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MIDSUMMA 2011 Issue 76

q comment: DARK SUMMER AT CHAPEL

OK PRODUCTIONS TO DEBUT DARK SUMMER AT CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL, as part of MIDSUMMA 2011

Beach-side Melbourne, January 2011. The city is hot and sweltering. Young attractive lawyers. Jonathon Harker and his lover David West purchase a dilapidated, mysterious old Victorian Mansion for a rich older man. Jonathon's younger sister is suddenly struck by a mysterious illness, and a harmlessly delusional man turns violent...these seemingly unconnected events draw the two men into a Dark Summer.

"Dark Summer" a fast paced, captivating and enthralling theatre production - a blood red cocktail of nightmare, illusion, fantasy and sexual intrigue. Summer and the two lovers, will NEVER be the same.

Please Note: Dark Summer contains adult themes and nudity.

Chapel Off Chapel - 12 Little Chapel Street, Prahran 'til 6 February Tuesday - Friday 8pm, Saturdays 5pm & 8pm, Sundays 5pm Bookings 03 8290 7000 or www.chapeloffchapel.com.au





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





q feature: MATTHEW PHILLIP KING



Another young guy I met on FB, Matthew and I started chatting and in his typical cheeky style he asked me what he had to do to be on the front cover of Q Magazine. I won't tell you what I told him to start with, but suffice to say we came to a deal - he gets some shots taken in the theme of MIDSUMMA and I will have a look at them. Our front cover is just one of many pics he had taken - and I'm glad I decided to feature him. Our interview started in the usual way - me asking some personal questions - where he was born, how old he is, where he grew up and went to school and what his family unit consist of.

I'm a 26 year old Melbourne born boy, grew up in the south eastern suburb of Mount Waverley with my amazing family: Mum and Dad; two younger brothers and my older sister. I went to Sussex Heights Primary School and Ashwood Secondry College and after 6 years living out of home I am back in the nest to pursue my studies!

When did you know you were Gay and did this affect your life in any adverse or positive fashion?

I realized I was gay at age 10 when I developed a crush on a boy in my grade 5 class. Being a shy kid already, my response to realising my sexuality was to hide it from my family and friends and deal with it when I was older. This resulted in me having extremely low self-esteem, an eating disorder at a young age and very negative view of myself.

What are you currently doing in Melbourne and what do you think you will be doing in five years from now?

Currently, I am studying Architectural Drafting at Box Hill Tafe which is very time consuming and hard work - but I love it! To support my studies, I work as a concierge in the city, where I enjoy meeting new people and making new friends.

With-in the next five years I will be a qualified Draftsman designing dream homes, pursuing my passion for real estate and property development and, on the side, I plan to study massage and personal training so I can have my own weekend/evening business. I am very excited about my five year plan, unlike most people, I can't wait to be 30!

What do you think of the Gay scene in Melbourne?

Coming out of a 6 year relationship last year, I have only really started to get back in touch with the Melbourne Gay scene. I have learnt that there is such a diverse range of people who make the gay community positive and exciting and there is a real sense of love and community. There is an encouraging freedom to be yourself as a gay man in Melbourne and there are no limits as to how you can express it. From night clubs, social and sports groups, there is always something happening and we are lucky to have such a supportive gay culture!

What would you say to any other young person who thinks he or she may be Gay?

Don't be afraid to ask for help and support because it can be stressful and confusing. There are many organizations and support groups who listen and provide amazing information. You are not alone. You are not abnormal. Put yourself first and put your hand up if you need support!

You obviously like staying fit. How important do you think the "body beautiful" is to the Gay community?

It has taken me my whole life to get to a point where I am comfortable in my own skin. There is definitely a pressure to be 'body beautiful' in the gay community and this can have a massive effect on peoples self-esteem. We all seem to want to look bigger, better and more beautiful, but I believe true beauty is feeling sexy no matter what size or shape we are. If we spent less time competing with each other and more time supporting each other, that's when the world will be a beautiful place.

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

Spend more time being grateful for what you have and less time complaining about what you don't. If you do this, you'll soon realise there is an abundance of amazing things in your life and this will open your eyes to many possibilities.

q community: LGBTI ALLIANCE

The National LGBTI Health Alliance starts 2011 with modified name, a new Board and a strong foundation of achievements to date but uncertainty regarding its ongoing funding. At its inaugural AGM late 2010 Alliance members unanimously resolved to add an 'l' to the name of the organisation to make visible its representation of intersex issues and intersex members. With formal approval now given by ASIC, the National LGBT Health Alliance is officially the National LGBTI Health Alliance.



"The Alliance was established with the acronym LGBT to collectively refer to a group of identities that

includes lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans/transgender people, while acknowledging that many people do not identify with these terms. There was caution about using an 'I' in the name before the organisation had a clear mandate to represent intersex issues. The last thing we wanted was a tokenistic title that didn't really reflect our practice. It is fantastic that by our very first AGM our membership includes all three major intersex groups in Australasia and with their engagement we have collectively been able to effectively advocate on intersex issues, alongside issues affecting trans, lesbian, bisexual, gay and other sexuality, and gender diverse people" said Gabi Rosenstreich, Executive Director of the National LGBTI Health Alliance. "The name change reflects our inclusive practice for some time now, but it was important to get the formal endorsement of our full membership at the AGM"

The end of 2010 also saw new members stepping up to the governance of the organisation, with the Alliance's first elections for the Board of Directors. The Board comprises one Director from each state and territory and up to four further Directors. Directors staying on for a further year are Paul Martin (Chair, QLD), Andrew Burry (ACT) and Abi Groves (Secretary). They are joined by new directors Susan Ditter (Vice-Chair, TAS), Daniel Ward (NT), Dani Wright (WA), Adrian Lovney (NSW), Mary Heath (SA), Greg Adkins (VIC), Rathana Chea. Gen D'Adam, and Peter Hyndal (Treasurer).

"We thank the initial directors, who supported the establishment of the Alliance" said Paul Martin, Chair of the Board "Without their dedication and the commitment of the founding member organisations we would not exist. Now we welcome the new Directors and look forward to benefiting from their diverse areas of expertise as we move forward into 2011. Looking back, in the two years since we began to establish the Alliance in earnest, we have achieved the impossible – a robust, representative membership-based national peak body in the poorly resourced, diverse and disparate LGBTI community sector and simultaneously being up and running immediately, producing high quality work," said Gabi Rosenstreich "A highlight was the Health in Difference National LGBTI Health Conference, 'Doing Diversity', which was held at the end of April 2010. It was attended by 212 participants from across Australia and New Zealand and was an incredible success - people are still talking about how empowering it was on so many levels. Other highlights include having some of our key recommendations taken up in relation to suicide prevention and the national men's and women's health policies. While we still have a long way to go, we have anchored lesbian, gay and bisexual issues, and for the first time trans and to some extent intersex issues in key national health policy frameworks. We've also built good relationships not only with the vast majority of LGBTI community organisations but also with key mainstream health organisations. We now have a strong foundation from which to work with them and with the government to make real improvements to the wellbeing of LGBTI Australians. 2011 will be a challenging year, as although there are many opportunities to make a difference, the Alliance remains entirely unfunded by government. Our community-raised seed funding will be exhausted within a few months. We have established a solid basis from which to be active partners with government and the mainstream health sector in improving LGBTI health and wellbeing, but we can't do this without funds, If we lose our staff member, the national coalition we have created will still be of value, but we know that it will be much more difficult to effectively engage with national policy and program development and we will rely more than ever on the active engagement of our members." said Paul Martin.

"We still hope that Minister Roxon, the Minister of Health and Ageing, will be able to find some way to fund the Alliance, just as community sector peak bodies representing other equity groups receive federal funding. I suspect that the message is not getting through to the Minister that both the LGBTI community and the mainstream health sector think the Alliance is important and we can't afford to keep funding it ourselves." said Gabi Rosenstreich.

Further information can be found at www.lgbthealth.org.au

q shows: CIRCUS OZ GOES BLUE

Circus Oz gets hot and sweaty for Midsumma...THE BLUE SHOW...Feast your eyes. Smell the danger. Taste the sweat.

Circus Oz will present a strictly limited season of The Blue Show as part of the 2011 Midsumma Festival program. Sexy, dangerous and seriously funny, The Blue Show will reveal a daring side of the Circus Oz ensemble up close and in the flesh. This is the company's first show in their new 100-year-old Circus Oz Melba Spiegeltent, at the Docklands from 13 January $-\ 6$ February 2011.

The Blue Show - made just for adults - promises a sizzling night of raw physicality, sexy antics and cheeky fun as the Circus Oz



mob unleash their breathtaking skills, exposing more than a little skin. All this steamy circus action will be set to the pulsating sounds of the live Circus Oz band. The Blue Show is directed by guest director, Anni Davey who has a long association with Circus Oz. Anni first joined the company as a performer in 1987, but since then has returned in numerous roles including trapeze artist, diva and bon vivant. Well known in the Melbourne arts community as a celebrated performer and director, Anni is also a regular aerial and performance trainer at both Circus Oz and the Women's Circus.

Of The Blue Show, Anni says, "the performers have been asked to realize their oddest, strangest, wackiest, wildest ideas, without fear of censor. As a result, there will be crazy beautiful music, conceptual acrobatics and intelligent stupidness. And remember, you'll be really, really close to it all."

In 2003 Stephen Page commissioned Circus Oz to create a new show for the 2004 Adelaide Arts Festival. The result was The Blue Show, which performed to sell out crowds. Later that year, Circus Oz performed a new version of The Blue Show in Melbourne at the Famous Spiegeltent. This latest rendition for the 2011 Midsumma Festival has been created specifically for the unique space of the Circus Oz Melba Spiegeltent and is chock-a-block with new surprises.

Circus Oz purchased the Melba Spiegeltent in September 2010. Built in 1910 and originally called The Bacaladera Spiegeltent,

it has travelled across Europe with numerous legends treading its boards including Edith Piaf. It was renamed 'The Melba Spiegeltent', after the iconic Australian opera soprano Dame Nellie Melba, when it was bought to Australia in 2007 by Circus Royale's Frank Gasser. Dame Nellie Melba was arguably Australia's first international superstar, born in Richmond and now adorning the \$100 note. A perfect venue for festivals, arts events, corporate functions, workshops, commitment ceremonies and other acts of joyful celebrations, the Circus Oz Melba Spiegeltent will be available for hire from mid-December onwards.

Circus Oz 'The Blue Show' TICKETS ON SALE NOW Show time: 9:00pm Duration: 1.5 hours Venue: Circus Oz Melba Spiegeltent, Corner of Waterfront Way and Docklands Drive, Docklands Dates: January 29, 30 February 4, 5 and 6 Ticket Prices Adults: \$38.00 Concession: \$30 Groups over 8 (adults): \$28

**Suitable for ages 18 and over. This show does contain nudity and some coarse language.

Bookings via: Midsumma www.midsumma.org.au or Hares & Hyenas 63 Johnston Street, Fitzroy 03 9495 6589 For further information go to www.circusoz.com/blueshow For more information about hiring the Circus Oz Melba Spiegeltent, contact Matt Hughes at programming@circusoz.com.au



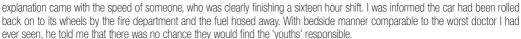
money: with EVAN DAVIS

For every complex problem, there is a solution that is simple, neat and often wrong. I had a problem with my old mechanic and changed. This was a mistake that reminded me, of the importance of getting the right motor vehicle insurance.

I was finishing dinner with my partner, when the door bell rang.

"Sir, this is the police. Are we speaking with Mr Davis and are you the owner of an orange 1969 Morris Mini?" enquired the stern voice of a young she-cop. I replied in the affirmative to both questions and buzzed the two police officers into my apartment. My car had been discovered only six or so blocks away in South Yarra. It was found on its side. Apparently, leaking rather a lot of fuel, I explained that I remembered parking it on all four wheels when I saw the car last.

The second cop, a he-cop, rolled his eyes. He explained that a group of youths happened across my parked car, near my new mechanic's shop and had rolled it over. Further



"How is the car now?" I asked. "The car is fucked...Sir" was the exasperated reply, no doubt lifted straight from the constable's hand book on appropriate ways in which to talk to the public.

My partner laughed very unsympathetically. Quite a lot as it happened. I had to explain to the cops that he never really liked the car. even though it was an historic vehicle. I further explained that it was a bit of an historic bomb, even before it had been rolled.

Two days before this incident, I left the car in the care of the new mechanic. I had also told him to keep it under cover as it was an old car and likely to fill up with water with the heavy rain of late. All of this had been ignored.

I contacted my insurance company Shannon's. They are a specialty motor vehicle insurer that specialises in classic cars and historic bombs. They informed me the liability was the mechanic's. They assured me that should his insurance claim prove to be unsatisfactory, they would cover the agreed value of the car. They also would provide me with the car back at no cost to me or my claim record and then pursue the matter through the mechanic's insurance.

The news from my insurer, was much more helpful that the suggestion from the police on how to avoid future motor vehicle damage. As the she-cop and the he-cop left my apartment, he turned to me and said:

"Sir, I think that you should buy a heavier car. It would be harder to roll over".





q people: DJ ADAM LOVE

an interview by Marc J Porter



Tell us about your background, where you grew up and how you came to be a DJ?

I grew up in Kalbarri, a crayfishing and tourism town in Western Australia. It's about 600km north of Perth. When I was in grade 6 and 7 I used to play at Friday night Rollerskating, and Blue Light Discos during school holidays. I went to boarding school in Geraldton from age 12, and then moved to Perth where I studied Aviation for a year or so. Unfortunately I couldn't afford the flying as well as pay rent and study full time, so I focused my career in the other direction that I wanted to follow - music. I was always inspired by clubbing and music has always been a very emotional thing for me.

I got my first paid gig when I turned 18 and gained experience

from there. I moved to Melbourne after living in Perth for a year and a half, where I got right amongst the bar and club culture, and lived in Melbourne for 4 years. After I secured my first gig in Sydney, at Rising Dayclub at Phoenix, it eventually became the case that I had more gigs up in Sydney than I had in Melbourne. With that, I made the decision to move up to Sydney, and I have been here since November 2009.

Do you mainly di in the gay scene or does music transcend scenes?

At the moment I mainly play in the gay scene, as there's more than enough work in that. However there are plenty of mixed gigs too, such as some events at Arq, and at the Beresford. Eventually I will look to mix in with a bit of both scenes as I begin to release my own tracks.

Is being a dj full time or is Adam Love interested in more, if so, what do you get up to?

I work two days per week at Universal Music, am studying a Business degree part time, and have just started to work another two days helping with promotions at The Imperial Hotel. As you can see I'm very busy, although everything I do is relevant to where I want to be in the future.

What has been a highlight so far for you and why?

So many to choose from! Playing at Sleaze 2010 was definitely a huge highlight of my career. As was my first International gig for Gay Ski Week NZ earlier this year too. Another was New Year 2010, where I flew to Melbourne to play at Closet NYE, then back up to Svdney for Daywash, then back down to play at Silk Roque alongside the Freemasons.

All the parties were absolutely rocking, and the vibe at all of the events was electric. Finally, I couldn't go without mentioning Midsumma's TDance 2009, my first ever gig to a huge crowd. The weather was absolutely perfect, and I was playing as the sun set behind me. Definitely a very special memory.

Is there anyone special in your life?

Yes, Brodie and I have been together for almost 2 years now.

What is your take on gay rights in Australia?

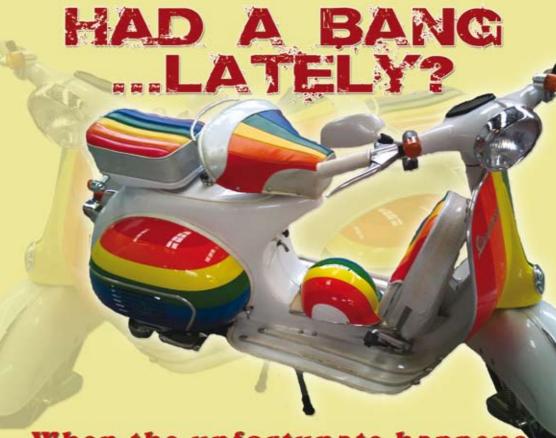
We should be treated no differently to other people, what someone might behind closed doors is no ones business but their own, provided they're not harming anyone. At the same time, we shouldn't make a big deal about the fact that we're gay any more than straight people acknowledge the fact that they're straight. In terms of marriage, I personally don't feel I need to get married to justify my relationship. People that want to get married should be able to do as they please. As for me, I may be more interested in a Civil Union one day.

Where do you call home?

I always called Kalbarri home, however now I'd have to say the place I call home now is where I live with Brodie.

Where can people check your gigs out?

All my gigs, including event tickets and CD giveaways can be found at facebook.com/djadamlove



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q food & lifestyle: with PETE DILLON

Happy Midsumma to one and all.

I want to start by recognising the devastation being endured by all of those in Queensland, WA, NSW and here in Victoria. It is heartbreaking to see this suffering, loss of life, property and livelihoods, and all of us, contributors and readers of this august publication, wish everyone who has been afflicted by the forces of nature strength and courage to face the loss you have endured. It is something that you can never be prepared for and I hope that you can start to rebuild your lives, your businesses and your homes. You are not alone in your journey and know that we all are here to offer what we can to help.

This brings me to our own festival of indulgence that is Midsumma, and very shortly, The Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, yet another orgy of indulgence. I have spent many hours, days (and long mornings lying in) following wondrous events at this festival for many a year. Extraordinary chefs, amazing food and terrific wines have dominated my early March days for some years.



One of the results of the disasters that those around the country have to deal with is a change to the way we purchase our own food. Along with all of the homes and businesses that have been lost, so too have our primary producers lost their crops, stock, grape vines and flocks. This will mean a change in prices for meat, fruit and vegetables, eggs and many of our other staple foods.

If it wasn't enough that we have seen years of drought, and have had to make considerations about the provenance of our food, and where and how we shop. Now with a shortage of some fruits and vegetables, beef, lamb and the devastation wrought by plagues of locusts running through Victoria, NSW and South Australia, it is more important than ever to consider where our food and wine comes from and what we do to ensure the longevity of those producers.

A recent campaign that finishes Australia Day was started by wine maker Steve Pannell and called All For One Wine. This campaign focuses on something that is very close to my own heart - ensuring we drink local wines and providing a future for our industry. All For One Wines states 'It's time for us to start to really value what we have: to drink Australian wines with pride and to show them off to others.' With recent events, this is more important than ever, not just for wine but for food as well.

As reported in the Sydney Morning Herald*, The Australian Food and Grocery Council has warned fruit and vegetable prices will rise due to crop loss and damage caused by the flood inundation.

"The flooding is expected to impact the supply of fresh produce in the coming weeks and months," AFGC chief executive Kate Carnell said. "The major problem is transport logistics resulting from highway and road closures around the city."

This is a huge issue and knowing that your local restaurant, cafe or take away may have to increase prices to deal with the shortages is something to take into consideration. If you find this difficult or it makes a difference to you, remember that you are supporting an industry that sustains us and ensures that we have fresh food at reasonable prices for most of the year.

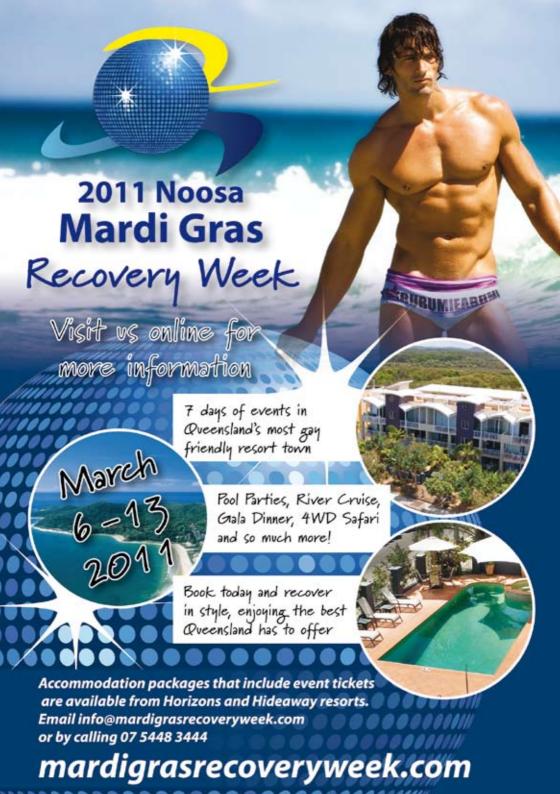
I hope that you will continue to support the local food industry in your area that you consider the provenance of your purchases and ensure that even after such devastation has affected so much of our dryland and livestock grazing agricultural industries, you can make a difference in helping our Australian industry get back on its feet.

Now that I am done with the pontificating, enjoy Midsumma. It is an amazing part of Melbourne's culture and I hope to see it continue for many years, providing a wonderful cultural experience, an opportunity to make new friendships and renew old ones, but most importantly, allows you to celebrate who you are!

Stay safe, look after your mates, and enjoy the chance to openly celebrate our diverse sexualities, more so than so many who are persecuted for being who they are.

For more ramblings about food, booze and all the wonderful things that we enjoy in our vibrant culinary world, tune into Cravings on JOY 94.9 every Saturday from 1-2pm, or listen online around the country or the world.

For any questions, email lifestyle@qmagazine.com.au. Eat well, drink well and forget moderation. See you around the festival.



q music: THE NEVER EVER

Meet The Never Ever, five fun energetic members of an exuberant power-pop dance band based in Sydney. Together for 12 months now, they have already achieved some noteworthy milestones such as scoring two international supports

for US bands Ivoryline and The Wonder Years, a clothing endorsement with UK trendsetting company Babycakes Clothing as well as with the US social statement/make a difference Positively Negative Clothing Company and Australian fashion house, Attitude OZ.

The Never Ever have enjoyed 77 000 plus hits on MySpace for their track "She Said" which is available for download on iTunes, taking their MySpace plays to well over 150 000. The Never Ever feature in this month's TV Hits Unsigned Magazine, scoring their first "cover" and are the current face of MySpace Bands Australia. They recently launched their debut EP "Dancefloors and Dinosaurs" on the East Coast "Discos and Dancefloors Tour" to rave reviews.

Their most recent achievement is signing a music publishing deal with "Centrifuge Music", home to Hugo Race, Artisan Guns and Noiseworks. Their debut EP "Dancefloors and Dinosaurs"



features five catchy upbeat danceable tracks including "She Says". The EP is selling extremely well on iTunes and the band are about to film their debut music video "Hey KT", a big budget clip due for release in March 2011.

Hear the band at www.myspace.com/theneverever, speak to the band at www.twitter.com/thenevereverau or get information on the band on their Facebook fan page, The Never Ever.

q theatre changes: **BUTTERFLY CLUB**

SAFE PAIR OF HANDS FOR THE BUTTERFLY CLUB

The iconic Melbourne cabaret venue The Butterfly Club today announced a change of ownership into a safe pair of hands.

The new owner, Enter Closer Pty Ltd, is headed by professional performer, composer, teacher and producer, Mr Simone Pulga.

"Having been involved in the arts and entertainment industry since the age of 10, I immediately recognised the important position The Butterfly Club holds in the industry, but also how much it is loved by audiences and performers," Simone said. "The arts is my life, the life of my friends, and my passion is to provide audiences with great shows, and offer performers an accessible outlet for their talent. Therefore I plan no changes, except to build on the excellent work and reputation of the venue."

Longstanding Venue Manager, Alexander Woollard, remains in charge at the venue and all staff positions are secure. All 2011 performer and function bookings have been honoured.

THE BUTTERFLY (LINB

Over the past almost 12 years, The Butterfly Club has become synonymous with cabaret, presenting more than 1,000 new works and discovering and nurturing many performers who are now house-hold names such as Tim Minchin and Eddie Perfect.

Former owners David Read and Neville Sice said "We feel incredibly privileged that performers, audiences and staff have invited us into their lives over the past 8 years. When we saved the venue from closure all those years ago, we set out a vision to make it sustainable in its own right with no public subsidy and it now serves as a model for other arts organisations. The sale allows us to focus on producing the annual Melbourne Cabaret Festival, and of course The Butterfly Club remains a key component to the success of that Festival."

q cabaret: WES GOES WEST

Cabaret has arrived in the West. And this one's gonna kick! Walk on the Wes Side... a modern cabaret event. Take a walk, a run, a pirouette, a boot-scoot, you may even want to butterfly to this event. The Substation joins Midsumma, Victoria's premier gay and lesbian arts & cultural festival, with a bang this year with its first self-produced cabaret show, Walk on the Wes Side... a modern cabaret event.

Melbourne's own king of cabaret Wes Snelling hosts the very finest in our music, comedy and variety scene including Sammy J & Randy (Barry Award Winner - Most Outstanding Show Comedy Festival 2010/Good News Week), Ali McGregor (Spicks & Specks/La Clique), The Town Bikes (the first ladies of crazed adagio), trash pop ginger Geraldine Quinn (Spicks & Specks/Comedy Channel), the hilariously insatiable Ethel Chop... more? Of course!

The award winning Snelling is one of Melbourne's finest, delighting audiences everywhere he goes with his distinctive blend of charm, wit and honey-coated voice. He has been working locally and internationally as an actor, singer, comedian, director, writer, producer and production manager for over 10 years.

Snelling has a "beautiful voice, and a wicked sense of comic timing" The Age. He is a celebrated Australian artiste whose work has seen him tour throughout Australia, Europe, the UK and most recently New York. Not bitter, but quite twisted, Wes Snelling has been a Golden Gibbo Award nominee two years running. He was also Moosehead Award recipient in 2009 for his hit show KIOSK.



Walk on the Wes Side... a modern cabaret event is part of GOWEST, a Hobsons Bay City Council initiative that sees Hobsons Bay joining the City of Yarra and City of Melbourne as a local government partner of Midsumma. There will be a range of events happening across the Hobsons Bay region including exhibitions, film screenings, circus workshops and even a sailing day!

Walk on the West Side

Friday 4 February, 7.30pm \$15/\$12 Tickets online at www.thesubstation.org.au or www.midsumma.org.au The Substation, 1 Market Street, Newport VIC 3016

q charity: WALK4...AUTISM

Walk2...Adelaide, Walk4...Autism "We're walking from Melbourne to Adelaide to raise awareness about Autism" Ashley Giordano and Anika Doktor are two best friends who are taking their passion for walking to a whole new level with a 770km walk from Footscray in Melbourne's west to South Terrace in Adelaide, starting on 16 March 2011, to help raise awareness about Autism and to raise much needed funds for families and individuals who face the everyday challenges that Autism Spectrum Disorders present.

Ashley and Anika both work for WorleyParsons and took up the challenge to walk to work for "National Walk to Work Day 2009", starting off from Cairnlea at 5am and arriving at work in Footscray 3 hours later. Then in the evening they walked home again — 25km. The girls beat their record this year, walking 40km for the day from Cairnlea to the Melbourne CBD and back again. That ignited their passion for walking and they are now preparing for the big walk, starting in Footscray on Wednesday 16 March, and taking them 17 days to complete. They aim to walk around 40km per day on average and hope to arrive in Adelaide on Friday 1 April ready to fly back to Melbourne for World Autism Awareness Day on Saturday 2 April.

In early 2009, Anika's nephew, Kaya, was finally diagnosed with autism, after a prolonged period of uncertainty about what made him just that little bit different from other children. Kaya struggled to communicate, but since his diagnosis, he has been able to attend the new Western Autistic School at Laverton and things are really looking up for him.

If you can provide help for the walk, please call the Autism Victoria office on 03 9657 1600. Ashley and Anika have set up a sponsorship page on the Everyday Heroes Website for anybody wishing to sponsor their walk: visit http://www.everydayhero.com.au/walk2walk4.

g mens health: with BRIAN MIER

IT'S IN YOUR SKIN

does the sun love them? Our skin provides the casing due to loss of effect by sweating. in which all the rest of our physical body parts exist. 3. Slap on a hat that protects your head, face, neck and ears. However, it is not as tough as old boots for most of us. 4. Stay in the shade as much as possible. To get the best out of it, we need to look after it. The 5, Slide on sunglasses that meet Australian Standards. sun's UV radiation is both a major cause of Skin Cancer and the best natural source of vitamin D. Prevention To find out more: cure and may even save your life.

First, a general bit about Cancer. Cancer is a disease of For further information about UV. Skin Cancer and Vitamin D go to the cells begin to grow abnormally and out of control. These Cancer' infosheet. abnormal cells may grow into a lump called a tumour, which . Download the iPhone app from SunSmart for free, easy to access cancers remain in the body for years without symptoms while that sun protection is required from the

others may grow and spread iTunes App Store.

rapidly.



Skin Cancer

in the world, with more than Council Helpline. 1,850 Australians dving each

most preventable of all cancers, at least 2/3 Australians will Cancers, an excellent brochure produced develop skin cancer before the age of 70. Melanoma is the by the Cancer Council Victoria, is the deadliest type and kills almost twice as many men as women. source of much of this article. People with fair skin are more vulnerable than naturally dark skinned people, but no one is immune.

many forms are visible. How do you detect it?

- have very fair skin or are over 50.
- with the skin check.
- or refer you to a skin specialist (Dermatologist).

Preventing or minimising the risk from skin cancer is easy. It should start in childhood - but it's never too late. Even MEN'S HEALTH EVENTS ON THE RADAR FOR 2011 on a cloudy day the UV level can still be high so you need to Please send me details well ahead if you know of any other events check it online or by iPhone app. Note that solariums can also which could be listed - info@eaglehealth.net.au increase your risk.

all of the five SunSmart steps:

now have SPF ratings; mine is 50.

- 2. Slop on SPF30+ sunscreen and ensure it is broad spectrum and It's Summer and Aussies love the sun, but how well water resistant. You will need to reapply it approx. every two hours,

- of problems is healthier, less painful and cheaper than · Ring the National Cancer Council Helpline on 13 11 20 for confidential information, emotional support and referral to support groups:
- the body's building blocks its cells. Cancer occurs when www.sunsmart.com.au and check out the 'Early Detection of Skin
- can be benign (not cancer) or malignant (cancer). Some info about the daily UV level for your location and the times of day

· Talk to your GP or Pharmacist if you think you might need a Vitamin D supplement.

· If you are diagnosed with skin cancer it Australia has one of the can be helpful to talk to a man who has highest rates of skin cancer had similar experience - ask the Cancer

year. Despite it being the Acknowledgement: A Brief Look at Men's



MEN'S HEALTH and the VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION

Following on from the first National Male Health Policy released in Early detection of all forms of skin cancer is crucial. May, the first Victorian Men's Health and Well-being Strategy 2010-Most skin cancers can be cured if detected early. And 2014 was released in November. It's an impressive document covering both 'mainstream' men and minority groups including gay · Check your skin for changes in a freckle or mole - colour, and bi-sexual men. Email me at info@eaglehealth.net.au if you want shape or texture - or an open skin wound which won't heal. to obtain a hard copy, or download one at http://www.health.vic.gov. Also check for new spots. Do this yearly, or quarterly if you au/mhws/strategy.htm The Strategy was produced by the Victorian Department of Health. It contains a strong 'wake up' call for publicly Because you can't accurately examine your own back and funded health organisations including community health centres some other parts of the body, get a partner or mate to help to focus on men's health in their work and strive for Equity in the provision of services to men. Many have ignored men's health for If you observe new or changed spots, get them checked out many years. I have written to the new Premier, Ted Bailleau, urging by your doctor. The basic examination is a simple visual one, him to give priority to men's health based on the Strategy, in the If your GP is not satisfied he will have further tests conducted health reforms the new Victorian Government intends to implement. I urge you to do likewise to get the message across that men and their health matter. Fmail ted.baillieu@parliament.vic.gov.au

- Tasmanian Men's Annual Gathering Waddamanna, Tas 11 to 14 March - www.tasmen.org.au
- Prepare Yourself and Protect your Skin. Use several or Launch of new Men's Health Program Fairfield, Vic 5 April - info@eaglehealth.net.au
- 1. Slip into sun protective clothing that covers as much of International Men's Health Week 13 to 19 June. I'm sure that your skin as possible. Some clothing such as cycling ierseys you, like me, will be involved in doing something to contribute to this occasion - www.menshealthweek.com.au

g youth: with TASMAN ANDERSON

Raging water, hopelessness and destruction has now become Never have I felt so proud daily life for the residents of Queensland. Instead of the sunny to call myself an Australian. heat soaked summer days that Australia is use to, residents Strangers were of Queensland are now surrounded by gushing water that has other strangers. Anyone engulfed their homes and washed away everything but their who had a boat or water

What started out as a simple storm has now caused 75 percent of they came across. Those Queensland to be classified as a disaster zone after being struck by who were unaffected by widespread and continuing floods. After announcing the classification, the floods took evacuees in police and emergency workers were given the authority to force and gave them a bed and evacuations and removed residents from various areas of the Brisbane, a warm meal. If there was Bundaberg, Dalby, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Gympie, Ipswich, Logan, ever a moment where Australia shines amongst any other Maryborough, Rockhampton, Roma, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, country, this is it. Warwick and Redcliffe districts.

"I couldn't believe my eyes when I first turned the seven o'clock news Many are left without a single possession upon them and on," said Brisbane resident, Sarah Thompson. "I saw cars being thrown dozens have been abandoned by their insurance companies. around like toys, children crying for their mothers and a newly formed Those still left with their homes are in desperate need of an swamp where houses and shopping centres once were. It was pure extra pair of cleaning hands. To join a cleaning crew, you chans '

In the past weeks of what can only be described as hell on earth, the with machinery, such as bobcats should call (07) 3403 freak Australian floods have claimed the lives of twelve people with 8888 or email lordmayor@brisbane.gld.gov.au. over seventy still missing. The number of casualties is expected to rise dramatically as the water recedes and the true horror of the event is However, for those residents in Sydney who are unable to revealed.

As a Journalist I get to experience a lot of things that you wouldn't smartservice.gld.gov.au. The money raised will not only usually come by. However, nothing prepared me for this. As I watched help to repair the infrastructure but also offer families the the live news coverage depict what was happening in my own city, I chance to begin their reconstruction and supply them with was shocked. Footage of a family stranded upon their car with nothing fresh clothing and food. Now is the time to show the world around them but dark murky water haunted my dreams. Only weeks how Australia stands together in the face of danger. ago we were disappointed with the fact that we were going to have a wet Christmas. However, now we would give anything to go back to a On a more personal note, I hope you are all safe and well. time where death and destruction wasn't a current occurrence on our There has been too much death and destruction already television.

As if matters couldn't get any worse, Brisbane was the most recent victim of the incredible act of Mother Nature. The inner-city workers were immediately evacuated as floodwaters began to break the banks of the Brisbane River last week. An estimated 6000 properties submerged when the weather peaked last Wednesday.

A flood this size has brought back many painful memories of the 1974 Christmas day flooding which cost an estimated \$200 million in repairs. Unfortunately for the residents of Queensland, the latest flooding comes with an eerie twist of irony as the death toll almost matches the number of casualties from the four decade old flood. The 1974 flood, known to be the worst flood in Australian history claimed the lives of fourteen people from the Yeronga, New market and St. Lucia suburbs. However, the latest flooding may soon take the crown if it continues at its alarming rate.

Although being surrounded by constant destruction and heart breaking situations, the Australian community haven't lost hope. Hundreds have banded together to help rescue those caught within their homes or cars and thousands have worked tirelessly to help business owners salvage whatever they could before the water took over their shops.

vehicle was quick to jet into town and rescue anyone



Although SES are doing their best, your help is needed! must first register with Volunteering Queensland by visiting volunteeringald.org.au or phoning 1800 994 100. Those

lend a helping hand, you can also donate money to the official flood appeal on 1800 219 028 or on telethon.

so take care of yourself!







q drag: MATTEO - SELENA

Matteo Snooks and Selena La'More are one in the same, and equally popular whether on stage at the GH, the *Le Femme Garcon* cabaret circuit, Heaven's Door or Roberta. Alan Mayberry found out when the bright lights of show biz first hit.

I grew up with my mother and two older brothers in Melbourne's western suburbs, where I attended a private Catholic school. I started dancing at a local jazz ballet school when I was 6, and through that did shows and spent many, many weekends competing in comps. My first professional gig was when I was about 4 on the Milky Bar commercials.

I went on to study photography at uni but half way through the course decided my dream was to see where dancing would lead me, as I could always return to photography when I'm older. That decision made I enrolled in a few full-time dance schools and graduated from PSA in 2008.

Matteo laughed when I asked when did he decide he was gay.

I never decided I was gay! I don't believe that's a choice. I kinda always knew I was different but I used to think maybe, because I've never had any male influence in my life, that's why I felt like an outcast. But, NO, you can't hide or change the way you feel or who you're attracted to. You've got to be true to yourself.

I come from a very big religious European family, and found it so hard to come out. I've only told my close relatives. I hardly see my father's side, and it's a case whether they know or not. I just don't have to say it.





It took me a while but my mother, who is my rock and best friend, never made an issue of it. At the end of the day as long as I'm happy she's happy, and it was such a relief to be open about it. Once I passed that ugly stage, it only made my relationship with my family closer!

Choreographer Todd Patrick phoned me one day saying the Greyhound is looking for a male dancer. Stupid me, thinking it was a dog racing place (as I'd never heard of it before and I was still in my 'straight' days). So I went along — tall, flexible with a camp and cheesy smile — and the rest is history. I joined the Classics about 3½ years ago, now I can't wait for Saturday nights to come round.

All of our production numbers at The GH are so classy and well rehearsed. It really is as if Broadway or Vegas has come to Melbourne. It never gets boring as we have so many numbers that we rotate every week. I can't wait for the new showroom with its amazing lights and stage to open, as that will make our shows even greater.

I became involved with *Le Femme Garcon Show* through an audition process after I had won *So You Can Drag 2009*. Le Femme is another amazing learning experience for me as it opened up the world of the cabaret stage with its night club audience. It was a whole new learning experience playing to the mums and dads at pokey venues, compared to dancing in a gay night club. I am now choreographing the show and this is great experience. Our next performance is Easter at the Yarraville Club.

Not only the crowds, but the producers are over the moon with Matteo too. Darren Sugden and Rod Olsen say not only is he one of Melbourne's most talented performers but one hell of a choreographer. He's a true professional in every sense of the word, and an absolute dream to work along side. His dedication, enthusiasm, talent and unconditional loyalty goes without saying. We cannot speak highly enough of Matteo, he is AMAZING, and we absolutely adore him.

Looking back on all of his shows Matteo says all the production numbers are so much fun, but my favourite, and it is a hard call, but I would have to say it is the first routine I learnt, *One Night Only*, alongside the amazing Vivien St James, bless her soul. She was a true inspiration to me.

Any chance I get to be on stage is a bonus for me as I love performing. When I'm on stage I'm not really myself. Dancing and acting allows me to go places and become or create a character or illusion, which I like to call theatre. To me performing as Matteo or



Selena are both equal in my crazy creative mind. To be honest I hate getting into drag and don't feel comfortable socialising off stage, as I'm a man in a dress. But put a spot light on me and I'll rock, drop and shake the hell out of that stage! I love anything that gets my booty bouncing and hair flicking! I doubt I'll ever rest until I'm shaking my booty with Beyonce! LOL

Who knows where my future career lies? At the moment I'm enjoying teaching wedding couples how to dance and setting up my own company. Probably I'll end with the photographic industry, as I've put that aside for now, and I have plans to move to Europe. The world I hope is still at my feet!!

My friends like my family are very supportive and proud of all the things I've accomplished. They're always at every show cheering me on. A dancer's life can get lonely always being on stage or stuck in a studio, but with the right support and love, life can be and is BI ISS!





q sydney: MARDI GRAS BOLLYWOOD

Mardi Gras goes Bollywood with In the Space Between - a sequinstudded Bollywood spectacular to be staged in Sydney during the world-famous gay and lesbian festival.

Inspired by timeless Bollywood blockbusters, such as Devdas and Mughal-e-Azam, the production features dazzling costumes, foot-tapping music, sweeping dance sequences, a dramatic plot and a gender-bending cast.

The production is put together by the members of Trikone Australasia, a Sydney-based non-profit organisation supporting the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community of South Asian descent. "And that's what's unique about this production," says Kunal Mirchandani, the project's creative director. "There's a lot of Bollywood we see in Australia these days. But how many Indian movies or plays have you seen that tell a Subcontinental gay story?" he says.

The show takes viewers back to the centuries-old Indian-theatre tradition in which men performed the roles of both men and women. This tradition is also resonant with ancient Greek culture as well as with the 17th-century Shakespearean theatre where women were prohibited from acting on stage and their roles were taken by men.



Colourful, dramatic, scandalous (at times) and camp (most times), In the Space Between features 11 performers and nine dazzling dance numbers, and promises an evening of quintessential Bollywood entertainment.



PRODUCTION SYNOPSIS / DETAILS

The mysterious Indian homosexual is a walking contradiction. Bound by the constraints of a conformist society, yet fuelled by a culture rich in homoerotic subtext, the life of a gay person from the Indian Subcontinent is nothing short of fascinating.

In the Space Between is a showcase for the different facets of this individual - a chronicle of three generations of sexually conflicted men. Their stories belong to three vastly different eras - from the 1926 tale of an unspoken love between an Indian Maharajah and a male choreographer to the contemporary life of an Indian man in Sydney who transforms himself into a transvestite on weekends.



Woven into the play is an exquisite mythological tale of

Hindu gods, whose conflicts and foibles provide a dramatic backdrop for their human counterparts. At some times light and slapstick, at others profound and heartwrenching, In the Space Between breaks the barriers of time and culture, and highlights the common challenges of the queer community - irrespective of age, era, race, religion or region.

18, 19, 25 & 26 February: 7.30pm 20 & 27 February: 5pm 26 February: 2pm Cleveland Street Theatre, 199 Cleveland Street, Redfern \$30 / \$25 (concessions & New Mardi Gras members) + booking fee Bookings: www.actt.edu.au/buy-tickets or (02) 9213 4508 More Info: www.trikone.org.au



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q events: AUSTRALIA DAY

CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA TODAY, LIVE AUSTRALIAN EVERYDAY

Australia Day is more than a public holiday - it's the day we come together as a nation to celebrate Australia and being Australian. It's about looking at our past, considering our present and recommitting to making our future even brighter. There are many ways to celebrate what's great about Australia and to continue living in the spirit of being Australian all through the year. Q Magazine hopes you had a fabulous Australia Day and hopes you use some of the tips below to continue to celebrate our great country all year 'round.

Here's some ideas to get your started:

- · Think about what it is we celebrate what is it about Australia that you value most?
- · Plant native flora in your garden make sure it's also native to your local area
- · Read a classic Australian book
- · Learn more about indigenous culture and the read the stories of the Dreamtime to your kids
- · Find out about celebrations near you by visiting www.australiaday.org.au
- · Wear clothes by Australian designers
- · Take a walk or picnic in your nearest National Park
- · Take part in a citizenship affirmation ceremony
- · Visit a community with different ethnic populations and share in the cultural influences they bring to our country
- · Visit a country town, have a chat with the locals and check out the local history
- · Share a multicultural Aussie barbecue invite your neighbours, especially those you've never met before and taste the many flavours that make up our nation
- · Revisit our history read a historic novel or visit your local museum
- · Start saving water right now help protect our environment and precious resources
- · Take a short break visit a part of our country you've never seen before and attend its community Australia Day celebrations
- · Learn both verses of the national anthem (did you know the original version of Advance Australia Fair was written in 1878, but only officially proclaimed our national anthem in 1984?
- · Help someone you could volunteer for a charity or simply help out a friend or neighbour in need
- · Join the SES or the Volunteer Fire Brigade
- · Understand your region's Aboriginal history and culture find out more about the indigenous Australians of your area and their customs
- · Help clean up your local area or environment ioin a Landcare group to help saye natural environments in crisis
- · Research your family tree to find out your own Australian history
- · Ask the kids to draw their favourite thing about being Australian their viewpoint may surprise you!
- · On Australia Day, make a commitment to live the year with great Australian values as your guide fairness, selflessness, cooperation, humility, acceptance and respect.



q theatre: **SKIN TIGHT**

For the first time in Melbourne, this summer at fortyfivedownstairs SaySIX Theatre and The Groundswell Division present SKIN TIGHT By Gary Henderson

The Internationally acclaimed Kiwi love story comes to Melbourne for the first time. Skin Tight is a feverish fusion of intense physicality and lyrical tenderness that has touched hearts across the globe.

Skin Tight is presented and performed by SaySIX Theatre, a new collective dedicated to presenting the theatrical voices of Aotearoa in Australia, inspiring new and challenging collaboration between Australian and New Zealand theatre makers. Produced by Melbourne's Groundswell Division (who brought the acclaimed production of 'Shadow Boxing' to the Malthouse early 2010), Skin Tight represents a crossing of the Tasman between two new theatre forces. Much has been made about Australia's history with New Zealand in sport, wartime history and even film but surprisingly little has been noted when it comes to Theatre. Skin Tight is unique to Melbourne's independent theatre scene as it brings a rich new NZ play (performed by award winning Kiwi actors Holly Shanahan and Michael Whalley) brought to you in conjunction with Melbourne's Groundswell Division.



Since its first performance at BATS Theatre in 1994, Skin Tight has been performed to resounding International acclaim throughout New Zealand, Great Britain, South Africa, Australia, Europe, Canada and the USA. It won the coveted Edinburgh Fringe First Award in 1998, 2003 Production of the Year WA for The Perth Theatre Company, and has recently been nominated for four Cincinnati Acclaim awards for Know Theatre in the USA. The play continues to touch audiences worldwide with its bold physicality, passion and universal love story, this daring and heartbreaking work is a modern classic absolutely not to be missed.

SKIN TIGHT February 4 – 20, 2011

fortyfivedownstairs, 45 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

Bookings via HYPERLINK "http://www.fortyfivedownstairs.com" www.fortyfivedownstairs.com or on 03 9662 9966





E: info@qmagazine.com.au

q fitness: with CHRIS GREGORIOU

Happy New Year and here's to a fantastic 2011!

Have you over indulged in the festivities over the silly season or feel you want to make some quick or drastic changes to your body shape into February? Think complex exercise movements.

I am often asked what is the very best exercise that will help lose fat, get me toned and lean up the fastest.

Well, it's not as simple as having just one exercise, although recent science and studies in the field of effective exercising are indicating that exercises that feel natural, utilise multiple muscle groups (across the body) and have you moving in as many different directions as humanly possible, are very powerful when it comes to weight loss, improving movement/flexibility and feeling good mentally.

Let's look at different exercises and cover a few areas you should consider. Of late, there has been a lot of talk around exercising in lines, where the focus is placed on movement planes and having the body move in lines rather than traditional simple directional exercises, such as say pushups.



An example of exercising in lines (a complex exercise) would be to swing a weight (with straight arms) from a squat position (starting at the left knee) across the upper chest, finishing above and behind the right shoulder - a bit like a golf swing.

So what's the best exercise for you?

Well there are many to consider and it's important to consider the type of movement that actually occurs when reviewing your options. Putting it simply, the simpler a movement in an exercise, the fewer calories you'll burn and the fewer muscles will be worked However the more complex a movement, the more calories you will burn and you will get a greater response from your muscles.

So exercises that use complex movements will deliver better results than exercises that use only simple movements. Complex movements recruit multiple muscles, some to stabilise and others to perform the movement.

What is a complex movement?

A complex movement is a multi-joint movement that recruits large portions of the body to complete the exercise. Let's compare a simple movement leg exercise with a complex movement leg exercise:

Another simple exercise for example would be to use a machine, in this example the leg extension machine. It uses a simple, isolated movement to work the quadriceps. You're in a seated position moving only your knee joint. There isn't much involvement, if any, from other muscles and it doesn't burn very many calories.

Now let's look at a free weight walking lunge. You start by standing with your feet together and a dumbbell (or Kettlebells or VIPR) in each hand at your sides. You take a large step forward and lower your back knee, keeping your front knee at a 90 degree angle. Now you push off your front foot and pull your back leg forward, repeating the movement.

How many muscles did you utilise while performing a lunge?

Probably too many to count. You certainly worked your quadriceps, gluteus, hamstrings, calves, abdominals, supporting muscles in your shoulders, arms and back- just to name a few.

You also raised your heart rate and really kicked your metabolism into high gear. That's what I call a great exercise and it's building functional strength that you will use in everyday life, outside of the gym or studio.

So if you stick to complex movements (within your range), you will find that you will not only burn more calories in one activity, you will be building strength across various muscle groups and this makes sense as the body works in synergy when moving, as well as raising your metabolism and with the right intensity, you will also raise your metabolic rate, burning more calories while resting.

Good luck in 2011 with all your Health and Fitness goals and remember, keep it complex.

q products: STORM WATCHES

The Aquanaut watch is sophisticated and desirable.

This diver s watch is water resistant to 1000m, and unlike regular diving watches it is as stylish as a conventional dress watch so there is no need to have two separate watches.

The superior Aquanaut watch comes with sapphire glass, Swiss movement, date and an internal rotating bezel function.

STORM London believes in the cult of individualism. From stylish sports to bold fashion statements, the STORM London



range combines unique features and gadgets with a wide range of colours and shapes. STORM London continually seeks stimulation for new challenges in design.

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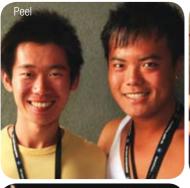
q scene: OUT & ABOUT















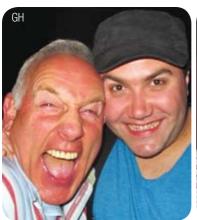














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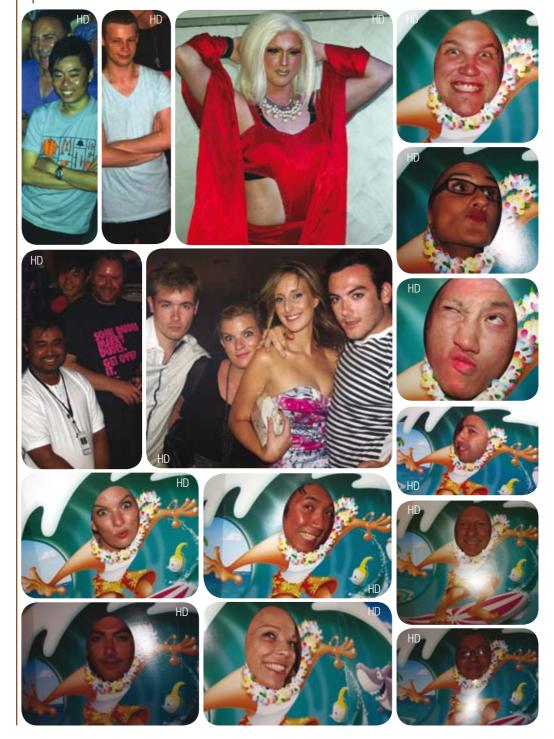








q scene: **OUT & ABOUT**



























q scene extra: **PEEL ST PRIDE FAIR**



q scene extra: MIDSUMMA CARNIVAL



q internet: FORCES ONLINE DATING

More and more internet users connect to the web to increase meetings to outline the criteria by increasingly refined. Whatever the profiles, there is a wide choice of sites. To satisfy a demand for constant growth, Q Magazine is pleased to announce the launch of www.gavcharlie.com



GayCharlie.com is the number 1 site for gays wishing to meet single army men.

They are the only site where gay members of the armed forces, firefighters and police officers can meet and spend some great time together. With GayCharlie.com, gay men in uniform have a unique opportunity to open up. No fear, no need to hide anymore...

The army has never given much freedom — although this is changing — to gay soldiers and secrecy has always been the norm. It was thought that gays did not represent the virile image of the manly fighter...thank goodness, times are finally changing!

film: AUSTRALIA'S FINEST

THE AUSTRALIAN FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR 2011

Back for its second year, The Australian Film Festival is taking over Sydney's East from 2-13 March, 2011. The AFF is a new concept for film festivals in Australia, combining aspects of screening, film and audience development. educational programs, food festivals and more in a mixed festival atmosphere, with Australian film at its' heart.

Following the great success of 2010's inaugural screening, the Australian Film Festival presents one of the country's most comprehensive showcases of Australian film content. With screenings at Randwick, Coogee and Clovelly Beach, and a stone's throw from Fox Studios and the nation's leading film education facilities, the Australian Film Festival is set in the heart of Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, and at the hub of Australian filmmaking and film audience.

With the beautiful art-deco Randwick Ritz Cinema as AFF's screening HQ, the Festival opens on 2 March with a very special Q&A event, featuring some of Australia's best filmmakers. Over the following 12 inspiring days the AFF will combine a series of indoor/ outdoor screenings and marquee events, featuring traditional and new media productions, classic films, unreleased features and digital genres, underpinned by the unique AFF Next Wave Film Centre, educating Australia's future filmmakers.

As a grand finale, Randwick City Council closes the streets surrounding the Ritz Cinema on March 13 for an exciting International Food & Film Festival! The all-day family friendly event will also include the induction of this year's Australian Film Walk of Fame recipients - local film royalty Gary Sweet, Sigrid Thornton and Jack Thompson. The event will then culminate with the Australian Short Film Festival judged by some of Australia's best filmmakers, led by director and actor David Field ('Chopper', 'Two Hands').

"This years' festival is diverse and entertaining, and offers a great opportunity for mainstream and independent filmmakers and acting talent. We encourage people to get involved, especially aspiring and upcoming filmmakers — it's a great way to get your work seen." says Festival Director Barry Watterson.

"We're focused on the long term development of Australian film content, and as such we've been in talks with major distributors to screen with us in a format that brings local films to a wider audience" he said.

Full program of films and dates soon to be announced. Filmmakers can submit their entries via the website - www.australianfilmfestival. com.au Tickets will be available from the 1st of February.

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q travel: with BARRIE MAHONEY

'Twitters 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.

Spit. Don't Swallow!

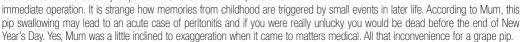
Tradition has it that on New Year's Eve in Spain and the Canary Islands, twelve 'lucky grapes' known as 'Uvas de la Suerte' grapes have to be eaten around the stroke of midnight. It is important to eat one grape at a time with each stroke of the clock and, of course, washed down with liquid refreshment, usually a lively Spanish bubbly wine called Cava. It is believed that this tradition came from ancient wine growers; well, after all it does fuel the sale of grapes on New Year's Eve doesn't it?

This fine tradition, as with a number of so-called traditions, has a number of flaws. Without appearing too cynical about the whole business of grape swallowing,

I have witnessed several unfortunate incidents concerning the hasty

swallowing of grapes since I have lived in Spain and I repeat these as a warning for this and future New Year's celebrations. Most importantly, grapes grown in the Canary Islands are of the seeded variety. The process of hastily swallowing twelve grapes in twelve seconds may be perfectly acceptable with the unseeded variety, but what exactly do you do with the pips in the seeded type when you are in polite company and do not wish to swallow them?

My Mum used to warn me about swallowing grape seeds with the threat that I may get an immediate attack of appendicitis and would have to be whisked to the casualty department of the nearest hospital for an



Is it really worth all the trouble?

I recall one unfortunate occasion at a New Year's party that I attended in the Costa Blanca, an elderly lady swallowed a pip which 'went down the wrong way'. It started as a cough, gentle at first and then becoming increasing violent. She was given a glass of wine and later a class of water to ease the problem. Her coughing became increasing troublesome and I really did not like the shade of



pink that she was turning, as a few helpful people thumped her vigorously on the back to dislodge the offending item. Sadly it was to no avail until one helpful gentleman, who claimed to be a first aider, wrapped his arms around her chest from behind and gave her a sudden squeeze.

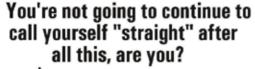
The old lady moaned, and not with pleasure, as her false teeth shot across the room. The offending pip had been dislodged and the party continued with the old lady later leading the Hokey Cokey.

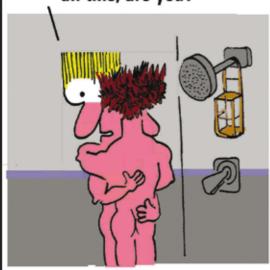
So have a wonderful New Year and remember the old adage, 'It is always safer to spit than swallow.'

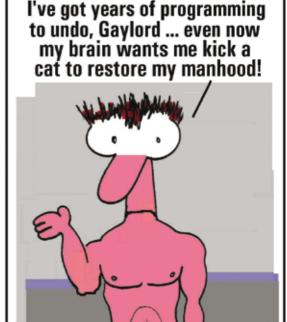
A Happy New Year to you all!

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

Gaylord Blade Young, Gay & Hot-to-Trot







You've got lots of baggage. Why DID I take a chance on you?





FRIDAY FEBRUARY 4TH



BOYS NIGHT OUT

TOP 40 OPEN DRINK & HOUSE TIL 5AM SPECIALS

WITH NOVA CHINA, SEXY MALE DANCERS

& DISCOUNTED ENTRY INTO TEN PLUS



TEN PLUS