

APRIL 2007



Q MAGAZINE

Birthday Issue Features:

Q Business with the Heavenly Empire,
Introducing Q Hair and Q Lifestyle,
Q Review, Q Gardening, Q News,
Q Community with All So Fabulous,
Q People with Rob Mascara,
and much more.

*Welcome to the 3rd Birthday Issue of your Q Magazine.
Thanks to everyone for your valued support.
Q Magazine - Made Locally! Enjoyed Nationally!*

A photograph of two men sitting at a table in a cafe. The man on the left is wearing a light blue shirt and a striped tie, looking towards the other man. The man on the right is wearing a dark shirt and has a goatee, looking back at him. They are both holding coffee cups. In the background, other people are seated at tables, and the cafe interior is visible.

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napwa

q comment: BIRTHDAY TIME

Where do I start? So many people have made it possible for your Q Magazine to reach such a milestone in publishing. I had no idea in February 2004 when Tom asked me to be a part of this project, just how big it would end up being nor that I would end up its sole proprietor. Having said that, I can not start to tell you how very honoured I am to be able to bring it to you on a monthly basis. We have changed the design several times over that time, added writers, increased its distribution, increased its size, and much more - to end up with what I believe to be, a publication of which everyone associated with it can be truly proud.

I really want to publicly thank, from the bottom of my heart, the amazing team of writers. Without these guys and girls, I would not have a publication. They are each extremely passionate about their area of expertise, and bring to each issue the colour and movement necessary to produce the national success story it has become.

When one looks at free media in general, the one factor that is vitally important is advertising. Publications have come and gone, but the reason Q Magazine is still in your favourite venues and on your coffee tables today is due to the constant support I receive from my advertisers. Scott Walsh, Dr. Paul Spano, Stephen Mattsson and CJ Anderson have been there from the beginning and continue to support me on a monthly basis. In addition, I would like to thank all of the wonderful businesses that support my publication on an ongoing basis - from the smallest to the largest advertisements. Regardless of the size of your support, you each contribute to the overall success and its continuation in the GLBTI market place. A special mention though to Brian Frewin, Brian Kiesey, and Mitch Daly for their support [both emotional and financial] and advice - love you guys - I couldn't have taken on Q Magazine without you.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all the publicists, record companies and promotions companies for your unbelievable support by keeping me in the loop with what is happening around this great country of ours - and prizes. And, most importantly to YOU - my valued readers - couldn't do it without your support. I look forward to many more years of Q Magazine.



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Josh Pyke - from Liberation Music.



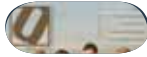
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q business: THE HEAVENLY EMPIRE



No other business people operate the number of places on our gay strip in Melbourne as Joe and Brian - owners of Heavenly Solutions, Heaven's Door and Ten PLUS. Each month I will be highlighting business people who do make a difference in our community - starting with these guys - to give you a little insite into the why, how and who of the Gay Melbourne Scene. These will include gay owned and operated businesses, gay friendly ones, both north and south of the river.

Brian:

Please give me a brief history of where you were born, worked, lived up til now.

Well I was born so long ago that I really can't remember all that well. But it was somewhat north of Sydney, about an hour and a bit by steamtrain, up the Hawkesbury River, near the sea, central coast NSW.

Lived (or survived) there until I left school and headed to the bright (rainbow) lights of Sydney - for a career of course. Spent many years building my way up in the big corporate world as a high flying bean counter/economist/commercial lawyer etc etc. Moved to Melbourne mid 80's (no not me, 1980's!) to join the HQ of a multinational. Got fed up with the corporate world, went back to Sydney for a few years and started my own consultancy business - more money/less politics. Then Melbourne beckoned again and I moved back here with Joe in the mid 1990's. I guess that's when the "heavenly empire" (your description, not mine) was born.

Kept up my prosperous consultancy business whilst Joe and I built Ten Plus and Heavenly Solutions.

Joe:

Please give me a brief history of where you were born, worked, lived up til now.

I was born in New Jersey, USA. Depending on who you believe, I grew up there in the 70's or the 80's....I lived there until I was 14 years old when the family moved to Sydney. I started work as a trolley boy at Franklins before moving into hair dressing. I moved to Melbourne 11 years ago to start the Heavenly Empire.

Brian:

How did you and Joe end up in business together?

I guess we looked to our future at that time as a couple in a very long standing relationship, and concluded that the (Australian) government (of any persuasion) was not going to keep us in the manner to which we had become accustomed. So we set about our own "retirement plan". Melbourne was the sensible place to make it happen, even though we had spent most of our lives in Sydney.

Joe:

Did you ever dream you would own so many businesses and such a diverse collection as a beauty place, niteclub and sopv? Which is your favourite?

No - every business evolved in its own way. We started with the sopv, which is what drew us to Melbourne in the first place. From there, I was offered a chance to get into the beauty business which grew Heavenly Solutions to what it is 11 years on. We had the opportunity to take over 151 and get into the cafe business, which got us interested in the bar 2 doors up - resulting in Heaven's Door. We're really proud of all the businesses, but my heart is in the Salon, which is where I spend the bulk of my working time (during daylight).

Brian:

What are some of the challenges facing you as a Gay businessman?

Keeping on top of and ahead of what the punters expect. The "gay" market is more difficult than the broader market. No I don't mean "fickle", which is how some describe it, but I do think we, as a community, expect a lot more than the broader community in terms of standards and service. I hope Joe and I continue to rise to that challenge. I guess we must be doing something right as we are still here and growing!

What do you see the future of the Commercial Road precinct to be?

In a word, "heavenly!!"

Joe:

One of your other passions is drag. How do you think the drag scene is in Melbourne today?

Let's get something straight - my passion is dancing and being on stage - I just happen to share the spotlight with Drag Queens! I've been working in the drag scene for over 10 years, and during that time have seen some great people come, and go. And as bitchy as it may appear, I think we all have a lot of respect for each other, and what we do. People think it's easy 'just to get up there', but there's blood, sweat and tears behind the sequins. With some new and energetic performers the drag scene is as alive as ever -

as we've learned by adding drag to Heaven's Door on Fridays and Saturdays.

Brian:

Any future plans we should know about concerning your "empire"?

Well all 3 businesses are going great and we have enough to handle for now. Heaven's Door is, however, our main focus for the immediate future as it continues to evolve - so stay tuned. But we always keep our eyes and ears open, and there are a few other heavenly ideas waiting for the right opportunities. Pike is also looking at dipping his toe into the private enterprise pool, so he may be the instigator of the next Heavenly venture.

Joe:

Nothing solid on the horizon, but I did see a funky little underwear range in Queensland I'm interested in...after all, I do get to see a lot of jocks in my day job...and some boys do need help!

And finally...anything else either of you wish to add?

Brian:

It is a tough road building any business of your own, particularly from scratch. But, at the end of the day, to be gay and have built your own successful (gay) business is extremely

rewarding. You can be totally yourself in your own community and answer to no-one but yourself - we would do it again in a flash! Being masters (or mistresses) of your own destiny is not for the faint hearted - but certainly worth a shot if you're game. So if you want to have a go, please do, that's what makes the community grow.

Joe:

Just get out there and enjoy what's on offer. We are a lucky country, and have the freedom to do what we like when we like - so live it up!

Brian:

In conclusion, I would like to say thanks. We hope we can keep on giving our patrons what they want and do sincerely thank all of them who have given us their custom and support for now almost 15 years, across all of our "empire". We wouldn't be here without them.



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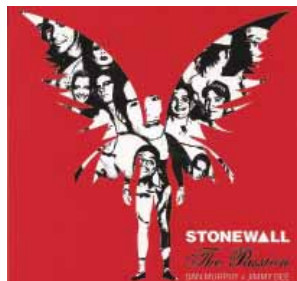
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q review: CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES



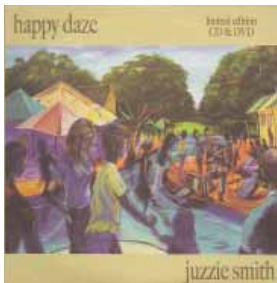
Stonewall

Celebrating Sydney's Stonewall nightclub's 10th birthday in July is the new release "The Passion" album - featuring DJs Dan Murphy and Jimmy Dee. 28 tracks over 2 CDs - in stores now through Central Station Records.



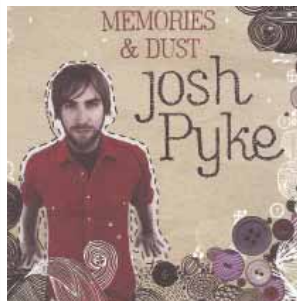
Iain Archer

Award-winning songwriter, Iain Archer presents a magnificent solo album "Magnetic North" - out now through Liberation. Each track is individual, with brilliant guitar work and a complimentary orchestration - yet the album flows like the rolling of a river - superb in every aspect.



juzzie smith

A "roots" performer in the true sense of the word, Juzzie Smith has created an underground sensation in the Blues and Roots scene. With a sound and style that will uplift and mesmerize you from the first note, and a live show that will literally blow you away. See both on this limited edition CD/DVD double album. Go to juzziesmith.com for further information or pick up a copy in all good record stores.



Josh Pyke

Our cover boy has a new fabulous album and a national tour. The CD features 12 tracks done in the style you have come to expect from this amazing vocalist. Make sure you see him when he is in your city. In the meantime, pick up his album in all good record stores through Liberation Music.



One Love

Out now through SonyBMG is the latest instalment from One Love. A Massive 3 CD pack with more music than you know how to poke a stick at. Disc One is MIDNIGHT - mixed by Denis the Menace and Jerry Roper, Disc Two is 3AM - by Dirty South, and finally, Disc Three is entitled BACK ROOM (now don't we all love one of them) - mixed superbly by Tommie Sunshine. You won't find a better addition for your cd collection. Be warned though, there is moderate course language and/or themes - like you would expect, of course.

13 Apr	Friday	Hyde Park Hotel	Perth
14 Apr	Saturday	Fly by Night	Fremantle
19 Apr	Thursday	ANU Bar	Canberra
20 Apr	Friday	Metro	Sydney
21 Apr	Saturday	Yallah Woolshed	Yallah
26 Apr	Thursday	Republic Bar	Hobart
27 Apr	Friday	Republic Bar	Hobart
28 Apr	Saturday	James Hotel	Launceston
3 May	Thursday	Coolangatta Hotel	Coolangatta
4 May	Friday	Sands Tavern	Maroochydore
5 May	Saturday	The Tivoli	Brisbane
9 May	Wednesday	Three Legged Dog	Albury
10 May	Thursday	Ruby's Lounge	Belgrave
11 May	Friday	Hi Fi Bar	Melbourne
12 May	Saturday	The Governor Hindmarsh	Adelaide

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headlines
for
APRIL

Fiona Horne talks about everything witchy, the launch of GQ World - global awareness, and generationq in partnership with seek.com.au launches queer seek.

q people: with ROB MASCARA

I ran into Rob at the opening of Harp on the Willow just recently and, after asking what he was doing and him telling me he had left Channel 10, I asked if he would do an interview with me - he thankfully agreed.

I started by asking a little about his past.

I was born Robert Mascara and I am of Italian heritage, Melbourne born and bred. I completed my HSC in October 1989 and started work at Channel 9 in December of that year where I worked on 'Carols by Candlelight' then later with 'Wide World of Sports', both as a production assistant.

In late January 1990, I commenced employment with Channel 10 in a permanent/casual position on 'Neighbours' doing staging and also as an assistant Floor Manager (and very keen to be trained up!).

Of course, most people would know you by another name. What is that and how did that come about?

The name 'Belvedere' came about when Bert joined the Ten Network in 1992 hosting 'The Morning Show' which later became 'Good Morning Australia with Bert Newton'. One morning Bert called out for me, I proceeded to run towards him and one of the cameramen yelled out, "Oh, Belvedere! Come here boy!" So I'm basically named after a dog from a Warner Bros. cartoon, could've been worse I suppose. 'GMA' was a fantastic experience for me and the crew especially with Bert at the helm, there was never a dull moment. I also worked with lots of very talented artists along the way.

What was it like to work with Channel 10, how long were you there, and what was Bert like to work with?

I was at Ten from January 1990 through to February 2007. Apart from 'Neighbours' and 'GMA', I've worked on a whole range of television productions (the list is too long!), the latest including: 'The Panel', 'Rove Live' and 'Thank God You're Here'. I gained so much experience and made some amazing friends and contacts. Bert was absolutely wonderful to work with. I learnt so much from Bert about the industry especially the on-camera comedy!! (not forgetting the limericks...in fact I have!)

Bert is truly a television icon and he is hilarious!

You've now entered the world of private enterprise. How do you think it will go and what exactly are you doing?

After working at Ten for 17 fantastic years (14 of them on 'GMA'), I decided to go out on my own and freelance as a Floor Manager and also as an Event Coordinator for corporate functions. I'm pretty confident but it's also nerve racking leaving a secure full-time position. You need to take certain risks in life and things are looking great already. I've already worked on the AFL, Red Bull F1 Event, the Channel 7 Good Friday Appeal and I started work on the new 'Rove' which I will be doing throughout the year and hopefully 'Thank God You're Here' when it returns for its third series later in the year. So if you're in need of a Floor Manager/Event Coordinator or even an MC for a 21st or bar mitzvah, let Q know! And by the way, Happy 3rd Birthday Q Magazine!

And now here's Moira...



q art: with DAVID WESTLAKE

Clearing the closet.

(FYI, I fell out of that a long time ago; this has got nothing to do with coming out)

Sometimes life throws you a curved ball you either catch it and run or fall over. You may wonder how this relates to art and collections; I tell you, it does!

You always need to look at your pieces and reevaluate them, especially for someone like me who will hoard anything I think might be of value to me at some time. (Just ask my very understanding husband. Well sometimes, do you - really - need that cheap figure with no head? My answer to him, "It looks good in the garden.")

Continuing with the real theme, sometimes we need to look at what we own. I have a collection ranging over 2000 years including ceramics, textiles, bronzes and sculpture. Recently I've started to look at my collection to assess what means the most to me and, you my find it strange, but I love every piece from the chipped bowl to the Ming bronze. But I've started to look at pieces with what they mean, how they make me feel, who or what memories they hold for me.

Culling a collection is hard but how often do you look and smile, pick up, hold or smell it? Or is that piece left as an object to just observe? Do you need it or really value it?

It may be painful but collections do need culling. Your favourites are left and the clutter is gone ("clearing the closet"). Remember, they always become part of someone else's collection. You can use auctions, eBay, markets and more to move these pieces on. I shouldn't say this, but it means you have even more room to fill (sorry, husband).



q comp:

It's on again - the Newtown Hotel Film Festival - hosted by the gorgeous and delightful Vanessa Wagner.

Starting on the 12th of this month and running through to the 24th of May, it is sure to delight audiences and make some of our brothers and sisters a tad bit wealthier.

Enquire at the Newtown Hotel - King Street - for an entry form...and remember, it matters not what your entry is, as last year's winner was a home movie.



q hair: with LAUREN SCHIPP

This Winter, Men Are Longer

I'm so excited to see the gorgeous guys at the moment really embracing the long locks. It's all on the cat walks for this Autumn.

But remember, a longer style is always harder to achieve. Make sure you and your stylist are on the same wave length. If you have always been going for the scissor-over-comb or the worn out mo-hawk, start with these small steps of growing out the old.

- Make sure even when starting with a short cut, your stylist reshapes the hair to sit well when growing out. You can still have a funky cut while growing out the old style.

- A good stylist should know how to thin out hair. With longer cuts, going through and hacking at it with thinning scissors is not the answer. Razoring and splicing will give you the best over all look.

- When your stylist has finished the wet cut, it should be blow dried and checked if more splicing is required. This is a step that a lot of stylist's don't do and you don't get the best overall effect.

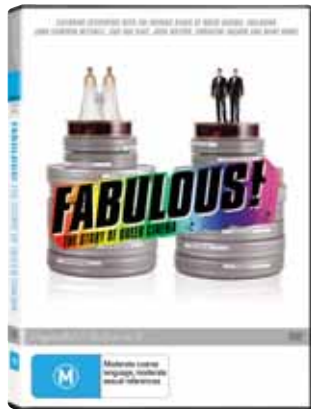
- Check your haircut before applying product as it let's you see if you need to get rid of more weight and you yourself can see how the cut is sitting

- Remember with product, less is best, especially with longer styles. Too much can take away from the look you're after. Even just a soft hold gloss is perfect, it stops frizz and doesn't look wet and stringy.

Colour is also a must but make sure it's subtle. The "Bleached Blonde" highlights that look orange after a week where never in. L'Oreal have an amazing colour range from very soft semi-permanents, to more dramatic winter greens. When a colourist applies a green tone, it looks hot and is the new winter colour. Remember, always ask to have a look at the colour chart, it will give you an idea of your result.

I hope this has been an inspiration to start growing that head of hair. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at hair@qmagazine.com.au or have a consultation with Thomas at Flec Hair Design on Commercial Road. He is the razor cutting king.

q win: BIRTHDAY BONANZA



Hopscotch Entertainment

Read the review in q movies, then let your fingers do the walking and enter this competition to win the film for your collection. We have 5 copies up for grabs. Email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with "Fabulous" in the subject line.



Central Station Records

One of our favourite daughters has another single released through Central Station records which is sure to be a huge crowd pleaser. Email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with "Danni" in the subject line and you could be the winner of one of the 5 we have on offer.

* 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. 3, 15 - 17 Charnwood Road, St. Kilda 3182. 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.



Liberation Music

Another triumph for Mick Hucknall and Simply Red is the new release "Stay" - in stores now through Liberation Music. 11 exceptional tracks including the title track plus "Oh What a Girl" and "So Not Over You" - get it, you wont be disappointed OR let your fingers do the walking and enter this competition to win one of 5 copies up for grabs. Email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with "Simply Red" in the subject line.

Kusco-Murphy

Kusco Murphy

A good friend of Q Magazine, Kusco-Murphy is one of the leaders in hair care products. To celebrate our birthday we have 10 x duo styling packs valued at \$50 each. Email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with "Kusco Murphy" in the subject line and feel your absolute best.



Comedy Festival

Want a giggle? Well we have 2 double passes to give away for a fabulous show as pat of the comedy festival called "Who needs a vagina anyway" - the date is Wednesday the 25th of April so you have to email or sms urgently to pick these up. Email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with "comedy" in the subject line.



Volume 04



Central Station Records

The next in the long line of JOY Melbourne 94.9fm CD releases is out now. Email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with "JOY" in the subject line and one of five we have could be yours.

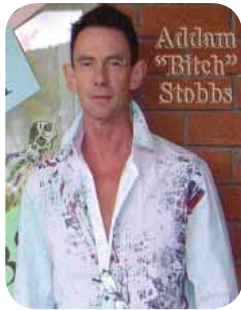


Q Magazine

As an extra special present to celebrate our birthday, I'd like to offer you, our valued readers, 5 annual memberships valued at \$36 each. Email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with "QMAG" in the subject line to get Q Magazine delivered to your home.



q whispers: with ADDAM STOBBS



If you are alone are you a loser?

Almost everything you hear in the media that concerns Gay and Lesbian people says "relationships r us". From equal rights, through the whole horrible phalanx to marriage, everything is about the 'us' factor. Is everyone obsessed about being in a relationship these days? Is it now easier to find a soul mate (or a harem of applicants)?

It's ironic that I should ponder

this question, as being a hard-faced bitch known to be composed of mainly spite and vitriolic contempt for the rest of (Sentient) creation, I fear that I know not what it is to be like without a partner.

I've had partners all of my life, I sleaze out of one relationship quickly into another, and I have never really known what it is like to be single. I often wonder though, what is it like not to be electrified into the awakened state by the harmonic snoring of his nibs and the two dogs that sleep outside the bedroom door? yea what is it like not to have a partner who likes the TV, Stereo and Play-station all blaring in a cacophony of simultaneous arrhythmic white noise? Or meat cooked so well that it is an incineration! I bet it is bloody heaven!

I oft get annoyed that it is almost expected by convention of existence, that we all (both straight & gay) are expected to find 'the one'. I know a lot of people who function quite amazingly as single units, and do not need to be an extension of another person. I, however, realise my limitations, and although I protest about always having to live in a connected series of compromises, those short and brief moments I have existed without a significant other, have been largely spent bemoaning how awful it is to be without. My experiences are caused through years of being told that I was "evil" and my

desires were immoral. I personally function better when I have some else to blame or bitch about. I felt bad about that for years. I have since learned the truth, and I have come to accept the truth, I am evil and 'immoral' and I love it. The society that I grew up in would have everyone believe these untruths - to be gay and single is not good. Bullshit. I am evil and immoral for a whole different other set of reasons. I have had an unbelievable string of relationships over the years, not because I wanted or needed to, it just that I am an incredible sex machine and too good to waste on casual encounters. (Hello to all my ex's and, "no, I am not rotting in hell" as your mothers' warned you).

So the crux of this whole tale is this: you don't need to validate your existence by being assigned to the right partner, despite the whole impetus about same sex relationship recognition issues. If you want the secret to finding a partner though, I'll tell you, from a hardened serial polygamist, it's this - don't even think about it. My current hot bed of lust (Yod - know as Yoda *yawn*) has opened a restaurant, Trinitas Thai, and we with the partners Goong and Park, are proud to be associated with Q magazine - see Q Scene.

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a right time
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q lifestyle: with PETE DILLON

A monthly review of what is great in the world of Food, Bars, and Wine.

Bars, booze and bish bosh bash tucker:

Food

Buzz, Cullen Bay Marina, Darwin

On a recent trip to the territory, I was pleasantly surprised to find a cosmopolitan dining scene with some excellent booze available on offer, sensational design and some great quirks. Boasting the best location on Cullen Bay Marina, Buzz sprawls over two levels with killer views from every table, both indoor and out. The open plan of the restaurant features Balinese-style decor with quirky fixtures. (For those with a quirk for toilets, check out the one way mirrored glass which forms the urinal in the men's. You can feel like you are having a pee on punters). A great spot for a casual bite, Buzz is an all-encompassing dining experience with a focus on regional flavours, friendly service and relaxing atmosphere.

Darwin is a seafood mecca and local, freshly caught seafood can be experienced in dishes like the seafood platter (featuring crispy white bait, salt and pepper squid, local barramundi balls (poor barra) and Territory lemon aioli), or the oven-baked scallops in the half shell with lime butter and salsa rosa. If tropical fruit tickle your fancy (as fruits tickle mine), try the prawn, mango and papaya salad, served with cellophane noodles and Territory lemon coriander dressing. There are also burgers, steaks and a sophisticated selection of modern Australian favourites: think duck curry, pork cutlets, pasta, risotto... the list goes on. We enjoyed a late afternoon tasting plate and a slightly over priced bottle of sauvignon blanc. My only let down was being served warm water on typical Darwin day,

and a request for chilled water was met with a still or sparkling sales line. After much cajoling, we were given some glasses with ice and lemon. But a great experience none the less.

Bar

Mars Lounge (16 Wentworth Avenue, Sydney)

Apart from having some of the best looking staff in town, this bar is perfect for a romantic liaison or a social get together. Known for its quality music, Mars has a decadent and chic, sexy interior. If there was a bar that epitomised the word elegant, I think this is it. Booths allow for a more intimate social gathering, or kick back with a lover, or potential one, on the lounges with a perfectly mixed cocktail. The use of red and black colour schemes with high ceilings lends a euro feel to the venue. Their Mediterranean inspired food is great if you are after a dining experience, and their Thursday night supper club is a must. DJ's include the lovely Kate Monroe, the perennial Alex Taylor and the gorgeous Juri Menicucci. If this bar was a man it would be Colin Farrell – sexy, elegant with an edge that is a little decadent and almost naughty.

Booze

Rochford 2004 Yarra Valley Pinot Noir

Never one to knock back the chance of a quality drop, I recently experienced what I think is one of the better Yarra Valley Pinot Noir and for a less than \$30. A blue gold award winner at the recent Sydney Wine Show, Rochford's 2004 Yarra Valley Pinot Noir is fabulous. It is a medium bodied wine (average body in gay terms) that is soft, yet so alive. With a dense, spicy and complex nose, on the palate this wine exhibits lovely lengthy fruit and spice, with a medium tannic finish and nice mix of fruit and oak. This is a quality wine that will impress your new partner's parents, yet is light enough to enjoy with some richer style French food, or around the barbie with a big chunk of meat (be nice please!!), preferably a lamb back strap or a porterhouse.



q cabaret: COMEDY HIGHLIGHT

How far would you go to get in touch with your feminine side? Dean's girlfriend has left him and he decides to do it the only way he knows how... by putting on her clothes! Join us for a gender-bender comical cabaret gone crazy, as male sensitivity training goes one step too far! goes one step too far!

Yes, 'Who needs a Vagina Anyway...' may have a man in a dress, but this isn't a drag show. It's filled with live music, old and new, accompanied by the inspired saxophonist Stefan Trentini. As well as a killer outfit, cutting humour and cans

of lager you will get to see Dean explore being a woman the only way a man can, with no clue and one hell of a hangover.

'Who needs a Vagina Anyway...' doesn't celebrate a man in a dress, it highlights what men aren't.

Venue: Glitch Bar and Cinema, 318 St Georges Road, North Fitzroy
Dates: 11th – 28th April (Wed-Sun)
Tickets: \$20 Adult, \$15 Concession, groups of 7 or more \$15 Times: 8:15 pm Bookings: 94899799 or at venue.



q generation: with LUKE HUGGARD



To make contact with Luke,
please email
luke@qmagazine.com.au

City of Dreams

Having been raised with no particular religious affiliation, religious pilgrimages have therefore never been relevant to my young life...until now! The Jews make the journey to the 'Wailing Wall' in Jerusalem's Old City, the Muslims to the ancient city of Mecca, and last month I set out on my own pilgrimage; all the way to Sydney and the 2007 Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras!

Coinciding with the second week of semester at Melbourne Uni was unfortunate, however this was to be a fact-finding mission - a productive and intellectually stimulating sociological experience!

It turns out that, due to the fact a sober moment amongst my friends at Mardi Gras was extremely rare, intellectual stimulation was perhaps not realised. Nevertheless, the experience in general was a surreal one. Ashamedly, I remember only snippets of the march as my friend Jade and I consumed far too much Bacardi and Vodka while posing for photographs of ourselves and dancing on the balcony we were supposed to be viewing the parade from! Memory of the main party is, of course, also extremely vague, however at the hotel buffet the next morning, I couldn't help but realise that I had indeed conducted a little fact-finding in regards to some extremely important questions on a cultural level:

Q1. Do Sydney Gay men display the bitchiness they have become notorious in Melbourne for?
A: Absolutely not, and I dismissed this immediately as something of a Melbourne formulated myth. I met only the loveliest and unique people.

Q2. Are Sydney gay men irresistibly gorgeous? As much as I hate to admit this, I will have to go with Absolutely Yes on this one! Maybe it's not so much 'Sydney gay men' per se, but more to do with the international mixture of Sydney's GLBTI community. For those disheartened and discontented gay guys (which is around the 90% mark I think!?) who are looking for a bit of a sensual getaway, I would highly recommend Sydney! Overall, the impression of Sydney gay men I brought back to Melbourne wasn't bad at all: Great in bed and so very incredibly SWEET!

Sydney was certainly turning out to be the City of Dreams as I have so poetically labelled it, as I gained an insight into a fast and fabulous city that seemed to smell of success! Having been warned that Sydney "would chew me up and spit me out" by concerned friends, who suggest Sydney may not be the best place for me to finish my degree, I was nervous and intimidated even before I arrived. However, less than three days later, I was practically a local strolling down Oxford Street without a care in the world. Maybe it is the prospect of a fresh city, fresh opportunities, and a fresh history that is so appealing about somewhere like Sydney. Similar to the first few weeks or months of a new relationship, it is that nostalgic feeling that anything is possible that is so addictive and appealing. In addition to these important theoretical observations I have made, is the integral fact that Mardi Gras is an important symbol of visibility, pride, and colour, and so essential to the history of the gay movement in this country and our rights in the future.

Q3. Are Sydney people arrogant? Well, as mentioned earlier I met some of the loveliest and diversely wonderful people...however I wasn't exactly sober for most of the time, so I can't be sure on this question. Regardless, with a harbour like Sydney's, a gay scene that is incredibly vibrant, and men who can make a weekend away for us Melbournians so fulfilling...well do you really blame them if they are a little arrogant?

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Tried and Tested

The Braun 360 Complete Shaver...the best a gay man (or Drag Queen) can get!

Being endearingly nicknamed by my partner Mr Gadget, how excited was I when Braun sent me their newest German high-tech shaver. I must admit I instantly succumbed to all those flashing lights and sleek, sexy design which was like a beacon to my senses, I just couldn't wait to try it out and have my way with it.

Recently launched in Australia, the 360 Complete Range from Braun is in the midst of redefining performance in premium dry shavers.

360 Complete combines numerous innovative shaving technologies that allow it to address the number one issue we face in shaving today - capturing the hairs often left behind by other shavers for a perfect shave.

So what makes this shaver so brilliant...

- New Power-Comb is a patented technology that lifts problem hairs that lie flat to the skin, to avoid missing hairs in hard to shave areas.

- New Precision-Comfort Blades have a unique blade edge that cuts hair with less resistance, removing more of each hair in a single stroke without pulling or tugging, for exceptional closeness and comfort with less hard work.

- Braun's unique Smart Foil also captures hairs growing from any direction, whilst its Active Contour-Hugging shaver head automatically adjusts with every facial contour to ensure optimal closeness and maximum skin comfort.

- It's like a new shaver everyday - Braun's Clean & Renew system automatically cleans, lubricates, dries and recharges the shaver at the push of a button, giving you the feeling of a brand new shaver everyday.

- Sleek, modern design - Braun's design team has delivered a visibly stylish shaver and cleaning unit that looks great in any well groomed, gay man's bathroom.

- New LED lights on the shaver and cleaning unit, even remind you when to replace the cutting elements and

cleaning cartridge. My God, who needs a boyfriend!

- LCD Panel - provides handy information on the battery level and cleaning status, so it should never run out of puff. Once charged you can take it on your next holiday knowing you have 2-3 weeks in sunny Iraq or Iran before it needing to be re-charged. It also has an automatic worldwide voltage adjustment and comes with a funky, protective travel case...I'm in love!



Tip: for those with sensitive skin, try using a little King of Shaves shaving oil before shaving. Exfoliating twice a week will also help avoid any ingrown hairs.

Sexy design, convenience and digital technology, the Braun 360 Complete is available from all department stores, independent electrical and shaver shop stores nationally. At \$469, you might need to auction off your boyfriend on eBay to buy one...but who needs him anyway!

q grooming: YOUR Q & A SECTION

Q - What body care tips do you have for maximising my efforts in the gym?

A - Massage is a great way to boost firm, solid muscles, by helping to stimulate circulatory and lymphatic systems, breaking down fatty cells and reducing the appearance of dimpling in cellulite-prone areas.

Some body oils are formulated to help stimulate this process even further, with ingredients that work within the skin to smooth muscles and relieve cell congestion, and a body soak can also be a great boost by helping to open pores, detox your system, and tone skin.

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Email your questions to grooming@qmagazine.com.au

q fashion: with ALEX & TRISTAN



To make contact with Alex and Tristan, please email fashion@qmagazine.com.au

Alex the greek here, coming to you this month with a new partner in fashion, Tristan. It seems Breck's little botox blunder last month has forced into hiding for an extended period.

The weather has finally caught onto the fact that it's now Autumn, and has started cooling down, so as we all run to the nearest solarium to maintain those summer tans, its time to raid the shelves for this seasons hottest new looks.

Knits are back - not the ones our grandad's wear (so you can close that cupboard door now) - the range of knits coming through so far have a fresh feel to them, many of the new styles have hoodies giving them a funky new look. Layer a fitted knit over one of your hot shirts, allowing the collar to show over the top of the knit. Don't tuck your shirt in - allow it to hang below the bottom of the knit - ties the collar into the outfit. With the cooler weather, funky knits are going to be great to keep us all warm, whilst still looking HOT.

The lighter denims that have dominated the shelves for the last few months are now making way, and all the darker denims, and hot straight leg jeans are coming back in. A pair of hot new jeans in any of the darker colours (grey, charcoal,

blue) teamed up with a warm coloured shirt, tee, or knit will have you looking fine. With the cooler weather, warm coloured shirts and tee's will help brighten your look.

Finally, we can all start looking at the new jackets that have been hitting our shelves, but going un-noticed so far with the warmer weather. There is a great variety of styles, allowing us all to have our own looks. Black is big as always, and with a nice fitted size will look perfect over the top of any outfit. There are some more casual jackets out too with big zips and alternate coloured stitching if you're going for a funky look. These over the top of a hot tee will always look great.

We've mentioned layering before and now more than ever is the time to use it. With such a great range of tee's, shirts, knits and jackets coming out, it will give you a lot of hot options. So go grab yourselves some hot new clothes, throw your new jackets over the top of your warm coloured shirts and tees and prepare for a winter of looking HOT.

Till next month, this is Alex and Tristan wishing you all a very happy and safe Easter.

q fashion extra: JACK BOOTLE

Fashion without the pain – Jack Bootle bespoke shirts offer made-to-measure shirts at affordable prices.

Jack Bootle bespoke shirts are new to Melbourne. The concept is simple: bespoke tailored clothing at off-the-rack prices. The Jack Bootle process is also simple: you arrange a consultation at a time and place that suits you, and with the help of your consultant, you choose the fabric and the cut-collar-cuff combination for your own unique shirt. The shirt, made entirely to your measurements, is delivered beautifully packaged a few short weeks later.

Founder of Jack Bootle, Hamish Barclay, describes his rationale in bringing this concept to realisation: "Jack Bootle grew out of the frustration I experienced finding good quality shirts that fitted well. I have long arms, so shirts that fitted me in the neck tended to be too short in the sleeve. Additionally, I was sick of endlessly pounding the pavement in search of the perfect shirt and thought there had to be a better way. The process of buying a shirt should be effortless while the experience of wearing it, knowing it's made uniquely for you, should be enjoyable and luxurious."

Gay men may have a reputation for fashion consciousness, but, with busy careers, can also be time-poor and sick of going out and seeing the same new shirt on others. Jack Bootle shirts give an edge not replicated in boutiques, and offer the convenience of having a consultation in your office, in your lunch hour or between meetings.

There are literally hundreds of top quality fabrics available to choose from. Fabrics are updated seasonally based on the latest European trends. Thousands of design possibilities based on the cut-collar-cuff options available. Shirts are \$150 each or \$399 for a choice of three. To arrange a consultation, call Hamish on 0431 211 601 or email contact@jackbootle.com.au



q travel: DIVING AT CORAL BAY

Pictures and article by Shek Graham

Having settled Pumpkin – “the Teeth” and “Pistol” Penda into their accommodation in Exmouth, which ironically also doubled as the local dog pound, we were ready for our first dives on the Ningoloo Reef. The rain had cleared somewhat, and though rather breezy, the weather for the next few days looked promising. We booked a series of dives as well as trips to snorkel with the whale sharks and manta rays. I was a little disappointed that we could only snorkel with these magnificent creatures, but interaction with these fish is closely monitored and controlled. Still, I could hardly contain my excitement!

We got up at some unearthly hour on the day of our first dives, and took the short walk to the dive shop and assembly point, where we checked in and were issued with air tanks and other gear. Having mainly dived on boats where gear is already on-board, I was unprepared to carry all our gear and heavy air tanks through the shallows to the dinghy and then onto our dive boat. Being vertically challenged, I managed to get my shorts soaked whilst the tallest amongst us remained dry, but finally we were ready for the off!

It was a little choppy but still quite sunny and fairly warm. After getting into the water and checking that we had control of our buoyancy and were correctly weighted (too heavy and you sink uncontrollably to the bottom, too light and you float on the top, unable to sink more than a few inches...not a good look), we swam down to get our first look at Ningaloo Reef. Damn, it was murky! Unfortunately, the very conditions that draw whale sharks and manta rays from the deep and onto these shallow reefs are ones which are not conducive to good visibility – namely lots of plankton in the water!

Still, we were finally here and immediately found creatures that are not present on the Great Barrier Reef such as the sail-fin cat fish with its long feelers. We discovered tiny shrimp and prawns, colourful nudibranchs (sea slugs) as well as a myriad of fish. My favourite were the juvenile striped catfish where hundreds of individuals swarmed over the reef as one large flowing unit! I kept an eye out for manta rays or a whale shark but in the poor visibility we didn't see one. The second dive was similar but we did spot one or two sharks in the murk. It had been good to get

in the water, but it had been a rather disappointing day.

The next day it was even breezier, but today was the day we would be snorkelling with the mantas! We headed out to wait for the spotter plane to sight the manta rays. Conditions were a little rough, but it was still possible for the plane to spot the rays. After an hour or so a large ray had been spotted and the boat was on the way to the sighting. We quickly geared up and split into groups of 10. Only 10 people are allowed into the water at once so the rays are not intimidated and crowded. A couple of times we jumped in and swam as fast as we could, trying to keep up with the manta ray as it swam gracefully and effortlessly beneath us. Visibility was again poor, but I did see it. On the third jump, the ray started to feed, swimming back and forth, back and forth rounding up the plankton and scooping it into its mouth, and I was able to get some photographs – my first of a manta ray!

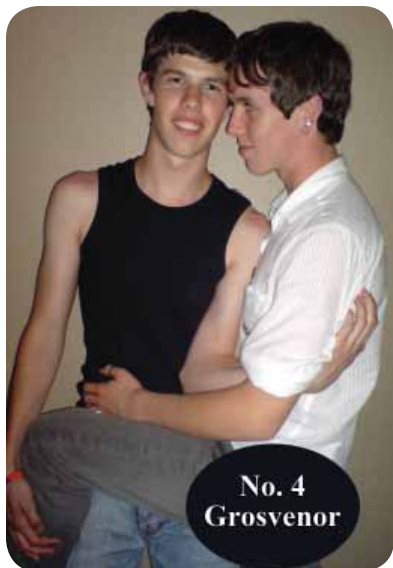
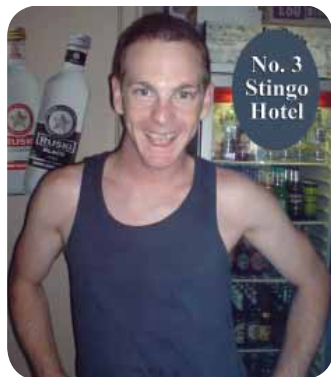
Buoyed up by the previous day's success we embarked on our “Whale Shark Adventure”. We patiently waited for the spotter plane to sight a whale shark. The weather deteriorated and the spotter plane was unable to pick out whale sharks in the roughening seas. We headed back, disappointed but reassured by the fact we could go out for free the following day. The trouble was the following day was even worse. We boarded in the hope the weather would improve, but after only a couple of hours, the trip was called off and we had to head back. Fortunately we were able to transfer our booking to the Exmouth branch of the dive company as we were heading there the following day, hoping for better weather and calmer seas.

The next day we packed up and drove the 80 kilometres up the coast to Exmouth. It was absolutely pouring with rain. The curse of our travelling companions had struck again. In one of the driest areas in the country, it was raining... hard! In fact, when we got to the caravan and tent park in Exmouth, much of the area was under water! We had a decision to make...it was impossible to camp, so we had to either find some weather-proof accommodation and wait out the rain, or head away from the coast and find a spot to camp until the weather improved. We decided that as the weather forecast anticipated heavy rain for several more days, it was best to pick up the dogs and drive away from the coast, and maybe we could lose the Poms along the way!



q cuties: BIRTHDAY BEAUTIES

Send your entries into cuties@qmagazine.com.au for your chance to be our monthly Q Cutie.



The idea is YOU choose the picture you think has the cutest guy or guys in it and sms 0429 88 QMAG with the corresponding number. The pic with the most votes will win a fabulous prize from our advertisers. So get your fingers working and vote today!!

You can, of course, do what Warrick did by sending in a photograph you take of yourself or your friends and send it through to Q Magazine. Please make sure contact details are included in your email.



Our March Q Cuties title goes to our cutie from Heaven's Door on Commercial Road. You have won a \$50 drink voucher at Heaven's Door - simply identify yourself anytime to the manager from now to collect - congratulations.

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Conditions: All Qmagazine competitions are open to everyone, except those that specifically state you must be over 18 to enter. Competitions close on the final day of each calendar month with all prizes being drawn at 5pm the following day at Apartment 3, 15 - 17 Charnwood Road, St. Kilda 3182. Names and addresses of people winning prizes valued at or over \$250 ONLY will be published in the following issue of Qmagazine. All monthly Q Cuties winners will appear in the following edition of the publication

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in bed with: BEN



To make contact with Ben
email
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4 Ways to Attract What You Want Into Your Life (including World Domination).

If you're anything like me, world domination is high on your priority list of things to do but if you're not...well...then I guess that's ok. If you're ok with it that's what really matters!

So what if you are not attracting the experiences, love and success into your life that you would like to have? There are a few key things that you may be missing. So here are four simple tips to help you get on track with your life, goals and ambitions (oh and maybe you can use them to help to get a boyfriend, if you're into that kind of thing!).

1. Stand up and be counted for:

There's nothing like watching life flow past you like a wall flower waiting for their first kiss, which can be sometimes EXTREMELY EXCRUCIATING! If you are not getting what you want out of your life then you are possibly not standing up and being counted for. Are you making a point to ensure that you are in line for that next promotion? If not, we'll hmm, how's that working for ya? If it's not, then don't do it, ah derr!

2. Ask for what you want:

One of the hardest things we can sometimes do in our lives is being clear on what we actually want and out of what. If you are in an unfulfilling relationship then have you considered asking for something more? Don't blame the other person for not standing up and making the changes needed if they aren't aware of a problem existing. Be the first to say this isn't working and this is how I'd like to see it work (within reason of course.) You can't change something you don't acknowledge or recognise you want.

3. Expect the best:

Oh it's going to turn out bad! That won't work! They won't let me do that! Ooops, excuse me for just a second while I sneeze "ah ah bullshittttttt!" When you expect bad things to happen, you start to behave in such a way that makes them happen. Huh? For example, you are seeing a guy you really like however you have insecurities that he may cheat on you. You automatically start behaving distant so you don't hurt yourself. Your partners starts distancing themselves from you because you have begun to distance yourself from them. Slowly relationship breakdown occurs.

Put simply, you expect it, you create it! Always expect the best and you will behave in a way that the best is attracted to you.

4. Stop Playing the "Poor Old Me" soundtrack:

No one forced you to do it. No one pushed you into going a certain way. At the end of the day, it is your life and the way you want to play it is entirely up to you. Every time you make an excuse, you are excusing yourself from having what you really want and that could simply be happiness. What are you excusing yourself from having? Work out what you really want and believe it will happen and it will be attracted to you. It's not brain surgery it's basic common sense.

Until next time... From the bed of brutally honest Ben! (Note to self, lay off the red cordial, it gets me fired up!)

Q Joke of the Month

One day a nun was standing on the side of the road waiting for a cab. A cab stopped and picked her up. During the ride she noticed that the driver was staring at her.

When she asked him why, he said, "I want to ask you something, but I don't want to offend you."

She said, "You can't offend me. I have been a nun long enough that I have heard just about everything."

The cab driver then said, "Well, I've always had a fantasy to have a nun give me a blow job."

She said, "Well, perhaps we can work something out under two conditions. You have to be single, and you have to be Catholic."

Immediately the cab driver said, "Oh, yes! I'm single and I'm Catholic!"

The nun said, "Okay, pull into that alley."

The cab driver pulled into the alley and the nun went to work. Shortly afterwards, the cab driver started crying.

The nun said, "My child, what's the matter?"

He said tearfully, "Sister, I have sinned. I lied, I lied...I'm married and I'm Jewish!"

The nun replied, "That's okay. My name's Bruce and I'm on my way to a costume party!"

q says: with AUNTIE VERA

Hello Pets,

Instead of utilising an opportunity here to launch my recently established website, I thought I would use my precious column to talk about relationships and the friendships we form, and how important having good friends around us actually is, especially in times of need. As some of you know, Auntie Vera has been married to the same man for coming up 15 years. It has only been 2 years since my husband and I decided to re-enter the nightclub scene in Melbourne after a 9 year hiatus (we were very busy). The last 2 years have certainly been exciting and interesting for us both. We have met some amazing people from within the gay community, as well as meeting some real shockers.

Being financially secure, it really is amazing how one is perceived at times and the lengths to which some will go to get a finger in the proverbial pie. There is no doubt that we have made some severe errors in judgment at times (with regards to whom we have let enter our lives), however, on the most part, we have been extremely blessed and lucky. Over the years I have forged great friendships with some truly wonderful people - some high profile, some not so. The common bond these friendships have is that we truly do genuinely care about each other. It is, therefore, no surprise that we all band together when one of us is upset or, indeed, unjustly treated.

Having worked at a senior level in corporate Melbourne for many years, I have seen some very opportunistic people plot behind the scenes to procure jobs to which they covert. I have never understood why it is that to better their own position, some individuals will do others out of theirs - this is usually done with little care of the hurt and damage such actions cause. This was recently the case with a very dear friend of mine who faced unemployment when the company she was involved with was sold. Associates of hers decided they could do the job better and were actually successful in

having her long term contract cancelled.

Whilst not being a religious woman, I do believe in "Karma".

My dear friend has certainly come out on the good side of this on this occasion.

I'd like to leave you all with an anecdote told to me by my first boss oh so many many years ago. His advice was simple: "be nice to those you meet on the way up the ladder, as you just don't know who you will meet should you ever be on your way down". On that note, pets, look after each other. The good people will always be there with you (in person or spirit), while the not-so continue on their own self destructive path.



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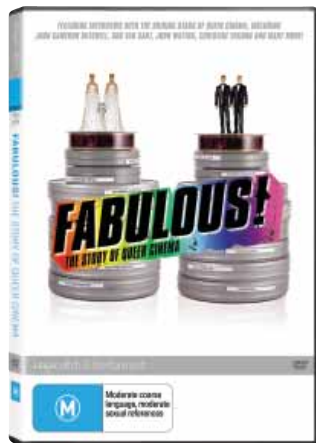
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q movies: **FABULOUS**

Ever wondered about how Gay and Lesbian films came to happen? What influenced the film makers decision to make them? What was happening at the time across the world? How they have changed throughout time? Well wonder no longer - Fabulous is here!

Never before was a title more apt. *Fabulous* is simply that! It takes a special documentary to keep my attention and this one did it with endless information, excitement, and energy. Being a Gay movie buff certainly helped, but the delivery of this documentary-style historical journey through the Gay and Lesbian film genre is attention grabbing from beginning to end. A constant moving between interviews, a very interesting time line - highlighting not only films that were released but also what was happening to our community at the time, and snippets of the films themselves, gives the viewer an amazingly detailed insight into Gay and Lesbian history, culture and film.

The interviewees include film makers, critics, actors, producers, directors and social commentators adding their special comments on the history of queer cinema from the 1940s to contemporary queer cinema. For every significant social movement in society, there is an equally significant story behind it - from inception in the bedroom of a teenage boy, to controversy, to niche screenings, to a breakthrough into the mainstream and finally worldwide acclaim with blockbuster, award-winning hits such as *Boys Don't Cry*, *Monster* and *Brokeback Mountain*. You will actually be amazed at the depth, variety and sheer frequency of Gay and Lesbian films having been made over the years - I know I certainly was and will be looking for several titles to watch. A must see any film fan for its intimate portraiture and insight into the struggles, frustrations,



discriminations and triumphs faced by the active members of the queer cinema movement. From the serious to the flamboyant, it's here, it's queer, it's Fabulous!

In stores now for hire and sale through Hopscotch Entertainment and I give it a strong, entertaining and informative five star rating!

q theatre: **CATCH A SHOW TODAY**

Steven Burrows in **WOULD UMA EAT IT?**

Would Uma eat it? Isn't that the question on everybody's lips? Luckily Stevie B has put in a concerted effort to answer the question while others have toiled away at paid work. **WOULD UMA EAT IT?** tells the story of one man's small yet overwhelming insights into life, gleaned from an intense and purposeful pitter-patter along the undervalued paths in life. From the fluffy sensibilities of doona shopping in Melbourne's finest shopping emporium to the cultural intricacies of a Singapore cruise ship and the highs and lows of an intense yoga workout. Dates: Thursday 5 to Sunday 15 April (performances Thursdays to Sundays), all shows at 9.00 pm Ticket price: \$20 full / \$15 concession-holders and for groups of 8 or more

Benn Bennett IN A BALTIC STATE

I remember escaping the former Soviet Union armed with a jar of coleslaw. I encountered a Frank Zappa tribute band in Vilnius, as well as the dissecting of a mud crab in Yalta. Confused, I decided to become a spy and take notes in an attempt to define how it must feel to be Eastern European. Dates: Fridays and Saturdays of the Comedy Festival (6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 27th, 28th April) all shows at 10.30 pm Ticket price: \$20 full / \$15 concession-holders and for groups of 8 or more

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Dates: Thursday 19 to Sunday 29 April (performances Thursdays to Sundays), all shows at 9.00 pm Ticket price: \$25 full / \$20 concession-holders and for groups of 8 or more

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The Butterfly Club 204 Bank Street, South Melbourne Tel (03) 9690 2000 thebutterflyclub.com or go to myspace.com/thebutterflyclub Open: Wednesday through Sunday from 6.00 pm til late



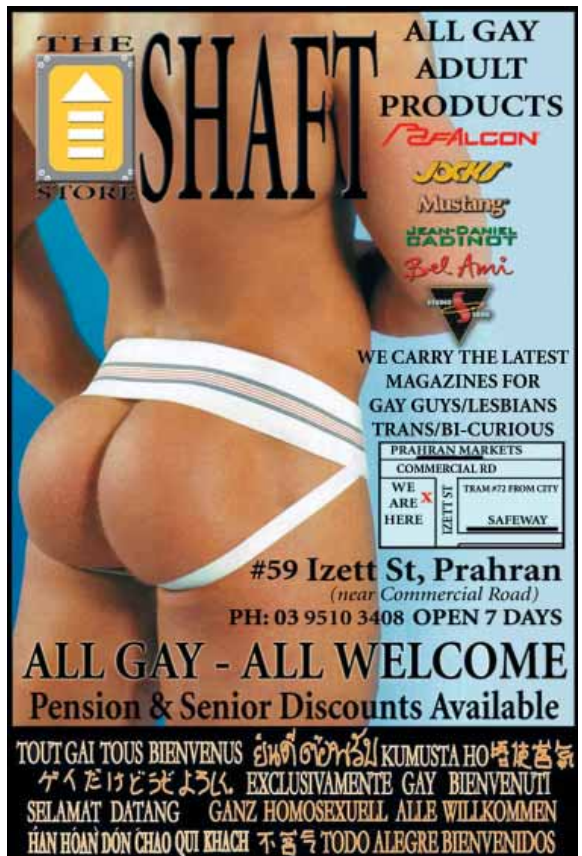
q gardening: with POOKIE

Well here I am up north in the tropics sipping on a fabulous cocktail made with rum and coconut watching the dogs in race 7 when my phone rang. Why it is the lovely Mr. Hayhoe informing me about Q Magazine's birthday... "Darl' hang on, I am in the middle of a race, got twenty quid on this so called fast bitch - it's a shoe in, so I have been told, hang on hang on - blast she has come in last, oh well, she's a bit long in the tooth I suppose - you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Well that will teach me thinking that this dog's background and breeding would show all the signs of a winner. Okay we all make mistakes don't we? I think that I will stick to the pokies. I always have a win. Anyway, I will be home soon to start in my garden and to get things ready for my Autumn pruning.

"Well here I am". Hi to all. Now with stage three water restrictions well and truly imposed, and stage four could be just around the corner, signs are showing of our beautiful well-establish trees and plants looking stressed. Stressed! How do trees etc look stressed? Well all that you see is poor growth, weeping branches, very few leaves and with some of our natives and gum trees, the bark as well as their foliage is being shed just to conserve water. They all look like they are on the verge of death. But do not despair you can save any tree or shrub. How? It's easy and here's my basic maintenance (or first aid if you prefer to call it). First, you start pruning. Great care must be taken when cutting, sawing off large or even small branches. My basic principles are simply - cut in a way that will develop the plant to its greatest potential. Pruning is basic and what you are doing is dwarfing the appearance. This process invigorates new and strong growth. Prune with a definite goal in mind "to give the plant special shape" i.e. symmetrical and tall straight with a ball shape head or low and spreading or even upright with a weeping effect. Now with the picture of what appearance you have in mind, the first thing you must do is to remove all dead flowers or branches - cut back to where new growth will bud or where there is already new growth. In other words, cut back to live wood and cut back other shoots to form good growth and structure. Remember to prune to balance out the appearance. Now with Autumn here, and it would have to be the most gentle season (with the cool crisp mornings warm days) you should make the most of it and start to repair the damage from the Summer heat. Many evergreens such as conifers are naturally symmetrical so you prune to accentuate its natural form. Pruning simply rejuvenates new growth. The best way to prune deciduous plants, such as bush roses, is to prune out a third of the older branches and thin out the side shoots. Keep in mind that you are removing at least a third or more and, from doing so, the plant will now grow back stronger.

Remember pruning reduces its size, but do not cut back to ground level. When pruning, always start from the top and work your way down the branch or stem. Take your time and always stop and look at how and what you have removed. Diseases can spread from plant to plant. How? It comes from the sap that smears on to the blade or saw or whatever type of tool you are using. So when you go from shrub to tree, you are, or could be, spreading disease. So here is my method that is so easy and will help to prevent the spread. What you will need is a small container of room temperature water and about a half a teaspoon of plain bleach added to the water and a roll of paper towels. All that you have to do here is when you have finished on one plant just dip your secateurs (blade, knife) into the solution and then wipe it dry with the paper towel. If you are using a saw, just dip the towel into the solution and wipe it over the blade and then wipe it dry. What you are actually doing is sterilizing your equipment.

Okay, so now you have pruned back so much and have created a pile of clippings, what to do next is to mulch. If you have a mulching machine, then turn all that you have pruned into mulch. Cuttings that are diseased just remove to a bin or take them down to your local tip. Now all that's needed now is a small feed and water. These days, what with the water restriction, the use of grey water will not do any harm. But remember to use safe detergents only.



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q books: the GUNNERS' DOCTOR

VIETNAM LETTERS by DAVID BRADFORD
Random House Australia.

A poignant account of the Vietnam War as told in letters home from an idealistic young medic and the compelling story of his struggle to be himself.

In 2005, David Bradford got the surprise of his life: His elderly mother found an old shoe-box at the back of her cupboard that contained a pristine record of one of the most turbulent times of his generation – and of his own personal life. Mrs Bradford had unearthed every letter that her twenty-six-year-old son had sent home from the Vietnam War.

During his time there, from May 1967 to May 1968, David wrote home almost daily, documenting his experiences as an idealistic Army doctor with the officers and gunners of 4 Field Regiment in the Royal Australian Artillery, and the officers and troopers of a squadron of the 3 Cavalry Regiment. These selected and edited letters, which were written almost 40 years ago in the chaos of the Vietnam War, are not just detailed accounts of David's daily life, his medical work, and the stresses and pressures of life in a warzone. They are also, as David admits a deliberately inaccurate picture of what was a painful forging of his true identity.

David was brought up in a very religious, loving home. He didn't drink, smoke, swear or dance – and he had never kissed a girl. In his missives from Vietnam, there were deeply personal feelings he could never tell his family about. As well as protecting them from the worrying dangers and risks of a war-zone, he also shielded them from his doubts and fears about God, faith, the war and communism. But even more painfully, David hid away what he had always known about himself – he was gay, and his tour of duty in Vietnam was to be a sublimation of what he considered was an unacceptable and reprehensible part of himself.

The Gunners' Doctor is a snapshot of a short but powerfully meaningful time in his life, and is told through two distinct voices – David's letters of the time and his reflections as a man 40 years older and wiser.

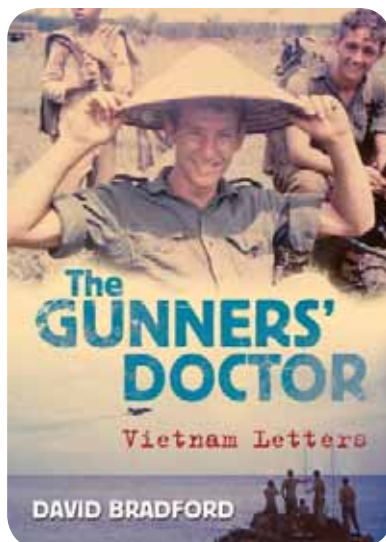
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Bradford is a semi-retired sexual health physician and a foundation fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine (FACHSHM).

He graduated from Sydney University in 1965 and has had an interest in Sexual Health since serving as a Regimental Medical Officer in the Australian Army in South Vietnam in 1967/68. After a brief flirtation with surgery and obtaining the FRCS from the English & Edinburgh Colleges, he spent a brief period in General Practice in the east end of London in the seventies and then decided to devote his professional life to Sexual Health Medicine.

He returned to Australia in the eighties, after obtaining a Diploma in Venereology from London University in 1979, to a post as Director of The Melbourne Communicable Disease Centre.

He left Melbourne in 1993 and moved north to Cairns and until his retirement from full-time practice in 2004 was Director of the Sexual Health Service at Cairns Base Hospital.



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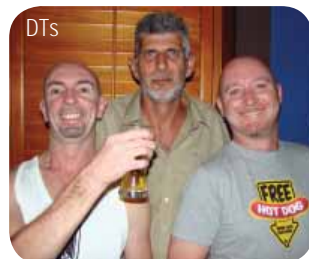
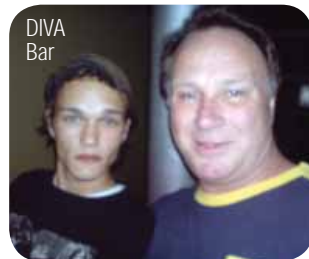
q scene: OUT & ABOUT



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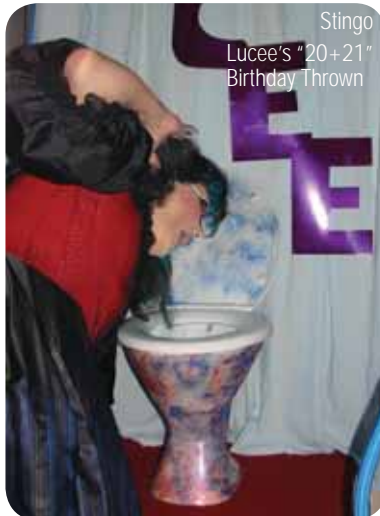
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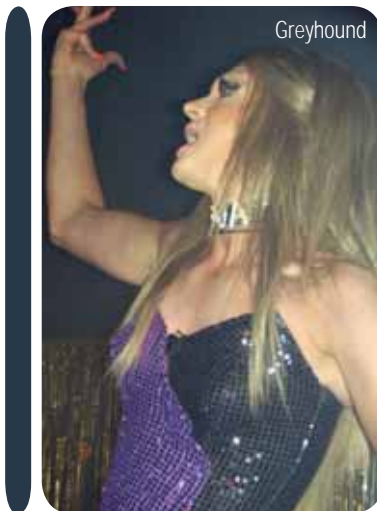
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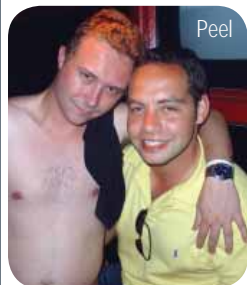
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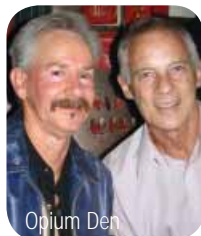
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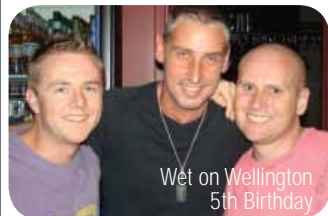
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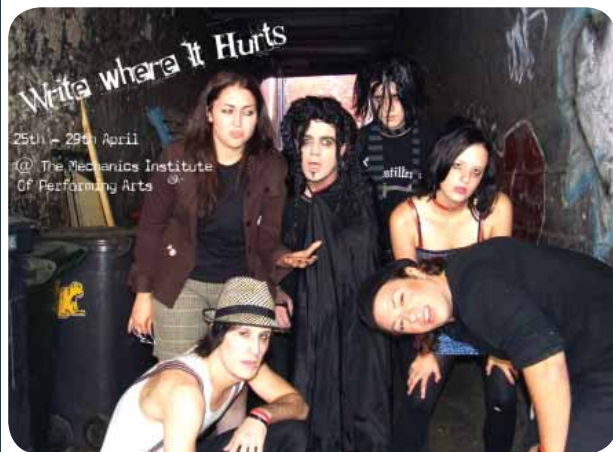
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q plays: WRITE WHERE IT HURTS



CLASH/50 PRODUCTIONS
presents A play by Samantha D'Rosario

Clash/50 Productions in association with The Mechanics Institute of Performing Arts presents the premiere of *Write Where It Hurts*, a comedy/cabaret written and directed by Samantha D'Rosario.

Write Where It Hurts explores the quirky realms of the 'Arts Student' lifestyle, the clichés of what it means to be an artist and the burden of creativity. A gallery of weirdos, "tortured individuals" and angst-filled 20-somethings perform their pain for your pleasure! Combining monologues, dance and original songs, *Write Where It Hurts* will leave you laughing, cringing and suppressing the instinct to back away slowly...

The third production to come from Clash/50, following the sell-out success of their last show *Under Construction*, Virginia Hettihewa and Samantha D'Rosario started the company straight out of high school with the attitude of "Why the hell should we wait!?" The company has developed a cult following for their quirky, funny and often disturbing take on life!

Mechanics Institute Of Performing Arts - Cnr Sydney Rd and Glenlyon Rd, Brunswick. For bookings: 9388 1942 25th – 29th April 7:30pm (Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat) 6pm (Sunday 29th)

q news: DJ TEE WEBSITE LAUNCHES



Theneedfortees.com is the unique new concept site by Sydney based design agency R@w. Having noticed a massive void, they

created a new outlet for DJs who have cemented their importance and popularity within the Australian music scene.

For years rock stars have been strutting their stuff in the latest band shirts, whilst the coolest DJs and producers went without representation – finally the ledger has been evened. Introducing the new must-have fashion item perfect for any music fan out there looking for a stylish new tee, Theneedfortees.com.au has kicked off their venture by selecting 5 DJs to feature in their launch range of limited edition T-shirts. With special emphasis placed on each design being unique and inline with the artist's music style, there is no longer a need to pound the pavement looking for that special something to wear out next Saturday night.

Sydney's Sveta is part of the first group of cutting-edge artists to be featured on a t-shirt, with her twisted electro grooves putting clubbers in a tailspin during a recent series of gigs in New York – her sexy tee designed by Techa Noble whose work has been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Arts.

Brisbane rising star TyDi's impressive recent form also deserves a tee, with the 19 year old soaring up the ranks of inthemix's recent Top 50 poll, coming in at no.12. Always a firm favourite amongst clubbers, breaks star Dopamine is honoured with a glow-in-the-dark print, having impressively taken out an award at the 2006 Breakspoll awards for his single 'Hold You' and a further nomination for best producer at this year's awards. Representing the harder style of dance are local hero Hellraiser and Dutchman Pila, who will be featured on a tee celebrating the release of their new track 'Legion' on StraightOn Special Recordings. Having just received a nomination for best breakthrough label at this year's Breakspoll awards, UK imprint Diverted Traffic will be featured on a tee to coincide with the release of their 'Adrenaline Ltd' track from Mr No Hands vs. Bassbin Twins.

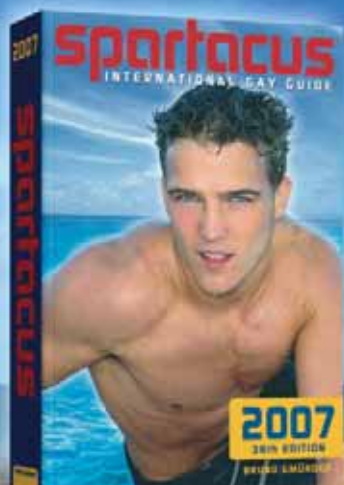
Limited to a print run of 100, these top quality tees are made from 100% cotton and sold exclusively through the theneedfortees.com website. With wicked new designs available every month created by Australia's most talented fashion designers, you'll never be stuck for something to wear again!





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q community: PROFILE

ALL So FaBULOUS

In order to get a proper idea of what All So Fabulous was about, I spent a Friday afternoon with Claude, having a look through the store, and enjoying a bite to eat on Smith Street. I started our chat by finding out a little more about the man who is the face of All So Fabulous - Mr. Claude Panozzo.

I was born and bred in Melbourne, to northern Italian parents. Welfare, Sales and Marketing have been my chosen career choices. I have also spent most of my working life being self employed, with my own gift shop and latin nightclub. In March 1997, I created what was to become the infamous "Janes bar" - as part of the Dome nightclub. Ms Jane went on to win three GLBTi awards, and was chosen as one of the most important top 100 GLBTi members of our time - as part of the Centenary celebrations (see next months issue of Q Magazine for the complete story as Ms Jane turns 10). I have been Marketing manager for the Dome nightclub, the Market Hotel, Billboards nightclub and Viper Room. I served on the Pride March Committee for four years, and have raised monies for a host of charities from Amnesty, Sids, Hear for Life, and Make a Wish Foundation - just to mention a few.

When did All So Fabulous open?
December 2005

Why did the ALSO Foundation decide to open such a venture?

The ALSO Foundation decided to undertake such a venture in order to have an additional ongoing income stream to fund the first ever same sex attracted transitional home. It is also an integral part of the organisations public and readily identifiable presence, extending it's ability to provide direct support and involvement to people in need, and to the community in supporting ALSO through volunteering at the store and through goods for sale.

You obviously rely quite heavily on volunteers to sort donations, are there any challenges with this?

Every day is a challenge! The shop could not open if it wasn't for the hard work of the numerous volunteers. We currently have 13 fabulous vollies, but always ready to accept more!

How have the local residents reacted to having a store owned by a Gay organisation in their neighbourhood?

The local residents have warmly embraced the store, its diverse staff, Gay friendly window displays, and vision...with many locals choosing to donate to our store as opposed to others they were accustomed to! The yellow wallpaper has been a huge hit!

Any plans for All So Fabulous that we should know about?

The store is a never ending labour of love, and wouldn't it be fabulous to see a chain of them?

And finally, anything else you wish to add?

The shop could not fulfil it's vision if it wasn't for the generosity of people giving freely of both their donations to keep the store stocked, and their time!

For further information, please contact Claude at 259 Smith Street, Fitzroy. The store is open Monday through Saturday, 10am to 5.30pm. Phone the store on (03) 9419 2696.

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