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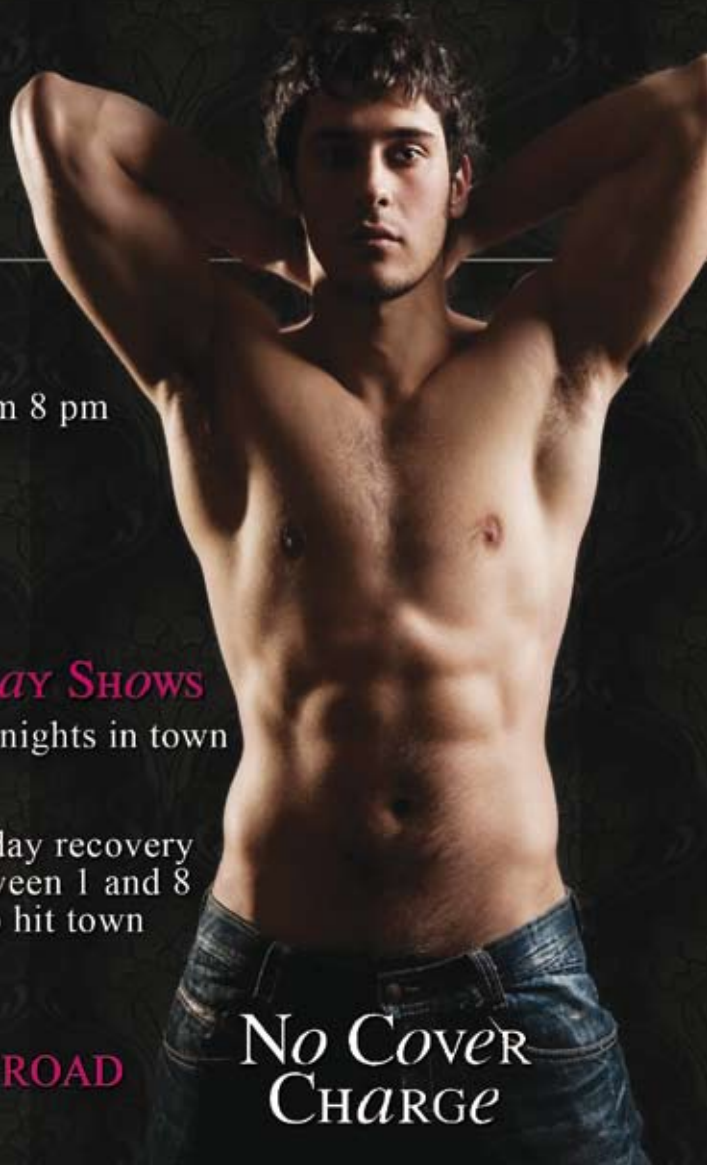
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q comment: YEAR OF FRIENDSHIP

On Wednesday September 7 @ 7.30, Monash Academy of Performing Arts (MAPA) is proud to present one of the most anticipated events of Melbourne's theatrical calendar. South Korea's acclaimed Theatre Nottle will present the Australian premiere of 'The Return' at the Alexander Theatre, Clayton. Based on Bertolt Brecht's epic poem Legend of the Dead Soldier, 'The Return' is an odyssey of grief, love and war, asking how we might live happily when wars are unceasing in society.

'The Return' offers the kind of experience normally reserved for the international festival circuit. It is a coup to bring Theatre Nottle to MAPA, said Dr. Peter Tregear, Executive Director.

Formed in 1993, Theatre Nottle comprises ambitious artists of diverse disciplines, committed to the preservation and enrichment of South Korea's culture. The ensemble uses voice, music, contemporary dance, mime and design to bring spiritual insight to its repertoire.

2011 celebrates the official Australia-Korea Year of Friendship - marking 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Theatre Nottle has performed in over 30 cities including Avignon, Torino, Kokjakarta, Singapore, Taipei, Beijing, Tokyo, Sibiu and Bangkok.

Theatre Nottle's visit to Monash University forms part of MAPA's Catalyst Residency Program on the Clayton Campus. Over four intensive weeks, Nottle will undertake a period of intense creative development with Australia's distinguished Tony Yap Company, exploring the Buddhist concept Kekkai-or sacred space.

The Tony Yap Company is an ensemble of culturally diverse, independent artists focusing on Australian-Asian performance. Led by award-winning dancer Tony Yap the artistic vision of tyc is to create a multi-modal form intrinsically international in its artistic language.

Tickets range from \$5-\$20 and can be purchased at www.monash.edu/mapa or over the phone on 9905 1111.



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

Editorial
editor@qmagazine.com.au

Sales and Marketing
sales@qmagazine.com.au

Design
Uncle Brett Designs & Graphics

Contributing Writers
Evan Davis, Alan Mayberry, Tasman Anderson,
Marc J Porter, Barrie Mahoney, Brett Hayhoe,
Brian Mier, Chris Gregoriou, Nathan Miller,
Amanda Nassif, Pete Dillon

Cover picture
Model: Rafael Yapur; Photographer: Adam Bouska

Photographic Contributions
Alan Mayberry (gh & drag), Avril
Holderness-Roddam (flamingos),
Jamie Brosche (hd), Brad Delaney
(q fundraiser)

Distribution
distribution@qmagazine.com.au

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

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



q feature: MARTEN WEBER

I recently caught up with Marten Weber to speak about two particular novels he has just released, *A* fascinating and clever writer, Marten started by telling me a little about his personal history. Marten is also offering 20% off for all Q Magazine readers! Go to <https://www.createspace.com/3581659> CHECKOUT CODE: 9G4U9Z38 Also please see Q WIN for your chance to win one of five we have on offer this month.

I was born in Austria (the one without kangaroos, but lots of lederhosen and suspenders) and at various times have lived in the UK, the Netherlands, Italy, the US, Australia, and have now settled with my boyfriend in Taiwan. We spend quite a lot of time travelling around Asia and especially Australia, and hope to move back to Australia one day since it's such an awe-inspiring place. We have loads of Aussie friends and I really love the desert. Arid, flat places are very beautiful to me.

When did you first decide to be a writer and why?

I never really decided to be a writer, I just wrote because I couldn't help it. It's my way of dealing with the world and with life, I think. I enjoy writing immensely - the actual process of writing - much more than 'being a writer,' and all the publishing and PR aspects.

How many books have you written and do they follow a similar theme?

I have five books out, a sixth going to be released this autumn. They are very different from each other. I like for all of my books to be very individualistic, to have characters and lives of their own. The only book that might turn into a series is *Benedetto* – my gay Casanova, just because everybody says he's so adorable. But that's a project for the future.

The common theme of my books is men. I like men: gay, straight, bi; dressed, naked; brainy, thick; brawny, slender; successful, failed, struggling; - men are fascinating! They are so reluctant to let themselves be discovered and they don't talk about their feelings. It's a real challenge to create truthful male characters in fiction. Most contemporary fiction you read has men that are mere caricatures of heroes, hunks, policemen, detectives, workers, lawyers, doctors husbands, queers, but hardly ever 'real' men. Besides, there are far too many books about women, chicken soup, dragons, vampires and magicians. My books are all about real men who occasionally get down to the business of loving each other, as all men should of course!

Where do you get your inspiration from to write?

Absolutely everything can be inspiring: my friends, my dreams, the people I meet on my travels - travelling is very important - and of course the books I read, since I don't watch much television or many movies, I mostly read, sometimes arcane old books in weird languages. Inspiration is everywhere in life I find, you just have to open your eyes to it.

Please tell us in your own words firstly about *Benedetto Casanova* (our front cover) and then *Shayno*.

Two years ago, I started reading Giacomo Casanova's *Memoirs* - the real Casanova. I thought I was in for some erotic prattle and a lot of cool frocks, but the more I read, the angrier I got. Casanova was a complete prat. The whole image of this handsome adventurer is a complete fake. He was stupid, untalented, often mean, selfish, and always manipulative. He took advantage of women wherever he could. He bought and sold virgin girls as young as nine to other men, and he swindled his way into a fortune. I spent months reading his memoirs, and he doesn't have a single redeeming feature. There is nothing remotely moral or in any way positive about his character. How could such a man become a cultural icon? I'd just seen the movie with (the now sadly missed) Heath Ledger. That character - and all other modern Casanova references I've seen - bear no similarity to the historical figure.

At the beginning of his memoirs he mentions that one year his mother was pregnant and that he didn't know what happened to the baby, that it either died or his mother might have given it away. That sort of planted the seed for the idea of a brother in my mind. I started thinking... What if such a brother existed, and was the complete opposite of Giacomo? What if he was terribly handsome, and smart, totally unlike his brother? What if such a brother could speak many languages, and had a talent for music, and loved philosophy? What if instead of just running after every skirt, he had a permanent relationship with a hot guy... and so on. That's how *Benedetto* was born. And he turned out to be quite the stud, as you can see from the cover. *Shayno* - see next page.



Why did you choose an Australian character for Shayno and does the general theme i.e. gay man falling for a straight man relate to your own life experiences?

The character of Kevin in the book is Australian, and he is a real person, now living in Sydney. I met him in exactly the circumstances described in the "Las Vegas" chapter of the book. I changed a few place names, but essentially, this is his ordeal, his story.

The second thread of the book is my invention, although I do have a straight Australian friend, discussions with whom inspired some of the dialogue in the book. He has never locked me in a closet though, literally or figuratively.

Shayno is about communication across that strange divide of gay vs straight, which is something that has always bothered me. The separation between homosexual and heterosexual, this weird dichotomy, is essentially a religious one, not a natural one at all. Far more men can relate to or understand certain aspects of homoeroticism (think of sports, wrestling, or the male nude in art) than are actually gay; yet we have created a world that is entirely separated along those idiotic lines of gay vs. straight. It's biblical, it's the good vs. bad, black vs. white dichotomy, and it's harmful for our development as a society. We really need to get over it, just like with the issue that there shouldn't be straight marriage and gay marriage, there should just be marriage. It's ridiculous to classify people or limit your own social experience based on who you sleep with. Personally, it has always saddened me that I have so few straight friends. I think very few gay men have good male straight friends. Shayno is the story of a gay man trying to have such a relationship, against all odds, even ready to let go when he sees he is falling in love. The relationship in Shayno doesn't succeed, just like most such relationships seem to fail in real life.

I lived in Australia for a while, and society there fascinated me. Australians seem to me to exhibit the same characteristics as all people from very large countries, that is, an exaggerated sense of patriotism that goes beyond nationality and involves a lot of man & country myth, pioneer spirit and so on, and that is despite the fact that 95% of the population of Australia lives in urban centres and has no direct connection with the outback. The character of Shayno, although entirely modern and urbanized, is more or less the archetype of that man in the wild, or wants to be - the self-reliant male who doesn't need anybody, and to whose will all must submit. Bit of a D.H. Lawrence man. This is why he ends up dominating the relationship with the gay character despite his apparent intellectual credentials.

Do you have other projects currently in the pipeline? If so when should we see them in print?

Lots of projects! My next book will be out before the end of the year and will feature two very different characters who each need to come to terms with corruption, cruelty, violence, abuse of power, and 'grow up' in a very modern world. It's about loss of innocence, but not the usual coming of age story. There'll be two books coming out in 2012, if all goes according to plan, one with a Slovakian connection every porn-watching gay man is probably familiar with these days; and the other a sci-fi thriller with a gay twist.

Where can Australian audiences purchase your books and do you have an online store?

You should be able to order them from any bookstore, and the gay bookstores certainly should have them in stock. Or order them from Amazon.com directly.

The e-books are available in all the usual channels, including the Kindle store, Nook, the iPad bookstore, e-libraries on Android devices, smashwords, etc. All the links are on www.martenweber.com.

Anything else you wish to share with our readers?

Check out the Facebook fan site for Benedetto Casanova on www.facebook.com/benedettocasanova. We'll be posting background information about the book, the life and times of Benedetto, and some more hot pics of the gay Casanova. I do post readers' letters, so send us a hot picture of yourself reading somewhere scenic and Australian, and we'll put it up. Any feedback or questions please write to webmarten@gmail.com.



q lifestyle: with PETE DILLON

In the midst of moving office and home to a new beachside location, another parcel appeared at the door. Hastily unwrapping it, as I knew the box would come in very handy with the move, 2 more books made their way into my life. They are books about food, written by chefs I have met or know well, and so they found themselves added to the ever expanding pile of food or wine focused books to be moved.

My housemate, in all her wisdom asks "where are we going to put all of these cook books, food books, wine books, food novels?". I shuddered as I imagined an entire wall overflowing with Maggie, Jamie, Bill, Hugh, Stephanie, and so forth and so on.

I don't think I could ever need to cook anything that I don't currently have a recipe for. Numerous regions of China, Vietnam, Italy, Spain, Greece, Ethiopia and Brazil are already covered. I have eight books devoted to various cuisines and regions of Spain alone!

How many books of each individual should be the limit? I have five Jamies, numerous Nigellas, several Stephanies and a pile of Pete's. it seems even those with a strong local reputation that don't have their own television shows also feature on the various shelves that are straining under the weight of this heft collection.

The bigger question remains... Why do I have them when I don't use them. I have never been good with a recipe. I cook cake batters by feel, most measurements are in dollops pinches and hands full. When I have tried recipes they have generally been an unmitigated disaster. I do occasionally seek inspiration from a book here and there, and do have one or two well thumbed pages, but for the most part these books sit idly gathering dust. I am in a quandary.

A further issue arises every time a friend or colleague begs the question....'have you got the latest Conran, Ramsay, Martini?' I get almost apoplectic with envy. For a man who has minimalism as a mantra, this behaviour might suggest i have a hint of the hoarder happening. I pray not as I saunter into the bookshop, waving plastic and demanding a copy.

My life has order and structure and I have been blessed with an innate ability to use the word no.... excepting when it comes to food books. The next issue presents itself when celebrations cone around annually, either birthdays or festive celebrations. As each year ticks over and more grey hairs appear where they should not, friends who know of my vast collection of these tomes determine that the perfect gift should be another book.

Each time they visit, they peruse the shelves, looking for the potential gaps in my bibliographic arsenal that they can fill... "Oh I see you don't have the new Fergus Henderson? 'Oh that's on order from Amazon as I cant get it here or 'its is currently over Singapore on a BA flight with my buddy Bronwyn who is a long haul flight attendant."

So as I pack these books with the other collective detritus of my life, and lovingly stroke the embroidered cover, or look lovingly at the beautiful styling of Michael Moore's silver bound book, I add yet another page to my last will and testament ensuring signed copies are left to the right peeps and that every other book, purchased or gifted is in the right hands.

Anything left can be used to light my funeral pyre so I can enter my next life with the pages I lovingly thumbed in this one.

For more of Pete's ravings on food and wine, tune into *Cravings* each Saturday on JOY 94.9 from 1pm, or call Pete 0409 142 365, or email lifestyle@qmagazine.com.au



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P.O. Box 7479 St. Kilda Road VIC 8004
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Beware Of becoming the emotional scapegoat

Often times when people do not want to take responsibility for their lives they target an individual to “dump” onto them all their emotional baggage and try to make them responsible for their own pain.

Why do people so often engage in this behaviour? Well for starters dealing with your own emotional pain is very difficult and takes a lot of courage and so many people find it easier to just palm off onto others what is really their own pain in order for them to avoid having to deal with it themselves. This is called scapegoating.

Often times people are not even aware that this is what they are doing to others, you could say it works on a subconscious level mostly but you can be conscious of whether you are being scapegoated or not by recognizing some of the signs.

- 1) You are told that you are to blame for another persons misery and unhappiness
- 2) You are told that you are the cause of all their problems
- 3) You are told that the reason why they can not get their own life together is because you keep interfering
- 4) You are made to feel like you are the one with the problem or even that you are crazy
- 5) The individual may entangle other people to also gang up on you
- 6) You are ostracized from a community because of other peoples gossip or opinion of you

There are many other signs that you may be becoming someone else's scapegoat.

The effect of being a scapegoat can include depression, anxiety; post traumatic stress, in extreme cases even psychosis. The best way to disentangle yourself from what is happening is to recognize what belongs to you and what belongs to the other person and keep the emotional boundaries strong and clear.

Whatever you do stand your ground and do not give into someone else's idea that you are to blame for all their problems when you are clearly not to. Have conviction in yourself and believe in what you know to be true about yourself and what you know to be true about others and you can't go wrong. You don't need to necessarily say anything to the person or group that is trying to scapegoat you but often times it is just enough to recognize and understand what is happening in order to protect yourself from these situations.

Trusting your own judgement is essential and can mean the difference between being entangled in a horrible situation where you feel powerless or a situation where you feel empowered and in control of your own life.

There are many psychologists and counselors that can help you recognize whether you are being targeted and used as a scapegoat.



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q fundraiser: **GIRLS CALENDAR**

Female firefighters sizzle in calendar fundraiser

The female firefighters who usually sweat it out during fire and rescue operations have glammed-up for a calendar shoot in the name of charity.

Twelve female firefighters from the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) have teamed up for the 2012 Female Firefighters Calendar to raise funds for the Queensland Cancer Council for breast cancer research.

QFRS Acting State Community Safety Development Manager and calendar organiser, Michelle Young said the firefighters were excited to be able to produce a calendar again this year.

"After the overwhelming success of our previous calendars we are back to bare it all again," Ms Young said. "We hope that everyone will buy a Female Firefighters Calendar to generate awareness and raise much needed funds for Pink Ribbon Day, in support of all Queenslanders touched by breast cancer."

All of the calendar girls are full-time firefighters and work in stations across the state, from Gladstone and Toowoomba, to the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane.

For more information or to reserve a calendar visit www.femalefirefighters.com.au.



q summit: **TOTIPOTENT**

Something is coming, it's changing, breaking, dripping, splitting and dividing, sliding, joining and grafting, forming something new...St Martins Catapult program presents TOTIPOTENT: A National Theatre Summit for Young and Emerging Artists

Young and Emerging theatre makers are into the future of the theatre ecology in say on the current environment of ambitious possibilities for change and summit will be taken to the Australian September. The Summit will engage possibilities, ideas and their practices. Matthew Lutton, the Associate Director the Key Note speaker of the event.



invited to join a provocative exploration this country. Participants will have their youth theatre in Australia and articulate development. The outcomes from this Theatre Forum in Brisbane later in with industry professionals about St. Martin's are proud to announce that of the Malthouse Theatre, will join us as

TOTIPOTENT will offer contributors the opportunity to see new and exciting work by young and emerging theatre makers and those attending the summit are encouraged to perform and share ideas about their own work. The Summit will involve a dialogue with a wide range of theatre practitioners from around the country and invites anyone interested to come along, experience and engage in this exciting discussion.

2nd and 3rd September - St Martins Youth Arts Centre, 44 St Martins Lane, South Yarra, 3141
For more information and bookings contact: info@stmartinsyouth.com.au or visit www.stmartinsyouth.com.au

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q cuisine: with NATHAN MILLER

As we move into the last month of Winter I really love heading out into the Vegie Patch to dig up the elegant and distinct little beetroots as this time of year they are ready for the picking. Beetroots grow really well in these colder climates and after about 10 weeks they are sweet and tender, as I find after about 13 week they become tough and hard.

Don't be put off by the colours of the dish, let your taste buds do all the work.

Beetroot Risotto

Ingredients

Beetroot Stock

4 Fresh Medium Beetroots – diced 1cm
500ml of Water
500ml of Vegetable Stock
1 x Carrot
1 x Onion
1 x stalk of Celery
1 x Clove
1 x Cinnamon quill

Risotto

2 tblsp Olive Oil
½ Spanish Onion - diced
2 cups of Arborio Rice
1lt stock (see above)
¼ cup White Wine
1 tblsp Brown Sugar
Pinch fresh Nutmeg
20gm Parmesan Shaved
3 sage leaves – shallow fried

Method;

1. Stock - Cover over diced beetroot with the water and add vegetables and spices. Bring to the boil and slowly simmer for 30 minutes. Remove everything except the beetroot. Strain and keep both the juice and beetroot. Set aside.
2. Risotto - In a large heavy based saucepan sauté the onion in olive oil until slightly transparent.
3. Add the risotto and cook until discolored. Add the white wine and brown sugar and cook over a medium heat until the wine has absorbed.
4. Continue over a medium heat and add 1 cup of the stock and cook until absorbed.
5. Add all the diced beetroot and a further 1 cup of stock and continue the cooking process until absorbed.
6. Continue adding 1 cup of stock ensuring to cook out the liquid before adding further stock.
7. When all stock has been added, place in the Nutmeg, Parmesan cheese and season to taste.
8. Cover and leave for 5 minutes.
9. Serve with shallow fried sage leaves.

Note: Extra liquid may be required at the end of cooking, some vegetable stock will assist.



q money: with EVAN DAVIS

The collective blood alcohol content of the group had reached a visible high. We had moved well passed the background level of 0.05 to 0.10% that provided a pleasant buzz at dinner. Now at a nightclub, I was getting an earful from a bloke about how successful he was. His vigorous hand gestures helped to illustrate his point and empty my drink over the bar staff.

This quickly earned him his third and final warning from the bouncer.

At the end of the bar another guy was working his hands up the dress of chubby but accommodating blonde. The same man had lost a bit of a scuffle earlier so had clearly decided he was a lover and not a fighter.

My good friend and dinner companion was assisting in the removal of another attendee's inebriated wife, as her devoted husband fell down the stairs to the establishment. For the remaining forty or so of us, just apply the words 'smashed', 'pissed' or 'blotto' and you'd get a fairly good idea of the overall scene.

Collectively we now stood on the precipice of the night completely going to hell. If only we were at a wedding or family social event. Then this behaviour might be easier to understand. Unfortunately we were all attendees at a financial services conference in sunny QLD.

Corporate events are dangerous. I find when forced to attend you want to be memorable for the right reasons. I have four rules I try to stick to as best I can to avoid the worst pitfalls.

Rule 1, don't blab! This might be the hardest of the four rules. I find that you will be better liked if you aren't a shameless and bombastic self promoter. Also, avoid negative commentary on your peers. It is spooky what gets said and remembered at these events. You may only tell one person you think the CEO is a bad word starting with C, but the whole network will almost certainly find out.

Rule 2, drink in moderation. This is a tricky one and an area where I struggle. The concept of a free and open bar is exciting, though it doesn't need to be the reason you were asked to settle down or leave the event. I try to make each of my third drinks a soft drink. This assists with rule one and give greater mental agility with rule 3.

Rule 3, have an exit strategy. My partner is an expert at this. He'll vanish just after the peak and before the carnage. This is useful at both corporate and private parties. Leave a little earlier to avoid having to make apologies the next day. I often get this rule wrong and leave when digital cameras have been produced and the 'Aeroplane rides' have started.

Last of all rule 4, be gracious. You'll be better remembered if you manners and language have been appropriate. So don't do what I did. When your name is read out for an award, don't swear loudly in surprise.



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q mens health: CONNECTING WITH OTHER MEN

by Brian Mier



Greetings, Brothers. I've just returned to Melbourne after a wonderful weekend away at Lake Tinaroo on the Atherton Tablelands in Far North Queensland. I attended a men's weekend called 'ManUp', an Open Ground', conducted by Men's Wellbeing Inc.

I feel refreshed, invigorated, enlightened, and a better man as a result of the weekend.

What was so good about it?

First, it was a weekend in peaceful, beautiful bush surroundings, topped off by a scenic lake at our doorstep. There's no doubt that Nature is good for our mental health, and facilitates us engaging in physical health activities. ManUp added possibilities for social and spiritual health as well.

Doing (my first) Qi Gong session on Sunday morning as the sun rose to the east across the lake was total magic! Gentle movement, flowering red bottlebrushes, appreciating the surrounds, breathing in pure, unpolluted air, warm and friendly mates around me. How good is that!?

During the weekend I participated in big circles, i.e. all 45 men connecting and sharing, and also little circles called tribal meetings, in which we shared more intimately - but only what you wanted to share or talk about, no coercion. I enjoyed a series of workshops ranging from activity to verbal. I explored what I wanted to from the rich program of activities. I participated in some absolutely silly games which made us all laugh long and loud; enjoyed some male community singing; explored some ideas and concepts relating to men and masculinity.



The food was ample, nourishing, tasty, and thankfully not enforced vegetarian. The accommodation and facilities were basic, clean and comfortable. And hey, my and other men's food allergy needs were taken care of, too. I even managed to get some decent sleep, though I know some other men talked around the campfire well into the small hours.

The range of men was amazing: aged from 19 to about 79 YO. Some were family men loving to learn to love their wives or male partners more. Others were single men like myself, either permanently, or temporarily because a partner was away. There were heterosexual and homosexual men, no discrimination, no feeling of separateness - we were all just men together exploring ourselves, our relationships, and our social connections with one another. There were men in high professional jobs, tradies, labourers, a couple of men who had spent time in gaol, retired and employed men, lonely men and those with strong family and social networks. Something very special was to be with two fathers whose sons also participated in the event. We all loved to watch these men visibly grow in their relationships. What we shared in common and built on was coming together with open minds and hearts, and a keenness to explore ourselves and our relationship to other men, as men.



And lest the women reading this be apprehensive, the gathering was totally respectful of women. For, let's be frank, men and women are interdependent and together make up our community and our society, filling complementary roles in almost every way.

I've attended other men's gatherings in the past, both gay and straight. This was The Best experience I have had.

Open Ground is run by Men's Wellbeing Inc., a Queensland-based non-profit, community organisation. Having seen the meticulous but unobtrusive planning and execution of the weekend, I'm impressed - and I speak as a Virgo!

So, men, consider doing something good for yourselves and consider making the journey onto some Open Ground. I can't guarantee you'll be enriched like I have been. I can say that if you approach it with an open mind and open heart and a sense of adventure, you'll find the open ground and enough common ground to enjoy yourselves and probably grow as men, no matter what your age.

In this madcap age of frantic behaviour, time poverty and incredible family and personal stresses, it's essential for survival and growth that you all take some 'I' time and if you have a partner or close family, some 'we' time out for reflection and self-building, so that you are stronger and better able to be truly yourselves in your relationships with yourselves and others.

But, as always, each of you has the responsibility to look after your own lives and health and to make your own decisions. Grandfathers, Fathers and Elders like me can only suggest and advise from our experience of life and its ups and downs.

'I am the Captain of my Soul. I am the Master of My Destiny.'
(Nelson Mandela)

This is my personal invitation to you. It's your choice to accept or decline it.

If you accept and want to join me at Lake Tinaroo in August next year, then you have eleven months to plan for it and save up your dollars. If you are at the stage of saying "Tell me more", then here's the link if you want to have a look at the information brochure. <http://www.menswellbeing.org/clubportal/clubstatic.cfm?clubID=2384&pubmenuoptID=33064>. Most but not everything listed happened. The descriptions are accurate.

Before then, Open Ground will next be held as 'Man Alive' at Berry, NSW South Coast, from 16-18 September. I am hopeful that the program will gradually extend to other States.

Men's Wellbeing also conduct follow-up, more in-depth activities called Common Ground, based on small groups and extending over a longer period; Rites of Passage events (boys becoming men), and other enriching activities. I suggest you take some time

to check out the website at www.menswellbeing.org



There's a new men's magazine just launched, called 'Manspace'.

Unlike others on the market, it's not aimed at Muscle Marys, just ordinary blokes and with a special bent towards those who work with their hands as well as their minds. It explores sheds, cars, a garden railway, sports, and much more. There's one article on Heart Health, but this is not per se a health magazine.

You can get a bit of an idea about it at www.isubscribe.com.au/manspace and a subscription for four issues (one year) is just \$19.95, linked from the above Facebook page. You'd have to be lucky to find it in a newsagency.

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q youth: with TASMAN ANDERSON

This month had me thinking about an important issue...SEX! I promise I'm not about to bore you with a long and over exaggerated talk about the importance of safe sex (do use a condom though!) My issue with sex is actually quite the opposite. I want to talk about virginity *cue suspenseful music*



As many of you are unaware of, I am an eighteen-year-old virgin. It's not that I'm against sex or that I'm waiting till marriage. I just never found that one person who was worth the excitement, pain, nerves and love. I also resented sex and relationships for what they did to a person. They seemed to give a person a sense of security and then left them shattered when it ended (and most times it did indeed end).

I spent a majority of my teen life listening and comforting my friends after their hearts were broken. I built up a pretty indestructible wall so that I could avoid the same pain. Strangely enough, I knew more about sex than those who have experience plenty of it, the one of many benefits of having male friends.

Surprisingly enough, this wasn't going to be my topic for the month. I was going to focus on my first adventure into a sex store, but it was the conversation I had with the male salesperson that got me thinking about the topic. A few weeks ago I ventured into my local porn shop in an attempt to understand exactly what it was that I was missing out on. I wasn't nervous because I grew up hearing about sex and understanding that people had a certain 'itch to scratch'. I walked in and immediately headed towards the sex toys. It was entertaining to see the variety they offered and some of the ridiculous shapes that people would buy.

The male attendant came over and started talking to me about my preferred type. I told him that I was yet to own one and wasn't sure which was right. He seemed puzzled at that and asked me questions about what I was used to. I loved how he seemed so at ease asking such personal questions. However, his demeanor changed when I told him I was a virgin. He expressed shock and accidentally blurted that I was a bit too old to be one.

I was alarmed! When did being a virgin become such a sin? (Excuse the pun). It was as if society placed an expiration date on my virtue and that it became unattractive with age. Now, I'm not a prude and I believe that everyone has the decision as to when and exactly how many people they have sex with. If I want to be a fifty-year-old virgin than why couldn't I? Why is there this sudden pressure to be experience? I know it sounds weird but surely someone would appreciate being your first than being one of many?

I remember so many people were pressured in high school for not having sex. Boys would call the girls prudes and other girls would call them tarts. I never understand why there was such a rush? Whatever happened to having sex when you felt it was right for you? I felt the same pressure growing up. I was told that it wasn't normal to not have sex while everyone else was doing it...to be honest I was too concerned with getting my next article in and seeing the next Harry Potter flick. I never felt like I missed out on anything.

Don't ever feel like you have to rush into sex just because everyone else is doing it. Whenever you feel ready and want to experience it is up to you. Remember that it stays with you forever and who you choose to lose it too should be a decision that you truly believe in.

Take care everyone.

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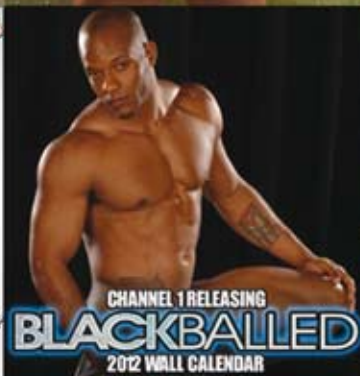


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q drag: WILMA FINGERDO



Say the words hair and drag and one person springs to mind – Wilma Fingerdo. Not only is Wilma one of the sensational new-age performers on the scene but she specializes in making the other drags look amazing with fantabulous hair. Alan Mayberry spoke to her to find how her career evolved.

I was born in the rugby-mad town of Wigan in the North West of England. My family has a long line of famous rugby players. I take after my Uncle Fingerdo, who played the hooker for Wigan United and ended up being one of the most famous hookers in all of Britain!

Moving to Australia when I was a mere fingerling, we settled on the plains of Melton shire. My family being of good breeding, I was quickly enrolled (despite being Jewish) in a Third Reich sister school in Hoppers Crossing. I was placed into one of the school's 4 houses of Intolerance, Ignorance, Segregation and Slitherin, which to this day hold up the school's famous motto *Arbeit macht frei*.

I no longer have any contact with my family. I had a great relationship with my dad. He was very proud of me and we were really close. It hit me hard when he died about 7 years ago, and it sent my mum more than a slightly bit batty. My brother suffers from an awful case of obsessive compulsive disorder. Every time

he is around gay people he can't help but pick up the nearest religious artifact and attack them with it. I think it stems back to an early childhood accident where he slipped at Sunday school and had a bible rammed up his arse!

Like all gay men, I was visited by the Sexuality Fairy around the age of 12. The fairy asked me if I'd like to be straight and live a nice life fitting in to society geared up for the hetros. Thinking it was a dream I replied *'No, make me a giant flaming homo! Let me dance with the citizens of Sodom!'* and with my choice of sexuality made, the Sexuality Fairy waved her magic wand and my orientation was set in stone.

I was always a bit of a performer. Even in school I'd be raiding the drama department's costumes and squeezing into frocks. My first drag show was a makeover at the Commercial Hotel by Monte Diamonte. From there I dabbled in drag, watching and learning from amazing performers across the city. I performed every chance I could just for the fun of it, then in 2007 entered Miss Melbourne Drag. Of course, I won!

Originally I was called Ms Amway Diamond (I was an Amway seller at the time – Don't ask!) Then I decided to write a book of drag names, so I put a list of about 2000 drag names together and was going to publish it when *A Book Of Baby Drag Names* came out. I was devastated! My favorite name I came across while writing the book was *Wilma Fingerdo*.

My first professional gig was at an old biker bar in Footscray with Monte. The bar had fewer patrons than the bar woman had teeth, but hey, a show's a show!

I love performing but sadly don't have time to spend much time rehearsing these days. So I limit myself to guest appearances so I can put most of my effort into my wig business *Weaves by Wilma* (www.weavesbywilma.com.au). But I still make sure I practice a face a few times a week, and I'm always learning things. There are many great artists in Melbourne willing to give their time to show what they know, and I think it's important that Queens constantly grow in their craft. I'm a huge fan of comedy and old school camp. I love a queen that can take a number and twist its meaning, bringing something creative and original for the audience to see. There are AMAZING queens in Melbourne who make me cry with laughter every time I see them. My favorite for the moment is watching Abril Latrene. She's new to Melbourne from Queensland, and brings something so fresh and colorful!

As well as running Weaves By Wilma, I'm also an integral part of a multi-billion dollar corporate empire – OK, I'm a weekend duty manager at Woolies!

Drag queens are known to be the most creative people in showbiz, with incredible makeup and colourful costumes expressing

their personality. However, their choices in wigs were limited to women's wigs of browns, blonds, blacks and reds. Colourful wigs were either non-existent or horrid, cheap party wigs. Natural wigs were over priced and usually too small for a Wo-mans head. So, after much research, trial and error, a fair bit of cash down the drain and sheer dumb luck, Weaves By Wilma was born! I still work at Woolies, but most of my income comes from wigs.

Weaves By Wilma is one of the few wig companies I know making wigs exclusively for theatre and drag. The business structure is really quite simple. It starts with a design. We are known for the most colourful, original and stand-out wigs on the market and all our wigs are designed from scratch for either a custom made wig or a range of limited released works of art.

I'm proud to have built up a very loyal client base over the years, featuring the biggest names in the industry. We have done custom-made wigs for stage musicals, as well as international stars like Jackie Beat and Nina Flowers.

There have been a heap of amazing stories for me so far. Working with Cindy Pastel in designing her look for Sydney's Mardi Gras was amazing. That girl is walking creativity! Also working alongside so many greats in the business, and having the opportunity to glean a little bit of knowledge from each one is an experience money can't buy.

I'm hoping to move into wigs full time and give up my weekend job. Having the opportunity to do something you love with someone you love is an opportunity few people have.

I've been with my partner for 4½ years. We've been through a lot together and are pretty much inseparable. He's the reason I get up each day and try and better myself. (I know, VOMIT!) He really is an amazing man, and without him I'd be a very different person. He's the rock in my life that keeps my feet firmly on the ground.



Spending time with friends, watching a movie on the couch, or chatting to some twink on grindr is my usual relaxation. I used to relax by drinking, but am very proud to say that I'm 7 months sober.

I'm a huge fan of home-cooked food! Love going to a friend's house to see what they have created, or having friends over and sharing a meal. I find it's the best way to get to know someone, and it's cheap! Movie wise, I'm a huge sci-fi nerd.

The gay scene is in a bit of transition at the moment. For ages the gay community fought to be accepted by the straight community and this is happening more and more. Because of this, a lot of the younger generation go to straight clubs rather than designated gay venues, particularly in traditionally 'gay-only' areas like Commercial Road, where the crowd has moved to other more 'mixed' areas like Collingwood and St Kilda. However, it all comes full circle in the end and with new venues like the re-made GH and DnM, it's hard to think of the gay scene as anything but robust and flourishing!

I'm planning on relocating to the UK within the next year and spend a few years travelling around Europe with a bag full of wigs. Don't worry girls you'll still be able to get your wig fix online! And in 5 years – who knows! *Hopefully I'll still be looking under 30!*

q people: with MARC J PORTER

Is Mr. Big really out there?

The signs were all there, I was in London just after Christmas enjoying the winter break, shopping and sightseeing.

I had recently chatted to a guy named Steve, in fact he worked somewhere that I dealt with in my job so it somehow seemed more safer, more real. Oops.

He sent me an sms whilst away asking me on date when I returned, I thought "why not hey" seemed like a gay idea, he seemed nice. Then we met.

On our date we saw Burlesque, terrible film, terrible date, I practically had to force conversation out of him, even though he could certainly chat online, on the phone and via sms, weird right? People seem to do so well then it comes to actually meet and they turn into mutes. I knew it wasn't me so I promptly deleted his number, blocked him on facebook and moved on, there was no way someone that could not even pretend to act interested on a first date was ever going to get more of time.

I then thought, no dating for a while, just enjoy being single. Mistake number 2, step right up Greg.

He messaged me on gaydar (my profile has been deleted now, will tell you why later). He came on so polite, refreshing, I thought "well one more date can't hurt right"? The date was wonderful, Chinese for dinner, a long walk along the Yarra on a summers evening, then he pointed out his place was not far, we walked to it and we didn't have sex, he was a bit of a gentleman, he even drove me home that night and said "If we end up getting along we should so drive to Sydney for Mardi Gras" I was swept away.

He invited me over the weekend to have lunch at his place, I was thrilled, he was cute and bit of a geeky type, cute. We had lunch, kissed and that led to his bedroom, I was up for it, and then it spoke those words that cause a gay man to shiver in fear – "Marc, I mut tell you I have a freaky penis", not the words you want to hear when you are about to do the act. It wasn't only freaky, it was a hideous sideshow freak type of penis, that made me run for the hills, there was nothing you could do with it, it was obvious he needed a certain procedure to make it look normal, not sure why he hadn't at the age of 35 but what do I know?

I couldn't, I just couldn't, not then, I'd need to psych myself up and perhaps try again a few days later, as it was getting late I made my excuses and left.

I thought about the whole night and came to conclusion, sex is fun, if I know I'm never going to be fully in it I couldn't see him again, I went to tell him I wasn't ready, turns out I didn't need to tell him, he had turned psychotic overnight, called me pushy and weird and a time waster, he got all of that from meeting me twice? Funny.

I then also deleted his number and blocked him on facebook too.

This time I was strictly going to be single for as long as I needed and was happy with this decision.

It was working fine until I got a message on gaydar – "Hi, I'm Dave, I'm at Sunshine" he was so cute, we chatted online, then met a week later, we now live together and we are getting married in New York, turns out a few bad dates makes you turn away from dating so you don't go off the market as your future husband is quietly approaching. I did find my own Mr. Big after all.



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q in-depth: with TOM McFEELY



Tom McFeely - entrepreneur, husband, rascal, publican and one of my closest friends. Since moving to Melbourne eleven years ago, Tom and I have had a strong and lasting friendship. We also started Q Magazine together and I have done various stints at working for and with him on a variety of projects.

Partly due to this relationship, but also because I feel he is a true community leader I chose him for my first in-depth interview. Below is the result of our little chat.

Let's talk about DT's firstly. Why did you decide to take on another gay venue? Are you going to make any major changes? Are you going to include DT's in the proposed gay community shareholder investments offering?

Well, with DT's it was really quite funny. Although my long term plans is to ensure that particular types of venues are secured for future generations; I wasn't planning to do something so quickly.

Basically, I got a call indicating that the pub was again on the market and after the uncertainty that has hung over the venue for over six months, I decided that some firm action was required for

both the customers and staffs sake, and I got my balls out and put them on the line.



Because it was such a sudden decision I haven't decided on the major changes yet. I believe that some changes are required to take DT's to its next 16 years, but I'll decide what they are after I've been there a wee while and also after the upcoming public offering of Community Shareholder Investments which will now include DT's.

Speaking of the new CSI, how will it work?

Although Community Shareholder Investments (CSI) will initially only include The Peel and DT's in the prospectus, I do see the public company becoming involved in not only other venues, but also other aspects of the gay community.

This concept allows everyone to own a piece of the community and have a say in what happens.

It will ultimately prevent venues being sold or closed on the whim of an owner like what we've seen in Melbourne recently.

The Peel has seemed to weathered any storm that has come its way. What do you put its continued success down to?

The Peel has now been around for 23 years. It's not all been a bed of roses, however, I believe that by listening to customers and demonstrating that we don't take their custom for granted, this has allowed us to continually be the largest purveyor of booze in the gay scene.

We're not trendy; we're not up ourselves; and neither are our customers — it's basically that simple.

The Grahams is about to launch. What can people expect on the night? When are the Grahams actually happening?

The Gay Retail and Hospitality Awards Melbourne, (the Grahams) have now been confirmed as a premier event for Midsumma 2012 on Monday 23rd January as a gala dinner down at the old Shed 14 in the docklands.

The official launch of the awards will occurs at a cocktail party with Molly Meldrum in September where politicians; notables from the gay community; the media; and potential sponsors will have the opportunity to learn more about what we're doing.

Any final thoughts you'd like to share with our Q Magazine readers?

There's been a lot of change in the community and the scene over the last few years, and I'm looking forward to see what opportunities and ideas the new generation of customers and entrepreneurs present us with.

Obviously the issue of gay marriage is something that I hope we can all get behind and support.



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q fitness: with CHRIS GREGORIOU

Spring exercises to get into shape

It's that time of year again where we are teased with hints of sun, only to remind us that spring is in the air. Before you know it, summer is here. Are you going to wait until it's beach weather then make drastic changes to your diet and exercise routine to get your beach body?

Spring is an ideal time to get into shape and design your summer body



So what type of exercises are best?

If you want to build overall strength, burn stored body fat and tone up for summer, you can't go past compound movements. These are exercise movements that utilise several joints and muscle groups at the same time.

Compound movements with weights will have you burning far more calories and increase your overall strength across your body - naturally, than cardio based exercise.

Here are a bunch of essential, simple yet very effective compound exercises to minimise your time exercising, that can deliver fast results.



1) Chin ups

One of the most challenging yet effective exercises for the growth of your back. With an overhead bar, start with your hands in an overhand grip (palms facing away from you) with hands slightly wider than shoulder width.



2) Push up

This is the opposite complement to chin ups (working the front of the body). This also works your triceps and abdomen as well as helping build on shoulder stabilisation.



Perform with your hands shoulder width apart, back straight.

3) Squat

The king of all exercises. Utilises a massive amount of muscles and joints in the body. With

this exercise alone, you will burn the most amount of calories.

Just be careful and ensure correct technique as your lower back gets a workout too.

4) Dips

Another versatile compound exercise, great for building your chest and triceps. These can be performed on the side of a chair or with parallel bars.

By using bars you are also working your core stabilisers.



5) Lunges

The queen of exercises. A must do for your legs and butt as well as building on your balance and coordination. Too many muscles get used in this exercise, even your mid section.

Start now and have the jump ahead of your friends.

With all exercises, always apply proper technique and check with your doctor before undergoing any new strenuous activity.

q circus: NICA CIRCUS AUDITIONS

"There is enough originality in presentation and personality to suggest most of the 23 talented performers will enjoy success after graduation, be it in an established company or on a tangent of their own". John Bailey, Sunday Age, review of NICA second year student production 'CODA', July 10 2011

The National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) is now inviting aspiring circus artists to submit their applications for entry into the 2012 Bachelor of Circus Arts course, with the opportunity to join the ranks of the acclaimed alumni who have passed through the institute's doors over the past 10 years.

From 10 October 2011, NICA trainers will be holding auditions in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne for entry into the course in 2012. Those with a flair for the physical and a desire for a challenge will have the opportunity to apply for this prestigious course, with successful applicants participating in the three-year full time degree, conferred by Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne.

As the only circus degree in Australia, NICA's Bachelor of Circus Arts attracts applicants from across Australia and overseas. Applicants must have completed Year 12 or equivalent to be eligible for this program.

NICA Director & CEO, Pamela Creed, says the course is a great career opportunity for those with some background in physical training such as circus, sport, dance, physical theatre, gymnastics, acrobatics, martial arts, diving or trampoline and who dream of performing. "NICA continues to strive to meet the demands of the growing contemporary circus industry both in Australia and internationally. Over the past ten years our artists have certainly made an impact on Australia's cultural landscape."

NICA graduates are highly employable, knowledgeable and creative, having gained awe-inspiring circus and performance skills through the course. Graduates have established careers in Australia and internationally in acclaimed companies including Circus Oz, Circa, No Fit State and Cirque du Soleil. Some form their own companies and tour the world to perform in prestigious festivals. Many will return to NICA in September to perform in the NICA Melbourne Circus Festival, as part of NICA's 10th Birthday celebrations. NICA is one of seven national arts training institutes and offers Australia's only Bachelor of Circus Arts.

Over 90 young people currently study at NICA's world-class facility in Melbourne, with a steely determination to graduate with a degree and a competitive advantage to perform and compete for jobs.

Entry into the 3 year Bachelor of Circus Arts Degree course in 2012 is by audition, interview and physiotherapy assessment. Applicants are required to apply for an audition via the NICA website at www.nica.com.au or by contacting NICA's Student Administrator by email info@nica.com.au or on 03 9214 6537.

Attendance in person is preferred however, applicants who live outside these cities, and are unable to attend, are eligible to apply by DVD/Video. Unsuccessful applicants will be considered for entry to the Certificate IV in Circus Arts in 2012.

Applications close on Friday 2 September 2011 for all applicants (those attending auditions and international and geographically remote applicants applying by DVD/Video).



Audition dates are as follows:

City Date Venue

Sydney Monday 10 October

Aerialize, Marrickville NSW

Brisbane Tuesday 11 October

Flipside Circus, Alderley, QUEENSLAND

Melbourne Thursday 13 & Friday 14 October

National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA), Prahran, VICTORIA



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q win: MY BIRTHDAY GIFTS TO YOU



Marten Weber

No doubt you have heard of Giacomo Casanova, the famous seducer of countless women, and maybe you've seen the movie, or read the account of his life. But did you know he had a gay brother?

Benedetto, a few years Giacomo's junior, was pressed into service of the church, to follow his brother through Europe. On the way he had amorous adventures with hot men, but, unlike his sibling, fell quickly in love and kept alive a romantic relationship with a strapping German soldier over time and distance. Benedetto Casanova's "memoirs" were only discovered in 1881, when an English traveler rummaging through a private library in Rome found them glued to the pages of a book. Originally written in Italian, they have never before been published in English. Marten Weber delivers a wonderful "translation" of this challenging text, full of linguistic cunning and his usual talent for breathtaking eroticism.

Weber has created an epic adventure of espionage, friendship and love across time and space. The novel is full of historical detail, fascinating characters, and gorgeous men. Benedetto Casanova is a traveler, poet, philosopher, musician, linguist, diplomat, spy, pioneering philanthropist, but above all, an adorable power bottom no man could say no to.

Weber is himself an openly gay man (see Q Feature this month) who lives a romantic life with his husband in Europe and Asia. He has published two story collections ("Hoppa" and "A Stranger in Triva", a comic novella telling us about America's first gay wedding ("The Unbelievably Curious Case of Jeremiah Hudgejaw") and of course his acclaimed 2010 debut novel "Shayno", the story of a erotically charged and ultimately doomed friendship across the gay-straight divide. For more info go to: www.martenweber.com

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BOQARI

BOQARI Seamless are woven on Italian Jacquard machines using an ultra soft, comfortable, body hugging nylon blend. Seamless knitting technology weaves the garment in a seamless circle, meaning there are no front, back, or side seams. This range is quite frankly some of the most comfortable underwear I have ever worn. You can see the full range of products available (including some men's products such as cuff links and the like) at www.boqari.com and I highly recommend you do.

Underwear: Jamaica Mesh - The Jamaica Mesh feature a revealing mesh pattern on the back and sides for an ultra sexy, athletic look that is also amazing to touch. Unisex. **Argyle** - The Argyle Seamless Underwear feature a compelling two toned argyle pattern that looks hot over body curves. Unisex. **Square Jacquard** - The Square Jacquard Seamless Underwear feature a subtle raised diamond knit for a sexy, elegant look that also has great tactile appeal. Unisex. Also available as a yoga model, featuring an expanded crotch for more support and coverage during stretching. **Square Mesh** - The Square Mesh Italian knit brief features BOQARI's checkered mesh pattern on the back and side with a subtle, vertically paneled solid front. **BQ Signature Mesh** - The BOQARI Signature Mesh Italian knit brief features a bold BOQARI logo in a fine mesh weave across the back and sides for a sporty, sexy look.



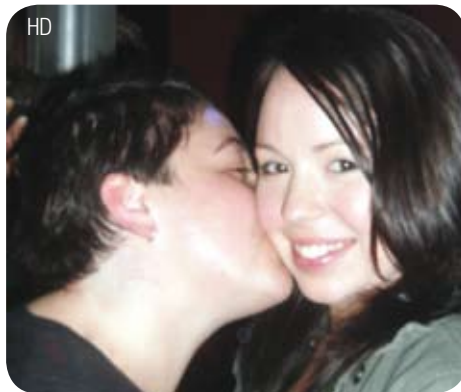
Tanks: BQ Flow Tank - The mesh stripe tank features alternating mesh and ribbed stripes with a subtle jacquard logo panel across the chest. sporty and sexy! **Q Tank** - features a mesh Q crown in front, sporty mesh panel sides, and a BOQARI logo down the back. A very powerful, athletic feel.



Email getfree@qmagazine.com.au with **BOQARI** in the subject line for your chance to win one of four fabulous underpants and one tank top we have to give away. Get those fingers working - you will LOVE these!

* 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 scene: **OUT & ABOUT**



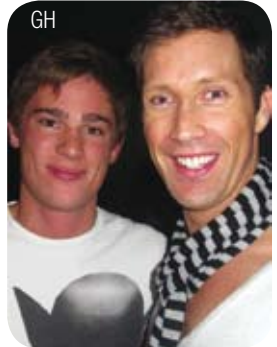


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q scene: OUT AND ABOUT



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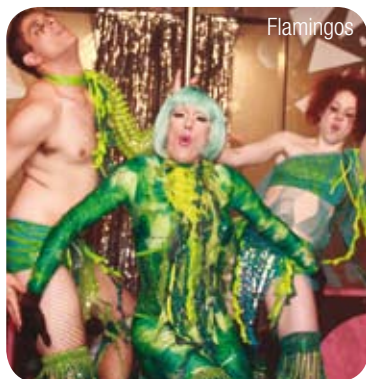
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q travel: with BARRIE MAHONEY

'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.



It's Hot Up My Barranco!

"Phew, it's hot up my barranco today, darling," gasped Miranda as she staggered down the street carrying two large and heavy bags of clattering bottles from the local supermarket. Before you get too carried away by imagining a doctor about to don a pair of surgical gloves

for some emergency female probing, I should explain that Miranda is one of the village's more colourful characters. She is a school assistant in one of the less classy private schools by day and a tattooist by night. I once asked if there was any conflict of interest between her two jobs. She screeched loudly in my ear, before resting her mug of gin on top of my car.

"No, not at all, darling. It's a great way to help the kids with their reading."

I must have looked puzzled, as I thought I knew a thing or two about teaching children to read, and she seemed to read my thoughts.

"You see, I have all the letters of the alphabet tattooed all over my body somewhere, so I use those to help children to read. If it's Tina the Tiresome Transvestite we are reading, I just point out this letter "T" on my arm and then we find the picture of the Tina on my back. Easy, the kids love it."

"So you have all the letters and associated pictures somewhere on your body?"

"Oh, yes, darling, but I should say that some are more difficult to find than others. We tend to keep off the "Y" and "Z" words otherwise I would get the sack, darling. If you know what I mean!" She guffawed loudly, as she nudged me in the ribs and winked knowingly.

I think you are probably getting the idea of what Miranda is like. A lovely lady, but back in the UK I would be surprised if she had a job. However, over here, I am much more open-minded.

As Miranda dropped her bags by my front gate and she propped herself on my parked car, she watched what I was doing with some amusement. I stopped washing the hedge (actually it is one of those plastic ones, but I do like to freshen it up a bit from time to time) and it is always a good opportunity to remove the crisp packets and condoms from its branches.

"You are home early today. Is everything alright?"

"Darling, it's the heat. It is just so hot. I tell you, darling, it was 41°C up my barranco at lunchtime. It was just too much darling. We sent the little dears home early, because they were just fading away.

I tried to imagine Miranda's boisterous pupils fading away and thought it highly unlikely. We have a number of calimas, although some people call them siroccos, on the islands each year, and the islands are generally conditioned to withstand them, and it is the expats who suffer.

They can be a little unpleasant for a few days, bringing with them very high temperatures from Africa and the Sahara. In my own village, when the wind disappears, it is a case of staying inside as much as possible with air-conditioning on and plenty of cool drinks.

These heat waves can occur at any time during the year, but they are less common during the cooler months.

Miranda's school is situated in a barranco, a Spanish word for ravine. Some would say that was a foolish place to build it, because of potential sudden rainstorms, but I guess the land was cheap. Anyway, I suspect it was built to withstand the heat and would have air conditioning installed as essential.

"I was pleased to get home early, darling. I needed to get ready for the bonfire this evening."

"Bonfire? In this heat!" I exclaimed.

"Darling, tomorrow is the Festival of St John the Baptist. A most important religious festival! You mustn't miss that. We are having a bonfire party tonight to celebrate. Not here you understand, but outside Telde. It's traditional you know, darling. You really must come. You don't have to be a Catholic, just bring a bottle!"

So there we have it. We are in the middle of a calima where daytime temperatures are around 40°C, in the shade, and the good people of Telde are planning a bonfire party to celebrate St John the Baptist.

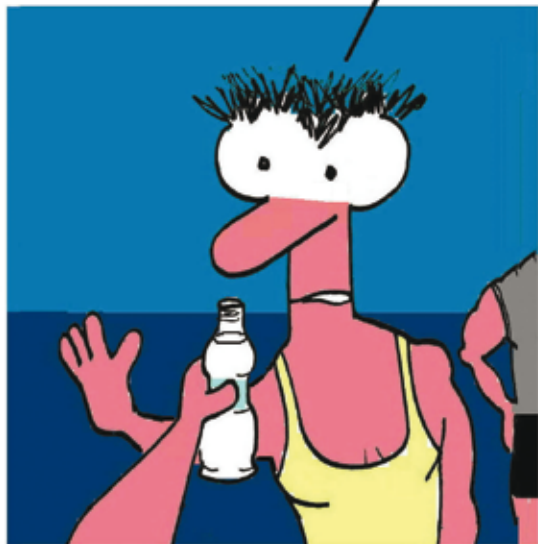
The activities on this island never cease to surprise me.

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

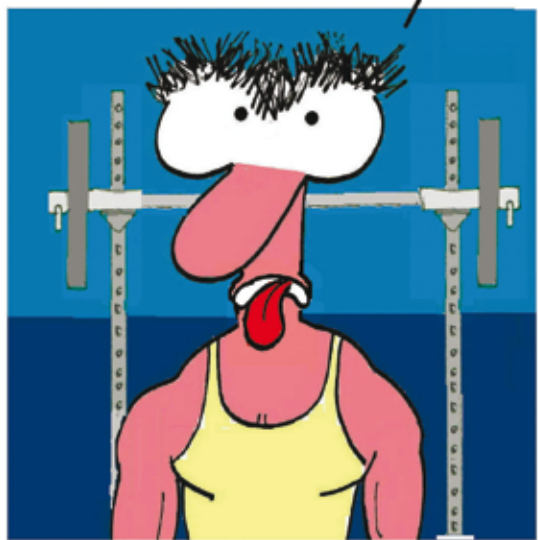
Drink water from a **PLASTIC** bottle? Are you nuts, Gaylord?



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