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Q MAGAZINE

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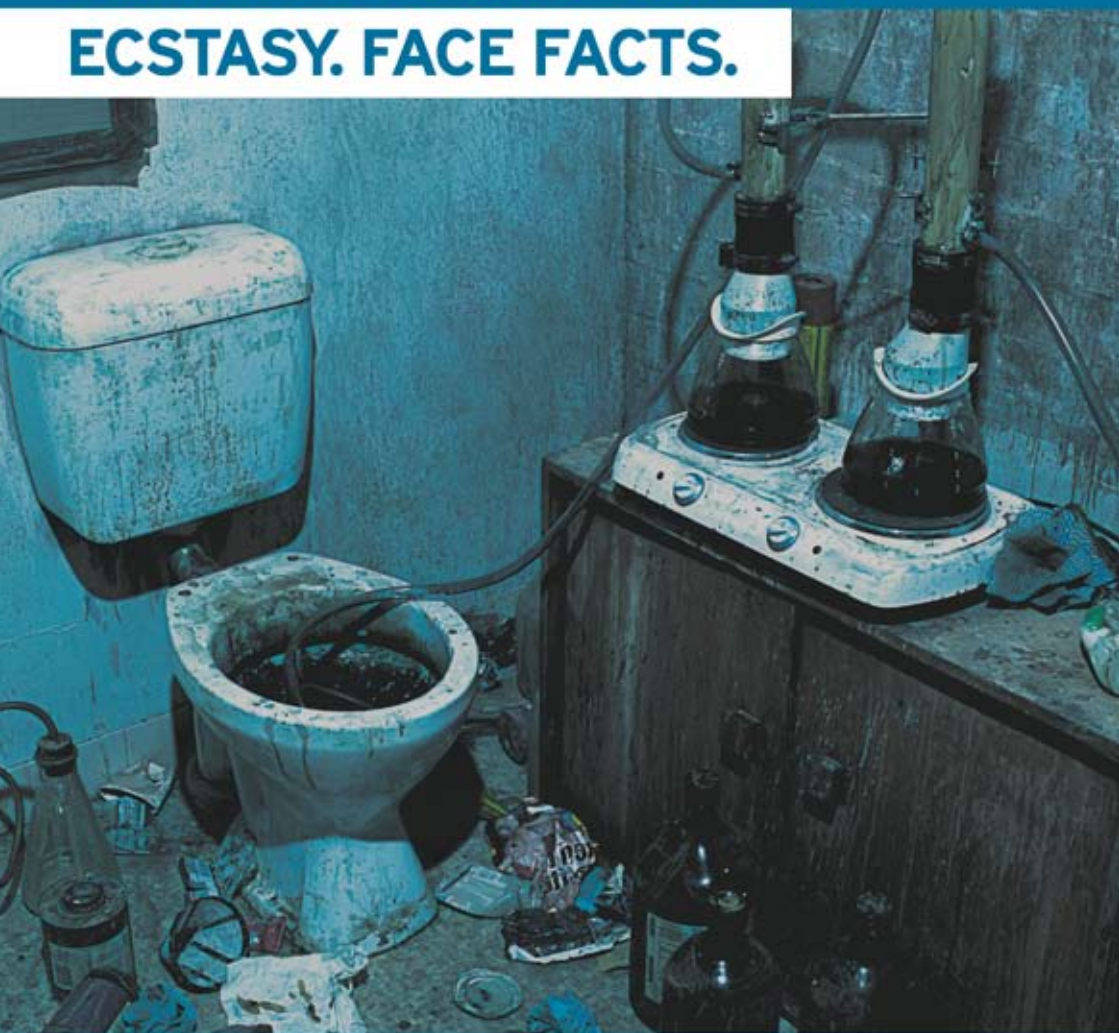


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q comment: **INTERPRIDE and PMV**

As you may be aware, four years ago Pride March Victoria decided to re-engage with the International body - InterPride - and play our part on the world stage. At that very first AGM and World Conference that both myself (as Secretary of Pride March Victoria) and the Treasurer attended with me being elected to the Board prior to my flight back to Australia. This commenced a time in my life where I was having to attend two meetings a year in some location around the world. At last year's AGM and World Conference I was elected Secretary of the International body with Adam Lowe being elected as the Board Director for Region 20 (the region in which Australia is placed).

Despite those who claim it is simply an excuse to fly overseas, the work of InterPride is very real and does make a difference in many many ways. I am personally very proud of the work the organisation does - both as an organisation and through our many member organisations around the globe.

Our involvement with InterPride however would not be possible without the support of the wonderful Board of Pride March Victoria. All Board members of InterPride must be endorsed by a member organisation. No two Board members though can come from the same organisation.

Speaking of Pride March Victoria recently the organisation had its Annual General Meeting.

Held at Heavens Door the meeting was attended by all members of the Board plus several visitors and members.

The election saw myself being re-elected to a fourth term at President, Shane Marquis and Martin Pfeffer returned to their current positions of Vice-President and Treasurer respectively and Matt Renwick stepping up into the position of Secretary. All executive positions are elected annually with Board membership being a two year term.

I look forward to working with the Board this year and bringing to the people of Victoria and Australia the Great Aussie Bake-Off, the second Peel Street Pride Fair and the 17th Annual Pride March Victoria. All updated information is at www.pridemarch.com.au



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q feature: TPC 2011 SEASON

Winner of 3 Tony® Awards including 'Best Revival'

Cole Porter's score for **Anything Goes** is one of the most glorious in the history of the American Musical Theatre. I Get a Kick Out of You, Anything Goes, You're the Top and Blow, Gabriel Blow are amongst the most well-loved pieces in the American Songbook.

This funny, romantic and intriguing story unfolds on board the SS American as it journeys out of New York on this musical seafaring romp across the Atlantic.

Long regarded as the perfect Broadway musical, Anything Goes stars Amanda Harrison as Reno Sweeney (Elphaba in Wicked), Alex Rathgeber (The Boy From Oz) is Billy Crocker, Anne Wood (Follies) is the matriarchal, Evangeline Harcourt.

Andrew Hallsworth (The Boy From Oz) returns from Broadway to direct and choreograph. Dean Bryant (Next to Normal) co-directs his first musical for The Production Company.

Australia's pre-eminent musical director Peter Casey conducts all performances.

Winner of 3 Tony® Awards including 'Best Musical'

This enchanting musical is set in opulent palaces, teeming bazaars and lush moonlit gardens. **Kismet** is the fable of the poet Hajji's (José Carbó) love for his only daughter, the beautiful Marsinah and of his innate knowledge of life's many twists of fate.

José Carbó's recent US debut has critics raving... "superb, immensely theatrical, vivid physically and handsome to boot. One more thing - a lot of charm and an ability to hold the stage easily" and "He's handsome, charismatic, and utterly assured, with a beautifully produced baritone that has a surprisingly easy top".

Making their first appearances with The Production Company are Janet Todd (The Magic Flute) and Josh Pterman (West Side Story) as the young starcrossed lovers Marsinah and Caliph. Returning to the company in the role of The Wazir is the double Helpmann Award winner, Mitchell Butel.

Kismet's exquisite score is based on the music of the great Russian composer, Alexander Borodin and includes, Stranger in Paradise, Baubles, Bangles and Beads and This is My Beloved.

The creative team that staged The King and I last season return to direct, choreograph and conduct this inspired staging of Kismet.

WINNER OF 3 tony® AWARDS

Grey Gardens is the compelling story of Edith Bouvier Beale and her daughter, 'Little' Edie, the delightfully eccentric aunt and cousin of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Once among the brightest names in the pre-Camelot social register, these two women became East Hampton's most notorious recluses, living in a dilapidated 28-room mansion. Set in two eras – in 1941 when the estate was in its prime and early in 1973 when it was reduced to squalor – the musical tells the alternately glorious and heartbreaking story of two indomitable women, Edith Bouvier Beale and her adult daughter, 'Little' Edie.

Grey Gardens is many things: a fabled home in the elite seaside village of East Hampton, Long Island, a landmark documentary, a Tony Award-winning Broadway musical and a Hollywood movie. Of all things, Grey Gardens is a breathtaking and alluring portrait of a mother and daughter relationship through the years. Helpmann Award winner, Nancye Hayes plays the role of the aged Edith in turmoil with her daughter.



q restaurant: **RED GUM**



Someone once famously said: "Pizza is a lot like sex. When it's good, it's really good. When it's bad, it's still pretty good." If this is anything to go by, then Red Gum Wood Fired Pizza & Pasta will almost certainly leave you gasping for air and wanting more. Nestled in Melbourne's south-east on the corner of Stephenson's and Highbury Roads Burwood East, this new pizza restaurant is one to watch.

Red Gum's head chef, Alex Tzintzis has been in the industry for more than fifteen years, worked in some of the most prestigious restaurants in Melbourne and knows a thing or two about making a great pizza. So, what's the secret? "It's all in the ingredients", he says. "Back when I was growing up, I used to help mum in the kitchen when she was making pizzas. She always used to say, 'A pizza without fresh ingredients is like music without melody' – it just doesn't work." With these wise words, Red Gum hopes to build a reputation by sourcing fresh, seasonal and above all local produce for all its pizzas. The menu infuses by integrating gourmet pizzas such as Malaysian Lamb



the traditional with the modern

Curry, Seafood Odyssey and Butternut Pumpkin with old favourites as well as, of course, Mama's Meatballs.

If the food stimulates the palette, then the décor will definitely stimulate the senses. Inspired by the 1970s, you'll not only feel like you've died and gone to heaven after eating the pizzas, you'll realise that heaven looks like a chic Studio 54. So, what sets this place apart from other pizza restaurants around Melbourne? "The service", Alex hastens to add. "You're guaranteed to be greeted with a smile and leave feeling full and satisfied". For a taste of what to expect, look up this gem on Facebook and tell your friends – it's too good to keep to yourself.



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q psychology: with AMANDA NASSIF

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STAND UP AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE GLBT COMMUNITY

Domestic violence is a serious problem within our society. It is **JUST** as serious in the GLBT community as it is in the heterosexual community. Domestic violence is never acceptable and must stop. Domestic violence has many forms including physical aggression, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, verbal abuse, passive/covert abuse (neglect), spiritual abuse and economic and financial deprivation. Domestic violence impacts on many people in various ways including physically, psychologically, emotionally, financially and spiritually. There can be short term and long term effects of domestic violence.

Some of the effects of domestic violence include: physical injury, emotional injury, insomnia, paranoia, anxiety, depression, social isolation and withdrawal, post traumatic stress disorder, poverty, homelessness, drug and alcohol use, lack of confidence, lack of self esteem and self worth, self harm and suicidal thoughts, unemployment, difficulty establishing trust in new relationships and even psychosis.

If you are a victim of Domestic violence it is imperative that you leave the relationship and seek help. Call the police and report the violence. Contact a refuge where you can stay and be safe. Contact friends and family or people that care about you and that are willing to support you through this difficult time. Also seek professional counselling and therapy to assist you with healing from a domestic violence relationship.

People within the GLBT community may be afraid of reporting domestic violence because of a variety of reasons including fear of receiving a homophobic response from those they are seeking help from, a lack of support from peers who would rather keep quiet about the problem in order not to attract negative attention toward the GLBT community, encountering support services that are structured for the needs of heterosexual women and which may not meet the needs of the GLBT community and possible dismissal by some social services.

Do not let these fears prevent you from seeking the help that you may need to end a domestic violence relationship. There will ALWAYS be people out there that will be willing to help you.

DO NOT be ashamed or afraid to stand up against domestic violence in the GLBT community. You could be saving your life or someone else's life.

The GLBT community needs to be safe.

Everyone has a right to live a life free of violence and abuse and this is just as applicable to people in the GLBT community as it is to people in the heterosexual community. Every step that you take to end the violence within your own life you help others to gain the courage to also do the same whether that be indirectly or directly.

Let's work together to stop the violence now.



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q food & lifestyle: with PETE DILLON

I have been getting about a bit lately and have found some wonderful new places across this fair land of ours to enjoy some wonderful food and wine, and so thought it time to be far less selfish and share these with you.

The Wine Library at 18 Oxford Street, Woolhara in Sydney's sexy inner east is an exciting venture for Sydney. With its custom-built wine list, professional floor staff and menu of wine-friendly food, this venue makes for a great place to sit, chat, sip a tippie and enjoy some terrific food. The bar takes pride of place, lined with stools and is wide enough for comfortable dining whether on your own or with someone nice. . . . Sydney Morning Herald reviewer Terry Durack sums it up well .. 'The place already feels like a social club for the restaurant industry.' I happened to be there with a wine writer and a wine maker.



One can snack all day on a tin of kippered herring fillets, some anchovies on toast, rabbit rillettes and other food inspired by Southern Europe. This venture is owned by the team that has had the ever-popular Buzo a skip away in Jersey road. If you like something nice in a glass, something nice on the plate and something nice to look at, check this venue out and be truly in the know of what's hot in Sydney.

Other great venues to find in Sydney for good wine and food are Fixstjames across the road from St James Station on Elizabeth Street in the city, Eau de Vie in Darlinghurst Road (part of the Kirketon Hotel) and for a touristy view, check out the Rooftop Bar at Coast restaurant at Cockle Bay Wharf. All serving great food, excellent wine and have terrific atmospheres.

I also have had the experience of Bob's Steak and Chop House, the newly opened American style steak house across from Ethihad Stadium in Melbourne, on the Docklands end of Bourke Street. Bob's Melbourne presents the best of the best: the warmth and style of great traditional American hospitality combined with culinary excellence and superb local Australian produce.

It is the first foray of the parent company, the renowned Bob's Steak & Chop House brand outside of the USA where it has won many accolades as America's finest since the first Bob's was established in Dallas in 1993.

A great deal of \$\$\$ has clearly been spent on putting this venue together. The welcoming chic dining space, plush booths and stylish bar are offset by an impressive two-storey wine tower which contains about 300 wines, overseen by Ben Edwards and Dan Sims from Sommeliers Australia. You won't find a tippie list so well put together in many a venue.

Under the guidance of Sanjay and Shine Chimnani, Bobs presents a blend of contemporary and traditional, which creates an unusual dining experience for those not familiar with an American steak house.

Bobs is all about quality specialty cuts of Hopkins River Beef, hand-cut to order by Bob's Master Butcher, ready to cook in state-of-the-art steakhouse broilers. A fine selection of seafood and other scrumptious items are available for those that aren't quite so beef inclined.

Bobs is well worth the visit if you consider yourself a connoisseur of good beef, good booze and a good time.

Andre's Cucina and Polenta Bar in Adelaide's CBD is a cracker of a venue, owned, operated and cheffed by Andre Ursini - he of Masterchef Series 1 fame. Ursini combines his Italian heritage with an innate understanding of modern food to create something that is exciting and contemporary, but maintains strong links to his culture.

A combination of share plates and individual plates makes this something for everyone. Whether you want an Italian themed breakfast, casual wine or something more interesting for lunch or dinner, you will find it at Andre's, and you will find a dedicated team of floor staff, a casual and fun atmosphere and a former Masterchef contestant who has made a great go of the opportunity that the show gave him. He is a great host, a great cook and a man who will continue to go places and shape the dining culture of Adelaide.

For more information, please contact Pete at lifestyle@qmagazine.com.au, listen to Cravings on JOY 94.9 in Melbourne or where ever you are via www.joy.org.au/listenlive or give Pete a call on 0409142365

q cosmetic focus: SKINOVATE

Skinovate Prahran has been located prominently across from Prahran market on the corners of Commercial Road and Izett Street since Dr Paul Spano first took over the existing laser clinic back in 2003, expanding the services offered from laser only, to provide a more holistic Cosmetic Solution.

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BY DR PAUL SPANO

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q cuisine: with NATHAN MILLER



I recently found myself with some left over fresh seafood after my Easter feast. Although I thoroughly enjoy my seafood, I decided to make a quick and easy Seafood Chowder. Any types of seafood can be used, but if your heading to the markets, check out the fresh marinara selection (and I'm not talking about the frozen mix from the supermarket).

Enjoy this with a Glass (or 3) of Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc.

Preparation Time

15 minutes

Cooking Time

25 minutes

Ingredients (serves 6)

1 medium carrot, finely chopped

1 stick celery, finely chopped

3 (750g) potatoes, peeled, roughly chopped

4 cups (1 litre) chicken stock

2 corn cobs

500g gourmet marinara mix

200ml thickened cream

Sea salt & freshly ground black pepper, to taste

2 tbs chopped fresh chives

2 tbs chopped fresh parsley

Crusty French bread



Method

Place carrot, celery, potatoes and stock in a large pan. Cover and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer for about 10 minutes, or until vegetables are tender.

Process mixture until smooth. Return to pan.

Cut kernels from corn cobs and add to soup. Simmer for 10 minutes, or until corn is tender.

Reduce heat and add marinara mix and cream. Stir, without boiling for about 3 minutes or until seafood is cooked and chowder is hot.

Season to taste.

Stir through chives and parsley. Serve immediately with bread.

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Q money: with EVAN DAVIS

A Google search amused me recently. I typed "Banks are..." and the pre-emptive text offered to finish the sentence for me. Several options "bastards, thieves and evil" all rated toward the top of the list of options.

Far be it from me to disagree with the most regularly searched terms with relation to Australian banks, though now is a good time to rethink your banking. A key area, where we all need to save as much as possible is our mortgage.

Unless you rent or reside under a mortgage-free rock, you probably would have notice in the last couple of months that the banks are increasing their advertising spend in the home loan space. Having come of the back of the GFC and general lending conservatism, all the major players have flagged that they now want a bigger piece of the mortgage pie.

The traditional way for the banks to win market share is to fight on price. NAB has been doing this for some time though the other banks have now stepped up to the plate. All the major banks are offering greater discounts than they have in previous years on their standard variable rates.

The big banks price and sell a home loan on its volume or size. All the banks have a standard variable interest rate. These rates are currently around 7.6 to 7.86% depending on the bank. With all banks, the greater your loan size the larger the discount you get on the mortgage. Most banks have traditionally offered a 0.7% discount on the standard variable rate for loans greater than \$250,000.

Recently though the banks have adjusted their pricing tiers so that greater discounts kick in on smaller loan sizes and much greater discounts are available again for larger loans for over \$1,000,000. Indeed, I was able to knock more than 1% of a variable rate for a client recently.

On the subject of your home loan; it is also worth considering where you might be in a year to two and also what rates might do as well. If your budget is tight or you have concerns over potential interest rate rises then fixing your loan or even just part of it might be for you.

This obviously will give you some certainty with your repayments, though fixing always comes with a very big warning. If you fix, breaking the term early can potentially be extremely expensive. Recent changes to legislation concerning break costs to mortgages do not apply to the fixed rate home loan contracts. So if you sign up for a fixed rate term, be prepared to do your time.

With a mortgage review you might also consider a general financial clean up. Consolidating credit cards, car loans and other high interest debts will reduce your monthly spend. Be careful though to make additional repayments with the money you save so you don't start paying your car off over 30 years!

To get the best result you need to talk to a Mortgage Broker - like me. I can help you go through all the ins and outs and tune the right deal to your needs. Email me through Q Magazine for a free personal appraisal.



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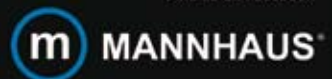
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q mens health: BEING A GAY GRANDAD

by Brian Mier

I'm a Gay Dad and also a Gay Grand Dad. You'd be surprised how many of us there are around in the first category and some of us make the Elder grade as well. Being 'gay' for me has little to do with it, really. I think we can make too much of our sexuality and believe that it colours everything we do and every aspect of our person. It doesn't for me. I am who I am. This is one of my stories:

I was initially a very reluctant grandfather. I am the man who told his children when they got married: "Don't both having children just for me."

How times have changed! I now relish my role as Grandpa to my 3.9 grandchildren (that means the fourth is due in early June). So - what's changed and why do I get pleasure out of the role?



The first thing that changed was me. It's really only in the last 18 months that I have learned to come to grips with retirement, ageing, and all that goes with it. Part of this was finding my Purposes in Life for the later phase. One of these is the reason I am writing this column - a desire to share my experience with other men to help them be as healthy and happy as they can be. The other purpose I have is to be the best Dad and Granddad I can be.

So, one of my radical beliefs is that my first duty was, is and always will be to my own (now adult) children. I co-sponsored, co-created them, and they will always be my own children. And I regard my 'in-law' children as my own to the extent that they will allow this (Gee, I really hate that horrible term 'in-laws', don't you?) As adults and as parents they face a future much more formidable and challenging than I faced at their stage of life. Whereas my family could exist reasonably well on just my salary thirty years or so ago, these days both parents have to work to try and make ends meet. And they work long hours. The toll taken on our children in this anti-family society that Australia has allowed to develop is also apparent to me as an oldie.

And of course it flows onto my grandchildren.

As Steve Biddulph says, children are like corks bobbing along the waves created by their parents, and if parents are stressed then their children cannot be less so. The over-commercialisation of just about every facet of life, rampant consumerism which convinces families - indeed, all of us - that they 'need' heaps of products when they don't, the division of the housing market into haves and have-nots - it's often hard to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

I see my grandfather role as being there for my kids and their kids as they need me. I find it a hard line to tread between actively offering myself and/or advice, and waiting to be asked. But I think I'm getting better at persuading my adult children to go out and enjoy some prime 'we' time, knowing that Grandpa can cope and the kids actually have fun with him while they are away.

I like trying to surprise my adult children with little things, resource tips they can explore, etc. Things which I think and hope they might find useful in some way.

It's also great fun to take my 4 YO grandson on outings which are a bit different to those he goes on with his parents. We've been cycling together, and it's great fun watching his little legs spinning around on the pedals at an amazing rate. We travel on trains and buses to get to places or just exploring - a break from the ubiquitous car journeys. A highlight was going to see Thomas the Tank Engine at Puffing Billy Railway (outside Melbourne). And I'm looking forward to the time when the girls (my other grandchildren) get a bit older and we can do some of these things together, too.

Then, further on again, I'm looking forward to taking them to the Melbourne Museum, the historic Astor Theatre, and other like places which illustrate our history and our heritage. The difference between me taking my grandchildren and their parents doing it is that I can actually tell them what it was like - before television when we listened to radio - serials for kids and family shows; that I can just recall my mother using a copper to wash the clothes in when I was a very small child myself; riding on steam trains - hey, there are a few more great adventures to take the grandkids on. And so on.

You see, I realise now that my role comprises elements. In my family I am an Elder, with the attendant responsibilities. I am also a

link to the past, conveying aspects of our Australian culture through to new generations. And I am privileged to have this role in my family as well, one which I experienced little of as a child myself. My last grandparent died when I was about 5 YO so I never really knew them.

It's ironic, but just before I sat down to write this article, I came across a website: www.grandresearch.com.au. Swinburne University (Melbourne) has realised there has been almost no research done into grandfathers and grandfathering, and has a research project going. If you are a granddad I recommend you go to this site and contribute to the Survey.

It's anonymous and will start to build a picture of male grandparents in this age (they've already done this project with grandmothers).

I love some of the quotes on that web page, too, such as:

Grandfather-grandchild relationships are simple. Grandpas are short on criticism and long on love.
-- Author Unknown

My grandkids believe I'm the oldest thing in the world. And after two or three hours with them, I believe it, too.
-- Gene Perret

Grandfather - a wonderful father with lots of practice.
-- Author Unknown

That led me to another website I didn't know about: <http://www.granpower.org.au/index.html> It's based in Western Australia and seems to have many more grandmothers than grandfathers involved, but there's some good stuff to be found if you do a bit of exploring.

This second website may also have some pleasurable reading for gay men who have fond memories of their grandparents. As we live much longer lives there days, it's great that children do have the chance to be involved with their grandparents.

Of course, you make of grandfathering what you want to make of it. This is part of my story. Each of us has his own to tell.

Coming Up - Men's Health Events which may be worth your consideration.

· FARSLS Men's Health Program, Fairfield (Melbourne). This innovative program is the first in Victoria to be endorsed by the Australian Institute of Male Health and Studies. It includes men of all sexual orientations, ages, interests, and explores physical, mental, social, sexual, spiritual and financial health in a men-only environment. Contact info@eaglehealth.net.au for details. Interested but interstate or in country Victoria? Talk to Brian about extending this model program to your area or group, adapted especially to meet your needs..

· 'The Road to Manhood' - Melbourne (Preston), Thursday, 16 June, 7.30-9.00 pm. World-famous Australian family Psychologist, Steve Biddulph, will be offering very limited opportunities to attend this men-only workshop this year, and these are they. Numbers are limited for each one and they almost always book out early. I wouldn't miss these for the world! Neither should you. Others in the series are 'Raising Boys' - essential for parents, grandparents, teachers, child care workers, youth leaders - anyone who has anything to do with bringing up boys between the ages of birth to 21 YO. Also 'The Secret of Happy Children, which I screened as a filmed talk in March here in Melbourne to a rapt audience.

For Steve's schedule this year check out his web page at http://web.me.com/stevebiddulph/Site_1/Parenting_talks.html He is only visiting Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne this year. The above talk is an extra not listed - contact me for details and bookings. info@eaglehealth.net.au

· International Men's Health Week, 13-19 June. What is your community health service doing to celebrate this? What is VAC/GMHC doing about it, and also the equivalent gay men's health organisations in other states. If the answer is "Nothing", ask them why. Check out more of what IS going on at http://www.menshealthaustralia.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=30

· Male Studies Symposium, Adelaide, 24 June. Those working in Men's Health will find this relevant and valuable. www.aimhs.com.au

q youth: with TASMAN ANDERSON

Hello to all you amazing Q Magazine readers who are currently reading my piece. Usually I wouldn't start my article off like this but I feel like it's time to let down the professional boundaries and tell all you young ones (and those not so young) just what university life is like.



I have been writing for you guys ever since year eleven and it's time to talk about the most terrifying and exciting part of my life – university. As many would know, I'm currently studying a dual bachelor in both Journalism (no shocker there) and Criminology at the University of Queensland (UQ) and it is the most terrifying and yet amazing experience I have ever gone through.

Due to the unfortunate fact that I went to high school on the Gold Coast and UQ is in Brisbane, I left a lot of my friends behind and started at UQ as lonely as I had ever felt. The Saint Lucia campus was three times as big as my high school and so I felt as significant as a tiny ant. I attended my first lecture on my own and I was as isolated as I would have been if I were stranded on a desert island. I was among four hundred other Journalism students and not one of them was a friend. I spent a majority of my day with my head firmly plastered to the campus map whilst trying to process the major change. However, just like with everything else in life, I began to adjust and settle in. But where there's bad, there's good and when it comes to university, life can be pretty damn good.



From the very first minute I stepped on campus the Red Room was the top priority for both I and many other students. For the non-UQ natives, the Red Room is THE spot for any uni student who can't get enough of a good tasting beer. The notable bar and grill is home to the world's best beer battered chips (chosen by me of course) and not to mention the amazingly cheap cocktails. Although food and alcohol are a massive win to me, the best part about the Red Room is Reddy the Plastic Cup. Now before you think I'm such a boozy that I've nicknamed my cup of beer, let me explain. Reddy the Plastic Cup (pictured) is the infamous mascot of the Red Room. He roams the bar ensuring that each customer is treated like a star. After catching him when he had a free minute, I asked him what he thought made the Red Room such an important addition to uni.

"So much time is spent crossing t's and dotting i's here at uni - why not have a place where you can hang out, take your pants off (Eagle Rock tradition) and meet new people," he said. "Social drinks at Red Room = Win!"

The next best thing about university is the ability to reach your fullest potential. I almost died of excitement when I discovered that UQ provided Journalism students with their very own private oasis away from all the craziness of the outside world. This oasis is known as the 'ideas centre' – an air conditioned room filled with large TV's that provide Foxtel and

a dozen computers for those who need to finish their assignments. I was also very excited to discover that this room also held a studio for none other than JACradio.

Journalism and Communication Radio, or better known as JACradio provides the chance for students to partake in the production and segment planning of a radio station and gain experience and knowledge of how a radio station works. Initially I didn't know too much about the station except for the fact that it was a new edition to the uni, however I soon discovered that it played such an important role to the students as it allowed anyone (from any degree) to voice their opinions and experience what they loved.

I know that my opinion on university cannot be counted for much as I have only just finished my first semester and so I am still a baby within this school. However, I have experienced the highs and lows of completely shifting from one stage in life to another and so I leave you with this. Don't be afraid to experience university for yourself. Each experience is different and you must take your own path in life. You never know, that extra step you take might just be what you need to make even your wildest dreams come true.

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q drag: **BARBRA QUICKSAND**

Just like the sands of time, Barbra Quicksand has been flowing forever. Alan Mayberry found out the secrets of her longevity on the gay scene.

Being one of eight children with devout Catholic parents, I grew up in Grafton on the far-north coast of NSW. I went to Catholic schools up to Year 10 and to Grafton High for Years 11-12. My father was Deputy Principal, which was a little awkward initially. It was a typical laid back but conservative life in the country – a wonderful place to grow up actually, a very safe environment with very little of today's kind of problems such as drugs.



I always knew I was gay. The difficulty was being comfortable with other people knowing that. When I moved to Sydney after high school, I met at my first job some great people who were so comfortable with their sexuality. It had a real impact on me. My family was reluctantly accepting of my sexuality. It's been difficult for them because they are quite conservative but they have come a long way and I appreciate that.

It had always been my desire to be a stage performer so I started acting in High School and local Drama Society productions. In Sydney I decided to pursue dancing full time, studying initially in Sydney for 2 years at the Australian Academy of Ballet and then moving to Melbourne to do a Performing Arts Degree at the Victorian College of the Arts.

In Sydney I entered drag talent shows in 1983, which I did well at, winning money to help finance my studies and in 1986 I won Kerrie Le Gore's talent show here in Melbourne. My first regular professional drag gig was with Miss Candee and Leivi Jones at Inflation nightclub starting in 1987 every Wednesday night. We were called 'The Transisters'. That gay night ran for many years. The rest as they say is history.

Apart from being an extra with the Australian Opera and Ballet to earn money while I studied dance, my first professional gig was as a ballet dancer for the Vic Opera Ballet Company. Soon after that I danced in Kylie Minogue's *Locomotion* and *I've Got To Be Certain* clips. It was great working with Kylie at that time, her singing career was just starting and it was an incredibly exciting time.

I am lucky to have so many career highlights, and it's hard to pin point one:

- * Running for parliament.
- * Working with Kylie Minogue.
- * Performing major solo productions with male dancers at Red Raw for 10 000 people. (Warehouse parties in the 90s at the docks were HUGE – nothing like the ones nowadays.)
- * Winning 'Performer of the Year' and being inducted into the Rainbow Hall of Fame with Miss Candee.
- * Performing on television for Kerrie Anne Kennelly and Steve Vizard's *Tonight Live*
- * Being asked by Sony Music Australia to produce a one-person show to celebrate the release of *Barbra the Concert* at 3 Faces nightclub, which was so successful it had a return season.

A Dynamic Duo

Miss Candee and I met 24 years ago when we were both working at Rosati's restaurant – we had an instant rapport. As the Dynamic Duo we both really understand that you need to genuinely share the stage and work towards a common goal and not 'compete' with each other. It's a duo (duet) in the true sense of the word. Like many of the comic duos in the straight world, we share the stage and microphone in a generous way, not competing but working together like a true team. Although we have 'running gags' in our

work, our talk spots are not rehearsed so we still crack each other up onstage. I love it when Candee surprises me with a new line or gag – I laugh as much as the audience. It's a good feeling. Others have tried to imitate our act either with her or in other groups, but it's never the same. I'm starting to think it's quite possibly Australia's longest running drag partnership.

I'm very proud to have been the first openly gay person and also the first drag queen in Australia run for parliament in 1992. It was an amazing time with so many usually non-political people volunteering to hand out 'How to Vote' cards at the polling booths. I came 3rd in a field of six candidates and the successful candidate, John Thwaites, who went on to be Deputy Premier, needed my preferences to secure an outright victory. It opened the way for many other openly gay candidates to follow. An incredibly empowering time for myself and our community.

I'm a very private person and have had a couple of very long-term relationships but to tell you the truth I really enjoy being single. Sometimes I think relationships are more trouble than they're worth. I'm very blessed. I have a very stable home life with my housemate of 24 years, Missy Nam Loong and our puppy dawg 'Winky'. When I'm not treading the boards I love to relax in my garden or go walkies with Winky.

For fun times I go out to dinner or see a live show. I love big concerts – at one stage the Rod Laver Arena was my second home. There is nothing more exhilarating than watching someone who is at the top of their field. Sitting front row for Liza Minnelli was amazing. Watching these people you realise they've achieved greatness not only because of their talent but also their absolute love of what they do.

Commercial Road is certainly changing but it has been a vital part of the gay scene for many decades, so I wouldn't write it off just yet. The 'gay life' on Commercial Road was there before the Market and will probably still be there after it's gone. There are still a large number of gay guys living in the area and they will always want to go somewhere local especially with today's 'drink-driving' laws.



I want to continue to perform as long as I can. I don't see getting older as a problem. I really admire people like Josephine Baker, Quentin Crisp, Elaine Stritch and others whose age and experience only added to the weight of what they had to say onstage.

As well as dance, I've studied acting for a number of years and I recently had the pleasure of working in two theatre projects. I really would like to do more work in that area.

Having just returned from an amazing month-long 50th birthday tour to Las Vegas and Hollywood it reinforced for me the fact that 'it's a big wide world out there'. Drags can get so caught up in the local scene which too often is just so petty and juvenile. I do a lot of work 'off the scene' and sometimes they are the best gigs – so much more appreciative of the work and effort that goes into performing than club crowds that have 'seen it all before'.

I sound like a drag snob, but I really believe being a performer is a privilege, not the birth right of all 'crossies' and one really needs to earn your right to be onstage with talent and something interesting to offer.

I've always enjoyed playing to straight and gay audiences, so in five years I'll still be doing shows, but hopefully to a much wider audience whether I'm in drag or not.

q focus: STEVEN PAWSEY & OK2BGAY

The brain child of Steven Pawsey OK2BGAY has taken the internet and the LGBTI community by storm. So much so that I couldn't resist finding out a little more from the man himself. Obviously I wanted to start by finding out a little more about the man behind the brand.

I am a (recently turned) 22 year old guy who was born and lived all my life in Melbourne. I have a male partner of 10 months. I went to Trinity Grammar School in Kew and I completed Year 12. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to be accepted at Melbourne University studying Arts, however university life wasn't quite my thing and I dropped out in year 2. When I finished school at the age of 17, I started my business Stevie Marx (designer fashion accessories) that supplies national retailers across the country. At the end of 2010 after a long, drawn-out and painful 18 months of 'coming out' I wanted to make a stand and ensure that people don't go through what I had to go through, thus my passion for OK2BGAY.

When did you first know you were gay?

I first knew that I was gay somewhere around the age of 12-13.

Is there one "coming out" story that stands out to you?

In our first month I have received some amazing stories from people across the country and even the world. Some heartbreaking, some inspiring. I guess the ones that stand out are those painful ones sent by 15-16 year olds who don't know if they have the courage to keep fighting on. But when I read these stories it makes me more and more determined to continue spreading this message. Other messages I get are those about how people watched other's stories on OK2BGAY and it gave them the courage to come out, and while it was not easy, it has taken a huge pressure off them and (they say now) they can live their life being who they really are. I also received quite an amazing story from a boy named Ryan who has recently taken the courageous steps involved with transitioning from a women into a male, and the social isolation and pain it has caused. The inspiring part about Ryan is his steadfast attitude that he will be who he really is regardless of what barriers surround him. It actually brought a few tears to my eyes when watching his video that is now on OK2BGAY.com.au



How did your parents/school mates/work colleagues take the news that you were gay?

Not well. I suffered major depression from the social isolation that I experienced. I lost alot of friends and huge strains on my family life. It was when I found out my story was not uncommon, and was in fact scarily common that I thought enough was enough and a clear, inclusive message needed to be sent to everyone that it's OK2BGAY - because everyone is equal.

When did you decide to start Ok2BGay and what is its main purpose?

In late 2010 I was reading the depth of what I believe is a crisis in our community. For example, same sex attracted people are 6 times more likely to try and end their own life. I was speaking to a friend Francesca Christie about this and we both felt upset and moved by this and thought "ok we need to do something". Over the next few months we built OK2BGAY from the ground up to make it what it is now. Only 4 months later the progress is actually quite amazing. Francesca, who works in the Show Horse industry, has personally had many young gay boys come to her not knowing how to come out or live their life being gay. She had seen firsthand the heartbreak, pain and anxiety that young people just shouldn't have to have - for simply being themselves. Mixed with my horrific coming out we both knew it was time to change this landscape. We thus set the following objectives for ok2bgay that we want to achieve:

- Effectively spread our inclusive, important and empowering message that it's "OK2BGAY - because everyone is equal".
- Give people a platform to tell their story either in written or video form.
- Allow people to gain support from other people's experiences and stories.
- Give people a voice through our online forum to communicate, interact and share.
- Support work being done by charities in the GLBTI community that are doing amazing work by sending on a monthly % of all proceeds generated through our online store.

What would you tell any young person questioning their sexuality in this day and age and/or wanting to come out?

No two people's circumstances are the same. It is hard to answer that directly. I think use the resources you have around you to know that it is OK that you are gay. When you feel the time is right come out to someone you trust and suspect will be the most accepting - this will allow you to work through your coming out not alone. Take your time, be comfortable and just always know there is nothing wrong with being gay regardless of what some might say. Watch other people's stories interact on the forum - use this useful and supportive tool to help it easier for you. The other thing is don't be scared to approach conventional help - if it all becomes too much and you feel you can't fight on. You must know it is OK2BGAY.



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q fitness: with CHRIS GREGORIOU

11 Reasons To Exercise

Let's face it, some days you just don't feel like exercising.

Life gets in the way. You get too busy, too stressed and quite simply too tired.

Here's a list of 12 of the top reasons to exercise. Pull out this page and read it when you're having one of those days.

1. To Look Great.

Exercise firms your body, improves posture, builds muscle and even makes your skin glow. Looking your best is a wonderful result of regular exercise.

2. To Have More Energy.

Exercising regularly will have you more energetic, less easily irritated and are more peaceful.

3. To Age Slower.

Exercise is one of the most effective ways to fight aging. As you age your body loses muscle and bone. Through correct exercise, both are reversed and you can gain muscle size through resistance training.

4. To Boost Confidence.

Being fit, feeling healthy and having energy are all building blocks to having great confidence. There is no better confidence booster than sticking with a regular exercise program.

5. To Prevent Disease.

Exercise has been proven to reduce the risk of just about every single health problem known to man, from stroke to heart disease to cancer and osteoporosis. Exercise is also a great defense against type 2 diabetes, which is one of the most widely growing diseases of our time, especially in Australia.

6. To Lose Weight and Keep It Off.

Exercise burns fat and prevents future fat storage. It speeds up everything, including your metabolism. If you want to have a thinner, healthier body, exercise is the answer.

7. To Sleep Better.

Exercise boosts energy levels, but also can tire you out. It makes you feel more vibrant during the day and sleep better at night.

8. To Ease Depression.

Exercise has been proven to reduce depression, it's sometimes even as effectively as medication. Just chalk this up as yet another amazing benefit to exercise.

9. To Reduce Aches and Pains.

By strengthening muscles around any damaged joints you're able to use exercise to reduce joint pain and overall aches. Always consult your doctor or registered personal trainer before starting an exercise program, especially if you have chronic joint pain.

10. To Enjoy Your Lifestyle.

Whatever it is that you love in life, dance parties, travel, sports, fashion, boot scooting - it is all more enjoyable when experienced in a fit and healthy body. Exercise so that you are able to enjoy all the great things in life.

11. To help reverse the degenerative effects of living with HIV AIDS.

People living with HIV AIDS who exercise regularly find their muscular strength is at the very least maintained, muscular size is increased and body shape is altered in a good way.

Regular exercise gives you so many amazing benefits, as you've seen from the above list.

Make a change today to get started on a new exercise program that will change your life forever.



q competition: for CHAMBER MUSIC

Chamber Music Australia (CMA) in association with Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) is proud to announce the details of the 6th Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition (9-17 July 2011). Held every four years it is one of the most highly regarded competitions in the world attracting the most accomplished piano trios and string quartets under the age of thirty-five years.



"As the only international chamber music competition in the southern hemisphere we are proud to celebrate and promote the outstanding artistry of the next generation of musicians. Competition laureates have all gone on to establish successful careers on the world stage. The 2003 winners, the Eggner Trio are currently on national tour in Australia with Musica Viva," said Ben Woodroffe, General Manager (CMA) "We are excited to announce the final sixteen competitors."

Following extensive live international auditions, conducted by Australian chamber music specialists, Keith Crellin OAM and Howard Penny, eight string quartets and eight piano trios from Europe, Australia and the USA come to Melbourne to compete for nine days of thrilling competition. They include: Acies Quartet (Austria), Amaryllis Quartett (Germany/Switzerland), Attacca Quartet (USA), Barbirolli Quartet (United Kingdom), Finzi Quartet (United Kingdom), Kelemen Kvartett (Hungary), Piatti String Quartet (United Kingdom), Rusquartet (Russia), Lawson Trio (United Kingdom), Leibniz Trio (Germany), Rhodes Piano Trio (United Kingdom), Sima Piano Trio (USA), Streeton Trio (Australia), Trio Image (Germany), Trio Paul Klee (France) and Trio Rafale (Switzerland).

In addition to significant cash awards from a total prize pool of \$100,000, the Grand Prize winners will receive prestigious concert engagements at Wigmore Hall (London) and Concertgebouw (Amsterdam). The Musica Viva Special Prize offers a winning ensemble a national tour.

They are also proud to announce the distinguished members of the 2011 jury. Chaired by Julian Burnside QC AO, the panel includes some of the most highly regarded exponents of chamber music; pianists Philippe Cassard (France) and Piers Lane (Australia), Borodin String Quartet violist Igor Naidin (Russia) and cellists Lesley Robertson (St. Lawrence String Quartet USA) and Alasdair Tait (United Kingdom).

The preliminary rounds of the Competition will be held at the Australian National Academy of Music, South Melbourne 9-14 July. For the first time, the finals take place in the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July.

"The proliferation of outstanding ensembles performing today in Australia and across the globe is due in no small part to the impact that the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition has had on Australia's musical life. The Melbourne Recital Centre is the performing home of many of these ensembles so it is only fitting that MRC is the proud partner of Chamber Music Australia in presenting this year's 6th Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition," said Mary Vallentine AO, Chief Executive Officer, Melbourne Recital Centre.

The entire Competition will be broadcast live on ABC Classic FM allowing every Australian the opportunity to hear the world's best young chamber music ensembles.

The 6th International Chamber Music Competition is a premiere event in the nation's cultural calendar, attracting visitors from Australia and overseas, international concert entrepreneurs and the world's most influential chamber music experts.





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q scene: **OUT & ABOUT**



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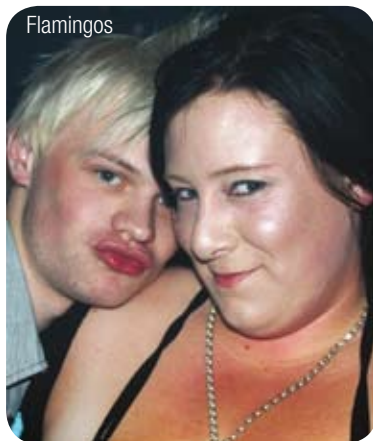
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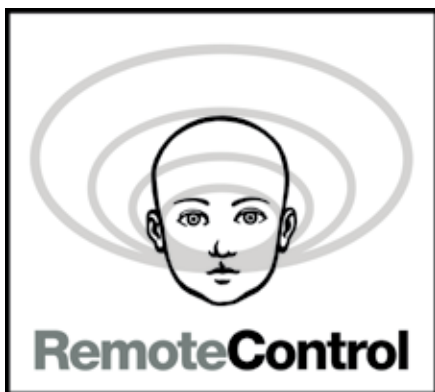
q scene: **OUT & ABOUT**



q win: MAY IS MUSIC MONTH

Remote Control Records

Having debuted at #1 in 14 countries, #3 on the Australian ARIA album chart, #1 on iTunes, hitting certified quadruple platinum in the UK and creating chart history with her brand new album '21'. Having stolen history and chart records from the likes of the Beatles, Madonna and The Corrs, Adele is undeniably a global pop sensation and the hottest artist in the world right now and proves unstoppable as she continues to reign supreme, debuting at #1 on the US and Canadian charts!



On her latest Album 21, Adele says: "I'm very excited, nervous, eager, anxious but chuffed to announce my new album! It's taken a while and knocked me for six when writing it. It's different from 19, it's about the same things but in a different light. I deal with things differently now. I'm more patient, more honest, more forgiving and more aware of my own flaws, habits and principles. Something that comes with age I think. So fittingly this record is called 21. The whole reason I called the first album 19 was about cataloguing what happened to me then and who I was then, like a photo album you see the progression and changes in a person throughout the years."

21 was made in Malibu with the legendary Rick Rubin (Johnny Cash, Jay Z, Red Hot Chili Peppers) and in London with Paul Epworth (Bloc Party, Florence and the Machine, Cee-Lo Green). With record sales continuing to soar around the world, her efforts have certainly paid off.

With thanks to Remote Control Records, we have 5 copies of 'Adele 21' to give away. Simply email getfree@qmagazine.com.au with **Adele 21** in the subject line for your chance to 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.

q people: **ANDRE BARCLAY - AMERICAN HOTTIE & PORN STAR**

an interview by Marc J Porter

Andre Barclay is a fun, sexy porn star who began his career with a bang in bareback films before moving to the mainstream with even greater success, he now has a worldwide following and recently took some time to answer my questions.

Tell us about your background and what led you to the path of being a gay porn star, it's not the usual career choice right?

I was born and raised in Connecticut. I come from a very old east coast family. My background is French Canadian, Swedish and Scottish. I feel incredibly blessed to have such a wonderful family.

For high school, I went to all boys catholic prep school and raised very catholic and strict. I moved to Seattle when I was 18 to go to college. I have a degree in arts. I ended up moving to San Francisco when I was 23 years old and that's when life got interesting.

Frankly I never thought I would be a gay porn star but it's just one of those things that happened. I had gotten several offers before but had always turned them down. Then a director for a porn website e-mailed me and convinced me to agree to do a scene for him in Toronto and that is how it all began. That was back in May 2008. Being a gay porn star is definitely not the usual career choice. But then again, I was never one to follow the crowd. I have always prided myself on being different and having a sense of adventure. People always told me you should do what you enjoy.



Have you had some amazing experiences so far and what has been a stand out?

Not sure if I would use the word "amazing" to describe any of my experiences in gay porn. Probably more interesting and unforgettable! I think I have seen a lot of things I never thought I would see.

Had crazy experiences good and bad. I honestly think the one that stands out the most is when my co star started going off on me on camera. Just started yelling at me and stormed off the set. Probably the most uncomfortable experiences I ever had filming. I am not going to go into any details on other particular experiences. You will just have to wait and read it in my book.

Is there a perception that all gay porn stars are not very smart and all sleep around and take drugs or is it much more business minded than we all think?

Of course there is a huge stereotype of gay porn stars. Let's be realistic here. It is no secret that there is a drug abuse problem in the gay porn industry but unfortunately that is prevalent all over the gay community worldwide. Yes, most gay porn stars sleep around, but don't most gay men in general? Gay porn stars come in all types. There are many like myself who treat porn like a professional job. We are incredibly intelligent people and very business oriented. It is very unfortunate that the segment of gay porn stars who are unprofessional and do have drug abuse issues give the rest of us a bad name.

Of course porn studios have a no drug policy on the set. But the studios can't control what people do outside of the set in their own personal lives.

Who has been your favorite scene partner so far and why?

I have been in over sixty movies so it is hard to choose just one person that would be my favorite of them all. Although there are a few people who do stand out and were a lot of fun to work with. So I am going to narrow it down to three people. My good friend Dominik Rider is a wonderful scene partner. We have done numerous scenes together. Dominik and I actually first met on the set of SX video and ended up becoming great friends after that. Dominik is sexy and just a fun kind hearted guy. Last year I did a scene at Falcon with Tyler Saint. Tyler is an absolute stud. He is incredible attractive, a blast to play with on the set and just a really nice guy. Tyler could have asked me to marry him right then and there and I would have said yes. It was a true pleasure to work with him.



For Hot House Ring of fire I worked with Trey Walker who actually used to live right down the street from me in San Francisco. Trey is a really fun guy to work with and our sexual chemistry was incredible. I think it was evident by how amazing the finished product turned out.

What else do you get up to in your life besides this interesting career?

Overall I would say my life outside of porn is very mellow and most importantly drama free. I love to cook, workout, read and travel. So if you're looking for stories of wild sex parties and all the sorts I am not that guy. I have always kept the details of my personal life very private.

Does being a gay porn star interfere in your life, do people judge you when they find out or do you have a strong support network?

Absolutely. No matter what you do in life, there will always be people who will judge you. There are many people in this world who are very closed minded and quick to judge. When you're "famous" in the gay world and trust me I hate using that term, it is much harder to make genuine friends. I will say that I don't have a large group of friends but the friends I do have I am incredibly close too. Most of them are like family to me and we have been friends for years. I have wonderful parents and a brother and sister who I see often.

Does it surprise you that people the world over recognize you and enjoy themselves with your DVD's?

Honestly it doesn't surprise me at all. Thanks to the internet people can download movies even in places where they might not be able to find a hard copy of a DVD. Also social websites like facebook and twitter have such a huge following that it is much easier to have an international fan base.

Where do you see this leading you and what's in store next?

That seems to be a question I ask myself a lot. Frankly I enjoy what I do. I can't predict the future but I have faith that opportunities will present themselves when the time is right. Things I have thought about or might want to do. Definitely thinking about writing a book about my life. I would love the opportunity to be an actor and be on television outside of porn. I really would love to be in a long-term relationship and have thought about possibly wanting a child one day. Those are just a few of my dreams.

You have made some bareback movies over the past few years, do you find it more exciting knowing its a taboo for some people?

Honestly I don't find anything really that exciting about doing bareback films because it may be "taboo". I actually first started doing bareback because it was the work that presented itself to me in the beginning. Once I had done a few movies, I did get the chance to film for "safe" companies such as Raging Stallion, Hot House and Falcon. Something I wish I had known in the beginning was how much prejudice there still is in the industry against porn stars who have done bareback films.

There are still many "safe" companies who won't hire a star who has done bareback. Do I agree with this policy? Absolutely not. I think its unfair and blatant discrimination. But I can't change the rules. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't wonder how different my porn career would have been if I hadn't done bareback.

I know that I lost out on a lot of opportunities because of it. But I still made my dream which was to be a Falcon star. Yes I was in two falcon movies so I feel like I made my dream a reality even though I had done bareback films before that. I won't take back anything I did in porn because frankly I see nothing wrong with doing bareback porn. I know I have been a victim of this and on many occasions I have been known to be a very vocal advocate against these discriminatory rules that some companies still practice.

Do you have any regrets being a porn star or are the experiences so worth it?

Absolutely not! I have always stuck to my belief that you should live your life with no regrets. Is there things I might have done differently? Of course, but I have no regrets.

All my actions and decisions I feel were what was best for me at that moment in time. My theory about life is simple. "All we have is now". The simplest theory but it says it all. Live everyday to its fullest like it was the last day you had on this earth and you will always find happiness.



q current affairs: **ASH HOGAN**



A bit of a departure from the norm with this article, dear readers. As I sit here penning this column (which as always, is fabulously overdue), I am merely hours away from moving halfway around the world back to the United States. For the next few years I'm going to be calling New York City home, a thriving metropolis with 8.1 million inhabitants where dreams are made and many broken. They say America is the land of the free. When I stopped to ponder that statement today, I started to question how 'free' any of us really are.

In my last column for Q, readers may recall that I spoke of the one term Obama effect and how the Democrats were struggling to make it through to 2012. In fact, the President has even been on the defensive over whether he was even born in the country (miraculously his birth certificate has now appeared). However what a difference a month in politics makes. As we all saw in the first week of May just gone, the death of Osama Bin Laden by an elite US Navy Seal team created headlines around the world; most positive, some negative as to be expected. A war that the US has been fighting on foreign soil for almost 10 years searching for a dictator, ended in a bloody firefight in a luxury compound in Pakistan, a neighbouring country. In protecting the 'freedom' of all Americans, the country is in trillions of dollars of

debt, faces massive unemployment, and has lost over 1000 fine men and women in the war.

I wonder if any of the members serving in that Navy Seal team, or who died in action, identified with being GLBTI? As reported in the Los Angeles Times recently, Marines at bases in the U.S. and foreign locations are preparing for the repeal of the "don't ask/don't tell" policy that has required gay men and lesbians to remain silent about their sexual orientation. Once all the services report that their troops have been briefed on the changes, President Obama is to begin a 60-day countdown. The new law should be in effect by late spring (Australian time) - and gays and lesbians can serve openly. Freedom has taken a long time to ironically support those fighting to protect basic American civil liberties.

Unfortunately freedom for our brethren in places like South Africa is still at rock bottom. The brutal murder of Noxolo Nogwaza - a lesbian, and 24-year-old member of the Ekurhuleni Pride Organising Committee - was seen largely as a hate crime against gays and lesbians. She was stabbed repeatedly with glass shards and left in an alley, her face and head disfigured by stoning. A beer bottle, a large rock and used condoms were found on and near her body, in Kwa Thema township outside Johannesburg on 24 April.

Which leads me to consider freedom in Australia. A thought for the Afghan asylum seekers, some of who were moved to Sydney's Silverwater jail recently, due to unruly protests about ongoing extended periods of detention. I'm sceptical as to why it takes two to three years to assess someone's right to remain in our country on the basis of mistreatment, intolerance or even sexual preference.

In this era of evolving technology, is it that we choose to deny basic human rights by providing a prompt and fair review of their migration status? Or are we protecting our freedom through fear and paranoia of what we don't know about those from different cultures and backgrounds.

Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom as a concept; we could spend hours, days, weeks investigating and arguing the pros and cons for each side. What I do know is one thing; nothing is ever free, there is always a cost attached. The question remains as to whether we are prepared to pay the cost to achieve so-called freedom. Now that's something to consider.

Ashley Hogan is an Australian writer who calls the world (soon New York) home.

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q health news: **VICTORIA HIV SECTOR**

Michael Williams, the President of the Board of the Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre, recently announced the appointment of Matt Dixon as its new Executive Director.



"We are delighted to have Matt leading the team at VAC/GMHC. His many years involvement with HIV service provision and prevention and his strong understanding of the needs of people living with HIV as well as our GLBT community, make him an ideal person for this role."

Currently Senior Policy Officer in the Victorian Department of Health, Matt has previously worked in many different areas of sexual health both in Australia and the UK. With a background in the health sector at the Infectious Diseases Ward at the Alfred Hospital and the former Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, Matt has also worked in the UK with the London HIV Consortium as a Senior Commissioning Manager (HIV) for South West London.

"Matt has had a relationship with VAC/GMHC in his current role in the Sexual Health and Viral Hepatitis Team at the Department of Health, so his knowledge of the Victorian HIV sector is already comprehensive," Michael said. "Matt promises to bring a new vision and energy to VAC/GMHC at a time when the Board is re-examining our strategic directions, including looking at a broader involvement with the GLBT community."

There was extensive competition for the role, with several highly qualified international applicants for what is seen as an important community sector position in Australia, given VAC/GMHC's international reputation for innovative health promotion and contributions to HIV policy.

"I am very excited to be joining VAC/GMHC to help lead it into the next chapter of its rich history" says Matt. "With a highly skilled and dedicated staff and an energetic and engaged Board we will continue to provide outstanding services to people living with HIV. We will also work to stay at the forefront of HIV prevention in an ever-changing epidemic. I am keen that VAC/GMHC continues to work with our community partners to build on successes and create new opportunities together. I congratulate Mike Kennedy for his significant contribution to VAC/GMHC and its important work."

Concerns over Hepatitis C outbreak among HIV-positive gay men. Community health organisations have expressed concern at a cluster of hepatitis C diagnoses among HIV-positive gay men.

Monitoring by the Victorian Department of Health has shown that between May 2010 and April 2011, 37 HIV-positive gay men were diagnosed with hepatitis C (HCV) infection, a significant increase on previous years. In at least 19 of these cases, sexual transmission of HCV was suspected by the diagnosing physician.



People Living with HIV/AIDS Victoria has joined with the Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre (VAC/GMHC) and Hepatitis C Victoria to alert positive gay men to the risk of HCV.

"We want people with HIV to know that sexual transmission of hep C does occur and it is more common in positive people. The risk of sexual transmission is higher for those who engage in group sex, fisting, use of sex toys and non-injected drugs, as well as for those with some sexually-transmissible infections (STIs)," said PLWHA Victoria President Paul Kidd.

While the majority of cases of HCV infection have been linked to injecting drug use and other forms of blood-to-blood contact, cases of sexual transmission have been reported. Clusters of cases of apparently sexually-transmitted hep C among HIV-positive gay men have recently been reported in London, France and the Netherlands.

"Hep C is a serious health challenge for anyone, especially if you also have HIV. The best way to reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting hep C is to use condoms and water-based lube, latex gloves when fisting, and avoid sharing sex toys," said Kidd.

A community information forum is being planned. Details of this event will be announced shortly.

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.



The ship that died

So, do you like cruising? I am talking about the nautical variety, of course. Personally, I can think of nothing worse; after all, I tend to get seasick when having a bath if the water is too deep. However, the recent announcement of a new ferry service from Las Palmas in Gran Canaria to Huelva in Peninsular Spain, with a journey time of just over one day, as compared to nearly three days on the alternative service, set me thinking about a once-beautiful ship now lying off a beach on our neighbouring island of Fuerteventura.

This is the story of SS America, a luxury liner that was launched the day before Hitler invaded Poland and brought the world to war in 1939. It was not an auspicious start for a cruise liner that had to be immediately converted into a troop carrier that would not carry the planned 1200 passengers on a luxury cruise, but was destined to become a troop-carrying vessel that would

carry up to 8000 troops to war.

The ship was renamed, West Point, and she carried troops around the world. Later, she was confined to the North Atlantic route where her speed and manoeuvrability were ideal to outwit German U boats, gale force winds and the treacherous sea. Troops were carried from the USA to Europe and wounded soldiers, as well as prisoners of war, shipped back to America.

After wartime duties, the SS America resumed life as a cruise ship and was seen as one of the most beautiful of the American fleet. After 24 years of service, the ship's career came to an abrupt end due to labour disputes and the growing popularity of air travel. The SS America was sold to a Greek shipping company, renamed Australis, and began a new life transporting British passengers who were emigrating to a new life in Australia, as part of a campaign to increase its population. Later, the assisted passage scheme was gradually phased out and long haul flights made air travel more attractive than a long voyage at sea, and in 1977 the Australis made her last voyage to Australia.

There were attempts to reinstate the ship for cruises once again. The SS America was given her original name and intended to resume life as a floating casino. The first voyage in 1978 was a disaster and angry passengers forced the ship to return to port. The shipping company was sued for \$2.5 million and the SS America was held as a surety against debt; the ship's fate was sealed, and the SS America was to be auctioned.

The vessel was then repurchased by her previous Greek owners and was intended to be used as a Mediterranean cruise ship. Italis, as she was renamed, never put to sea. She was sold again in 1980 and renamed Noga, and this time destined to be a floating hotel in Beirut. This plan did not materialise and so this once proud ship was due to be returned to the USA to become a prison ship, but that fell through too. She was sold again and renamed Alferdoss, which means 'Paradise' in Arabic. Sadly, it was nothing like paradise and for ten years the ship rotted until damage to her bilge pipe meant that she had to be beached to prevent sinking.

Finally, a consortium bought her and gave her yet another new name, the America Star. A star she was no longer and, as she was being towed to Thailand to be converted into a floating hotel, the towrope broke in stormy weather off Fuerteventura. She broke into two pieces and what little remains has been slowly disappearing into the sea, leaving part of the bow remaining above the water. This once proud vessel is waiting to be finally claimed by the sea.



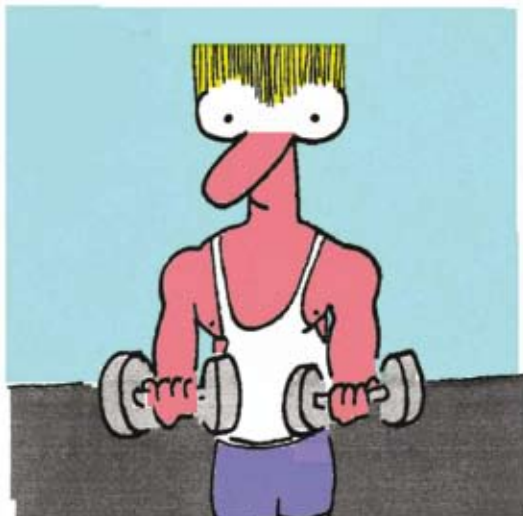
If you enjoyed this article, take a look at Barrie's websites: www.bariemahoney.com and www.thecanaryislander.com or read his latest book, 'Letters from the Atlantic' (ISBN: 978 184 386 6459).

Gaylord Blade

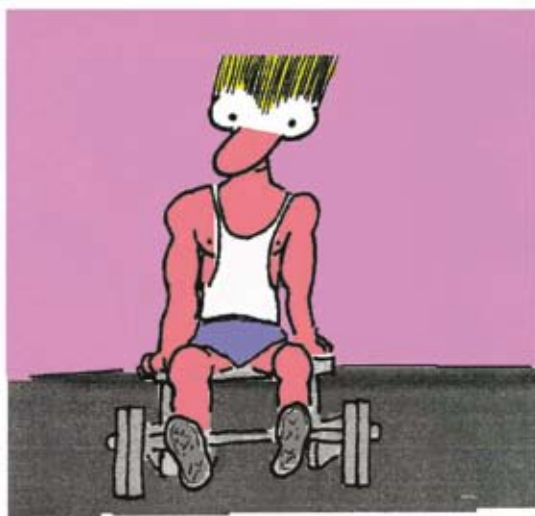
Young, Gay & Hot-to-Trot

by Kichi

Sometimes I ask myself if I'm spending too much time at the Gay gym



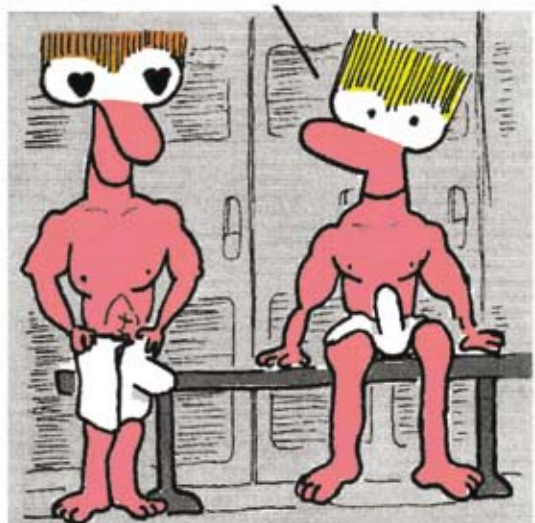
You know, if there aren't other pursuits I might want to be pursuing



I could have written several novels in the time I've spent here!



But who needs fiction when the gym is a reality you can reach out and touch!





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