



APRIL 2009

Q MAGAZINE

Made in Melbourne!  
Enjoyed Nationally!



### q comment: **GIRLS ON STAGE**

I don't often use my column to promote gigs around town however on this occasion I thought what is happening at the Opium Den and Priscillas was worthy of special attention. I went to the opening night at the Den and it is simply one of those productions where having fun is the focus. The new show at Priscillas on a Wednesday night is again something to behold - with my friend, the amazingly talented Katie Underwood.

Miss jumbo queen beauty pageant Australasia has been fortunate enough to attract a steady stream of beautiful big bouncing bathing beauties. Portraying the fuller-figured fancy-fetished gal as one with a positive image to which other young hopefuls may achieve to aspire, the contest is run in 3 parts. Round 1 is the parade and talent. Round 2 is titled bitchy shindigs (a twisted take on drag charades). And finally, Round 3 - the eating competition (elimination round)

Friday the 17th of this month will see the grandest of all grand finals with Melbourne's own drag artiste extraordinaire Mr Doug Lucas joining in the frivolities. Your MC and technical director Ms Dee Dee Dazzler promises a fake nail-biting frenzy of krispy kreme proportions, with just a dash of camp thrown into the mix. With all door proceeds going to aid bushfire relief, what are u waiting for?

And finally the news that jazz has found Commercial Road. Priscillas is featuring some real vocal talent with Katie Underwood (and her backing band) every Wednesday evening throughout April and May. If you love great music then you will be there. Where else but Melbourne are you able to see such talent and not pay a cover charge!?

I hope you enjoy this month's Q Magazine.



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# q tribute: THE LOSS OF A STAR

The following passages were read by Paris at Vivien St James' funeral from the eulogy written by Alan Mayberry. If Vivien was standing here at the mic she'd be saying cheer up gnurl. I'm now headlining at that big show room in the sky. Just a second while I fix the lippy. And that is why we all loved Vivien so very dearly. She was so natural and down to earth, with a wit that was drier than an AA meeting.

Vivien's aim in life was to please. For twenty years she has been the toast of the town. She raised the barrier of drag performing in Melbourne. Never have we seen such opulent costumes and finesse of routines. True glamour but without the pretension usually associated with it. Viv left us at the height of her career just as she would have wanted. She was never happier. She had renovated her apartment. She wanted her home to look like she was a 'ye olde worlde traveller' - like an eccentric Victorian aristocrat who'd done the grand tour. A bit like her favourite character and novel 'Auntie Mame'.

She was looking a million dollars, had a tonne of new jewels, gowns and wigs ordered on ebay and was planning to be the toast of the new Divas Downunder show set to tour the casinos of Australia. Viv may have been 44, but she didn't look it and she didn't act it. She was always one of the 'cool' kids - a step ahead of the rest of the pack.

When Daryl (Vivien's boy name) turned 17 he moved in with a gay friend he met doing his hairdressing apprenticeship and picked up a 'few tricks of the trade', so to speak, that came in handy in later life. And did our girl know the tricks of the trade! It was the 80s and gender bender bands like Boy George were popular, and Viv was right into that because it gave her an excuse to wear full make-up every day and dress up.

Viv's parents are European, her mother German and father Italian, and were a bit concerned, but I think they just thought it was a phase. Even in later life if people asked her mother she'd say he's very creative (boobs and all)! They just seemed to assume that the whole younger generation was like that. They hoped it would all pass and Daryl would eventually take over Dad's timber yard - but when the time finally came, they never even pursued the subject. It must have been quite humiliating for Dad the more Viv thought about it recently. She used to do odd jobs there in the holidays to get pocket money - but went along to the timber yard dressed like Little Lord Fauntleroy.

Viv was managing a shoe shop in Chapel Street when she started considering a sex change. But she soon decided against it ... she didn't want to end up a 40-year-old-queen in make-up. (wow she would never have made it as a fortune teller!). She decided not to go the traditional Gender Reassignment Centre. Instead her local doctor prescribed hormones. But even though you want to be taken seriously, at first everyone thinks it is just some stupid little whim you are going off on. In retrospect she told me it was those very hormones that had on the bottle 'BEWARE may cause brain tumors!'

Viv always told me "I'm not a transsexual who believes I'm a woman trapped in a man's body. I was born male, but can live my life looking like a female". The nightlife and performing was like a fantasy giving Viv the excuse to wear all those gorgeous costumes. It was the exhibitionist in her coming out. Prior to this she was running around as a gender bender getting the attention she craved. Now she could get that on stage and be paid for it. She loved rummaging in second-hand shops and spent most of the pay she received doing drag, on drag!

She told me, "The most annoying thing about being a transsexual is that people put you as a transsexual first. You're a transsexual whose name is Vivien, whereas I'm Vivien first. Being a transsexual is not the foremost important thing in my life. It is not the be all and end all. I'm me first - myself a person, who is exactly the same as before I was on hormones. I get annoyed when people make all these assumptions that because you're a transsexual you're different. I lead a relatively normal life in actual fact. I still have friends from before I became a transsexual full-time. They say I'm the same person with the same sense of humour. Nothing's changed except I've got a few extra bits and pieces!" And boy did she know how to use those extra bits!





Viv's first big break was when Jan Hillier asked her to join the legendary Pokeys in St Kilda. Just Viv's luck, Pokeys glamour days were fading and she said "I didn't want to be in a poo brown leotard even if it had diamantes. I wanted to be a showgirl not a Koorie tramp goddess in a dream legend." But ever since then it was onwards and upwards. Divas, drag queens and showgirls can all take a plume out of Vivien's wardrobe, and there'd still be enough feathers to keep Miss Candee warm for a decade. Vivien loved the costumes of Edith Head in the 50s and Bob Mackie in the 90.

It seems like yesterday when Alan asked Vivien if she would be the barrel girl at the Fantasy Ball and then Rainbow Awards in 1995 at the Brighton International. That was when her career really took off. She never looked back and never let us down - each year outdoing the one before. She never asked for a cent for doing these but spent a fortune making sure she was worthy of being asked to perform. Vivien helped make the Fantasy Ball the biggest costume Ball in Australia for a decade, and dedicated much of her time to charity functions and raising money for HIV awareness and AIDS research, and in more recent years, numerous corporate gigs for breast cancer.

Finally, in 2004, came her just reward when her one woman show She Male was nominated for 'Show of the Year', and finally in 2005 was voted 'Drag Diva of the Year' at the annual Rainbow Awards. But she needed no trophy. Everyone knew she was the classiest act in town.



*I want to retain the image I have of Viv ... standing with a cigarette in her hand...covered in jewels ... hair perfect ... making jokes backstage before we went on ... looking a million bucks...Melbourne has lost its brightest star... Quite apart from the exterior which was breathtaking ... Vivien was truly one of the loveliest people one could hope to meet ... generous like no other ... she rarely had a bad word to say about anyone (unless they lacked talent!) ... and a fabulous sense of humour to boot!*

Vivien's time in hospital had its highs and lows. The high was just before she died. Viv said finally I am at the perfect weight I always dreamt of - 50 kg! She delighted in saying 'the staff are fabulous here at the Alfred BUT they've got my birth date wrong on the medical bracelet. Every day, as part of her brain test, the medical team would ask, 'What is your name? How old are you? When is your birthday' ... her reply 'I assure you! I know who I am - but do you know who you are?'

Viv was at her happiest when I wheeled her downstairs to get a bit of fresh air and a fag. She put on a long Veronica Lake style wig and, dare I say, she did look a bit like Joan Crawford in the wheelchair. Viv was still joking till the end. Even after the brain tumor was removed Alan took her in a paper with an article he knew she would like about her idol Dita Von Teese now singing live at Paris's Crazy Horse night club. He said "this could be your new gimmick Viv". She replied with a smile, "they said I might lose my memory after the radiation treatment so I won't be able to remember the words." Thank God she mimed! Even though she desperately wanted to she knew 'talk spots' were never her forte. But then did they ever expect the goddesses of the silent era to talk?

I am certain when she gets to those pearly gates and St Peter asks if she has a last request her reply will be - a genuine nude illusion Bob Mackie bugle-beaded gown but not from ebay! Rest in peace gnurl - you were a true and cherished showgirl to the very end.

# q health: M5 PROJECT LAUNCHED

The M5 Project, a bold new national campaign that will encourage men to talk about their health with their GP and to make their health a priority, was launched on March 5, by The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). The launch was held in Sydney at Target Carlingford Court. The name of the campaign reflects on the fact that more than five men die prematurely each hour in Australia from potentially preventable illness. The M5 Project has set an ambitious target to cut this figure from five to zero and is using the number 'five' to break down the barriers that stop Australian men from going to see a GP with the hope of saving men's lives.

The campaign was launched by singer and performer Jon Stevens, who recently discovered he had heart disease when seeing his GP for a health check. Stevens, aged 45, had gone for a general check up when his GP found an anomaly in his heart and an 80 per cent blockage in his arteries. The condition, if left untreated, could have killed him.

"I felt tired all the time, but just thought I had been working hard. Now I know how close I came to dying and leaving my two kids without a father, it has made me want to encourage every man over 40 to visit their GP and just start talking about their health," he said.

The M5 Project is the result of a collaboration between the RACGP, The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, non-government organisations and other key stake-holders in the men's health area.

The campaign is a joint effort to decrease the number of men dying from preventable illnesses every day.

Highlighting the five key roles that men play throughout their life - as fathers, sons, brothers, partners and friends, The M5 Project encourages men to look after their health and that of the other significant men in their life.

As a start men can take five preventative steps:

1. Share your family history with your doctor
2. Know your healthy weight and work towards it
3. Check your blood pressure
4. Stop smoking – it's the only healthy option
5. Maintain a healthy mind and a healthy body

## THE M5 PROJECT

MEN'S PREVENTIVE HEALTH MOVEMENT

Men can get involved in many ways - you can find all the latest information on men's health on [www.m5project.com.au](http://www.m5project.com.au), print off a poster and put it up in the lunch room, office, club room or workplace and spread the message. Or you can have a chat with a mate. All it takes is five minutes to get involved and get people thinking. The M5 Project website also has a link to the RACGP Practice Directory which allows you to find a GP close to your home or workplace.

Partners can help by encouraging the men in their life to go to The M5 Project website which acts as a central hub for information on men's health. The task of getting Australian men to focus on their health is not an easy one as many men do not have a relationship with a doctor nor do they rank their own health as a high priority.

The launch of The M5 Project is just the beginning of an ongoing push to improve the health of men around Australia. The launch will act as a national kick-off for a number of promotions and activities designed to highlight early intervention, lifestyle changes and testing for a range of conditions that will improve the health, wellbeing and lifespan of men across Australia. The M5 Project, which has been created by the RACGP with seed funding from The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, has already drawn together a diverse group of health organisations all focused on ensuring men live long and rich lives.



# Q money: with EVAN DAVIS

## G'day and Welcome to Q Money

I walked back into my office. I carried the largest and brightest bunch of flowers I had been able to buy back to my desk. The day hadn't been great. Just looking at the flowers caused me to feel pain, they were way too happy. The empty computer screen was mocking my inability to concentrate. A greasy lunch and several pain killers hadn't made me feel any more productive or human.

A short lie down on my Barcelona chair was interrupted by one of my team: "Whoa, flowers... So what did you do wrong?" It was hard to say. Was it the extremely questionable garlic infused mussels? Or was it the five hours of binge drinking on a Monday night? It must have been the mussels.

Credit, spending and shopping are just like being drunk. Initially there is an almighty buzz. But there is always a hang over the next day. Or at least fifty five days time. Many people are now feeling the pinch of over indulging in credit and there are many things we can do to relieve the pain.

Firstly simply cut up your credit cards and then focus on paying them off. This is true of other debts too. If you can afford to make them additional repayments this is the best way of clearing debt early. This can save you a fortune on interest. Create a budget and try only paying cash rather than with plastic.

If you are struggling with your debt commitments or even with meeting your bill obligations don't hide. Ignoring the problem will worsen your situation. Whether it is a utility bill, credit card or even you mortgage make sure you talk to your credit provider. Burying your head in the sand will only cause huge problems later in your financial life.

If you communicate and are honest most finance providers will be only too happy to listen. It is never good business for any company to make life hard for their customers. I have known providers to reduced repayments, help consolidate debts or arrange payment plans. You won't know what they will do unless you ask. Most providers would much prefer to work with you.

Many finance products have inbuilt facilities that might help. Some loans allow you to redraw funds or take repayment holidays. In the case of a redraw you can get back additional repayments you've made and in the case of a repayment holiday you can apply to temporarily reduce you repayments. If you have been ahead in your repayments for some time one of these options may be an opportunity to get over some cash flow issues.

Remember to always prioritize your debt. If you are really struggling, talk to a debt consoler. Check your credit file. This is like knowing how many fiscal brownie points you have and where you stand. Just like with your partner - in my condition a depressing thought.

Though flimsy the flowers were my only brownie points. I should have avoided a hang over this morning and simply kept drinking.



If you have a comment or question for Evan, please email [money@qmagazine.com.au](mailto:money@qmagazine.com.au)

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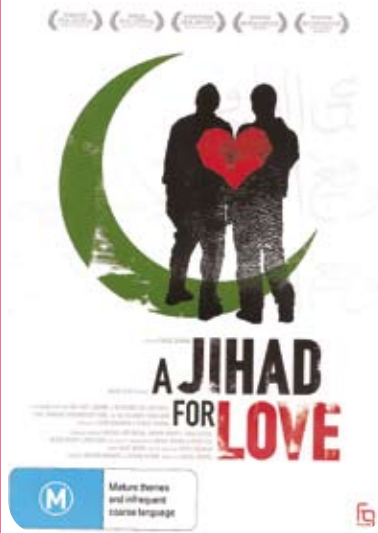




# q movies: DOCO FEST

Anyone who really knows me is aware of my disdain toward organised religion. If Jesus is meant to be omnipresent why do you need a building in which to worship Him? My grandfather was a devout Catholic his whole life - including giving a percentage of his weekly wage to the church. He unfortunately died rather suddenly on the side of the road and as he had not had his last rights read, the Catholic church would not bury him. I admit this may have changed since those days, but it still angers me that organised religion is responsible for so much discrimination around the world, and people in incredible positions of power (e.g. Pope Benedict) constantly fill their congregation's heads with nonsense and hatred. We do live normal lives. We do follow religion, We do lead productive existences. The following three documentaries from **fg films** highlight the plights of people trying to live with religion and their sexuality.

**Trembling Before G-D** is an unprecedented feature documentary that shatters assumptions about faith, sexuality, and religious fundamentalism. Built around intimately-told personal stories of homosexual Hasidic and Orthodox Jews, the film portrays a group of people who face a profound dilemma - how to reconcile their passionate love of Judaism and the Divine with the drastic Biblical prohibitions that forbid homosexuality.



this film seeks to reclaim the Islamic concept of a greater Jihad, which can mean "an inner struggle" or "to strive for the path of God".

**For The Bible Tells Me So** asks the question: "Can the love between two people ever be an abomination?" Is the chasm separating gays and lesbians and Christianity too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to hate?

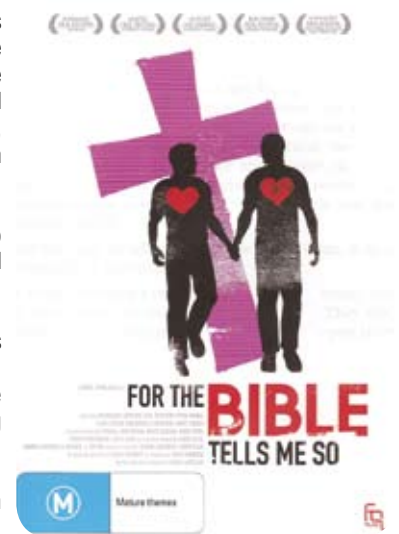
Through the experience of five very "normal", very Christian, very American families (including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson) we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realisation of having a gay child. The film offers healing, clarity, and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity.

I highly recommend all three films and hope that the people who constantly breach our human rights in the name of religion get to have a look at them too.

Vividly shot with a courageous few over five years in Brooklyn, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, London, Miami, and San Francisco, it is an international project with global implications that strikes at the meaning of religious identity and tradition in a modern world. A loving and fearless testament to faith and survival and the universal struggle to belong.

**A Jihad for Love** is a groundbreaking documentary about homosexuality and the Muslim faith. Fourteen centuries after the revelation of the holy Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad, Islam today is the world's second largest and fastest-growing religion. This is the story of Islam from its most unlikely champions: gay and lesbian Muslims.

Filed over five and a half years in twelve countries and nine languages, it comes from the heart of Islam. Looking beyond a hostile and war-torn present,







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# q beauty test drive: DR LEWINNS

A little over a month ago I was given these products by Dr Lewinns Carlo Weimer (Brand and Sponsorship Executive) with a couple of man to man instructions. Carlo did however acknowledge that a reasonably high percentage of gay men already have a skin health regimen.

Dr Lewinns is certainly well known for their female range and the same healing qualities (and ingredients) go into their new range just for men.

From the first day of using the exfoliant to this morning when I used the fluid to shave with, I have been impressed. I might add at this point that Dr Lewinns is not paying for this review in any way shape or form and my comments are completely unbiased.

I have just recently given up smoking (within the last 6 months) and have found myself as a result paying more attention to my skin and its well-being. Although I haven't seen any dramatic change using the eye cream (although I have not been using it regularly), I have found significant changes in my overall skin health by using the other products in the range.

The tips to the right are very accurate. I absolutely love the ease and feeling of the Shaving Cream. It leaves the skin very soft. It is important however to use a good quality razor - not one of those disposable things in the ten packs.

The After Shave Fluid does not sting and I have found that only one squirt covers my whole face after shaving adequately. The feeling is one of refreshment.

I have used a daily moisturiser for some time and find this one non greasy, easy to apply and (although I can't necessarily see any difference in a month) figure that if it is doing some repairs on lines and wrinkles then why not have that added bonus.

Overall I have found my skin softer and cleaner since using Dr Lewinns range for men. I realise that my skin would have done this naturally (to a certain degree) when I gave up smoking but I have found no negatives about using them and now have them as part of my daily skin care.

# DR. LEWINN'S MEN

Things to remember:

1. Face Scrub - best to be used during morning shower.
2. Shaving Cream - best to be used after shower when hair is soft. You also only need a minimal amount of water with the Shaving Cream (cream = non-foaming) and Shaving Cream does not need to be washed off (does not contain soap, so good to be just wiped off with towel - better moisturisation).
- After Shave Fluid - best to be used all over face (also a great hydrator before you go out in the evening!).
3. Follow up with Day Moisturiser SPF 15 to protect your skin during the day and help repair lines and wrinkles.
4. Eye Cream best to be located on bed side table before you go to bed + one in bathroom for the tired eyes in the morning.

TIP: before you go out, put it in the fridge and use it chilled in the morning! Eye saver!



# q beauty: with GEORGE ALEXANDER

## For A Perfect Wet Shave

Ever since prehistoric man first scraped a seashell across his cheek so that his prehistoric boyfriend would let him dance cheek-to-cheek, shaving has been a part of the male experience. But even with today's high-tech razors, lots of men still get nicks, cuts, and razor burn. Today I'm am here with the latest trend in male grooming that promises a better shave by going back to the old school.

### Q: What is the perfect shave and why do most guys get it so wrong?

A: The perfect shave is what all men strive for every morning when they bring their razor up their chin – an effortless shave that's baby smooth, and without any of the usual skin irritation, redness, and that burning sensation most guys seem to feel is par for the course when it comes to shaving. Why do so many guys find this so hard to achieve? Because proper shaving has become a lost art. Shaving is one of those glorious male traditions that used to be passed down from father to son, but somewhere along the line, when shaving became more about cheap, disposable razors than a nice, precision-made metal tool in your hand, it became a brainless routine to rush through in the morning without even thinking about it. A dull disposable razor dragged across a layer of foam or gel on your cheeks is a step backward from the past, not an improvement. Now that men of all ages are paying more attention to their appearance, it's no wonder that the hottest trend right now in male grooming is a return to the traditional wet shave.

### Q: What is a "wet shave" and how is it different from the way most men – and women – shave today?

A: Wet-shaving is just what the term implies – keeping your face (or for women, their legs) wet with plenty of warm water before, and during, the entire shave. In fact, you should always shave after a shower (unless you have a highly sensitive skin), not before (if you need to shave before or without taking a shower, washing your face with warm water for a few minutes will suffice). With a layer of warm water between your skin and the lather, the blade skims the surface instead of dragging on it, which is the main cause of irritation, redness, and "shave bumps". A wet shave gives you a more effective shave and better-looking skin. The warm water opens the pores of your skin and relaxes your facial muscles, and it softens your whiskers for more effective cutting. Believe it or not, but your whiskers are tougher than the edge of a razor blade, and shaving "dry", or mostly dry as with the vast majority of shaving creams, foams, and gels on the market, means you're literally tugging on each and every hair on your face instead of neatly slicing it at the skin's surface and moving on without irritating your skin. The key to proper wet shave is keeping your face as wet as possible at all times during the

shave. Even if you keep your current tools and routine, you'll marvel at how much closer and more comfortable shaving can be when you keep your face hydrated at all times with lots of warm (not scalding) water.



### Q: What are the basic tools you need for a wet shave?

A: The perfect shave has three ingredients: a good razor and a high quality, non-perfumed, gentle and natural shaving gel, and a soothing moisturiser. The first tool you need for a wet shave is a razor. And by razor, I mean whatever high-quality, NON-DISPOSABLE razor you feel most comfortable with. I know, I know, disposables are easy, but they're extremely hard on your skin because the quality of the blades isn't as good as a cartridge razor. The best I have come across is the Gillette Fusion Phenom Power. It contours the face easily and gives an ultra-smooth and gentle shave every time. It also vibrates to make shaving more comfortable. Once you've got a razor, what you will need some quality shaving gel and a sink full of warm (not scalding) water. After you emerge from a shower, fill the sink with warm water. Splash some water on your face to keep it maximally wet. The key to a perfect wet shave is keeping your face as hydrated with warm water at all times as possible. Take an appropriate amount of your shaving gel and warm it between the pads of your fingers until you achieve a light lather using a little water if required. Gently apply the product all over the beard area of your face. Wait of 30 seconds to allow the product to further soften the hair, then pick up your razor. You want to shave downward on your face and neck WITH the direction your whiskers grow. You can also gently move the razor across to cheeks in a West-To-East and East-To-West to pick up any wayward growing hairs.

At least for the first pass, a North-to-South, then a West-To-East and East-To-West stroke will get rid of most of your stubble without irritating your skin. If you want a closer shave, wet your face again, lather up some more gel, apply and shave very lightly upward, against the grain, in a South-to-North direction. Most men's skin is too sensitive to stand up to an against-the-grain shave without redness, razor burn, and even ingrown hairs, but if you can deal with it, go gently. There are specific shave gel, such as Kusco-Murphy's Uber Close Shave Gel, that is so gentle and protective that you can easily shave in both directions without razor burn or redness. Once you're done shaving, rinse your face with cold water to close the pores. Pat, not rub, your face dry with a clean towel, and finish up with a good non-alcohol-based after-shave or moisturizer – I use and recommend Derma e Redness Reducing Serum, but any good moisturizer will be better than that stinging alcohol-based stuff that we've all suffered with.

Hope this helps and good luck! For further information on the products discussed: Kusco-Murphy Uber Close Shave Gel is available from [kuscomurphy.com.au](http://kuscomurphy.com.au) Derma e Redness reducing Serum is available from [organicsystemsaustralia.com.au](http://organicsystemsaustralia.com.au) Gillette Fusion Phenom Power is available through supermarkets and specialty shaving stores.

# q theatre: THE CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL

Call Girl The Musical is a new Australian musical set in a call centre is a must see for anyone who's ever had a job! 'Customer contact centres are the factories of the future', says creator and writer of Call Girl, Tracy Harvey. During a 6 week stint in a St Kilda Rd call centre, Harvey was compelled to take notes in between calls and hasty trips to the Tea Room. Over the next four years, Harvey, a weekly co-host on the Derek Guille program 774 ABC, developed the script for Call Girl under the watchful eye of local script editor, Doug MacLeod - Kath n Kim.

Call Girl is the story of Jean Brown, compulsive volunteer on her first day at We Care Marketing, a shonky customer contact centre run by Samantha, a money hungry, man eater. Despite Jean's own reluctance to fleece the customers and sabotage from the vacuous Courtney, Jean hooks a whopper donation, diverts the call centre relocation and finds a soul mate with Frank, a super salesman with a heart of gold.

Call Girl features a talented ensemble of young actors and established comedienne, Tracy Harvey playing the loveable Jean Brown. Jeremy Kewley is playing opposite Harvey in the role of Frank, a super salesman with a heart of gold. 'We are delighted to have Jeremy in the show' says Harvey. 'He's ideal for the part and I get to kiss him every night!'

Call Girl The Musical has 20 original songs penned by Harvey and arranged by Jack Howard - Hunters & Collectors. Call Girl will be directed by dynamic young local theatre director and media producer, Bryce Ives.

Written by comedian Tracy Harvey with assistance from Doug MacLeod (Kath & Kim) and musical arrangements by Jack Howard (Hunters and Collectors), this show is an absolute must see for anyone who's ever had a job!

Harvey says 'Customer contact centres are the factories of the future - and that's not necessarily a bad thing, but it's not necessarily a good thing, either!' And she speaks from experience. 'Call Girl The Musical' was conceived during a 6 week stint in a St Kilda Rd call centre. Tracy was compelled to take notes in between making calls and hasty trips to the Tea Room and those notes eventuated into this tuneful, compelling and hilarious new Australian musical.



**CALLGIRL**  
*the musical*



'Call Girl The Musical' is the story of Jean Brown on her first day at 'We Care Marketing, a dubious customer contact centre populated by flawed characters - including a money hungry man-eater, a wheeler dealer salesman, a vacuous brat and a desperate-to-prove-himself marketing executive with zero training. Despite her heartfelt reluctance to fleece customers and her sabotage from entrenched employees, Jean puts her best foot forward.

A one week preview season was staged in October 2008 at The Phoenix Theatre in Elwood - an overwhelming public response. With minimal publicity, a limited budget and a brand new show - the production enjoyed a standing room only season along with a swag of positive reviews:

*"With all the elements of an Off Broadway musical – topical content and gags, small cast and catchy songs - Call Girl has the ingredients for a fun night in the theatre without the big price tag" Theatre People*

*"the songs...are tuneful and bright – it is a breezy revue style piece of entertainment" The Age*

The show is now continuing its development during its 3 week season at Chapel off Chapel from April 14.



# q theatre: FLY LITTLE ONE FLY

## Cabaret cocktail of the month:

In honour of Jim Lawson's new comedy festival show, AN INCONVENIENT FRUIT, we present a cocktail that is, well, fruity!

## Looking ahead:

Come 'camping out' with leading Australian drag personality Kaye Sera ([www.kayesera.com](http://www.kayesera.com)) as she introduces you to the camp scene of Melbourne in the 1960s. Thursday 21 to Saturday 23 May.

## The Melbourne International Comedy Festival presents Colin Lane in I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THE MUSIC Wednesday 1 to Saturday 25 April

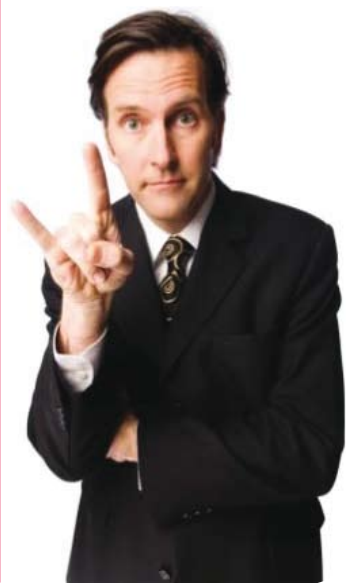
Colin Lane (Lano from Lano & Woodley) is stepping out solo with a brand new cabaret show. Colin is the man. Well, not THE man ... but the man in this scenario. The man's not sure about the music. The man doesn't get the music. The man gets the music. The man loses the music. The man gets the music back.

Warning: show contains a couple of songs with no jokes!

Wednesday 8 April to Saturday 25 April, shows at 9.00pm (8.00pm Sundays). No shows Mondays or Tuesdays. \$27 full / \$22 concession and for groups of 8 or more. Bookings: [www.thebutterflyclub.com](http://www.thebutterflyclub.com) or at the door

## The Melbourne International Comedy Festival presents Karmin Suitrout in LET'S GET MYSTICAL! In Melbourne Direct From Her Astral World Cleansing Tour.

Join ex-aerobics instructor turned mystic yogi, healer and cult victim rescuer, Karmin Suitrout, to discover how to be a multi-career women and still be one with the universe.



A migrant from LA, Karmin came to Australia to start a new life opening a gym and teaching Aerobics in 1984. The business was successful until an unfortunate event surrounding her Internet lover, her business and a premenstrual pre-nup occurred.

After her loss Karmin turned to spirituality and performance and enjoys tap dancing people's dirty auras away.

If you can relate to the 1980s junk food, gym junkies and influx of personal power and positive affirmations, or simply want to see Lycra in its best light, this is the show for you!

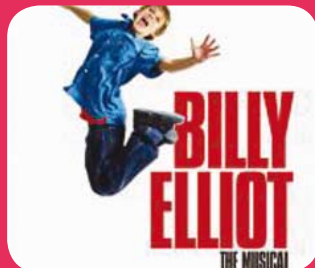
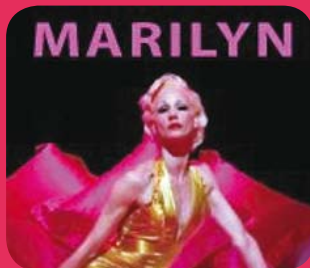
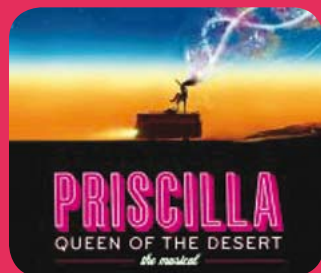
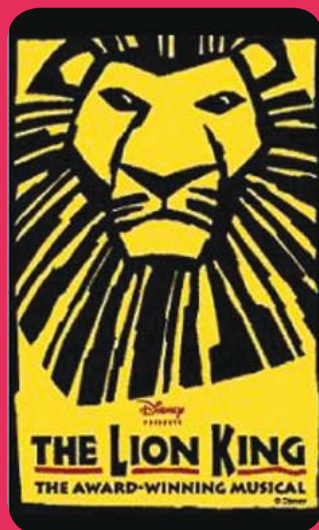
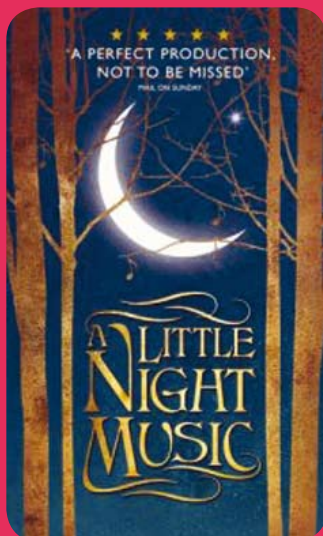
Adelaide performer Noni Dunstone presents her character, Karmin Suitrout, in a solo show for the Melbourne Comedy Festival. With direction by Matt Scholten.

Thursday 23 to Sunday 26 April (four performances) All shows at 7.00pm \$20 full / \$15 concession and for groups of 8 or more. Bookings: [www.thebutterflyclub.com](http://www.thebutterflyclub.com) or at the door. Further info: [www.karmin.com.au](http://www.karmin.com.au)



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# q community: **LOW REZ**

Melbourne's **ONLY** all male (predominantly gay) pop choir is looking for singers ! If you join now you can participate in their debut concert on Sunday May 24th hosted by Trevor Jones.



Set up in November last year, the choir's founders, Rob Roelofs, husband Nick Barker-Pendree, Matt Sauvarin and music director, Dene Menzel, are enthusiastic about creating a new sound with their predominantly gay male choir, aptly named "LOW REZ" (low resonance).

When Rob and Nick arrived in Australia from The Netherlands at the end of 2007 they were disappointed to find no male pop choirs in Melbourne. Rob had been singing for some time in the Amsterdam Gay Men's Choir, "Manoeuvre" and was looking for a similar group here. Okay, Melbourne does have a Melbourne Gay & Lesbian Chorus which performs a lot of pop arrangements but it is, after all a mixed choir. Although one doesn't need to look far before finding a male choir here, none of them specialise in pop arrangements. What to do? They formed their own.

Although LOW REZ has still to find it's feet, it has already performed for 6,000 people at the Australia Day celebrations in Nunawading, providing the backing vocals to "I still call Australia home".

The choir's director, Dene Menzel, is the only female in the group and loves the male "sound" and the fun atmosphere during rehearsals. "Often the guys stand around the piano to go over their section" she says "...and now we have a great practise website where everyone can download recorded material from the rehearsals. Most of the choir members cannot read music and so learning the music is done by ear."



A lot of the choir members joined the choir to be able to combine singing (music-making) with a social aspect. There are regular informal social events like "a couple of beers" after the Monday night rehearsals at the Prince of Wales pub, and our first beach-barbie is planned for March in St Kilda.

So far, repertoire worked on includes "I'll be there" (Jackson Five), "Touch me in the morning" (Diana Ross), "The Rose" (Westlife arr. Dene Menzel), "No more tears" (Donna Summer/Barbra Streisand), and "Greenfields" (The Brothers Four).

For more information go to: [www.lowrezmelbourne.com](http://www.lowrezmelbourne.com)

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# q lifestyle: with PETE DILLON

There are many people who have heroes - those who inspire them to do what they do. Sporting heroes, community heroes, fashion heroes even. What do you do when you meet those heroes and how do you react?

I have been quite lucky this past few weeks to meet some of those people that I have had some sort of unhealthy man crush on - not in a sexual way but whom the thought of meeting has always had me inspired. . . .

Heston Blumenthal of The Fat Duck in Bray, UK was one such hero I had the joy of meeting. I wanted him to be aloof, standoffish and well, a bit of a prick. But he was fantastic, generous, giving and one hell of a nice bloke. He is renowned as one of the best chefs in the world, and was in fact one of the nicest people I have met in some time.

Rene Redzepi is to Denmark what Jamie Oliver, Gordon Ramsay and Marco Pierre White are to the UK. He has almost celebrity status and his restaurant in Copenhagen, Noma, is the only one in the country to have 2 Michelin stars. I wanted him to be difficult, and aloof, standoffish and also a bit of a prick. But he and his wife were delightful, charming and so perfectly Danish.

Chefs worldwide have a reputation as feisty, drama driven foul mouthed megalomaniacs. I wonder if this reputation is true and over the past few weeks in Melbourne at the Food and Wine Festival, I have learned more about the humanity of chefs and industry professionals that would put these rumours well and truly to bed.

One of the most enjoyable things of the festival this year was trying new things. I ate things that I did not think I would and I have had the pleasure of drinking tons of Victorian wines. From dry crisp and fruit driven Rieslings, to some amazing dessert offerings that were both intense and yet so delicately subtle, each of these experiences has reminded me of the amazing quality and diversity here in Victoria. After the recent devastation across this state in the past 2 months with fires and the ongoing drought that has in some cases, wiped out a great many crops, we may well be looking for Victorian wine in the next few years and find just a limited supply. Regions like Mildura, the north east and some cold climate offerings from south western Victoria (cities like Portland) will be the easiest to get hold of and well worth their price. It seems there is a focus on assisting the state to re generate its crops of fantastic grapes, prepare for smoke taint which may mean that some wines may have to be washed down the drain prior to the final stages of preparation as this is when the smoke taint kicks in. This would be a disaster for some producers. So, where you can, support Victorian growers and winemakers.

You will find excellent sparkling from Chandon, Yarra Burn and



Yering Station and they are all worth trying. In these parlous financial times, a switch to Aussie produced fizz would be a grand idea indeed.

Victoria is also producing some beautiful Pinot Gris/Pinot Grigio. These are made from the same grape but in a different style - the gris French and the Grigio Italian in style. The master of these is indeed Kevin McCarthy at T'Gallant, who with his gorgeous partner Kathleen Quealy seem to have an understanding of this grape that few others have...the winery is on the Mornington Peninsula and is certainly worth the day trip if you are here in Victoria.

Between heroes and amazing Victorian wine offerings, there is little else to rave about - excepting that if you want to have a look at places to eat and drink in Australia, take a look at <http://www.visitvineyards.com/> for information on wine, food, accommodation, tours and events. It's a great site and one that can plan every trip within Australia for you.

Cheers, happy drinking and if you need any further information, please feel free to contact me at [lifestyle@qmagazine.com.au](mailto:lifestyle@qmagazine.com.au) or call 0409142365





# in bed: with BEN

**The Ultimate Guide to Becoming Seductive**  
In this month's column I thought I'd go down a different track. What many of my readers don't know about me is that I'm also an image consultant. I work with authors and entrepreneurs to groom them to help them become more seductive to prospective clients and the media. Today, I'm going to share with you tips on how you can become more seductive on those hot dates of yours.

## Quit Hiding Yourself

The first tip has nothing to do with what you wear, it has everything to do with whether you like yourself. Bitch doesn't look good on anyone and neither does having a poor self image. Focus on who you are first and foremost and never ever hide yourself from those you're trying to impress. At the end of the day they either like you or not. If they don't, no problem, just yell out next and ask the waiter out on a date!

## Dress to Impress

Dress to impress yourself not him. Wear clothes that you feel comfortable and sexy in and clothes that represent various aspects of your personality. Go to the wardrobe and ask yourself, "Who do I want to be today/tonight and how do I want to be perceived?" Are you going for the sexy, casual, smart, dramatic, creative, romantic or even natural look? Decide which is a correct fit for your personality and the occasion, i.e. is it a night time or daytime date.

## How to Get the Sexy Night Time Look:

To get the sexy look go for an open shirt, strong accessories, well fitted clothes leaning on the tight side in darker colours. Hold your posture well and

stand strong in the clothes you're wearing. Your hair will be well styled and your clothes will have elements of shine in it, i.e. shiny jewellery and shiny shoes with a pointed or square toed tip.

## How to Get the Natural Daytime Look:

For the natural look (best for a daytime date), work with open neck tops or shirts i.e. v-necks. Stick to natural fabrics such as cotton, layer your clothing with scarves and jackets and go with a great pair of jeans. Your hair will be natural looking and have little product in it. Minimal accessories are required. Top this look off with a comfortable pair of casual shoes.

## How to Look Taller:

There's no doubt that adding height helps in the seduction process. If you're a short arse like me there is help. Here are a few quick tips:

- Go for square toed or pointed shoes to elongate your legs
- Wear heels
- Stick to small rise jeans – the ones that don't sag around your crouch
- Go for a skinny leg to well fitted pair of jeans/pants
- Wear a v-neck to draw the attention up
- Wear similar colours below the waist to avoid drawing the attention down, such as dark shoes and dark jeans. White shoes with dark jeans will shrink you instantly
- A scarf will add height and give you greater presence
- Get your clothes tailored as it makes all the difference in looking sloppy or sophisticated, tall or short

My last and most important tip is to play with your clothes and find a style that suits you. When you wear clothes that are congruent with your personality you'll not only be more seductive, you'll feel more comfortable within your own skin. There's nothing more sexy than a guy who knows who he is and what he wants.

Now, if none of this works. Simply go home and seduce yourself. That's what God gave you a hand for in the first place! Didn't he?





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# q focus: MORE PHILLIP ISLAND

**Step back in time on Churchill Island Heritage Farm**

**Located on the edge of the coast of Phillip Island and part of Phillip Island Nature Parks, Churchill Island Heritage Farm is a nostalgic piece of Victoria's heritage.**



Farmed since the 1850's, Churchill Island is the site of the first European agricultural activity in Victoria, with this rich history still evident today.

The 57 hectare working farm boasts restored cottages and farmhouses that visitors can take a peek into and gain an understanding of the past living and farming methods of early Australian settlers.

Activities run daily between 2pm - 4pm encouraging kids to discover life on a farm, activities include; milking the cow, shearing the sheep, feeding the baby animals, the black smith display and working dogs with cattle and sheep.

Connected to the mainland by bridge, the farm is of great natural and cultural significance due to the environment it boasts with world class wetlands, heritage gardens, Nationally listed historic buildings, Churchill Island Marine National Park, stunning ancient Moonah trees and lavender farm.

Best explored on foot or bike, the farm has an extensive network of walking tracks that take in the breathtaking Phillip Island and Western Port Bay coast lines. See real working farm animals: Clydesdales, sheep and highland cattle all doing their share.

When the day is done sit back and enjoy a glass of local wine in the café overlooking the coast or browse the gift shop for souvenirs so you can take home a 'piece' of Churchill Island.

The island is well utilised with monthly farmers markets full of local produce held on the fourth Saturday of each month and every Easter holds Australia's premier working horse event, the Working Horse Festival that features horses, stalls, music and entertainment.

Providing a fantastic scenic backdrop, Churchill Island is becoming increasingly popular as a location for public, private and corporate functions, as well as weddings.

Entry costs:  
Adult \$10.00  
Child \$5.00  
Con/Pen \$7.00  
Family \$25.00



A 3 Parks Pass is our best value ticket and includes entry into Churchill Island Heritage Farm, Koala Conservation Centre, Penguin Parade and the Nobbies Centre. All proceeds go toward maintaining the beautiful Churchill Island.

## Conserving our koalas

Koalas are arguably the most popular of iconic Australian animals and over 30 of them call Phillip Island's Koala Conservation Centre home.

The centre, which holds Australia's highest eco tourism rating, allows koalas to live in their natural habitat while visitors have the chance to see them closer than they ever have been able to before, thanks to its treetop boardwalks. This is no zoo!

Covering 30 hectares, the Koala Conservation Centre features a unique network of tree top boardwalks that allow visitors to walk in amongst the eucalyptus leaves and see koalas – often eye to eye – in their natural habitat. No other place in the world offers visitors this opportunity.

Not only home to koalas, the conservation centre also allows visitors the opportunity to see other Australian wildlife in their natural surrounds. Possums, echidnas, wallabies, snakes and more than 100 bird species are regular sights on the woodland walk.

With the ongoing theme of education in everything on offer at Phillip Island Nature Parks, the centre features a visitor interpretation centre with gift shop and educational displays that provide further information on what visitors experienced during the walk.

Entry fees are:

Koala Conservation Centre

Adult \$10.00

Child \$5.00

Con/Pen \$7.00

Family \$25.00



A 3 Parks Pass is our best value ticket and includes entry into Churchill Island Heritage Farm, Koala Conservation Centre, Penguin Parade and the Nobbies Centre. All revenue is put back into the Koala Conservation Centre to aid in the conservation, research and protection of koalas on Phillip Island.

## q deal: NATIONAL PARKS ACCOMM

In this tough economic climate, National Parks Accommodation Pty Ltd have created their own stimulus package!

Recently the tourism industry has been hit hard by the global economic situation, with



some areas also being affected by other devastating events. A lot of these businesses are not damaged by fire, floods or the recent oil spill, however, are still experiencing a downturn in business because of their location. Help National Parks Accommodation to help the tourism industry get back on their feet!

They are offering every booking made through [www.nationalparksaccom.com.au](http://www.nationalparksaccom.com.au) 5% cash back on the total of their booking. This is not a competition - for a limited time only, every booking made through [www.nationalparksaccom.com.au](http://www.nationalparksaccom.com.au) will be eligible for this offer. Stay near a National Park, enjoy the relaxation that a holiday creates for your mind, body and soul, all while helping the local industry, and then receive cash back.

Book your next holiday now to take advantage of this offer: [www.nationalparksaccom.com.au](http://www.nationalparksaccom.com.au) For terms and conditions of this offer, visit: <http://www.nationalparksaccom.com.au/cash-back-promotion>

# q whispers: with ADDAM STOBBS

**It's on again as I predicted – the knee jerk political solutions to the worlds problems, Australia's problems, and more importantly social problems.**

You see they think that by making things more expensive or illegal they will solve the problem. Let's look at some examples:

**Illegal Drugs:** there are more of them around, they are cheaper and more refined to produce maximum effects for least cost, no quality control, no monitoring, highly unstable and dangerous.

**Lethal Legal drugs -Tobacco:** lethal, recently quoted as the fastest rising drug killing people with slow toxic carcinogens and other chemicals. Completely Legal government has good control and gets a lot of money from it. Very little money put into saving lives though.

**Alcohol:** Can be highly addictive, and causes chronic dependency, and serious social damage, laws about drinking exist not many are really enforced effectively (Except drink driving). Taxed a lot, it's a good cash cow for government. In communities at risk of social collapse intervention laws are relatively well controlled when there is a problem, but they are very easily undermined (e.g. NT intervention loads of sly grog sellers).

**Gambling:** endemic in Australia, highly addictive, advertised a lot in media, government makes a lot of money, almost no money spent of recovering the lives of people who have been hooked in.

**Sex without Condoms:** It exists, but causes public and political hysteria; crisis counselling is available for distressed heterosexual men (Politicians) who cannot bear the thought of arse sex. It's a very worrying sign that there are now serious criminal cases regarding HIV leading to long term prison sentences. These are rare. The rise in HIV seems to be as a result of safe sex fatigue. I am confident though that the government (Victoria at least) are operating with good policies and in the best interests of all member of the community.

**Pornography:** selling it is illegal in Victoria, so we're safe. Although 15 minutes walk from my house in the upper middle class eastern suburbs of Melbourne (The Bible belt) and I can purchase some of the most hard core porn off the shelf.

**Internet:** The "information super-highway" as it was prophesised in the early 90's will be the most amazing development in human history. For many it is in reality the most amazing galactic porn machine ever invented, but it's also the greatest information resource, ever. For our community it is most brilliant coming out resource. It'll be devastating if the government restricts access to this vital function.

**Street Violence:** In Melbourne and Sydney it's endemic. I dare not go out into the centre of Melbourne or Sydney late at night, it's just too dangerous. It's not much better in Fortitude Valley, Surfers Paradise, Hindley Street, or Northbridge. State governments have trailed lock-down and without careful consideration.

**Public Transport:** Now here's a good example! It is SO unsafe. Almost every time I have used it I have been confronted with pissed bogans, beggars, very aggressive ticket inspectors, and loons (a LOT of loons). The trams and trains in Melbourne have turned in to the mental institutions Jeff Kennett closed down. That is of course when they are actually running.

**Climate change:** I remember seeing so many protests in the 1980's and 1990's around the country about how the natural wonders of Australia were being ruined by building dams. The natural wonders of Australia are being ruined because we didn't build dams. The world wide solution to this is simple. There are too many people. You know the answer to this.

**Human Rights:** yes we need them, but we need them to be globally consistent and all people need to be treated equally, in this instance we realise that humanity has indeed a long way to go achieve enlightenment.

**Death:** We can choose how we live our lives (Up to a point) we should be able to choose how we end it (Up to a point). A foetus in an abortion over 20 weeks has to be terminated, and many doctors save the lives of babies at about 25weeks of gestational life. Is there something hypocritical in this?

**Cosmetics and aging:** I am about to get a (another) cosmetic procedure anti-aging, which is made from dead human bodies. Should I be flogged in public for using someone else's death as a cosmetic opportunity?

You know we are actually very lucky in Australia, because whinge as we do about our politicians, and our political systems, they do (Mostly) get it right. It is very healthy for Australia to have a senate (and the states to have upper houses), because it's a safety check. As much as we might want to lynch some of the senators that can compromise lower house outcomes, I'm glad they are there, having a politically 'independent' upper house protects democracy, when one political party control both houses, it's dangerous for minorities.





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# q spotlight: NORTH CARLTON DINING



I was recently invited to leave the warmth and security of my St. Kilda dwelling and venture north to Carlton. Once I arrived (which was a bit of an expensive venture at 6.00pm on a Friday night) I took a seat outside, ordered a drink and witnessed no fewer than four groups of gay guys wandered past (a couple of whom ventured inside the restaurant). I lent over to Ibrahim (the man who invited me) and asked "How gay is this area?". Once I got over my surprise (albeit naive) I sat back and enjoyed my culinary journey.

I have to say from the outset that my experience at Little Zephyr Kitchen was truly pleasant. The ambiance, cuisine, and service are all first class. Owner and Chef Katherine Lipic had a dream - and that dream was to serve the best food possible in a welcoming environment. She has excelled beyond (I am sure) even her wildest expectations. Together with her other half Victoria Quinton, and their amazing staff, they have created a

place where one could return on a very regular basis without getting bored with the decor or choice of cuisine on offer. The staff are extremely attentive without being overbearing, the decor is relaxed and minimalistic yet sophisticated and warm. One can choose to dine out-front (although I found the noise of the passing trams and traffic a tad too much to dine to), inside (approximately 30 - 40 covers in whatever configuration you require), or in the courtyard (an intimate choice for a small group of friends). It is not by any stretch of the imagination a noisy space. Every table was occupied on the evening I was there and not one conversation from another group could be overheard at the table at which I was seated. Polished floors, surprisingly comfortable moulded plastic chairs and simple tables and settings makes for a very unpretentious experience. The menu is Mediterranean and Middle Eastern style dishes carefully cooked in the restaurant's wood-fire oven and definitely affordable with nothing over \$28. The fare however includes vegetarian tapas, handmade pastas, wood-fired pizzas, quail, snapper wrapped in proscutto, a great selection of salads and amazingly mouth-watering desserts. Chef loves to use home grown ingredients and even has a herb garden on premise. A lot of the cuisine is vegetarian (with some gluten free options also available) but don't let that deter you. I am personally not a fan of vegetarian cuisine but loved every minute of my experience at Little Zephyr.

The wine list is a modest selection of Australia's and New Zealand's finest, with a couple of French wines, cocktails, beers, and spirits thrown in for good measure.

I recommend this restaurant emphatically and implore you to sample its fare as soon as possible. Go to [littlezephyr.com](http://littlezephyr.com) for all the information including full menu and more.



# q cuisine: with CHEF NATHAN



As the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival has once again brought many a great chef to our shores to display their talents and amazing knowledge. I, as many other foodies in Melbourne have been inspired by the astonishing display of exceptional food and wines offered during the 17 days at over 200 events throughout Victoria.

There was a strong Italian style this year so time for a lovely Tiramisu.

This can be made in many different styles, but this is my all time favourite and wish to share with you.

Preparation Time - 20 minutes.

## Ingredients (serves 4)

250ml (1 cup) strong espresso coffee  
80ml (1/3 cup) Tia Maria liqueur  
16 savoiardi (sponge finger biscuits)

2 eggs, separated  
55g (1/4 cup) caster sugar  
1 x 250g tub mascarpone  
Shaved dark chocolate, to serve

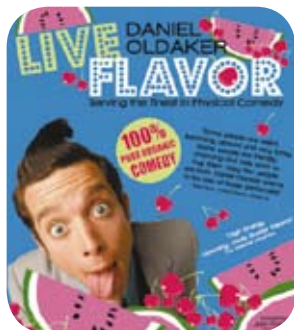
## Method

1. Combine coffee and Tia Maria in a bowl. Dip biscuits, 1 at a time, into the coffee mixture and use to line the sides of four 375ml (1 1/2-cup) capacity serving glasses. Drizzle with remaining coffee mixture.
2. Use an electric beater to beat together the egg yolks and sugar in a medium bowl until thick and creamy. Add the mascarpone and beat until combined.
3. Use a clean electric beater to whisk the egg whites in a bowl until soft peaks form. Use a metal spoon to fold half the egg white into the mascarpone mixture. Fold in the remaining egg white until combined.
4. Spoon mascarpone mixture among glasses. Cover with plastic wrap. Place in the fridge for 6 hours to chill.
5. Sprinkle with chocolate to serve.



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# q win: PRESSIES FOR THE KULTURAL



## Live Flavor

Fresh and funky and quite literally dripping with comedy goodness, "Live Flavor" is upbeat and off the wall. An irreverent, entertaining and unexpected spoof of popular culture. Serving the finest in physical comedy for the 2009 Melbourne International Comedy Festival, 'Live Flavor' includes ridiculous routines such as "How to be the Public Ass", "Celery Sword Swallowing", "Watermelon Man" and many more. 14th – 25th April 2009 (not Mondays) @ 9:30pm Meeting Room, Trades Hall, Corner Victoria & Lygon St, Carlton.

We have two double passes for the 22nd of April to give away. Simply email [getfree@qmagazine.com.au](mailto:getfree@qmagazine.com.au) OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with **flavor** in the subject line. We'll draw these tix on Monday the 20th of April.

## Doc Johnson

NORTH HOLLYWOOD, Calif. – Adult novelty mega-manufacturer Doc Johnson has released TitanMen Nite Stix™ – another authoritative addition to the popular line of toys in partnership with the world's premier producer of gay content.

The TitanMen Nite Stix™ collection of firm yet flexible toys are designed for anal play, Made-in-the-USA, developed with TPR and feature Doc Johnson's proprietary, anti-bacterial Sil-A-Gel™ formula. Available in three sizes - the 10" Trainer, 12" Slave and 15" Warden - the these toys are sure to show the user who's boss. The grip handle and flexible shaft design is accented by the manly combination of all-black matte and glossy finishes, and as an added bonus, a sample size of TitanMen Titanium silicone-based lube is included with each toy.

"Our relationship with TitanMen is highly gratifying for us because not only do we get to join forces with a preeminent brand in the adult world, but we get to deliver the consumer hard-hitting product that they can't find elsewhere," said Chad Braverman, Doc Johnson's Director of Product Development and Licensing. "Our Nite Stix toy is a perfect example of two industry leaders coming together to develop a really great product that will resonate with the gay audience in a big way."

The TitanMen Nite Stix™ are the latest in the monumental partnership between the two industry giants. For more information, visit [www.DocJohnson.com](http://www.DocJohnson.com).

We have five to give away. Simply email [getfree@qmagazine.com.au](mailto:getfree@qmagazine.com.au) OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with **doc johnson** in the subject line to try your luck.

# SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

## Sydney Dance Company

As you can read on the opposite page, the Sydney Dance Company is bringing another spectacular show to Melbourne-town. We have 5 double tickets for Thursday May 14 - which is a truly special prize indeed.

Simply email [getfree@qmagazine.com.au](mailto:getfree@qmagazine.com.au) OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with **sydney dance company** in the subject line and one of the double passes could be yours.

Congratulations to Mr. R. Shearn from Adelaide who won our very special weekend for two prize at the fabulous SEBEL in St. Kilda. Make sure you send us some pictures of your holiday Mr. Shearn.

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





# q dance: SYDNEY'S FINEST

Sydney Dance Company presents Rafael Bonachela's 360°

Following a spectacular world premiere season in Sydney in 2008, Rafael Bonachela's powerful and cutting edge work 360° created for Sydney Dance Company, will sizzle into Melbourne to perform at the Arts Centre, Playhouse from 13-16 May 2009, a strictly limited season of 5 performances only.

360°, the first production created in Australia by Sydney Dance Company's new Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela, was the explosive offspring of an intense eight week period spent with the company. A firestorm of interest was unleashed when it opened in Sydney in 2008, receiving rave reviews from media and audience members alike, praising its beauty, energy and skill. Many regard this production as one of the most dynamic works Bonachela has ever created.

Bonachela, described by ID Magazine as the "hottest of international talent" and regarded as one of the world's most exciting choreographers, joined Sydney Dance Company as Artistic Director in November 2008. Since his arrival there have been a number of exciting new dancers who are performing with the company and visiting Melbourne for the first time.

Says Bonachela, "I am really excited about performing 360° with such an amazing company in a number of important Australian cities such as Melbourne. I hope that people will find my work challenging, fun and exciting to watch."

The rise of Barcelona-born, London-based Bonachela has been a fast upward trajectory. After arriving in London at 16 he joined the Rambert Company as a major dancer and was soon choreographing works for them. June 2006 saw the launch of the Bonachela Dance Company. He then went on to win the inaugural Place Prize for Choreography, picking up the dance world's biggest cheque. His career has seen him perform in works by some of the world's greatest choreographers. He is currently artist in residence at the South Bank Centre, London after being appointed in 2006.

Famed for his collaboration with musicians and designers, Bonachela's work has already been seen by thousands of Australians – in 2005 he choreographed for Kylie Minogue's flamboyant Showgirl Tour! Moving seamlessly between the mainstream and the avant-garde dance works, his commissions include work for George Piper Dancers, English Chamber Orchestra, Danza Contemporanea de Cuba as well as Tina Turner and Primal Scream.

A self-confessed 'movement junkie', Bonachela is committed to innovation with his motivation stemming from the exploration and experimentation of pure movement. Bonachela's movement communicates in vivid and powerful terms about the human condition and human relationships-the mood ranging from seriousness to sexy - it can be furious, energetic, emotional and liquid.

Sydney Dance Company is one of the country's most original and vibrant arts organisations. Performing each year nationally and internationally, they have become one of the most in-demand Australian performing arts companies and an active proponent of Australian dance around the world. The Company's dancers are acclaimed throughout the world for their technical finesse and artistry.

Says Bonachela, "my aim is to build a strong company with a singular identity and aesthetic, informed by my enthusiasm to create new work. Out of this vision will emerge a unique signature through work that does not belong to anyone else but us, dance at its highest quality, dance that is synonymous with Sydney Dance Company".

This strictly limited season. The Sydney Dance Company presents Rafael Bonachela's 360° - 13-16 May - the Arts Centre, the Playhouse. Wednesday - Saturday 8pm, Saturday matinee 4pm.

Tickets : \$70 / \$60 / \$40 BOOKINGS: [heartcentre.com.au](http://heartcentre.com.au) OR 1300 136 166



# q scene: OUT & ABOUT

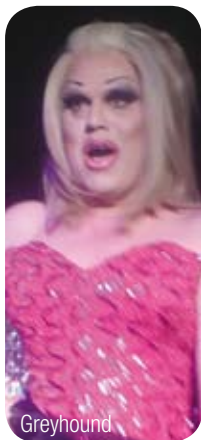


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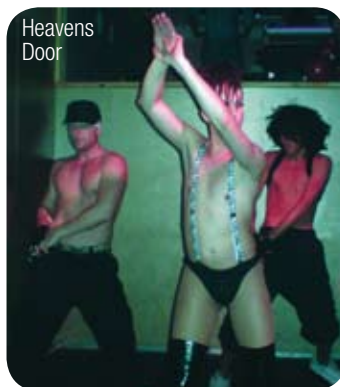
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# q scene: OUT & ABOUT



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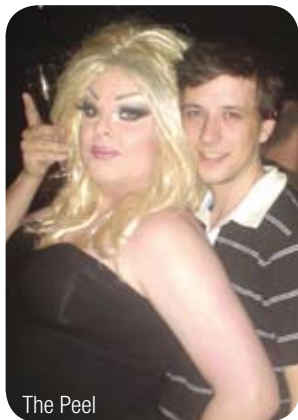
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# q scene: MQFF OPENING NIGHT



# q comps: BUDDING DJS ENTER

**So you think you can DJ\***

**A new concept in talent quest search/competitions has just been launched in Melbourne with the potential to go national.**

The philosophy behind this competition is refreshingly different to other talent quests, as it includes the fundamental principle that aspiring "new" talent should be given the opportunity to actually be coached by those who have already placed their mark on success and fame.

The challenge has been put out to all "professional" DJ's to take on an "apprentice" DJ and coach them in the skills that will create success. Experienced DJ's can nominate their own "apprentice" or be allocated an apprentice by the organisers.

Up and coming DJ's usually have their own favourite DJ "stars" who they admire and aspire to. They might know them personally or they might not, but either way the new talent is given the opportunity to be taken-on ("apprenticed") by a successful DJ who will in turn share the skills and experience that has brought success.

At the same time, DJ's who have already made a name for themselves are thrown down the gauntlet to compete against each other in the popularity stakes and also in their status as a true DJ "Master" by demonstrating their abilities to develop new talent.

This creates a whole new style of competition which spans many levels and also creates many great nights out for patrons at the heats and finals. Events will be run at popular participating venues where sets will be performed alternatively by a popular DJ and their "apprentice", then another popular DJ and their "apprentice" and so on.

Naturally the "apprentices" will be subjected to auditions and given the chance for professional coaching by their Master DJ before being given their chance to play to the crowds, so that patrons can expect great performances all round. The proven "Masters DJ's" will spin the decks with their own sets to compete for their own awards and prizes in between the newcomers, so each event will make for a great night's clubbing!

Categories of awards and the ultimate sharing in a substantial prize pool will depend on the levels of applicants who register, so there is no limit to the opportunities and rewards any aspiring DJ can achieve as they will only be pitched against others of similar skills or experience. And those DJ's who take up the challenge to take on an "apprentice" will compete for "most popular" status as well as in their willingness and abilities in sharing their success and skills to developing new talent.

The prize pool is growing and already includes DJ equipment, professional DJ Training Courses, Engagement at nightclub events and on regular Radio programmes, and the opportunity to be involved in and perform at a major signature dance party event, plus Health and Beauty services and professional Dance Courses.

So You Think You Can DJ is taking registrations for contestants and "experienced DJ's on-line now, and seeking more host venues (Melbourne and interstate) to share in running the heats as well as expressions of interest from more sponsors. Further details are available on [www.soyouthinkyoucandj.net.au](http://www.soyouthinkyoucandj.net.au) or by email to [info@soyouthinkyoucandj.net.au](mailto:info@soyouthinkyoucandj.net.au) (see also the back cover of this issue).

\* Competition Business Name is registered and owned by So you think you can DJ Pty Ltd.



# q tours: **SUNWRAE ENSEMBLE**

Sunwrae Ensemble, one of the world's premier nu chamber groups, will embark on an eighteen-date national tour to coincide with the release of their second studio album **AUTUMN NEVER FALL** in April. The 2009 National Tour will form part of the **Eavesdropping Concert series**, an annual concert and exhibition series of music by Sunwrae Ensemble featuring visual art by Australian artists. St Stephen's in Richmond has hosted the series for the past three years, amongst other venues across Australia in touring months. Jason Roberts and Kellie O'Dempsey are among the visual artists who have toured with the **Eavesdropping series**.

Founded in 2001 by composer and Artistic Director Rae Howell Sunwrae Ensemble is a nine piece chamber group who perform with a unique combination of instruments including grand piano, vibraphone, string quartet, harp, alto flute, double bass and percussion. Their music blends melodic phrases and interweaving rhythms, creating beautiful, flowing music that appeals to both classical and contemporary music lovers. The Ensemble has toured across Australia and the United States, performing at festivals such as Golden Plains, The Apollo Bay Festival and SxSw in Texas, and Artistic Director Rae Howell has completed several music residencies both locally and internationally.

**AUTUMN NEVER FALL** was recorded live at Melbourne's 3MBS Studios by acclaimed Japanese engineer Nao Anzai and mastered by Franc Tétaz. The album's seven tracks are thematically linked, each influenced by natural weather elements like wind, rain, snow and sun. Two of the tracks were composed in Canada during a Music Residency in 2006 and inspired by 'the freezing temperatures of winter in the rocky mountains'.

The album release will coincide with the launch of the animation film, 'The Machine' (track 4). Created by animator Tom Fraser, the six minute film will be screened during the ensemble's performance. Sunwrae Ensemble has a long history of collaboration with visual artists, having previously worked with Domenico de Clario, Alisdair MacIndoe, Garry Anderson, Dean Jones and Jacqueline Kennedy. Live sketching and drawing often form part of the Ensemble's performances, and the 2009 National Tour will feature live visual projections by 'Cinematic Accompaniment'.

## 2009 NATIONAL TOUR

WARBURTON - 8pm - Sat April 18 - Upper Yarra Performing Arts Centre, Warburton Hwy, VIC / SALE - 8pm - Mon April 20 John Leslie Theatre, Esso BHP Billiton Wellington Entertainment Centre, Sale, VIC / WARRAGUL - 8pm - Tues April 21 West Gippsland Arts Centre, Civic Place, Warragul VIC / ELTHAM - 2pm - Sun April 26 Montsalvat, Hillcrest Ave, Eltham VIC / WODONGA - 8pm - Thur April 30 Wodonga Civic Centre, Hovell St, Wodonga VIC / PARRAMATTA - 7.30pm - Sat May 2 Lennox Theatre, Riverside Theatres, NSW / QUEANBEYAN - 6pm - Sun May 3 Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre, NSW / SYDNEY - 8pm - Wed May 1 The Basement, Circular Quay, NSW / DUNGOG - 7pm - Thurs May 14 The James Theatre, Brown St., NSW / PORT MACQUARIE - 8pm - Fri May 15 St Columba Chapel, Iona Ave., NSW / ARMIDALE - 7.30pm - Sat May 16 Armidale Town Hall, Rusden St., NSW / TOOWOOMBA - 6pm - Wed May 20 USQ Artsworx Theatre Twilight Series, QLD / BRISBANE - 8pm - Fri May 22 Judith Wright Centre, QLD / BYRON BAY - 8pm - Sat May 23 - Byron Bay Community & Cultural Centre, Johnson St NSW / ECHUCA - 8pm - Wed May 27 The Paramount Theatre, High St, VIC / COLAC - 8pm - Thurs May 28 Colac Otways Performing Arts & Cultural Centre, VIC / ADELAIDE - 8pm - Sat May 30 The Prom, Grote St, Adelaide, SA / MELBOURNE - 8pm - Fri June 5 Thornbury Theatre, High St, Thornbury VIC

Proudly toured by Regional Arts Victoria in 2009. The Contemporary Music Touring Program aims to give all Australians, wherever they live, better access to some of the country's best live contemporary music.





# q art: THE BOLD AND UNUSUAL

**Nick Morris is anything but ordinary and his art is the same. I caught up with the guy recently - wanting to highlight his talents - and started by asking the usual: where were you born and raised? You know, the personal stuff first.**

I was born in Ballarat about an hour and a quarter from Melbourne. My father was a butcher and smallgoods wholesaler, which still has some influences on my art. My mother was an artist and really helped me on the journey. I grew up in a culture surrounded by muscle cars, aussie rules and I remember discovering a pile of Playboy magazines when I was about 14 in my fathers den. They blew me away. The atmosphere created in the photos and that these beautiful women would want to be photographed naked was amazing.

## **When did you first feel the art bug bite you?**

I first felt the art bug bite me at the age of 6. I remember it like it was yesterday. It was art time in our class room and I was drawing a farm scene. A whole lot of kids came up and said how do you draw like that? I had no idea how I did, but I knew I had a great time doing it and made the decision to be an artist. At the same time I was given a Midget Farrelly foam surfboard and also fell in love with surfing, so my destiny was set. I went through school choosing art as often as I could as a subject. By the time I got to year 11 at St Pats in Ballarat they decided there would be no art that year which left me pretty flat. This is the same school where one of the teachers had told me that only two percent of living artist make living from it and discouraged me in becoming an artist. My mother took me to see the TAFE exhibition over summer and suggested I study art there, but in the wisdom of my academic minded teachers they had convinced me that I would go no where without my HSC as it was then, so I felt I had no choice but to stay at St Pats. I remember getting up late for my first day of year 11 because the thought of going was just awful. I came out to the kitchen for breakfast and my mother said you don't want to go do you. I said no, and at that she said why don't you go to the TAFE. I answered 'how could I' when you had to apply a month ago and there were such limited places. She then said that she had applied for me and I had been accepted. She never pushed me, or told me. She just let the situation play out until I found my own truth. What an inspirational person. So I went to Tafe and studied art and design.

Still with the teachers words from St Pats ringing in my ears, I decided to do Graphic Design as it was something I knew would bring money in. I thought it wasn't to bad a compromise as it was still close to art. It was at Caulfield (Chisholm Institute) which is now Monash studying graphics that I met Dave Bowers. We discovered over time that we had a common sense of humor. We both went our separate ways when uni finished but as Dave was in a band that played down the West Coast of Victoria alot and my parents had an old fibro shack down in Point Lonsdale he would stay when he was down that way. The friendship evolved until in 1990 when I moved to the coast, we started our own clothing label Umgawa based on the Hudoo Gurus song Lelani. I guess we were heavily inspired by Mambo and wanted to create a medium with no artistic boundaries. We had a label in high demand with almost a million dollars in orders in the first 12 months. But unless you know the rag trade it pretty much chews you up and spits you out which is what happened.

Once again we went our own separate ways. I went on to be the art director of Quiksilver in Australia until 1998 when I started my own freelance graphics company Anyhow. The company was working for the biggest names in the surf/streetware business. Labels like Mossimo, Lee, Paul Frank, Mambo, Rip Curl just to name a few. Dave had also started doing some freelance for Mambo during this time. A private party that we had called the Groove-a-thon was also picked up as concept by some friends who had bought the Hi Fi bar in Melbourne. Overnight we became dancing DJ's wearing matching outfits (thus the disco helmets) whilst dancing up on stage. there was a period where we packed the place, and it was even rumoured that kylie had come to one of our shows.

Around 2005-2006 some friends in Torquay pushed us to exhibit some art at a small exhibition called A-ply. Some of my staff had introduced me to screen printing technique which is something I had always loved and I started to paint for the first time in over 20 years. A spark soon became an inferno. I lost interest in the graphics as all that I wanted to do was paint. My business suffered and I had to find a way to bridge the two careers. Financially we were in strife.





I then met Diana Pettie, a life coach from Diamond Creek. She took the guilt out of painting by working out how many days, if I cut my overheads, I would need to do graphics for to survive and then the rest I could paint. Mon-Wed was graphics and Thursday and Friday painting. During this time Dave and I had dabbled together on a few canvas's. Dianna and I then set a date for an exhibition at an Art Space in Melbourne in Brunswick Street and Dave got on board as well. We sold out of both the solo and collaborative art. We then were given the idea to book our own stand at Art Sydney which also sold out and within 6 months of our first show I became a full time artist. We have sold out since, just having a sellout show in Europe.

### Where do you get your inspiration from?

My style is influenced by all that I have seen over the journey of my life. Artistically I love Raushenberg, Warhol, Lichenstien, Larry Rivers, and Basquiat just to name a few. That first discovery of Playboys still plays a major roll for me. You wanted to fall in love with those girls. They were the girl next door in all their beauty, as apposed to a lot of porn today which is just something to give you a thrill but there is no concept of true desire for the people in the photos. The muscle cars still play a big role as well. Being from Ballarat it was impossible not to be influenced by them. I have had a 76HX Monaro and a 76XB GT Falcon Hardtop which had to go to finance my career, but I look forward to replacing them soon. I loved comics and the ads in them as a kid. I have collected old magazines and books for the last 20 years and find some amazing and weird images in them. I am constantly on the look for new books.



### How would you describe your style?

A good question. It is becoming a layered collision of influential images in my life. The art takes on a pop art influence but is crossing the boundaries of becoming more raw by the day. I love the way Raushenberg creates mess, but by sheer brilliance of eye, balance and colour, turns it into a masterpiece. I recently went and took photos of old signs from milk bars, factories, service stations and cafes in a county town and I am layering them into my art so it is a constant evolution. Thats what is great about art. You don't stagnate. You are always looking for the next new creation.

### Do you think the art world will be a casualty of the current world-wide financial situation (given that art is not always the cheapest purchase one can make)?

I think you only become part of the problem if you buy into it. As Nepolean said, "Circumstances, hell I make them". I personally swung some of my super fund into art and it has already made more money for me in a few months than years on the stock market. We are also looking to counter any possible effects by creating smaller more affordable canvas's which are selling like hot cakes as the bigger ones have backed off a little and we are diversifying into new markets. Although in saying that the big paintings all still sell out. There are people out there with money, they need to find us and we need to find them. The more people who are aware of us the broader our sales base becomes.

I recently heard a story of an Audi dealer in the states whom in the last recession found a way to sell more cars. After brainstorming ideas, they started driving a fleet of cars to country clubs on weekends and letting the people test drive them and from putting out more than ordinary effort they had a better business than before the recession. This is the mentality we are working with. Its a great time to expand you mind and create new and better ways to sell. All that I see is increase for all who become part of our world.

### How important do you see your web presence to getting your art out to the consumer? And do you still see a place for exhibition spaces / galleries?

Web presence is massive. I am currently getting around 15,000 page impressions per month. It is invaluable to us. We sell a lot of art of the web and it allows us to move forward as there are no commissions and it helps keep us as full time artists. I believe there is still a valuable place for exhibition spaces and galleries. For a lot of people it is important to see the painting in the flesh and this gives them the opportunity to do so.

### Any major project on the horizon we should know about?

Our biggest show for the year is at Art Melbourne at the Royal Exhibition centre from the 16th til the 19th of April where you can meet us over the whole weekend [artmelbourne09.com.au](http://artmelbourne09.com.au) It will be our biggest collection and well worth a look.

For further information including a look at this man's special artistic skills, go to [nickmorris.com.au](http://nickmorris.com.au)



# q travel: with ASH HOGAN

**Palm Springs, California. A gay desert oasis.**

**Los Angeles, City of Angels. Whichever way you look at it, this thriving metropolis of almost 13 million people is the gateway to some of Southern California's most iconic places to see and be seen. Caught up in the headiness of West Hollywood nightclubs, the shopping on Rodeo Drive, and the amazement of Disneyland, it's easy to forget that just a mere 200 kilometres to the East is a desert oasis completely removed from the chaotic life in this cosmopolitan city. A place where movie stars still rub shoulders with the locals, where life is less intense but just as interesting, and where being gay is not just the norm, it's expected. Welcome to Palm Springs, California.**



You may be surprised to learn that the resident gay population of Palm Springs now sits at around 40%, so it's no wonder as you first drive into town on Highway 111 that rainbow pride flags adorn the many hotels, restaurants and venues. First stop after the easy two hour commute from Los Angeles airport is at Toucans Tiki Lounge where a blend of kitsch meets a Robinson Crusoe fantasyland with thatched bamboo roof, stuffed parrots, and drinks to boot. There's nothing tropical about the performers however, with Tommy Rose belting out show tunes live (no lip-synching here) along with the playgirls in the Drag Revue. After you finish your cocktail, you might want to check out the digs in the recently reopened Palm Springs Riviera Resort & Spa which has hosted luminaries such as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr. and Elvis Presley. Then grab some food from Hamburger Mary's before heading out to dance the night away at Hunters Video Bar where there's something (or is that someone) for everyone to enjoy!

Palm Springs has on average 330 days of sunshine a year, making it a fantastic outdoor playground year round. It doesn't get much hotter than the White Party over the Easter weekend, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary in the desert in 2009. With bronzed men as far as the eye can see, pool parties and the t-dance make for a busy weekend of making new friends and checking out the eye candy from behind your mandatory pair of sunglasses. For those looking for a quieter way to chill out and relax, day spas abound and offer everything from detoxification treatments to hot stone massages and outdoor bubble baths. Or take a journey on the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, which affords stunning views of the entire Coachella Valley and San Jacinto mountains.



No trip to Palm Springs would be complete without shopping. Just 20 minutes drive from downtown is the Desert Hills Premium Outlets, which offers up to 90% discounts on last season or slow moving stock. Saks Fifth Avenue off Fifth, Armani, Calvin Klein, Diesel, and Banana Republic are all there; allow at least a day to meander through over 130 stores offering great bargains. And be sure to wear comfortable shoes and clothing.

There's never been a better time to visit Southern California. With intense competition on the Australia/Los Angeles route between Qantas, United, V Australia and Delta starting flights in July, prices have fallen below \$1,000 return including taxes and fees. To book your ultimate Palm Springs vacation, get in touch with Flight Centre Rainbow on 1300 405 657 or [rainbow@flightcentre.com](mailto:rainbow@flightcentre.com). Palm Springs. Truly a gay desert oasis.



*Ash Hogan travels annually to Palm Springs, and is an employee of Flight Centre Limited.*

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