

OCTOBER 2009



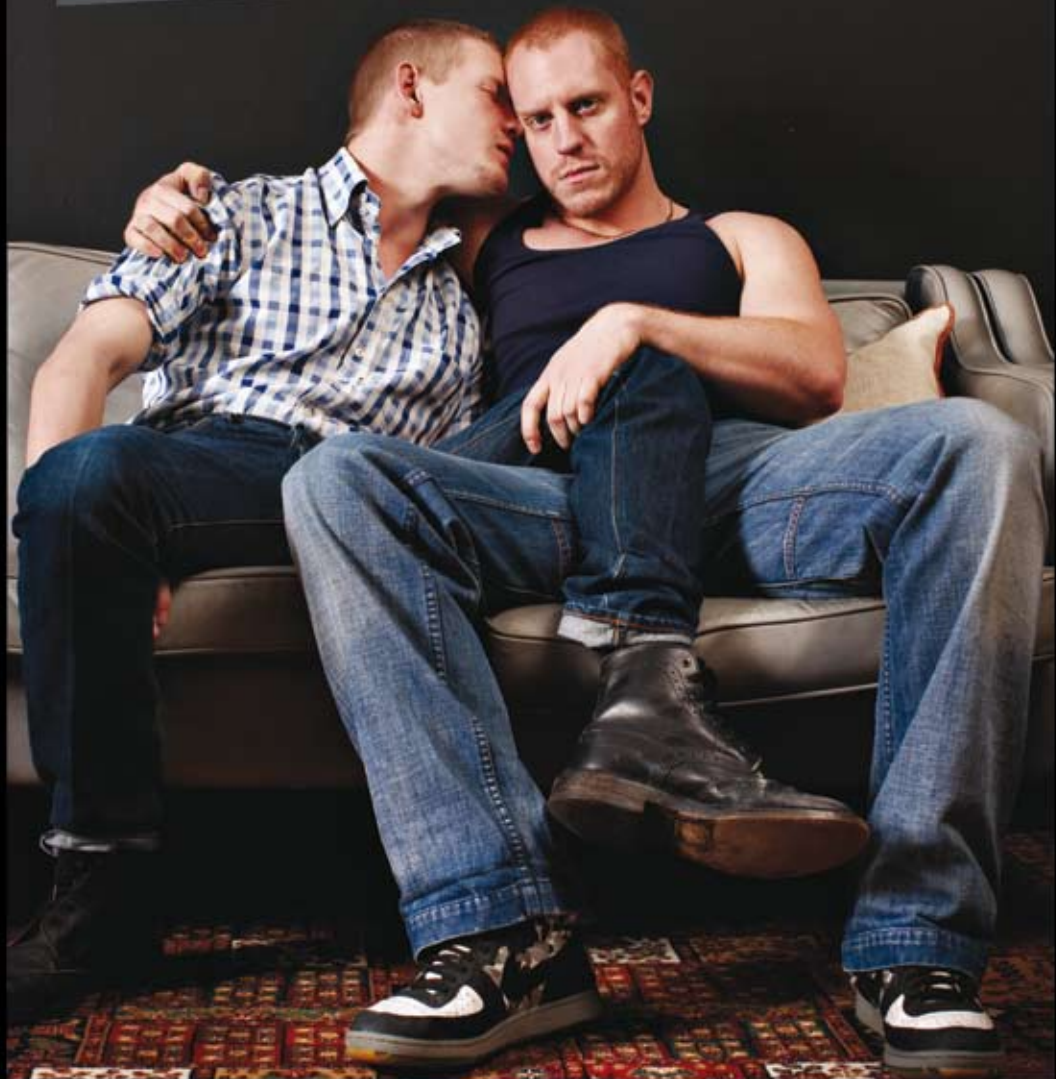
Q MAGAZINE



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q comment: Q & A ON YOUR Q

Q Magazine was originally started by three people (including myself) which changed to two people within three months and then in September 2007 it became a management of one - me! In addition to owning the publication, I also design the publication, take the majority of the photographs for the Q Scene pages, arrange the Q WIN monthly prizes, do the majority of the interviews and sales (I am in desperate need of a contract sales person). Throughout the whole six years of Q Magazine I have considered it my little baby and have approached all my dealings with a great deal of heart and love for the product.

Although Q Magazine strongly and constantly supports our community, it does NOT get any Government funding nor is run by a Board of Directors. It is a sole proprietor business owned and operated by me. Bad debts and/or slow payers are part and parcel of most businesses (especially in the current economic climate) however when it involves a one-man business like mine it is even more devastating and causes a flow-on effect of often mammoth proportions. With this in mind I can not be more thankful for the incredible support I get from the wonderful advertisers - some of whom have been with the magazine since inception. Please contact me should you wish to advertise at any time.

The other main question posed to me refers to the writing team. I need to make this VERY clear - the writers for Q Magazine do NOT get paid. They do it month after month out of a deep sense of community, bringing to the magazine their own expertise from a broad range of subject matter. These boys and girls (again, many of whom have written from the start) are amazing. Each month they take the time out of their busy lives to share their thoughts and knowledge with you and make Q Magazine the diverse, interesting and inclusive publication it is. I realise that some people in the industry would not look kindly on the fact they donate their time, however I assure you that if I could afford to pay the writers I would...but I can't. Hopefully one day this will change.

I hope this has answered your questions and possibly given you a better understanding of the way it works. Please feel free to contact me any time as usual. I hope you continue to enjoy & support Q Magazine.



Publisher & Editor
Brett Hayhoe
+61 (0) 422 632 690
brett.hayhoe@qmagazine.com.au

Editorial
editor@qmagazine.com.au

Sales and Marketing
sales@qmagazine.com.au

Design
Uncle Brett Designs & Graphics

Contributing Writers
Pete Dillon, Addam Stobbs, Brett Hayhoe,
Evan Davis, Ben Angel, Alan Mayberry,
Tasman Anderson, Chris Gregoriou, Paul
Panayi

Cover picture
Courtney Act

Photographic Contributions
Q Photos, Leigh Klooger - Pokey's,
Alan Mayberry - Greyhound, Ben
Ashe - Peel, Julia Sevilla - Joe
Black, Rod Stringer - Perth Pride

Distribution
distribution@qmagazine.com.au

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

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



q feature: COURTNEY ACT

It is always a pleasure to run into Courtney Act (the last time being at Heavens Door). One of the sweetest and talented drag queens on the Australian circuit (and quite frankly, one of the prettiest girls and boys I have ever seen). I started by asking Courtney to tell us a little about her past: where she was born, raised, went to school - just so you all know a little bit about her before we find out about her work. Better known to Sydney audiences than anywhere else in the country, I was extremely pleased and honoured that Courtney agreed to do this interview AND be our cover girl for this month. Now onto the interview:

Funny you should mention it. I am right in the middle of planning what to wear to my 10 year reunion! I can't wait for the first 10 minutes, then I will probably get bored. I grew up in a small country town called Brisbane and went to Sandgate District State High School.

Mum and Dad sent me to St Pauls for grade 6 & 7, but I refused to go back in senior. I found myself doing origami with my prayer book and knew it wasn't the right place for me. Brisbane is a great place to grow up, but at the tender age of 18 I packed my bags and moved to Sydney.

When did you first know you wanted to do drag?

There are incidents of dressing up in early childhood. The first gender bending experience was at about age 14 when I was on tour around QLD in a christmas pantomime. A friend and I dressed up in 'drag' and performed a selection of songs from the Priscilla sound track. Who knew that one day it would become my vocation?

Have you ever experienced any homophobia in your childhood or adult life? (if yes) How did you deal with it?

I have found that generally people have been very encouraging. There have been some incident of ignorance... but I don't really take offense. I think the people who are offering it up are either suffering from indoctrinated homophobia or internalised homophobia...or a bit of both.

I prefer to focus on the solution rather than the problem and for me that is fostering and creating understanding and acceptance between gay and straight people and the same in our selves.

What is the best thing and worst thing about doing drag?

The best thing is the creativity and the artistic expression and license. You can do anything you want. There are no rules. The worst... is the time it takes to get ready and the pain that one must endure. Some of it is bearable but 8 hours of wearing heels is like chinese water torture.

Any advice you can give a young gay guy wanting to pursue a career in drag?

Drag has been very good to me and many have a fabulous and fun life with it. But you need to be strong of character and remain objective always. It can consume you and I think with all things in life balance is paramount.

What sort of work is on the horizon for you?

This year has been my busiest year on record and it is keeping on keeping on. More live shows, more Sheer Cover advertorials on morning TV, more travel and lots more fun!



q destination: A MURRAY MARVEL

Many of us dream of a country retreat or country hideaway...Well you may have just discovered it...Elizas is a place of rest and tranquility, Nine gorgeous and luxuriously appointed Villa's nestled into beautiful garden surrounds.

All Villa's are fully self contained and offer the very best accommodation available along the Murray. Whether it is rest and relaxation, or golf, tennis and water activities or maybe just enjoying all the wonderful local attractions. Tocumwal is a year round holiday destination for all ages. Elizas on the Murray provides the perfect location for your next getaway, whatever the occasion. Eliza's on the Murray Luxury Villa Retreat, 16 Barooga Road Tocumwal NSW.



Now is the perfect time to book your getaway for Christmas or other special occasion OR buy a gift voucher for the special person in your life AND as a bonus, Eliza's on the Murray will include complimentary canoe hire for stays booked for now through to February 2010 - you can't get better than that!

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q lifestyle: with PETE DILLON

There is so much going on in Melbourne and more broadly in the coming month that I wonder how I will fit it all in to one column. My next 2 offerings to Q Magazine will come from the US where I will be checking out some food haunts in San Francisco and some wine in the heart of the US wine belt, Sonoma and the Napa Valley.... but that all sounds like I am skiting.

The newest thing about which I am most excited is the launch of Blue Top from Heidsieck and Co Monopole. This new sparkling from one of the most esteemed Champagne houses in France will hit the Australian market, available nationally, through First Choice and Vintage Cellars in November, just in time for the racing carnival and the festive season. For a mere \$45, you can pick up cases of this fizz that belies the price. The story that goes with it is amazing.

Back in 1907, a boat called the Jonkoping was travelling in the Gulf of Finland, on its way to make a delivery to Tsar Nicholas II of Russia. On board was some red wine, spirits and some Heidsieck and Co Monopole Champagne. The Jonkoping was sunk by a German submarine and it languished at the bottom of the ocean for almost 80 years. When the wreck was found and its precious cargo explored, the Champagne was more than salvageable – it remained in pristine condition at the bottom of the ocean for decades. You will find a bottle at Number 8 Restaurant at Crown for a mere \$13, 000.

If you have a win on the lotto, then get in and enjoy this amazing sparkle...or simply get to the one of the retail outlets in November and avail yourself of a case of this terrific fizz at almost bargain basement price. It has been well received by the wine media and is well worth the price – the quality really makes the spend worthwhile. It will be the champagne that every one is talking about into the New Year.

Also this month, stand by for a couple of books that like the TV show that the guys are known for, will change the culinary face of the nation. George Calombaris has released Hellenic Republic, based on his East Brunswick restaurant. This beautiful book, with some amazing photography (that was assisted by former Mecca Bar doyen, Cath Claringbold), presents a stunning array of passionate and home-style Greek cuisine that is both visually stunning and quite doable by the average cook ... just add loads of passion.

Matt Preston, he of the fabulous cravats, releases Cravat-a-licious ... and charts his journey as one of the most respected food writers and critics in the world. He was recognised as such in 2008. Matt is a great bloke who really understands good food and all of the effort that goes into making it exquisitely prepared and artistically presented. The book is launched in October and should be on everyone's Christmas list. It is every wannabe food critic's bible, bar none.

For those wondering about Gary Mehigan the other Masterchef judge, fear not. His book is out next year that charts the drive and passion that went into both Fenix in Richmond and the Boat House in Maribyrnong.

Finally, there is great news around from so many chefs and there is so much happening in the dining scene across the country. The Sydney International Food Festival kicks off in October, and is the first of its kind in Sin City. There will be amazing events across the city so make sure you get to look at as many as possible. Melbourne Food and Wine Festival early next year is boasting a raft of amazing talent from around the world, including the appearance of Momofuku Noodlebar chef and owner, David Chang. He is the naughty boy, or enfant terrible, of the US industry, and as a Korean-American chef, he has taken the dining industry in the US by storm. There are 7 Americans gracing our shores this year, and I am sure they will create an amazing Food and Wine Festival in Melbourne that will rival anything in the world. It is indeed, my late Christmas.

The spring carnival is upon us and Christmas just around the corner...there are terrific books as gifts, and some great champagne to drink. Life is good!! Drink sensibly and eat well – life is too short for anything else.

Oh and happy birthday to me for the day in October...another one down and another one bites the dust.

As always, you can hear more of what is happening with dining and drinking on Cravings on Joy 94.9 every Saturday from 1-2 in Melbourne or listen online at www.joy.org.au/listenlive Or contact Pete at lifestyle@qmagazine.com.au or you can call 0409 142365



q money: with EVAN DAVIS

I used to manage a large sales team. My then employer as a favour to his friend recruited his son. Nepotism and the young man's incompetence turned me into a full time babysitter. After a couple of months I called him into my office.

Our conversation started with his sales targets. He missed them all. I also mentioned our computer network. It was still corrupted with an unknown virus he'd downloaded. I flagged how disappointed the other inhabitants of the office building were with the burnout he performed just that morning in the subterranean car park.

"Do you see where I am going with this?" I asked. "I do" he said confidently and then smiled "actually I was going ask, I've been here a while now and really feel like part of the team. I think I deserve a raise!"

Naturally some people deserve a raise more than others. It helps to be strategic. Start preparing months before asking for a raise. This will mean you can prepare your case and also demonstrate how deserving you are.

Be a self promoter. If you have had a great success let your managers know. Sometimes a quick email to your superior highlighting what you've done will simply keep you in their mind's eye. Use direct language without being bombastic and be to the point about what you have achieved.


Keep records on what you bring to the company. Have you increase profits, found great new client or reduced expenses? If you receive good feedback from a co-worker, or better still a boss; record it! Save the email or make a note in your diary. It might sound naff, but you can use this information during your next performance review or promotion interview.

Use facts, figures and keep your Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) up to date. Strong numbers will always back up your raise request. This is particularly true in sales. Great sales people will know instantly how much they've sold, how profitable they are and also where they are placed in respects to their sale targets.


Take on extra responsibilities and try to expand your role. Simply doing that little bit more will stand you out from others in your work place. Opening the office or arriving early will be noticed. Leaving after the boss will also impress. Mentoring new staff can also be a great way to ingratiate you with management. This also demonstrates your interest in growing your role. When the raise opportunity comes around you'll be able to show you are already doing more than your job description.

More than anything else you'll need to ask! Don't get emotional or nervous. If you are deserving and have planned well you will be more successful. Asking doesn't always guarantee success. I told my young employee to be on much better behaviour if he wanted to keep his job much less get a raise. He left for an appointment. I couldn't believe it when I was able to hear the revving of his engine and the squealing of tyres all the way from the subterranean car park.





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q festivals: **BOOK NOW FOR FEAST**

FEAST'S HomeGrown

Feast's new Creative Producer Kerry Ireland said, ' Over thirteen years Feast has grown to become one Australia's leading Festivals of Queer Arts and Culture. One of Feast's strengths is exploring, nourishing and celebrating our diverse communities. In 2009 Feast will showcase home grown Australian queer talent to as wide an audience as possible. Feast will explore home grown stories in the performing arts, film, literature, visual arts and more. Feasts own productions will tell tales from the heart of our queer city sharing diverse stories and situations GLBTIQ people find themselves in, throughout the course of our everyday life.



Feast 2009 will feature ground breaking new artistic work, flourishing works in progress, legendary artists plus a series of community cultural development projects nourishing the wealth of home grown talent in our city and ourselves bearing fruit for Feast.

Feast is Adelaide's annual Lesbian and Gay Cultural Festival and features an exciting and culturally diverse program of theatre, cabaret, film, forums, comedy, literature, dance, visual arts, music, sporting and community events.

Key Headline Acts coming to Feast:

Gay Conversion School Drop Out (from Melbourne). Starring Anthony Menchetti

Direct from critically acclaimed seasons on the Australian and International comedy circuits, Anthony Menchetti (NBC's 'Last Comic Standing' & thecomedychannel) takes us behind the scenes of what really happened when his wacky parents sent him to a Christian gay conversion school to rid him of his homosexuality.

This hilarious stand up comedy show exposes the ironies of an organisation that, amongst other absurdities, attempts to cure homosexuality and promote abstinence by placing a group of sexually frustrated gay men together in a small room to discuss their sexual fantasies and then insist they remain celibate!

Anthony explores the colourful characters who make up his story including his fellow students, the hapless recidivist facilitators and, not least of all, the people who sent him to Gay Conversion School in the first place, his passionately evangelical, born-again German mother and his unconventionally Roman Catholic Italian father.

· The true story of one man's journey to find peace between the conflicting worlds of religion and sexuality.

· "If you are gay, you'll relate to this open, honest life story. If you aren't you'll understand your gay friends better having seen this show. And, gay or straight, you'll laugh your head off!" Scotsgay, (UK)

· "Brilliantly funny." Threeweeks(UK)

· "One of the top 10 performers to see at Edinburgh Fringe Festival and beyond" The Times (UK)



The Fabulous Frances Faye (from Sydney). Written by Nick Christo.
Directed by Neil Gooding. Presented by Feast

Before Barbra! Before Bette! There was....THE FABULOUS FRANCES FAYE. Charismatic, young performer Nick Christo (Sydney Cabaret Showcase Winner 2005) pays homage to the legendary Frances Faye in this wild cocktail of swinging jazz, crazy bongo rhythms, smoke dipped one liners and cool ex husbands on horn. Chronicling Faye's explosive 1962 debut at Chequers Nightclub, her taboo incinerating relationship with Australian audiences and her unmistakable stamp of influence on Australian performers like Reg Livermore, Lana Cantrell and Peter Allen - "Whatever comic timing I have, I got from Frances Faye." Nominated for a 2008 Sydney Theatre Critics Award for Best Cabaret the show was a hit at both the Sydney Mardi Gras and Adelaide Cabaret Festivals and returns from a sell-out New York season at Manhattan's iconic Don't Tell Mama. This is certainly one ear popping percussion party not to be missed. Featuring the LB Little Big Band, under the baton of Mr Pete Rutherford, serving all the sizzling, finger snapping shakers like... FEVER, SHIMMY LIKE MY SISTER KATE, DARKTOWN STRUTTER'S BALL, THE MAN I LOVE, & JUST IN TIME.

- visit www.feast.org.au
- join the mailing list now and receive Hello Feasters E-Newsletter, including special offers.
- join ClubFeast and access discounted tickets, preferential seating, merchandise discounts and special offers throughout the year.

For further information on Feast, phone 08 8463 0684 or email allthings@feast.org.au and don't forget to regularly check out the website www.feast.org.au Feast 2009 runs from Nov 14 - 29





Looking for something a bit different? Need a getaway? Why not do both – visit Adelaide and check out Feast – now Australia's largest Gay & Lesbian cultural festival! This year's theme of **HomeGrown** will showcase a diverse range of international, Australian and South Australian artists and performers. You'll be in good company.

For special accommodation deals visit www.feast.org.au

Event details and tickets available Saturday 3 October – www.bass.net.au
www.feast.org.au 14–29 Nov 2009

q drag: POKEY'S - THE GOLDEN ERA

Pokeys was Melbourne's mecca of gay entertainment in the 1980s. Alan Mayberry recalls the brilliant shows and Jan Hillier's stable of stars, and finds out where some are today.



Las Vegas glamour and Pokeys were synonymous. Oh how spoilt we were for 14 glorious years on a Sunday night with shows at the Prince of Wales Hotel in St Kilda. The Pokey's Dreamgirls brought meaning to drag in Melbourne. They weren't just mime artists who lip sync to a pop tune, they were consummate showgirls bought up in the tradition of Les Girls – equal to anything in Las Vegas or the Folies Bègère.

Jan Hillier and Doug Lucas started Pokeys in October 1977. Jan knew drag was about illusion, fantasy and freedom, and believed Melbourne could offer drag entertainment equal to any in the world. Those lucky enough to have seen Pokeys know she succeeded. She was one of the major forces shaping gay Melbourne: a pioneer for lesbian and gay visibility. She died during the early hours on 12 May 2001 attempting to save her two pet dogs when her Caulfield home caught fire.

Pokeys was the pinnacle of her success. Close to 1000 people packed the Prince of Wales' entire first floor every Sunday. Some shows cost more than \$50 000 to stage. Over half a million customers saw the shows. It was a sad day for Melbourne when Pokeys closed on 13 March 1992.

Queens, lesbians and transsexuals mixed under the one roof, often bringing along their relatives, giving Jan the extended family she always dreamed of.

Jan's Dreamgirls were Terri Tinsel, Renée Scott, Michelle Tozer and Debra Le Gae. With Doug Lucas at the helm they helped Jan create the mystique and magic, and made her dream of world-class entertainment come true.





Michelle Tozer is busy being promoted at her government job. She was contemplating a transfer to Queensland and warmer climate, but work is her focus now.

Doug Lucas still comperes occasionally but his main audience now is his aging mother for whom he is principal carer.

Debra Le Gae is looking a million dollars and works in reception and assists with her housemate's interior garden firm.

Renée Scott has been resident bar worker at the Prince of Wales for over 25 years. She breeds dogs as a hobby. It is a vicious rumor that she was vocal coach for Beyonce in *Dreamgirls* after stopping the show night after night with 'And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going'.

Terri Tinsel, widely credited along with Jon Monogios as the creative genius behind the shows, owns her apartment in St Kilda and after a number of health scares is resuming a normal life. Like Dorothy in Oz she just clicks her heels and her fantasies come true.

They were Jan's core 'family' of stars. They can still perform brilliantly as was proved at the Pokeys 25th anniversary reunion. As Norma Desmond said in *Sunset Boulevard*. ...The stars are still big, it's the shows that got small.



q theatre: MAKING OCTOBER GREAT

DOLLY DIAMOND - The Friday Night Late Show Dolly Diamond returns to The Butterfly Club by popular demand. This time she's taking over Friday nights in 'Dolly Diamond, The Friday Night Late Show'. With a start time of 10.30 pm this show promises to be a raunchy return for Dolly and this time she is not alone. She brings pianist Adrian Portell. With a chemistry that can't be bottled, or sniffed at.



Dolly sings live and has a razor sharp wit that is not for the faint hearted. With a host of new songs and some familiar ones, Dolly is thrilled to be back at The Butterfly Club.
Friday nights in October and November to 27 November (eight performances) - 10.30pm - \$22 full / \$18 concession and for groups of 8 or more

Sharon Kirschner in SANITY IS OVERRATED!

In today's society what is normal? Aren't we all a little crazy? What some call addictions, others call committed to a cause. One person might call it an obsession, while another sees it as a passion. Join Sharon on her journey of self discovery with all of her 'causes', 'passions' and other crazy quirks.



Thursday 15 to Sunday 18 October (four performances) - 7.00pm Thursday to Saturday; 6.00pm Sunday - \$22 full / \$17 concession and for groups of 8 or more

Mikelangelo in THE NIGHTINGALE OF THE ADRIATIC

After years of traversing the globe to great acclaim with his group The Black Sea Gentlemen and the Oliver award winning production La Clique, the charming crooner Mikelangelo returns to Melbourne. In the show, Mikelangelo weaves the Europe of his imagination together with true stories based on the experience of his father and aunties as Croatian migrants in Australia. Through these insightful, tragic, mundane and hilarious songs and stories Mikelangelo burrows deeply into personal histories and lets some eccentric and entertaining family skeletons out of the closet.

Wednesday 14 to Sunday 18 October (five performances) - 9.00pm Thursday - Saturday, 8.00pm Wednesday and Sunday - \$22 full / \$17 concession and for groups

The Price of Genius: A Daughter of the Revolution

In an era of Beethoven's music and Shelley's poetry, and a time of great upheaval and revolt, Mary Wollstonecraft changed the world forever when she wrote A Vindication of the Rights of Women. She married an anarchist, demanded sexual equality, and gave birth to both feminism and the famous Mary Shelley who wrote Frankenstein. But ... Mary Wollstonecraft had another daughter. This is her story.



Image: Mary Wollstonecraft, painted by John Opie (1797)
Thursday 22 to Sunday 25 October (four performances) - 7pm Thursday - Saturday, 6pm Sunday - \$22 full / \$17 concession and for groups of 8 or more

Dave Graney: LIVE IN HELL

LIVE IN HELL is the sequel to the narrative show POINT BLANK, which was set around songs about a performer walking onto a stage and fighting many heroic battles for the territory. It talked of the performer drawing power from collective mythology and his own underworld as he battled away at the frontline. Out in the open and prey to anybody who walks along. He is unprotected by any context of his own. Save what he can conjure and wear himself. He is a wild man again. He is among the people. He has gone to HELL. WHERE YOU LIVE!



Thursday 22 to Sunday 25 October (four performances) - 9.00pm Thursday - Saturday, 8.00pm Sunday - \$27 full / \$22 concession and for groups of 8 or more

Lizzie Matjacic - FROM HERE TO MATERNITY

From pregnancy tests and parenting tips to teething toddlers and tipsy teddy bears, Lizzie Matjacic has learnt that Mother doesn't always know best, but it can sometimes be fun finding out! From Here to Maternity is a funny and nostalgic look at the trials and tribulations of motherhood — mum's the word!

Thursday 29 October to Sunday 1 November (four performances) - 7.00pm Thursday - Saturday; 6.00pm Sunday - \$22 full / \$17 concession and for groups of 8 or more

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q community: GALFA & SPECIAL ART

GALFA Launches in Melbourne. The launch of the Gay and Lesbian Foundation of Australia (launched in Melbourne on the 9th of last month) signified the start of a long and productive connection with GLBTi communities. Over 60 people attended the event to support this new national Foundation. Q Magazine was the only GLBTi print media in attendance and you can see a full page of pictures from the night in the Q Scene pages.



GALFA Board member Colin Krycer welcomed the guests and introduced inaugural Board member and lawyer Sarina Jackson. Sarina acknowledged the key role of the late Bruce McNicol in conceiving GALFA and outlined some of the aims of the group. Other board members are Ruth McNair, Carol Wilkinson and Treasurer Mark Burgess.

GALFA is a charitable foundation, and through raising funds via donations and bequests it aims to enable organisations to improve the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians. It hopes to position itself as another option for charitable funding alongside the existing state-based organisations. In this spirit, GALFA Directors have met with ALSO in Victoria to establish a partnership. Carol Wilkinson said 'We have established GALFA for the long-term, with a vision and purpose that will go on well after we are gone for future generations of GLBTi Australians.

Guest speaker Joan Nestle, renowned author, activist and lesbian feminist, inspired the audience to consider philanthropy in a new light. Quoting Walt Whitman's poem on giving she stated that we must look beyond the traditional sense of large donations and bequests and encourage small donations of money and skills in building the Foundation. She reminded us that there is still a long way to go before GLBTi Australians are free from discrimination and that groups such as GALFA are essential in this journey.

Next steps planned are to add board members from each of the other states and territories. The GALFA website provides more information about this group: www.galfa.org.au

Arts Access Victoria, the Eastern Regions Mental Health Association (ERMHA) and Cardinia Shire Council present 'Art to Live By'

On Thursday 1st October, renowned Melbourne author, playwright, visual artist and recent patient in a psychiatric ward, Barry Dickins helped launch 'Art to Live By', an exhibition of recent works by artists with experience of mental illness, produced as part of an ongoing workshop process run by Arts Access Victoria. The exhibition aims to bring public attention to the experience of mental illness, the services available and the achievements of those living with this illness in its many forms and is part of 'Mental Health Week' which takes place in October, incorporating World Mental Health Day on 10th October. Activities take place throughout Australia, with each state and territory responding independently, according to their own needs, opportunities and challenges.

Arts Access Victoria runs AAAC (Arts Access Arts Classes) in partnership with community based psychiatric rehabilitation services to provide creative opportunities for people in recovery from severe mental illness. Throughout October artists from Hallam to Pakenham will display recent artworks created under the inspired tutelage of artists, Di Lockwood and Gary Solomon. The works on display vary from the whimsical to the profound, from the insightful to the everyday. The exhibition includes a 'come and try day' with free art workshops, speakers, entertainment, local support service displays and information for local artists interested in working in the field.

- Renowned Melbourne author, playwright, visual artist and recent patient in a psychiatric ward, Barry Dickins will speak about mental illness, his art practice, and read from his recently published book about his experience of the mental health system.
- Heidi Everett, a singer/songwriter living with a mental illness and featured recently on Andrew Denton's 'Angels and Demons' will perform. <http://www.heidieverett.com.au/Home.html>
- Workshop participants will talk about their experiences of mental illness and the value of art making in their recovery.

Exhibition Dates - 30th September - 28th October - 10:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday - Cardinia Cultural Centre (CCC), Lakeside Drive, Pakenham. Please ring first to confirm that the gallery will be accessible on 1300 887 624

q travel: gCIRCUIT FANTASIA 2009

Koh Samui to Host Fantasia 2009 – Asia's Biggest Gay Beach Party Event! The gay party scene is growing rapidly as we are progressively becoming a nation more accepting of individuality and personal expression. Thailand along with the rest of Asia supports this evolution bringing Asia's biggest gay beach party to the sands of Koh Samui.

This November Koh Samui will play host to Asia's biggest gay beach party presented by G Circuit. *Fantasia 2009 - "Fulfill your Fantasy"*



is coming to Samui shores on the 27th-28th of November, a 2 day beach party for the boys.

G Circuit is currently road tripping around

Asia with the next stop being Koh Samui. This event will welcome popular international DJ's, sexy dancers and landmark productions. The event will run over 2 days with the preliminary event 'Boy Soup' taking place on the 27th of



November at Nikki Beach. The main event 'Over the Moon' bandana and headband party will be hosted by X2 Samui Resort on the 28th of November which is built directly on the beach front of Hua Thanon. This resort has been carefully selected because of the exclusive beachfront location the resort has to offer this event. X2 Samui's Operations Manager J.Paul Snow says "There were many resorts bidding to host this main event as it is expected to draw crowds by the hundreds, but I think X2 had the upper hand as our 5 star designer resort appeals to the gay target market from a design perspective while offering a stylish yet private holiday experience, away from the regular tourist crowd."

X2 Samui is Thailand's first chain of designer resorts and comprises of 27 luxury private pool villas. The resort has on offer a Spa, a boutique shop and an open air restaurant and bar which over looks the white sand beach and crystal clear waters of Samui. The expansive grassed area which connects the pool to the beach will provide an extraordinary venue where party goers can swim in the sea, dance on the grass and chill out by the pool until the early hours of the morning.

So let's hear it for the boys, grab your bandanas and sexiest beach ware and book your tickets to the event and accommodation at X2 Samui at www.gcircuit.com for the biggest and best Designer Gay Beach Party Asia has ever seen!

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q epicure: with PAUL PANAYI

Lento - 304 Toorak Road, South Yarra - Italian

Sophisticated and elegant is the impression one gets of this decidedly classy South Yarra restaurant. The same can be said of the gorgeous proprietor Michelle who, at front of house, runs a faultless establishment with her partner David.

'Lento' is the Italian word for slow. While you will not have to wait long for one of David's excellent martinis as you peruse a mouth-watering menu, meticulous and careful is the theme of the kitchen. Head Chef, Mathew English (previously of Locanda, Sud, Nostro Barretto, Il Solito Posto) has superbly translated Michelle and David's vision of fresh, seasonal produce prepared carefully but with a modern interpretation of old Italian favourites.

While Lento is only 10 months old, it feels like an established South Yarra stalwart. It is busy most nights, but especially on weekends. Even though it's open seven days a week for lunch and dinner, the staff are tireless and the attention to food relentless.

The atmosphere is elegant and classically romantic. Attention to detail is most noticeable — starched and ironed white table cloths and napkins; Robert Welch cutlery; and a sprig of rosemary adorn the tables. The service is attentive, elegant, deferential and intimate, without being pretentious or effusive — somewhat of an accomplishment in this neck of the woods. You are made to feel welcome and cared for. Nothing is too difficult, and a fussy pedantic diner, such as my good self, is pampered and accommodated with grace and style.

The food is a confident mix of traditional and modern Italian. Fresh ingredients are finessed with good technical skill to create a refreshing new interpretation of some old favourites, while still adhering faithfully to the originality of Italian flavours. The entree of celeriac soup with truffle oil and salmon roe was a surprising but superlative combination and the braised ox cheek over a polenta soufflé worked brilliantly. Mains such as the elegant mint lamb pie and the stuffed duck leg were clever, modern and delicate.

The wine list is composed of a careful selection of Australian, New Zealand, French and Italian varieties. While not as extensive as other nearby restaurants, it does focus on good value for money varietals and vintages, which are often lost in voluminous wine lists. In fact, Lento's wine list takes out pretty much all of the guess work as there are no 'duds' lurking in its pages.

This new player in town is a real contender and I expect will give the likes of Caffé e Cucina, Sud or Cafe di Stassio a run for their money. Lento represents great food and exceptional value for money for this style of dining experience.



Open Daily for Lunch and Dinner

Prices Entree \$8 to \$25; Main \$22 to \$35; Desert \$3 - \$25

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TasPride Festival

31 Oct - 15 Nov 09



Halloween Party, Film Festival, Rock OUT with The Blow Waves, Cabaret, Vonni's Camp Bingo, Dance Parties, Outdoor and Community events and much more!

www.taspride.com

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q pride: TASMANIA CELEBRATES

Come home to Tasmania for TasPride Festival 2009

So you've been thinking about a weekend getaway, or even better, a LONG weekend getaway. You want to go somewhere unique, somewhere diverse where there's loads on the menu to tempt you. A destination that's different everyday. And it's fun. You want somewhere new, but you still want to feel connected – at home.



Well why not come home to Tasmania?

There's no better time to check out the heart-shaped island than for TasPride Festival 2009, 31 October – 15 November. This statewide festival is Tasmania's only two-week arts and cultural celebration for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer community, their family and friends...actual love.

The festival, now in its second year, has had a serious growth spurt and has expanded to Launceston in the north of the state in addition to the southern Hobart program. In 2009 it has matured into a young adult, discovered a little cleavage and grandma is squeezing its cheeks saying, 'my, look how much you've grown!'

And she's not the only one to have noticed. This year's festival has attracted high level sponsorship with festival partners recognising a unique product that offers diverse experiences cutting across GLBTIQ community activities and tourism destinations. Partners include a number of corporate and government players such as Pure Tasmania, Tourism Tasmania and Tiger Airlines. These partners now know what festival organisers have been saying since last year; TasPride Festival can deliver you an experience you've never had before and will be hard pressed to find anywhere within Australia.

It's no secret festival organisers and partners want to get you peeps to Tasmania. And well confident they can be, with this boutique festival set in one of the most diverse and picturesque landscapes in the world.

So, what's it all about? What does TasPride Festival 2009 have in store?

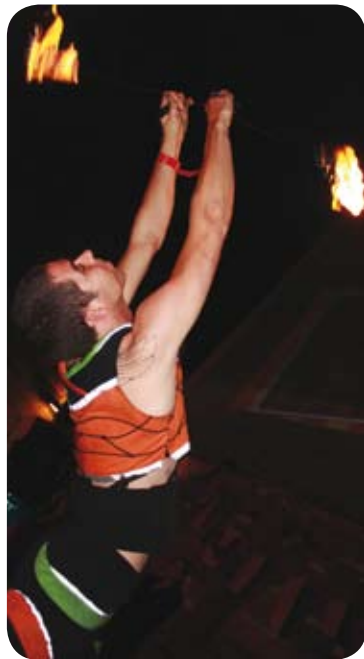
The festival boasts three massive party and leisure weekends all joined by a handpicked program of weeknight affairs. The end product - two weeks of events for all shapes and sizes, easily integrated into a travel itinerary of your choice, with world class experiences so close you can taste them.

Weekend one and festival celebrations kick off with the party of the year...Halloween Party 2009 brings out a wicked theme; the Bear, the Bitch and the Wardrobe.

Already a key date in any gay Tasmanian's diary, this year's Party is set to raise more than just eyebrows with the biggest guest-performance list yet. The TasPride Halloween Party has fast become a signature GLBTIQ event in Tasmania where a night of absolute abandon creates a sensation of true freedom of expression; where gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and even straight can be whatever it chooses to be. Enter the fantasy world where animals talk, magic is common and good battles evil.

Enjoy live vocal performances from all-singing-all-wise-cracking 'bitch' extraordinaire Dolly Diamond; enter a dance floor fantasy world with DJ's Greg Boladian (Syd), Jake Kilby (Syd), MarQ (Hob), Kat (Hob) and Tom (Hob); and party the night away in a land called Narnia. ...do you dare enter the wardrobe?

Once you've dealt with your weekend dehydration, downed a strong coffee or three at Hobart's famous Salamanca Place you can start your callisthenics for the grey matter...pilates for the memory...brain cell aerobics. Whatever it takes, be ready for Queer Quiz Night. Pit your knowledge against the best in the community. This quiz bears a fusion of typical trivia and queer related questions and there are loads of prizes to be won in a relaxed pub environment. You could be crowned the Quiz King or Queen of TasPride Festival 2009 by our delicious hostess, none other than quiz mistress Dolly Diamond...who won't be forgiving when it comes to errant answers!



Dolly Diamond comes to TasPride thrilled to be able to unleash her talents on her unsuspecting Tasmanian audience. For those who have not yet experienced Dolly - prepare yourself, preferably with a tall Vodka Tonic. A regular performer at Melbourne's Midsumma and Chill-Out Festivals, Dolly has combined hosting with playing to sell-out audiences. Now an Australian resident, Dolly feels the itch to reach out and touch those interstate punters.

Weekend two. Friday sees The Blow Waves rock into town to kick off Australia's pride festival season at local Hobart punk and rock haunt, the Brisbane Hotel. Fusing punk, disco and a touch of 'cock rock', the Blow Wave's unique sound has been described as punchy, rocky disco-camp and full of raw attitude. Tasmanians love, no we mean love love, live music. This place is going to be bursting at the seams!

The Blow Waves will be supported by critically acclaimed electro-clash satirists The Bad Father. The hilarious lycra-clad duo robot dance their way through a set of pure electro-pop madness, fusing hip hop, new wave and electro at its funniest and most twisted!

The TasPride Film Festival also makes its debut in week one with five nationally and internationally acclaimed films. Viewers will be treated to a thrilling and revealing look into the lives of the World's only comedic, country singing, dancing, and yodelling lesbian twin sisters Jools and Lynda Topp in Topp Twins – Untouchable Girls. Catch rarely seen archive footage, home movies and special interviews with some of their alter-egos including the Two Kens, Camp Mother and Camp Leader, and the Bowling Ladies.

Topp Twins movie Untouchable Girls recently won the Audience Award at the 2009 Melbourne International Film Festival is now officially New Zealand's number one documentary ever screened.

Saturday hosts local GLBTIQ dance party LaLaLand, with special guest DJ Ruby, who has earned himself legendary status in the gay dance music arena playing at some of the biggest gay circuit parties in Australia – including Mardi Gras, Sleaze Ball, Navigaytion, Pride (Perth), Shine and Toy Box. LaLaLand is a very special nightclub and is a legendary spot on the Hobart dance scene.

Sunday could see you leave your cares behind and cruise around the towering cliff-faces of Tasmania's Bruny Island. You'll see dolphins and hundreds of seals on this day cruise which was voted by Travel & Leisure Magazine as one of the 100 Greatest Trips in the World. It's just one of the amazing world-class destinations in Tasmania. And it's so much closer than you think.

Close the weekend out with some outrageous fun at Vonni's Camp Bingo. Outgrowing its venue in the first year, this event is hosted by one of the original Les Girls herself, Vonni. All we can say is, when Vonni calls your number, you BETTER answer! Join this leggy goddess of the stage and screen, together with her singing sidekick and cabaret legend Mz Ima Starr. Fresh from her

Come home
to Tasmania!

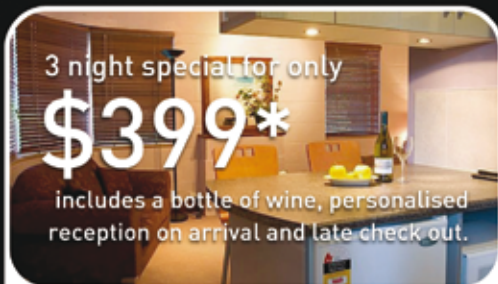


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***Subject to availability. Not available
between 27 December & 18 January.**

latest triumph in 'Gorrgeous Vonni', a new documentary doing the film circuit, and her hotter-than-ever nite club 'Vonni's Poxo Concert', this is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to have your balls read by an expert!

If you've ever wanted to explore the natural and cultural wonders of Tasmania, the TasPride Festival is the ideal time to come over to the heart-shaped island! This year the Program Guide will include touring options, sample itineraries and special offers for the GLBTI community visiting our shores.

But that's all just a teaser, really. The festival also spreads the love with performing arts shows, dance parties, social gatherings, outdoor recreation, breakfast, lunches, dinners and BBQs, as well as the infamous handbag throwing and drag racing family day Pride Picnic.

TasPride Festival 2009 will take place from 31 October to 15 November.

A detailed program is now available at www.taspride.com

Go on. Come home to Tasmania. It's a world apart not a world away.



q call to action: A BETTER WORLD

"Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings." (Nelson Mandela, Make Poverty History Launch, Trafalgar Square, London 2005)

On September 24th, MAKE POVERTY HISTORY held a red carpet 'Call to Action' event in Melbourne at Champions Bar in Federation Square to encourage continued awareness of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as to launch the global 'Stand Up Against Poverty' initiative for 2009, aimed at bringing a better world within closer reach. Stand Up Against Poverty is a global event where businesses, schools, NGOs and civilians join together by hosting or attending events within their local community to physically stand up to symbolise their unity with people around the world.

Stand Up Against Poverty is a unique global mobilisation campaign in which everyone can stand in solidarity and take action to show that we are all committed to making poverty history together. Last year almost 117 million people in over 130 countries took part in Stand Up Against Poverty, including over 200,000 Australians – making it the largest ever global social mobilisation. It made many governments around the world sit up and live up to some of the commitments they made in 2000 when agreeing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which focus on halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.

As MAKE POVERTY HISTORY Co-Chair Tim Costello states, "The fight against poverty has great implications for the future growth of the global economy, especially in our region. Achieving the MDGs will mean a better, safer and more prosperous world, with reduced vulnerability to future global financial crises and significant benefits to the Australian economy."

Business and jobs cannot survive if a country's workforce is blighted by hunger and disease or is poorly educated, if there is no infrastructure, if corruption thrives and if the rule of law is flouted. Stand Up Against Poverty is vital in reminding us all that global poverty is an issue that Australians care about deeply."

For more information go to makepovertyhistory.com.au



in bed: with BEN

Quit Your Whingeing Bitch!

You fight an ongoing battle with the thoughts in your head day to day and on some days you just lose. It sucks the life right out of you (and not in a good way either), leaving you dull, defeated, frustrated and sometimes even angry.

It's your emotions and if you let them, they'll run circles around you. They'll drain every ounce of energy you have that could have been better spent on achieving your goals and desires rather than spent on time wasting life sucking complaining and whingeing. But no! You let them run your life.

The good news is that you don't have to be a whingeing bitch forever. You've just chosen too and you can easily choose an alternative.

I've personally had a lot to complain about in my life. I struggled with depression for six years, watched my dad slowly die in hospital due to a brain tumour at the age of 51, plus a whole myriad of other challenges I've been put up against. And you know what? There's nothing like death to teach us how to live.

The interesting thing that losing a loved one does to you is that it puts everything into crystal clear perspective. Is that tiny little argument really worth it? What's the worst thing that's going to happen to you if you don't get your own way? Are you going to die? Probably not! Are you going to suffer immeasurable pain? Once again, probably not! So why oh why, do we get so upset when we interact with certain individuals or are faced with specific circumstances?

I'll tell you why. Because we are hooked on the chemical reactions we get from responding in a certain way. Every little emotion you experience sets off a flood of chemical reactions within your body. These reactions can make you feel great or they can make you feel like death warmed up. It is by getting a certain pay off from these reactions that we choose to keep responding in specific ways to get our little chemical kick. This is at least until we become aware of our own unconscious reactions and start to make conscious decisions on the way we feel moment to moment.

So why you may be asking would someone create havoc in their own life like I did? For me when I was going through depression, it was the payoff of having people worried or concerned about me. It generated attention. In a sick kind of way it made me feel special. I wasn't conscious of this at the time as I was playing the record in my head called, 'Victim.' It wasn't until I became aware of these payoffs that I was able to improve my life. It took years of work I might add but it was necessary.

We each receive a certain payoff for responding in the way that we do. Otherwise, quite literally we simply would not do it. What benefits do you receive from; over-reacting, being quick to anger or even feeling upset? Work that out and the battles half won. The next part of the challenge is to simply observe yourself when you choose these emotions. Things magically change when you observe what's going on.

It's your choice how you feel. You can choose to feel happy, sad or angry in any given moment. What do you choose right now? Hmmm, I'm thinking of Superman mixed with a good dose of Batman. Yeah, I think that will do me for now.

Find out more about Ben at benangel.com.au



An advertisement for Eagle Leather. At the top, there are images of a metal ball chain, a metal cuff, and a black leather strap with silver buckles. Below these is the 'EAGLE LEATHER' logo in bold black letters. Under the logo is the address '56 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford VIC 3067' and the phone number 'Tel: (03) 9417 2100' along with the website 'Shop online @ www.eagleleather.com.au'. The main text 'IT'S COCKTOBER!' is written in large, stylized, metallic letters. Below this text are images of various leather goods: a black leather strap, a black leather strap with a silver buckle, a black leather strap with a silver buckle, a black leather strap with a silver buckle, a black leather strap with a silver buckle, a black leather strap with a silver buckle, a black leather strap with a silver buckle, a black leather strap with a silver buckle, a black leather strap with a silver buckle, a black leather strap with a silver buckle. To the right of the 'COCKTOBER' text is a large exclamation mark. Below the 'COCKTOBER' text is the text '10% off all cock, butt and ball toys from 1-31 October'. At the bottom, there is a banner that says 'Enjoy Eagle Leather's live displays at Fetish Expo - Sunday 18 October Melbourne'. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'SPIKERS'.

Q fitness: with CHRIS GREGORIOU

Do you skip breakfast? The effects of skipping breakfast are enormous. Skipping breakfast affects us in many ways, including: concentration; problem solving skills; mood; hand-eye coordination; memory; and energy. How creative have you felt on an empty stomach? So if you're at work or home, on the street or in an office, you will feel and perform better if you have a healthy breakfast.



- By eating a healthy breakfast, your setting yourself up for the day

Breakfast as the word implies means breaking a fast. Overnight, your body slows down, metabolism almost stalls and your glucose levels drop to low levels. Your brain & central nervous system utilises glucose as fuel and without it, you're likely to feel tired and not very sharp when trying to function.

Have you skipped breakfast but reached for a coffee (or two) or scoffed down a sugary candy bar to perk yourself up? This can work for a very short time, resulting in a peak, but the crash is quite extreme, resulting in your body stabilising to even lower energy levels than before you started.

- Eating breakfast has been proven (many times) to improve concentration, problem solving ability, mental performance, memory, and mood
- Avoid feeling hungry, most importantly avoid your body going into "starvation or survival mode" by consuming your vital three meals a day, starting with breakfast

Are you a grumpy bum in the morning? In simple terms, if you're running on empty, your body is lacking something. This can easily result in hunger mood swings and irritability.

Myth - lose weight by skipping a meal. Have you heard that skipping breakfast (fasting) will help you lose weight? It's a myth. Think about it, do you really expect to lose weight if you are depriving your body?

- Prolonged fasting (which occurs when you skip breakfast) can increase your body's insulin response, which in turn increases fat storage and weight gain
- Your metabolic rate drops overnight (due to fasting), so if you skip breakfast then consume a decent sized lunch the majority of the calories consumed end up being stored as fat, as your metabolism cannot handle the sudden intake of calories.
- By missing breakfast you end up fasting for up to 15 to 20 hours, resulting in your body not producing the enzymes needed to metabolize fat, to lose weight

Your body actually expects to be fed several times a day, and it's looking for breakfast. People who eat a regular, healthy breakfast find it easier to maintain a healthy weight.

- Research shows that eating first thing in the morning helps to stabilise blood sugar levels, which control appetite and energy
- A healthy way of eating is to eat like a king in the morning, a queen for lunch and like a servant for dinner (that way you don't have lots of carbs in the evening when you're not going to burn them off while sleeping).

Notice how much better you feel through the morning and the rest of the day when you don't skip breakfast...?

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q youth: with TASMAN ANDERSON

What are we to do when we come out about our sexuality and no one accepts it? What can we do when the whole world thinks that homosexuality is against nature? Some of us are able to accept that and live their lives the way they want it to be and then there's quite a few of us – especially young ones who develop depression and can't accept themselves after hearing that what they do is unnatural.

Coming out of the closet helps GLBT people each share a feeling of relief. However, the art of coming out differs for transgender and transsexual people in essential ways. By coming out, both transgendered and transsexual people decided upon their gender identity and, if possible, their decision to transition to the gender role with which they more closely identify. Unfortunately, when trans people come out, it impacts how they label their sexual orientation and how they interact with communities which they feel they belong too, causing them to disconnect with the rest of society.

Coming out will always be tough regardless of our age and whether we choose to tell a friend, family or community member. We can't be sure whether they are ready to hear what we have to say and whether they can handle the fact that we don't love the opposite sex they way we are suppose to. Backlashes or other negative reactions to a transperson's coming out are caused by transphobia and sexism.

When my friend Leigh chose to come out to his parents after keeping it a secret for several years he expected a chaotic first few hours and then uneasy silences but instead he got much worse. His parents were the conservative types who believed in a man loving a woman and having normal conservative children. When they saw that this wasn't going to happen, they went into a downward spiral, Leigh's mother could only sit there and cry and Leigh's father just couldn't look at him again. Of course, they eventually accepted that she wasn't going to be the son they saw him as but in some cases parents push their children away and disregard them as disgraces to human nature.

So it's only normal that depression would be a common cause within some gay youths after they have been shunned. As we

are all aware, depression is more than just a low mood – it's a serious illness. While we may all feel sad, moody or low at times, some people experience these feelings intensely, for long periods of times. Those who have come out, usually tend to feel this if they were not accepted. Teenagers particularly are not able to cope with the rejection and tend to fall into a downward spiral that may lead to binge drinking and drug abuse.

But before you think "crap, I'm never coming out to my parents or friends" let me explain. Coming out can be the biggest relief of one's life. It allows them to feel happy with themselves and gain more confidence. They are also able to express their true selves in ways they never could beforehand. Gay communities rejoice when both youths and older men and women come out about themselves. They even created a special day specifically designed for letting your loved ones know who you are. This day, which is known as "National Coming Out Day" is celebrated annually on October 11th, by members of the GLBT personnel and their straight allies. Celebrations include the obvious coming out to others, as well as discussing GLBT issues among the general population in an effort to give a familiar standing to the GLBT rights movement.

So whether you are decided to come out to your parents or whether you've been rejected and are feeling blue, it's also best to remember that there are people out there that can help you figure out where you stand. Organisations such as 'Reach Out' are always there to lend a helping hand. Both their online chat site found at www.reachout.com.au and 'Kids Help Line' chat site found at www.kidshelpline.com.au can be reached when you need them the most. They are there to offer support and understanding and offer you suggestions on how to deal with the problem. If you're not into talking to strangers, why not try discussing your issue with a trusted friend or GLBT community member? Whatever you are feeling now, they may have just felt the same.



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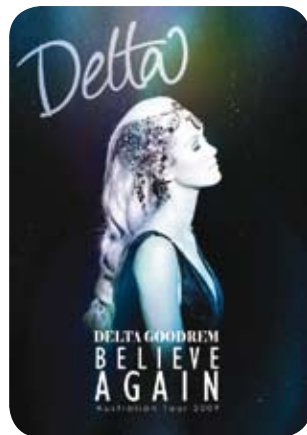
q win: GET IT! GOT IT! GOOD!

Sony Music

Delta Goodrem's sellout Australian 'Believe Again' tour has been recorded from the majestic State Theatre in Sydney and packaged into a special DVD/CD release which is out now in all good record stores and DVD retailers. The DVD features 3 hours of visual content including all of her hits and a few surprise covers as well as exclusive behind the scenes footage and audio CD.

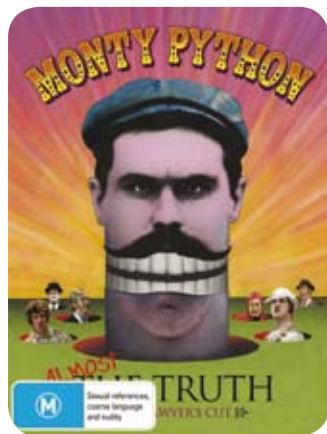
The art for the DVD cover was designed and developed by Jacky Ho from Tasmania through a competition that was driven online and inspired by how creative Delta's fans are with their online imagery on her forum. The competition encouraged fans to come up with the creative for the cover by using an image of Delta provided and photos they took at her concerts and the winning entry was selected by Delta.

Simply email getfree@qmagazine.com.au with **delta** in the subject line to hopefully win one of the five copies we up for grabs.



Shock Records

Eagle Rock Entertainment are proud to announce the simultaneous release of "Monty Python: Almost The Truth (The Lawyer's Cut)" on DVD and Blu-ray this month. This release marks the 40th Anniversary of the first episode of Monty Python's Flying Circus being broadcast on the BBC (on October 5th 1969). The legendary British comedy troupe Monty Python will get in front of the camera one last time in this retelling of the entire Python phenomenon from start to finish. The DVD / Blu-ray release will be preceded by a theatrical release and a worldwide TV broadcast.



The Monty Python troupe is John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin and Graham Chapman. This release will feature interviews with all of the surviving Python members, along with archive representation for the late Graham Chapman. The Pythons will tell their life story and reveal deeper truths alongside the more tried and tested Python history lessons.

Simply email getfree@qmagazine.com.au with **monty python** in the subject line to hopefully win one of the five dvds we have on offer.

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Simply email getfree@qmagazine.com.au with **elizas** in the subject line, telling us in 25 words or less why you should win a two night weekend package with late checkout in the Deluxe Spa Villa just in time for Christmas. This competition will run for both October and November.

* 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

q books: BEN WATTS' LICKSHOT

"Cut up, collaged, crayoned, and tagged with markers, the photos feel less like fixed, flattened documents that little time bombs about to explode." - Vince Aletti, Village Voice

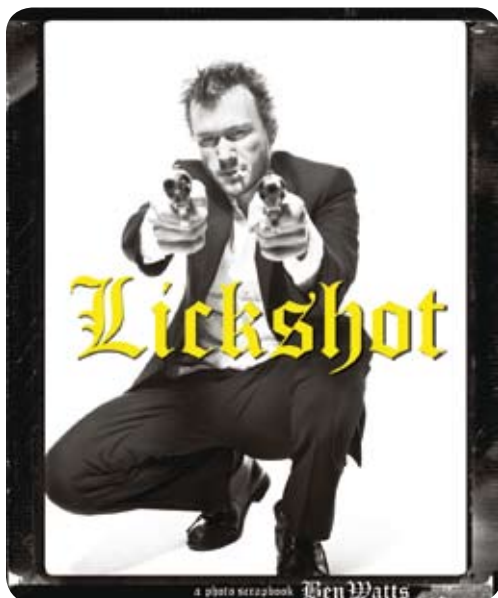
It's no wonder our 2003 Ben Watts monograph, *Big Up*, sold out before it was even released. Watts is internationally known for bringing the frenetic verve of street photography to his diverse body of work. Whether on location for Vanity Fair, Elle, Rolling Stone, or Nike, Watts' camera captures a feeling of barely contained, youthful energy and sucks the raw essence out of his subjects.

Watts has an uncanny ability to simultaneously put his subjects at ease and amp up their adrenaline.

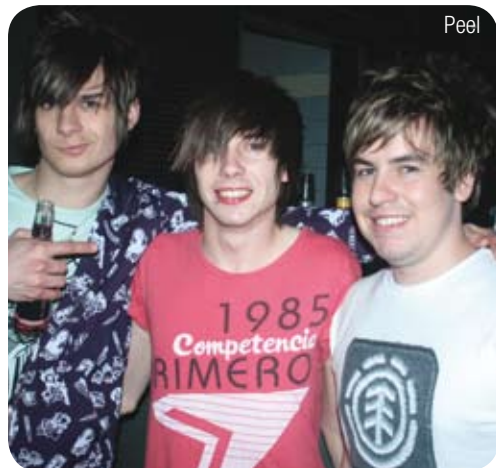
His working process has as much in common with the call-and-response patterns in hip-hop music as it does with the traditional conventions of photography. He is always ready to swap his professional camera for a Polaroid so that his subjects can see the photos immediately and tag them with shout-outs or trash talk.

His photo shoots are like block parties where his subjects drop their guard to reveal an honest sense of self-pride, and love of life.

LICKSHOT is Ben Watt's highly personalized scrapbook and travel diary. A triumph of lo-fi style, its pages are a delirious pastiche of gritty photographs, wonky Polaroids, and hand-scrawled graffiti, held together by slashes of colored tape. Its contents reflect the incredible variety of Watt's photographic subjects - from high school ice skaters, Brooklyn biker gangs, and lounging sunbathers to world-famous actors, supermodels, and today's hottest musicians. *Lickshot* includes photos of Heath Ledger, Benicio del Toro, Tobey Maguire, Rachel Weisz, Guy Pearce, Adrien Brody, Bruce Springsteen, Lil Wayne, Lou Reed, Jay-Z, Coldplay, T.I., Alicia Keys, Snoop Dogg, Andre 3000, B. B. King, Mary J. Blige, and Ben Harper. An interview with Watts by Vanity Fair editor Ingrid Sischy explores Watts' background and creative influences.



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q scene: OUT & ABOUT





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q scene: GALFA LAUNCH



q whispers: with ADDAM STOBBS

Who's having sex these days?

I'd like to acknowledge all the people who have contacted me about the last few whisper articles. Thank you for your feedback, and thank you for your support of Q Magazine!

I was out with a few friends the other night, and we were at a typical well known gay haunt, and having a good time, bit of bitchy humour, checking out the passing parade of 'trying to look rough' trade and camp young (and older) guys, it was quite a diverse crowd. All quite pleasant, but there is something different about the gay scene these days.

Looking back to 10 years ago I think there were less straights in gay bars and venues, there were a lot this night, and they seemed to blend in quite seamlessly. None of them looked uncomfortable, none of them looked as though they were there to see the "freak show" in fact they seemed to be having a good time with their gay friends. There were a number of straight girls there as well, all getting on really well. There was no sexual tension. None.

In the 1990's there was sexual tension, in gay venues. It was mainly the tension of people (men) cruising around to 'pick up' I saw almost no evidence that this was happening. The picking up in bars thing still goes on I assume, but it's become very secondary. There is no longer that edgy furtive glancing around to see who's with whom and who's available. I thought it might have just been me getting a little older (Careful) or more cynical (impossible) but several of my friends have made similar observations recently.

The populist theory is that cruising has migrated to the internet. That was the case in the last years of the 20th century. In 2009, that's not evident. There's a lot of talk, but little action. Web-cam sex is still there but it's been hyper-marketed and over-rated. I don't mind the web-cam thing actually, it's certainly safe sex, relatively cheap, anonymous and convenient. There is nothing like human touch though.

Looking at the diverse demographic of my acquaintances with varying levels of same sex attraction, the group who seems to be the least interested in casual sex are the younger gay guys. There are a lot of randy old buggers at most sex on premises venues, very few younger.

Chatting to some of my young friends I have discovered that many of the young gay guys don't have much sex at all, but the young lesbians seem to be banging on with vigour and no hang-ups! Good for them. Many of my older lesbian friends are also now having a better go at the not-monogamy thing.

My older friends think about the same as I do, so what's changed? I don't think its fear of HIV or other STI's, and it's not because of the lack of opportunity.

One of my young acquaintances has started to 'sleep around' a bit and it's really interesting to see how his peers judge him. He had sex with two different guys in a week and they regard him as a slut. They still love him and none of that's changed, they just seem to be horrified that he's doing this 'getting off' thing. This makes me feel like a complete whore.

At this point I have to check my attitude and ideology (once again). Is sex the most important thing in the universe? When one is not getting it, it seems to be so. It is at the centre of our ethical universe. Having casual sex is something that we either talk about incessantly or not at all. In the Casual sex universe there is no middle ground, no grey area.

It's not the sex that's the issue; it's the associated emotions and social acceptance. If one has casual sex frequently, do people think less of them? Homosexual men are generally regarded as the most promiscuous part of the population. As long as that's not judgemental I would say it used to be true. It's not the case now though.

I think the hedonistic rush of sex from the 70's is finally passing into another phase of sexuality, I'm not sure what that is exactly, but I do know things have changed.



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q fashion: MEET JOE BLACK

Joe Black is an educated individual who is fashion conscious, but understated. He wants to stand out without being the centre of attention. He's that man we have all passed on the street and notice there's something different about him; you turn to gain a second glimpse of him but he's already gone!

To celebrate this man, an invitation-only Q Magazine media event was held at Joe Black to launch of the 09/10 summer collection.

Australian media icon John-Michael Howson was among the many celebrities and special guests at the event enjoying champagne and appetisers, and a demonstration of the e-spoke custom-made experience - a service provided at Joe Black - which was demonstrated throughout the evening allowing guests to ask questions about the latest collection.

Located at 149 & 354 Little Collins Street, it's clear upon entering each store, that Joe Black is here to make a definite affirmative statement in menswear fashion. The ambient atmosphere provides a relaxed environment within a sleek interior. Customers are offered a choice of tailor made or ready to wear suits available in a range of different patterns, fabrics and styles with accessories to complete the look.

Joe Black has achieved the ideal line for today's businessman, by perfectly blending the quality precision of classical tailoring and updating it with a modern twist.





q opera: 2010 SEASON ANNOUNCED

Australia's national opera company presents the world première of a new Australian opera, as part of its 2010 Season. Brett Dean and Amanda Holden's *Bliss* plays in Sydney and Melbourne alongside five other new productions in a season featuring an impressive line-up of international and Australian artists.



Adrian Collette, Chief Executive of Opera Australia, commented: "In 2010 we present thirteen productions which will entertain and delight, intrigue and challenge you. The season makes full use of the wonderful breadth of Australian talent amongst our ensemble, while also introducing international singers and creative teams of the highest calibre. There are six new productions including the Company's first ever *La sonnambula* and the Sydney première of *A Little Night Music*. This year we also meet several directors making their company debut: Christopher Alden directs *Tosca*, Benedict Andrews explores *The Marriage of Figaro* and Nigel Jamieson directs Puccini's *The Girl of the Golden West*. Finally we are thrilled to present the world première of Brett Dean and Amanda Holden's new opera, *Bliss*, based on the novel by Peter Carey. *Bliss* defines the enterprise of this company. We are committed to creating an Australian operatic repertoire which occupies a vital place in the company's overall program."

The 2010 Season includes:

- **World première** of Brett Dean and Amanda Holden's *Bliss*, based on Peter Carey's novel, directed by Neil Armfield and starring Peter Coleman-Wright.
- **Six new productions:** *Tosca*, *La sonnambula*, *The Girl of the Golden West*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Bliss* and the Sydney premiere of *A Little Night Music*.
- **Another chance to see:** *Manon*, *La traviata*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Fledermaus*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Rigoletto* and *Der Rosenkavalier*.
- **Internationally-acclaimed Australian artists including:** Cheryl Barker, Richard Bonyngne, Alexander Briger, Peter Coleman-Wright, Julian Gavin, David Hobson, Yvonne Kenny, Paul Kildea, Emma Matthews, Jonathan Summers, Sigrid Thornton, Anthony Warlow and John Wegner.
- **Welcoming international artists including:** Philippe Auguin, Clive Bayley, Elvira Fatykhova, Johannes Fritzsche, Andrea Licata, Jorge Lopez-Yanez, Shao-Chia Lü, Dennis O'Neill, Alan Opie, Giovanni Reggioli, Patrick Summers and Teddy Tahu Rhodes.
- **Directors, conductors and choreographers making their company debut** including Christopher Alden, Benedict Andrews, Kate Champion, Frédéric Chaslin, Elgar Howarth, Nigel Jamieson, Marko Letonja, Andrew Litton, Gavin Robins and Arvo Volmer.
- **Amazingly talented designers** including Zoe Atkinson, Alice Babidge, Robert Bryan, Trudy Dalgleish, Charles Edwards, Peter J Hall, Roger Kirk, Phil Lethlean, Nigel Levings, Bill Marron, Catherine Martin, Jon Morrell, Ralph Myers, John O'Donnell, Richard Roberts, Nick Schlieper, Matt Scott, Michael Scott-Mitchell, Angus Strathie, Brian Thomson and Michael Yeargan.
- **Plus gifted artists** Richard Alexander, Richard Anderson, Jud Arthur, Stephen Bennett, Joshua Bloom, Kanen Breen, Andrew Brunsdon, Carlo Briccilli, Elizabeth Campbell, José Carbó, Catherine Carby, Henry Choo, Conal Coad, Tobias Cole, Tyler Coppin, Jacqueline Dark, Gennadi Dubinsky, Aldo Di Toro, Rachelle Durkin, James Egglestone, Amelia Farrugia, Taryn Fiebig, Warwick Fyfe, Luke Gabbedy, Lorina Gore, Antoinette Halloran, Lisa Harper-Brown, Natalie Jones, Hye Seoung Kwon, Teresa La Rocca, Rosario La Spina, Michael Lewis, Shane Lowrencev, Graeme Macfarlane, Dominica Matthews, Andrew Moran, Milijana Nikolic, Paul O'Neill, David Parkin, Sian Pendry, Merlyn Quaife, Barry Ryan, Stephen Smith, Tiffany Speight, Amy Wilkinson and Nicole Youl.
- **Regional tour of Oz Opera's** new production of *La traviata* to 28 venues in TAS, VIC, NSW and ACT, directed by Rachel McDonald with a chamber orchestra and ten singers.
- **And introducing three new young artists:** Jane Parkin, Samuel Dundas and Andrew Jones who join current Moffatt Oxenbould Young Artist Program member David Corcoran.

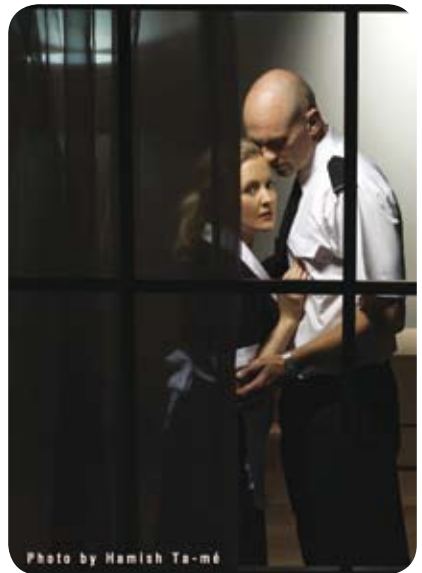


Photo by Hamish Ta-mé

q news: MACHO UNDERWEAR



Craig Rossiter, former Marketing Manager of the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation and his globetrotting Colombian partner Juan Carlos Gonzalez have brought hot Latino design to Australia with the launch of Macho Australia.

MACHO

YOU WEAR IT INSIDE

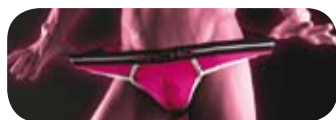
Exclusively designed in Spain for the style masters of Europe and produced in Colombia maintaining its Latin credentials Macho is a premium fashion underwear brand for men who care about style, comfort, anatomic design and how they look when the clothes come off.

The first range released by the pair in Australia is Macho's Safe Sex Collection. The ultimate party underwear, the Safe Sex Collection features a unique pouch sewn into the pant, the perfect size for a condom. More than a carry bag for booty bouncing the underwear has been designed for men who are not only unashamed and confident of their sexuality, but who care enough about themselves and others to be responsibly prepared for any occasion that may arise. Needless to say they are also perfectly designed with a sophisticated aesthetic, elegant proportions and detail modern style.

Beyond the Safe Sex Collection Craig and Juan Carlos plan to release Macho's other ranges Classic, Sensual and Deportivo (Sport) in 2010. All have unique styles with the signature offering of high quality fabric, selected with care to provide maximum comfort.

To view the full collection visit www.machounderwear.com.au

They come in a huge range of colours and styles & are exceptionally comfortable to wear...Editor.



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