



DECEMBER 2010

Q MAGAZINE

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The PLASTIK Boys

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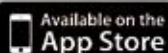
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q comment: NY FITNESS GURU VISITS

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q feature: THE PLASTIK BOYS



I first “met” Shaun Lewis on Face Book where he was promoting his new underwear label - Plastik Clothing - and asked him if he would be happy to be our cover model for this issue and whether I would be able to find a little more about him and his company. A couple of months later, a little bit of surgery (read below) and a major photo shoot and this is the result. I started in my usual fashion asking a few personal questions.

Please tell me a little about yourself. Where were you born? Where did you grow up? Where do you go to school? How old are you? Do you have any siblings? Where do you currently live?

I was born in Melbourne, Victoria and grew up in a small town called Swan Hill. Being gay, living in a closed minded town like Swan Hill wasn't the best but I managed to survive it somehow. I left Swan Hill when I was 17 to live with my Dad and three sisters who live in Edinburgh, Scotland. I lived there for one year before coming back to Australia and I currently live in Perth, Western Australia where my partner and I have just bought a house together.

When did you know you were Gay and did this affect your life in

any adverse or positive fashion?

I first started noticing boys when I was 12, I fought the idea for around a year before accepting it within myself. Being gay in a small town, it was easy to make friends but hard to keep them. When it came to boyfriends I mostly attracted straight boys who wanted to experiment, but had 3 semi serious and 1 serious boyfriend during my sentence in Swan Hill.

I could never tell anyone about my sexuality as I just didn't trust anyone, therefore I could never really be myself until I came out a little while later. There was a lot of negativity surrounding my sexuality at that time, but I chose to take only the positives out of it. I had a lot of fun and don't regret one decision I made for a second as it makes me who I am today.

When did you decide to start your own business?

Around a year ago. I was working in an office for a woman who had hairier arms than any man I've met and I really hated working there so I started designing in between work.

Once I had enough designs I just went for it and made it happen and I haven't looked back since. Now I have several manufacturers overseas and a reputable company here in Australia.

Tell me a little bit about your brand - Plastik Underwear - and where you got the idea from please?

The name 'Plastik' stems from several things; Cosmetic surgery, the gay scene and modern iconic fashion. It's all about being perfect, sex appeal and sexuality, individualism and freedom of expression.

I always knew the name of my clothing label was going to be Plastik because I stand for everything the brand does.

Plastik Clothing Pty Ltd went public just months ago and is now a registered company within Australia.





What would you say to any other young person who thinks he or she may be Gay and how do you think the recent election result will affect the lives of LGBTI people?

I'd tell them that coming out isn't as scary as it seems. It can seem like the scariest thing on earth when really it's nothing.

I don't believe the recent election will affect the LGBTI people at all. I believe that regardless of who is elected things will not change any time soon when it comes to gay marriage in Australia.

My partner of 5 years and I are engaged and it looks as though we will be waiting a long time before we can legally get married in Australia which means we have planned to have our wedding overseas, nothing set in stone yet but we are thinking about it.

Anything people might not know about you?

I have had two rhinoplasties this year. When it comes to my look and what I want to achieve aesthetically I am extremely determined and focused. I believe in my label and everything that it stands for.

What catchphrase are you best known for?

"Do you love it?" I say this way too much some times.

What are your future plans for Plastik Clothing?

Well my main goal for Plastik is to open Plastik's first clothing store in Melbourne city, then Sydney, then who knows...this will hopefully be up and running by 2012.



I have also been discussing several fashion shows with my affiliates at CSA Models Australia & International, one of which will be in South Africa which is set to happen early next year with one of South Africa's most renowned photographers and some of their most delicious models.

Stay tuned, become a fan and keep an eye on our facebook fan page to see the shots from the photoshoot, download a free desktop background and go into a monthly draw to win a \$30 Plastik Clothing voucher.

Where can our readers buy Plastik Clothing?

www.plastikclothing.com will be up and running shortly as it is being redesigned, but Plastik Clothing can also be purchased from our facebook fan page www.facebook.com/Plastikclothing

Anything else you would like to share with our Q Magazine readers?

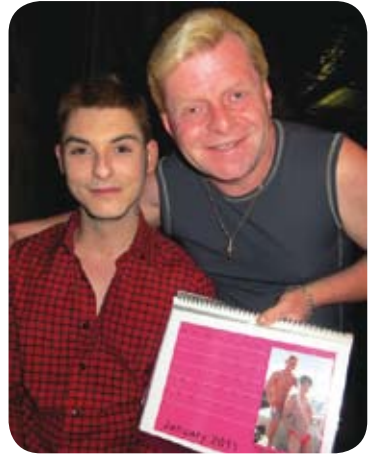
I'd like to mention Plastik's affiliates who are CSA Models Australia & International, Ben Riches Photography and DH Australia.

q community: 2011 CALENDARS

Two new calendars will be released for 2011 at the MIDSUMMA Carnival this year and will be available on the day with photographs of each person in the calendars. The calendars are "Legends of Drag 2011" and "Young and Gay 2011".

Legends of Drag will feature 12 of Melbourne's best and most famous drag entertainers both past and present. *Young and Gay* will feature some of Melbourne's most attractive young men on location around the State - with different themes and costumes.

Gay community socialite Jamie Hogan (Jamie Lee Skye) has taken all of the photographs for both calendars over the past two months and produced the calendars.



Jamie said, "It's been a huge project to undertake and arrange.

Initially finding a group of young guys, putting them together and turning them into photographic models then working on location shoots was a mammoth task, but all the boys were fantastic. The Girls (drag entertainers) were not so difficult as our entertainers were more than happy to be a part of the project. The Greyhound Hotel has been fantastic in letting the project team use their venue for a couple of the boys' photo shoots and for all the girls' shoots."

Jamie claims not to be a photographer - just someone who takes a pretty good photograph and not too bad with graphic design. He paid tribute to everyone involved including all the boys and all the drag entertainers who all gave their time willingly and for free for a great event.

"Looking at some of the finished pages, they look fantastic. I am surprised how well they have come up. Although this has been an expensive project, all the profits are going to the MIDSUMMA Festival Committee. Hopefully we can make several thousand dollars for MIDSUMMA," Jamie said.

There will be a stall at the MIDSUMMA Carnival where calendars will be available with photos available of each of the models as well. At various times during the day models will be available to sign photographs

Well known drag entertainer Paris (who is in the Legends of Drag 2011 calendar) will officially launch both calendars at 2pm at MIDSUMMA's Carnival which will be held on Sunday 16 January in Melbourne's major events site, Birrarung Marr.

Set on the north bank of the Yarra River next to Federation Square, Birrarung Marr gives MIDSUMMA the opportunity to supply the demand for Melbourne's LGBTI community after the astonishing success of Carnival and T Dance in 2010 attracting tens of thousands of revellers.

A vertical poster for the Pride March Victoria. At the top, it says "the Board of" in small white text. Below that, "pride march" is written in a large, stylized, black font. Underneath, "VICTORIA" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A rainbow-colored wavy line separates "pride march" from "VICTORIA". Below the line, it says "invite you to the" in small white text. Then, "Pride March Launch" is written in a large, bold, white font. Below that, "Tuesday, 4th of January 2011" is written in a bold, white font. Then, "6.00pm for 6.30pm." is written in a bold, white font. Below that, "St Kilda Town Hall Lawn" is written in a bold, white font. Then, "Address by the Mayor of the City of Port Phillip." is written in a small, white font. Below that, "Drinks & nibbles provided." is written in a small, white font. Then, "Reception at the" is written in a bold, white font. Below that, "GH (Greyhound Hotel)" is written in a bold, white font. Then, "from 8.00pm" is written in a bold, white font. Below that, "RSVP: info@pridemarch.com.au" is written in a bold, white font. Then, "by 31st of December 2010" is written in a bold, white font. At the bottom, "PRIDE AROUND THE WORLD" is written in a large, bold, rainbow-colored font. Below that, "InterPride" is written in a bold, white font. Then, "www.interpride.org" is written in a small, white font. At the very bottom, there are logos for "MCV", "JOY 94.9", and a circular logo with a rainbow flag.

Q money: with EVAN DAVIS

Q Money ordinarily offers an insight into things pertaining to business and finance. I try to keep it pleasant, helpful and a little bit funny. Not this time. It is the end of the year.

Brace yourself for Anti-Q Money.

As the festive season rolls around again, the corporate end of year party invitations start to appear. When I open an envelope and I am greeted by a cartoon Santa smiling at me over a corporate logo, my heart sinks a little. A corporate end of year function is simply a minefield. It is no wonder that Santa is an anagram of Satan.

No one actually enjoys the end of year corporate function so here is some advice on how to survive it and also to make it memorable at the same time.

Unless you own the company the grog should be free. Enough said. Just think how demonstrative your gratitude toward your employer will be when you have clearly been able to consume more alcohol than anyone else. Keep a drink in each hand at all times and an idiotic grin on your face. Promotion in 2011 ahoy!

These days clarity of communication is the most important thing in a work place. So make sure you are louder than everyone else. Remember you will never climb the corporate ladder if you are not able to identify and verbalise people's limitations and foibles. Offer helpful advice on how to improve. HR manager move over!

When mouthing off, here are some old chestnuts that should be included in you stream of booze fuelled verbalisations. Who is getting fat, who is going bald and who has kids that looked disabled but actually aren't. Best of all, make sure you loudly identify who is the most promiscuous person in the office. Your pay rise in 2011 is assured.

Networking is extremely important in business and there is no more pure form of networking than flirting. If you do it well enough you might get the opportunity for a drunken chrissie snog and grope with a co-worker you've been eyeing off all year. Corporate merger imminent!

One tradition you should observe at your corporate end of year function is the photocopying of inappropriate parts of the human body. As more workplaces are going paperless, many offices are getting smaller and smaller photocopiers, making this tradition tricky to carry on.

Photocopying one person's bum is usually not a problem. However, to get the 'group shot' with as many posteriors as possible you will need to be strategic. Put the multifunction on the floor and try to avoid putting everyone's weight on the machine at the same time. After all you won't want to replace the machine with your Xmas bonus. Next year's Corporate Xmas card sorted!

With the successful application of all the tips in this article don't be surprised if you are promoted to CEO next year, oh and in case parody is not your thing don't try any of the above at your work function.



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q people: with MARC J PORTER

Daddy porn star Jason Torres has been making a name for himself on such sites as Men At Play, Butch Dixon and UK Men. There has been a new trend of porn stars entering the scene not being the typical twink of days gone by with guys like Diesel Washington and Race Cooper in America. I recently had a friendly chat with Jason and am pleased to share his juicy thoughts on his life and career.



How did the chance to become a porn star come about?

The opportunity in porn began earlier this year, after some main stream modeling and then nude work. My friend Tony is a photographer and he took some great pictures that started my work in porn. My first shoot was with Butch Dixon, who thought I had a good look for them and after the first shoot they recommended I contact Alphamale media. I had already secured a shoot with Cristian Torrent Productions so I was well on my way within the first few months.

How does your mature and masculine look work for you?

My look sits well with the studio's who look for the older more rugged look, but I think that is obvious in a way. I wouldn't entertain the idea of applying to a studio that specialises in twinks as that's not my look or age group. I have found that on the whole studios have called me back for more work, which is good feedback that the viewers like my work.

What has been a highlight so far for you?

I think that the highlights have been receiving such high ratings from the viewers themselves. For studio's who rank their models I have received a number 1 rating at some time or other which is really awesome when there are so many great looking models out there. I have also met some great people who work in the porn world, other models and studio personnel which has been fun.

Where in the world are you based?

I live in the Midlands, UK and have a good social life. I am a true believer in life is what you make it, so if you don't like something or you are not happy; make changes so that you are. I really enjoy the whole social friends scene; I'm a real people person. I also enjoy my down time where it is just me watching a film with a beer or wine. I have discovered I'm a bit of an adventurer in the last few years, so I am happy to jump on a plane on my own and go and explore different places. I'm quite confident so don't need to rely on other to make things happen.

How far would you go for your porn career?

How far would I go for porn work?...I'm a great believer in safe sex, on and off screen so I wouldn't bare-back. Those are my own personal values, which I wouldn't compromise. I've been topped recently which is a role I don't normally take in my personal life, so that was different! Haven't done piss or fisting yet hehe!

What is your workout routine and do you porn star looks get you far?

I've always looked after myself so before I was in porn I would get chatted up. I think you're appearance is like anything else in life, you only get out what you put in. If I'm going to eat pizza all the time followed by doughnuts it will affect the way my body looks, so others won't be as receptive. Having said that, some people who recognise you when you're in the public eye do go all out to get you into bed. You've got to expect that if you're working in porn. I've had my first stalker this year and one of the porn studio's said to me that I'm officially recognised as a porn performer if I have a stalker!

Does your career take you around the world?

Yes I do travel for my work. Most shoots are in London which is about 2.5 hours away for me, which is fine as I love London. I have travelled to Southern Spain several times to work for Cristian Torrent productions which was great as I love Spain, the sun and staying with Cristian and his fella.

What's next for Jason Torres?

After 3 film shoots this month, and photo shoots booked for December, I'm planning on enjoying Christmas and New Year with my friends and family. I'm yearning for some quality Christmas food and drinks after being really careful with my diet the last few months. There may be some new studio's interested in me working for them in the New Year which is always a good experience. I tend to keep my followers updated through my blog; www.jason-torres.com/ Here's wishing you and the readers of Q Magazine a fabulous Christmas and fantastic 2011!

q cuisine: with CHEF NATHAN



This time of year reminds me of growing up in North Queensland, warm days, the best mud crabs and family. These days I have settle for blue swimmer crabs, although I have learnt to muddle through the nimble legs and empty bodies, I do enjoy the challenge of getting a decent feed from these delicate creatures. Another bonus is they easily contract the flavours you are cooking with.



Chilli Crab

Ingredients (serves 4)

- 2 tsp peanut oil
- 4 green (uncooked) blue swimmer crabs
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 fresh long red chillies (or 1-2 fresh red birdseye chillies for extra heat), finely chopped
- 1 tbs finely grated fresh ginger
- 60ml (1/4 cup) tomato sauce
- 2 tbs sweet chilli sauce
- 2 tbs dry sherry
- 1 tbs brown sugar
- 6 green shallots, ends trimmed, thinly sliced diagonally
- 1/2 cup firmly packed coarsely chopped fresh coriander
- Steamed jasmine rice, to serve

Method

Heat the oil in a large wok over high heat until just smoking. Add the crab and stir-fry for 5-7 minutes or until just cooked (the crabmeat will turn white when cooked).

Add the garlic, chilli and ginger, and stir-fry for 1 minute or until fragrant.

Add the tomato and sweet chilli sauces, sherry and sugar, and stir-fry for 2-3 minutes or until sauce boils and thickens slightly.

Remove from heat. Add the green shallot and stir until just wilted. Add the coriander and toss until just combined. Spoon steamed rice among serving bowls.

Top with chilli crab and serve immediately.

the opium den



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Q food & lifestyle: with PETE DILLON

Firstly, tidings of the season to you all and thank you for the continued support of Q Magazine and for reading this nonsensical bag of words each month. It has been a 5 year journey or more now with this publication and there is always something to scribe about in each issue. Which brings me to the point of this column. I must state, I am an atheist and don't really believe a lot of the bunkum associated with the festive season, however, I thought it might be interesting to explore why we eat the things we do at Christmas.

Foolishly, I put my hand up to play mine host this year, which means the day will be filled with booze and good food. It also made me make an extra effort for the tree, which brings me to the first of the festive food items I wanted to explore: Candy Canes.

The origin of the candy cane is an interesting study of food lore and legend. The most popular story is the one about the German choirmaster who handed these out to his young singers in 1670 to keep them quiet during a long church service. One might insert a line here about the singers sucking on something of the Choirmasters but that's probably not appropriate for here. The other controversial thing about the candy cane is its shape. Does it represent a shepherd's crook? Or the letter "J" for Jesus? Bear in mind, while most of these stories are undocumented, they live large in urban myth. As the host I thought I might prepare a turducken (a series of poultry, boned and stuffed inside one another - Tur (turkey), duck and chicken. A mate of mine at La Luna in Carlton makes these with boned quail, popped inside a boned duckling that is shoved into the boned turkey. In the end, t'jis all sounded a bit indulgent so I sought out a goose for the yuletide table at Chez Dillon.

Why do we eat fowl at Christmas? Food historians tell us the practice of serving large, stuffed fowl for Christmas, like many other Christian holiday food traditions, was borrowed from earlier cultural practices. Peacocks, swans, geese and turkeys all fit this bill. The larger the bird, then the more festive the presence. "New World" turkeys were introduced to Europe in the 16th century. For many years, these exotic turkey birds only graced the tables of the wealthy. Working-class English Victorian families, like the Cratchits in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, belonged to Goose Clubs. In America, turkey was a natural choice for the Christmas feast, as it

was both wild and plentiful at this time of year.

The Martinmas or Michaelmas roast goose is actually the perpetuation of the ceremonies of Celtic Samhain or Hallowe'en. Van Gennepe, writing on French folklore, reminds us that it was a good occasion for feasting on tender geese that had been well fattened. Originally roast goose was a thanks offering for the harvest that had been gathered in, the Erntedankfest or harvest home, a sacrifice first to the spirit of vegetation, then to the gods of Odin and Thor.

Then came the challenge of Christmas cakes and puddings, plum duff as my dear Dad used to call it. Why do we eat stodgy creations, stuffed full of dried fruits and plonk?

While the practice of making cakes with dried fruits, honey and nuts may be traced back to ancient times, food historians generally agree that fruitcake (as we know it today) dates back to the Middle Ages.

Fruit cake which has become known as a British specialty as known today cannot date back much beyond the Middle Ages. It was only in the 13th century that dried fruits began to arrive in Britain, from Portugal and the east Mediterranean. Lightly fruited breads were probably more common than anything resembling the modern fruit cake during the Middle Ages. Fruit cakes have been used for celebrations since at least the early 18th century when bride cakes and plumb cakes, descended from enriched bread recipes, became cookery standards.

The plum pudding's association with Christmas takes us back to medieval England and the Roman Catholic Church's decree that the 'pudding should be made on the twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity, that it be prepared with thirteen ingredients to represent Christ and the twelve apostles, and that that every family member stir it in turn from east to west to honour the Magi and their supposed journey in that direction.'...Banned by the Puritans in the 1660s for its rich ingredients, the pudding and its customs came back into popularity during the reign of George I.

As I mentioned, there is some religious bunkum that dictates our festive table array of food, and I hope that this has gone some way in enlightening you all why we put these things on the table.

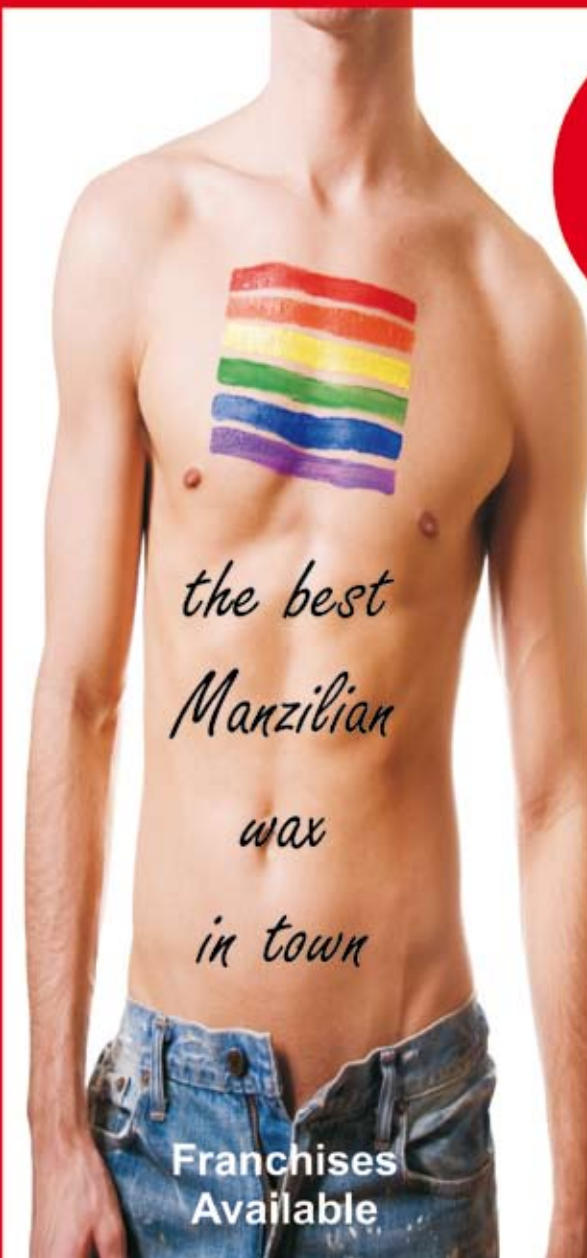
Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to continuing into 2011. To Brett, thanks for the continued support and encouragement.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good night! For more ramblings about tipples and tucker, and all things foodie, join me at 1pm every Saturday on Cravings on JOY 94.9 in Melbourne, or online at www.joy.org.au/listenlive, or you can email me here at lifestyle@qmagazine.com.au to answer any of your question.

Until next month, eat well, live well and ignore moderation.



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New Years Renovations!

Drive past any gym or fitness club in the next month or so you are bound to see a full car park! It seems that at the beginning of each New Year - everyone takes a good look at their body - and the excess put on over Christmas - and decides a full body makeover is needed!

I wonder how many people though go home from the gym to freshen up in a bathroom with slippery tiles, dripping taps and showerheads, mouldy surfaces and poor ventilation? Then go and fix a snack in a kitchen with old worn out bench tops, badly fitting cupboards allowing all those little nasties in, leaking sinks and little unfinished nooks and crannies that are known for breeding germs?

If we need to give our bodies an overhaul every once in a while - let's not forget about the place where we actually live - our home. While every home at one stage in its life stood tall proud and brand new, the fact is over the years they can become worn out, run down and even not conducive to our own health.

Floor surfaces can become slippery, rotting timber and claddings can become a path for letting in pests, old bench tops and hard to reach places can become a breeding place for germs, poor ventilation on bathrooms and laundries can cause mould which causes respiratory problems, and the list goes on.

And, if left for too long, leaking houses can have major problems with timber rotting and causing structural problems - and needing thousands of dollars spent on to repair.

It's not just about health either. Leaks in and around doors and windows, gaps in cladding, poor insulation and home design can cause major increases in power bills when trying got heat a home. Also think of the savings you can make when all those taps stop leaking!

Why not make this year the year where you put a little tender loving care back into the place you call home? While you are looking over all those necessities, of course there is always the opportunity to make your home just that little bit nicer as well. Functionality doesn't have to be boring, and you will be amazed at what can be done to any home now days.

A renovation specialist will be able to come into your home and while suggesting required issues to be addressed, should also be able to suggest some improvements to the layout and design for your home. A renovation specialist will also be able to make it easy for you to improve your home to suit your lifestyle and future requirements, increase its capital value and minimise the building risk with proven risk management systems.

So, when you come home from your time at the gym, you can walk into a relaxing, open bathroom to freshen up, cook a nice stir fry in a gleaming kitchen...and maybe take a dip in your new heated pool!





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q youth: with TASMAN ANDERSON

CHRISTMAS! The mere mention of the word conjures images of brightly flashing lights, tightly wrapped presents of all sizes and time spent with friends and family. When we are children, nothing brings more joy than the 25th of December.

But where does that joy go when we grow up?

Why can't we still feel the same excitement that we did when we would wait up until the early hours of the morning just so we could open our gifts?

Does the Christmas spirit truly die as you grow older?

Originally, Christmas was a special day to commemorate the birth of Jesus, the central figure of Christianity, however today, the holiday is mainly focused on family and the power of giving. Although it is commonly believed to be a strictly Christian holiday, Christmas is also widely celebrated by millions of non-Christians and many of its popular celebratory customs incorporate non-Christian themes. The ever popular customs of Christmas include gift-giving, music, an exchange of greeting cards, church celebrations, a special meal, and the display of various decorations; including Christmas trees, lights, mistletoe and holly.

Christmas has always been a magical time for me. On the first of December I would rush to hang the Christmas tree up, gently placing each decoration on various branches. I was always the one that insisted on making trifle and having a Christmas Eve party. I always blasted Christmas carols until I could recite them backwards and I was always the one that begged to watch every Christmas movie within my home.

But then things began to change, I entered high school and all the Christmas joy seemed to have been sucked right out of me. I no longer believed in Santa and the presents consisting of Barbie dolls and baby borns decreased in numbers as they were replaced with more expensive technological products. The sad part to this is that I never even noticed that things were changing, until now.

So many people celebrate Christmas differently. Some don't even celebrate it at all but the story of my dad's childhood celebrations is the true meaning of Christmas. Growing up with five other brothers and sisters, money was always tight so every Christmas my father would decorate the tree with toilet paper in the hopes of bringing joy to the household. He never received much on Christmas but he didn't care, he was with his family and he was happy.

My mother's Christmas was vastly different to my fathers. She was always spoilt by her mother and older siblings. However, she was also surrounded by love. So you can see that no matter how many presents are under the tree or how much each gift cost, Christmas is really only truly about one thing – love.

"Christmas is a time that you just can't spend without your family," said Brisbane resident, Tony Day. "I never really saw it that way when I was younger. I was only concerned about unwrapping my gifts and playing with my new toys. But as I grew up I noticed that each Christmas meant I got to see my cousins from England and I got to show my friends just how much I care about them."

So is that the new meaning of Christmas to the older generation? It's true that our opinions change as we mature. We don't seem to hold as much excitement for our gifts as we do for spending the day amongst loved ones.

However it would be silly of me to sit here and make out that we completely give up caring about gifts. I for one love them. I love giving them and receiving them. It allows me the chance to show that I'm thinking about someone, that I care about them so much that I want to leave them something to open under their tree.

But like I said, that's my opinion...what about you? What do you love about Christmas? I'm guessing it's definitely not the Christmas carols that the shopping centres feel necessary to start playing four months ahead of time.

Before I finish this article and send it off to the lovely editor, I want to thank all of you for being a part of my life for the past year and a half. It's been absolutely amazing to cover both serious and lighthearted topics and I look forward to the followings years.

So without further delay, I must say goodbye and of course....Merry Christmas!



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q drag: MILLIE MINOGUE



REINVENTING MILLIE

Millie Minogue seems to have been gracing our stages forever. Alan Mayberry caught up with her to find out how she has stood the test of time and made a career out of playing Kylie. She remains the toast of Melbourne and has perfected the routine to the degree that most believe it is the pop princess herself on stage.

I was born in Brisbane. My father is Dutch. My parents are divorced now. I keep in touch with my mother and brother. Mum came to see me in *Carlotta and My Beautiful Boys* when we toured Queensland. She bought along all of her committee friends and it was a hoot. But back to the start. I lived and went to school on the Sunshine Coast, but left school at Year 12 because I wanted to move to Melbourne to become a hairdresser and work in the best salon. And I did – QUEENS on Toorak Road. I completed my apprenticeship and then concentrated on living my life.

I decided I was gay when I was 16 and started doing drag at about 20. No prize for guessing that Kylie was my first number!

I started doing shows at Seventh Heaven on Sunday nights with Miss Candee, Hot Coco and Victoria Bitter. Vivien St James was the door bitch. The now PJ king Peter Alexander suggested I impersonate Kylie, so I started...and the rest is history.

The name Millie came about at QUEENS. My nickname was Minnie because I was small. But I changed it to Millie. I never knew then, but Kylie later told me that's her grandmother's name. Kind of spooky!

Everything I have done in my life up till now I'm very happy with. I really believe don't be afraid, be proud and try to be the best at what you do. More importantly learn a trade or study so you will have something to fall back on.

I have some great memories of drag shows. They all date back to Pokeys at the Prince of Wales – wow that was what Sundays should be! RED RAW was always good for putting on a show – I did a lot of them. I must admit I adore doing Kylie numbers. But I know you have to have a few strings to your bow. That is why in recent years I have added Ga Ga and even Whitney to my repertoire. But any disco classic or 80's anthem is good material and a crowd pleaser.

What really makes me frustrated is the audience appreciation of drag shows today. I get so aggravated with people on their mobiles while a show is on. I often turn on them and they are amazed that a pint-sized impersonator can strike with such venom.

I think many of us are not using our artistry and ability to create to our utmost. It is so easy to get stuck in a rut. You have to keep reinventing yourself and keeping up with the latest trends. And this does not always come cheap. Look at the fortune The Classics spend on production numbers at the GH. We aim to make every production real theatre and not just lip syncing a recent release.

When I think about my career highlights I just adored being in the Melbourne Les Girls, *Carlotta and My Beautiful Boys*. It was such a big learning experience. Working with Carlotta for so long on that tour gave me the tips and confidence to take hold of a mic and do compering myself.





It meant a lot to me to be given Kylie's praise and Kylie herself asked that I be included in her coffee table book. I was even in the BBC doco they came over here and filmed at Molly's.

I think in today's world Kylie has a tough road ahead to stay up there, especially with Ga Ga around. Pop stars aren't cheesey any more. Her look is fabulous, but it needs to be much more over the top to keep competing.

Getting the look together some times is a challenge. Thanks to my lifetime friend Klarenz, who used to make my costumes, I have been taught to sew and acquire the art of studying something to see how it's made. The cost is huge, but I work so much the costumes pay for themselves.

There are a million highlights and those that spring to mind first are *The Kylie Show* at 2007 Mardi Gras, when



I featured on a float that actually won best float. How could I gloss over the wonderful years of Heat night club at Crown with Molly and Paris. I'll always remember making all the mainstream press socialite pages in November 2009 with the caption – Molly Meldrum and Kylie impersonator Millie Minogue at Crown's glitzy and lavish wedding of disgraced doctor Geoffrey Edelston.

I enjoy the paparazzi and they seem to like me. Being a Kylie look alike has its incredible benefits. I usually get incredible service wherever I go.

This year was my first visit to the Northern Territory. I loved it. But must admit with all those crocodile stories I steered clear of the rivers and lakes! Darwin is so my favourite place, and their response was huge – thankyou to them.

My favourite relaxation is just strolling around shops, especially op shops. And I adore just being on the lounge at home. No relationships for me – that's where Kylie and I are very similar – alas no luck in that department!

Alas I fear Commercial Road will never be the same. It is just another shopping road – wow it looks so ugly now. I have some of my happiest memories there, especially at The Market. My *Showgirl Kylie Show* ran for 6 weeks, then we had *Checkout Chicks* which we did for months on a Thursday. A big thank you to Zowie Knox for all the shows – they were fun to be apart of.

And the good times continue to roll with The Classics every Saturday at the GH and now travelling around Australia doing Kylie and Lady Ga Ga.

Here's to another 20 years.

Whew – time for a bourbon now!



q tribute: FAREWELL CHERIE L'AMOUR

Cherie L'Amour, star of Pokeys and Les Girls was laid to rest at Altona Memorial Park Cemetery, on Monday 29 November 2010. She was 56 and died after a long bout with liver cancer.

Cherie's life had been one of glamour. A bit like Vera Charles in *Mame*, she always had a drink in her hand and loved the glamorous life. One day she was walking down Chapel Street decked out in Dr Zhivago-like full faux fur and six inch heels. She bent down to pat a dog as she adored animals, and the poor little terrier thought it was a 6 ft malamute wearing ice picks, and broke water on the pavement – the dog not Cherie. She was one stylish girl.

Born in Geelong, Cherie first performed at Pinky's nightclub on Fitzroy Street, followed by 'TITS' (This Is The Show) at the Ritz Hotel. In 1973 she joined Sydney's Les Girls where she became one of its most popular strippers.

Melbourne audiences knew Cherie best for her performances in the 80s with Pokeys at the Prince of Wales and Les Girls at Bojangles. Eartha Kitt's *Just An Old Fashioned Girl* was her showpiece. Friends she made then lasted until the day she died – Cherry Ripe, Debra Le Gae, Monica St Clair, Sasha Morrell, Coralee D'Winter, Doug Lucas and the cast of Pokeys – all of whom attended the funeral (see pic below).

Skye Brooks made a brilliant video tribute which can be downloaded at: www.davyd.com.au/cherie_funeral/Cherie%20Lamour%20Funeral.html



To those of you who agreed with me that –

“It was OK to vote Liberal”

Thanks for making an informed, individual decision.

*I know that some of you had to come out of the closet all over again
and vote for what you believed in instead of who you were
“supposed” to vote for simply because you are gay.*

As a community we have been conditioned not to think as individuals
and have been conned for decades by empty rhetoric and vague
promises by those seeking the ‘pink vote’.

It was argued at public meetings I attended recently that a certain
party was the most ‘progressive’. I pointed out that

“I am a working class Scottish Poof – and I am the Liberal candidate!”

– “who’s the most progressive party.....?”

**Your sexuality does not define the whole YOU.
Do not let others use it as a political football.**



Tom McFEELY

Proud to have stood as the Liberal for RICHMOND

q tour: CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL RETURNS TO AUSTRALIA WITH SALTIMBANCO

Cirque du Soleil is returning to Australia for a national five month tour of Saltimbanco, one of the company's most loved classic shows. The Saltimbanco tour will commence in Perth on 21 April 2011 and then travel on to Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide with limited seasons in each city. For the first time, Cirque du Soleil will also perform in Hobart, Newcastle and Wollongong.

Saltimbanco, from the Italian "saltare in banco" which literally means to jump on a bench, is the show which started Australia's love affair with Cirque du Soleil when the internationally-acclaimed entertainment company first toured here in 1999. A thrilling, kaleidoscopic celebration of aweinspiring artistry and agility, Saltimbanco will be presented in theatre mode in arena venues across the country with the same energetic and vibrant performance as experienced under the Big Top. Originally directed by Franco Dragone, the show features an international cast of over 50 performers and musicians from more than 20 different countries.

Set inside an imaginary metropolis of colourful inhabitants, Saltimbanco features breathtaking acrobatics and unbelievable athleticism during solo spotlights and epic ensembles. Decidedly baroque in its visual vocabulary, the show's eclectic cast of characters draws spectators into a fanciful, dreamlike world, an imaginary city where diversity is a cause for hope. Technical expertise and extravagant design are woven together with spectacular costumes, amazing lighting, humour, and enchanting live music. Overflowing with colour, amusement and amazement, Saltimbanco is a fun show for the whole family to enjoy.

Sponsors

Optus is the presenting sponsor of the 2011 **Saltimbanco** Tour, which is the fourth consecutive Cirque du Soleil tour that Optus has sponsored. Oaks Hotels & Resorts is the official sponsor.

About Cirque du Soleil

From a group of 20 street performers at its beginnings in 1984, Cirque du Soleil is a major Québec based organization providing high-quality artistic entertainment. The company has 5,000 employees, including more than 1,200 artists from close to 50 different countries. Cirque du Soleil has brought wonder and delight to more than 100 million spectators (almost 12 millions on Saltimbanco since 1992) in 300 cities on five continents. In 2010, Cirque du Soleil will present 21 shows simultaneously around the world. For more information, visit www.cirquedusoleil.com



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL – SALTIMBANCO 2011 AUSTRALIAN TOUR

PERTH - From 21 April - Challenge Stadium Bookings: Ticketmaster 136 100 or www.ticketmaster.com.au

ADELAIDE - From 12 May - Adelaide Entertainment Centre Bookings: Ticketek 132 849 or www.ticketek.com.au

MELBOURNE - From 25 May - Rod Laver Arena Bookings: Ticketek 132 849, www.ticketek.com.au

HOBART - 15 to 19 June - Derwent Entertainment Centre Bookings: Ticketmaster 136 100 or ticketmaster.com.au

BRISBANE - From 8 July - Brisbane Entertainment Centre Bookings: Ticketek 132 849 or www.ticketek.com.au

NEWCASTLE - 20 to 24 July - Newcastle Entertainment Centre Bookings: Ticketek 132 849 or www.ticketek.com.au

SYDNEY - From 27 July - ACER Arena Bookings: Ticketek 132 849 or www.ticketek.com.au

WOLLONGONG - 17 to 21 August - WIN Entertainment Centre Bookings: Ticketek 132 849 or www.ticketek.com.au

Tickets: Adults: \$69-\$119, Children (2-12 years): \$55-\$95, Premium: \$149-\$159,

Tapis Rouge VIP Experience \$325

Show Times* : Tuesday to Thursday 8pm, Friday to Saturday 4pm & 8pm, Sunday 1pm & 5pm

* Show times may vary

For more information, please visit www.cirquedusoleil.com/Saltimbanco

q grooming: 4V00

GROOMING FOR THE SOPHISTICATED MAN

Saving face seems par for the course for us all as we go from party to party, bar to bar or just bumping into people at the supermarket. A word or two here and there. A juicy little bit of gossip or "have you heard about this little piece?"

Yeah, choice words that make you cringe when you get found out. Lifestyle can be wearing and it will show. You need to save face there too. You want to look ravishing - not be ravaged by lifestyle.

The 4V00 product range is all about saving face and looking drop dead gorgeous. It's for the generation of men who want to take advantage of today's clinical breakthroughs. The preservation of 'that look' without the nip and tuck can be achieved with a choice of moisturising self tanning, deep exfoliate crèmes to the finest age defying complexes and shaving products from 4V00.

It's all designer style used by the daring European royalty and Hollywood's elite who know a camera lense is focussing on every fault. The 4V00 cosmetic range is second to none for the man who bothers to buy the right cut and colors in clothes, styles his hair or boldly goes bald. He wants skin care products to match that standard. Why Botox when this range can replicate muscle tensing and wrinkle vanishing properties without the invasive injection? Botox - it's last year anyway. 4V00 does it without the clinical risk. Why compromise on colour and texture in 'that look' with cosmetics. It's for the distinct man who is particular.

The eyes look tired? The dark circles aren't complimentary are they? Try the special gel to take away that deeply sunken look. Renew that glow in the face with products that nurture skin cells deep down.

See the full range at www.4voo.com.au

q win: 4V00

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Valued at \$35 from www.4voo.com.au for men who are not afraid to be sexy.

We have 5 guyliners to give away this month just in time for Christmas and New Year parties. Simply email getfree@qmagazine.com.au with **4V00** in the subject line to see if you can finish the year on a win.

* All prizes are open to everyone, except those which specifically state you must be over 18 to enter. Entries close on the final day of each calendar month with the prize draw taking place at 5pm the following day at Apt. 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.





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q fitness: with CHRIS GREGORIOU

It's the holiday season. Are you worried about putting on a few extra kilos? Don't Stress! It's all about a little pre planning, moderation and applying self control.

You don't have to be powerless to putting on the extra kilos over the holiday season. Follow a few basic tips to help keep the calories in check and to be more aware of what your consuming.

So what do you do? Here are a few tips to help:

1) Eat a sensible meal before any party.

You should always arrive at a party with a full stomach. I realise that this goes against the popular trend of starving yourself before a party, and that's exactly why most people gain weight. Since your stomach will be full, you'll have the clarity to pick and choose the treats that you really want, rather than stuffing yourself with everything in sight.

2) Never drink calories - be aware of the sweet fizzy drinks.

Do you realise how quickly calories add up when you're slurping them out of a cup? Alcoholic beverages and sweet holiday drinks are simply packed with calories. These calories don't take up much room in your stomach so you're left wide open for even more calories. Your best approach is to avoid these beverages altogether, and stick with water. Also, aim to drink 2-3 glasses of water at any party.

3) Fill your plate, but only once.

I'm certainly not going to tell you that you shouldn't eat anything at a party. By all means, go and fill up your plate. But only once. That's right, you heard me. No going back for seconds. Since you've already eaten a sensible meal before arriving, this rule is going to be easier to keep than you think.

4) Taste dessert, just a taste.

The holidays are all about sweet treats, so go ahead and partake. But just a taste. Look at desserts as something to savor, not something to fill up on.

5) Keep active, avoid sitting around drinking or eating all day or night.

Become more active and come up with various group activities that you and your friends can do. I'm sure you can think a range of fun, group activities. These could include outdoor sports like kicking a ball, badminton or walking. The good old twister is a good calorie burner. I will leave this to your imagination.

Combined with an appropriate exercise program there is no way you should feel guilty. It's simple maths, burn off more than you consume and by being more aware of your calorie consumption, a day of being naughty shouldn't matter that much (if you look at your overall weekly caloric consumption).

Go on and indulge, just keep it in check. Wishing you all the very best for Christmas and the New Years.



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q scene: OUT & ABOUT



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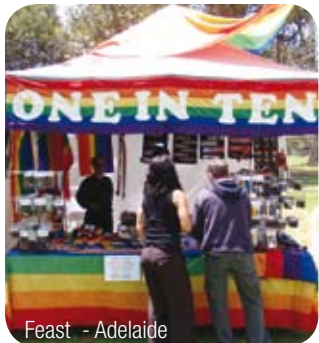
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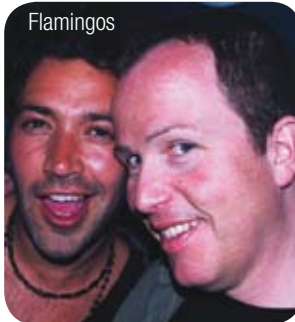
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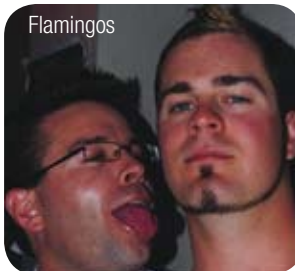
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q scene: OUT & ABOUT

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q mens health: with BRIAN MIER

PLAY - A KEY FUNCTION OF MEN

Play is a natural, normal part of being human and makes up an essential part of the functioning of our brains – if we let it. Play seems to under-pin physical, sexual and mental health. Humans are the only animals capable of playing throughout their lives. Man play has its own special characteristics.

What is Play? Hard to define, but its characteristics include:

- Apparently purposeless (i.e. done for its own sake)
- Voluntary
- Has an inherent attraction to the individual. It's Fun!
- Freedom from time. When we are fully engaged in it we tend to lose a sense of time.
- Diminished consciousness of self. We may even create a different 'self'.
- Improvisational potential - Mostly, we are not locked into a rigid way of doing things but are free to explore and take a chance.
- Continuation desire - we want to do it again or something like it.



Why Play? It makes life beautiful, joyful and Fun.

The Opposite of Play is Depression. It's not Work as popular culture would have us believe. The best Work includes workers 'playing' in conjunction with their work and loving it.

Play needs to underpin other innate drives in us. It is not as fundamental as food, sleep or sex. However, play-deprived children often grow up with stunted lives and can have real trouble in finding pleasure in life and relating to other people. We need to keep playing throughout life in order to remain 'whole'. It's a case of 'Use it, or Lose it!'

Types of Play – Find your Play Personalities:

1. The Joker: Finds fun in everything. May play practical jokes. Makes others laugh. Actor George Clooney is a joker.
2. The Kinsthete: Need to move physically in order to be themselves. Include dancing, swimming, walking, sports players, yoga devotees. Competition is not the main focus.
3. The Explorer: Likes exploring new things - physically, mentally, socially, sexually - to provoke their imaginations. Sir Edmund Hilary and Dick Smith are obvious examples.
4. The Competitor: Has to be No. 1 to gain euphoria. Plays to win in sports and business. Games can be solitary or team games. Raphael Nadal may be a good example?
5. The Director: These are the organisers who run the best parties, create great outings, organise others. Oprah Winfrey is a good example.
6. The Collector: Collects anything and everything and organises the objects for personal or public display. May collect 'events' instead of objects. See the ABC TV show for numerous examples.
7. The Artist/Creator: Loves making things - wood-working, pottery, sculpting, knitting, furniture/toy making, gardening, home renovations, fixing things. Often found in Men's Sheds!
8. The Storyteller: Use of the imagination is the key to joy. Includes novelists, playwrights, screen writers, cartoonists – and also those who read their works, watch movies, make themselves part of the story, use visualisation in things they do.

We usually have one strongest play personality and several secondary ones. Which are you? Indulge! Try something different. Recognise and respect others' preferences.

Cautions. There are a few inherent dangers if the play gets out of control. Addiction can be isolating, and video games are a good example when they take over someone's life. Bullying probably goes with over-competition. Violence can come from some games. The last two are bad if they are non-consensual and not agreed to be part of the game by all players.

Risks. Play can involve risk-taking, and some risks make us more prone to accidents which can cause injuries. Play can involve some pain – but the Leather/BDSM players know all about that! With sex play always practise your safeguards against STDs.



Play On!

- Take your own Play History as a guide to future play.
- Expose yourself to different forms of Play to see what you most enjoy now.
- Give yourself permission to be Playful.
- Use Play as your Southern Cross - but don't always head South!
- Be Active - move your body and your mind.
- Free yourself from Fear of what might happen.
- Nourish your own modes of Play and be with other people who do likewise.

Acknowledgement. This article has been inspired by the book, 'Play - How it Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination and Invigorates the Soul', by Stuart Brown. Men's Play is also a module in the Men's Health Education program provided by Eagle Health Resources - www.eaglehealth.net.au

BOOK REVIEW:

'The New Manhood: The handbook for a new kind of man', by Steve Biddulph. I was blown away reading this book. Biddulph is an Australian psychologist and writer - a real 'plus'. It's not about gay men per se, but it is gay friendly, though that's not always obvious.

It explores the elements of a man's life that often cause unhappiness, emptiness or frustration. Love, sex, marriage, raising children, growing from boy to man, male friendship, spirituality and finding your true work are among many subjects dealt with in an honest and uplifting way. Powerful, real-life stories describe men making changes and freeing their lives. I found myself moved to tears one minute, and laughing out loud the next. I kept reading about myself and other men I know, and finding answers to questions which have been in my mind for many years.

This book another which I believe every man should read at some stage in his life, and the sooner the better for you. It's available at many good book shops priced around \$30. As a special deal to Q Magazine readers, you can buy it from me for \$25 (plus postage if applicable) by e-mailing info@eaglehealth.net.au.

STEVE BIDDULPH



MEN'S HEALTH EVENTS ON THE RADAR FOR 2011

- TASMEN Annual Gathering – Waddamanna, Tas. - 4-7 March (Dates to be confirmed) (Labour Day long weekend?). I've heard great things about this event and it's on my 'to go' list. www.tasmen.org.au - but there's nothing on its website as yet.
- 11th National Rural Health Conference - Perth WA - 13-16 March. <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/welcome> As men make up a major proportion of people living outside metropolitan areas, there should be value in this for men's health workers?
- International Men's Health Week - 13-19 June. I'm sure that you, like me, will be involved in doing something to contribute to this occasion. Mark down this website for future reference - www.menshealthweek.com.au/



My wishes for You in this holiday season are that you find time to Relax, Play, Enjoy the company of family and/or mates if possible, and that you resolve to look after your Body, Mind and Spirit as well as you possibly can in 2011.

A Healthy Man is more likely to be a Happy Man.

q current affairs: with ASH HOGAN



It's that time of year again.

I don't know about you, but I was always a huge believer in Santa Claus as a young boy. Something about the logistics of landing an overweight sleigh on a snowy roof with antlers as engine power seemed completely plausible. Of course as we mature, Santa Claus starts to mean different things to us; perhaps even known as Saint Nick, Dun Che Lao Ren, or Sintirklass - seriously, that last one is Dutch. And I hear he is popular as ever in the bear community...

There is a serious side however to this time of year. The holiday season tends to bring added stress to religious holidays when you identify as GLBTi. Realistically, it can be hard to celebrate the interpretation of Christmas or Hanukkah when official readings say you are damned.

Add in the pressure of visiting family who have conservative views and having to introduce Steve as "your best friend from high school/university/workplace".

Or when everyone is avoiding the elephant in the room that Auntie Gwen's "friend" will be joining the family for lunch.

For a community that is making such forward strides in relationship equality in the public domain, it's questionable about how comfortable we are in discussing it with our closest blood relatives.

I'm always saddened to hear of GLBTi friends who are estranged from their immediate family. Whilst I personally went through a somewhat challenging coming out experience in a fractured family, relationships can heal for the better.

Sixteen Christmases on from that very strained time in 1994, I often have the pleasure of spending the holidays with either parent, their married partner, and associated step siblings. The spirit of giving can be as simple as letting history be forgotten, and taking the higher ground; tomorrow is always, just another day forward.

For the first time last year, I found myself in a country that didn't recognise me as openly gay, OR the holiday season at all. Regular readers to Q Magazine would know that I spent last year in Saudi Arabia, a country not known for Catholicism or Christmas trees. I found the complete blackout to be a very formidable experience, and ended up fleeing across the causeway to Bahrain where at least I could celebrate with a drink or two amongst close friends. This year I am very fortunate enough to be having a white Christmas for the first time ever with my extended GLBTi family in the Northern Hemisphere. Naturally, I'm going to see if my reindeer story really does check out.

If you need to talk to someone this holiday season, you can always reach out to Lifeline on 13 11 14 (Australia wide) or the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard in Melbourne on (03) 9663 2939.

Finally, on behalf of all the team here at Q, Magazine have a safe and happy festive holiday wherever you may be. Season's greetings!

Ashley Hogan is an Australian writer who calls the world home.

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q travel extra: A PIECE OF NYC GOLD

On a recent trip to New York, I was kindly invited to view the Chelsea Pines Inn and the surrounding area of Chelsea. For those of you who have never been to NYC (New York City) I can highly recommend it (in fact I have often referred to it as my second home). The whole place (situated across five boroughs - Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Staten Island) makes you feel alive and really the centre of the earth. Whether you enter via La Guardia or the John F Kennedy International Airport, NYC is not a place you can see in one day. Fortunately I have had the great opportunity of visiting there several times over the past few years. I also have to say a big thank you to my darling friend, Alan Reiff for allowing me to stay in the second bedroom of his gorgeous apartment in Astoria, Queens. But now some information about Chelsea Pines Inn - a true gem in the crown of NYC.

Located near the confluence of some of Manhattan's most famous 'hoods - Chelsea, Greenwich Village, and the Meatpacking District - the gay-owned and operated Chelsea Pines Inn has long provided affordable respite to queer and Aussie travelers in the know. Originally built as a private home in the 1850s, the five-story walk-up row house was used as the setting for Cool Air, a short story by horror master H. P. Lovecraft.

Within the extremely walkable area are some of New York's most innovative and exciting sites – the new High Line (a former elevated industrial railway now reinvented as a park), Chelsea Market (a foodie's paradise and the largest indoor food market in NYC) and the Hudson River Park (a riverside park that runs the length of the island, where you're sure to glimpse the occasional skating or biking Chelsea-boy shirtlessly working his way from Battery Park to the George Washington Bridge!).

The 23-room urban bed-and breakfast, which has welcomed guests since the 1980s, recently underwent renovations including the addition of 1-Bedroom Suites and a Business Center with computers and printer available to guests on a complimentary basis.

Every room is unique and dedicated to a celluloid hero from the Golden Age of Hollywood, and each has a flat-panel television with satellite reception (featuring HBO and LOGO), 300 thread-count luxury linens, and Gilchrist & Soames bath amenities.

For further information go to www.chelseapinesinn.com



q travel: with BARRIE MAHONEY

'Tweeters from the Atlantic'

Barrie Mahoney was a teacher, head teacher and school inspector in the UK, as well as a reporter in Spain, before moving to the Canary Islands as a newspaper editor. He is still enjoying life in the sun as a writer and author.



Another Queen Calls

The launch of the new Cunard Queen Elizabeth has caused considerable interest, not only in her new home port of Southampton, but also in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, which is one of the first ports of call during this super liner's maiden voyage.

Appropriately, the Queen Elizabeth, which is the same length as 36 London buses and holds 2,092 passengers, starts her maiden voyage on a 13-night cruise to the Canary Islands on 12 October. This maiden voyage was fully booked within 29 minutes after it went on sale last year, and more than 50% of its remaining 2010 cruises were sold within one and a half hours.

Little has been made in the press that the official launch of the new liner by Queen Elizabeth took place on 11 October and the maiden voyage to the Canary Islands starts on 12 October - Columbus Day. The day itself always causes some dispute each year, because Columbus Day in Spain is always celebrated on 12 October.

However, in the United States, Columbus Day is always celebrated on the second Monday in October, which in 2010 is 11 October. It is not the first time that a vessel of intrigue, excitement and anticipation has docked in Gran Canaria's famous port of Las Palmas...

Back in 1485, Portugal refused funding to Christopher Columbus. It took him seven years of lobbying to get funding from Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. Initially, Queen Isabella turned him down and sent him away. Later, King Ferdinand called him back and granted the funding. Half the financial support also came from private Italian investors. Columbus set sail and made it to the Canary Islands in August 1492.

Columbus arrived in Gran Canaria's port of Las Palmas, where he restocked the provisions and made repairs, and on September 6, started what turned out to be a five-week voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.

The five-week voyage across the Atlantic Columbus actually started from La Gomera, one of the smaller of the Canary Islands. La Gomera has a fascinating association with Christopher Columbus. Popular legend, speculation and contemporary reports all indicate that Columbus was in love with one of its most infamous of residents, the aristocratic Beatriz de Bobadilla, by reputation a vicious medieval nymphomaniac, and by all accounts, a great beauty.

Having said goodbye to his beloved, Columbus sailed for five weeks before land was sighted on October 12, 1492 and Columbus called the island (in what is now the Bahamas) San Salvador, although he continued to believe he had reached Asia until his death in 1506. He also believed the peaks of Cuba to be the Himalayas, which says little for his sense of direction!

Columbus Day has been celebrated as a holiday in Spain since 1958, as 'Día de la Hispanidad'. Well, it is an excuse for another fiesta!

If you should just happen to see an oversized Queen in Sydney Harbour, don't worry, it is just another Cunard liner! We look forward to welcoming the new Queen Elizabeth to our little island, as indeed we welcome all Queens who decide to pay us a visit!

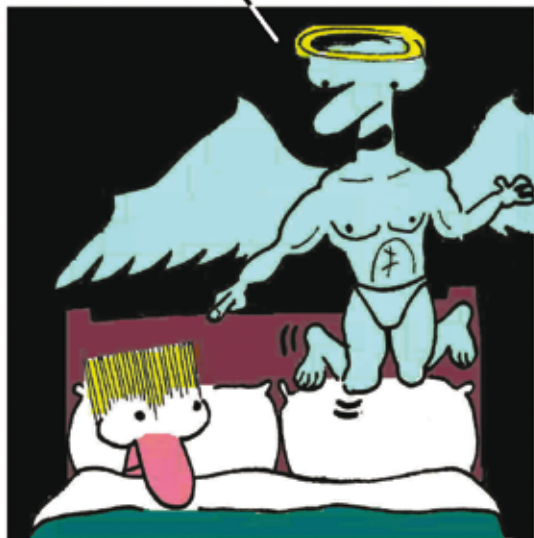
If you enjoyed this article, take a look at Barrie's websites: www.bariemahoney.com and www.thecanaryislander.com or read his latest novel, 'Journeys and Jigsaws' (ISBN: 9781843865384).



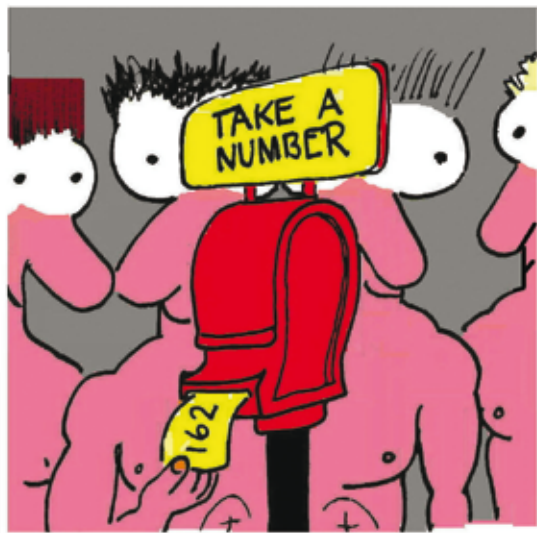
Gaylord Blade

Young, Gay & Hot-to-Trot

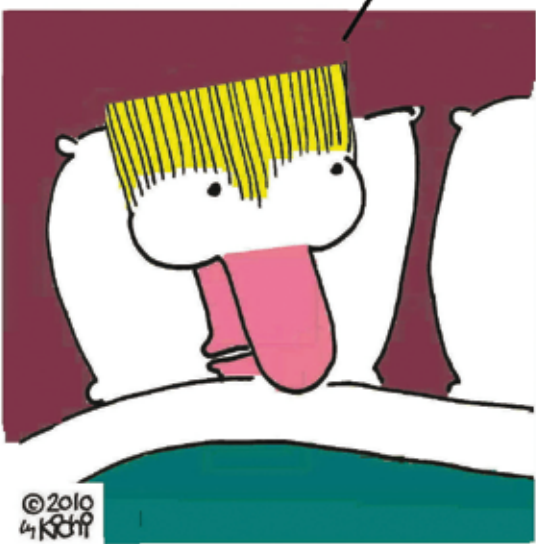
Gaylord Blade, I am the Ghost of Christmas Future



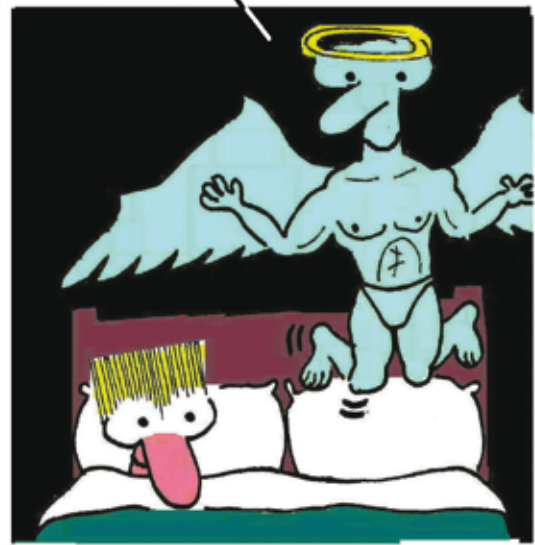
your Christmas celebrations will all be marked by tons of casual sex with hot men!



Doesn't sound like a problem to me! Why are you here?



I want tips on how to make my future Christmases like yours!





nye 2010

BLUE HAWAII theme

Come and get layed...

Members free entry before midnight
(\$10 general entry including a free
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Open until 5am

Tunes spun by DJ Rod
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