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q comment:

The iconic IKEA FRAKTA BAG is overflowing with pride, in its most fabulous makeover yet: KVANTING.



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

Hot on the (high) heels of global Pride celebrations IKEA Australia has announced the release of its iconic FRAKTA bag in a bold new rainbow design to celebrate equality, diversity and inclusion. The KVANTING bag, in support of the LGBT+ community features six colourful stripes, the international

symbol for LGBT+ pride is now available nation-wide at IKEA stores.

In a commitment to support and promote diversity, inclusion and equality, IKEA Australia – through its IKEA Family donation scheme - will donate \$20,000 to leading LGBT+ health



organisation, ACON, to support their LGBT+ social inclusivity programs.

"Aside from a stylish splash of colour, the KVANTING bags are a true celebration of equality in Australia. Through our IKEA Family program donations, we're thrilled to be donating \$20,000 to ACON to support the amazing work they do. We hope IKEA customers will join us in our support and celebration of equality, diversity and inclusion in Australia."



HampsteadDental.com.au

The KVANTING bags are available to purchase across IKEA Australia stores now.

## q feature: WILLAM

On the eve of Willam's impending Australian tour, Q Magazine caught up with this amazing performer.

### Willam, please tell our readers a little about you: where you grew up, schooling etc.

I'm from Philadelphia, but grew up in Jersey and Florida too. I graduated high school at 16, got emancipated and hit the road.

#### When did you first decide to do drag and what was that journey like?

My dad took me to a Rocky Horror Picture Show midnight screening and it was the most fun I had so far in my life at 13. My dad had a gay brother and a gay sister and I was incredibly lucky that they've always supported my little drag dreams and still come to my shows.

#### Any advice you would give to up and coming drag performers based on your own experience?

Well I've sold 41,000+ copies of my book Suck Less: Where There's a Willam, There's a Way so that's probably an easier way to get advice out of me...and typos. Lots of typos (oh and dicks too).

### Are there any projects you are working on? If so, is there anything you can tell us?

It's been a good summer so far. HBO released a documentary called WIG all

about the legendary Wigstock festival and in the same week, I became the first drag queen on HGTV on my own episode of House Hunters. I'm also genuinely really excited about Race Chaser (my podcast with Alaska Thunderfuck) celebrating it's 1 year mark and launching our satellite podcast Hot Goss, in which we keep it cute, but tell the truth.

### What is your opinion of the drag world in 2019 and what do you foresee as the future of drag?

Y'know, if someone would have told me at 16 that in 20 years I'd be in a movie with Lady Gaga IN DRAG, I would have laughed. But, A Star is Born happened so...I dunno. Who can predict where drag will take anyone, who's crazy enough to bet on it.

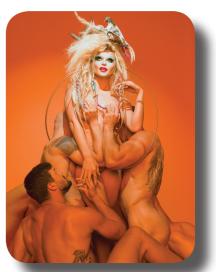
### This year's Pride Month recently ended, what city was your favorite to celebrate in? What does Pride mean to you?

Check out my YouTube video (and SUBSCRIBE!) documenting LA, London & WorldPride this year. WorldPride fell on my birthday and I had a bubble machine blowing bubbles from between my legs while I rode a parade float on molly. I threw up at 4:30 that afternoon, but sometimes you gotta throw up to blow up. After that I made it to my 7pm gig and kept telling people as I took pics to watch out for the vomit in my wig. The best thing about the video was people telling me that they couldn't go to Pride this year, but my video made them feel like they kind of did virtually. My favorite part about pride is all the rainbows and gigs. June had me feeling like Santa in December bitch.

### You will be in Australia August 22nd to the 25th for the Comedy Queens Tour. What can you tell us about it? What can fans expect?

I plan on making balloon animals out of whoever has the most foreskin in the audience on stage. We don't have as much foreskin as I would like in America.

You're lucky down there.









CIARA ARIANE MOFFATT MARGARET CHO LUCIANA SAFIA NOLIN ROXANE BRUNEAU BRIAN JUSTIN CRUM ROBIN S JANICE ROBINSON LAS BIBAS FROM VIZCAYA DEAR DENIZEN DEBBIE LYNCH-WHITE FANNY BLOOM ALEXANDRA STRÉLISKI BEYRIES LA BRONZE A'KERIA CHANEL DAVENPORT BROOKE LYNN HYTES DETOX LATRICE ROYALE MANILA LUZON NAOMI SMALLS SILKY NUTMEG GANACHE TRINITY THE TUCK VANESSA VANJIE MATEO WILLAM YVIE ODDLY RITA BAGA JIMMY MOORE BARBADA CHARLI DEVILLE MICHEL DORION MARLEEN MENARD CASSIOPÉE CLAUDE DUBOIS ELIZABETH BLOUIN-BRATHWAITE FLORENCE K KIM RICHARDSON KING MELROSE LUCE DUFAULT GENEVIÈVE LECLERC STEPHAN GAGNON STÉPHANIE BÉDARD ANDY RAZA APOLLIN ELLE BARBARA JADE ABOVE JOY RIDER MEHDI BAHMAD RANDAY TAMMY TUESDAYZ TIKA ANNIE SAMA ANTONY CARLE MARIE-CHRISTIE DEPESTRE GEOFFROY MATHIS XAVIER WAKE ISLAND

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## q cuisine: with HOBBY CHEF CHAPMAN

#### **BEEF STROGANOFF**

Beef Stroganoff has always been one of my favorite dishes. The popular Russian «Boeuf à la Stroganov» recipe originally involved lightly floured beef cubes sautéed, the sauce prepared with mustard and broth, and finished with a small amount of sour cream: no onions, no mushrooms, and no alcohol.

I didn't keep with the original recipe and serve my variation with onions, mushrooms, a pickled cornichon, and some red bell peppers.

#### Ingredients

750 g Beef tenderloin Large brown button mushrooms 6 1 Onion 1 Clove of garlic 1 half Red bell pepper 1-2 Pickled cornichon 2 dl Beef stock 2 Tbsp Creme fraiche 1 Tbsp Mustard White flour to dust the meat Salt and pepper for seasoning Butter and rapeseed oil

#### Preparation

1. Cut the beef into pieces of about 4  $\times$  4 cm. Dust the pieces lightly all over with flour and set aside.

2. Finely dice the onion and garlic clove. Cut the heads of the mushrooms and the half red bell pepper into slices. The cornichons slice lengthwise and cut the slices into strips.

3. Fry the beef cubes in some butter on high heat very quickly until nicely browned. It's essential that the meat is still bloody inside. Take the meat out of the saucepan, cover with aluminum foil and set aside.

4. Sauté the onion and garlic until soft but not browned, add the beef stock and the mustard and let the liquid reduce a little. Use an immersion blender and blend to a homogenous sauce.

5. In a separate pan sauté the red pepper, mushrooms, and cornichon in a little oil. Start with the red pepper and sauté for 3 minutes then add the mushrooms and last the cornichon.



6. Add the juices from the resting meat cubes to the sauce and add the creme fraiche too. Reheat the sauce but do not bring it to the boil. Lastly, add the meat to the sauce to rewarm the meat – do not cook. Otherwise, the meat will be tough.

#### Serve

Place the meat onto the plates, top with the mushrooms, red peppers, and cornichons and spoon more sauce overall. Serve with boiled potatoes and decorate with some fresh greens.



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## q advice: with MEGAN

#### Five essential ways to simplify your life

Do you dream of living a more simple life? Perhaps you're happy with your life in general, but you long for less chaos and drama, and more space and ease. You're not alone. Many of us are seeking this kind of quiet change. If the Marie Kondo magical tidying movement has taught us anything, it's that there's a certain sense of calm that comes from simplicity.

But how do you simplify your life amongst your work, kids, family, and everything else on your to do list? Here are five places to start.

• Create routines: Many of us think that having a routine will be too hard, or that it will cramp our style. It can actually be the opposite. Putting structure around key elements of your day, and creating routines, can take a huge amount of chaos out of your life. Think about the time you wake up and

routines, can take a huge amount of chaos out of your life. Think about the time you wake up and the morning routine that follows. How can you make it more routine, giving you less variables to worry about? What about meal preparation, meal times, after school routine for the kids, evening routine and bed times. Simplifying what happens and when, and putting some structure around it can remove hundreds of tiny decisions every day that are unnecessary and waste time and mental energy.

• Clear clutter: Unless you've been living under a rock, you know by now that clearing the clutter is high on the list of pathways to happiness. Clutter makes our life complex. Piles of messiness, books, papers, boxes, clothes, washing, ironing, knick knacks, kids stuff, things that you will never use again, all make our life anything but simple. But Marie Kondo'ing your life can seem overwhelming (even the thought of putting all of my clothes on the bed leaves me in a cold sweat!). Start small. One drawer. Then another. A kitchen cupboard. Then another. One part of your closet, and then another. Before you know it you will have calmly cleared the clutter without giving yourself a panic attack. Clear space is like breathing mountain air. And it's a great way to bring more simplicity into your life.

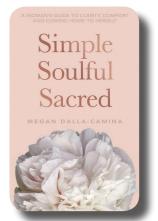
• Stop spending: Do you know where your money goes? How much cash do you spend on irrelevant items, things you don't need, magazines you won't read, food you won't eat, clothes you won't wear, because you're in the habit of doing it or you are distracting yourself from something you don't want to deal with? Start simplifying your life by pausing all discretionary spending for two weeks. Think of how fewer decisions you will need to make. Prepare your lunch at home. Take your coffee in a flask. Cook dinner instead of getting takeaway. Do your food shopping once a week. Before spending, pause, breathe and check in: do you need it, will you really use it, do you already have something like it, where else would this money be better spent or saved? It will change your mindset, save your cash and simplify your life.

• Strive for less: When was the last time you actually strived for less? We're socialised to always want more. But what if more wasn't better? Searching for simple could be as easy as learning to be content with what you have right now. If you could let go of the expectation that more is better, and instead practice gratitude for all you have and, you free up space for magic to happen. You create more ease. You let go of the striving that can consume your energy in a negative way. It's a simple practice that brings simplicity and grace into your life.

• Idle time: See where you can leave gaps in your schedule instead of packing your to do list with more. As long as you're meeting your commitments — to your family, your work, your kids, yourself - then you can afford to leave some space for idle time. It may seem like a luxury, but it's a core way to bring more simplicity into your days. Leave space. Use that time for something that brings joy into your day, like gardening, painting, making nourishing food, going for a walk. Or meditate, take a nap, stare out the window and just daydream. Be idle. It's amazing how spacious and simple you will feel by doing absolutely nothing, even if it's just for ten minutes.

An interesting thing happens when you create space. When you simplify. When you go back to basics. We find more ease and more peace in our lives. Each day is another opportunity to remove something, strip something back, give something away, move more slowly, connect more deeply, breathe more freely. And to just learn to be, not become. To simply live.

Megan Dalla-Camina is the author of Simple Soulful Sacred: A Woman's Guide to Clarity, Comfort and Coming Home to Herself (Hay House). Visit www.megandallacamina.com





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## q thought: with CRAIGH WILSON

#### What is intuition and how can we use it?

Science shows us that we are all connected. Intuition is the richest connection we have to others, the world around us, and, most importantly, ourselves.

Intuition can be a range of experiences, including the five senses and the sixth sense. Intuition can be a deep and all-knowing that something is wrong. Intuition may include heightened touch, sight, smell, taste and feeling. The easiest example of intuition is when you experience is a warm, glowing feeling in your heart, knowing that everything is going to be okay. Or when you shake someone's hand the first time you meet them, and you get a feeling of whether you can trust this person or not.

How we can use our intuition every day. Imagine knowing how to clear your negative thoughts and emotions. Imagine listening to your spirit, mind, heart, and gut. Imagine trusting your intuition no matter what. Now, you can make insightful and intuitive decisions every day.

#### Making decisions daily

When your mind and heart are clear and you are coming from a loving place, how could your intuition be wrong? I decide on a regular basis whether to meet friends for coffee/lunch or keep working on that important business project. A client over the last few weeks decided whether she would exercise in morning or if she should rest as she was getting over the flu. Another client used his intuition to decide if he would stay in his relationship or leave his life partner.

#### Using your intuition when you are really worried about something

This is a perfect time to use your intuition, whatever the issue. Clear your mind and emotions. Be as relaxed as you can. If not, take some time out to reenergize yourself. Break your intuitive decision down into two parts.

#### **One: The Answer**

What is your heart and gut telling you? The most important part is knowing the answer. If you are ready, use your intuition and decide.

#### Two: The Action You Need to Take

The second part is when you act on it. A wonderful friend reminded me the other day that before you consider a course of action, you have to consider your time, energy and money.

I recommend the same advice to you. Make your decision and follow through on it.

#### When not to use your intuition

When you are stressed, anxious, and/or overtired, your intuition will be off. Take some time out. Sometimes, when it is difficult to clear your mind and emotions, the best course is to rest. Research from Berkley University shows that sleeping 10–20 minutes is enough to refresh your mind, and increase your energy and alertness. A 60-minute nap can provide an excellent memory boost. Now that you are feeling clearer and lighter, you can make a better decision.

### How can we learn to tap into our intuition when making a decision? Follow this easy 5-step intuitive process to make better decisions:

- 1. Sit comfortably and close your eyes for 1 to 2 minutes.
- 2. Slow your mind down and let the question come up.
- 3. Allow all your emotions to come forward.
- 4. Let go of your thoughts and emotions and ground yourself.
- 5. Come from your heart and your gut and make the best decision for you.

Craigh Wilson is a sought-after author, media contributor, mentor, and international key note speaker. He offers smart, realistic and powerful transformational solutions to every day people, business owners, entrepreneurs and leaders of Fortune 500 companies in over 44 countries around the world. Find out more about Craigh and his book, Intuitive, at www.craighwilson.com





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and ridicule he has emerged as the country's most vocal advocates for LGBTQ rights. He has gained worldwide recognition for his plight. He has finally been granted the lifelong wish with India finally legalising homosexuality.

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## q inspire: with MICHELLE SALES

#### 5 ways to supercharge your confidence

Francisco Dao, a speaker on organisational performance and strategy, describes self-confidence as the fundamental basis from which leadership grows. As he puts it in his 'Without confidence, there is no leadership' Inc. article, 'Trying to teach leadership without first building confidence is like building a house on a foundation of sand. It may have a nice coat of paint, but it is ultimately shaky at best.'

Most of us, however, think confidence is something that the lucky few are born with and the rest are left wishing for. Yet confidence is not a personality trait or a fixed attribute; it's the outcome of the thoughts we think and the actions we take. It isn't based on our actual ability but on our belief in our ability to get up on stage and present, lead a team through change, ask for a pay rise or a promotion. That means with consistent effort, and the courage to take a risk, we can gradually expand our confidence and our capacity to build more of it. Here's 5 ways how to do that.

#### 1. Take a stand

As Steve Jobs once said, 'Being the richest man in the cemetery doesn't matter to me. Going to bed at night saying we've done something wonderful, that's what matters to me.' He was clear about what he stood for and why, and you need to be too. At work, especially if you are in any kind of leadership position, you need to speak



up when no-one else will and lead change. You need to be visible, make unpopular decisions and go slow in order to go fast. You don't need to be the Dalai Lama, but you do need to stand up for what you deem right, fair and important. This is what others will respect you for.

#### 2. Be real

Showing up as truly confident over a sustained period of time is something that needs to be built from the inside out. 'Faking it until you make it' only gets you so far and for so long. Trying to pretend you have the confidence needed to get the job done can be exhausting. Instead, draw on what you are great at, and believe what you're good at is important. When this is aligned then you will truly start to see that you are valuable and valued for who you really are.

#### 3. Challenge yourself

If you've got your 'head down and bum up' all day long, knocking off your to-do list, how will you be able to assess what you need to do to ensure you make any real progress in life? You need to have the confidence and skills, and the ability to take on an element of risk, no matter what role or industry you work in. You need to do things differently tomorrow from how you are today. You need to take yourself out of your comfort zone – and be confident enough to do this. Continue to challenge yourself and ask, 'If what got me here won't get me there, what do I need to be doing now to step up?'

#### 4. Speak up

Many of us also back away from speaking up to avoid conflict. We see conflict as bad, rather than being able to reframe it as healthy debate. As a result, we keep our opinions to ourselves – thinking that if we just keep doing our job and delivering the outcomes, we will get ahead. Yet we must be willing to speak up, even when it is hard or unpopular or you feel like it will cause conflict. Like Martin Luther King Jr put it, 'Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter'.

#### 5. Keep improving

While you're confident in one area, you might not be in another. So it's important to reflect and assess your confidence levels regularly in different situations, environments, contexts and demands.

Knowing and accepting that your confidence is like a muscle that needs continually flexing and improving is the only true way to supercharge your confidence and sustain it long into the future.

Michelle Sales is a highly sought-after speaker, trainer, facilitator and coach who helps senior leaders and their teams learn to show up as the best version of themselves, to build their confidence and influence with others, and to maximise their leadership and performance. She is the author of The Power of Real Confidence (Major Street Publishing). Visit www.michellesales.com.au



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## q books: **UNREQUITED LOVE**

#### Diary of an Accidental Activist By Dennis Altman August 2019 | ISBN (paperback): 978-1-925835-12-0 | Series: Biography | AUD\$29.95

Dennis Altman's long obsession with the United States began when he went there as a graduate student during Lyndon Johnson's Presidency. His early writing stemmed from the counter-culture that developed in the States in the mid-1960s. Altman was involved in early Gay Liberation, and his 1971 study Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation is regarded as a classic work in its field. Since then, Altman's writings have touched in various ways upon the shifting terrain of sexual politics, including the AIDs epidemic, which he witnessed from the onset while living in New York.

Altman's memoir, Unrequited Love, is as wide-ranging and remarkable as his career, moving between Australia, the United States, Europe and parts of Asia, and influenced by encounters with intellectuals and writers including James Baldwin, Gough Whitlam, Dorothy Porter, Christos Tsiolkas, Gore Vidal and Susan Sontag.

Written through the lens of recent activism and the global rise of authoritarianism, this is a story of a half century of activism, intellectualism, conflict and friendship.

'From Lyndon Johnson to Trump, Altman's diary takes us from the early days of AIDS to gay liberation against a backdrop of Australia's strange love for America.' Gillian Triggs

'An ingenious combining of memoir and analysis, personal reflection and social science.' Frank Bongiorno

Dennis will be a guest at various writers' festivals in 2019, including the Melbourne Writers' Festival. Bookshop events include Readings, Gleebooks, Hares & Hyenas. Avid Reader, Muse and The Bookshop Darlinghurst (and more).

'The weekend before the election of Donald Trump, one of my cats died while I was visiting Los Angeles. On Election Day I walked past one of the larger polling places in West Hollywood, but there was no sense of the community that Australians associate with elections, no enthusiasts handing out election materials, no sausage sizzle or school fetes. Driving back to West Hollywood that evening the streets were unnaturally quiet. The bar on Santa Monica Boulevard that had promised "high fives for Hillary" was gloomy. The following weekend, in San Francisco I saw several protests, small and unsure of their objectives. The anti-Donald Trump marches were largely expressions of collective grief, with occasional flashes of anger at a system that gave the presidency to the candidate with fewer votes than his opponent.'

Dennis Altman, a Professorial Fellow in Human Security at La Trobe University, has published thirteen books, most recently The End of the Homosexual? and (with Jon Symons) Queer Wars. In 2006,

For more information visit: https://bit.ly/2LKkTk4

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# UNREQUITED LOVE Diary of an Accidental Activist

DENNIS

ALTMAN

## q celebration: FATHERS DAY

#### TREAT DAD, WITH A CHOCOLAB PERSONALISED SLAB

Dads are a patient bunch, with endless 'dad taxi' lifts, pocket money distributors, and ball kickers. They keep smiling even when receiving yet another pair of boring socks on Father's Day. This Father's Day give him something truly unique and special. Something you've made, just for him. A treat that you know he will love, his very own personalised Chocolate Slab, from Chocolab.



Pick his favourite chocolate, add all his favourite ingredients from fruit, nuts, lollies and gourmet inclusions. Then make it truly special with a personalised edible message plaque and family photo or portrait, for a gift made with love.

Chocolab will work their chocolatier magic, to create a truly special chocolate gift for your one in a million pops. At Chocolab, you can create personalised chocolate, with all Dad's favourites in their world-famous online Creation Lab. Firstly, you pick his favourite base of Belgian chocolate in creamy white, smooth milk or decadent dark chocolate.

Choose the shape, from a traditional block (120g), pizza (600g), heart (200g) or giant heart (600g). Personalise with a family photograph, emoji or cheeky message plaque. Then adorn your chocolate with up to five different toppings, choose from over 100 delicious additions of spices, fruit, biscuits, nuts, Iollies and more. At Chocolab's online emporium you can create the chocolate bar you wish existed, or pick from the 100's of 1000's of scrumptious creations available. Experiment with inventive flavour infusions, try traditional classics or devour popular favourites.

Gourmet dads will love ingredients such as Turkish delight, Crystallised Ginger and Croquant Nougatine. Traditional father's will reminisce for their childhood with Ovalteenies and Honeycomb. Sweet tooth pops can indulge in the Candyland bar, or create your own with sweet gummy bears, sour worms and M&M's. Or pick from the Chocolab Father's Day collection of Dad's Pecan Pie Bar, Peanut Butter Bar or Salted Caramel.

For something really special create your own Father's Day Gourmet Chocolate Pizza, Chocolate Heart or choose from Decadent Dark Mint, Magical Gourmet, Deluxe Delight or Caramel Overload Pizza. For a real splurge try a delectable Gourmet Chocolate Hamper or perhaps the 50 Double Chocolate coated Oreo's gift box. Send him 'Love you Grandad' or 'Love you Dad' and 'World's Best Dad' chocolate lollipops and from just \$6.00, your gift won't break the piggy bank. There is even a delicious and hilarious 'Bank of Dad' chocolate credit card – to the coolest, smartest, wittiest most brilliant dad in the whole world! (PS. Could I borrow some money).

Chocolab creates delicious and unique gifts for all occasions. Perfect for Father's or Mother's Day with all their favourites in one bar. Create personalised presents with cheeky messages or favourite photos. Chocolab will literally print any message or photo onto the chocolate, no matter how sassy! Create exciting hampers for Christmas. Anniversaries, Easter and Birthdays, or orab a



gift certificate so they can create their own. With Chocolab, the possibilities are endless, with over a million different combinations, the only limit is your imagination.

Chocolab is a boutique chocolate experience. Create your desired chocolate bar in the online Creation Lab or choose from the carefully curated chocolate favourites. Handmade using only the finest Belgian chocolate, using sustainably grown cocoa beans and premium, quality ingredients. Every bar is carefully handcrafted, wrapped, insulated and delivered directly to your door, with a no-melt, no-break guarantee.

Try the 100's of 1000's of connoisseur chocolate creations or craft your own at www.chocolab.com.au

## q music: RAPH SOLO

London-based singer/songwriter Raph Solo is serving a large scoop of LIFE, his new album of retrospective ballads that he hopes will take listeners on a trip down memory lane. Recorded in London, the album features a mix of past hits including "Rich in My Heart" and brand-new songs including "Jasmine Petals," the album's first single, available now on Apple Music, Spotify and all digital retailers.

"'Jasmine Petals' is the perfect song to launch the album because it is about reflecting on what was, what is and deciding on what we want to be and what we need to let go of," explains Raph Solo.

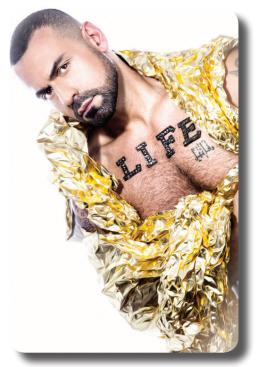
The contemporary classic pop song comprises of lush piano and strings over a haunting aggressive RnB groove. In it, Raph likens relationships to Jasmine flower buds falling off a tree and landing on the ground. "Trees release their buds after the loveliness decays and that's when real growth to the tree occurs. Such should be the case with people and love. We live and love and it's ok to lose sometimes," he continues. "What doesn't kill us makes us stronger."

Born to Lebanese/Chilean parents on the Gulf of Guinea in Nigeria, West Africa, Raph Solo knows about loving and losing. Before meeting his partner, he experienced seven major break ups in nine years. Many of his most popular songs reflect on his personal journey of finding love.

LIFE is his fifth studio album release. It follows FINALLY, AM I TOO MUCH?, THE ANONYMOUS ICON (featuring the singles "Star" and "Good Morning London") and WORD OF LOVE (featuring "Love Lives").

"With this one, I hope to inspire listeners to celebrate themselves and their lives. We are each given one life; one story. Write it. If you didn't like something that happened yesterday, try your best to not repeat it tomorrow."

Visuals and symbolism are a key element to Raph's creative work, especially in his films. The "Jasmine Petals" music video was filmed in a cemetery and in a French period mansion in North London.



In one scene, Raph is seen playing a violin, blindfolded. It is his way of questioning whether we really see what is happening in our lives or if we simply go through life blinded.

In another scene, Raph is seen taking a bite out of LIFE with the letters IF left on his plate. The letters are meant to symbolize opportunity. If he takes the chance and continues to eat the f from life, he'll be left with "I". Through letting go of the other letters, he has discovered himself.

Then there's the gun. It's a particularly powerful statement that Raph makes. A gun can end life. Choose to put the gun down and you choose life. Raph is saying that regardless of circumstance, the decision between life and death is ultimately our own.

Raph Solo is proud to live his life authentically as a gay man and artist. His hope is that everyone takes the time to appreciate our limited time on earth. "Pour a glass of wine and toast every breath you've made and have left," he advises.

Raph Solo's LIFE and "Jasmine Petals" are being released globally through Angel King Musique and are available on Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon as well all other online retail outlets. Its music video is available on Youtube.

For more information, visit www.raphsolo.com

## q serial: THE HAREM BOYS - EP 7

Continued from the previous month...

#### **Office Sex Rehearsal**

On one occasion Ray and Gio wanted to speak with Big Jake. After knocking on his office door he told them they could enter. The offices all had glass partitions, so Big Jake could see into all three divisions' office spaces and we could see into Big Jake's office. Although Big Jake was always on calls and did not want to be disturbed, he encouraged openness throughout the management offices and felt glass walls was the best option. Also it was a benefit to my staff when the boys walked into his office as they were naked and they did not always get a chance to see them. Though they tried not to look they could not help steal the occasional glances.

Ray and Gio wanted to speak with Big Jake to discuss ideas for their upcoming set; they wanted to put on and dance together. As this was my area of responsibility Big Jake invited me and the production manager into his office to join the discussion and hear the two boys' ideas. Though we have always seen the boys naked we liked those two boys as they were always fun and a little crazy and always wanted to try something new.

As both Ray and Gio presented their ideas over the sexy dances they wanted to do both boys became erect.

'Well... what do we have here?' said Big Jake.'We became a little excited,' laughed Gio shyly.'I can see that clearly,' Big Jake said. 'Why don't you boys come and sit on me? One on each thigh?'

Both of them moved over to Big Jake who sat behind his glass desk and sat on his thighs. His thighs were so big that that each boy sat comfortably on one of them. Their asses were pert and small. Certainly someone like Mike, who was bigger and stockier, could not sit on Big Jake's big thigh.

While sitting on Big Jake's thighs the boys talked about and the show, the dance moves and the costumes they had in mind. The production manager, James, took notes and made points though I could tell he began to find it hard to concentrate especially given that Big Jake had taken the boys erect penises into his hands and began to very gently stroke them. I quickly glanced behind me to my office area and the staff quickly looked away pretending they were working. I suppressed a smile. Both of the boys were enjoying their light masturbation session. Gio began to shift on Big Jake's big thigh. I could see his freshly-shaved balls were tightening.

'And then we thought we could end the dance set with a sex act,' said Ray. 'You mean the two of you have sex on stage?' asked James. 'Not sure what the logistics would be.' he said.

'Logistics?' asked Big Jake laughing. 'One of the boys puts his willy into the other one's bottom.' 'I meant stage logistics' James clarified.

'Would that be possible?' Ray asked now more excited than a moment ago.

'We have the licenses and it is a sex-type of show so I don't see why not?' said James.

'That's why we wanted it to be the closing set. Us having sex,' explained Ray.

'No. The last set should always be all of you together. Your sex show can be the penultimate set,' I explained.

Everyone nodded in agreement. Big Jake still had his hands on the boys' cocks. The boys had average-sized cocks but in Big Jake's big hands and each on his thick thighs they looked almost hidden.

'So what did you imagine doing exactly?' said Big Jake. 'Well... after a brief 69-session Gio would fuck me doggy-style on stage. It does not need to be...' 'Instead of explaining it to us,' said Big Jake 'why don't you show us?'



'Where? Here?' asked Ray with a smile.

'Here. Right on the desk,' said Big Jake. 'Call it a dress-rehearsal'. And throwing them a condom on the writing pad on his desk he said 'skip the 69 bit'.

Within moments, Ray was on all fours on the glass desk and Gio, after putting on the condom, was clambering over Ray. I always thought Gio was a bottom but Ray explained to me one day over drinks that Gio liked being top when the man was shorter and thinner than he was. And Ray being that smallest of the strippers fit that description.

By that point the other men in the office visibly stopped working and did not even bother to hide it. They stood against the glass partitions watching the show. A couple of them had even taken out their phones to film it. I thought Big Jake would get up and close the blinds but instead he reclined in his chair and lit his cigar determined to enjoy this like everyone else. By then Gio had inserted his cock into Ray and began thrusting away. At one point the stationary on Big Jake's desk got in the way but they continued. James reached over and took the writing-pad and pens from the desk.

'Are you going to take notes?' asked Big Jake which a laugh. We laughed feebly, more interested in sex than laughing with the boss, as the two boys moaned together. From where I was sitting I could see Ray's precum dripping onto the desk. When James leaned over, he could see Gio's big balls slapping against Ray's ass.

Gio's thrusting quickened in intensity and their moaning became louder. Not soon after Ray groaned and he came all over the desk. His cum spurting over the glass in long bursts. Right afterwards it was Gio's turn to come. Lifting his legs up as if he was getting into a downward dog position where we could all clearly see his smooth, little asshole, he moaned, shook and ejaculated still in Ray's ass. The guys in the offices clapped. Ray smiled shyly.. They stayed in that position for a moment, panting together and sharing one tender kiss, before Gio pulled out of Ray's ass. James handed Ray the tissues. Ray gingerly wiped his freshly-fucked ass.

'That was a great show... but during the show it's got to last longer than that boys!' said Big Jake. 'That was only seven minutes long boys.'

'How long do you need it then?' said Gio a little embarrassed that he didn't last longer.

'At least each centimetre of your dick to be counted as one minute.'

We all chuckled at that and then waited for the inevitable question from Big Jake.

'How big is your dick Ray?'

'Erm... it's...' he began a little shy.

'It's around 15cm, or just under that length' said James, who knew these things as he managed the costume designer who made the costumes for the boys.

'You know your stuff' said Big Jake to James, who beamed. 'And how big is Gio?' Big Jake asked.

'He's a little bigger, just under 17cm,' he said quickly.

'Not tiny. Not massive though either. More on the thin side,' said Big Jake evaluating his cock.

Gio seemed to blush at this. Either he was worried that his penis was small (a recent blog review by one gay blogger gave his penis a rating of 6.5/10 but his ass a rating of 8/10 and his hole a 9/10) or he was embarrassed that James knew so much about him, which was odd given he just had sex in front of all the administrative staff of Big Jake's businesses.

'There it is then,' continued Big Jake, putting down his cigar and getting up signaling that the meeting was over. 'The sex act must be between 14 minutes and 16 minutes then. The median point of your measurements.' The boys nodded. 'That means, boys, you better get practicing.'

By that evening everyone heard of Ray's and Gio's sex-act on Big Jake's desk. James could not wait to get back to the office to gossip with the others about it.

'But it didn't last long' said Maurice from costume design.

'Still it was hot to watch' said Phil who did lights and set design.

Of course someone filmed it and it ended up online. The footage was shaky but it garnered a lot of publicity for the shows.

And as agreed during the show Ray and Gio fucked for 15 minutes on stage, with a spotlight over them, as all the men in the audience watched and took photos. As they approached the big finale they overdid all the panting and moaning, but what really was impressive was how synchronised they were night after night, always coming at the same time and exciting the audience. I assume that they did have a lot of practice.

Read on next month for episode eight...

## q musical: MOULIN ROUGE

Gerry Ryan and Carmen Pavlovic on behalf of Global Creatures together with the Victorian Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula, are thrilled to announce that the critically acclaimed and lavish Australian production Moulin Rouge! The Musical, will open in Melbourne at The Regent Theatre in 2021.

Currently playing to packed houses at the AI Hirschfeld Theatre on Broadway where it opened on Thursday 25 July, Moulin Rouge! The Musical is based on the 2001 20th Century Fox Motion Picture by Baz Luhrmann.



Gerry Ryan and Carmen Pavlovic said "It was an honour for our Australian born company to premiere a new musical on Broadway and receive such a warm reception from critics and audiences alike. We're thrilled to bring Moulin Rouge! The Musical home to Melbourne, the heart of fashion, art and culture, in 2021."

"The show's artistic ethos of 'Deluxe Maximalism' is reflected in its opulent set, costumes, music and choreography making it a perfect match with the grandeur of the Regent Theatre. We're grateful to Premier Andrews, Minister Pakula and the Victorian Government for their support and determination to bring the show to Melbourne. Their vision for the city's cultural experiences sits at the heart of the show's artistic ambition and values. We feel certain that Melbourne and Moulin Rouge! the Musical will together make a memorable event for audiences and become a defining moment in the show's international life."

Minister Pakula said "Melbourne's thriving cultural scene and its major events calendar are renowned around the world, and securing huge productions like this is why we are so highly regarded. Moulin Rougel The Musical is going to be a major winner for Victoria when it lands in 2021 and it's fantastic that it will open in a rejuvenated Regent Theatre."

Directed by Alex Timbers (Tony Award®-nominated for Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson and Peter and the Starcatcher) Moulin Rouge! The Musical has a book by John Logan (Tony Award® for Red), choreography by Sonya Tayeh (Lucille Lortel Award and Obie Award for Kung Fu, and Emmy winner), and music supervision, orchestrations and arrangements by Justin Levine (Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson). The design team for Moulin Rouge! The Musical includes Tony Award® winner Derek McLane (sets), Tony Award® winner Catherine Zuber (costumes), two-time Tony Award® nominee Justin Townsend (lighting), Tony Award® winner Peter Hylenski (sound), Drama Desk Award winner David Brian Brown (wig and hair design) and Sarah Cimino (Make-up design). Casting is by Jim Carnahan and Stephen Kopel.

As in the film, Moulin Rouge! The Musical celebrates some of the greatest popular music of the last 50 years. The stage musical features many of the iconic songs from the movie and also includes recent hits released since the movie premiered 15 years ago.

The Moulin Rouge of Paris is a dazzling and spectacular universe, the symbol of the Parisian way of celebrating since 1889. Starting life as a popular cabaret and dance hall, the venue became an iconic music hall in the Roaring Twenties, and then a theatre where numerous famous French and international artistes stepped out into the limelight.

## q win: **ESSENTIAL BEAUTY**

#### Product of the Year Winner 2019!

More than 14,000 household consumers have voted for Skin Nutrient<sup>™</sup> Botanic Face Masks, as their preferred product in the face mask category.



The face masks offer a range of treatments designed to assist with every type of skin concern including breakouts and blemishes, acne scarring, purifying and detoxing.

Skin Nutrient<sup>™</sup> products are proudly made in Brisbane Australia, with locally sourced ingredients. Unlike other brands, our sheet masks are free from chemical nasty's and made with eucalyptus fibres.

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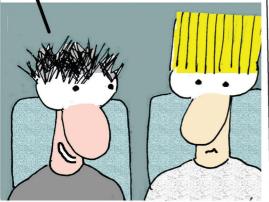
We have five Botanic Face Masks up for grabs this month. To enter send an email to getfree@qmagazine.com.au with *Botanic* in the subject line.

\* 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. 1, 13 Rae Street. Chadstone VIC 3184. 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.

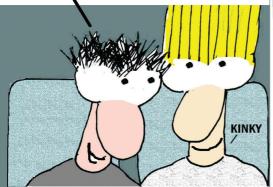
## <u>Gaylord Blade</u>

Meet me in the toilet and I will give you the blow job of your life!

Nice to meet you, I'm Larry, ...she's asleep and it'll be our little secret



How can I talk with your dick jammed deep down my throat till the day I die?



Well Mr.Whoever You Are ... isn't that your WIFE seated next to you?

I'm a cartoon celebrity. How can I be sure you won't blab to the tabloids?



Oh, alright! But only because I'm horny and have no standards at all











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