



JULY 2012

Q MAGAZINE

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featuring
BAAN SOUY RESORT
a special Pattaya Thailand issue

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q comment: GALTA SAYS:

ONGOING debate over the topic of 'gay marriage' in Australia may confound at the divide it seems to represent from the broad social realities of today, where the question of sexual orientation has almost become 'ho-hum', but it also reinforces the importance of a clear voice and collective message in representing the unique needs of the gay and lesbian community, which embraces the broader LGBTI groups.

Travel is a good case-in-point. Gay and lesbian travellers visit the same places and seek the same holiday benefits as all travellers do, but there are also distinctive needs that still define this arena as a niche segment of the market.

According to Mr Rod Stringer, Managing Director of peak industry membership body, Gay and Lesbian Tourism Australia (GALTA), there is a continuing role for specific marketing and representation that is focussed on connecting travellers to the right hosts, as well as working to improve awareness of the nuances within the niche.

"While pride or community events are popular travel motivators for the gay and lesbian community, all travellers share a universal desire to explore new destinations and to feel welcome and comfortable while on holiday," Mr Stringer said.

For gay and lesbian travellers this can still be a challenge if confronted with a business owner that is not comfortable or not aware of how to cater appropriately. The most common example here is the offer of twin beds to a same-sex couple checking in to a hotel."

Mr Stringer said that one of the key roles of GALTA was to circumvent situations such as this by connecting welcoming tourism businesses to gay and lesbian travellers.

Guided by a voluntary Board of tourism and travel professionals, including accommodation managers, IT professionals and the travel trade, GALTA services its members through promotions at major national pride events, regular email communications to a database of close to 2,000 subscribers and via its comprehensive website, optimised by an active social media strategy.

For more details on GALTA, become a member or subscribe to its monthly newsletter go to www.galta.com.au. Q Magazine is a proud member of GALTA.



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



q feature: **BAAN SOUY RESORT**

In July last year I had the great opportunity to visit the (then) unfinished new project of Jim Lumsden and Gordon May. Almost smack bang in the middle of Pattaya and Jomtien Beach, Baan Souy Resort is a true oasis. I then re-visited the property (as a guest) in May this year - much to my absolute delight.

From the moment you arrive, the resort embraces you and makes you feel the most relaxed you have ever been in your life - at least that was certainly my experience. It was on this trip that I decided to dedicate this issue to Baan Souy Resort and beautiful Pattaya, Thailand. You really will NOT be disappointed. My interview with Jim is below.

Baan Souy Resort 3089/3 Moo 10, Soi 15 Thappraya Road Pattaya 20150 Thailand
Tel.: +6638364580/1, Fax: +6638252168 E-Mail: info@baansouy.com www.baansouyresort.com

Where do you hail from, when did you move to Pattaya and why?

From Falkirk, Scotland and after coming here on holiday a few times with my Partner Gordon just knew its where we wanted to be and so we have now been here 25 years.

You were instrumental in the building of Boyztown. Why did you believe Pattaya needed such an area?

Well at first we only thought about opening our own club and it was only once we opened, and a couple of other bars came along we realised the street could be banded as a major destination. More and more tourist were already visiting Pattaya and the street being a semi private area just seemed to work.

Your new resort is simply stunning. Where did the idea come from / why did you build it?

Initially it was our home and was surrounded by derelict property. So we decided to try and purchase them. It took a year to do that and then we thought we would build an apartment block - but once we started we knew it had to be a resort. And I guess the pool being the main focus point it just had to be a resort.



Who is welcome at Baan Souy Resort and what can a guest expect to find at the resort?

We want Baan Souy to be a Gay Resort and our guest are mainly Gay. But we are straight friendly, as we find that more Gay and Straight friends are travelling together. This is a sign of times as the young people nowadays don't have the hang ups that we faced in our youth.

The Resort has 34 Suites and Apartments all with kitchenettes, microwave, tea & coffee facilities, large flat screen TV and DVD, electric safes, and extra large showers in the ensuite shower rooms. We have a 24 hour coffee shop, fully equipped gymnasium and business centre. We can arrange transport to and from the airport or Bangkok.

And we now have a Tuk Tuk to transport the guest to the beach or downtown (for a small charge).

What is it about Pattaya that attracts so many people each year?

I think because it offers a wide range of entertainment, the men are gorgeous as are the ladies. A huge range dining places from fast food to 5 Star fine dining and all at a reasonable cost. Only wine can be expensive due to the import taxes. We have the most glamorous cabaret shows and the most beautiful lady boys.

If you're a sports fan, there are lots on offer: tennis; watersports; and great golf courses - if you're a golfer.

But mostly the freedom to just be yourself.

Where do you see yourself in five years from now?

Hopefully I'll still be doing exactly what I'm doing right now. Running my club and doing my weekly show. And right here at Baan Souy taking care of my friends and guests in my own little piece of paradise.



BAN
Souy



q lifestyle: with PETE DILLON

I am not a big fan of chocolate - there, I said it! It's not something I crave nor do I get excited by it. But, I am in a minority. More and more chocolatiers and chocolate based businesses are popping up in cities and towns across this wide brown land. I know many people, and this includes a great many of my GLBT mates who love chocolate.

So, I decided to do some research on chocolate. It is an aphrodisiac apparently and when made well can be an amazing sensory experience.

My research suggests that chocolate was originally used more than 2,500 years ago, beginning in Central America. The Mayan civilisation considered Cacao to be a divine gift and so, it was held in high regard. It was used ceremoniously and sometimes as a form of currency. The name 'Cacao' is a Maya word meaning 'god food' which after being introduced to Europe in the 16th century, formed the basis of the Latin name for the Cacao tree 'Theobroma Cacao' meaning 'food for the gods'. It is thought that the word 'cocoa' has come about through a miss-spelling of 'cacao.'

The name chocolate comes from the Aztec word xocolatl meaning bitter water. Not surprising, considering they made a drink, by mixing cacao beans with chillies, achiote, cornmeal, and some reports suggest the inclusion hallucinogenic Mushrooms (probably helped to get over the taste).

More than 66 percent of the world's cacao is produced in Africa and 98 percent of the world's cocoa is produced by just 15 countries.

It is observed that chocolate cravings cannot be satisfied by any sweet/candy other than chocolate itself (no surprises there).

Chocolate produces the effects of a mild anti-depressant by increasing serotonin and endorphin levels in the brain. This could explain its aphrodisiac tendencies?

Chocolate contains a small quantity of caffeine and this emulates a mild amphetamine.

Chocolate can also be used as a cosmetic! Cocoa butter is a by-product produced from the crushing of roasted cacao beans, and although used in the chocolate making process, it is also used in a number of cosmetic products including massage oils and skin cosmetics. It is one of the most stable, highly concentrated natural fats known.

The biggest chocolate structure ever made was a 4,484lb, 10 foot tall, Easter egg, made in right here in Melbourne.

Napoleon always carried chocolate with him, which he ate as a pick-me-up whenever he needed an energy boost. (and we all thought he bought it for Josephine...).

To enjoy some amazing chocolatey experiences, check out Haighs. They have a long history of producing great chocolate here in Australia.

For something a little more... sensual, look for chocolates made by Just Sweets in Altona. I have it on good authority that their rocky road is amazing.

The Margaret River Chocolate Company produces the best in the west! Savour Chocolate and Patisserie in Brunswick runs all manner of chocolate classes. Koko Black has stores across the Melbourne CBD and there are boutique outlets like Ganache on Toorak Road, South Yarra. Cacao has 5 stores across Melbourne and the sweet toothed other half loves their products most of all.

Oh and drink a dark beer like stout with chocolate or a jolly good glass of red wine. You will be indulging with something healthy at the same time.

For more food and wine discussions tune in to Cravings every Saturday from 1-2pm on Joy 94.9.



q acting: RED STITCH

To open their second season for 2012, Red Stitch presents the Australian premiere of *The Pride*, a brilliantly crafted, time shifting exploration of sexual freedoms then and now, by acclaimed British playwright Alexi Kaye Campbell (*Apologia*).

It's 1958. Phillip is married to Sylvia, and finds himself in a destructive state of denial when he falls in love with another man. Five decades later, modern day Phillip, in an openly gay relationship, struggles with his partner's infidelities. Both Phillips are trapped in a world of lovelessness and heartbreak. In an era of supposed sexual liberation, what are the new challenges for homosexual men?



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q money: with EVAN DAVIS

"Thank you for buying and NEVER Come again", smiled the market store owner. She then shook the 300 Thai Baht she'd taken from me over her remaining stock before tapping the cash on a miniature statue of Buddha and then into her apron pocket. I was at 'Chatuchak' markets in Bangkok.

Not a traditional end to a retail purchase, but hey, when in Thailand right? It would seem that my silk scarf was the first sale she'd made that night.

This time, my 'skill' in the finer arts of negotiation and bargaining had nothing to do with her giving away this particular merchandise. For this Buddhist scarf merchant, she perceived my transaction as a necessary investment in some good luck for the rest of night's trade. Spending your money and shopping in Thailand is great fun though there are a few pit falls for the first time traveller.

If you find yourself in one of the many air conditioned six star shopping malls expect a fairly western experience. You'll find all the big international 'ultra-luxy' brands and the prices will largely be non-negotiable.

Shopping on the streets or at the markets is an entirely different proposition. Here bargaining is king and you might find the purchasing process quite different.

Looking is free as the merchants will tell you and asking the price is expected. Though if you ask, then start bargaining the merchant in most cases will assume that they have made a sale and all that is left to do is work out the price.

You can be perceived as rude if you then back out of the sale having sparred with the vendor on price. As a general rule only start bargaining if you really want the item. When haggling, if you can get a quarter to a third off the price you have usually bought fairly. I also found when negotiating on low cost items, T-shirts, hats, fake brand items, etc and particularly at the street markets the first quote on price will be greatly exaggerated. A smile and a polite laugh at what is obviously a tourist price will usually see the price lowered dramatically.

Have fun bargaining, but always be courteous. The Thai are very polite people. I have always found them to be honest too. My partner left his ATM card in a machine only to have a Thai girl charge down the street to return it to him! On that note ATMS are everywhere and probably the easiest way to get cash while travelling. Look into the 'ING Orange Everyday Account' for cash while away. I found their international fees to be low and the conversions favourable.

If you are sartorially minded getting a bespoke suite made is loads of fun. I love having my suits and business shirts made for me by Bobby at Raja's fashions in Sukhumvit, Bangkok. Tell them I sent you and you are sure to be looked after.

Visit www.rajasfashions.com for more information.

Thailand is a great country to shop and while the Aussie dollar is strong it is a superb destination. Try the street food while there and also make sure the Cab or Tut-Tut driver turns the metre on!



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Buying a Franchised Business

Franchising is big business in Australia. It is estimated that there are approximately 1200 different franchise systems. The industry employs about 750,000 people, and has annual revenue of around \$130 billion dollars. Australia is now one of the most heavily franchised nations on the earth.

So, what is franchising? Franchising is a business model whereby the franchisor grants the franchisee the right to operate a business utilising a trade name and business system. Some common examples include La Porchetta, Beacon Lighting, and Mortgage Choice. The franchisor usually exercises a high degree of control over the franchisee through established management, marketing and operating procedures.

In most instances, franchisors directly or indirectly collect payments from franchisees for the right to use their brand and to participate in their system. Franchise fees can range in price (for up-front franchise fees and set-up) from as little as \$5,000 to as much as \$1 million, or more. Typically, franchisees are also required to pay ongoing fees (or royalties) for franchise support, which may be a fixed monthly amount, or calculated as a percentage of turnover.

The purchase of a franchised business is different to the purchase of a non-franchised business due to the operation of the franchise agreement and the Franchising Code of Conduct (Code). This is a mandatory industry code that has the force of law under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (the Act).

Under the Code, franchisees are provided with various protections in relation to disclosure, terms that must be included in the franchise agreement (as well as prohibited terms), cooling off rights and dispute resolution procedures. The franchise agreement and the Code will determine how the transaction is conducted and, in fact, whether it can proceed at all.

Before you commit to purchasing that new McDonalds down the road, you should consider the following:-

- Has the franchisor been in business for a reasonable period of time?
- How much are the weekly/monthly royalties? Are they a percentage of purchases or gross revenue? A higher fee does not necessarily represent a better offering.
- How long is the franchise term for and can it be renewed?
- Is the landlord requiring you to enter into a lease or a license agreement for the premises?
- Has the franchisor's brand been established, trademarked and protected?
- What administration and management support will the Franchisor provide?
- Is there wide public awareness and acceptance of the product or service? You should avoid businesses in declining markets and "fads".
- Is there a detailed Operations Manual and on-line support for you as a franchisee?
- Will you receive a Territory and will it be exclusive?

The decision to own and operate a business generally represents a major financial and legal decision. As such, you are encouraged to do your own research, speak with other franchisees in the system, and consult with your accountant / business advisor and lawyer before you commit yourself.

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q youth: with TASMAN ANDERSON

"Stress is the trash of modern life – we all generate it but if you don't dispose of it properly, it will pile up and overtake your life." – Danzae Pace

After almost four years writing for Q magazine, I'm surprised I've never once focused on the issues that keep a lot of us awake at night, silently hoping that when we do eventually fall asleep we won't wake up in the morning. Yep, I'm talking about stress.

I never really saw stress as a bad thing when I was younger. It was the motivation that pushed me to get through a never ending pile of assignments and to write my articles day after day. However, when I finally entered university and became an adult I suddenly found myself stuck in a tight hold that no matter what I did I couldn't escape.

It all started earlier this year when I had decided to take on an extra uni course so I could graduate early. It was going to be an extra bit of work but that was okay with me. However, what seemed like a little bit of extra work turned into weekly exams and group activities. Shortly after that, my boss left and was replaced by a young, dedicated and eager lady. Things began to change at my workplace and what I had already been taught was now incorrect. Once again that added a little more stress that I had not bargained for. Still, I refused to believe that anything was out of my control. Soon I had a disagreement with a mate and moved out of my home and into the downstairs unit. It seemed like within a few months, I went from living a semi boring life to having so many responsibilities and adjustments to make that I couldn't breathe.

I knew then that things weren't as simple as they were before but I refused to accept defeat. I began to lose more and more sleep each night until eventually I wasn't sleeping at all. I developed dermatitis around my eye lids from repetitive scratching. My hands started to shake and my thoughts were going a hundred miles an hour. I began to worry about absolutely everything and as the assignments piled up, I began to worry about not only the normal things but even the insignificant issues like whether I was going to be on time or what someone was thinking. It wasn't until I started having suicidal thoughts that I decided to see the doctor. She revealed that my blood pressure was almost the same as a forty year old woman's and that if I didn't get a handle on things; I would most likely have a heart attack. In that moment, I realised that I couldn't keep putting myself through constant stress without the possibility that I could die. I needed to start acting my age; I needed to be nineteen again.

I know many of you would see this as a trivial problem and believe me I did too. I thought anyone who would let stress get to them like that were weak and unfocused. I was thinking exactly the same thing many of you are right now but after going through it myself, I keep thinking how horrible it must feel for people who run companies, have money troubles or lose a family member. Stress is one of the most deadly and silent killers around. It manages to reduce even the most powerful people into high strung and overly emotional beings. I often see stress as a type of weight that keeps pushing more and more pressure onto you until all that's left to do is cry. I'm sure many of you feel nothing but stress and anxiety when it comes to your private lives. Nothing can be more suffocating than having feelings for the same sex but not being able to express it. I recently met a girl who found out she was a lesbian years ago but felt the need to date men in order to please her friends and family.

I could sit here and tell you to be yourselves and be happy but I know it's not always that easy. All I can say to you is remember that in the end, none of this will really matter.

The opinions of your friends and family will amount to absolutely nothing compared to the type of person you'll be in the future. If you sit down and really think about it, all that stress you are feeling is really all for nothing in the grand scheme of things.



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q cuisine: with NATHAN MILLER

During these cold winter months, I usually find myself daydreaming of warm sandy beaches, sensational spicy food and relaxing where you don't require three layers of clothing. As my Thailand adventure is still weeks away, this month I ventured to find the freshest and best value Thai food in Melbourne.

Wicked Thai in South Yarra is a fairly new establishment located on Toorak Road, and with a perfect carpark, I entered a warm, cosy and very inviting establishment. The delightful Jason welcomed me into his neatly appointed establishment and after some quick introductions, I was settled into the warmer part of the restaurant.

I must say, this is not your usual décor for a Thai Restaurant. The furnishings resembled a classy café with mixed chairs, funky wall prints and non-authentic black and white themed wall paper. The seating arrangement was clever, and with a soft background of classical music I was really looking forward to what the chef had planned for the evening.

After a bottle of wine was ordered and some discussion had about the chef's recommendations, we began to get quite excited. The menu was simple, yet very effective, with the option of designing your own food options for the evening. You could be very outlandish or quite reserved with your menu design, but as in most cases I decided to select one dish and the chef choose the other.

So it was the Goon Yang (BBQ prawn) and the Crying tiger for entrée. Ordering an item called the crying tiger, and I had the Kleenex at the ready, but this marinated soy beef dish was very delicate, the special sauce gave the tender beef strips a unique touch and was not the hot ring burner I was expecting. The Goon Yang on the other hand had hot and salty riches, with a spicy lemon grass and chilli dipping sauce; these skewered prawns had a KAPOW effect on the pallet.

So with the entrée cleared, I resorted to being a sticky beak, and without being too obvious, I managed to hear some impressive reviews and comments from the other dinners about their dishes. This is always re-affirming, especially with my limited Thai food knowledge.



Awaiting the Pad Ped Moo Grob (Pork Belly Stirfry) and the Gaeng Daeng Ped (Duck Curry) I wasn't sure I was going to be able to squeeze all this amazing food in. But with another glass of wine, I decided I would be fine and that even if I had to roll out the door I was also going to try some dessert.

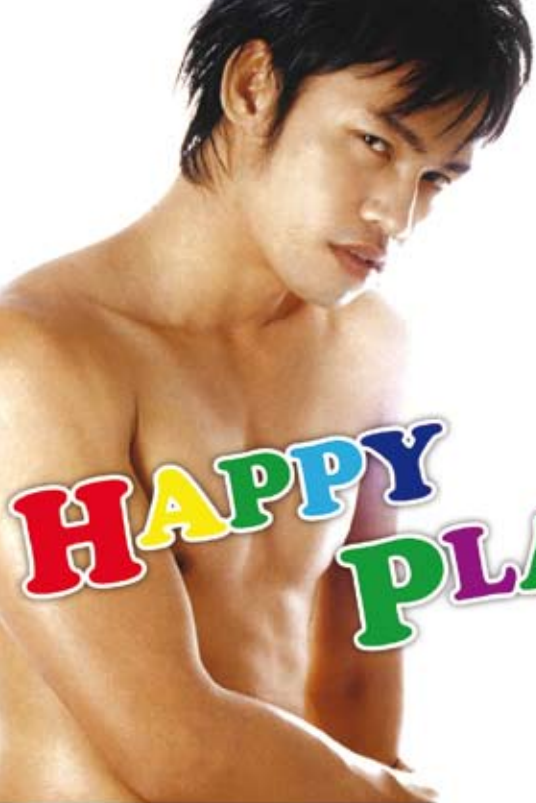
The first to arrive was the Pad Ped Moo Grob, and to this day I have yet to see fresher Asian food served, the pork was crispy, the vegetables were cooked perfectly to the point where you could still taste the veg and not be over powered by the sauce. This colourful, spicy, yet sweet dish sat perfectly on my palate and had the genuine flavours of what Thai food should taste like. The flavour of the Thai basil and the richness of the chilli paste was an amazing blend of characteristics.

With the duck curry sitting patiently on my table, I was not prepared for what happened next. Ordering this curry I was expecting my head to be blown off with hotness, but I was amazed at the great balance of chilli, ginger and the BBQ flavours of the duck. The pineapple contributed to the sweetness of this dish, and with the garden fresh vegetables, it was certainly a hit.

OK so I couldn't finish each dish due to the volume of food I had consumed so far, and being a sweet tooth, I was saving some room for the dessert.

At this stage I could have rolled out the front door very content, but as the Taro Ice Cream and the Roti with Condensed milk and sugar arrived, I got just a little excited. I have tried taro chips before and a taro dessert in coconut milk, but never taro Ice-cream. There was a slight sesame and nutty taste to this smooth and delicate dessert. It was a fantastic compliment to the Roti with its simple dressing of condensed milk and sugar. The dessert was a great finish to an awesome selection of well prepared, amazingly cooked and brilliantly styled Thai dishes.

Wicked Thai is great for singles; small groups and can cater for larger groups in the semi-divided dining room. Open for dinner 7 nights a week. They have a BYO license as the selection of wine available is minimal. Wicked Thai, on my *to visit again real soon* list. For more restaurant reviews, wine blogs, and general shenanigans visit www.ramblingrelish.wordpress.com or www.wickedthai.com.au



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q tour: CIRQUE DU SOLEIL OVO

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL RETURNS TO AUSTRALIA WITH A NEW BIG TOP PRODUCTION
OVO

A teeming world of insects

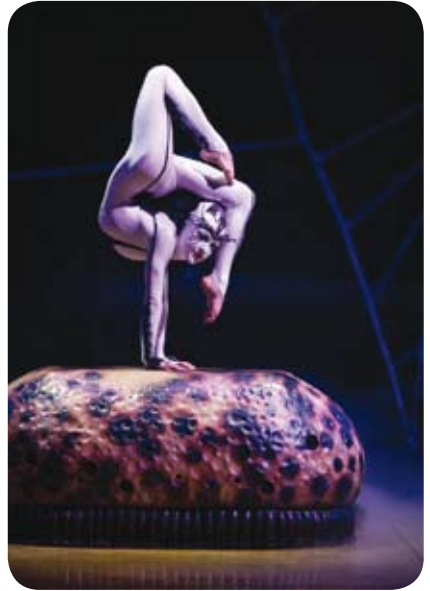


Cirque du Soleil is thrilled to return to Australia with its critically-acclaimed and family friendly big top production OVO with a 2012-2013 national tour that will include Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne and Perth. The show will be presented under the trademark blue-and-yellow Grand Chapiteau (big top).

Since its world premiere in Montreal, Canada in April 2009, OVO has visited more than 15 cities in Canada, United States and Mexico, delighting over 2 million spectators. The Australian tour will be the first time OVO has toured outside North America.

OVO, meaning "egg" in Portuguese, is a headlong rush into a colorful ecosystem teeming with life, where insects work, eat, crawl, flutter, play, fight and look for love in a non-stop riot of energy and movement. When a mysterious egg appears in their midst, the insects are awestruck and intensely curious about this iconic object that represents the enigma and cycles of their lives. It is love at first sight when a gawky, quirky insect arrives in this bustling community and a fabulous ladybug catches his eye – and the feeling is mutual.

The cast of OVO is comprised of 55 performing artists from 14 countries specializing in many acrobatic acts. One highlight of OVO is the stunning Flying Act in which a group of scarabs soar high above the stage, from both edges to the middle landing on a platform. This breathtaking act combines many circus disciplines: banquine, Russian swing and swinging chair. The Creative Team behind the world of OVO is: Artistic Guides Guy Laliberté and Gilles Ste-Croix; Writer, Director and Choreographer Deborah Colker (first female director at Cirque du Soleil); Director of Creation Chantal Tremblay; Set and props Designer Gringo Cardia; Costume Designer Liz Vandal; Composer and Musical Director Berna Ceppas; Lighting Designer Éric Champoux; Sound Designer Jonathan Deans; Acrobatic Equipment and Rigging Designer Fred Gérard; Acrobatic Performance Designer Philippe Aubertin; and Makeup Designer Julie Bégin.



Cirque du Soleil gratefully acknowledges the official sponsors of the OVO 2012-2013 Australian tour: Infiniti and American Express®.

From a group of 20 street performers at its beginnings in 1984, Cirque du Soleil is a major Québec-based organization providing high-quality artistic entertainment. The company has 5,000 employees, including more than 1,300 artists from more than 50 different countries. Cirque du Soleil has brought wonder and delight to more than 100 million spectators in more than 300 cities in over forty countries on six continents. Cirque du Soleil International Headquarters are in Montreal, Canada.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL - OVO - 2012/2013 AUSTRALIAN TOUR

Brisbane - From July 14 2012, Northshore Hamilton

Sydney - From September 13 2012, Showing at The Entertainment Quarter, Moore Park

Adelaide - From December 6 2012, Tambawodli (Park 24)

Melbourne - From January 17 2013, Melbourne Docklands

Perth - From April 14 2013, Langley Park

Tickets for OVO are on sale now at cirquedusoleil.com/ovo

q comedy: **SHE'S COMING BACK**

FOX IN THE SNOW PRESENTS PAM ANN AROUND THE WORLD

Buckle Up Australia! Adventure Calls bitches! It's time to shut the FK up, sit the F**K down and get ready for take off. PAM ANN is touching down in her native Australia with a BRAND NEW SHOW this August and she means business (class) - like a boomerang, she keeps coming back!**

Pam Ann, the alter ego of Australian comedian Caroline Reid, will be taking Australian audiences on a wildcat journey in **AROUND THE WORLD**, her first tour since a completely **SOLD OUT** run in 2010. From boarding to landing, First Class, Business or up the back in 'Cattle', prepare to be flown like you've never been flown before.

Guiding you through the conundrums of air travel, Pam Ann skewers the quirks of some of the biggest international airlines and mixes in a stiff cocktail of camp and humour, mining the dark side of fabulous. Her non-stop barrage of up-to-the-minute airborne satire will blow you away like only the Virgin Australia boys can!! No nuances of air travel escape her contempt; no airline will be safe from her scathing attack.



Pam Ann is the creation of Australian stand up comedian Caroline Reid whose humour has been likened to that of Lenny Bruce. Reid has toured the world with her portrayal of the outrageous airhostess. Pam has also featured in advertising campaigns for British Airways and Sky Team. She is the celebrity spokeswoman of Sky Team Terminal 4 at Heathrow; featured on all in-flight video programming and seen on CNN and CNBC. Pam has also appeared in promotions for KLM/Air France, JetBlue, Lufthansa, British Airways, Qantas in-flight programming, SAS and even the low cost carrier EasyJet use her videos in their training.

In Australia, Pam Ann starred in her own television talk show, The Pam Ann Show on FOXTEL. She has twice hosted Australia's live broadcast of Mardi Gras that aired to over two million households. Miss her brand new live show **AROUND THE WORLD** this August at your peril - like a kangaroo or an ostrich, she's forever moving forward (you try walking backwards in a pair of Christian Louboutin pumps!). For more information visit Pam Ann online at www.pamann.com

NATIONAL TOUR DATES

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Book at BASS 131 246 or www.bass.net.au

SYDNEY THE STATE THEATRE FRI 3 AUGUST, 8:00PM

Book at Ticketmaster 136 100 or www.ticketmaster.com.au SAT 4 AUGUST, 8:00PM

BRISBANE POWERHOUSE THEATRE THU 9 – SAT 11 AUGUST, 8:00PM SUN 12 AUGUST, 7:00PM

Book at Brisbane Powerhouse 07 3358 8600 or www.brisbanepowerhouse.org

DARWIN DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE TUE 14 AUGUST, 8:00PM

Book at www.darwinfestival.org.au or 08 8943 4222 WED 15 AUGUST, 8:00PM

MELBOURNE THE ATHENAEUM FRI 17 AUGUST, 8:00PM

Book at Ticketek 132 849 or www.ticketek.com.au SAT 18 AUGUST, 8:00PM

PERTH THE ASTOR FRI 24 AUGUST, 8:00PM

Book at BOCS Ticketing 08 9484 1133 or www.bocsticketing.com.au SAT 25 AUGUST, 8:00PM

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q accomm: THE AMBIANCE PATTAYA



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q drag: AIDA

Aida has been performing for over 15 years. Much of that time was spent in Melbourne performing at the Star and Opium Den Hotels. Now based in Sydney, Alan Mayberry asked Aida about life today.

I guess I was always destined to travel, being born in Berlin where mum and dad, who were high school lovers, went to university. They were married while living over there and then out I popped. Technically German was my first language, but after kindergarten we moved back to our home country, Indonesia.

Most of my younger years were spent growing up in Jakarta. I was always one of the top students in the class, however as I grew older, I became less and less interested in academic subjects. The dramatic arts beckoned and the more memorable moments for me were competing in the interstate school choir tournament and the odd play here and there.

During my high school years I acquired a new passion: ice-skating. I took it pretty seriously. In fact, I represented Indonesia once in a competition in Singapore (I've always had this fantasy of doing a show called *Aida on Ice* – now that's speaking of taking drag shows to the next level ha!) Final years of high school, however, left me no choice but to give up all the 'fun' stuff, as I needed to focus on getting into top universities abroad.

I moved to Melbourne to study in 1998 and 3 years later I graduated from The University of Melbourne with a Bachelor degree in Information Systems. (What was I thinking?) I spent so much time in front of computers during the day and it was only being on stage at nights and on weekends that kept my sanity!

I remember going out every week to watch PZR perform at 3 Faces. Paris, Zowie and Rita were such an inspiration: the costumes, the sets, the creativity – it was my kind of show. That was my first introduction to drag.

As much as I enjoyed watching drag shows I used to tell myself I would never do drag. Ever! Well, what did I know? One day it was truth or dare, next day it was my flatmate and I in purple party wigs and skimpy frocks from Footscray Market performing a duet upstairs at 3 Faces, hosted by Tabitha Turlington. We got giggles from the crowd, more likely not for the right reasons, but we didn't care because we had fun. I hope I have destroyed all evidence of our performance that night! But boy, hopefully I did get better.

This eventually led to my first paid drag gig at the Star Hotel in Hoddle Street. Fritz Maaten trusted me with hosting Wednesday nights, which very quickly became my favourite night of the week. It was also there where I met Tom Robb. He came backstage one night and introduced himself after seeing me performing on stage. When he took over the Star Hotel and turned it into Opium Den he kept me in charge of shows.

I enjoyed every moment performing in various clubs across Australia but I have to say my favorite performances would have to be *Drag Me Back to Vegas* at the 2003 Rainbow Awards (that number produced by Tom Robb and Luis Moreno) and *25th Red Raw Party* in 2007. To have been invited to perform with an all-star cast was a recognition and acknowledgement of my contribution to Melbourne's drag scene. And may I say, to perform in front of thousands of party goers was an indescribable feeling!

I have so many drag role models. Where do I start? PZR – I have nothing but pure admiration for them. Mitzi Mackintosh, who combines theatre and comedy and makes it pure entertainment! Régime, who can pick any random song and freestyle it and by the end of the number it's become one of my favorite songs – that's the impact she had on me. And then there's the other drag queens who have mentored me along the way: Dulcie Du Jour, Jennifer Ann Wells, Vicki Vegas, Candi Stratton, my drag sisters Monique and Suzanna, and last but not least Mama Shireen (Shireen Sequin), who nurtured all the baby drags at Star Hotel and Opium Den.

Aida has a weakness for comedy numbers, especially ones from musicals. Some of her signature numbers were *I Can't Do It Alone* (Chicago) and the Thai version of *I Will Survive* – the latter is pure campness!

In 2007 I moved to Sydney to join the army. Well, an army of air hosties, that is. The irregular hours and the size of my wardrobe make it difficult to commit to any shows, so Aida has stayed in boxes since. I enjoy my job. I travel to different cities in the world, some of which I would never have visited on my own and I guess that's one of the perks. This role has also allowed me to build self confidence as well as to gain various other skills.





I auditioned for *La Cage Aux Folles* last year. The timing couldn't have been better. I was in Melbourne when the audition took place and after several call backs I received the phone call. As soon as I got home I searched for my make-up case (read: fishing tackle box) and opened it. It was kinda like the scene 'My Friend' from *Sweeney Todd* except I held up high my lipstick, eyelashes, and powder puff!

Les Cagelle was a perfect role for Aida – she definitely fits right in. The people were amazing and I wish it had toured Australia at the very least. The fact that 2 of Australia's (if not world's) best musical theatre performers such as David Roger-Smith and John O'May were in it was the icing on the cake.

I'm currently not in any show, but I recently finished shooting for *The Very Trevor Ashley Show*, a pilot TV show for SBS. Funnily enough there is also a 'drag' element in the show but it's not Aida. It's a comedy show with stellar cast and I'm secretly hoping my character can slowly introduce Aida into the show (hint, hint)!

A couple of years ago I took up scuba diving and it instantly became one of my hobbies. In summer you can catch me roller blading, free-lining (still a novice) or sun-baking at the beach. And of course going to see musicals!



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q people: with MARC J PORTER

In 2008 Sam Sparro appeared out of nowhere it seemed, even though he had been honing his craft for years, with the hard to resist *Black and Gold* which lit up music charts worldwide including an impressive #2 in UK #4 here. Then you may have thought, where did Sam go, well he went away to further hone his craft and has come back with a brand new album *Return To Paradise* which is now available.

Sam recently took time from his busy schedule to chat to Q Magazine.

Hi Sam! How are you?

I'm well thank you!

Firstly tell us about your new album, what is the concept behind it, what kind of sound can we expect and what does it represent to you?

It's quite a nostalgic record inspired by the Soul, Funk and Disco of the late 70's to the mid 80's. It's partially a breakup album and partially about rediscovering oneself and the joy of living.

Australia has been asking for a few years, where has Sam Sparro been, so tell us, what have you been up to?

I took my sweet time making this record because I felt a bit rushed with the first one and I wanted to make sure it was just right. I've done some remixing and writing with other artist's like Mark Ronson, Adam Lambert and Kimbra.

There has been a need for eccentric, eclectic and out there talent in the Australian music scene, do you feel you fit into this and at the front of this movement and do you feel a part of the Aussie music scene?

Not really - I don't really much a part of any scene or movement. I spend most of my time in LA but I don't really feel a part of a scene there either. I think I'm inspired by other artists from all over - Australia, Sweden, the UK, Belgium...wherever.

Looking back to 2008, do you feel like it was in another life that *Black and Gold* reached so many people, did you know it a brilliant song as soon as you finished it? Do you have that intuition as a musician to recognise standout tracks?

It really only feels like a short while ago - I was really pleased with it as I am with a lot my other work that has either gone under the radar or over people's heads so I have no idea what will connect like that really.

Do you pour your heart out with your music, or can you write music from someone elses perspective? Do you live your music?

I write from experience - I find it difficult to just come up with an imaginary scenario to write about. Some people are good at that but I have to live it to write it. I think that's another reason I take some much time to record stuff.

What goes through your mind when you are performing live on stage? Is there a rush/panic/fear or does it come naturally?

Actually not much goes through my mind. That's when I feel the most connected and present and almost as if thinking stops and time stands still. It's when I get off the stage I start to feel uncomfortable and panic.

What is the first single released from your new album?

Happiness.

What would you say to a 15 year old Sam Sparro if you had the chance?

Don't worry - everything is going to be fine.

Where do you see the gay rights movement in 5 years time in Australia?

I don't know. It's moving quite slowly. It needs to stop being so politicized - it's a human rights issue.

Will you be touring your new album at all this year?

Yes - hopefully a lot- I really want to take the album everywhere.

Who are your favourite singers and why?

Chaka Kahn is probably my favourite singer - Just love her tone and range - it's such a unique instrument - there's no one else like her.



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q fitness: with CHRIS GREGORIOU

The winter layer

Are you one to put on a little more body fat over winter?

Once the streets become too chilly for comfort and the warmth of the indoors lures you, we slip into a more sedentary existence and top this off with eating more food while sitting around. Is it no surprise why you put on more weight over winter? So with the shorter, darker and colder outdoors, motivating yourself to keep exercising is even more difficult than usual, however if you want to look your best for spring and summer, now is the time to keep that winter layer away.

Ever wondered why we put on extra weight during the colder periods?

1. Hanging out indoors. Well, firstly we hang out indoors more so and tend to eat more than we would normally. We don't move around as much indoors as we do if out in the street, as a result we eat more and move less in the cold winter months.

Simple maths: more calories (energy) in than
 calories (energy) burnt off
 = stored energy.

As a result, we get fat.

2. Seasonal Affective Disorder or as it is more commonly known S.A.D. Missing the sun's important rays is a big deal as this can lead to a vitamin D deficiency. The combination of lack of sunshine, poor nutrition and a decrease in activity can even cause forms of depression during the winter months. The solution is not complex, move more, do more exercise and consider introducing a vitamin D3 supplement to your diet. You can help combat S.A.D when you exercise your body regularly, releasing endorphins, which keep the S.A.D blues at bay.

3. Coughs, Colds and Chest Infections. Try feeling great with one of those nasties, often running rampant over the cold months. However did you know that exercising during winter can help you to stay fit and healthy and fight infection more effectively. By exercising you are boosting your immune system and therefore will more than likely skip the common illnesses associated during winter and have you remain in top form.

Sure, it can be more difficult to motivate yourself to exercise when the weather gets cold and the evenings are darker. Some ways to help stay motivated include, setting a regular time to exercise, enlist the help and motivation of a friend to exercise with and to keep you on track. Find a personal trainer that you are comfortable with and that will work with you and offer you the support, motivation and feedback you require. Remember it's all about consistency, so without worrying about what kind of exercises you should or shouldn't be doing, as long as you're moving and staying active, you will feel better.

If you are looking for more information, have a health and fitness question, feel free to contact me at www.metrobodyfitness.com.au

q web: WHERE ARE THE BEARS?

IT'S "THE GOLDEN GIRLS" MEETS "MURDER SHE WROTE" WITH BIG, HAIRY BEARS!

"Where the Bears Are" comedy, mystery web series to premiere online August 1st, 2012 at wherethebearsare.tv

From the creative team of Rick Copp (The Brady Bunch Movie) Joe Dietl (The Thin Pink Line) and Ben Zook (Jack and Jill) comes "Where the Bears Are," a comedy mystery web series that follows the exploits of three gay bear roommates living together in Los Angeles, as they attempt to solve the murder of a party guest that turned up dead in their bathroom.

Part "Golden Girls" and part "Murder, She Wrote," the series consists of 26 four-minute episodes, and is a romp through L.A.'s trendy neighborhood of Silver Lake, and whose mystery eventually reaches its climax in the desert outside of Palm Springs. Featuring guest appearances by Bruce Daniels, Tuc Watkins, Jackie Beat, and Shawn Pelosky, the series is designed to appeal to both gay and straight audiences alike. Follow the guys at: facebook.com/wherethebearsare & twitter.com/wherethebears



q openings: **OUR HAMER HALL**

The four-day Hamer Hall Opening Celebrations will begin with a star-studded Hamer Hall Opening Concerts on at 7:30pm Thursday 26 July, which will be repeated on Friday 27 July. Featuring an Australian exclusive appearance by k.d. lang, Rachelle Durkin, Caroline O'Connor, Eddie Perfect, Archie Roach, Lior and more. The celebratory concert will celebrate some of the great performances of the past and has been created specifically to mark this major moment in Australia's cultural development.

Performers were chosen because of their links to Melbourne, whether it be by performance, where they grew up or, in k.d. lang's case, a favourite city in which to perform. k.d. lang is no stranger to Arts Centre Melbourne, having graced the Hamer Hall stage with Tony Bennett, and the Sidney Myer Music Bowl with her band Siss Boom Bang earlier this year. k.d. lang also references her love of Melbourne in her song I Dream of Spring. Caroline O'Connor likewise performed her hit show Bombshells at Arts Centre Melbourne's Fairfax Studio, and Eddie Perfect also performed in Hamer Hall with WAAPA as part of the long-standing Morning Melodies program. The concerts will provide a balance of the range of performance styles that can be experienced in Hamer Hall, from classical and contemporary to instrumental and vocal, in both intimate and large-scale settings.

The thematically-designed performance begins with an Indigenous Welcome to Country by Aunty Carolyn Briggs featuring Jack Charles and the dancers of IDJA Dance Theatre choreographed by Jacob Boehme. Contemporary music will be celebrated through performances by Lior, Caroline O'Connor, Archie Roach and Eddie Perfect, who has been commissioned to create a song to mark the reopening of Hamer Hall. Opera will be featured with a solo performance by New York-based Australian Rachelle Durkin, who is currently performing at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, along with a group performance by eight of Australia's finest singers including Deborah Humble, Jacqueline Dark, Nicole Youl, Antoinette Halloran, Liane Keegan, Rosamund Illing, Sally-Anne Russell and Sian Pendry.

Orchestral music will celebrate the Hall's renewal for the next generation of music lovers and will be performed by a 75-piece orchestra of exceptional musicians from the Australian National Music Academy (ANAM). Conducted by MSO Associate Conductor, Benjamin Northey, these next-generation soloists will be led by MSO concertmaster Wilma Smith, together with members of the MSO strings.

Following the concerts, the stalls and riverside foyers of Hamer Hall will become the stage for a selection of Melbourne musicians who will keep the music playing into the night.

The Victorian Government and Arts Centre Melbourne present Hamer Hall Opening Concert
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q win: WINTER WONDERLAND



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* 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 Q Magazine. All monthly winners are notified by email.

q scene: **OUT & ABOUT**



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q panto: **FAT SWAN**

TREVOR ASHLEY
in

FAT SWAN

AN ADULTS-ONLY PANTO

After sell-out seasons of **FAT SWAN** at the Spiegeltent, Melbourne in March and the Seymour Centre Sydney, Natalie Portly is back to delight and disgust audiences for a return - but this time she has brought with her a couple of new friends.

"a deliciously campy romp through ballet . . . Fat Swan is highly entertaining!" - The Age

TREVOR ASHLEY stars in this "delightfully campy" and crass adults-only panto about a ballet dancer with body dysmorphia who dreams of being a star! Can she overcome the obstacles of a psychotic mother, the choreographer from hell, and a lesbian ballerina with a dark side, and make it out the other end alive?

Well, no actually.

Joining the cast is the Helpmann winning star of *Billy Elliott*, fresh from a two-year stint on the West End, the incomparable GENEVIEVE LEMON. She will play Natalie's demented mother, Barbara Hershey-Bar. Starring opposite Trevor and Genevieve is TV's BRENDAN MOAR and Priscilla's DANIELLE BARNES

"...Ashley will jump through any hoop to keep you entertained." - The Age

A laugh-a-minute musical comedy, **FAT SWAN** returns to Melbourne with new jokes, new frocks and is sure to ruffle some new feathers!

It's everything the film was, only with songs, audience participation and men dressed up as women.

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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.



Roundabouts, Guys, Girls and Prickly Cactus

Roundabouts are interesting phenomena in Spain and the Canary Islands. They are a relatively new idea for the country, and it takes time, patience and understanding for most expats to understand the local customs of how to deal with a roundabout. Most of the locals living near me approach a roundabout as fast as they possibly can, and if anything is likely to hit or obstruct them, they slam on their brakes as hard as possible. Great fun!

I approach a roundabout in the boring, studied way that I was taught, and according to the rules of the British Highway Code, i.e. slowing down, approaching the roundabout with caution etc. Needless to say, the result is that I am usually hooted at in a very aggressive way from the vehicle behind. Initially, I thought it was because they were admiring my driving skills, but sadly no. Why is it I that too have not learned that roundabouts in Spain are meant to be an exciting daredevil experience of who dares survives the experience?

Have I mentioned the Brits? Well, although some Spanish and Canary Islanders really do take some beating for sheer foolhardiness when behind a wheel, British expat drivers really do win the gold medal. Firstly, they will not accept that it is not normal to drive on the 'wrong' side of the road. By that I mean on the left hand side, when most of the world drives on the right. Despite living in Spain, it is

amazing how many British drivers suddenly forget that they are living in Spain, and insist upon driving on the left hand side of the road. Needless to say, this does tend to cause a few problems for other drivers, and I have witnessed a number of occasions when a car approaches a roundabout at speed, and then proceeds to drive the wrong way around it. It can be a very troubling experience to witness.

When I lived in the Costa Blanca, we had roundabouts usually adorned with cute guys and pretty, scantily dressed young women, usually of Eastern European origin, clearly looking for someone to take care of them, offer them warmth and shelter and a cup of soup. After each mayoral election, the roundabout guys and girls would disappear, only to reappear again a few weeks later. A new mayor always meant a temporary slowdown in business, and time for a much-needed break for all, that's all.

By contrast, roundabouts in the Canary Islands are adorned with spectacular creative masterpieces, real works of art created by local artists and, in the poorer municipalities, many giant prickly, vicious looking cactus. Yes, you can easily judge the status and wealth of a municipality just by looking at the quality of its roundabouts. It has simply nothing to do with art, but the size of the balance sheet and the influence of the mayor.



A few years ago, our local roundabout was suddenly adorned with a huge and very attractive Christmas tree, appropriately decorated and lit for the Christmas season. It looked wonderful and, no doubt, added considerable festive pleasure for anyone approaching it. A few evenings before Christmas, a driver headed towards our roundabout and instead of driving around it, decided to head straight for the Christmas tree. I suspect that he was trying to take his place at the top of the tree. Needless to say, he didn't quite manage it, and the car, driver and Christmas tree were badly injured.

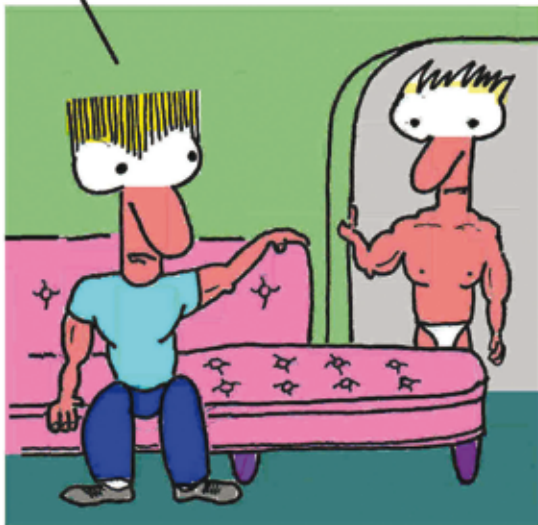
That was the end of Christmas for our roundabout and, since that time, no Christmas tree has appeared during the festive season. Mind you, we do have a wonderful display of prickly cactus, so any drivers considering driving over the roundabout to save time - just beware. Prickly cactus hurt!

If you enjoyed this article, take a look at Barrie's websites: www.bariimahoney.com and www.thecanaryislander.com or read his latest book, 'Threads and Threats' (ISBN: 9781843866466)

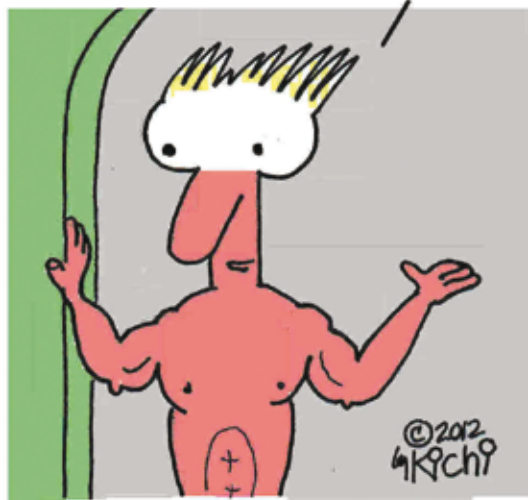
Gaylord Blade

Young, Gay & Hot-to-trot

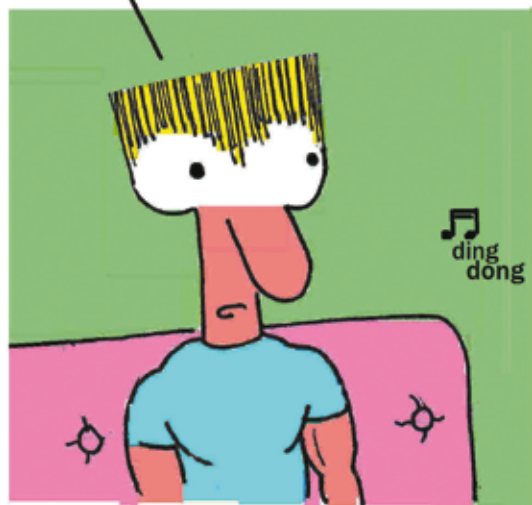
You're still not dressed?
We'll be late!



So, we'll be late. I have to be
home and **READY** when they
deliver my buttplug, Gaylord



Since when does being in the
nuddy make you "ready" to
sign for a buttplug?



Since I spent heaps for the
professional **INSTALLATION!**





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