlisted for the 2019 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards and commended in the 2018 Anne Elder Award. Rae's second poetry collection was shortlisted for the 2023 Prime Minister's Literary Awards and 2023 Queensland Literary Awards.

Rae has poems published in Nothing to Hide: Voices of Trans and Gender-Diverse Australia and also contributed a piece to Dear Lover. They have had poetry published in Australian Poetry Journal, Cordite, Meanjin, Overland and Rabbit.

Rae is the Creative Director and Founder of community poetry initiative Uplift Poetry, and the Founding Editor of #EnbyLife, a journal for non-binary and gender-diverse creatives.



q world: THE MEN OF ODESA

NEW PHOTOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL BOOK SHOWCASES THE MEN OF ODESA, UKRAINE THROUGH A QUEER LENS

The 9th of January marked the release of the landmark fiftieth edition of *Elska*, a project dedicated to exploring the world and its men through a queer perspective. This latest edition focuses on Odesa, the beautiful Ukrainian city on the Black Sea. Inside, readers can follow *Elska* author and photographer Liam Campbell as he shares intimate photography of the men he met there and honest stories about the time he spent with them and in this city.



"I am so excited and proud to have reached fifty editions, and casting the spotlight on Ukraine is the perfect way to celebrate this achievement," says Liam Campbell. "The first ever edition of *Elska*, which was published back in 2015, was made in Lviv, Ukraine. Therefore, it only seemed right that the fiftieth should also be made in Ukraine, but this time I chose to focus on Odesa. Of course, this trip wasn't as easy as the previous one, considering that it took place in the midst of Russia's full-scale invasion. However, my love for the country and my determination to mark the fiftieth *Elska* in this special way spurred me on. Certainly, I was scared, but I felt that I had to try."

"*Elska Odesa* also marks the first in a brand new era of *Elska*," continues Liam. "Previously, I used to plan each issue to the most minute of details. This time, mainly because of the war, I arrived spontaneously. I then just met whichever local men I happened to find, and photographed them where they wanted, when they wanted, and how they wanted. Then, after each meeting, I wrote extensive notes in a diary, which became the basis of the narrative in *Elska Odesa*. For future editions, I will follow this spontaneous spirit to meeting locals and will use this documentarian / diary approach to the writing."

Elska Odesa is a combination of a gay photography book and travel memoir. The photography includes images of several Odesa men who were shot in their city's streets and in their homes, dressed in their own style and often not dressed at all. The result is raw and refreshingly imperfect. The men featured are not models or any kind of celebrity, just ordinary locals. Their images are presented with conviction, promoting the beauty of the ordinary; the text is presented with sincerity, proving that what is real is more compelling than what is sensational.

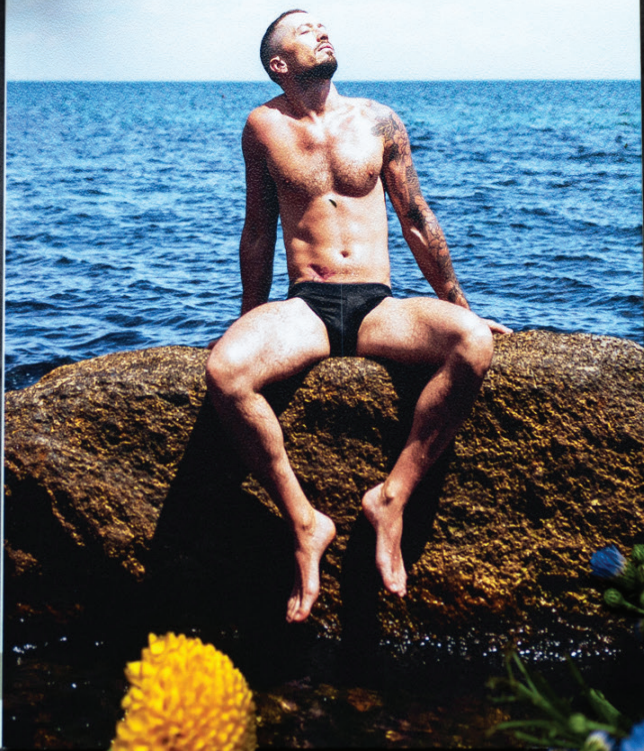


Elska Odesa is available in a collectible print format or in a downloadable e-version. Both are available for order online from the *Elska* website as well as from a select group of shops around the world. In addition, the companion e-zine *Elska Ekstra Odesa* is available, containing many hundreds of outtake images of each Odesa subject, plus additional behind the scenes notes from the making of this series.

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

elska

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q film: QUEER

Luca Guadagnino's QUEER

Nominated for Best Film at the 2024 Venice Film Festival where it premiered in-competition.

The National Board of Review named QUEER one of its Top 10 movies of the year, with Daniel Craig also being named Best Actor at their 2024 awards. Craig has also been nominated for a Critics Choice Award for Best Actor and a Golden Globe for Best Performance by a Male Actor in a Motion Picture, Drama.

In 1950's Mexico City, an American ex-pat in his late forties leads a solitary life amidst a small American community. However, the arrival of a young student stirs the man into finally establishing a meaningful connection with someone.

Starring Daniel Craig (James Bond, Knives Out), Drew Starkey (Outer Banks, Hellraiser), Jason Schwartzman (Fargo, Megalopolis), Lesley Manville (Mrs Harris Goes to Paris, The Crown), Henrique Zaga (The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare) and Omar Apollo (Red, White and Royal Blue Soundtrack).

'QUEER' is in Australian cinemas February 6, 2025.



q music: WHILE THEY ALL SLEEP

You are the hero - only you can save yourself

Paul James Rooney - singer & dancer releases an empowering anthem
'While They All Sleep'

Written by Ash Gordon - Scissor Sisters, RuPaul, New Kids on the Block, Trixie Mattel & Alaska Thunderfuck



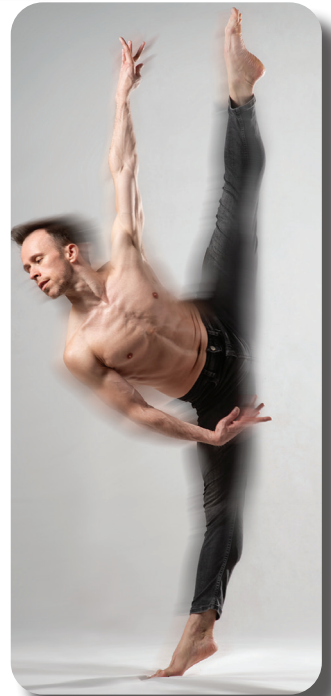
Produced by Tyler Connaghan - The Blah, Blah, Blahs, Stylo Beddoe, Chuxx Morris, Wayfarers.



Blending his love of pop-rock music, dance and comic book heroes - 'While They All Sleep' is an empowering self motivating anthem. Lyrically inspired by vintage X-men comic book quotes and inspired musically by electronic rock music, 'While They All Sleep' is led by heavy drumbeats with vocal harmonies and a strong guitar being its driving force.

Paul James Rooney has worked as a professional dancer around the world for the past 20 years. His dance career took him to Copenhagen where he is now based. Working as a freelance dancer and choreographer Paul James has always fought against being stereotyped and forced into a single dance genre, carving out a career for himself as a versatile dancer. 'While They All Sleep' is a message to fight for yourself and prove the naysayers wrong. While they all may be sleeping on you, prove them wrong.

'While They All Sleep' is available from February 21st on all music streaming services - including Spotify, iTunes & Amazon Music.



q people: BABURAM POUDEL & HIS VERY PERSONAL JOURNEY

My Current Self and Why I Want to Share My Story

As I turned 53 on December 10, I reflected on a life that has been filled with loneliness and challenges. In Nepali society, marriage between a man and a woman is a celebrated norm, where both families accept it and rejoice together during festivals. However, when it comes to relationships involving gay, transgender, or lesbian individuals, society assigns no value to them. Such relationships are met with isolation, despair, stigma, rejection, and exclusion.

Even politically, this issue is not taken seriously. Some LGBTQI+ advocates seem more focused on their own name and fame rather than bringing real change. Transforming society could take decades.

Yet, I have realized that my life's purpose is to shed light on these realities, spread awareness, and show people that even after growing up in poverty, isolation, and a remote village, it is possible to achieve something meaningful.

I want to share my story with the aim of raising awareness and delivering a message for societal change. This is the vision of my life, and it is with this purpose that I wish to share my journey.

My Journey to Becoming My Authentic Self

Fifty years later, I made the transformative decision to embrace my identity as a transgender woman. It took me years to gather the courage and mental strength to make this choice. Overcoming fears and empowering my soul required immense struggle.

Looking back, my journey began in Duharahi, also known as Charangi, in Rakachuli village. From there, I travelled through Kothar, Duhardha, Arunkhola, Gaindakot, Narayanghat, Kathmandu, Kailapani, Dumkibas, and back to Gaindakot. Later, I moved to Lahan, Biratnagar, Janakpur, Pokhara, Mumbai, and ultimately reached Melbourne, Australia.

Despite facing rejection, pain, and sorrow in this society, I decided to live my life authentically. It wasn't easy, but this journey taught me to live in my truth.

During this journey, I lost my father, mother, mentor, and friends. They are no longer with me on this earth. However, keeping their memory and ideals alive is my dream. This dream inspires me to move forward, overcoming every challenge with courage and pride, and giving meaning to my life.

This journey reflects my identity, struggles, and aspirations.



The Courage to Embrace My Truth

The courage I stand with today stems from a lifelong struggle with hidden gender dysphoria. Since childhood, I felt compelled to hide my identity. Even with my mother's love and support, the insults, stigma, and slurs directed at her - such as "the mother of a hijra" - deeply pained me. It's hard to put into words how much societal rejection scarred her life. Out of fear of society, I pretended to be her "son" for a long time, all the while bearing the burden of her suffering.

In 2016, my mother passed away. The care, love, and support she gave me were extraordinary. She was my greatest inspiration. But the weight of societal stigma she carried remains a wound in my heart.

In Australia, I was fortunate to have a special relationship with my friend Geoffrey. His unwavering trust in me exceeded even my own family's faith. He constantly encouraged me, understood my mental struggles, and supported me with counselling and care. His love and support became a pillar in my life. However, in 2020, he too succumbed to his battle with cancer.

I can never forget the love and support my mother and Geoffrey gave me. To honour their memory and fulfill the potential they saw in me, I want to share my story with the world. This story is a voice for my reality, my struggles, and my identity.





q life: with GABRIEL TABASCO

The Greek Ambassador's Son

Chapter 10 - Oil Wrestling Wednesdays

Only online had I seen any nude public wrestling events. They were either of men in costume at Burning Man or semi-improvised pornos, where the winner would top the loser and have sex in front of the audience. But it was not until I saw it live that I realised how excited I was by it. The bar next to the gay bar I worked in held an oil wrestling competition every Wednesday where men wrestled each other in the nude.

The rules were as follows: two men would step into the giant pool, followed by other men a few minutes later until the pool reached its maximum capacity of seven men. Each man wore thin, disposable y-fronts that were as durable as candyfloss. The aim was to tear off the underwear of any opponent. From then on the men could wrestle naked providing entertainment for the audience.

My good friend Matthew decided to visit me for a week and I took him to the club to watch the event. While sipping our drinks we watched the men who entered the giant inflatable pool that was filled with a dozen bottles of industrial-sized barrels of baby oil. One of the wrestlers was a budding porn star. He was so nervous he only gave one-word answers when Matthew spoke with him.

'He has the look of a rabbit caught in the headlights,' said Matthew, irritated, who always wanted to have sex with a porn-star.

Around 10pm the DJ announced that the wrestling was about to begin and everyone's attention turned to the inflatable pool. The crowd was made up of mostly gay men who huddled around the wrestling area. Also present were a handful of their giggling straight female friends and some lesbians who occupied the balconies above the dance floor.

Within 10 minutes all seven men were in the inflatable pool including Nick, my colleague from Los Chicos. It wasn't long before a couple of the men were already naked. Their 'everything' was visible to everyone. Two men, who were colluding, ambushed one particular man, tore off his underwear, and threw it at the audience, narrowly avoiding hitting a middle-aged lady in the face as she sipped her Rum and Cola. She picked up her bag and left in a huff. Meanwhile, in the inflatable pool, the now-nude man, with a beer-belly, in his 50s tried to lunge at his two opponents but he slipped in the oil, allowing his two opponents to grab his legs and spread them apart, revealing his asshole, with light tufts of hair around his hole, which prompted the crowd to cheer.

The butch lesbians laughed and cheered the loudest; the gay men stared mesmerised, as if they had never seen anything like that. Still with his legs pulled apart his hole was on full display. There was an evident difference in how men and women enjoyed the event. While it was erotic for men to watch other men wrestle naked covered in baby oil, to women, it was something to be laughed at.

'They all look so silly,' said one lady. 'And are they really all so little?' she chuckled, talking about their penis size, or lack thereof.

Matthew and I ignored her, engrossed as we were watching the men hold each other down, their dicks flopping against their legs as they slipped in the oil. I spotted Nick, sporting a semi-erection, willingly being wrestled by a hunk. I tried to catch his attention but he seemed oblivious to us as we sipped on our drinks, watched and commented.

Half-tipsily, half-lustfully I decided there and then that I would join the next wrestling match. That whole week I was nervous and horny for the upcoming event.

However when it was finally Wednesday evening. I arrived at the club, had a couple of drinks, which did nothing to calm me, and announced myself as a participant to the organiser.

Nick had told our colleagues at Los Chicos that I would be participating and a couple had come to 'see how I measured up' as they put it. When our colleagues at the gay bar heard I saw Nick wrestle, our alcoholic manager asked me, in front of customers and staff 'how big is his willy?' Nick looked on nervously, awaiting my response.

'It's big!' I said stretching the truth by at least 35 per cent, making Nick look good. Everyone seemed disappointed at my answer, as if they wanted to hear Nick, who was almost two metres tall, was short downstairs.

At the club I chatted with a man backstage.

'Looks like we'll be wrestling each other,' said one good-looking man in his 40s as we waited backstage before the start of the match.

'Who do you think will win?' I asked him.

'Me. But I think you'll enjoy that,' he said with a chuckle. As if giving an example of what was to come, he playfully slapped my ass. We were called to get in line by the nightclub director; a bitchy man, who clutched his clipboard and spoke into his headpiece as if he were presenting a talent show. In a way he was.

After the announcement from the DJ, the drumroll and flashing lights we emerged wearing only our tidy whities. It was intimidating standing in public, almost naked, in front of a drunken audience. We could hear the odd word emanating from the crowd: semi-stiffy, low-hangers, grower. We wondered 'is it me?' they were talking about.

The match kicked off when an older man and a twink got into the inflatable pool. They squirmed over each other, laughing before the twink seemingly allowed his contestant to rip off his y-fronts. I was fourth in the line and was paired with a stocky man. The DJ touted our fight as a Soccer Player vs. a Rugby Player. My opponent was stronger but I was more agile. I ducked and dipped beneath his legs, rolling over him and slapping his butt for what felt like an hour, but was in fact just three minutes, before he pinned me down and ripped off my underwear. He held it up as if it were a trophy.

The crowd cheered and then he threw it at them. The men in the audience tried to catch it, covering their drinks so as not to spill it when they jumped up. The lesbians ducked away from it and straight women giggled.

As I writhed on the oily plastic tub I felt something slowly spring into motion. 'Not now!' I said to myself. I felt an erection coming on. I laid on the oily mat for a moment, to let it subside, but I was having too much fun and it wouldn't budge. To divert the situation I wrestled my competitor with new vigour but it was futile. I could not hide it. I heard some sniggering from the audience. They spotted it and pointed, laughing.

'How can he get horny while being wrestled by five men? And in public?' one lady asked.
'It's probably because he's being wrestled by five men and in public,' Matthew responded.

By then there were six of us in the tub. It was next to impossible to hide my erection and was even harder wrestling with it. My competitors were delightfully surprised but weren't sure how to combat my weapon. The half-hour wrestling match felt like it was over in a heartbeat. Backstage, after wiping off the oil and putting on our clothes we got drinks. Some people approached me to chat. Others threw me side-glances and a chuckle. I felt like a D-list, budget soft porn actor, basking in neon lights with my 15 minutes of fame. I was definitely going back the following week.

**Look, you found a sport you're good at
Stripping off, and being wrestled in front of an audience
You secretly enjoying losing at naked combat
You revelled in the trashiness and the naughtiness**



q opera: THE OPERA EVENT OF 2025

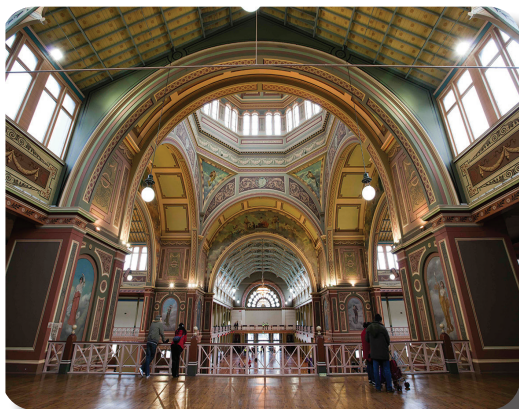
Melbourne Opera presents
Richard Wagner's epic comedy masterpiece
Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg
3pm 16 & 22 February, 5pm 18 & 20 February
Royal Exhibition Building, 9 Nicholson St Carlton

Audiences will experience a 4.5-hour production of Wagner's epic - and only - comedy, with multiple intervals across the afternoon and evening. Themed catering will be available.

Staged at the resplendent world heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building, the production comes from Suzanne Chaundy, the visionary director behind the groundbreaking, internationally acclaimed Ring Cycle Cultural Festival in 2023.

International Wagner expert Anthony Negus returns once again to conduct, marking seven years collaborating with Suzanne Chaundy on Wagner operas. The production features an all Australian cast and will employ over 200 performers, musicians, and creatives.

With a nod to Shakespeare's Globe, Andrew Bailey's (The Ring Cycle) set design enhances the architectural splendour of the world heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building, with tiered seating for 1200 people.



"Our Meistersinger will be an event: not at all like a normal night at the opera. It will unfold over its many hours and spacious intervals in Melbourne's iconic and UNESCO World Heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building. We are effectively building a theatre space within the Exhibition Building with a raised stage, orchestra pit and tiered seating bank, whilst making the venue a production 'hero,'" says Suzanne.

"This is a comedy about ordinary people and humans exercising control over their fates. Unlike most Wagner operas, it is not mythical in any way. However, there is a storybook aspect to Wagner's depiction of the idealized Nuremberg of yore, and this will be reflected in our design. Our chorus will be reminiscent of the world of Bruegel the Elder as a reference point and famous Nuremberg artist Albrecht Durer. The production will be full of life, colour and character. My trademark is, as always, striving for detail with a fresh and truthful reading," says Suzanne.

Many of Australia's greatest opera singers join Warwick in this production. Tenor James Egglestone (Siegmond and Loge in The Ring Cycle) takes on the role of Walther von Stolzing, while Christopher Hillier (Gunther in The Ring Cycle) plays Sixtus Beckmesser.

Performances of Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg are proudly sponsored by Henkel Brothers, the Victorian Wagner Society and the NSW Wagner Society.

Sung in German with English subtitles.

Tickets available via Ticketmaster

www.melbourneopera.com

Behind-the-curtain updates: @MelbourneOpera

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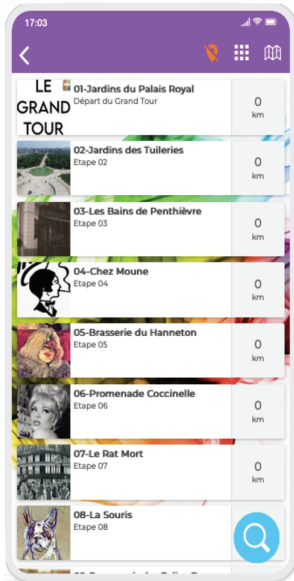
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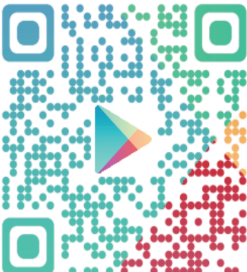
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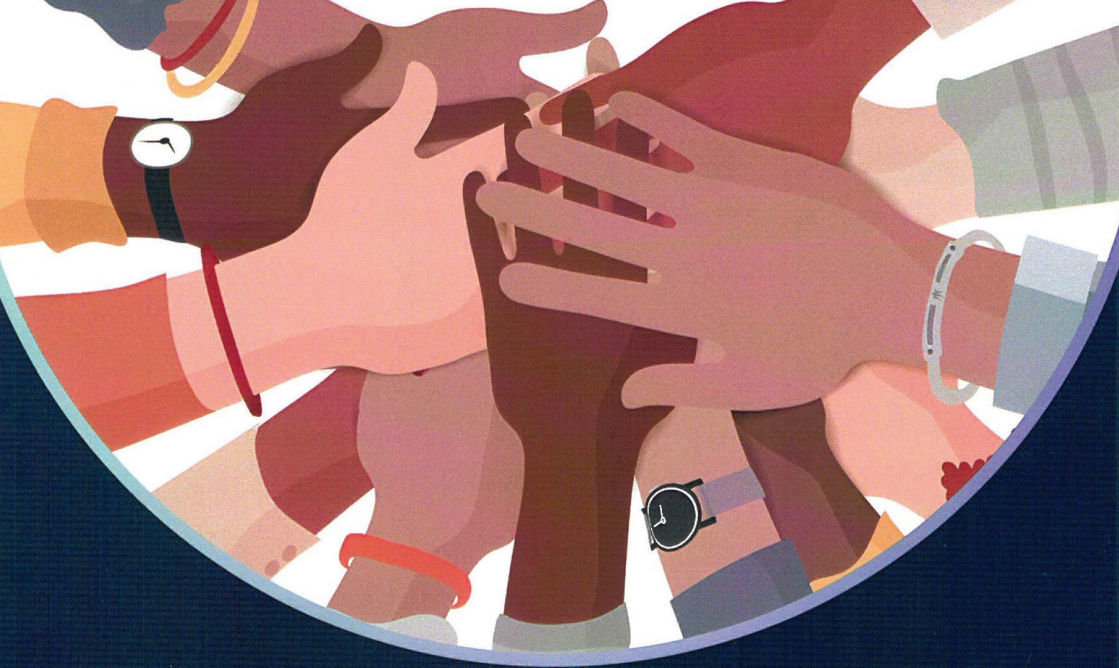
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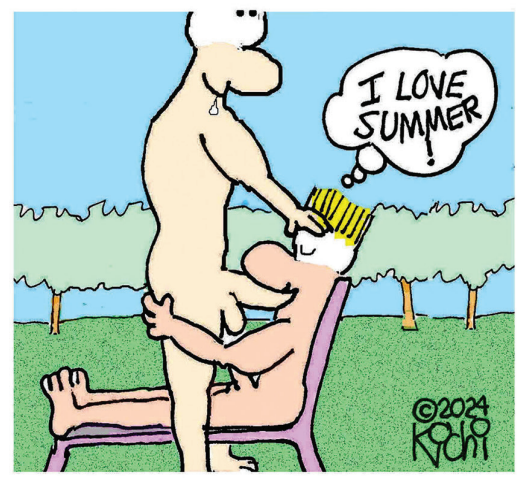
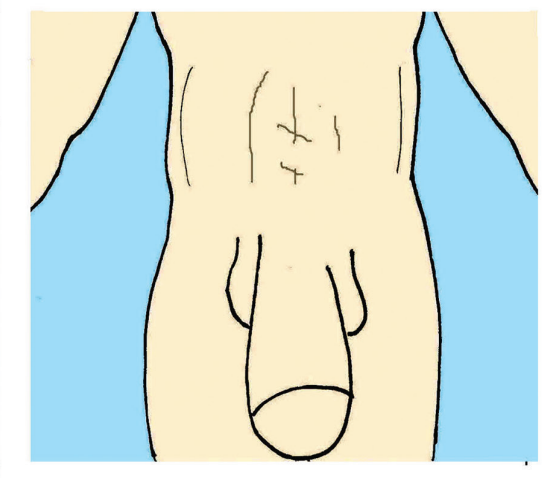
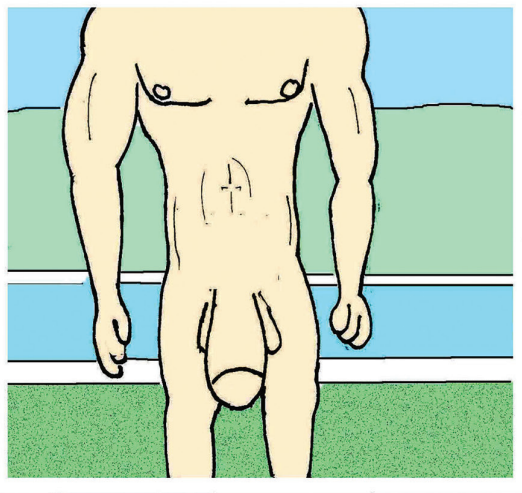
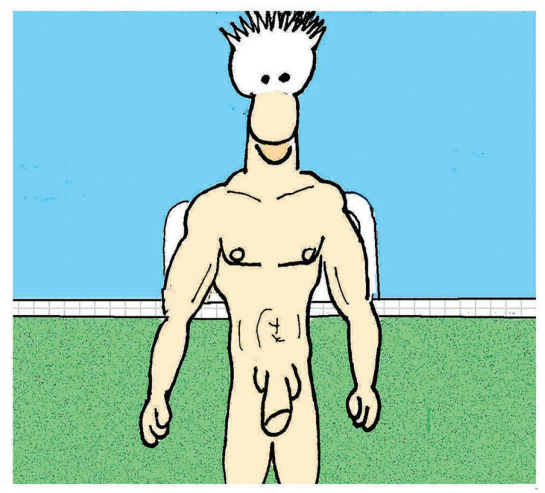
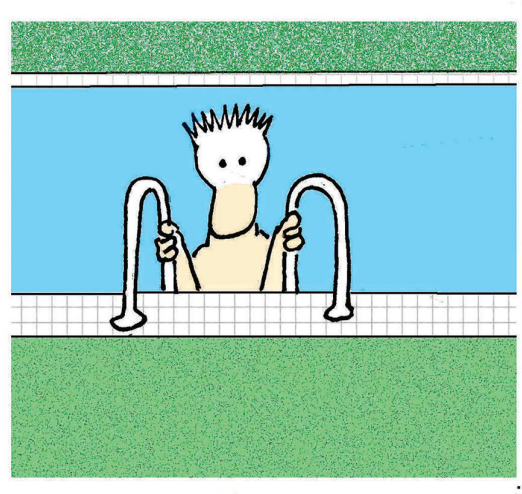
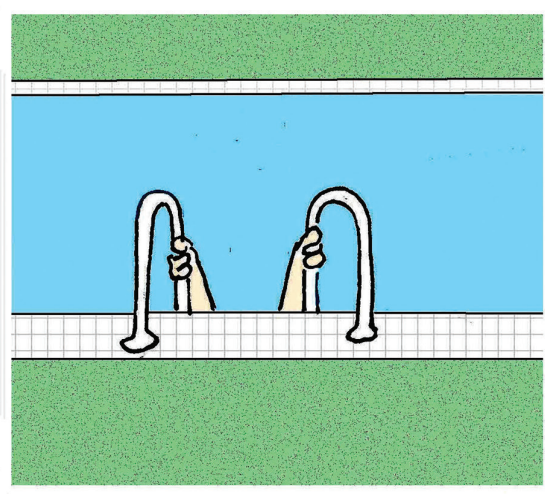
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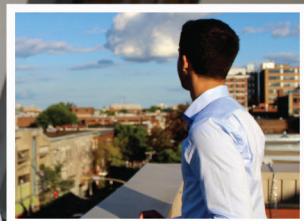


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