



MARCH 2008

Q MAGAZINE

Inside this Issue:
"The Last Catch" comic continues,
Q Exclusive interviews with Ricki-Lee and Morcheeba,
plus a whole heap more.



*Sydney - Australia Salutes You...
Happy 30th Birthday to the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras
Q Magazine - Made Locally! Enjoyed Nationally!*



catch me if you can ...

syphilis

There's an outbreak of syphilis among gay and bisexual men in Melbourne. Keep an eye out for symptoms, and if you find something unexpected, don't wait – book yourself in for a check up!

Over 400 guys will get syphilis in 2008.

Some people don't get symptoms. If you visit a sauna or dry sex venue more than once per month, we recommend sexual health **screening every three months**. Testing is quick and easy, and there's a clinic near you.

Call **1800 038 125** for more information.

q comment: THE FUN CONTINUES

Well after a hugely successful Pride March, the attention of the GLBTI community now turns to Sydney for its entertainment...and what an amazing achievement - 30 year of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. Congratulations to all who have worked on it, currently work on it, and those who support it. Remember also, that Mardi Gras is a festival and that there are many things to do and see apart from just the parade. Make sure you get yourself a guide and support as many of the events as humanly possible... and please please please enjoy everything safely.

In Melbourne, we have the Melbourne Queer Film Festival - with all the colour and movement one would expect from the cultural capital of Australia. Make sure you pick up a guide and get to as many films as you can - this year's program is just superb - congratulations to Lisa and her team for giving Melbourne and Australia a film festival to be truly proud of. You can find the MQFF link on the Q Magazine links page on our website for further information...as well as a full page of information on page 16 of this issue.

Speaking of Q Magazine - we now go back to a monthly schedule - so I am looking forward to bringing you all the very best in GLBTI Lifestyle news and views throughout 2008 and beyond. I do hope you enjoy reading it as much as I, and the team of very talented writers, enjoy putting it together for you.

Pictured below: JOY 94.9's Tim interviewing me on Pride March day about the 20th Anniversary of PLWHA Victoria.



Publisher & Editor
Brett Hayhoe
0422 632 690
brett.hayhoe@qmagazine.com.au

Editorial
editor@qmagazine.com.au

Sales and Marketing
sales@qmagazine.com.au

Design
UB Design

Contributing Writers
Ben Angel, George Alexander, Pete Dillon, Addam Stobbs, Brett Hayhoe, David Westlake, Luke Adam-Alder, Shek Graham, Lauren Schipp

Cover picture
Leigh, Destiny and Drew at Heaven's Door.
Taken by Q Photos.

Photographic Contributions
Q Photos, Vicki Jones Photography, Hamish McInnes, Keith Saunders (OA pics)

Distribution
distribution@qmagazine.com.au

ISSN 1449-499X

Q MAGAZINE
PO Box 7479, St. Kilda Road,
Melbourne Victoria 8004
info@qmagazine.com.au
www.qmagazine.com.au

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



9 people: with RICKI-LEE



they have had so far. All the celebrities are amazing and have great voices.

Now, on to your career: since you left *Idol*, you have just gone from strength to strength – unbelievably. I am a great fan of *Idol* as I believe we have lacked a platform for young entertainers and it gives them and the Australian public that again.

It's also a fact that the record labels these days don't have the time to scout the streets for up and coming talent. The industry is turning over so quickly at the moment. They also don't really listen to demos sent into them. That's why it is so tough (and the wave of reality shows in the last six years). It is so hard for an unknown artist to break into the scene. People want to watch you on television and know who you are, your life story, if you're funny, if you're cool, if you're a bitch, if you're a diva, and they will connect with you and love you once they know you. So I think reality television (like *Idol* and *X Factor* in the UK) have done a great deal for the industry and launching new talent. That's also the same with MySpace...and it's changed since I came off *Idol* in 2005 and got my record deal – the difference from then to now is huge.

What is one thing you came off *Idol* with that changed your life?

I think – is to listen and take advice and opportunity. You do have to learn how to filter it too though. There are so many people ready to give advice – some of it is great and some of it is crap. I have had amazing advice from people like Marcia Hines, and now on *It Takes Two*, from Kate Ceberano. It is inspiring to be speaking with people who have been in the industry for so long – you can learn so much from them...and you ARE constantly learning about music, what you are doing, and the industry.

Can't Sing a Different Song – did you write it and how important is writing to you?

I co-wrote it in London. Writing is really important to me – it's my therapy, it's what keeps me sane, keeps me from not being a Britney Spears. As a creative person, you have to be able to express what you're feeling and communicate what you're going through – your situations, your problems, your relationships, your ups, your downs – and to me that is the most important thing about what I do – being able to put out to everybody else "hey I problems like you"...and when you get people sending you letters or MySpace messages saying that one of your songs has helped them through a personal situation – that really means so much to me...more than numbers on a chart or sales.

Tell me how you brokered the UK record deal with Ministry of Sound. How did you do that?

I don't know. We had released *Can't Touch It*, and just releasing *Love Is All Around*, and there was someone here in Australia from Ministry of Sound, heard *Can't Touch It*, called the radio station, found out who was singing it, rang the record label (Shock Records) and said "whoever that girl is, we want her, and we want to release her". So the label sent them all my stuff and the ball just rolled from there. It is a big thing to have a label like Ministry of Sound knocking on your door. It's still kind of strange to know that some of the biggest DJs in the world are listening to and remixing my material. I still don't believe it is happening to me. It won't really be real til I get over there I think.

Your touring throughout this month (March) - where?

We're touring Queensland and New South Wales, which will be great as I haven't toured before as a solo artist. It's going to be great to re-visit both the first album from *Idol* and also my new album (*Brand New Day*). I'm really looking forward to do the songs off this new album live. We're touring with dancers and a six piece band.

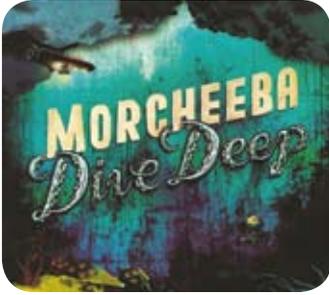
She is truly one of the sweetest young ladies I have met and a real credit to herself. She is grounded, talented, and was a lot of fun when she visited me in my home/office the day after she debuted on Seven's "It Takes Two" – where my questioning began (although she did have problems concentrating once my screen saver started – her attention being drawn to all the "doodles" on the computer - as she so eloquently called them).

It's really cool. I've actually just come from a rehearsal with Scott. It's a really different experience for me having to pass on how to sing it, cause I've never actually been taught to sing...I learnt by listening to Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey and Aretha Franklin (the greats). Along the way I found my own sound. I've never been taught technique, although I went to see a coach last year and they said "you do sing properly". My way of teaching is by listening to the song and making sure he is saying the words right, pronouncing the words, watching his pitch, getting his breathing right – but my big thing is performance. I want to teach him how to step on that stage and command an audience – and you do that by them believing every word you are singing.

Although I have not been an avid watcher of the show, I found last night's standard to be extremely high.

It was, in fact the producers said it is the best

q music: MORCHEEBA



Here is an outfit whose refusal to be categorised musically extends to their very set-up, being a group only in the loosest sense of the word. On their first five albums they explored the gamut of contemporary alt.dance genres, pioneering a song-based form of dance music that would soon become known as trip hop or chill-out while collaborating with a variety of singers and musicians that posited Morcheeba as an eclectic and open-minded collective. I chatted



with Paul from his home in England.

Paul, having just listened to the album before ringing you, I have to tell you I loved the album. I particularly liked the fact you had a different vocalist on each track.

It's something we have been aspiring to do all of our career and I think, on this record, we finally plucked up the courage and I think a lot of people who would have had a more aggressive interest in our career were not so bothered, so we took advantage of that freedom and actually did it this time.

You wrote all the tracks?

I was the co-writer yes. We wrote it with the guests.

Are we going to see you in Australia any time soon?

Hopefully, yeah. Hopefully in our winter, your summer. I don't think it will be this side of Christmas.

Where did the inspiration come from to write this album?

Kind of common themes really. For me emotionally, about security, warmth, learning to accept who we are and relationships (having the courage to walk out on dying ones)etc.

With the album just being released here, how is it going in Europe?

It's going very well for us actually – Europe is just on fire for us really. It's so much better than we could have expected at this stage in our career. It's something of a re-birth for us – the success that we're getting at the moment is promising and really building our confidence in terms that we'll be able to continue working the way we are....which is the way we have always wanted to....we're very happy.

Do you prefer to record or perform?

Well there's two of us – my brother and I. He prefers to perform live and I prefer to work in a studio. We're quite opposite as people, but that's the way it goes. It's all good!

Paul, congratulations on the album and I would love to come and see you live when you come to Australia. [Ed: the album is out now through Liberation Music].



q warnings: BOYS & GIRLS BE AWARE

Your queer eye for queer guys and girls...On metropolitan taxi drivers...the worst situations! This is an account of alleged incidents that have taken place as reported by one concerned Q Magazine reader.



It alarms me at the growing rate of incidents that have been encountered of late with taxi drivers in the metropolitan areas, especially those frequented by gay, lesbian & queer people. Recently I have had reports of several disturbing incidents that have happened in the early hours of the mornings.

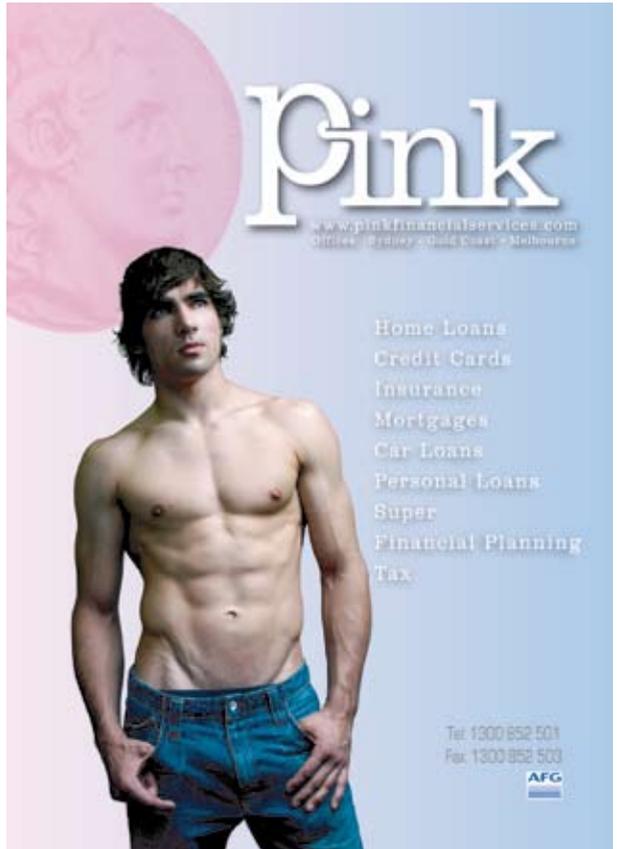
Recently, the divine Swish Eveready caught a cab (as she does 8 times a week) on her way home for the evening. Midway through her journey, her phone rang. As anyone would do (in drag or not) she answered the call. During this call, the cab driver shouted: are you a guy? are you a bloke? - to which Swish responded yes mate and continued talking. The cab driver then pulled over and told her to get out. Not wanting to be left in the middle of nowhere, this demand was flatly refused. The cab driver then continued the journey on the longest possible path. Once the destination was reached, the driver demanded payment, which was \$10 - \$15 more than a normal fare to the same place would be. Swish then

refused and only paid what the normal fee would be - as she did, this the taxi took off up the road, Swish's belongings still in the back. Screaming in the street, she was joined by friends as the taxi returned down the street - the driver attempted to run her over. Somehow Swish managed to get her belongings and the taxi sped off.

This was reported to the Victorian Taxi Directorate with no response as yet, 3 weeks later (at the time of writing this article). In the same week, a Lesbian couple were held in a cab with the driver demanding to see their "tits".

This week I was a victim of a psychotic taxi driver, although this one wanted to sleep with me. On my journey home from a bar, the driver locked the doors to the cab. Thinking this was for my safety (and possibly his) - given the amount of freaks out on the street - I went along with it. He then took his hand of the steering wheel and proceeded to place it in the general area of my penis. I responded to this with "Sorry mate I am not interested, please remove your hand and stop the cab, NOW!" He refused but removed his hand. He continued to the general area I was heading (thank God it wasn't my house) and I asked him to pull over. He did but then refused to let me out and tried to force himself on me again. The only way I could get out of this situation was to smack him one and unlock the doors myself. I reported this incident, again to the taxi directorate with no response thus far.

What is happening with cabs these days? Why is the taxi directorate not responding to such serious complaints? Should we be reporting such incidents to police? [Ed: yes, you should be contacting the GLO Office] My advice is always sit in the back seat, always write down the driver number and cab number - store it in your phone if you have to.



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q beauty: with GEORGE ALEXANDER

Tried and Tested: Clarins Double Serum Generation 6 - Still a powerful punch of active natural ingredients.

Recently I came across a very well known product to me. Many years ago, when I was the trainer for Clarins the Rolls Royce of the range was a new product, consisting of two little bottles, called Double Serum that you mixed together and used diligently due to the amazing results. I remember it was awarded the 'Marie Claire Grand Prix of Excellence' for best beauty product.

Clarins have a unique philosophy in the formulation of their products. As new ingredients become known that improve the performance of a product, the product is reformulated, updated, tested then launched to the market. This is what they call an 'open' formula.

Today, to build on the success of the Extra-Firming range, Clarins has created the new Generation 6 Double Serum, the most complete age control, anti-wrinkle, extra-firming skin care treatment to date. Achieving what no other product has before, Generation 6 Double Serum prolongs a youthful appearance by helping to support the skin's five vital functions, hydration, nutrition, oxygenation, protection against free radicals and revitalisation.

Featuring an unrivalled dual-phase formula that makes it possible to combine both water-soluble and oil-soluble ingredients without any risk of incompatibility. The most active ingredients are gathered from five continents to give skin the energy it needs to fight the ageing process more efficiently and ensure protection against all internal skin aggressors such as free radicals.

This advanced extra-firming formulation is a complete anti-ageing solution to anyone 25 years and above seeking an energising boost to overcome skin stress linked to premature ageing.

Double Serum Generation 6:

- Reduces the appearance of wrinkles and smoothes out fine lines
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- Helps restore skin's firm, youthful qualities

Double Serum Generation 6 includes natural extracts, such as:

-Maritime Pine from Europe – Protects against free radicals

-London Rocket from India – Increases cell's consumption of oxygen and stimulates cell metabolism

-Marula from Africa – Nourishes and reinforces rejuvenation

-Kiwi and Macadamia from Oceania – Restores skin's lipids and creates a barrier against dehydration

Clinical results showed:

-70% of users noticed a reduction in the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles

-82% of users noticed more luminous skin

When it was launched over 15 years ago, it retailed for \$95. Generation 6 retails today for only \$103.

Clarins is available from major department store, selected beauty salons and pharmacies. For your nearest stockist you can also call (02) 9663 4277.



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q whispers: with ADDAM STOBBS

Tis the season to be sorry tra-la-la-la la-la-la (Singing to the tune of "deck the halls")

Being the "hard faced bitch from hell" (according to my 9 ex-partners and their awful mothers), it's pretty hard to get a 'real' emotional response from me, I fake everything. I had the feeling some months ago that I was going to get emotional about the "sorry" from the prime minister. I was. In fact I was a lot more emotional than I could have horrified about.

I was fairly well constrained in front of my peers, but the awakening came as I was driving home from school (work) on the 13th of February. On the radio (actually boring old 774) they were saying that if you support "sorry" day put your headlights on. I was driving down Boronia Road, and I immediately put my headlights on.

A few minutes later I noticed a Corey-sized mob of teenagers on the median strip, and to my surprise they were waving and cheering to passing motorists who had their headlights on. They gave me a warm and cheery 'thumbs up' and even blowing kisses I was quite swept up by this response.

I spent a lot of my adolescent years in boarding schools and remote locations in FNQ. We had come to regard the local indigenous people as lost causes and almost ignored them. The same can be said for the Liberal government of the last 11 years, except when there was an election looming and some 'intervention' might look politically good.

As much as I hated it, Brendan Nelson did spake some truth. Many of the people who 'stole' the generation of indigenous infants did so thinking that they were indeed acting in the best interests and of reasonable intention. Mayhap that will be seen of as the instigation the last intervention?

It is the same misguided "best intentions" that drove my year 10 teachers to encourage the other boys at Cairns State High School to give me a "good kicking" for being such an "obvious poofter". "You'll thank us one day" for "Saving you from yourself" was how one of the teachers justified these actions. Oddly enough, I don't have any vengeful animosity towards these actions, it is because, there were 2 teachers who were the exact opposite and were very understanding and went out of their way to supportive and make me feel OK about myself.

This was all so opposite to the 1970's Bjelke-Peterson government, who, at the time I was coming out, passed some bullshit legislation making it illegal for publicans (Pub Owners) to serve sexual deviants (i.e. homosexuals), this was translated by the community as "it's OK to bash poofers because they deserve it".

So these heinous sins against the indigenous where committed generations ago, why do WE have to apologise?

Let me explain this. Gods representative on Earth (The popes)

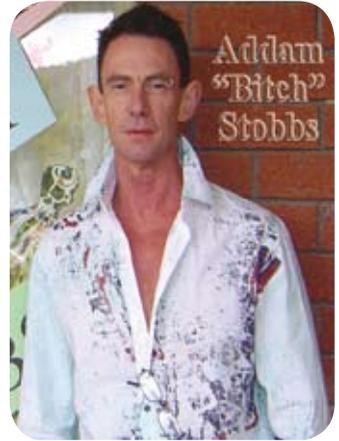
have apologised three times recently, to Muslims, to all the indigenous people of Oceania and to all those who were (or thought they were) mistreated by mother church. The most significant was John Paul the second who seemed to have an agenda for human rights. Although a conservative, his apology came across as sincere and politically astute. As did saint Kevin's apology to those displaced. Far be it for me to be cynical, but it makes perfect sense to me that to be assured of at least 10 years in office, the labour party must go some way to raise themselves above.

They certainly did that in February 2008. The pope didn't commit any of these acts but his acknowledgement goes a long way to make suitable restoration. A true healing for all cultures in these issues would be precipitated by the apology followed by acknowledgement and then some token of forgiveness. How this will manifest remains to be seen

My dad was a politician, and he told me 20 years ago that this would be a good strategy, and that indeed the eyes of the world that looked at Australia, watched us to see how we treat our indigenous people. Australia has partially come out of the dark ages in the last 3 months, and suddenly thought "what were we thinking?"

So why do we need to apologise now? so long after the events and to who are we actually apologising? And, for what? My housekeeper was run over by a bus 2 years ago, I go to see her frequently, and I always express my sorrow (And still with complete sincerity - although I bet she didn't give a rats as to who was going to pick my clothes up off the floor when she was lying under that bus), for the unfortunate things have befallen her, not my fault, but in expressing my sorrow it helps her to feel connected and that I care about her, and it's all true, I do.

The people of Germany have apologised for the atrocities of world war two, although they didn't actually do it, and each subsequent generation does the same thing. It's an important event that will remind the world how easy and atrocious the whole thing was, six millions Jews were murdered, the eternal apology is vital to remind us how terrible we can be, but also it reminds us that we can be better than we were.



Is there a component of forgiveness required in healing? Is a sincere apology a required catalyst for reconciliation?

Don't look to me to answer this one. Did the Japanese apologise for the atrocities of the Second World War?

Ask the people of Manchuria. Did the (ex) Yugoslav government ever apologise for ethnic cleansing? Ask the people of Kosovo and Albania.

Does the Queensland government need to apologise to my generation for endorsing violence as methodology for dealing with homosexuals? Ask me.

Three human traits we cannot ignore, the propensity to abominable, the ability for remorse, and the even more noble a greater ability, to forgive.

Gay men frequently recount awful tales of mistreatment by society, but it is insignificant compared to the way we treat each other.

The most awful things that are perpetrated to gay men are mostly from other gay men.

Ok, I am sorry to those who I have been vile to over the years, but you probably deserved it.



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www.qmagazine.com.au

*"It gives me great pleasure
to bring Q Magazine to you.
I hope you enjoy it as much
as I do producing it"*
Brett Hayhoe,
Publisher & Editor.



Q MAGAZINE



q win: START AUTUMN WITH THESE



The Natural Source

Total Blemish Control - NEW RANGE... out, damned spot *

Pimples, blackheads and blemishes can indeed take on Shakespearean proportions resulting in a lack of confidence, despair in matters of love - and a barrier to having fun!

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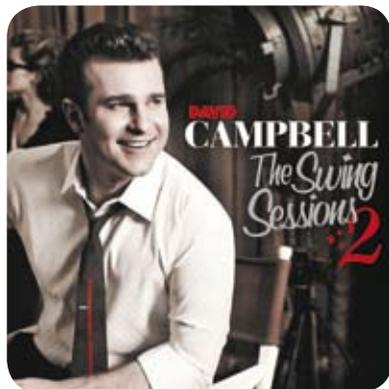
Q Magazine, in conjunction with The Natural Source are giving five lucky readers the opportunity to win a full set each. Simply email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with **Natural Source** in the subject line to play to win.

SonyBMG

With his new album "Swing Sessions 2" already certified platinum, "Swing King" David Campbell has announced more dates on his national concert tour for March 2008. David Campbell will be "Live and Swinging Across Australia", bringing the classic songs of Bobby Darrin, Frank Sinatra, Cole Porter, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr to the stage in a spectacular 2 hour live show. With an incredible swing band and David Campbell's trademark vocal energy "Swing Sessions 2" is a dynamic take on the classic songs of the 50's and 60's.

March 2008

Saturday 1st	Jazz In The Vines, Canberra	www.jazzinthevines.com.au/
Friday 7th	QPAC Concert Hall, Brisbane	136 246
Saturday 8th	QPAC Concert Hall, Brisbane	136 246
Wednesday 12th	Regal Theatre, Perth	132 849
Thursday 13th	Regal Theatre, Perth	132 849
Friday 14th	State Theatre, Sydney	136 100
Saturday 15th	Penrith Panthers (Matinee)	1800 061 991
Saturday 15th	Penrith Panthers (Evening)	1800 061 991
Saturday 22nd	Wrestpoint Entertainment Centre, Hobart	6221 1700
Wednesday 26th	Hamer Hall - The Arts Centre, Melbourne	1300 136166
Friday 28th	Her Majesty's Theatre, Adelaide	131 246
Saturday 29th	Her Majesty's Theatre, Adelaide	131 246

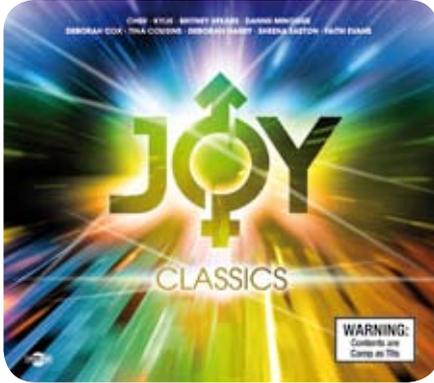


TICKETS ON SALE NOW For ticket information and details please visit website www.davidcampbell.com

We are giving five lucky readers the chance to win a copy of The Swing Sessions 2 each. Simply email getfree@qmagazine.com au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with **David Campbell** in the subject line to win.

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

q win: CONTINUED



Central Station Records

Cher, Kylie, Britney Spears, Dannii Minogue, Deborah Cox, Tina Cousins, Deborah Harry, Sheena Easton, Faith Evans and a whole lot more with burst out of your CD players in this double album release. **JOY Classics** comes with a warning though - contents are camp as tits! This is also the first time JOY has released an album with a very stylish (and camp) slip cover - you go JOY!!!!

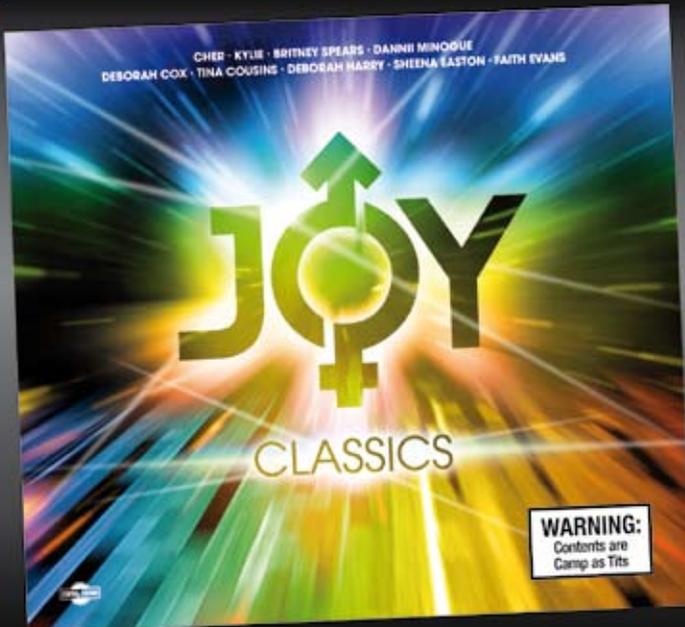
With over 1.4 million Youtube views, **Bearforce1** has to have placed themselves in the "must get a copy" category. Having just launched at the Flinders Hotel in Sydney for Mardi Gras (in association with the Harbor City Bears) this is one EP release not to miss out on. They will also be doing release



events in other major cities, so keep an eye out and make sure you attend. Not only are the boys are nice look, their music is good too. Both of these titles and more are available now in all good record stores through Central Station Records.

Q Magazine, in association with Central Station Records and JOY 94.9fm have 5 of each of these titles to give away this month. Simply email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with *JOY and/or Bearforce* in the subject line to play to win.

ON SALE NOW



THE GAYEST CD IN HISTORY

q lifestyle: with PETE DILLON

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

Banging on about the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival last month has me salivating about the festival this year. There will be so many delectable and enjoyable events in the 2 weeks of the festival.



The Melbourne Food and Wine Festival kicks off on the 22nd February and following on the 29th is the World's Longest Lunch. This event will be staged across the state in 24 locations in regional Victoria as well as the event at Flemington Racecourse. From Mildura, to Moonambel, Milawa to Metung, each region will gather leading chefs and wineries to present a gastronomic feast. Enjoy being part of this amazing event.

For all the queens and friends, and anyone who has ever spent a night pushing plates, serving drinks, frying frites or bussing glassware, Hospitality, The Musical: A Tragedy in Three Shifts, is a highlight of this year's festival. The musical runs on both 25th February and 3rd March, includes a 3 course meal and T'Gallant wines. The insides of restaurants and the foibles of its staff are combined to present an entertaining night of frivolity, all centred around the dining experience. Bottega are hosting this event.

For the singles amongst us, try the Foodlover's Guide to Seduction. Simply, you nominate a favourite ingredient (eg Oysters, salmon, basil, cream etc) and you are matched with a like ingredient – could prove to be very interesting and a few queens I know have nominated cream!!.

For those that need more assistance in managing the relationship between food and wine need to head to Luscious Affairs on Toorak Road on March 1. This is an intimate, elegant dinner party event where participants will learn the art of matching the food to the booze.

There are events every day for the festival and you can find more details at www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au

For information on any of the wines featured here, contact wine@qmagazine.com.au or phone 0409142365



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headlines for MARCH

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Rejoice with Katherine Jenkins
Mardi Gras March
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BRUNO G M Ü N D E R

q fashion: with LUKE ADAM-ALLDER

We are as giddy as school girls in my house at the moment because the L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Week kicks off March 2-9



This is a great opportunity to look at what is new in fashion, for men, women and well, those that are not sure. Melbourne becomes the meeting point for the most innovative and engaging creative thinking around fashion at this amazing event, and this year is promising to be a milestone year of innovation and excitement.

There will be more designers this year than we have seen in the past and the L'Oreal Paris Runway at Peninsula Central Pier at Docklands will showcase brilliant visual effects, fabulous (and dare we say beautiful) models, on a new purpose built catwalk.

It will highlight the best in fashion in Australia and some designers to watch out for are: Bettina Liano, FRISONFINETTI, Joe Black, Kerry Grima, Morrissey, One Fell Swoop, Wayne Cooper, White Suede, amongst others.

So drag out your bestest wear, pop on some lippy and a brooch and get yourself to Chaddie or to Docklands and avail yourself of some gorgeous garment perving.

Other events that feature are – opening party at Government House presented by David de Kretzer – Governor of Victoria, The LMFF Designer award, promoting young and upcoming fashion designers, and is the most prestigious fashion award in the country, Pop Up which is a mobile catwalk show that will literally pop up at varying iconic Melbourne locations, and the Independent Runway which will showcase new and innovative independent fashion.

With the Food and Wine Festival, Comedy festival and LMFF – this is a great time to be in this fabulous city For more info go to www.lmff.com.au

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q world: with LAUREN SCHIPP



Hello to all my Q Magazine readers.

There has been so much going on in our lives over the past couple of months. I hope that things are starting to smooth out. You should now be asking yourself. "What shall I do this winter"? I don't know about you, but I don't like the cold. So let's plan a European summer holiday. I get a lot of questions from people saying where do I start?

European holidays are expensive so you always have to look at your budget. This will determine how long you stay for, what kind of accommodation you book, Getting from country to country and how much shopping you can do!

Booking international flights now is a really good way to save money. There are lots of early bird specials on the net. If you travel in May, or end of August, September you don't get the excruciatingly expensive summer flights, and the weather is still very good, in my opinion better. If you have limited time and for example want to fly into London and out of Greece, look at emirates flights. They fly direct from most European countries back to Dubai, so you don't have the problem of having to get back to London for a return flight.

The Most common paths through Europe are: England, France, Italy, Spain, and Greece. And you can usually visit all the major sites in these countries in about 4 weeks. But I want to give you some

different places to think about.

If you're visiting London, think about taking a couple of days and heading up to Warwickshire. You can go by bus. Or hire a car. It is a beautiful little English town with a magnificent castle.

If you have been to France and want to go somewhere else, think about Belgium. Don't make the mistake of going to Brussels, Head to Bruges; this is one of my favourite places in Europe. 4 days would be sufficient. You can get really cheap Ryanair flights from London Stansted to Ostend, and then catch a bus to Bruges.

When you hit Italy and want to relax from site seeing, you have to go to the Amalfi coast. Just head a little bit further down from Positano and stay in Priano, this town is one of the most spectacular on the coast. You can get a train from Naples that goes to Sorrento, and then catch a bus to Priano. You can hire a car from Naples also.

Greece is always on my list but think about Croatia or Turkey for something different. If you do head to Greece think about heading north on the mainland. Everyone seems to go straight to the islands, I can understand why, but the north of Greece is just as beautiful if not more. And if you have some spare time in Athens there is a little hidden treasure called Vouglameni, stay a couple of nights here before you head to the airport, it's fairly close.

In the next couple of issues I will write more information about the places I have mentioned. The above just gives you some food for thought.

Travel safe....

q grooming: YOUR Q & A SECTION

Q - My skin is unpredictable - how can I help settle it into a routine?

For some of us, our skin, hair and body can be normal, dry or oily all in the course of one day! A regular skincare routine will help maintain your skin in beautiful, healthy condition, and it also helps if you keep an eye on how your skin is travelling, and be adaptable and flexible with your routine to get the best benefits.

Look for naturopathic products, with active ingredients that work with your skin to help balance any changes throughout the day, and make sure you cover the basics - cleanse, exfoliate, tone and moisturise.

If you're short on time, multi-purpose skincare products are a great way to take care of your skin's needs while you're on the go.

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q theatre: the PRODUCTION CO., 2008

JEANNE PRATT'S THE PRODUCTION COMPANY CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A STELLAR LINE-UP OF SHOWS AND STARS



In 1999, Jeanne Pratt launched The Production Company which has become the leading producer of short season musicals in Australia and is proud to announce its three Broadway musicals for this year: FOLLIES, DAMN YANKEES and MAME.

The season opens in the State Theatre of the Arts Centre on July 16 with a production of Stephen Sondheim's legendary show, FOLLIES. More than three decades after its Broadway premiere, FOLLIES remains a landmark musical filled with songs that are now classics of the musical-theatre repertoire. And who better to direct The Production Company's first Stephen Sondheim musical, than Roger Hodgman who is considered the leading interpreter of his work in Australia. The cast Roger has assembled are themselves legends of Australian musical theatre and include such renowned performers as John Diedrich, Anne Wood, Debra Byrne, Philip Gould, Nancye Hayes, Judi Connelli, Melissa Langton, Judith Roberts, Kenneth Collins, Monique Brynnel and Patti Newton. The iconic Bud Tingwell will play the role of Follies impresario Dimitri Weismann. The Broadway team of Richard Adler and Jerry Ross who were responsible for THE PAJAMA GAME, which was a major hit with Production Company audiences in 2006, are also at the core of our second show for 2008 – DAMN YANKEES. This delightful musical fantasy will bedevil audiences with its charm. It commences on August 20. Director Terence O'Connell, who has been at the helm of several hit Production Company shows since 2003, will oversee a cast that includes David Harris as Joe, fresh from his leading role in MISS SAIGON, Pia Morley as the vixen Lola and Matt Hetherington as the devilish Mr. Applegate. The final show of our 10th anniversary season is a revival of the very first show staged by The Production Company in 1999 and features two of the original stars, Rhonda Burchmore and Alan Fletcher, in Jerry Herman's effervescent and much-loved classic – MAME. Opening on October 1st, with direction by Gary Young, the cast will also include a Production Company audience favourite in the form of Nicki Wendt as Mame's closest friend, Vera Charles.

MAME is a timeless musical considered by many critics to be the perfect musical. London's musical director of The Lion King, Anthony Gabriele is returning to Melbourne specifically to take musical charge of this production.

The Production Company is a not-for-profit company, specifically established to promote and showcase new and well-known theatre talent. In maintaining its long-standing policy of inexpensive ticket prices, Chairman Jeanne Pratt stated: "Our subscription rate has steadily increased since 1999 and subscriptions now account for over 50% of all ticket sales. If this rate keeps up we could be close to selling out our seasons just to subscribers, so don't waste any time in sending in your forms." The subscription price for an A Reserve subscription is \$198, but are as low as \$84 for all three shows, which is far cheaper than a full priced ticket to any major musical in town. "You can say that we give excellent value for your entertainment dollar."

FOLLIES (16-20 July) is a musical drama about a group of former "Follies" stars who return to the site of their former glory, the Weismann Theatre. The theatre is about to be demolished. Old wounds resurface as two Follies stars (Phyllis and Sally) and their husbands (Benjamin and Buddy) reassess their lives and what could have been.

DAMN YANKEES (20-24 August) tells the story of Joe, a middle aged man who is endlessly frustrated that his beloved baseball team The Dodgers, are constantly thwarted by those...well, damn Yankees. Desperate, Joe makes a deal with the devil, aka Mr. Applegate, to exchange his soul and become a youthful baseball star leading his team towards the pennant. Damn Yankees has a score by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross, a book by George Abbott and Douglass Wallop and is based on Wallop's novel "The Year The Yankees Lost the Pennant."

MAME (1-5 October) tells the hilarious story of an eccentric socialite in the Roaring '20s who finds her madcap Manhattan lifestyle turned upside down when she is appointed guardian of her orphaned nephew, Patrick. Auntie Mame takes him on one whirlwind adventure after another. The classic Herman score includes such tunes as "If He Walked Into My Life," "It's Today," "Open a New Window," "Mame," "Bosom Buddies" and "We Need a Little Christmas."



q happenings: 18th ANNUAL MQFF

It's a queer, queer, queer world and Melbourne will be its epicentre from March 5 to 16 when the 18th Melbourne Queer Film Festival takes over the town. Over 11 days an estimated 24,000 film lovers will watch over 140 gender bending films from around the world. The Festival will present a strong program of over 40 features, over 30 documentaries and 70+ short films selected by Festival Director Lisa Daniel and her trusty Selection Panel, who over the last 10 years have built the festival into one of the top five Gay and Lesbian film festivals in the world.

Lisa said, 'We've searched the globe for a program to please, and this year we're proud to offer an eclectic range of titles which broach important international human rights issues as well as our usual batch of international queer film festival favourites'.

Some stand outs include *Semper Fi: One Marine's Journey*, (dir: Vince Di Persio), in which Lance Corporal Jeff Key documents his tour of duty in war torn Iraq and his experiences as a gay man serving under the US administration's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy; *I Know That I Am*, (dir: Peyman Khosravi), a unique and powerful documentary which reveals the little-told story of transgendered queers in Iran, a country where sexual 'deviancy' is punishable by law, and *Inlaws and Outlaws* (dir: Drew Emery), a film that cleverly weaves together the true stories of couples and singles – both gay and straight – into a collective narrative that is as hilarious as it is heartbreaking. Dates not to be missed on the queer party calendar are the MQFF Opening and Closing nights. The Opening Night film, *Breakfast With Scot*, (dir: Laurie Lynd), is at once an all-round comedy crowd pleaser and a substantial drama about the strength of love in blended families while *XXY* (dir: Lucía Puenzo), recently selected as Argentina's official entry for the 2008 Academy Awards and winner of two prizes at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival, is the very special Closing Night film on March 16.

Other highlights of the 2008 feature film program include: *Kiss The Bride* (dir: C Jay Cox), a snappy comedy with plenty of eye-candy and some great supporting performances; *The New World* (dir: Etienne Dhaene), an engaging and lighthearted take on modern parenting, lesbian style; and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, directed by Duncan Roy who will be a guest of the Festival.

Documentary highlights include: *Anger Me* (dir: Elio Gelmini), an excellent biopic on Kenneth Anger; *She's A Boy I Knew* (dir: Gwen Haworth), a unique male-to-female transition tale with sublime home movie footage, frank testimonials and delightful animation; and *Bears*, an engaging and revealing documentary from prolific music video director Marc Klasfeld in which six contestants vie for the title of Mr. International Bear. The coveted Selectors' Choice session includes two powerful documentaries this year – *The Birthday* (dir: Negin Kianfor and Daisy Mohr), and *Transvestites Also Cry* (dir: Sebastiano D'Ayala Valva) – revealing the incredible hardship that the transgendered community endures in places like the Middle East and Ecuador. Australians are also heavily featured in this year's program with not one but two sessions of outstanding local documentaries, as well as the *Celluloid Casserole* and the hotly contested jury-voted *City of*



Melbourne Emerging Filmmaker Award for Best Australian Queer Short Film offering a cash prize of \$2000. This year's Centrepiece Presentation of the of the brilliant Taiwan/Chinese lesbian co-production *Spider Lilies* (Ci Qing) is co-presented by the Australian Centre for the Moving Image.

Festival guests include US Director Duncan Roy (*Picture of Dorian Gray*), Canadian Director Jim Lemoire (*Genderpunk*) and Sydney Directors Craig Boreham (*Love Bites*); Sarah Spillane (*The Manual*); Amy Gebhardt (*Look Sharp*); Time Slade (*Every Other Weekend*); and Walter McIntosh and Producer Sophie Harper (*Projecting The Body*).

All of the panels for the 18th MQFF have a human rights flavour, with documentary and panel discussions around gay and lesbian immigration issues, HIV education, and recent developments in legislation concerning queer rights in Australia. Supporters of these sessions include the Law Institute of Victoria, the Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre and the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby.

For tickets, schedule and all information visit www.melbournequeerfilm.com.au
Q Magazine - supporting all arts in our community.

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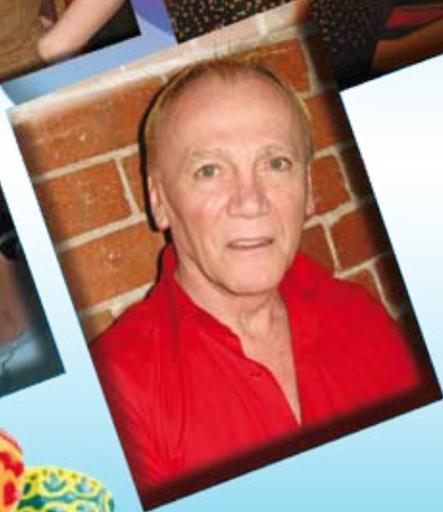
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q movies: WATCH AND ENJOY

BOY Culture ... or should that be spelt with a K? There seems to be quiet a proliferation of exceptionally good films out right now - specifically in the gay genre, but also across the board.

BOY Culture is about a hustler, hooker, prostitute, whore - whatever you want to label him. It is not however a stereo-typical portrayal. Very cleverly interwoven with a story of love, it traces the work of the main character, in particular his relationship with one elderly gent who tells him of a story about following dreams, not letting "the one" slip through your fingers etc etc. This, of course, ends up relating directly with a real life drama that is unfolding before his eyes.

It's not a new title, but I highly recommend you hire or buy it - it is excellent.

Ever wonder where Matthew Perry ended up since the end of his highly successful sitcom "Friend"? Well he has been in quite a few films, guest appearances on other tv shows, but the one I want to bring your attention to is **numb** - a story about a screenwriter who has acute depersonalisation disorder (a neurotic condition that makes him feel disconnected from other people, the world, and even his own body).

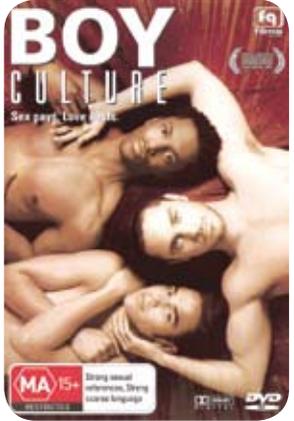
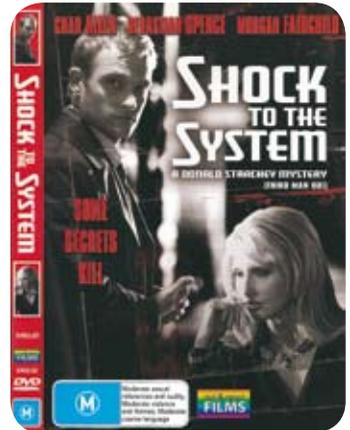


This is not a gay film in any way, but it is a damn fine film. Matthew Perry shines brilliantly, as do his co-stars in this often funny, deeply emotional roller coaster of a movie. Distributed through Eagle Entertainment and available to hire or buy in the best video stores around Australia. Great work and a great watch.

And finally this month (and I have saved the best til last on this occasion) from Out & About Films comes a detective story - a gay detective story. **Shock to the System** has all the ingredients that a good murder mystery film should have with ample additives of homophobia, people

thinking they are doing right thing, the Phoenix Foundation for a Better Life (ex-gays), infidelity, and love between two men.

Imagine a gay private investigator "married" to a US Senator looking into the death of a young guy who has been undergoing therapy to rid himself of the evil demons that have made him gay (encouraged by his mother, played by Morgan Fairchild), throw in the campest secretary a man could want, and you have an exceptional film in every respect. Hire it or buy it today - you will kick yourself if you don't.



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3 Signs Your Boyfriend Might be Cheating on You:

Have you ever been with a partner and something just didn't feel right? And, have you ever suspected that your partner is potentially the town bike and everyone else is having a ride except you?

I know I have. I've been in a couple of situations to date in which butterflies in my stomach were racing around desperately trying to tell me something. What did I do at the time? I initially ignored them and hoped they went away. Did they? Hell no!

So what are some of the signs that your boy might be cheating on you, let's take a look.

1. Jealous Behaviour

A boyfriend that gets jealous from time to time in the start might seem nice. You get the feeling that he really cares about you and that he has your best interests at heart. But when does this cross the line? As soon as you stop seeing particular friends and your social life starts to completely change! You become afraid that you're going to rock the boat if you speak to anybody that has a penis. My guess is that he's been cheated on in the past and swears black and blue that he would never do it to you.

If he is a highly jealous type then all he probably thinks about each day is whether you're doing the do with somebody else. This almost becomes a daily topic of conversation. Now if he's thinking cheating, then that's what he's going to eventually get. He will either encourage you to look at other people (unconsciously) because of his obsessive behaviour driving you away from him to protect himself. Or, in my case, he cheated on me because he truly believed that I was cheating on him. Whatever the case, if his behaviour is not improving after he's said that it will after the tenth time and he refuses to seek assistance on the matter, cut your losses. This is only if you're not actually cheating on him. If you are, fess up, work on it, if he doesn't want to, move out. Put him out of his misery. He deserves better than that!

2. Behavioural Changes

As we get older our behaviours tend to change and evolve as we move on. In relationships as we become more comfortable with the person we're with, we may seem more distanced or relaxed in our situation. What to watch out for is the moment

that you look him in his eyes. Is there still a spark there? If there isn't, it isn't necessarily a sign of cheating. However watch for sudden changes of schedule. He might come home late, be distancing himself from you, taking phone calls in the other room and lying. You think that you might not know when he's lying to you, but I guarantee you do. When he's telling you something, he will not look you in the eye, his eyes will flitter up and to the left and he will seem tense and short with his answers. Call him on it or it will continue.



3. Trust Your Intuition

How many times have you seen all of the signs and just completely ignored them. You know he's lying to you but you decide to take his word by blind faith and ignore your own instincts. Your instincts are never ever wrong. Trust them like you would a compass. My instincts were telling me for three months my partner was doing the dirty on me before I decided to end the relationship. Three months after it ended, it all came out. He confessed to cheating on me. A little too late by that time! But it just goes to show that each of us need to trust our stomach (not our head) when it comes to things feeling off kilter in our relationships.

These tips aren't for you to start searching for clues that he's doing the dirty on you. You will know if something isn't right. Don't just ignore it. Deal with it in due course and when you feel empowered enough to ask for more from your relationship do.

Have you been burnt in the past? How did you deal with it? Email me at ben@qmagazine.com.au and share your story with us.

Oh yeah, what happened to my butterflies? We'll they disappeared the day I decided to end the relationship and haven't come back since!



Q Watch

Two of my favourite "girls" are doing a new show - I thought it was worth giving you a heads-up about it. 'Glamorous Thursdays' at Diva Bar on Commercial Road...from

10.30pm - starring Nova China and Miss Bunny. Drags shows, cheap drinks and cheap thrills.

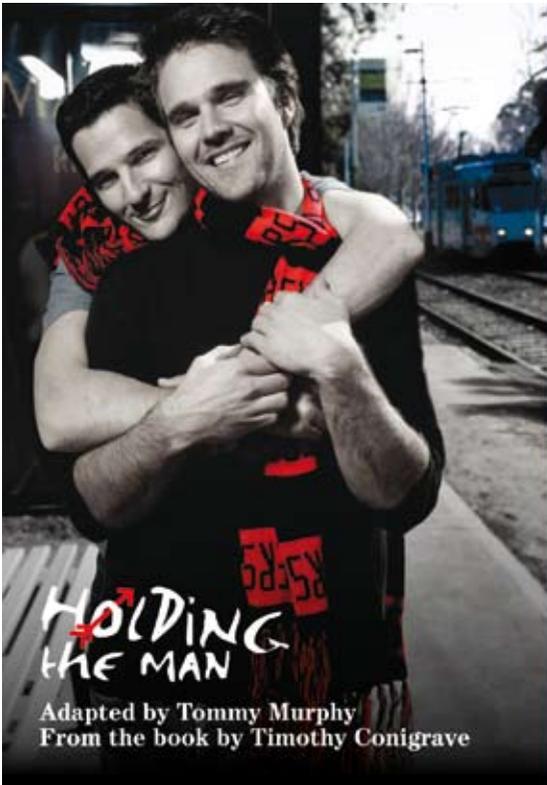
q news: BQFF 08

Looking for some fun and queer culture out of the city? The Bendigo Queer Film Festival (presented in association with the Melbourne Queer Film Festival) is celebrating its 5th birthday in 2008. Held in Bendigo, Victoria, a beautiful and vibrant old gold-mining town, it is one of only three queer film festivals in regional Australia. The festival aims to screen diverse, quality alternative queer films. This year's film line-up is very exciting, with the features "Shelter", a recent favourite on the GLBTI film festival circuit, "Kiss The Bride", a new comedy from the director of "Latter Days" and the acclaimed "Finn's Girls". In addition there will be short film packages for the boys and the girls.

The festival also features a visual art exhibition of queer artists, "Queer Country", and of course film-goers will have the chance to party on at the "FABulous After Party". Always a highlight is the Patron's Breakfast. Last year SBS newsreader Anton Enus enthralled a 120 strong audience with eloquent tales of growing up as a gay man under Apartheid in South Africa. The festival is thrilled to announce that Kristy Edmunds, the current Artistic Director of the Melbourne International Arts Festival, will be this year's patron.

Cinemaphiles can whet their appetites with a fundraiser/program launch on March 15th. Leading Australian director Tony Ayres will be on hand to present his beautiful multiple AFI award winning film of 2007, "The Home Song Stories".

The festival will be held on the weekend of April 4 to 6. For more details, screening and ticket information head to the festival website, www.bendigoqueerfilmfestival.info, or phone 0400 918 759.



HOLDING THE MAN

Adapted by Tommy Murphy
From the book by Timothy Conigrave

A true Melbourne love story

The course of teenage love rarely runs smooth, but it is a white-water adventure if you are a gay boy at Xavier College with a crush on the captain of the football team. For fifteen years Tim and John's relationship survives the separations, the discriminations, the temptations, the jealousies and the losses – until the only problem that love couldn't solve turns up to part them.

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q diary: OPERA AUSTRALIA



Opera Australia and the Australian Film Commission, has announced the first live transmission of an opera from the Sydney Opera House to regional cinemas across Australia.

On the evening of Wednesday 12 March 2008, Opera Australia's new production of *Carmen* will be transmitted via satellite from the Sydney Opera House Opera Theatre to eight regional cinemas that form the AFC's Regional Digital Screen Network in Albany (WA), Devonport (TAS), Hervey Bay (QLD), Yarram (VIC), Katherine (NT), Port Augusta (SA), Wagga Wagga and Singleton (NSW) as well as to live sites on the Sydney Opera House Forecourt and at Federation Square, Melbourne. *Opera on the Big Screen* will be screened free of charge to an audience of up to 7000 people, with 4000 on the Sydney Opera House steps, 1000 at Federation Square and over 2000 in cinemas across Australia.

Adrian Collette, Chief Executive of Opera Australia said "Following the success of Opera Australia's inaugural live-site relay of *La traviata* to the Forecourt of the Sydney Opera House and to Federation Square in Melbourne, last March, we were keen to broaden the audience for this spectacular live event. *Carmen* is the ideal opera for first-timers and it is a great privilege to be able to present a relay of this wonderful production on screens throughout Australia. We are grateful to the Australian Film Commission for joining with us in presenting *Carmen* through its Regional Digital Screen Network. This is another very significant

step in ensuring that the work of the national opera company and our artists are enjoyed and seen by as many people as possible across Australia and overseas."

Carmen is Bizet's best-known opera, and one of the most popular operas of all time. It was first performed in 1875 and has been a central part of the operatic repertoire ever since. Part of its appeal is its salacious story, initially denounced by critics as immoral, and its vivid range of characters from *Carmen*, the passionate gypsy to Escamillo, the heroic bullfighter. But the main reason it has endured must be Bizet's evocative music, which includes a string of hit arias from *Carmen*'s sexy Habanera, to the bravura of the Toreador's Song.

On Wednesday the 12th of March, Australian mezzo-soprano Catherine Carby, who won praise for her appearances as *Carmen* in Opera Australia's 2002 production, will sing the title role. She is joined by Rosario La Spina, who has been steadily building his repertoire of romantic tenor roles with Opera Australia, as the tragic Don José. His rival, the bullfighter Escamillo, is sung by the young Melbourne-born bass-baritone Joshua Bloom who is making his debut at The Metropolitan Opera, New York later this year. Soprano Tiffany Speight performs the role of Don José's sweetheart Micaela, with Shane Lowrencev as Zuniga, the lieutenant of Don José's guard. Moffatt Oxenbould Young Artists Amy Wilkinson and Sian Pendry are the gypsy's Frasquita and Mercedes alongside Andrew Moran as the corporal Morales. OA's Music Director Richard Hickox will conduct the performance.

Opera Australia's new production of *Carmen* is directed by American Francesca Zambello, a world-renowned director of opera, theatre and television whose previous productions for Opera Australia include *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* in 2003 and *The Love for Three Oranges* in 2005. She says of the production: "I wanted to capture the heat, the cold of the mountains, the sense of the society, the range of the classes of the people, the gypsy girls versus the Spanish girls, and the sense of the elements – fire, water, wind, rain. I wanted to do a realistic *Carmen*." Designed by Tanya McCallin and Paule Constable with choreography by Denni Sayers, this production of *Carmen* had its first staging in 2006 at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and features live animals on stage including two horses, Drummer and Jamieson, a donkey and some chickens.

Damien Beaumont, presenter of ABC Classic FM, will host *Opera on the Big Screen* from the Sydney Opera House Forecourt. "ABC Classic FM is delighted to strengthen our partnership with Opera Australia in 2008 which already involves four live radio broadcasts of opera productions throughout the year, including *Carmen* from Melbourne on 26 April 2008," said Julia Lester, Acting Manager, Classic FM *Carmen* is currently in season at the Sydney Opera House until 28 March 2008. It will open at the Arts Centre, Melbourne on 9 April 2008.



q photography: GORGEOUS DARLING

Within the first 5 minutes of entering Gorgeous Studios, Melbourne's boutique gay-owned and operated photography studio, you are impressed with the luxurious yet welcoming surrounds. Photographer Mark Djilas, who has worked in the industry since 1999, instantly makes you feel at home and relaxed for what will be a truly memorable experience.

Located in one of Melbourne's landmark buildings, Ercildoune, just 5 minutes from the Docklands precinct, the studios offer a range of photography services for everyone. Whether you're after some fresh, up-to-date images of yourself for gaydar, grandma, or just as personal keepsakes marking a special time of your life, Mark can accommodate. He has catered to many couples celebrating their life commitment to each other, as well as people wanting to capture moments with their children and even pets.

Mark also caters to professionals who need a corporate head shot, and actors and models who entrust Mark with shooting and compiling their portfolios. Mark's best work has also included body shots that have captured clients at their peak physical condition, while his work with nudes has made for some great wall art. I dropped in to meet Mark and asked him a few questions:

What do you enjoy most about Photography?

The smile on people's faces when they see how good they can look, and also knowing that I have made someone feel Gorgeous! To capture people at their best, you must have an appreciation for lighting and really understand what angles are the most flattering. I really enjoy making people look and feel Gorgeous about themselves, hence the name that I gave my studio.

Why did you start Gorgeous Studios?

I started GS because I felt that I could contribute my own unique personalised service.

Having worked for many studios before I wanted to establish a studio that anyone could feel welcome in! I felt it was time to command my own business and develop my passion for photography further, I have great conversations and have a great laugh, people can relax, which means that the images I capture reflect someone's true substance, there's nothing posed or contrived. I just want people to walk away with a gorgeous experience, and amazing photographs.

Who are your main clientele?

My clients are people from all walks of life, I am able to accommodate all types of commissions, so that can include families, couples, kids, individuals, professionals, corporate and commercial. I do cover different types of photography, which takes me away from the studio, especially when people want shots taken in their own surrounds. I really enjoy meeting new people so I am happy to accommodate clients and their particular needs.

What sets you apart from others?

I make sure I take shots in a way that captures the clients individuality so that the photographs are true to them. Having your photograph taken is such a personal thing and I like to make people feel at home and feel they can be themselves. Being gay means there is no judgment and I aim to create a relaxed atmosphere for everyone, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. By talking to people, appreciating what they're after, they feel comfortable and can enjoy the moment. Again, it's not just about the photograph as an end result, but the journey they take that gives them that great shot.

Why should people have their photos taken?

People are so busy these days; life passes them by and they don't have concrete memories to look back on and reflect about those special times in their life. I especially want people to be proud of where they've been, who they are today, and appreciate the journey they've experienced in their life. Having professional photographs done, on a regular basis, allows people to keep a running story of their life in picture, and gives them something special they can look back on. I love that I can be a part of people's lives in that way.

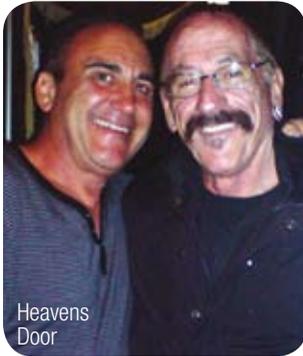
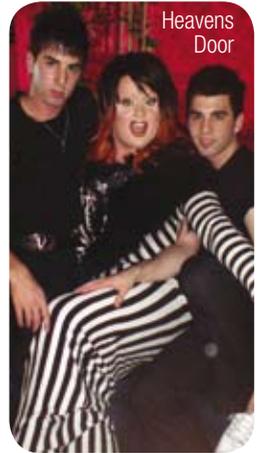
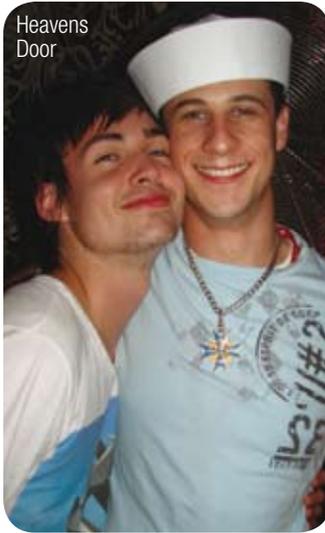


q scene: OUT & ABOUT



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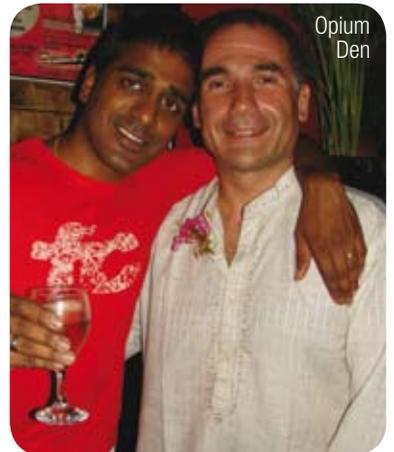
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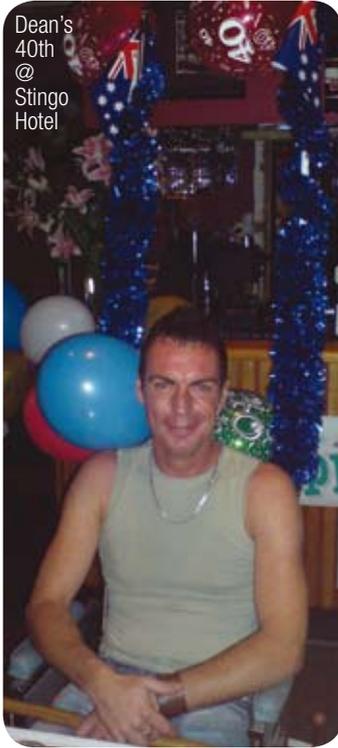


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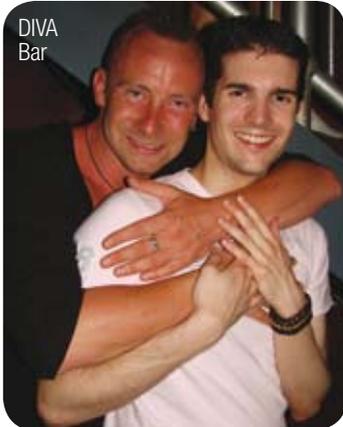


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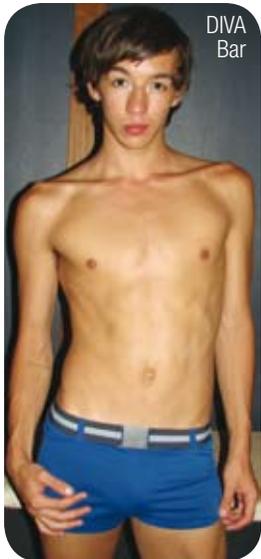


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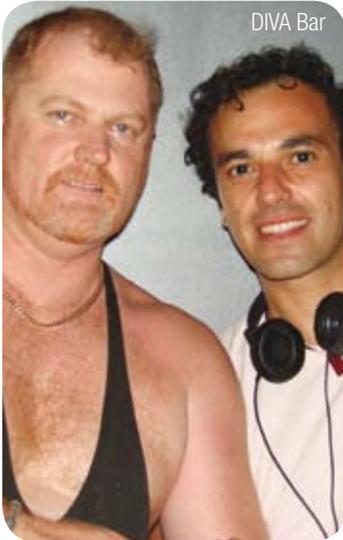


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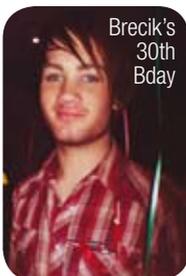


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q travel: with SHEK GRAHAM



Gregory River Bower Bird

The readers who actually read these travel articles, rather than just drooling over the photos elsewhere in the magazine, may have a vague memory that I have expanded on the beauty of the Gregory River before. Well, you would be right...I have...and I'm going to again...I just can't help myself...I love this place!!

After several months on the road, we came to our favourite spot in the entire world – Gregory River. Our wonderful spot was deserted and we could pick the best site to pitch our tents, in amongst the shady trees just metres from a wonderful swimming spot. After completing the setting up of our camp we started our preparations for dinner. Within moments we heard some strange noises coming from the branches above our heads. It was a Great Bower bird. This bird didn't have beautiful bright feathers, but what she lacked for in dressy plumage she made up in sheer brashness! Are there lesbian Bower birds?



Each time we started preparing food this bird would brazenly appear and demand food. Brunhilda, as we eventually named her, particularly liked peanuts and Anzac biscuits. We couldn't even rustle a packet without her appearing as if by magic, twittering and whistling at us until we put some nuts or crumbs out for her. If we were a bit slow in getting the message her calls would get progressively louder and she would come even closer to get our attention. She seemed to have no fear of our dogs, and sometimes even landed mere feet from them in an effort to get more nuts or pieces of biscuit.



We spent our days relaxing by the river taking frequent cooling swims as the days heated up, and I even went snorkeling as the river was so clear and had so much life in it. It was huge fun getting swept down river at great speed in the shallow rapids. As the other river bank animals became accustomed to our presence, we saw more of them coming down to drink from the river, and even had finches taking bits of charcoal from the cold fire right at our feet. We loved watching the wallabies, but sometimes cattle came down to the river for an evening drink and hearing a 500 kg animal stomp around in the dark of the night was a little more worrisome!



Jan is extremely safety conscious, always sure to have the right tools and safety gear for each and every job. However, on one particular day I did have to hold my tongue and look on in amazement as she carefully put on her steel-capped safety boots and safety glasses; donned her workman's gloves and her baseball cap to saw up some wood, but was otherwise dressed in only her bathers. Don't tell her I sneaked off a few shots of her in her bizarre apparel!



We spent three gorgeous weeks at the river, watching all the bird-life and watching the river flow gracefully by. Too soon it was time to start on the last leg of our journey home. The rain had started, and we didn't want to get caught in mud. It would be good to get home again and see the Coral Sea once more – the Great Barrier Reef was beckoning!

Q health: e-male

The National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR) has launched the e-male survey, a national online survey of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in Australia.

The survey explores the role of the internet in men's social lives and will be used to inform HIV prevention activities. The NCHSR is coordinating the study with the support of state and territory AIDS Councils and health departments.

Professor Susan Kippax, one of the project's chief investigators, hopes that the study will shed new light on the quality of relationships and friendships that men form online. 'We know that many gay and other men who have sex with men use the internet to find sex, friends and relationships. An earlier phase of emale showed us that men rely on the networks they form online less than offline or face-to-face networks, but we think that online connections still have an important role to play in community responses to HIV. The internet is already used in HIV prevention efforts, and the e-male survey will help our community partners to shape their online (and offline) educational activities.'

The survey is anonymous and takes around 20 minutes to complete. To fill in the survey, visit www.e-male.com.au OR use the link on the Q Magazine website.



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q do: IMMIGRATION MUSEUM

"We're 10! Come celebrate!"

The Immigration Museum is celebrating its 10th birthday year in 2008, with a special program of exhibitions and activities. For more information as the year progresses, watch this space and the website: museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum

Trailblazers: Migrant Women Activists

"To be poor, migrant and a woman is to achieve optimum disadvantage" (anon.) – and a new exhibition recognises the efforts of migrant women who aimed to diminish that disadvantage. Trailblazers records the untold story of the gutsy and spirited migrant women who fought for specialist medical, social, workplace and educational services for women of migrant backgrounds. Date: 8 March to 27 July

Immigration Museum FREE DAY

Visit the Immigration Museum on Sunday 16 March to mark the beginning of Harmony Week – and experience the unique and moving stories of Melburnians. Thanks to the City of Melbourne, there will be FREE entry to the Immigration Museum all day, including entry to the stunning Masks of China exhibition. The Immigration Museum is celebrating its 10th birthday, so come join the celebrations! Date: Sunday 16 March

Autumn School Holidays: A customs detective adventure!

Become a customs detective at the Immigration Museum these school holidays, and choose your own adventure. Grab a special adventure booklet, make your own detective badge and snoop your way around the Museum – following clues and answering riddles, in the footsteps of famous customs detectives from early Melbourne. Entry to the Immigration Museum and all exhibitions is FREE for children. Date: 21 March to 6 April

Masks of China: Ritual and Legend

Discover rare and spectacular masks from China in this exhibition exclusive to the Immigration Museum. Featuring handmade masks of wood, paper, copper, bronze and fabric, Masks of China explores the significance of masks in Chinese culture and history. The ancient yet still living tradition of mask-making brings together beliefs, myths and symbols from Shamanism and Buddhism, and reflects China's many ethnic minority cultures. Constructed and painted by hand, some more than 200 years old, the masks symbolise China's rich and

diverse cultural landscape. Date: Until 24 March Cost: \$12 adult, \$6 concession, free for children (includes Masks of China, as well as general Museum admission).

The Masks of China exhibition has been developed by China Museum of the National Cultural Palace, and is generously supported by the State Ethnic Affairs Commission of the People's Republic of China, the Australian Multicultural Foundation and the Scanlon Foundation.

Sudanese Festival

Experience and learn more about the vibrant culture that is the Sudanese community in Victoria. Taste traditional Sudanese food, dance to traditional and contemporary music, watch dance performances, meet the community and enjoy family activities. Date: Sunday 12 April, 11am to 4pm

Kimono: Osaka's Golden Age

Discover breathtakingly beautiful kimono and accessories from the glory days of Japan. This extraordinary exhibition, highlighting the wealth and prosperity of the Edo and Meiji periods (1850-1900), is showing exclusively at the Immigration Museum. Direct from the Osaka Museum of History, the stunning collection celebrates the Immigration Museum's 10th birthday and 30 years of the Melbourne-Osaka sister-city relationship. Date: 15 May to 14 September

WE CAME AS WORKERS, WE STAYED AS CITIZENS: 40 YEARS OF TURKISH MIGRATION

Marking 40 years since Australia and Turkey signed an assisted immigration agreement, this new exhibition highlights the history and growth of Victoria's Turkish community. Initially, many Turkish immigrants arrived on Australian shores with a view of themselves as 'guestworkers' and the intention of eventually returning to their homeland; for many, however, this intention changed to a wish to remain. The exhibition explores the challenges faced by early Turkish immigrants as they settled into life in Victoria, and charts their successes and contributions to our multicultural community. Date: Until June

SHARE YOUR COMMUNITY'S STORY AT THE IMMIGRATION MUSEUM

Community exhibitions at the Immigration Museum offer the opportunity to tell your community's story through text, images and objects. Your group will develop the exhibition with our assistance and advice. Exhibition ideas are selected annually through a competitive process, with applications now open for exhibitions in 2010. For further information, contact the Immigration Museum on 03 9927 2727 or go to museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum Date Applications close on 31 July



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