

The right choice!

Legal Wills Made Easy

It's as easy as:

- Order your Legal Wills Made Easy Will Kit online
- Follow the simple step-by-step instructions
- If you require legal assistance, email our legal team at: legalwills@greenmonts.com.au*

Visit www.legalwills.com.au to order your Will Kit today

*Advice in relation to the Wills in the Legal Wills Made Easy Will Kit is given by: greenmonts legal

Buy 1 Kit for you and your partner.



The Mens Salon

IPL LASER

SPRAY TAN

WAXING

FACIALS

MASSAGE LASH / BROW TINTING

HEAVENLY SOLUTIONS

P: 03 9510 3344

14 Williams Road, Prahran 3181 joe@heavenlysolutions.com.au





AUGUST 2017

Issue 142



visit**gay**Australia



comment:





Editorial / Sales & Marketing

Publisher & Editor

The international award-winning hit musical THE BODYGUARD will play at Melbourne's Regent Theatre from 24 August 2017.

Bodyquard the Musical to wow Melbourne

Based on the Warner Bros hit movie which starred Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner, THE BODYGUARD has been hailed as "London's Best Musical" by UKs Magic FM, and "The Hottest Ticket in Town" by The Sunday Mirror.

> MELBOURNE SEASON DETAILS Regent Theatre From 24 August

Performance Times: Tuesday 7pm, Wednesday/Thursday 7.30pm, Friday/ Saturday 8pm, Matinees Tuesday & Wednesday 1pm, Saturday & Sunday 2pm, Sunday 6pm (performance times vary weekly)

Tickets are on sale now from ticketmaster.com.au or 136 100



Contributing Writers Russo, Ben Nelson

Cover picture Cairns Tropical Pride - expect more like this

Photographic Contributions Jeff Busby (q comment), Franz Rodriguez (q escape)

ISSN 1449-499X PO Box 7479, St. Kilda Road, Melbourne Victoria 3004

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

Q Magazine is a free publication and can only be distributed through selected outlets. Views expressed in Q Magazine do not necessarily represent the opinions of the publisher/editor.

No responsibility is accepted by Q Magazine for the accuracy of advertisements and information within

All material forwarded to the magazine will be assumed intended for publication unless clearly labelled "Not for publication".

expressed written permission of the publisher is

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

q feature: CAIRNS TROPICAL PRIDE

A secluded tropical beach surrounded by World Heritage Rainforest comes alive with the party of the year on Saturday October 7, Queer Spring Break at Turtle Cove Beach Resort, part of the celebration of Cairns Tropical Pride. With top local DJs poolside and a private clothing-optional beach, the day also hosts the world premiere performance of The Merqueens in Sync or Swim, 'unsynchronised swimming at its very best'. A little bit of LGBT+ heaven on earth - a secluded tropical location but with all the amenity of a world class LGBT+ resort. Cairns Tropical Pride are running coaches to the event which is half an hours drive from Cairns.

Cairns is perfect in October - glorious spring days, generally 23 - 30 degrees, too early for stingers or cyclones and the humidity hasn't kicked in yet. It's the ideal time to visit the reef and rainforest, though visitors are warned to be cautious of the local wildlife. Do not enter water where crocodiles may be present and do not get between a tropical drag queen and her drink.



Cairns Tropical Pride runs from September 30 (same night as the Sir Elton John concert in Cairns) until Pride Fair Day on Sunday October 8. The 11th Annual Pride Fair Day will be held in the Tanks Arts Centre - a beautiful heritage listed arts precinct at the foot of a towering rainforest-covered mountain and includes the Wild Barra Fashion Show - wonderful indigenous design showcased by a rainbow constellation of models and dancers, The Dog Show in the rainforest amphitheatre, Wedding Expo, Marriage Equality Forum, Fierce MegaDrag Show, the Tropical Gaze Art Exhibition, cafes, stalls, singers, bands and so much more. Last year over 1000 people visited the art exhibition alone on Pride Fair Day so this years event promises to be the biggest gathering ever of the LGBT+ community in North Queensland.



In 2016 Cairns Regional Council became the first regional council in the country to install a Rainbow Crossing. On one of the cities most prominent corners, the Esplanade crossing to the Cairns Lagoon, it was probably the most photographed streetscape in the country for a few days last year and Cairns Regional Council will be doing the same in 2017 to show their support for diversity and inclusion in the community.

Cairns Tropical Pride includes film events - John Water's Polyester starring Divine will be shown as the maker intended in magnificent Odorama with the last original Scratch 'n Sniff cards in the world and followed by a Divine Dragfest, while Fair Day will see a screening of Jenny's Wedding starring Katherine Heigl.

The week leading up to the big Pride weekend includes a musical dinner show featuring an Australian LGBT+ sporting icon, barefoot bowls, a trivia night and other community events before the big weekend kicks off with LGBT+ visitors flooding into town from October 6 for the Proud Women's Dance and Tropical Gaze Art Exhibition Launch party on October 6, the Gay History Walk and Queer Spring Break on October 7 and Pride Fair Day on October 8.

For more details of this celebration of LGBT+ life in Cairns and the Great Barrier reef visit www.cairnstropicalpride.com





30 SEPT- 8 OCT 2017

★FAIR DAY ★QUEER SPRING BREAK★ ART EXHIBITIONS









CAIRNS TROPICAL PRIDE

g travel: with BARRIE MAHONEY

'Twitters from the Atlantic'

Barrie Mahoney was a head teacher and school inspector in the UK, as well as a reporter in Spain, before moving to the Canary Islands to launch and edit a new English language newspaper. He enjoys life in the sun as a columnist and author, and continues to write a series of popular novels and books for expats.



"Top 20 Caves to Rent in the Canary Islands" screams one advertisement, followed by "Hundreds of Cave Homes to Buy in the Canary Islands" shouts another. Well, I guess it all makes good copy, but is living in a cave just another symptom of 'reverse one-upmanship', and something to brag about to colleagues at work? "Oh, I'm just off to the cave for the weekend."

During the Spanish conquest of the Canary Islands, the native aborigines, the Guanches, were considered to be living at a primitive level by European standards. The Guanches wore animal skins for clothing, made stone tools for hunting and lived in caves. Well, if that's not primitive, what is? It is strange how with the passage of time, reverting back to cave dwelling is seen as 'cool' (in more ways than one) and is now a highly desirable form of accommodation for some.

A few weeks ago, we visited a friend whom we have known for many years. He bought a group of caves in the Canary Islands before it became fashionable and at a knock down price too. He and his

family were not living in exactly slum-like conditions, since our friend's caves were well equipped with all modern conveniences. There is running water and mains electricity, although many cave dwellers prefer to rely upon their own solar installations, since it gives them a feeling of self-sufficiency. Beautifully designed bedrooms, fitted kitchen, sauna and games room would put most homes to shame, with the added benefits of fast Internet connection and cable television. Our friend's home included a patio and delightful, well-stocked garden crammed full with unusual and native plants.

There are many such cave homes throughout the Canary Islands, with the most villages made up of cave homes located in Gran Canaria, where the excavation of cave homes into the mountain side remains a feature of the natural landscape. One of the most appealing features of cave homes is that it is unlikely that air-conditioning in summer and heating in winter are needed, since they remain at a steady temperature throughout the year. How's that for energy efficiency?

Visitors to the Aguimes municipality in Gran Canaria will also find some of the best preserved cave dwellings on the island in the Guayadeque ravine. There are several cave restaurants and even a cave church that is open to visitors, which may help visitors to appreciate the sense of coolness and atmosphere of cave dwellings.

If we now hop over to another of the Canary Islands, Lanzarote, visitors will discover a cave home in the middle of a remote lava field. This was the dream home of the renowned artist, César Manrique who utilised the simple idea of living in five volcanic chambers. This is not an ordinary home, but one lovingly created by a man who had the vision to develop Lanzarote's unique volcanic landscape into an ecologically friendly dwelling. It is thanks to Manrique that regulations were brought into being to restrict tourism development on the island with any structure taller than a palm tree forbidden.

Homes are not the only use for caves in Lanzarote, with a cafe built into a rock on the island's north coast and a theatre, swimming pool and nightclub built into another cave complex, which was hugely admired by Manrique as the world's most beautiful cave adaption - praise indeed.

Of course, as time goes on, modern adaptions of original cave homes distort our vision of the lives and times of these early people. As a reminder, visitors to Gran Canaria may wish to visit one of the most important archaeological sites in the Canary Islands, the Cueva Pintada (the Painted Cave), which interprets life at the time of the Guanches. The original purpose of the cave is unknown, but it is decorated with red, black and white painted geometrical shapes and may have been used as a dwelling, a scared place or for funeral rites. This spectacular site is well worth a visit.

So, before you rush off to book your modern cave home experience with Airbnb, and yes, I have no doubt that a version of a cave home will be available on there too, do give some thought to these ancient people and the lives that the Guanches lived before the invasion by their Spanish conquerors and the genocide that was to follow. Personally, I'd rather book a nice hotel.

If you enjoyed this article, take a look at Barrie's websites: http://barriemahoney.com and http://thecanaryislander.com or read his latest book, 'Footprints in the Sand' (ISBN: 9780995602717). Available in paperback, as well as Kindle editions.

WE CAN HOLD A LIFE IN OUR HANDS BUT WE CAN'T ASK FOR OUR PARTNER'S HAND

We're doing our jobs. Tell our politicians to do theirs at equalitycampaign.org.au

MARRIAGE EQUALITY. IT'S ONLY FAIR.



Sally, Registered Nurse

q celebration: **COMING BACK OUT BALL**

A spectacular social event celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) elders.

A spectacular social event celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) elders. Hosted by the much-loved Australian arts icon Robyn Archer, The Coming Back Out Ball will be presented at the Melbourne Town Hall as a premiere event of the 2017 Victorian Seniors Festival in association with the 3rd National LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Conference.

Created and produced by All The Queens Men, this night-of-nights will blending showbiz bells and whistles, community celebration, heartfelt story telling, dinner and dancing.

This spectacular evening will be free for LGBTI elders 65 + (booking essential); each guest will receive three course dinner and drinks, with entertainment by leading LGBTI performers including Robyn Archer, Carlotta, Deborah Cheetham, Toni Lalich, Gerry Connolly. Lois Weaver supported by an orchestra and conductor Kathleen McGuire.

This premiere event has been augmented with social transformation projects including LGBTI Elders Dance Club and New Moves High Tea. LGBTI Elders Dance Club is held every month throughout 2017 and 2018 at the Fitzroy Town Hall.

The long-term vision is that The Coming Back Out Ball becomes an adored regular event on Melbourne's social calendar — understood for its inclusivity and cultural significance.

The aim is to empower LGBTI elders to assert their social agency, value and worth within a mainstream and ageist paradiam.

The Coming Back Out Ball is inspired by pioneering research revealing that some LGBTI elders conceal their sexual orientation or gender identity when they access aged care services — because they believe they are not safe.

With so much change over the course of their lifetime, some LGBTI elders have lived through a period when being LGBTI could result in imprisonment, enforced medical cures, loss of employment and rejection by family and friends.

For this generation, many who fought for LGBTI equality, impending old age may mean going back into the closet, or the risk of being deprived companionship or quality care when they need it most.

There is hope for the older LGTBI community — the Victorian Government has expunged gay convictions and apologised to older gay men for the treatment they received; aged care service providers are embracing strategies to become more LGBTI inclusive; and Victoria will soon create Australia's first LGBTI Pride Centre.



The Coming Back Out Ball augments research and social services — it's a public celebration and declaration to LGBTI elders of their worth and value, acknowledging their rich lived experiences.

The Coming Back Out Ball
Saturday, 7 October 2017 - 6pm
Melbourne Town Hall
90 – 130 Swanston Street, Melbourne
Full: \$100 / Senior Concession: \$50 / LGBTI elders 65+: FREE comingbackoutball.com



q cuisine: with ALESSANDRO RUSSO

For the recipe of the orecchiette with cod and artichokes:

- Cut the artichokes, slices them finely, season with oil and lemon and let them marinate for 5-6
- Grate half onion into slices in a little oil, then combine cod cakes and continue on the flame for 2-3 minutes.
- Bring a salted saucepan, boil the ears for 6-7 ', boil them in the pan with sausage, let them taste less than 1', filling with a handful of parsley parsley.

Distribute the ears in the dishes, combine the artichokes and serve immediately.







QUALITY BROADCASTING FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY













q theatre: CALENDAR GIRLS

Prince Moo Productions is delighted to announce an exclusive Melbourne season of the hit play CALENDAR GIRLS. Adapted by Tim Firth from his smash hit film of the same name, CALENDAR GIRLS is based on an inspiring true story that is both poignant and hilarious. A group of extraordinary women, members of a very ordinary Yorkshire Women's Institute, spark a global phenomenon by persuading one another to pose au natural for a charity calendar with a difference. As interest snowballs, the CALENDAR GIRLS find themselves revealing more than they'd ever planned. This heartwarming, comedic tale tells the true story of friendship, hope and determination.

When Annie's husband John dies of leukaemia, she and best friend Chris agree to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund in order to purchase a new couch in the local hospital waiting room where they spent so many uncomfortable hours. They manage to persuade fellow WI members to pose discreetly nude with them for an "alternative" calendar, with a little help from a hospital porter and a local amateur photographer.

The news of the women's charitable venture spreads like wildfire, and hordes of media soon descend on the small village of Knapeley in the Yorkshire Dales. The calendar is a success, but Chris and Annie's friendship is put to the test under the strain of their new-found fame.

One of the best-selling plays in British theatre history, CALENDAR GIRLS opened at the Chichester Festival Theatre in 2008 and hit London's West End in 2009. It has toured extensively throughout Britain, been performed widely in North America and many other countries across the globe.

Director Peter J Snee stated, "The opportunity to direct this play and to help raise both; the profile of Leukaemia and money for Leukaemia support, was



too good to miss. Calendar Girls is a glorious celebration of friendship, women and the power of hope. I am very excited to bring this production to Melbourne with this exception cast of performers, that will make you laugh, make you cry and it will leave you feeling better about the world than when you entered the theatre."

The predominantly female cast will bring to life the wonderful story of friendship and empowerment, showing what can be achieved when people work together for something they believe passionately in. The Melbourne cast will feature Tottie Goldsmith as Celia, Lulu McClatchy as Ruth, Kate Gorman as Cora, Jenny Seedsman as Chris, Abi Richardson as Annie, Francesca Waters as Jessie, Fiona Stewart as Brenda/ Mrs Cravenshire, Lise Rodgers as Marie, John Voce as John, Syd Brisbane as Rod, Johnathan Peck as Lawrence, Vincent Hooper as Liam and Jennifer Sarah Dean as Elaine. CALENDAR GIRLS will be directed by Peter J. Snee, designed by John Kerr with a lighting design by Jason Bovaird.

27th September - 7th October 2017 ATHENAEUM THEATRE 188 COLLINS ST, MELBOURNE

7.30pm: Tuesday - Saturday | 2:30pm: Saturday Matinee + extra Matinee 2:30pm Thursday 5th October Ticket prices: From \$69 to \$99 Bookings: www.ticketek.com.au or 03 9650 1500

BRAVO!

CRUISE OF THE PERFORMING ARTS 2017



31ST OCTOBER - 7TH NOVEMBER, 2017

INTERNATIONAL SUPERSTAR

José Carreras

CONDUCTED BY MO. DAVID GIMÉNEZ

RAY MARTIN

DAVID HOBSON · MARINA PRIOR

TARYN FIEBIG · JUD ARTHUR · SILVIE PALADINO

JONATHON WELCH · EMMA PASK · JOSEPH AND JAMES TAWADROS

JULIE LEA GOODWIN · MARTIN BUCKINGHAM · TANIA FERRIS · CHRISTOPHER HILLIER

GUY NOBLE · THE METROPOLITAN ORCHESTRA · ANDREW MERCADO

PLUS MANY MORE

FOR ENQUIRIES CALL: 1300 247 371 WWW.CHOOSEYOURCRUISE.COM.AU









g arts centre: THREE MONKS

China National Theatre for Children will present Three Monks at Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio. Adapted from an ancient Chinese legend, this beautiful, wordless production integrates traditional Chinese opera, martial arts and classic elements of Chinese culture in an exploration of philosophy of unity, cooperation and the harmony between man and nature.

On top of the mountain, in a small temple, live an old monk master and his three students. They live together in peace, but things haven't always been so easy. As each of the monks reflect on how they came together, they will take the audience on a heart-warming journey of laughter, anger and everything in between.

Arts Centre Melbourne collaborated with China National Theatre for Children (CNTC) in 2008 and 2009 which resulted in the presentation of The Dragon Child in the Playhouse in October 2009. In August 2016, Arts Centre Melbourne Chief Executive Officer Claire Spencer and members of the programming team were invited and attended the Beijing Children's Festival which is presented by the China National Theatre for Children.



Founded in 1956 and based in Beijing, China National Theatre for Children is the only national children's art troupe directly subordinated to the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China. In the past 60 years, China National Theatre for Children has produced and staged a great number of exquisite works, from ancient to modern, in China and abroad.

China National Theatre for Children says of the production and the upcoming Melbourne season, "We created this show in 2014 and since then it has travelled to 14 countries and been warmly received by audiences. This show presents the spirit of Chinese traditional culture and emphasises to children the meaning and importance of cooperation- a universal theme that has resonated around the world. This will be the first time the show has been presented in Australia and we are thrilled to be bringing this production to Arts Centre Melbourne"

Three Monks will be presented at Arts Centre Melbourne as part of the Families and Arts Learning programs. Arts Centre Melbourne's year-round Families Program was launched in August 2009 and



has grown in reputation to become a highly respected program both in Melbourne and nationally. Featuring free events, intimate and large-scale theatre from some of the world's most respected companies and a diverse range of interactive workshops, the program is robust and growing in size, scale and scope.

Guaranteed to take young people and their families on a journey that will stretch their imagination, this is an incredible performance opportunity not to be missed.

This program is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia China Council.

Arts Centre Melbourne presents China National Theatre for Children's Three Monks
Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio Saturday September 2 2017
11am and 5pm Recommended for ages 4 +
artscentremelbourne.com.au or 1300 182 183

For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne visit artscentremelbourne.com.au or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of Arts Centre Melbourne on Facebook or follow @artscentremelb on Twitter or @artscentremelbourne on Instagram.

q hamer hall: THE UNBELIEVABLES

From the producers of best-selling magic show The Illusionists and the much loved Circus 1903
A brand new theatrical extravaganza, The Unbelievables, will fill Arts Centre Melbourne's Hamer Hall with the world's greatest circus, magic and acrobatic performers this summer.

Tickets for the Melbourne season will go on sale on Wednesday August 9 2017. Register for pre-sale by 5pm Thursday 4 August by visiting artscentremelbourne.com.au/theunbelievables.

From the acclaimed producers of The Illusionists, Circus 1903 and Le Noir, The Unbelievables is a fast-paced entertainment spectacle jam-packed with death-defying acrobats and aerial acts, mind-blowing illusions, comedy, and award-winning ballroom dance, all backed by an incredible six-piece swing orchestra.

Hosted by renowned New York stand-up Harrison Greenbaum, the family friendly show promises a dazzling night of laughs, gasps and gravity-defying grace.

Creative and Executive Producer Simon Painter says "The Unbelievables takes what we have done with The Illusionists to a whole new level. We've travelled the globe in search of the very best entertainers from a variety of disciplines and genres. This summer, prepare to be astonished by the most talented performers on earth".

Arts Centre Melbourne Executive Director of Performing Arts Melanie Smith says, "The upcoming summer season of The Unbelievables will transform Hamer Hall into a wonderland of heart stopping, extraordinary one of a kind acts. Amazing entertainment for everyone, this is a chance to experience a whole new side of Hamer Hall as it's turned on its head by an incredible array of artists."

The Unbelievables will Premiere at the Sydney Opera House, Concert Hall from December 19-29 2017 before transferring to Arts Centre Melbourne. Be one of the first to see this strictly limited season before it travels around the globe.



Arts Centre Melbourne in association with The Works Entertainment present The Unbelievables
Arts Centre Melbourne, Hamer Hall
January 3- 13 2018
artscentremelbourne.com.au.or 1300 182 183

For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne visit artscentremelbourne.com.au or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of Arts Centre Melbourne on Facebook or follow @artscentremelb on Twitter or @artscentremelbourne on Instagram.

q escape: PALM SPRINGS STEAMY SUMMER GETAWAY

By Ben Nelson

Looking for a place to get steamy this winter? Consider Palm Springs.

Since the 1920s, Palm Springs has been the desert playground for gay men. 50s-era stars like Rock Hudson and Tab Hunter made the town their second home because it allowed them to escape the hustle and bustle of Hollywood and enjoy sexual freedom without fear of being outed. It is that same sexual freedom that continues to be a popular draw for gay travelers today.

It used to be that things cooled off in the Springs during the hot summer months. Not anymore. "We're keeping the party going through the off-season," says Jon Jackson, the owner of INNdulge, one of the area's leading gay resorts. He and his partner purchased the hotel with its epic mountain views six years ago. Since then, they have made significant improvements to the property, including completely refurnishing the entire interior.

"There's so much to do here. Tons of bars, restaurants, and nightclubs. There are also golf courses, spas, and of course, the springs!"

Palm Springs is a hiker's paradise with numerous hidden trails along the Coachella Valley. The shopping cannot be beat, with major retailers in Downtown Palm Springs and on El Paseo Drive in Palm Desert.

Days in Palm Springs are sultry while nights are balmy. To help beat the heat, Jackson chills the magnificent kidney-shaped pool at INNdulge during the hot summer months.

The pool is the centerpiece of his hotel's impressive courtyard that features immaculately landscaped lawns and walkways with large modern figure sculptures by artist Mavis McClure.

"Our spontaneous midnight pool parties attract lots of sexy men from all over town," he says. "It probably helps that next to the pool is a 24-hour, 12-man keyhole whirlpool spa."

Also, the fact that INNdulge is a clothing optional resort probably helps lure them in, too.

INNdulge is offering rooms for only \$99. The deal is valid through September 15, Sunday - Thursday, in the hotel's non-pool Superior rooms. Discounts on poolside rooms and weekend stays are also available.

For bookings and further information visit http://inndulge.com





q win: THE BEST MEN'S SKINCARE

NATIVE MAN

Ridiculously simple, epic skincare for every man from Native Man!

Native Man is an all natural, organic and accessible skin-and-shave care line formulated expressly for the unique physiology of men.

With sensible prices and sensational quality, Native Man delivers ridiculously simple, epic skin care for every man (including but not limited to lumberjacks, old school gents, pretty boys, surfer dudes, average Joes and gramps).

Chances are, at the very least, you already wash and shave your face. Native Man's ultra-convenient pair was formulated as special 2-in-1 products so you can simply enhance these two steps that are already part of your daily ritual.

That's right—only two products will aid in your skin cleansing, shaving and moisturizing, leaving you beautiful in the burliest way.

For more information, go to www.nativeman.com.au or www.facebook.com/nativemanskincare



We have four amazing packs up for grabs, email getfree@qmagazine.com.au with Native Man 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. 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.



q music: MUSIC BEAR TONY BANKS

Music Bear Tony Banks' has releasing "Static," the first single from his upcoming album, Yes, Homo. The track can be summarized as funky hip-hop with a message. "In relationships you must have the wisdom to know when enough is enough," explains the artist who describes himself as a gay, black man with the fun of Missy Elliot, the swag of LL Cool J and the dance moves of Heavy D. "You gotta have the courage to make change and the strength to stand up on your own two feet and press forward. Life is too short to allow someone else's self-destruction to bring you down." Along with the track, Music Bear Tony Banks is releasing a music video for "Static" that stars Music Bear and Catalin Constantine as his boyfriend and features animation by wikistylista.

"Who has time to watch someone they love not love themselves," wonders Music Bear Tony Banks from his Brooklyn home. He knows a thing or two about the difficulties of breaking-up. He and his ex are in the midst of divorce, although their separation is not due to the level of destruction Music



Bear raps about in "Static." "Our relationship may have grown stale and staticky, to the point where we had to go our own ways, but we remain friends and that's important," he says. "We still support and want the best for one another."

Not all of the songs Music Bear writes are about his life. "I'm often inspired by people around me, and now and then, I'll use their lives as subjects for songs. For me, the power of music is about writing something I know someone out there needs to hear or feel me say."

Still, he tries to stay true to who he is as a man and an artist. You'll rarely, if ever, hear Music Bear Tony Banks rhyming about "Popping Bottles" (he barely drinks) or "Fighting Bitches" (not his style). In his upcoming album, "Yes Homo," he tackles issues like love, lust, partying, the state of hip-hop and police brutality. It's meant to be a full depiction of what it means to be a black, gay, male, hip-hop artist in 2017.

"Static is one of the first tracks where I looked at things from beyond a sex or love angle and got a little more into the dirt and nitty gritty," he explains. "Cause at the end of the day, we can't ignore that when Cupid strikes, he leaves an arrow in our heart that can hurt."

Music Bear Tony Banks was born in Brooklyn in the early 80's. He grew up during the golden era of hip-hop. Early on in his musical journey, he wanted to be singer. He sang in church and wrote R&B songs and poetry. As he matured, he considered a career behind the scenes but life took its course and he found himself back in hip-hop, as an artist.

He believes hip-hop is love. It's soulful, empowering, fun, beautiful and caring. The music industry, however, is another monster all together. "The industry turns hip-hop into a misogynistic, homophobic creature that sells its soul for the promise of money, cars and hoes," he says. "It then turns the people in it into that same image. Remember, hate is a learned behavior. No one is born homophobic but when hip-hop spreads that message to millions of people, for decades, it catches on and it's hard to break away from."

The LGBT community is not much better, he contends. "As a black, gay man of size, I sometimes feel ostracized from my gay brothers and sisters. I used to think that if I were a different type of gay, a more stereotypical skinny boy and fancy dresser, I would have it easier in the community."

"But I've come to learn that being different isn't always a bad thing," says Music Bear Tony Banks. "What I hope people who listen to my music and watch my videos take from me as an artist is: Don't be afraid. Embrace something different every once in a while. Break from monotony. Cut the static. You might just enjoy it! In fact, I know you will."

Music Bear Tony Banks' new single, "Static," is available at www.musicbearonline.com.

Follow him on: Facebook @ MusicBearTonyBanks Instagram @ musicbeartonyb Twitter: @musicbeartonyb

q scene: OUT & ABOUT

Bar Below Saturday Nights from 9pm to 1am Newmarket Hotel 34 Inkerman Street, St. Kilda.













Dentists for our community













Gaylord Blade by Kichi

Okay, I'll try Breath Control if you like, but it's a little scary ..



it mates a primal instinct to kill with an eroticized death wish ...



.. a potentialy deadly cocktail



Would you SHUT-UP and squeeze! This "corpse" is about to shoot!





Your connection to LGBT-welcoming travel businesses worldwide.



IGLTA.org



▲ DELTA







IGLTA Platinum Partners



www.pridetv.com.au

a video entertainment destination