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THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

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q comment: OUR 100th ISSUE

It's been a long and winding road, but we have finally reached one of the most significant milestones in publishing: our 100th issue.

It seems a lifetime ago when Tom McFeely called me and asked if I wanted to be a partner in this new magazine venture of his. Following various meetings, discussions and throwing around of ideas, like magic - POOF - it was a reality.

One of the main focusses of our publication from the very beginning was to make it different. A handy-sized magazine accessible to all - regardless of sexuality or gender identity - but unashamedly about the LGBTI community. A magazine that highlighted our lifestyle in its many and varied ways. Entertainment was the key.

Hopefully through its several design changes we have been successful in keeping true to those core values upon which the publication was born.

From inception, the writers have been the backbone of Q Magazine. Their ability to deliver entertaining, informative and relevant editorial has made it something I am truly proud of. Some have come and gone, some are still here after nine years. All however played an integral part in building its reputation and place in Australian LGBTI history as the only publication of its kind.

Our covers have met with mixed popularity, but if you look through the entire 100 issues worth you will see a rich diversity of what makes Melbourne, Australia and the world a wonderful place. I have tried, as Publisher and Editor to cover all genders and players in the rich tapestry of gay and lesbian life.

As a free publication the advertisers are paramount. Again, some have come and gone, some have maintained their presence but all are essential - deserving of and receiving my sincerest gratitude. Equally, to the many publicists who "feed" me with content on a monthly basis I say a heart-felt thank you.

Last, but by no means least are the readers. The numerous emails and comments of support, criticism and congratulations I have received makes it all worth it. I thank you for your continued support.

Pictures: our first issue, Addam Stobbs, the cheeky side of Tom McFeely, Breck.



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ISSN 1449-499X
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Brett Hayhoe t/a Q Magazine
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q feature: **THE PRODUCTION COMPANY**

'For our fifteenth birthday, we're celebrating with three of the brightest shows ever written. These productions will feature a line up of this country's leading musical theatre stars and our expert creative teams will ensure audiences will see these artists at their very best. Our first show is GYPSY, a musical theatre classic. Caroline O'Connor, who helped launch the company in 1999, returns to Australia to play Rose. The romantic comedy, Singin' In The Rain follows, and our third show is Broadway's version of Gilbert and Sullivan's The Pirates of Penzance. Subscriptions for the season are now on sale.'

Jeanne Pratt AC, Chairman of The Production Company





GYPSY opens in Arts Centre Melbourne's State Theatre on July 10. The award winning Gale Edwards directs this jewel of American musical theatre, Andrew Hallsworth choreographs and Guy Simpson is musical director. Caroline O'Connor star of CHICAGO (Broadway and Australia) returns to Australia to star in the role of Rose. In Britain the critics hailed Caroline's performances in this role:

Inspired by the memoirs of the famous burlesque dancer Gypsy Rose Lee, GYPSY charts the story of her outrageous mother, Rose, who is determined to live out her own dreams of stardom through her two daughters.

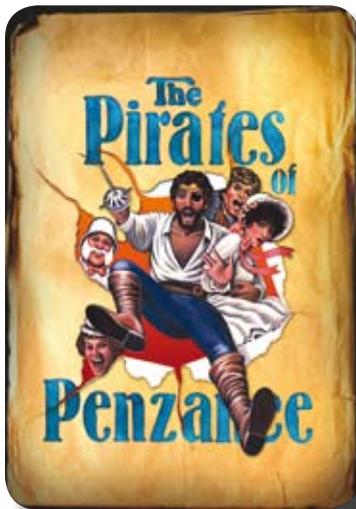
GYPSY features all time favourites from the legendary Jule Styne, Arthur Laurents and Stephen Sondheim; Everything's Coming up Roses, You Gotta Have a Gimmick, Let Me Entertain You, Some People and Rose's Turn.

Singin' In The Rain will open on August 21 in the State Theatre. Currently

enjoying a sell out season in London, the Australian production will be directed by Gary Young, choreographed by Kelley Abbey and feature John Foreman as musical director. The Australian cast stars Rohan Browne as the matinee idol Don Lockwood, Matt Lee is his sidekick Cosmo Brown, Alinta Chidzey is aspiring actress Kathy Selden, and Christie Whelan-Browne is Lockwood's leading lady, Lina Lamont.

With all the charm, romance, comedy and glamour of a bygone Hollywood era, Singin' In The Rain features a glorious score with the classics Good Morning, Make 'em Laugh, All I Do Is Dream Of You and the legendary Singin' in the Rain.

Written by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, with songs by Nacio Herb and Arthur Freed, Singin' In The Rain showers you with everything you could ever want in a musical!



The Broadway version of Gilbert and Sullivan's The Pirates of Penzance is the company's third show for the year. Thirty years ago The Production Company's Artistic Director, Ken Mackenzie-Forbes produced this swashbuckling Broadway version of The Pirates of Penzance in the then new Hamer Hall. Now Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular musical comedy, with all the laughs, songs and romance that made it a long running Broadway smash, is heading back to the magnificent new Hamer Hall.

This new staging will feature a dashing young cast with Gareth Keegan as Frederic, Virginia Gay as Ruth and Brent Hill as the Sergeant of Police. Wayne Scott Kermond is Major General Stanley and Adam Murphy is the outrageous Pirate King.

Brilliant creative team, Dean Bryant and Andrew Hallsworth stage this colorful extravaganza and Mathew Frank conducts the score that includes many of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular numbers; Poor Wandering One!, When the Foreman Bares his Steel, With Cat-Like Tread and Away, Away! MyHeart's On Fire.

Launching the new season at her home, Raheen, Jeanne Pratt said: *'It is hard to believe that it's fifteen years since I started this company. My dream in 1999 was twofold: to provide professional opportunities for local artists and to entertain Melbourne audiences with the best shows from Broadway and beyond. Our success has been beyond my wildest dreams. Thank you, Melbourne!'*

'Our mantra has always been 'quality entertainment at the best prices', so our gift to you in 2013 is a 50% discount on full price individual tickets for anyone under the age of eighteen. No ifs, no buts, no catches! We simply want everyone to have the opportunity to enjoy our musicals. This means that anyone under 18 pay as little as \$23 a ticket.'

For full details of the shows go on line to www.theproductioncompany.com.au



Q lifestyle: with PETE DILLON

I had been thinking hard about what to write for this 100th edition of Q Magazine. I have been a contributor to so many of the 100 – and I was sure it would be an enjoyable experience to read back on so many of them and come up with something witty.

Alas and alack, I think that I have covered so many topics, excepting this one.

So with the idea in mind that it is the 100th edition, firstly I want to take this public opportunity to thank Brett for his continued commitment to Q Magazine – often at personal expense.

My thoughts this month go to – where I would spend \$100 on a meal in each capital city of Australia.

Lets start in the west. Highgate is the place where I would land to spend my first \$100, specifically, Must on Beaufort Street. There is a terrific wine list here at this venue with something for everyone. It has some smart food as well. You can start with some snacky offerings at the bar, or try the bistro menu for something a little more substantial. The mezzanine offers another level of dining and gets a bit fancy, so might be outside my \$100 budget. Must is a place to see and be seen in Perth, so check it out.

To the Territory next and to Hanuman, Darwin. This venue has sister restaurants in Alice Springs and Cairns and combines Thai, Indian and Nonya cuisines. It's a beautiful mix and the restaurant is a delight to the senses on entering. Start with a tasting place entree that covers all three cuisines and follow with a curry, or something equally delicious. There are sweet treats to finish that will challenge the palate and glass of wine will see you easily find some change for chewing gum.

In Brisvegas, head to Paddington. On Latrobe terrace to be precise, you will find Hamptons Home Living – and former Melbourne chef Luke Stringer has a terrific venue to call in for breakfast. Stringer has a great pedigree – it shows in the food. I cant go past the full breakfast of double smoked bacon, eggs, parmesan rosti, Portobello mushies and some locally baked sourdough. You will find change from your hundred bucks to buy a cushion or two. It's worth the visit.

The Wine Library in Oxford St, Woollahra is a must when I visit Sin City. This is very much a place for grown ups and is a sexy little spot for a drink or a nibble. The wine list is terrific as are the food offerings. Order a plate of salumi, or to be indulgent, hop in to the truffled quesadilla with stracchino cheese. They are perfectly indulgent. You will find the Wine Library in the grown up part of Paddington/Woollahra.

Head to Hobart and find Garagistes in Murray Street. For lunch or dinner, this is some seriously sophisticated food. Predominantly European cuisine with some influence from Japan, its a tad over my \$100 limit (unless I go on my own at \$55 per head for food). A 3 course tasting menu might contain some braised heirloom eggplant in its own juices, with bone marrow, pickled tomatillo and local black garlic. This was a delicious find in Tassie and a space I will be revisiting again and again.

In SA, head to the hills. Adelaide Hills is just 30 minutes from the CBD and a lovely drive. The Three Brothers Inn in Macclesfield is a great lunch spot. One of the oldest, continuously licensed pubs in South Australia, originally the Goats Head Inn, it retains its original soapstone and shingle structure and old world ambience. It's a great stop for a good beer or some fine pub grub. Pub Grub is unfair to this venue as the food is quite smart. While away an afternoon with some craft beer and good company.

Just make sure you are not driving back down to Adelaide.

And to my home in Melbourne. Whilst we are talking smart pub grub, head to The Vine in Collingwood. On the very famous (and known to many Wellington Street), The Vine is open for lunch Monday – Friday and dinner Thursday and Friday. Soon to be seen pop up events on Tuesday and Wednesday May through October, chef Ron O'Bryan has a deft touch. It is much smarter than the term pub grub might suggest, but it is super good food, affordable and in a venue that completely lacks any pretence. The venue is totally old school pub but the food is superb.

O'Bryan has some seriously good food chops and this is a great outlet for him and his wife to do what they do best.

Every one of these venues has been visited over the past 12 months and are all well worth a visit if you live or travel to any of these destinations.

For more from Pete Dillon, tune in to Cravings every Saturday at 1pm on Australia's only gay and lesbian radio station, JOY 94.9



Q money: with EVAN DAVIS

I knew that it was coming. In fact I was surprised that it took this long to arrive in my inbox. "Where is your article?" was all the email from this fine magazine's editor read. I was busy and the article was late. Sorry Brett. But I promise you it was on my to-do list.

Lists are a pain in the bum, but they do need to be made from time to time and there is something that I want all my readers to do. I want you to add two things to your to do lists. It is the perfect time of year to do this too. Just after the holiday season spending binge and just before the end of financial year tax deadline. These two things aren't fun or particularly exciting but should be done.

First, review your mortgage, particularly if you haven't talked to anyone about it in 2 or 3 years. The cost of borrowing has dropped significantly and all banks are pricing aggressively to poach business from their competition.

My main profession is mortgage broking and my business has been built on the back of client referrals. Like any good broker I provide a free service and have accreditations with many lenders. I can source borrowings from multiple lenders and can most likely get you a better deal than you might be able to negotiate yourself.

Recently I was able to negotiate a substantially better loan for a customer with her own bank. She didn't even need to change her mortgage provider as the banks are also pricing their old loans more generously to retain their clients. Remember though, they will only do this if you ask and you may need to fight for it. Ring them or ring me.

Now second and even less sexy than your mortgage is your insurance. Most Australians are under insured. When was the last time you reviewed your home contents policy, or more importantly your personal insurance?

Income protection protects your lifestyle. Basically this replaces 75% of your salary if you are no longer able to work. It'll pay your mortgage when you can't.

Total and permanent disablement cover provides a lump sum payment if you're totally and permanently disabled. This cover can help you pay for medical expenses, repay major debts and help provide for your future.

Trauma cover provides a lump sum payment if you're diagnosed with a specified "trauma" condition. Trauma cover is designed to help cover your increased medical costs and living expenses, providing you some financial security during the important recovery process.

Death cover offers you the security that if the unexpected were to happen, at least your family won't have to worry about money. This sort of cover is helpful to people of all ages, especially if you have others relying on you financially or you have large debts such as a mortgage.

Not a cheery subject, but these insurances are often put on the "to-do list" and never get done. Get in contact with me and I can help you put together a quote for either your mortgage or insurances. Email me via Q Magazine at money@qmagazine.com.au



Congratulations.

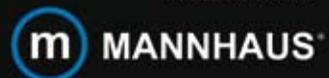
**Best wishes to Q Magazine
on publishing your 100th issue.**

We look forward to many more !

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q circus: LEAP OF FAITH

A new circus work featuring NICA's final year artists. Running from April 4 to 13, Leap of Faith is 70 minutes of pure contemporary circus. The show is directed by former Cirque du Soleil Artistic Director, Matthew Jessner, who distils the circus artform into an entertaining, heart-pounding and refreshing performance of high level skill.

This family-friendly show is a wonderful opportunity to introduce new audiences to the world of contemporary circus with its stunning video projections, a dedicated sound landscape and other design elements to transform the performance space into an immersive environment.

The ensemble performance is an integral part of the 24 final year students' artistic and physical training as it prepares them for the wide and varied careers they will pursue after completing their Bachelor of Circus Arts in December. Working with renowned guest Artistic Directors and Choreographers is a privilege for young artists and NICA is indebted to the Pratt Foundation which makes this opportunity possible through the Richard Pratt Creative Fellowship.

NICA is one of eight national arts training institutes and offers Australia's only Bachelor of Circus Arts. The course is accredited by Swinburne University of Technology and the institute is located at its Prahran campus.

4 – 13 April 2013

NICA National Circus Centre - 41 Green Street, Prahran

Evenings: 4-6 April, 10-13 April @7.30pm Matinees: 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 April @1.30pm

Adult \$30 | Concession \$25

Bookings: www.nica.com.au



q web: THE JEWEL OF THE TROPICS

A brand new website www.Go2gayGairns.com has gone live (march 30), which promotes Cairns and The Great Barrier Reef to the global Gay and Lesbian tourism Market. The tourism website is aimed at capturing a larger slice of the already \$142 billion global and \$2.1 billion national local tourism markets. Created and Directed by Cairns local Mr Jay Horne (and partner Aaron Coshaw) says he wants to see one of the seven natural wonders of the world - Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef - as a top international gay tourist destination.



"Gay travellers account for more than 10% of travel spending each year, I want them to come and spend their pink dollars here in Cairns - we've got all the destination motivators that gay travellers look for when choosing a holiday location - sun, sand, a relaxed lifestyle and a friendly and safe environment" Jay says.

When asked what promoted Jay to create the portal, he says it was his experiences as a gay man moving and becoming a tropical north Queensland, which inspired his initial idea.

"I was looking for information on Gay Travel in and around Cairns for close friends who were coming to visit after, my relocation from Brisbane and I could find next to no gay and lesbian up-to-date travel related data. I want to correct that - and at the same time open the eyes of the gay world, showing them there is more to 'gay' Australia than Mardi Gras

and Sydney. Plus I want to see the businesses of Cairns reap the benefits of the niche market and it's pink dollar.... after all its a known fact that gay travellers stay longer and spend more than other travellers. We don't yet have any 'official' tourism or government backing- it's all being bankrolled by ourselves. We wanted to get the website out there so people can see for themselves that we are not promoting Cairns as sleazy gay holiday spot, - which is what we came up against when we first talked about creating a GayCairns website - rather it's a niche specific, targeted, destination portal designed to entice global Gay travellers to the region".

q youth: with **TASMAN ANDERSON**

So I spent the past few weeks trying to work out what I was going to write about this month and nothing seemed to come to mind. I'm pretty sure there's a permanent smudge mark on my wall from the amount of times I threw my pen at it. So just when I thought I was going to have to pass on this months edition, I decided to write about the exact thing that was getting me all flustered in the first place, **writers block.**



Unless you're some kind of robot that never has a melt down, you would have experienced writers block in some form in your life. It's that incredibly frustrating time when you'll write a sentence and cross it out a dozen times before you either get it right or give up. It's the feeling of anger, disappointment and stress that course through your body whenever you have limited time and a massive workload. Basically, writers block is like an injury to an athlete, it can be crippling and painful to the creative types out there.

I never really knew how bad writers block could get until I spent the summer working on my manuscript, *The Adventures of a Teenage Con-Artist*. I went from writing whole chapters to struggling with the basic task of stringing my sentences together. Plenty of late nights turned into hours of staring at a blank page hoping by some miracle that the words would just come to me but they never would.

Although I did manage to drag myself to the end of the book's rewrites, I'm still unfortunately finding my block seeping into the other parts of my life, Journalism and University. With this incredibly annoying creative block, I started to try any method I could think of to defeat it.

Firstly, there's more than one correct way to get past writers block and no one is immune from developing a block. However, there are a number of methods that are worth trying until you find the one that works for you. A simple Google search will find you hundreds of different techniques to try.

Of all the methods available out there, there was only really one that worked for me and that was removing myself from my work environment and getting some fresh air. I know it sounds cliché and dorky but it can work.

I had a bad habit of writing in my bedroom instead of my study so I was finding it hard to concentrate when all I wanted to do was sleep in my comfy bed.

Taking myself out of the writing space and getting outside really gave me a chance to think about everything without any interruptions.

Although there are numerous things you can do to break your block, there's just one thing you should never do and that is throwing in the towel until you feel like doing it again. Creativity is a blessing and a skill that requires work to develop it.

Although it's okay to step away from the project for a little break, waiting for inspiration is a pointless idea that will leave you with far too many unfinished projects than you'll be comfortable with.

Writers block can be a nightmare to even the most stable of people but getting past it is possible.

My method may not necessarily work for you but if you want something bad enough, you'll find a way around the block and be back to your writer self in no time.

DT's

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CONGRATULATIONS
Q Magazine
on 100 issues!

The Pub Where
EVERY COLOUR OF THE RAINBOW DRINKS!

The advertisement features a large, vibrant rainbow circular logo with the text 'DT's' in white. Below the logo, contact information for DT's is provided. To the right, a congratulatory message for Q Magazine's 100th issue is displayed. At the bottom, a tagline for 'The Pub Where Every Colour of the Rainbow Drinks!' is written in a stylized font. The background of the advertisement is a colorful, abstract design with a rainbow gradient and a wavy, ribbon-like shape at the bottom.

q cuisine: with NATHAN MILLER

Gippsland in Victoria is home to some amazing tourist attractions. From the ninety-mile beach, the lakes and up to the high country, Gippsland has so many beautiful places to visit. Whether you're travelling through, staying a few days, or keen to spend some time discovering the unique beauty of this area, there are a couple of places I insist you visit.

Firstly, the ninety-mile beach, 94 miles long and beginning at Lakes Entrance. You can follow this beauty on a relaxing drive along the south Gippsland highway. With plenty of stopping points along the way, there are many chances for you and yours to stop and enjoy the crunchy sand and great views into Bass Strait.

Secondly, the breathtaking high country. If you're an avid four-wheel-driver, this area would be very familiar to you. If not, take the roads leading to Dargo and enjoy some high country atmosphere with authentic hospitality.

With so many highlights in Gippsland, it was great to see something new recently on my travel through the area that was worth a little fuss.

Mister Raymond is a new café/coffee shop/bar that opened its doors recently in Sale. Sale, a small town 2 hours drive east from Melbourne is a great location to begin your Gippsland adventure.



Mister Raymond is the brains and talents of the team that pioneered Neilsons, an Age Good Food Guide hatted restaurant in Traralgon, and the Tinamba Hotel in Tinamba, located minutes from Maffra.

This funky art deco styled café has successfully managed to fill a very large void in the area by combining great food, excellent service and an awesome atmosphere. With many cafes failing in the area, it's great to see someone has finally given the locals what they are looking for; somewhere nice to meet, greet and relax.

Open all day for breakfast and lunch, the menu selections are quite diverse but not over the top. Satisfying most needs no matter what the time of day.

As I perched myself at the bar in the window, it was obvious what all the fuss is about. The décor is art deco with a funky edge, the area divided smartly to give a great sense of depth and space for quiet conversation.

I got my well extracted coffee and the menu; after a brief read through, I knew I was going to put my body on the line again. The immediate temptation was the Jerk Chicken Slider,

but with a pork schnitzel on the menu, this was going to be a struggle.

Without hesitation I ordered both, knowing in my mind that the dessert menu would be an amazing tempter too.

While I waited for my dishes to arrive, I sat and observed the people walking past and the construction of the mall area. It seems as though there will be some great changes in the not so distant future.

The parmesan & panko crumbed pork schnitzel arrived with the ginger and orange slaw, but all I could smell was the homemade Worcestershire sauce. The combination of the well cooked pork, the slaw and mustard was nice, but when I poured (as recommended) the Worcestershire sauce over the schnitzel, it was completely transformed. This sauce could be a dish on its own, or to take home and put onto literally anything. The dish rocked my world, and knowing that I have a chicken slider to come, I checked the wine menu for a complimentary white.

The Tar & Roses pinot grigio was ordered and worked very well with the last of the pork.

As I motioned for a breather, my wine was topped up and the second main arrived. No chance of getting out of this one lighter than



expected. The jerk chicken slider arrived with crunchy hand cut sweet potato wedges and was another great looking dish. The chicken had a nice touch of spice, and combined with a delicate dressing, it hit the palate well.

Feeling like I had consumed half a pig and three chickens, I knew I still had room for dessert and so it was the Mr. Raymond signature dish on the way. A flourless chocolate and chili cake, salted caramel, pistachio crumble, brown sugar pavlova and a vanilla sour cream. With what reminded me of a dream I once had involving an un-named sportsman and pavlova, this dessert exceeded all my expectations and I will now have to revisit said dream.

The chili chocolate cake was subtle and rich and the smooth salted caramel highlighted the cake perfectly. The pistachio, pavlova and sour cream combined delighted my senses without being too over the top.

Mister Raymond was everything and more. Filling a void is one thing, but creating something just spectacular is another.

When traveling through Gippsland, make time to drop in and visit the attentive crew at Mister Raymond, 268-270 Raymond St, Sale. (03) 5144 4007

For more reviews and suggestions visit www.ramblingrelish.com



q festival: **VICTORIA'S APOLLO BAY**

Apollo Bay is the glorious coastal gem found on the south-west coast of Victoria, famous for its fishing hotspots, and home to the annual Apollo Bay Music Festival. In April this year the festival will celebrate its 21st birthday with a huge range of international and national artists over a three day festival, including the best and newest folk, roots, blues, and alternative acts both new and wellaccustomed to the festival circuit.

As The Festival puts the finishing touches on its most eclectic and vibrant program to date, the reputation for delivering multi art forms remains steadfast. Although music is the focus, the weekend will include a bounty of other sensory treats including yoga, home-grown art displays, even a chance to get in on the creative energy with loads of interactive visual arts.

The Festival prides itself on providing a sustainable event in a relaxed environment, and will be using organic composting waste management as well as providing local hand-crafted brews and produce.

Over three days Apollo Bay will deliver the most uplifting, energetic mix of musical exports and imports, letting you soak up the flourishing festival vibe in one of the most glorious and peaceful places on the planet.

Tickets can be purchased as day passes or for the full weekend, and are on sale now via www.apollobaymusicfestival.com.



www.rushpoppershop.com.au

q music: ANTHONY CALLEA

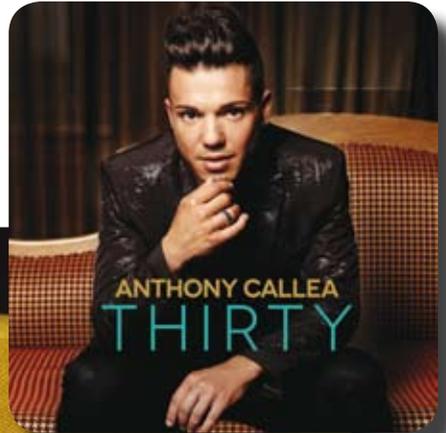
Anthony will release his new album, 'THIRTY' through ABC Music on April 26, 2013. Anthony has spent the last few months recording and putting the final touches on THIRTY with long-time friend and producer, James Kempster. This would have to be his most exciting and vocally driven album to date, and Anthony is looking forward to returning to the fore of the Australian music landscape. 'THIRTY' includes both originals and covers, taking fans of music on a journey through the past thirty years of beautifully written tracks that have most impacted and influenced him.

Anthony's song choices include cover tracks from the 80's (Cheap Tricks' 'The Flame' and Heart's 'Alone') through to the 90's ('When You Believe', 'Go The Distance') and Naughties ('Leave Right Now', 'Dance With My Father'). With original tunes, 'My All' and 'I'll Be The One' in the mix, as well as Italian anthems 'Nella Fantasia' and 'Di sole e d'azzurro' along with a selection of classic favourites, this will be the most anticipated album from this supremely talented performer.

"Turning THIRTY last December was an exciting time and I decided I needed to record an album that encapsulated the past THIRTY years for me. Both musically and emotionally, this album is a collection of inspirational songs that embrace the artists and music that have influenced me over the years. I have also wanted to record and release a couple of originals that I wrote a while back but have been waiting for the right time, so I am very excited to have them become part of the THIRTY album", says Anthony.

"From the moment I walked through the ABC Music doors to first meet with the team, I knew they were the right fit for this project. I am very excited to now be a part of the ABC Music family, and look forward to making great records with them. Essentially this album blends a love of beautifully written music, with my very own vocal and melodic stamp. It will take you on a roller coaster of emotions, some raw, some complex and some beautifully moving, all which I experienced whilst recording. I hope you enjoy the ride!"

Anthony Callea was introduced to the public via Australian Idol in 2004, releasing his debut single 'The Prayer' which became the fastest-selling single by an Australian artist, and is the second highest-selling single of the decade with sales in excess of 4 x platinum and an incredible 5-week ARIA Singles chart-topping run. 2005's self-titled release claimed double-platinum accreditation and held the ARIA Album chart Number 1 position for 3 weeks. In addition, Anthony has achieved numerous accolades including an MTV Viewer's Choice award, Channel V Oz Artist of the Year award, 3 ARIA Nominations and an ARIA Award for the Highest Selling Single. Anthony has had an impressive start to 2013 - opening for internationally renowned music diva Mariah Carey in January; and after a hugely successful run of shows around the country in 2012 with Ms Tina Arena, he returned for encore performances in Melbourne and Sydney in February 2013.



*Congratulations Q Magazine
on your 100th issue*



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q news: ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE

NERDS RULE IN SCHOOL DANCE - A Story of Misfits and Misadventures from Australia's Windmill Theatre. Nerds rule in *School Dance*, the new comedy by Australia's Windmill Theatre. At Arts Centre Melbourne's Playhouse from Wednesday 10 – Saturday 20 April as part of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, *School Dance* tells the story of three awkward teenage boys and their quest for social acceptance at high school. With a killer '80s soundtrack and smorgasbord of '80s pop culture references from *The Smurfs* to *My Little Pony*, *School Dance* is a guaranteed crowd-pleaser for young and old.

A show that will resonate with anyone who has felt awkward or unnoticed, *School Dance* follows three boys – Matt, Luke and Jonathan – on their way to their first school dance. Fuelled by a diet of raging hormones and mee goreng noodles, they exist in a misfit realm, navigating the complex waters of high school with little success. However, when one of the boys literally becomes invisible they will have to band together in the face of social suicide in order to bring him back from the Land of Invisible Teens.

From synchronised BMX bike riding to sooth-saying unicorns, *School Dance* has been heralded as a hilarious and game-changing new work of contemporary Australian theatre. *School Dance* premiered in the 2012 Adelaide Festival and was named 2012 Ruby Award for Best Work.

Windmill's Artistic Director and *School Dance* director, Rose Myers collaborated with writer Matthew Whittet, designer Jonathon Oxlade and composer Luke Smiles – who also play the three male leads.

"Adolescence can be a very complex time to navigate, but as well as being painful it is very funny and the pathos in this work, the fact that we all relate to it on some level, means we want these characters to win," Rose Myers said. *"You want to transcend and take that journey with them."*

A big fan of the '80s teen flick, Matthew Whittet explores the excitement, joy and terror of being a teenager.

"There's always something so exciting about school dances," Matthew Whittet says. *"Whether it was being out at night and seeing your boring school hall transform into a balloon-filled, streamer-strewn dance pit, or the promise of maybe seeing the girl you had the most ginormous crush on, or even just being able to boogie to your favourite song in the whole world with all your friends there. They were always moments of the most enormous joy and the most pitiful desperation."*

Arts Centre Melbourne presents Windmill Theatre's School Dance
Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse
6:30pm Wednesday 10 – Saturday 20 April
Tickets \$29 / \$26.50 Group 4+

Consolidating its role as one of Australia's leading performing arts institutions, Arts Centre Melbourne has reviewed and renewed its commitment to developing the careers of the next generation of arts professionals through a suite of training, creative skills development and management initiatives. Two new initiatives – The Betty Amsden Scholarship for Leadership in Arts Management and the HOSTPLUS Standing Ovation Employee of the Year Awards – were announced recently.

The Betty Amsden Scholarship for Leadership in Arts Management, formerly known as The Betty Amsden Development Grant, offers one full-time staff member the opportunity to enhance their skill set and broaden their experience. With up to \$15,000 on offer, the scholarship comprises a study/travel grant, financial support towards Diplomas of Management and Project Management, and mentoring support throughout.

HOSTPLUS will contribute two new awards to Arts Centre Melbourne's staff reward and recognition program, Standing Ovation: a quarterly Standing Ovation Award for excellence, together with an annual Employee of the Year Award.

"Arts Centre Melbourne recognises that a strong arts industry comes from offering opportunities to both those at the start of their careers and to those who are already working in the industry," said Arts Centre Melbourne Chief Executive Judith Isherwood.



"Betty Amsden is one of Australia's great philanthropists and also one of its most astute. We are thrilled that she is expanding her personal commitment to our staff by expanding the value and scope of her scholarship to create The Betty Amsden Scholarship for Leadership in Arts Management. This is a fantastic opportunity for a mid-level arts professional to expand their horizons and professional experience as part of their employment with us.

"We are also delighted that our new partner, Australian industry superannuation fund HOSTPLUS, also understands the value of recognising and rewarding excellence in our staff and will be funding quarterly and annual experiences outside of work that will encourage excellence all year round," said Ms Isherwood.

The Betty Amsden Scholarship for Leadership in Arts Management and the HOSTPLUS Standing Ovation Employee of the Year Award is part of a wider program of creative skills and leadership initiatives offered by Arts Centre Melbourne to develop the potential of those who work or aspire to work within the arts sector. Funding for the program has been made possible through the generous support of individuals, businesses and government.

Arts Centre Melbourne is the flagship of the performing arts in Victoria, and the focal point of Melbourne's cultural precinct. For more information visit artscentremelbourne.com.au or phone 1300 182 18. Become a fan of Arts Centre Melbourne on Facebook or follow @artscentremelb on Twitter.

Recognised as national leader in theatre safety, Arts Centre Melbourne is currently working with Live Performance Australia to develop a Code of Practice for Safety in the Live Performance Industry. Each year, Arts Centre Melbourne production staff also deliver theatre safety training to others within the industry, including Princess Theatre (Hobart), Orchestra Victoria and various regional councils.

Arts Centre Melbourne is accredited by WorkSafe Victoria to contextualize for theatre, and issue the Construction Induction card both internally and to other industry players. Arts Centre Melbourne was also involved in rewriting the Entertainment Training Package providing improved national qualifications for vocational education and training in the industry.

A real estate advertisement for a house. The background is a kitchen with a stainless steel countertop and a gas stove. On the left, there are three inset images: a modern house at dusk, a classic car, and a house at night. In the center, there is a white box with text.

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q arts: WINTER WONDERLAND

Art Centre Melbourne's new Winter season offers an electrifying range of experiences to charge the senses in the middle of the year. From 26 July to 18 August, art, science and technology are celebrated in a spectacular fashion with several Art Centre Melbourne Australian exclusives.

Inspired by the popularity of the Hamer Hall Opening Season in winter 2012, for three weeks this year the warming footlights of Arts Centre Melbourne will beckon, enticing audiences with everything from sublime opera and illuminating dance to unseen labyrinths and a battery of other stimulating things to see and do.

"Our new Winter season is a fully-curated event 100% presented by Arts Centre Melbourne," said Chief Executive Judith Isherwood. "Our 2013 Winter season, the first of a series of curated and thematically linked seasons, is Arts Centre Melbourne's contribution to what we hope will be an ongoing and reinvigorated relationship between the arts and sciences. It is a series of events that can each be taken at face value as first-class entertainment or, for the curiously-minded, a challenging exploration that will take you as far as you would like to go.

"Arts, science and technology was chosen as our 2013 theme because we live in a time when we look to science and technology to progress and improve our lives. We are confronted with and challenged by the effects of our discoveries on our environment and the impact of new technologies on our daily lives. Science is literally at our fingertips. So too are the arts woven into our lives – we have photos, music, pictures and videos, including performances from around the globe, also at our fingertips. Today's artists continue to cross boundaries as they re-present our world to us. Many are exploring scientific issues and using their creative minds to put both traditional and new technologies to work in new ways," said Ms Isherwood.



Featuring more than a dozen events in a three-week period, it is designed to light up winter with extraordinary entertainment from near and far, to add the performing arts to what is on offer alongside the exhibitions of the Melbourne Winter Masterpiece series, and to enable Victorians and visitors pull on their coats and light up their nights with some live performance experiences.

Winter's must-see is one of the masterpieces of the 20th century, a new production of the epic *Einstein on the Beach*, which will be staged at Arts Centre Melbourne for an exclusive Australian season in the State Theatre from Wednesday 31–Saturday 3 August. Melbourne joins a select group of cities around the world celebrating a work that was first created four decades ago and remains devastatingly contemporary. Rarely performed due to its epic scale, *Einstein on the Beach* launched its director Robert Wilson and composer Philip Glass to international success when it was first produced in Avignon in 1976 and then took on the world.

The hugely popular American contemporary dance company MOMIX returns to Melbourne for an exclusive Australian season of their stunningly beautiful *Botanica* in the State Theatre from Wednesday 7 August – Sunday 11 August. Following the rhythms of the four seasons, this gorgeously colourful spectacle conjures up a world of surrealistic floral images using props, light, shadow, humour and the human body unlike anything seen before.

Winter also features home-grown favourite Australian Dance Theatre, which returns to Melbourne after a 14-year absence. Australian Dance Theatre will bring their critically acclaimed *Proximity*, an experimental fusion of dance and live videography, to the Playhouse from Thursday 15–Saturday 18 August.

Another Arts Centre Melbourne exclusive, *The Extraordinary Shapes of Geoffrey Rush* reflects on the actor's many achievements to date and explores his ability to inhabit characters through a remarkable physical and verbal dexterity. Featuring costumes, photographs, moving image and personal items, the free exhibition in Gallery 1 from 6 July–29 September highlights roles created by Geoffrey Rush in plays including *Exit the King*, *The Diary of a Madman* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and in films such as *Shine*, *Quills*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *The King's Speech*.

Acclaimed puppeteer Ronnie Burkett returns to Arts Centre Melbourne from Thursday 8–Sunday 18 August with his new creation *Penny Plain*. Marking the 25th anniversary of Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes, *Penny Plain* shows the horribly funny consequences of Mother Earth reclaiming her ground and follows the success of *Tinka's New Dress*, *Provenance* and *Billy Twinkle* which have previously delighted adult Melbourne audiences.

A fusion of social documentary, art, biological science and music, *Dead Symphony* by Melbourne award-winning artist Saskia Moore is a performance like no other, a sound world inspired by documented accounts of music heard during near-death experiences. Presented as 40-minute performance with live music and lighting installation, *Dead Symphony* highlights the startling and spooky similarities between the pitches and patterns of sounds heard by diverse individuals having near-death experiences.



Hidden Spaces, Ready Stages is a digital installation that combines performance, video, sound and light, by Melbourne-based artists and identical twins Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano, which centres on the physical perception, functional dynamics and theatricality of Arts Centre Melbourne's unseen chambers.

Right Place Right Time is a series of site-specific installations and happenings which take place in surprising and usual spaces at Arts Centre Melbourne – in foyers, the car park, and outdoors from 31 July to 17 August. Featuring four individual projects, each created by artists

leading their artform, the series features public artworks in the forms of interactive sculpture, poetry, live art, and sound installation.

Kids and their families will also experience a breadth of first-class entertainment in *Winter*, with a range of performances and accompanying workshops. This mini-season gets under way with the remarkable Dutch retelling of *Hansel and Gretel*, .h.g., in which its audience, armed with only a set of headphones and a torch, walks into the very heart of the story, guided through a series of rooms and passageways suspended between reality and dream from Friday 9 – Sunday 11 August.

From The Netherlands' youth and music theatre company, *Het Fliiaal*, is *Miss Ophelia*, a lovely tale about a lost shadow based on the picture book *Ophelia's Shadow Theatre* by Michael Ende on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 August, and in a highly imaginative fusion of animation, mime, puppetry, projections and music, master storyteller Tim Watts tells *The Adventures of Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer* in an immersive production by Perth Theatre Company and Weeping Spoon Productions on Saturday 17 August.

For information about what is happening at Arts Centre Melbourne go to www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

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q drag: A CENTURY OF DRAG

To celebrate the 100th edition of Q Magazine, Alan Mayberry looks at a few of our drag icons who share a halo with Dame Elisabeth in terms of longevity. Instead of lining up for the old age pension a few are still performing weekly.



PARIS has always adored the glamour of performing since the late 80s, with the lure of a case of gin and the dump master in the back alley at the GH. She spends a godly amount of time overseas looking for the most dazzling gems and fabrics she can find. So whether its rummaging through a fabric stall in Hong Kong, a jeweller in Las Vegas, or having her 8th facelift tweaked in Bangkok, it's all about looking good – no expense spared. 'The Classics' will celebrate their 10th birthday at the GH in August and *Le Male* is her latest stroke of genius with its focus on burlesque and theatrics.

RITA LE COQUEATER has been a major face of Melbourne drag nearly 30 years. The Fab 3, PZR, Twisted Sisters and the Classics all bore the mark of Rita's creative genius. She never goes unnoticed, cashing in on the fact that everyone loves a drag queen and adores a mountain of feathers, gargantuan hair, towering heels, and larger-than-life accessories. Her shows and cossies are sensational, always leaving audiences begging for more. To her drag should be fun. Drag is about comedy and camp, not about looking beautiful. Her weekly shows at the Peel bear testimony to this.



TABITHA TURLINGTON has been Melbourne's queen with the acid tongue for longer than she cares to remember. And has a mantle of Bitch of the Year Awards to testify to the fact! She's done drag from the minute she could hold a lipstick and walk in her Mum's heel. Tabitha started going to 3 Faces in the 90s and discovered DRAG! She was back every week and did *Doreen's Damaged Discs*. After working consistently for 15 years, Tabitha decided 3 years ago to take a rest from performing, but was lured back to the GH with Pussy Willow, and now the *Friday Night Project* has become Melbourne's best nurturing ground for new talent.



MISS CANDEE. Many thought the fat lady had finally sung when The Xchange closed, but never say die. Miss Candee is still here at the Peel bigger and louder than ever. Even as a schoolboy she loved the theatre and first got into drag at 20 as the youngest of a group of misfits called Miss Fitz. She grew up in Warrnambool, a city that has a lot to answer for, having also given birth to Lucy Loosebox.



SUE RIDGE is always smiling when she's out in drag, because she's having the best time. She bounced onto Melbourne's drag stages in 1994, a country girl growing up in Cobram. At 17 she joined the airforce and became a chef and now she's studying horticulture and loving rooting round in her garden. *Apple Jack* has come a long way since Doreen Manganini persuaded her to go on *Doreen's Damaged Discs*. Then Sue had the good luck to work with Caresse and Sondra for over 13 years. She's had her dramas, having a new kidney after renal failure. She took 6 months away from performing, then just like Cher did a comeback and appears regularly at the GH and Peel!



MILLIE MINOGUE seems to have been gracing our stages forever and has stood the test of time and made a career not just out of playing Kylie. She remains the toast of Melbourne and has perfected the routine to the degree most believe it is the pop princess herself on stage. She adored being in *Carlotta and My Beautiful Boys* which was such a big learning experience. Working with Carlotta for so long on that tour gave Millie the confidence to take hold of a mike and do compering herself. She is about to launch a one woman show every Thursday at the GH.



And last but not least we have the true matriarchs who enjoy the odd airing at special events



KERRIE LE GORE

Born 39 years ago, as Candee says 'in dog years', Kerrie grew up in Reservoir, educated by the nuns and regrettably untouched by the brothers, in North Fitzroy. Sadly the Vatican never called but Commercial Road did and the Troll Dolls, *Le Gore's Backyard* and the Lipstix became weekly institutions.

Kerrie remains the undisputed matriarch of drag even though a replacement hip and knee have curtailed her high kicks for the last 2 years.

DOUG LUCAS will forever be the consummate comedian. When he and Jan Hillier started Pokeys in 1977 they aimed to bring Melbourne its most spectacular drag shows ever, a touch of Hollywood living up to the MGM motto 'more stars than in heaven!' As Norma Desmond said in *Sunset Boulevard*, 'The stars are still big, it's the shows that got small'.



LUCY LOOSEBOX

To maintain a show for close to 20 years is an outstanding effort. Next to *Le Gore's Backyard* and Pokeys, Lucy had one of the longest running shows in Melbourne drag history. *Anything Goes* at the Xchange on a Wednesday Night was an institution, as is the original *Solitaire* Diva Bar girl.



DULCIE DU JOUR

Years at the Xchange (even as a chef), DTs, and the Midsumma dog shows made Dulcie one of Melbourne's most honored drags, and deservedly so. Her TV is sagging under the weight of a swag of Rainbow Awards, DIVA awards and a VAC Lifetime Achievement Award. She's semi retired in Mildura after 20 years of Laird Auctions, Belles Balls, Fantasy Balls, in fact any ball you care to mention!

BARBRA QUICKSAND met Miss Candee and over 25 years ago and as the Dynamic Duo both really understand that you need to genuinely share the stage and work towards a common goal and not 'compete' with each other.

She is very proud to have been the first openly gay person and also the first drag queen in Australia run for parliament in 1992.

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q opera: OA AUTUMN SEASON

Underneath the tales of deception and disguise that underpin this season's three operas, you'll discover passionate stories of love and devotion. To celebrate Verdi's 200th anniversary comes a breathtaking new production of *A Masked Ball* by Catalan wunderkinds, La Fura dels Baus and Graeme Murphy's visually spectacular *Aida* featuring two new international stars. The season finishes in Surrealist style with the Olivier and Helpmann Award-winning Christopher Alden production of Handel's *Partenope*.



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A Masked Ball - Verdi

POWERFUL & INNOVATIVE.

Enter a world where people are masked, stripped of individuality and differentiated only by the numbers on their back. Innovative director Alex Ollé and renowned Catalan creative team, La Fura dels Baus, present a stunning, futuristic production of Verdi's *A Masked Ball* (*Un ballo in maschera*). Soprano Csilla Boross and Mexican tenor, Diego Torre make their role debuts as Amelia and Gustav III, while the outstanding José Carbó portrays the King's friend and foe, Count Anckarstroem.

Italian composer Andrea Molino conducts Verdi's superlative score. *SEASON: Friday 12 April - Friday 3 May*



Aida - Verdi

DRAMATIC MASTERPIECE. A passionate story of the struggle between romance and duty, Graeme Murphy's portrayal of Verdi's romantic masterpiece, *Aida* is one of Opera Australia's most loved productions. Telling this tale of star-crossed lovers are three remarkable performers making their role debuts – the stunning Daria Masiero in the title role, Carlo Barricelli as Radamès and Deborah Humble as Amneris. An exotic score of spine tingling arias and spectacular sets and costumes evoke golden images of Egypt.

Verdi specialist and internationally acclaimed conductor Renato Palumbo makes his Opera Australia debut. *SEASON: Monday 22 April - Saturday 11 May*

Partenope - Handel

SURREALIST STYLING. The women wear the pants, fight the duels and win the wars in *Partenope*, Handel's sensual tale in which three suitors fight to win a socialite's heart. Director Christopher Alden has relocated Handel's tale of amorous and political intrigue to the world of the artistic elite of 1920s Paris, with a new English translation full of wit and humour. Emma Matthew's Helpmann Award-winning *Partenope* is fashioned as society hostess, while Kanen Breen's Emilio is a Man Ray-style photographer.



Opera Australia's Associate Music Director Anthony Legge conducts an outstanding ensemble cast, in four performances only. *SEASON: Thursday 2 - Wednesday 8 May*

For further information and bookings go to www.opera-australia.org.au

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q film: INDIA COMES TO MELBOURNE

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) is taking place from May 3 – 15 in the centenary year of Indian cinema. This year's festival celebrates the rich history of Indian cinema, pays tribute to one of its masters, and presents its biggest ever program of films across five Melbourne screens including new screen partner, ACMI.

The festival is delighted to announce a number of India's biggest stars as special guests. The stellar list includes Pamela Chopra, wife of Yash Chopra; Festival ambassador and Indian superstar, Vidya Balan; the Indian god of dance, actor and film maker Prabhudeva; legendary choreographer and filmmaker Farah Khan; the remarkable Simi Garewal, dubbed the Oprah of India; film directors Kabir Khan and Onir; and Avtar Panesar, Vice president of Yash Raj Films. Australian filmmaker Penny Vozniak is bringing her documentary, *Despite The Gods*. Masterclasses with festival guests are a not to be missed opportunity for local filmmakers to learn from these remarkable film industry figures.

IFFM opens with a screening of the silent film *Raja Harishchandra* 100 years to the day since its first screening marked the birth of Indian cinema.

The centenary celebrations continue with '100 Years of Indian Film' a program of 15 classic films at new screen partner, ACMI opened by Farha Khan on March 4 and including Satyajit Ray's *Pathar Panchali*, *Sholay*, which spawned the "curry western" genre, *Achut Kanya*, made in 1936 and based on India's caste system, the comedy drama *3 Idiots* and *Palme D'or* nominee, *Garam Hawa*.

'Hurrah Bollywood !' features the best mainstream Hindi cinema from the last 12 months including *Barfi* starring Ranbir Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra, *Talaash* and Kabir Khan's *Ek Tha Tiger*; 'Beyond Bollywood' features arthouse and cinema in regional Indian languages. Not to be missed highlights include *Kuruvattara* (Kannada) / *Anhey Ghorey Da Daan* (Punjabi), *Delhi In A Day*, *Kai Po Che* and *I.D.*, the feature debut of *Collective Phase One*, a six-strong collective of filmmakers and producers and part of India's new wave.



A program specially curated for the Festival by acclaimed New Wave filmmaker Onir, features films from the sub continent including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. Closing the festival is the Australian premiere screening of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, directed by Mira Nair which was selected to open the Venice Film Festival.

IFFM offers a window into the future of filmmaking with screenings of winners and finalists in the Western Union short film competition open to filmmakers from India, Australia and New Zealand.

For more information go to www.iffm.com.au or Facebook www.facebook.com/pages/Indian-Film-Festival

A promotional banner for Pink Escapes. The background is a desert landscape with a camel in the foreground, a hot air balloon in the sky, and a person in the distance. The text is in a stylized, pink and white font.

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q and a: HANGOVER HINTS

How to recover from a late night out...

Do you love your late nights? But realise the next day painkillers and greasy burgers just don't cut the mustard. Here are five hairy ways to help you recover.

Question 1. Are you feeling completely Dehydrated after your night out?

Answer. Have a sports drink

Causing headaches and dizziness as your body attempts to flush the alcohol from your system; dehydration is one of the leading factors of a hangover. Sports Drinks have been found to help with replacing these lost fluids quickly and can aid in increasing of blood sugar levels.

Question 2. Are you feeling peckish?

Answer. Eat some bananas.

Bananas are another sure way of replacing fluids and important minerals. 75% water, bananas help naturally with dehydration and are also a great source of potassium. While trying to expel alcohol, our bodies also lose certain salts required for proper nerve and muscle function. Bananas help to replace these depleted minerals when you need them most.

Question 3. Are you feeling flat?

Answer. Have some eggs.

Egg yolks are rich in cysteine, a substance believed to break down the major hangover-causing toxin from the body. They'll also give you a good hit of energy without having to eat an entire meal.

Question 4. Feel like you have no energy?

Answer. Do some exercise.

It might be the last thing you want to do after a late night out, but exercise can help you reenergize and make you feel less fatigued. Fresh air and a even a brisk walk will help to get your metabolism moving so that you're able to process alcohol faster and rehydrate more easily.

Question 5. Feeling lethargic?

Answer. Have some vitamins.

Alcohol wipes out the body's supply of Vitamin B and C, causing the painful symptoms we often experience after a big night out. To replenish them, try an effervescent vitamin supplement before or after drinking. A product such as Hairy Lemon contains added ingredients like Guarana and Ginseng to replace these vitamins and reduce those painful symptoms. Take one or two tablets dissolved in a drink of water.

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q scene: **OUT & ABOUT**



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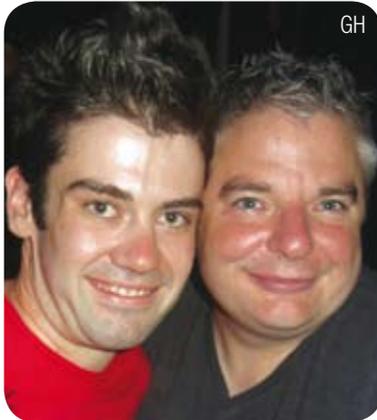
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the only thing he worshipped was another man

The Naked Centurion



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q scene: **OUT & ABOUT**



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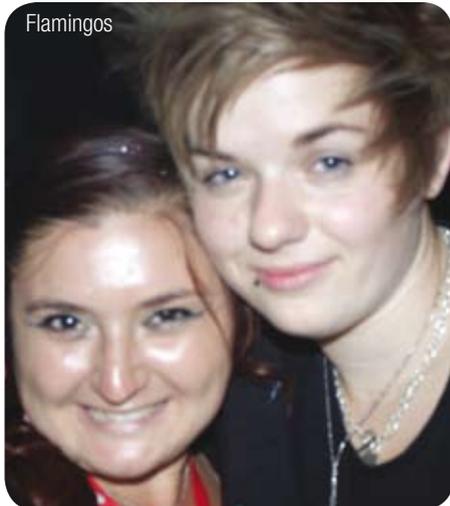
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THE PEEL IS PROUD TO CONGRATULATE QMAGAZINE ON THE 100TH ISSUE

TWO CENT PROMOTIONS PRESENTS

ANZAC EVE BLAST

DOORS OPEN
@ 9PM

To protect the solemn observance of ANZAC day the Victoria Government has introduced restrictions on trading by licensed premises on the morning of ANZAC Day.

Under the changes, venues currently trading between 3am and 12 noon will no longer be allowed to do so. This means all licensed venues such as the peel and all late trading venues across the state will be required to close at 3am ANZAC morning.

WEDNESDAY
24TH APRIL

.....
PLAYING FRESH TO RETRO
POP TO DANCE

FREE
ENTRY
ALL NIGHT

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THE PEEL

THE
PEEL

Keeping the Peel just too **Gay** for Words

q travel: with BARRIE MAHONEY

'Tweeters from the Atlantic'

Barrie Mahoney was a teacher, head teacher and school inspector in the UK, as well as a reporter in Spain, before moving to the Canary Islands as a newspaper editor. He is still enjoying life in the sun as a writer and author.



A story about a Swedish couple, Mona and Erik, who have visited Gran Canaria 70 times in the last 46 years and recently received an award from the island's government, caught my attention this week. This couple's story will jog the memories of many expats on the island, as well as expats across the world, as to the reasons why they have settled in a particular destination. For this 80-year-old Swedish couple, the draw of a welcoming, healthy and warm climate, as well as tennis and long, leisurely evenings spent with good friends has ensured their return to their favourite destination time and time again. Indeed, the couple regard Gran Canaria as their second home.

I remember this feeling so well. Many years ago, my partner and I arrived for a one-week holiday on the island, and immediately felt at home. I still remember the dread of returning to the UK and the deep longing of wanting to remain on the island forever, as I was forcibly propelled up the aircraft steps for the dreaded flight back home to the UK. A few weeks later, we returned to the island again, and again. Each year, wherever our holiday plans took us, we would always ensure that we returned to the island for as many visits as we could afford.

Eventually of course, it was a deep longing to find work and to make our permanent home on the island, which seemed impossible at the time.

However, hard work and good fortune eventually brought us to our favourite destination.

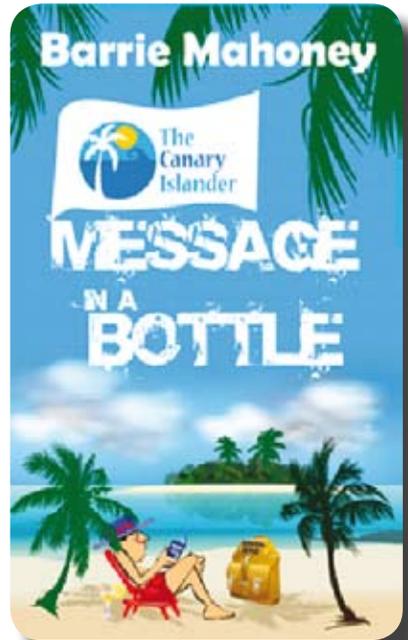
I know of many people who have a deep sense of longing for a particular destination. It may be Spain's Costa Blanca, the South of France, Portugal's Algarve or maybe Thailand. It is almost as if we feel that we belong in a certain place rather than where we currently live through an accident of birth. The symptoms are easy to spot and we have many friends who seem to have caught this particular disease. It usually begins with a deep sense of longing to return to a particular destination, and the feeling, which is very hard to explain, that you are almost being drawn there. Regular holidays are just the start, and it may be that the 'holiday romance' repeated time and time again with a particular destination is all that is required. No commitment, no ties, just a sensuous flirtation and a brief affair.

However, if this 'holiday affair' evolves into several visits each year, staying at and visiting the same favourite places, eating in the same familiar restaurants, regularly collecting local magazines and newspapers "Just to see what the cost of housing is over here", the unsuspecting expat should be extremely careful as these are just some of the early symptoms of the unsuspecting expat.

The danger signs are very real when they begin regularly looking at the property advertisements in newspapers and magazines. This usually extends quickly into peering longingly into the windows of estate agents, or possibly going inside to ask a few questions. Once they find that perfect spot by the beach, in the mountains, by the lake or wherever they may seek their own personal paradise, they are hooked. The best thing to do is to finally admit that they have caught the disease and just do whatever it takes to make it happen and begin to live their dream. Recognise the symptoms?

Although our Swedish octogenarian couple maintain a home in Sweden and visit the island regularly for holidays each year, it is clear that they are islanders in all but name. Mind you, Erik also pointed out that they come from Scandinavia where they live about 24 degrees below zero ... and it is very cold. "Believe me," he went on to say, "here we have a wonderful climate with a very friendly and nice people." I guess that with temperatures that cold there is a major incentive to escape to the sun.

If you enjoyed this article, take a look at Barrie's websites: www.bariemahoney.com and www.thecanaryislander.com or read his latest book, 'Message in a Bottle' (ISBN: 978 1480 031005). Available as paperback, Kindle and iBook



Gaylord Blade

Young, Gay & Hot-to-trot

One night stands are hot but I cringe
in anticipation of apres sex platitudes ...



they tell ya "you're the best" next
they want to cuddle ... then stay the
night and have another go of it



Gaylord, I'll be leaving now.
See ya around, mate!



Men!





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