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qx

No 1092 11 February 2016

AT HOME WITH GINA & COURTNEY

- A QX MAGAZINE EXCLUSIVE!
- A RARE PEEK INSIDE
GINA'S GRACIOUS GARDEN
MAISONETTE
- RUSSIAN BEAUTY COURTNEY
DAZZLES IN ADVENTUROUS
TURQUOISE
- MORE GORGEY PICS INSIDE

18

Suitable only for persons
of 18 years and over



I Am Not Myself These Days

Next week Stratford Circus will be putting on two showings of *I Am Not Myself These Days*, a witty and moving tale of love and self-discovery set amidst the excesses of 1990's New York. By turns brutal, funny and heartbreaking, this one-man show recalls a time when Josh was living a double life – working at an ad agency by day, and as a drag queen by night - battling alcoholism and desperately trying to make his relationship work with Jack, a high-class, crack addicted rent boy. For more details and information on booking tickets visit the website.

18th-19th February, 7.45pm, £13-£15
 Stratford Circus Arts Centre, Theatre Square, E15 1BX
stratford-circus.com/event/i-am-not-myself-these-days

Gay Ski Week



In its inaugural year as a locally produced event, the new organizers of Telluride Gay Ski Week are taking it up a notch with more provocative entertainment and broadened community outreach. Scheduled for February 20th-27th, this year's event is action packed with an impressive list of special guests, and a year of many firsts, including Olympian Gus Kenworthy, musician Shawn Colvin, comedian Sandra Bernhard, and the infamous DJ Ruckus, among others. "We are very happy to have Gus [Kenworthy] getting back to his hometown to help us kick off the week as Telluride Gay Ski Week Ambassador 2016," said TGSW Director, Rosie Cusack.

For his part, Telluride native and hometown hero Kenworthy is a fitting TGSW ambassador. The charismatic 25-year-old is a freestyle skiing celebrity, having won a silver medal in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. Kenworthy, who continues to compete (and win) in halfpipe and slopestyle events around the world, came out as gay in Oct. 2015. He is the first action sports star to come out, according to Rolling Stone. Fittingly, Kenworthy will help launch 2016 Telluride Gay Ski Week on Saturday, February 20th with a dance party at Gorrone Beach on the Telluride Ski Resort.

For a complete Telluride Gay Ski Week schedule, pricing, tickets and up-to-the minute happenings, go to www.telluridegayski.com. For information and tickets to the Telluride AIDS Benefit, visit www.tellurideaidsbenefit.org.

The Bernie Grant Arts Centre Celebrates LGBT History Month

With a view to celebrating both BME art and culture, The Bernie Grant Arts Centre will showcase the very best in queer black cinema. Running from 11th to 28th February, each screening will be followed by a panel discussion, with artists and experts exploring the themes and historical context of each picture. Highlights include: *Before Stonewall*, a history of the Gay and Lesbian community before the Stonewall riots; *Brother to Brother*, a drama that looks back on the Harlem Renaissance from the perspective of an elderly, black writer who meets a gay teenager in a New York homeless shelter; *Young Soul Rebels*, a character-driven thriller-drama is the feature-film debut of British documentary filmmaker Isaac Julien; and *The Color Purple*, which is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker. For a full listing of the films on show and more details visit the website.

Selected Nights from 11th – 28th February
 Bernie Grant Arts Centre,
 Town Hall Approach Road,
 Tottenham Green N15 4RX
www.berniegrantcentre.co.uk

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MARK AMES PRESENTS
**THE BIGGER BETTER
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DRAG

FOR DRAG'S SAKE

DYLAN JONES MEETS THE DRAG QUEENS WHO DON'T DO DRAG FOR A LIVING... THEY DO IT BECAUSE THEY'RE LIVING.

It's a blustery night in the leafy borough of Belsize Park. Helena Bonham-Carter sits in the window of a boutique restaurant enjoying a £9 glass of cabernet. A gorgeous waiter at Carluccio's on Haverstock Hill weighs down an expensive Egyptian cotton tablecloth with a bottle of extra virgin olive oil. And in a basement flat on a quiet terraced street, two drag queens are getting ready to go to an S&M night in Elephant & Castle.

"It's not a basement flat," says Gina, turning from the mirror, cigarette in one hand, glass of champagne in the other. "It's a garden maisonette. You fucking cunt."

We're at the gracious residence of Gina Gee. The décor is a melding of classical and modern. Understated antiques with cutting-edge design. An oak dining table here, a Bang & Olufson phone there. The overall impression is of a woman of the world, one who knows how to have fun.

"I think true drag queens don't create themselves or have to think of how to behave; they just are," says Gina, stubbing out her cigarette on a copy of *Lovers & Players* by Jackie Collins. "They are born drag queens and the clothes and the make-up just bring that out. Drag queens must have something special,

something compelling, something amazing about them. Without that characteristic you're just man in a wig. There's no such thing as an 'average drag queen'. If you're average, give up."

By day, Gina holds a high-powered office job in the city, as one of the most well-respected people in her field. It's a male-dominated, conservative environment, a world of pressed suits, business lunches and moneyed responsibility. It makes for a harsh contrast to her non-working life, much of which is spent sliding down a pole in *Savage*, or on the floor of *G-A-Y Late*. For her, drag is a release.

"In the context of a life where I have to spend 95% of my time wearing a suit and being judged on my stoicism and intellect, it's so refreshing to be able to spend the odd night staggering around London in a stripper dress and knee-high boots, being judged on the campness of my eyebrow highlight and the length of my legs," she says.

"For many drag queens, drag is primarily about delivering an outward-looking statement to the world. The most obvious examples are drag queens who perform on stage and get an enormous sense of pleasure, excitement and fulfilment from that."

The French windows burst open and a blonde bombshell in a cocktail dress storms in.



Enter Courtney Dix, Jetsetter, international party girl, and general lady of the night. Originally from Russia, Courtney has a day job as a fashion designer. By night, she sits in dusky cocktail bars with one hand holding a martini glass and the other sliding up the leg of a wealthy Saudi businessman. She kisses the photographer on the cheek and settles luxuriantly on the sofa, pouring herself a glass of champagne.

"I feel fabulous when I'm in drag," she says. "It's like being on everyone's hot list. You see the world in a different way. Things you didn't notice before suddenly appear bringing a whole new experience and perception of places and people around you."

Though they sport distinct looks and emerge from very different cultural and social backgrounds, Gina and Courtney have one thing in common; they both do drag for the abandon, the outrage, the shock, the joy.

They've never DJ'd, never done paid PA's, never lipsynced on stage to Liza Minnelli. And they don't want to.

"I have no desire to perform on stage," says Gina, shrugging. "My drag is primarily an inward-looking psychological adventure and a chance to express a part of my personality that rarely gets to make an appearance otherwise."

As makeup artist Lauren O'Donnell flits back and forth with brushes, and photographer Cé Ó Coileáin sets up his equipment, we discuss other people's perceptions of their unique brand of drag.

"One of the reactions that I always get from people is that my look screams sex and sexuality," Gina says. "I never, ever intended this to be the case, so it came as a surprise. A lot of people perceive Gina as a sexual being. This aspect of life as Gina is one of the key things that keeps me coming back to find out more. My experiences in drag over a

"THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS AN 'AVERAGE DRAG QUEEN'. IF YOU'RE AVERAGE, GIVE UP."



“SOME PEOPLE COLLECT STAMPS. WE DO DRAG.”

relatively short time have given me more of an insight into what makes people tick than all of my years spent in boy mode.”

Courtney daintily sips some champagne through a straw. “I seriously don’t care how people see me,” she says. “I’m not doing it for anyone but myself. It’s like a hobby for me.”

Something that intrigues both girls is how men react to their appearance as women. A glamazon standing at over seven feet tall in heels, everyone is bowled by Gina Gee. Sometimes literally. And Courtney’s ass deserves an Academy Award. Both cut a striking silhouette and attract plenty of male attention, from both gay and straight men.

“It’s so interesting to see how people react,” says Gina, who often storms down Old Compton Street in nothing but a bra and pants. “It upsets, it can anger, it confuses and, more often than not, it intrigues.”

Courtney nods. “I’ve learned that most men see their dream girl or a realisation of their dirty fantasy in Courtney,” she says. “It’s like a forbidden fruit they’ve heard so much about and now finally have it in front of them. As for girls, it’s usually envy.”

Gina sips an Evian water and nibbles a humble salad as she philosophises further on how the world might see her, and how she might want the world to see her.

“What do I want people to think about Gina? I guess when I started out doing drag, I had all these ideas about what it would take to be a ‘successful’ drag queen who is respected,” she says. “I wanted to have the best makeup, the best look, the biggest shoes – the best everything, I suppose. I’m more realistic about what I can achieve now, especially compared to some of the other drags out there, who create looks that are out-of-this-fucking-world.”

She lights another cigarette and pulls on a pair of sky-high electric green heels. A musclebound Adonis pops up on her phone. Courtney leans over and has a look. “Oh I wouldn’t bother with him darling,” she says. “I already slept with him in Moscow last year.”

Gina wordlessly puts her phone down and goes back to her salad.

I ask her what the aim of her drag is. What she wants people to think. What she hopes people think.

“It has turned mostly into a thing that I do for myself,” she says. “Rather than to seek approbation from others. That being said, one of the points of my drag is to create a visual impression and cause an upset, so it’s nice when people let me know that I’ve been successful in doing that. And, of course, it’s always lovely to receive compliments about looking good and stuff. I work fairly hard at the gym and I like Gina to look strong and fit – I’m not bad for an old girl, I guess!”

Another aspect of how the world sees them is the reactions of other drag queens on the scene. Many are thrown by the fact that Gina and Courtney aren’t doing it for a reason. Or at least, not a reason they can understand. It’s a common perception, especially on the London gay scene, that if you’re not getting paid, you’re not doing drag.

“There’s sometimes a sense that other drag queens don’t believe you’re really doing drag unless you appear on stage and earn money for performing,” says Gina. “There is in fact an element of performance to my drag, but it’s more about visual and psychological impact based on my height, body shape and the way I move – you kind of have to meet me in person for this to come across. It’s this visual and psychological impact that’s at the heart of what makes Gina work as a drag queen.”

Gina swats the photographer aside and pulls the front door open as an Uber Exec cruises silently up the drive. “There are so many different types of drag and different definitions of drag,” she says. “It’s a sense of campness, of challenge and of anarchy. For me, it’s about creating an impact, causing psychological upset and projecting an image that you’ll never forget. It delivers a sense of freedom, a sense of fun. Above all else, it’s an adventure.”

Courtney finishes applying her lipstick, chucks it into her Chanel clutch, and stands up, tossing her hair. “It’s just about how you see it,” she says, shrugging. “Some people collect stamps. We do drag.”

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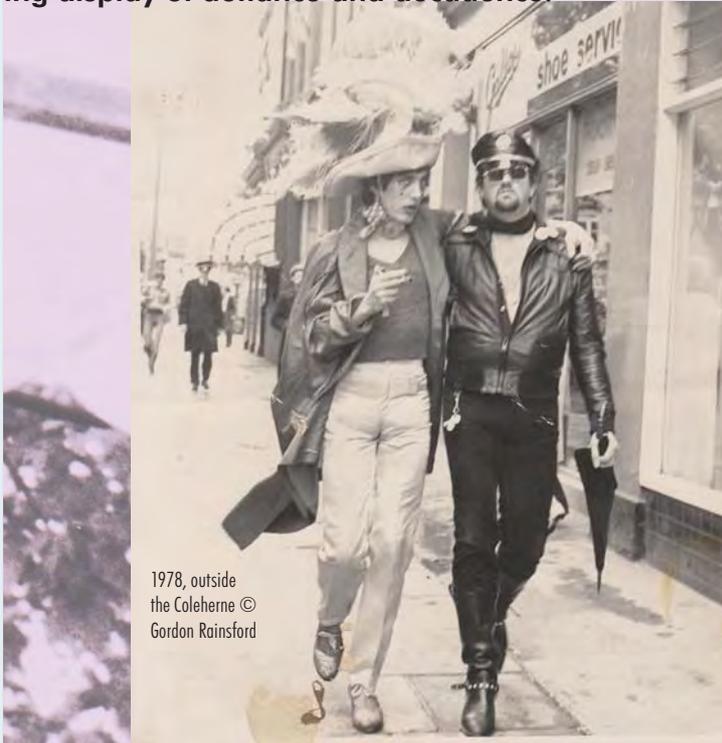
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FIREBRANDS IN FROCKS:

The Radical Drag Queens of The Gay Liberation Front

On July 1st 1972, over 700 LGBT demonstrators made history by marching through London for the first official Pride carnival. It was the largest public display of its kind to date, but it certainly wasn't the first. Chris Godfrey spoke with the radical drag queens who took to the streets of London just days before, in a daring display of defiance and decadence.



1978, outside the Coleherne © Gordon Rainsford



A Jubilee Gardens Pride © Gordon Rainsford

IN 1970,

homosexuality was still criminalised in Scotland and Northern Ireland, public displays of same-sex relationships remained illegal, the age of consent for gay men stood at 21 and the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) had formed, releasing its manifesto later that year.

Julian Hows was 15 at the time, and - being a particularly precocious teen - he decided the time was right for him to run away from home and join them. Having just been expelled from school the timing couldn't have been better. A year later he found himself at the heart of a faction so subversive, so radical, it was too much even for the GLF.

"I'd ran away from school - well, I was thrown out for being a corrupting influence on the younger pupils," says Hows. "I was living in a gay squat in Notting Hill Gate with 15 other gay men, sharing all possessions and all money and taking LSD every Saturday night."

Among the groups other preferred activities was a form of subversive, genderfuck drag. It was a hobby they very much enjoyed sharing with the general public, whether that involved joining demonstrations, patrolling trains and offering

bewildered passengers refreshments and conversation, or taking tea trolleys up to Hampstead Heath and educating cottagers about gay liberation.

"We were so well known in the area for our politics and we lifted a pedestrian demonstration...up that couple of notches," says Michael James, another member of the radical drag queens who squatted in the same old film studio on Colville Terrace. James was inspired to join the GLF after a particularly traumatising police arrest near Green Park Station one night, as he looked for his lover at the time. Looking for any excuse, the police fabricated a scenario that allowed them to charge him for 'importuning for an immoral purpose'. Joining the GLF allowed him to reclaim a sense of empowerment.

But when James and the other radical drag queens left their commune one weekday afternoon it was to protest a very different source of injustice. At a time when the Vietnam War had intensified, along with public anger towards it, the radical drag queens opted to spend the morning picketing outside the US embassy at Grosvenor Square, alongside the boilermakers union.





"We were offered to join the America Out of Vietnam demonstration," says James. "So on the appointed day it was nails done, eye lashes on, whatever make up on and whatever frock we decided to wear. It was appropriate for the occasion. We didn't usually wear evening gowns to serious political demonstrations, we wore nice smart dresses."

Donning a trilby hat, a black cape, a 1930s wrap over the shoulders and a pair of multi-coloured wedge heeled shoes, James joined the group of around 15 or so drag activists who had assembled themselves to the side of the steps on Grosvenor Square, opposite the band of boilermakers. After a few hours picketing, the queens noticed a nearby crowd of workers on their lunch, listening to an orchestra on Grosvenor Square. Drawn in by the forties dance music, the queens swanned over.

"They were on this step and they were being conducted by a queen, who turned out to be a very sour-faced cross queen," says James. "We came down and stood round and got to the front, and Bette said 'come on doll let's have a dance'. Then we were all out there in the frocks and we were dancing around. We had this whole area of people dancing, waltzing and a little bit of jiving."

The onlookers may have assumed the drag queens were part of the show, but the frosty faced conductor knew otherwise. Angry at the spectacle and determined to protect the innocence of his orchestra he packed away his conductor's baton and stopped the music. The queens, in no mood to go home, decided to take a trip to the Meat Rack, a notorious hangout for escorts.

"It was probably Julian who said 'oh let's go down on to the Piccadilly Circus and chat to the rent boys'," says James. "So off we trotted, walking down...on to the Circus." As well as spending time talking to the many boys that came up to them and drawing in a crowd of working escorts, the queens decided to patrol the inner sanctum of the Meat Market, banging on the stalls, screaming "closet queens come out". Many of them did and, dressed in their masculine disguise of suits and shirt, fled. Somewhat inevitably, the scene drew the attention of the Metropolitan police.

"Of course the cry went up: 'Lilly Law – scarper'," says James. The police proceeded to chase the queens through the warrens of Piccadilly Circus, many of who had bolted for the exit leading out onto lower Regent Street. Despite wearing high heels, they kept 50 yards ahead of their pursuers and made for the Institute of Contemporary Arts, seeking sanctuary.

"At the ICA they happened to have an exhibition of revolutionary posters," says James. "And of course, the true revolutionaries swept in through the door." Staff at the ICA found the whole thing amusing. Rather than turf them out to the police, they instead offered them coffee and cake and showed them round their exhibition on revolutionaries, containing everything from Chairman Mao posters to Russian propaganda.

"After we'd had a cup of coffee we decided to go to Trafalgar Square," says Stuart Feather, another member of the radical drag faction within the GLF. "So we went there and we were just looking for trouble basically. We got up on the plinth and we had some placards I think saying 'gay is good', 'gay is angry' and 'come out' - the usual ones I think. And then we all climbed up on to the plinth and did a sort of can-can on the plinth. People came and were taking photographs. And then the police arrived and asked us what we were doing."

The coalition of radical drag activists, theatre queens and escorts had once again, unsurprisingly, attracted the interest of the local constabulary. This time though the police weren't going to let them out of their sight. To them this debauch display was a protest, one that needed policing. What started out as a jovial stroll to check out the cottages was then rapidly transformed into a very potent political demonstration.

"We didn't have a permit, let's put it that way," says Julian Hows. "We thought ok, let's plan out and see how long the Saturday's Pride march is going to take us. But suddenly they thought that this was a side event. Then quite a lot of people joined us; the usual hoi polloi and detritus of people who hung around Soho in the early seventies. There were far more people out in the street back then and we weren't all segregated into the neat little ghetto around old Compton street."

Eventually the group settled on marching towards Hyde Park, conducting a rather elaborate dress rehearsal of the GLF-organised

"The coalition of radical drag activists, theatre queens and escorts had once again, unsurprisingly, attracted the interest of the local constabulary."



“A man wearing a dress in the street is potent. It’s very strong. And people were very afraid of it.”



Pride carnival to take place days later. As they marched through the streets, waving at onlookers and generally making a bit of a ruckus, half a dozen police lagged 15 yards behind.

“The police delivered us like a parcel and then rode off,” says Bette Bourne, who went on from the GLF to create his own seminal theatre troupe, the Bloodlips. “I remember that very well. All the pleasure I remember. We were rolling about on the grass, kissing each other. It was my first kiss-in. I was with Tim Bolingbroke, one of the great kissers of the seventies.”

The day’s demonstration may have been seen by some LGBT people as a defiant and brave display at a time when they could’ve been arrested, but for *Gay News*, the first LGBT newspaper of its kind, it was just simply depraved.

“After we’d done our queens demonstration we went to the office of *Gay News* in Paddington,” says Stuart Feather. “We felt this is really important you know, they must know what we’ve been up to. This is real news. And we went in there and it was just a flop because they hated us.”

“They had about four pages of hysterics about our behaviour and everything. It was the second edition of the paper and boy I don’t know what stories they had for the second edition but they binned them all and poured shit on us. They were there to save the rest of the country from gay liberation. That was really their stance. What they were really saving the nation from was drag queens like us. Completely assimilationist.”

Gay News weren’t the only publication appalled by their actions that week. The build up to the official Pride march that week had seen the radical drag queens engage in numerous demonstrations and public displays, so much so that even the

mainstream media took an interest.

“The *Sunday Times* called them Fascists in Frocks,” says Lisa Power, author of *No Bath But Plenty of Bubbles: Stories from the London Gay Liberation Front*. “But they were quite a strong political faction within GLF. They called what they did radical drag, but the people who didn’t like them eventually called them the Rad Fems. That’s what they got condemned as.”

To the assimilationists within GLF, the ‘rad fems’ – resplendent in their genderfuck drag – were going about gay emancipation all wrong. Their messages of anarchic freedom, total liberation, of shunning male privilege and subverting gender were completely lost on those who sought to change the landscape for LGBT people through emphasising similarity, rather than difference.

“Well we were the drag queens in GLF and we caused an awful lot of trouble with the left, because they just had no ideology to cope with it,” says Stuart Feather. “They were outraged that we should be questioning their left wing authority, is really what it was about.”

“We had really pro-feminist politics,” he continues. “And it was the women in GLF, the lesbians, who had the really difficult time. Because a lot of the men, what we term the straight gays, they wouldn’t question their misogyny, their male pride, or their sexism. I think because they saw the prejudices coming from outside, they couldn’t accept that they were oppressing themselves.”

On 1st July, just days after their irreverent display of genderfuck drag through the streets of London, the GLF’s first official Pride march was held. As planned, the carnival-style parade followed the same route the radical queens had marched and attracted over 700 demonstrators, swamped by a heavy police presence. A success

though it was, it wasn’t enough to stop the GLF from falling apart and breaking up into smaller factions.

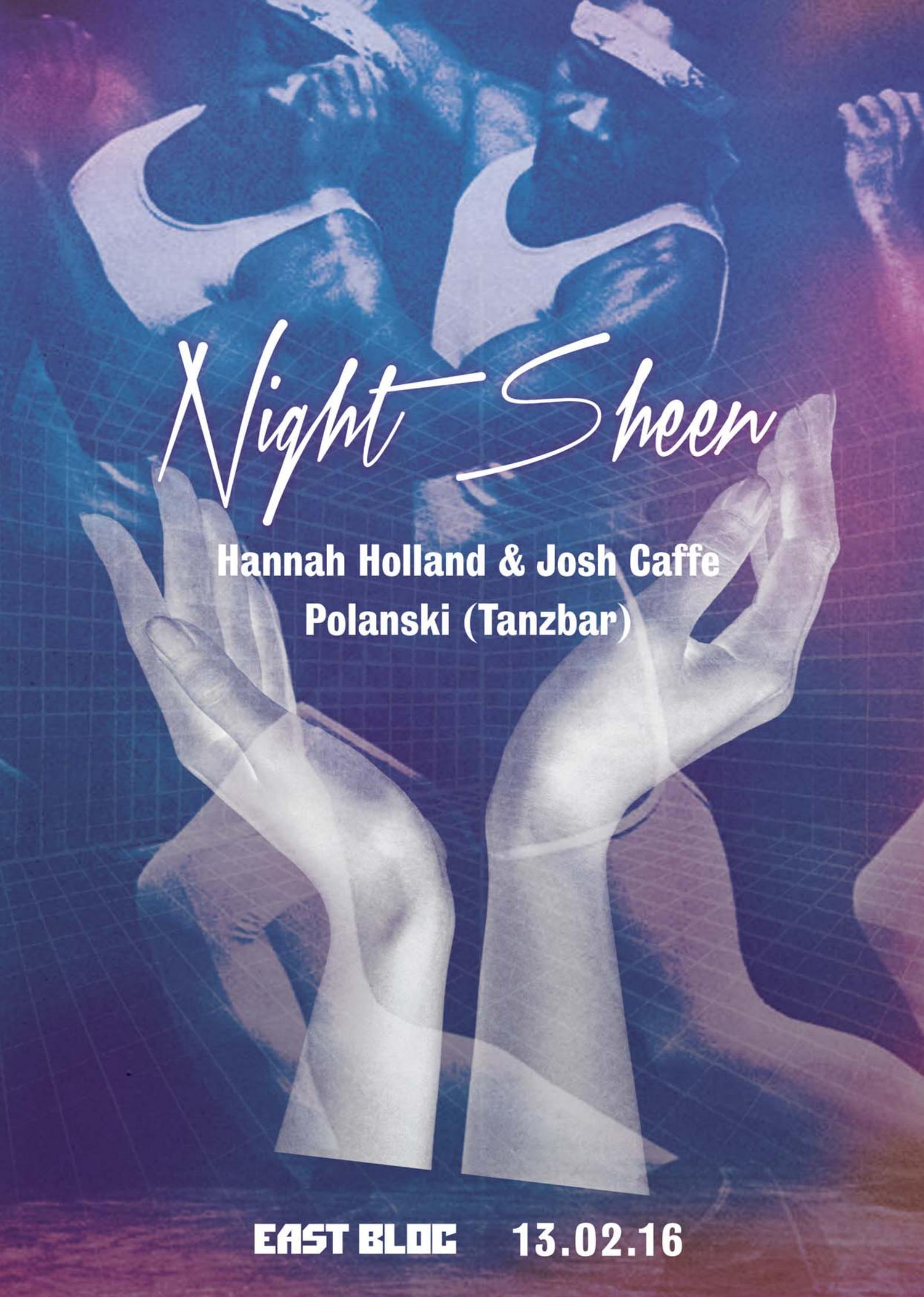
“In terms of the group it just dispersed,” says Power. “I mean, really GLF was falling a part by the middle of the ‘72 and fell apart completely by ‘73. People became much more involved in the local groups and so on. GLF was effectively an explosion more than a movement. But what it did was set the pace for the importance of coming out, the importance of personal witness, the importance for gay activists wearing badges and being really upfront about the fact that you are gay. The influence of the GLF in the UK was massively beyond its size. Or its longevity.”

As for the radical drag queens, the group slowly dispersed in the coming years, though many still remain in touch with each other today. Bette Bourne went on to create his own theatre troupe, the Bloodlips. While he feels the group’s power came from the fear they inspired in people, for him it was as much about the enjoying the drag as it was making a political statement.

“They comforted themselves by thinking it was trivial, because we were in dresses,” he says, recollecting the attitudes of other GLF members. “The problem was that we were so potent. A man wearing a dress in the street is potent. It’s very strong. And people were very afraid of it.”

“A lot of the queens were very afraid of us because we were disobeying the rules in some deep way and scaring them. They were scared. People got very frightened. We weren’t frightened at all. But it was much stronger than anything they were doing. It was also about a sense of humour or not. Wearing the dresses was great fun as well. It certainly was for me.”





Night Sheen

**Hannah Holland & Josh Caffè
Polanski (Tanzbar)**

EAST BLOC 13.02.16



Myra Dubois

Dr Woof

THE LIGHT LOUNGE



Photos by nicophoto

XXL Valentines

It's Valentines weekend. Yay. Oh, whatever. What a load of shit. If you're anything like us, your Valentines weekend will consist of Netflix, EricVideos and eating a Terry's chocolate like an apple. But there is hope; ursine party people XXL are putting together a little cabaret show for you before their V-Day dance spectacular. It's got that Dr Woof and Myra Dubois in it. They're dead good they are. We had a quick chat with them to find out what to expect from them come Saturday.

So you two are doing a show this Saturday, anything special planned for us? Anything ROMANTIC?

MYRA: God, no.

WOOF: Romantic? Do we look like we are the romantic types? Definitely preparing something special, but absolutely no spoilers, you will all have to come down and see for yourselves on Saturday.

What about yourselves, how's the love life? Will you be celebrating or commiserating?

WOOF: Well I've been totally besotted by that hard-faced bitch Myra Dubois for six long years now, but the old hag wont entertain my advances, as she only has eyes for Joel Ryder (which is ridiculous as we're almost identical to look at). So I'll probably be licking my... wounds...somewhere dark that night I imagine.

MYRA: The last time I had sex, Britain were considering scrapping the shilling.

What's the best love song of all time?

WOOF: Initially I thought, "the one about the cake left out in the rain" (which is such a tragedy) but I'm going to go for Sondheim "Sooner or Later" - more about lust than love, just like Doctor Woof.

MYRA: I get a lot of requests to sing 'I Know Him So Well' at weddings. Which makes you think.

What's the best thing about performing for an XXL crowd?

WOOF: I can just be myself, I can let it all hang out and nobody bats an eyelid. Us bigger built guys LOVE to poke fun at ourselves so therefore they get me there. Love XXL crowd.

MYRA: The money in the handbag at the end of the night. I'm also partial to bears.

Do you shag fans? Asking for a friend who might hang about after the show.

MYRA: Not usually, but see the answer to above. I may well be making an exception this evening.
WOOF: I dunno, probably. You can always tell the ones I've shagged, they're covered in glitter. Erm... who's your friend? Is he a giraffe? I love giraffes.

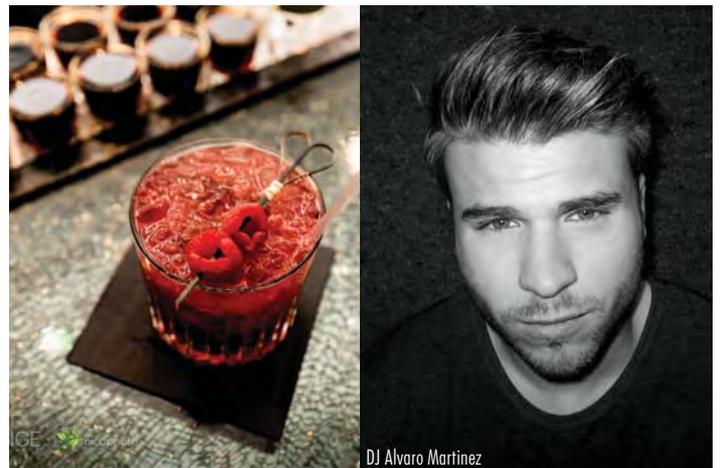
The Light Lounge is Leicester Square's newest cocktail lounge, brought to you by the team behind Ku Bar (so you already know it's got pedigree). It's a gorgeous first floor boutique bar, bathed in natural light throughout the early evening, the perfect place to take a first date or stop in for post-theatre drinks. As the sun sets, atmospheric lighting changes to set the mood for the rest of your evening, whether you're enjoying cocktails or something from their varied premium champagne and wine list.

Speaking of those bespoke cocktails, they've all been carefully curated by Andy Mil of The Cocktail Trading Co. Fancy your favourite classic that's not on the list? Just ask their helpful and friendly team. They'll make it for you...the 'Light' way.

Best of all, are the Light Hours, which offer you two for one cocktails. The Light Hours are between 5pm and 7pm every day of the week except Tuesday; because on Tuesday, it's two for one cocktails ALL day! Like we said, the perfect place to bring a date.

Tristan Temple hosts the Lounge every weekend, with DJ Alvaro Martinez on decks from 8pm every Friday and Saturday - playing the best in deep house, Cafe Del Mar sounds as you relax, serviced by their gorgeous waitress and bar team.

So what are you waiting for? We might just slip off for one of their Absolut Pink Thrillers right now. Time to put the Out of Office on...



DJ Alvaro Martinez



XXL Valentines is at Pulse Nightclub, 1 Invicta Plaza, SE1 9UF, 10pm - 6am. £15 entry, £8 for members.



THE LIGHT LOUNGE

The Light Lounge is at 1 Newport Place WC2H 7JR, open Monday to Thursday from 5pm - 11:30pm and Friday to Sunday 5pm - midnight. Free entry.



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WAS ~~£200~~

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- Full face

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area/session
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- Buttocks
- Perianal
- Bikini area
- Lip & Chin

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area/session
WAS ~~£50~~



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- Lower back
- Abdomen
- Upper back
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Head over Heels

By now you've probably heard of Paolo, the adorable Italian pixie with a million-dollar smile and predilection for donning skyscraper heels on Channel 4's "First Dates". Poor Paolo had the bad luck to be set up with a rather close-minded young man who didn't appreciate how "Paolobolous" he is. Fortunately, the rest of us did! We caught up with our newest TV crush to find out a bit about him, his heels and when we can see him again.

Photo: DeanStockings.co.uk

So Paolo, the last week must have been crazy for you. Can you describe what it's been like since the episode of First Dates aired?

The last two weeks have been rather surreal! Of course I knew the show was quite popular. I watch it all the time! But I didn't think it was going to get such a response. People have been stopping me to talk to me and take pictures with me in the streets, especially on nights out, or if I'm wearing heels. Even at work (last Saturday night though was just incredible, I couldn't believe it! Ha!). I was NOT expecting that reaction at all!

How has the response from the public been?

It's been an extremely positive and supportive response! Seriously, I just can't believe it. I mean, I was only being myself. I didn't do anything different from usual. Everyone's always lovely, never a negative comment. They say things like: "I saw you on first dates, you were great!" or "good on you, he deserved that!" And I love how British they are about it, ever so polite. I get asked about Mario quite a lot, they want to know what happened next, and say how lovely he is and that we looked so sweet together.

What really got me though were the private messages I received on social media. Again, there were a lot of supportive messages, but I also had lots of messages from boys and girls around the country who shared their stories about how they've struggled, or are still struggling with being themselves in the cities or towns they live in. Some of them were truly heart-breaking and I could totally relate to them.

Have you always been this Paolobolous?

I have! But I was never able to see it. I wasn't letting myself be Paolobolous. I used to see my "paolobolousness" as something wrong, that I needed to suppress. But I now proudly elevate it 6.3 inches off the ground.

What do you think of the concept of "MASC 4 MASC" and gender 'norms'?

I suppose when we talk about "Masc 4 Masc" we are referring to sexual preferences, which I believe are different from person to person and I respect that; I'm not one to judge, no one should, as long as it's not discriminating in any way.

I personally find it limiting though. Some

people don't realise they're

missing out big time! If a

man feels comfortable

strutting around in

stilettos or wearing a

Vivienne Westwood

evening gown, can you

even imagine what

they would be capable

of doing in bed?

Just sayin'! Food for

thought.

As per gender

norms, I can

see a gradual

progression

towards new

and different

nuances of

gender in

society, but

there's still is a long way to go. I honestly don't really care about who you have sex with, what you wear, or whatever.

We love seeing you on screen! Will you be returning to First Dates?

There are no plans for me to return to the First Dates restaurant, not as far as I'm aware anyway.

Tell us about your high heels; favourite pairs, best pairs, DREAM pairs?

Ok, they have to have at least a 6 inch heel and they must be stilettos only. Concealed platforms are the ones I use as they are more comfortable. My favourite pair are my Louboutin boots (you can get anything off Amazon) black suede concealed platform stilettos ankle boots with red sole. To die for! I would love the Swarovski crystal concealed platform closed-toe stilettos designed by Christian Louboutin. I love his designs.

Which guys do you think would ROCK a pair of high heels?

Anyone can rock a pair of stilettos! As long as they are confident in them their paolobolousness will shine through everyone's eyes ;) They just need to be prepared for a proper workout while wearing them. You try to walk up and down Brighton hills and spend a night dancing in 6-7 inches stilettos!

You currently live in Brighton, how would you describe the gay scene and community there?

I moved back to Brighton from London, where I lived for almost a year trying to make it as an actor. The thing I missed the most was the sense of community and belonging that I only experienced in Brighton. It's my home now. And that's what the Brightonian gay community is like. It feels like a very big family, just like the whole Brighton community does, at least that's how I live it. Charles Street, The Camelford, Legends and Club Revenge are the places I would normally go with my gays. They are not huge clubs or bars but I love the people there. The beauty of Brighton though is that there isn't the need to go to a gay bar to be yourself or "be gay". It feels very equal anywhere you go and that's how it should be.

Will we be seeing you at Brighton Pride?

There aren't plans for me to be involved in the Brighton Pride...yet. I would love to be though! We'll see. If not I'll definitely be there in the crowd prancing around in a pair of Louboutin's just like I did last year.

Have you been out on the gay scene in London and if so, how does it compare?

I've only been a few times in the George and Dragon in Shoredich, Duke of Wellington and Comptons in Soho, but I never really fully embraced the scene as much as I have in Brighton, so I can't really compare. I had a good time though!

Will you teach us how to walk in heels?

Strengthen your core muscles and do loads of squatting, then when you put them on tilt your pelvis, align your back, straighten your legs and you are ready to take over the world in your stilettos. As I said before, stilettos only for me. Just sayin' in case you're feeling generous.

Is there anything you'd like to say to your first First Date, Daniel?

No, not really.

And anything you'd like to say to our readers who LOVE you?

Learning to love and accept the person you truly are is one of the hardest things you could ever put yourself through, but once you get there you'll open up to things you can never imagine existed. Just be truly open, give yourself objectives and let things come your way, do what you want and what makes you happy. Feel pain and feel love but make sure you enjoy the path. Gosh, that's probably what Lady Gaga and Rupaul's son would sound like.



First Dates &

Playing It Straight

By Ola Awosika



Photo by Eivind Hansen

It's one thing to state your "preference" for a man that likes sports, or has brown eyes, or can contour (it's a skill that needs to be appreciated), it's another to disguise your bigotry as "preference" and shame femme people.

Gay dating apps are inundated with "MASC-4MASC" dudes screaming "no fats, no femmes, no blacks, no Asians". Except it's more an Eric

Video's guttural growl rather than a scream, cuz y'know, that would be way too femme, and heaven forbid a man should display any femininity.

Which leads me nicely to self-proclaimed reality TV 'personality' Daniel May, whose comments about 'camp' men have seen him rightfully critiqued on social media.

"I really do believe certain gay men make it really hard for us gay guys who are not camp," Daniel stated in an interview immediately following his disastrous dinner on Channel 4's First Dates. A dinner where he told cutie Paolo that his penchant for wearing high heels wasn't "normal."

"Unfortunately we still live in a world where being gay is not fully accepted and there are certain gay men out there that I cringe at and they make me embarrassed to be gay myself," he continued.

It's one thing to state your "preference" for a man that likes sports, or has brown eyes, or can contour (it's a skill that needs to be appreciated), it's another to disguise your bigotry as "preference" and shame femme people.

The cisgender whitewashing of the recent "Stonewall" movie aside, history will tell you that femme and gender variant people are the ones that largely fought for the rights many gay men enjoy today. But we know that femme people are often thrown under the proverbial bus

by those that hold the most societal power within the LGBT* acronym: cisgender white masc men who adhere to and

ence", ignoring that our "preferences" are not just innate but informed by social conditioning, Eurocentric beauty standards, and centuries of social oppressions like racism and misogyny.

Daniel went on to record a video where he apologised (topless, obvs, lol) but quickly backtracked and just further tried to pass off his 'embarrassment' of femme men as his "opinion." It was pitiful to watch him as he sat there topless, displaying his gym honed physique in an attempt to appeal to his attentive audience of masc gays who would be dazzled by his pecs and overlook the underlying bigotry of his words. The comments were flooded with people who simply thought femme people were somehow "scorned"

because he wasn't attracted to them.

"I'm a nice guy," he stated as if 'nice guys' aren't capable of upholding prejudices that further hurt and marginalize, as if his views don't filter into real life violence for femme people. In a cruel twist of fate, Daniel was the victim of a homophobic attack a few days later. I wouldn't wish harm on another member of the LGBT* community but as a friend said to me: "maybe he will think about the struggles and harassment effeminate men receive on a daily basis, and how the visibility he received from the show, is the same spotlight effeminate men are shot with when they sissy that walk."

Daniel, and many like him who echo his sentiments, contribute to the harassment and abuse that femme people face on an almost daily basis. We need to challenge and rewrite our heteronormative views of gender and support our femme siblings. Don't leave the rest of us behind just because you think the fight is over.



enforce the rigid restraints of the gender binary and benefit from white supremacy and patriarchy.

As gay people won more legal and social rights, cisgender gay men began to distance them-

selves from their femme and trans "siblings" in the pursuit for assimilation. "We're just like you", gay rights movements insisted, silencing the voices of those that don't adhere to the hetero values that many gay people have embodied as they take their seat at the table that their sexuality otherwise denied them. Cisgender gay men like Daniel echo the sentiments of their hetero oppressors and disguise it as "prefer-

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Express yourself

Ryan Valadas runs Dramatherapy workshops for gay men seeking to express their difficulties with relationships through the visual and dramatic arts.

'My most recent Dramatherapy sessions were focused on intimacy, which aimed to explore relationships, trust, and self-worth,' he explains.

'I may start by having them talk about a painting, then slowly work to project those ideas on to the physical space, so that the participants can get used to the idea of being 'in a metaphor'...the individual's difficulties can be expressed through stories or images.'

'One client used the metaphor of a wolf that had lost the rest of the pack...a story built up around that lone wolf: where could he go, what should he do, so rather than addressing the person in front of me, the issues are given a fictional distance.

'When these stories are dramatised everyone becomes aware of recurring patterns... People tend to go from relationship to relationship, having the same experience over and over again, but with a different person. Is it the other person, or is it about looking at your patterns? You may realise that's what you doing when you work through it in a session like this one.'

'The gay community can be quite superficial at times – I say that as a gay man – and Dramatherapy provides a space where men can share without judgement, and they appreciate that. The participants quickly bond and are soon socialising together after the sessions.'

Imagination: the ultimate restorative

Clients referred to Robert Finlayson, a certified and accredited hypnotherapist, may come for a short course of weekly visits in order to deal with a range of issues, especially anxiety or stress related problems, trauma, phobias or addiction and maintaining abstinence.

'A potential client referred to me will have an initial consultation to see if we're a good fit,' explains Robert.

'Rapport is important. I work in a client centred way. Living Well opens its doors to gay men with complex issues, so it helps if therapists are able to relate to them. I can empathise with my clients because I, too, have used counselling services in the past; a professional who has had at least some of the same life experiences as you... can help you to feel at ease.

'In some sectors of the gay community there's the prevailing idea that HIV has been successfully treated medically but perhaps less so psychologically (or spiritually), which is why there's presently such a need for counselling and therapies like this.

'Hypnotherapy requires a state of deep relaxation and imaginative activity, which helps turn off the stress response. Hypnotherapy is solution focused, helping clients to create and build on their own resources and improving feelings of self worth. I hope to improve my clients' positivity about their lives so that they feel they are functioning better.'



LONDON'S NEW MEN ONLY DANCE & CRUISE PARTY!

LAUNCHES FRIDAY 4TH MARCH

10:30PM-3:30AM

£500

FIRST PRIZE
AMATEUR STRIP
COMPETITION

CRUISE MAZE
INTIMATE ZONE
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XXX GO-GOS

STRIP COMPETITION
HOSTED BY JASON PRINCE

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18TH MARCH: STRIPATHON
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15TH APRIL: 2-4-1 NIGHT!!!
6TH MAY: XXX PERFORMANCE
20TH MAY: CHARITY BOY AUCTION
3RD JUNE: START OF MR RUDEBOYZ LONDON

RUDE BOYZ

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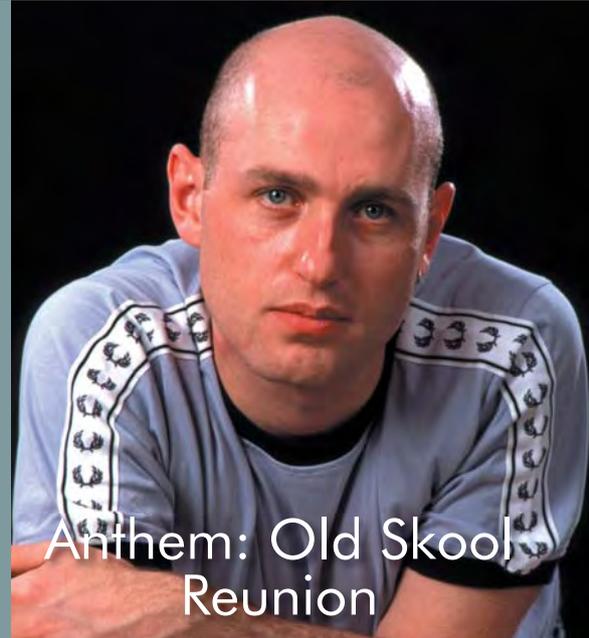


Friday 12th February



AVVV ITTT! *Raises pint, spits out glowstick*. Anthem are back with Hi-NRG, a night in homo homage to 80s gay underground, 90s eurobeat and eurodance hits! We love all that! It's the sort of thing Cascada probably grew up listening to, and we LOVE her. She always looks really happy in her music videos doesn't she. She's probably collecting glasses at a pub in Munich as we speak. Bless. ANYWAY the inimitably old school Vauxhall Tavern is the perfect setting for a night like this. They've got a special PA from Hi-NRG diva **Hazell Dean**, as well as **Ross Alexander** and DJ sets from **Marc Andrews**, **Dave Simmons** and **Don Grant**.

The Vauxhall Tavern, 372 Kennington Lane, SE11 5HY.
9pm – 5am. £8 advance tickets, £10 OTD



Anthem: Old Skool Reunion

That **Baby Lane** is back at The Glory! Last time we saw her, she tied an audience member to a chair and covered herself in Nutella whilst lip-syncing to Anaconda by Nicki Minaj. Pretty standard really. Now she's BACK, with a Valentine's shit show. She's not so much a drag queen, as a...a...well she's sort of like if a child's rag doll came to life, but came to life in the middle of one of Gene Simmons' hotel room parties. She's brought some special guests with her, including **Virgin Xtravaganzah**, who probably has some opinions about Valentine's Day. Like, Saint Valentine once rewired her Gameboy Colour. Or something.



THE GLORY

The Glory, 281 Kingsland Road, E2
8AS. 8:30pm onwards. £5 entry.

Friday 12th February

Baby Lane's Valentine's Shit Show

It's Night Sheen! We like writing about Night Sheen, because of its deep, dark image of effortless elan, midnight-blue cool and shady viscosity. Think Naomi Campbell swishing around Nisa with a bottle of Patron. Think Liv Tyler vomiting spiders into a drain on Kingsland Road. Think a black panther sat at the back of the N55. This month, they've got gorgeous, critically acclaimed DJ **Hannah Holland**. They'll be celebrating the launch of her new EP, so slink down for some clandestine aural delights.

Night Sheen

East Bloc, 217 City Road, EC1V 1JN. 11pm – 6am. £5 before midnight, £10 after.

Friday 12th February

Night Sheen



Saturday 13th February

XXL Valentines

Who needs love when you have massive cave full of bears waiting for you on the South Bank? What's more they've got the legendary Moto Blanco providing the soundtrack to your night of (hopefully) passion! Bear, cub, boy or bloke, you're all welcome at this home of hot, furry flesh. We love you XXL! Do you love us too? YOU BLOODY WELL BETTER DO.



Pulse Nightclub, 1 Invicta Plaza, SE1 9UF.
10pm – 6am. £15 entry, £8 for members.

Saturday 13th February

Discosodoma

DISCOSODOMA

Dalston Superstore, 117 Kingsland High Street, E8 2PB.
9pm – 5am. Free before 10pm, £6 after.

The bent, bashful, beautiful boys at Discosodoma combine our two greatest loves – disco, and sodomy! There are very few things better in life than doggystyle sex whilst listening to, say, Roisin Murphy. Or if you're feeling particularly camp, *Crying At The Discotheque* by Alcazar. It's not exactly sex music though is it. ANYWAY, Discosodoma are back at Dalston Superstore, for the first time this year! It is only February to be fair, but still, EXCITING. They're bringing some great special guest DJs along with them, including Bloc 9's **Gideon** and Gutter Slut's **Nic Fischer**.

Saturday 13th February

Pop Lovers

It'll be pure pop heaven with a love theme for Bloc Bar's Valentine's Day party! The Unlucky Bitches will keep you going with pop stormers throughout the night. Who needs a man? NOT US. Unless you're offering, babes. Buy us a bottle of bubbly at the bar first though, TA!



BLOC BAR

Bloc Bar, 18 Kentish Town Road, NW1 9NX, 9pm - 3am. Free before 10pm, £5 after



Zach Burns



Matt Bogard



Terry Bryan

Friday 4th March

Rudeboyz

The naughty sportswear sex party returns to Fire London with a brand new monthly residency! The perfect hangout for all you straight-acting scallies and trackie bottom twinks, Fire will play host to a night full of downright debauchery and XXX fun, the ultimate party for cruising, boozing & physical pleasure! Playing the best hedonistic house and kinky beats in Room 1, will be a selection of the sexiest Orange Nation DJ's that will keep you jumpin' & pumpin all night long; **Zach Burns, Matt Bogard, Lee Harris, Terry Bryan** and special guests. Or if you'd prefer to get down 'n' dirty the Mirror Arch will be transformed into a "Contact Cruising Area" complete with blokes, lads, boys & toys to keep you climaxing 'til the early hours.



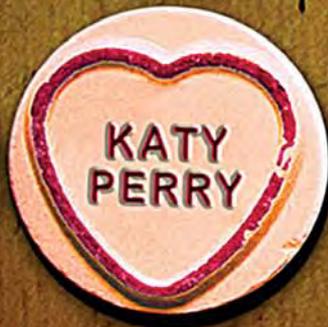
Fire London, Vauxhall, London, SW8 1RT.
Discounted tickets available at www.orangenation.co.uk

POP LOVERS

SATURDAY 13TH FEB

22.00 - 03.00 £5

DJS - THE UNLUCKY BITCHES



BLOC BAR, 18 KENTISH TOWN ROAD, LONDON, NW1 9NX



national student pride

National Student Pride
5 & 6/02/16
Heaven, Under the Arches,
Villiers Street, Charing
Cross, WC2N 6NG

G-A-Y Late,
5 Goslett Yard, Soho,
WC2H 0EA

Words by ChrisJepson.com
Photos by ChrisJepson.com
& Mark Storey



After a massive launch Friday,

National Student Pride's hugely successful daytime event at the University of Westminster featuring a the UK's largest LGBT careers fair, panel discussions with celebrities, activists and politicians on mental health and coming out, and a lip synch challenge judged by the inimitable Alaska Thunderfuck of RPDR season 5, come Saturday night it was time to let our hair down so we headed to Heaven where SP went head to head with G-A-Y for a night of Scream Queens sorority and fraternity fun. A capacity crowd of students from over 120 universities descended on the UK's most popular club for shows by ghoulish cheerleaders, pop up photo booths and a host of campus frolics that helped make the 11th National Student Pride the biggest and best to date. Roll on 2017!



"A capacity crowd of students from over 120 universities."







XXL

06/02/15

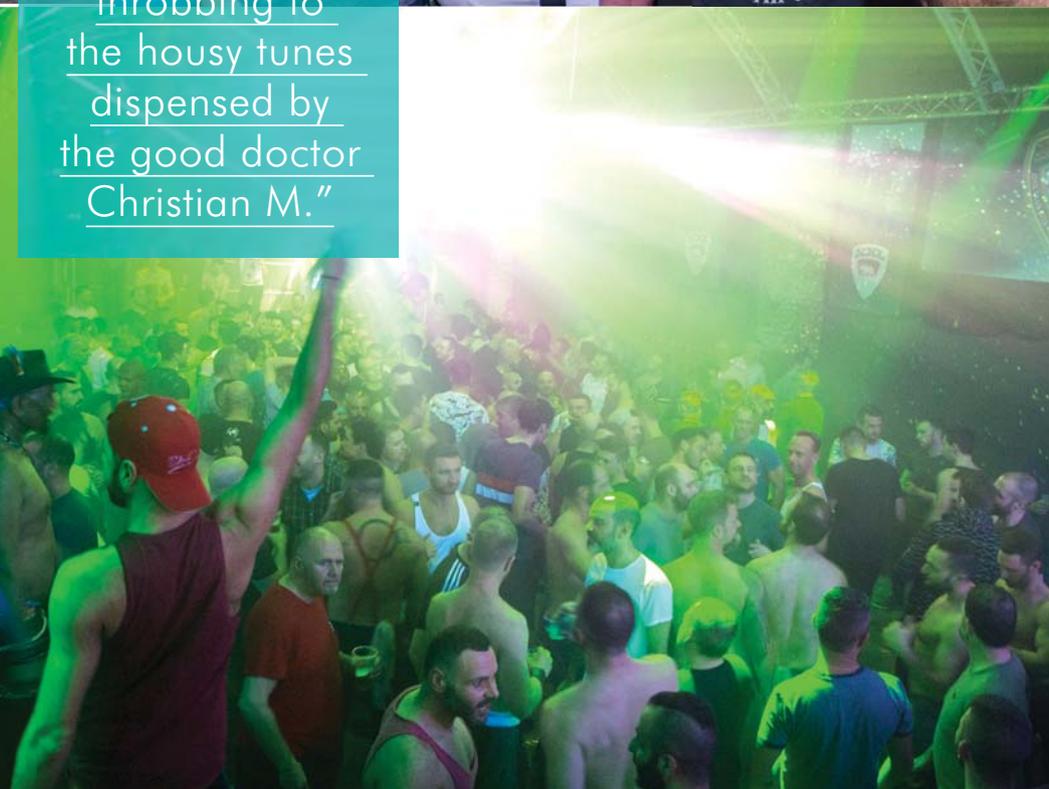
Pulse, 1 Invicta Plaza,
South Bank SE1 9UF

Words by Nicolas Chinardet
Photos by zefrographica



“Bodies were throbbing to the housy tunes dispensed by the good doctor Christian M.”

It was business as usual at the Pulse this Saturday. By that I mean that the XXL railway arches at the southern end of Blackfriars Station were pulsating with the megawatts of the sound system and the bodies were throbbing to the housy tunes dispensed by the good doctor Christian M in the main arch. Gyration of the bodies was also compulsively enforced in the smaller room by the expert ministrations of Joe Egg and David Robson, who took turns with their signature mix of highly danceable pop and RnB. Respite from this mayhem and what seemed to me to be powerful new additions to the light system was, as ever, on offer in the deep manly leather sofas of the mirrored bar or in the more funky-looking 4th arch with its colourful astroturf, not to mention in the dark room, purveyor of the ultimate release. The mood was flirty though, perhaps in anticipation of next week’s Valentine’s Day special. So, yes: business as usual.





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Sink The Pink

*B*Witched*



12th March 2016 | 21:00 - 04:00

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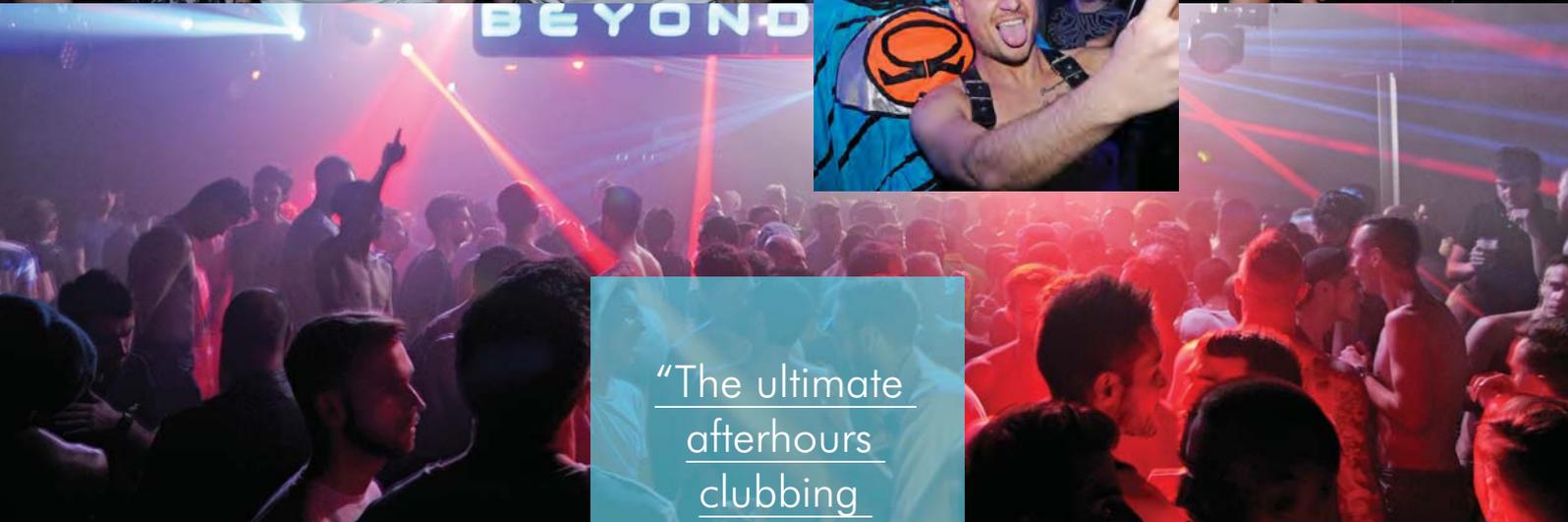
BEYOND

Beyond Supervillains
07/02/16
Ministry of Sound,
103 Gaunt Street, SE1 6DP

Words and Photos
by ChrisJepson.com



In contrast to the Papa Heroes battle for good at Fire, Beyond took a darker path on Sunday morning as the capital's biggest and best afterhours party imagined the year 2039 where the Government has crumbled, society is on the brink of collapse and the so called Superheroes have abandoned the people of London leading to crime, disorder and debauchery. Sounds like the perfect night to me. The Box was taken over for one long mammoth hedonistic house session from Gonzalo and D'Johnny back to back for no less than 6 hours while Shawn Capewell and the Beyond all stars distilled their inner darkest spaces into twisted hideous monsters on stage that still managed to look hot. The decks in 103 were graced by the über gorgeous Jamie Head and the terrible twins Maze & Masters while Martin Princess was the ever efficient host pumping the pistons that kept it all running and ensured Beyond remained the ultimate afterhours clubbing experience.



"The ultimate
afterhours
clubbing
experience."

ORANGE NATION



Valentine's Weekend



THURSDAY NIGHT /
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11TH FEBRUARY

GRAVITY

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SAM DMS
FAT TONY
PHIL PARSONAGE
FEROCIOUS
BY LEWIS G BURTON
& GUESTS

HOSTED BY
ISSAC JONES & LEON OSARIO

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FRIDAY NIGHT /
SATURDAY MORNING
12TH FEBRUARY

A:M

11PM - 11AM
@ PROTOCOL

GONZALO
D'JOHNNY
PAUL HERON
CHRIS BROGAN
TERRY BRYAN
RICHARD JONES

HOSTED BY
LOUISE PORT & JACOB K

£4 WITH THIS AD B4 1AM
£8 THEREAFTER

PROTOCOL

6 SOUTH LAMBETH PLACE
LONDON • SW8 1SP

SUNDAY MORNING
14TH FEBRUARY

BEYOND
THE DESIRE

5.30AM - 1PM
@ MINISTRY OF SOUND

STEVE PITRON
ZACH BURNS
FAT TONY
GONZALO
D'JOHNNY
CHRIS BROGAN

HOSTED BY
JJ CLARK CHRISSEY DARLING
& MARTIN PRINCESS

£13 WITH THIS AD B4 8AM
£16 THEREAFTER



103 GAUNT STREET
LONDON • SE1 6DP

SUNDAY NIGHT /
MORNING MORNING
14TH FEBRUARY

FOR THE LOVE OF
ORANGE

11PM-8AM
@ FIRE

FAT TONY
HIFI SEAN
ZACH BURNS
NEW! ROOM 2

BOOM BOX

DISCO SMACK

HOSTED BY
GLEN DORA & DELL BOII

£8 WITH THIS AD B4 1AM /
£10 THEREAFTER

fire

SOUTH LAMBETH ROAD
LONDON • SW8 1RT

FOR MORE INFO & ADVANCE TICKETS VISIT ORANGENATION.CO.UK



PAPA Heroes @ Fire
06/02/16
Fire,
39 Parry Street SW8

Words and Photos by
ChrisJepson.com



“A club packed
with muscle boys
and aspiring
Avengers were
treated to battling
demi gods.”

Everyone's favourite middle eastern gay party returned to London last Saturday as super god Eliad Cohen touched down at Fire with a Marvel-ous new production, *Papa Heroes*. With lycra and capes in abundance, a club packed with muscle boys and aspiring Avengers were treated to battling demi gods on stage as the Hulk took on Superman and Captain America, and Wonder Woman whipped the ass off Batman. Cat woman seemed content to meow and lick her paws but hey, that's just how that pussy rolls. Up on the decks there were yet more duels with international Papa resident DJ Suri taking on local marvels Lee Harris, Matt Bogard and Arnaldo Novais in the main room while Miswhite and Glauber Oliveira duked it out in room two. Outside the storm was raging but in Fire's Marvel Superheroes City the world's sexiest superheroes and gogos were going head to head in one of the best parties of the year so far.



GUEST DJ SEXSHOOTERS
& KU RESIDENTS

CELEBRATE VALENTINES
FRIDAY 12 - SUNDAY 14

WITH YOUR HOSTS
NIEKO & JAN VAN VIANEN



THE VALENTINES BALL

KU
TWENTY

*Illanere stuu
alis grave nil*



HANDSOME

Handsome
06/02/16
East Bloc, 217 City Road,
EC1V 1JN

Words by Mark Hamil
Photos by Joel Ryder

You know your East Bloc slut drop game was strong when your thighs still hurt on the way to work on a Monday morning. I never usually make it until 6am at East Bloc (read: I'm an old maid), but I couldn't help but dance, and love, and dance again until the break of dawn with house legends Terry Farley and Peter Heller as the dance commanders at this week's Handsome. The night always delivers on beautiful men in varying states of undress – dancing like FKA Twigs is sweaty business – and beautiful music in various states of YES GAWD, however this week's celebration for the launch of the DJ duo's 'House Masters' record, served the classic sounds of US house that we know and love, and took them up a notch which until this point, considered an impossibility, how do you dom top the top of the pops that is East Bloc? You really do need to experience this club night at least once in your life, if not every single week. Keep on keepin' on Handsome!



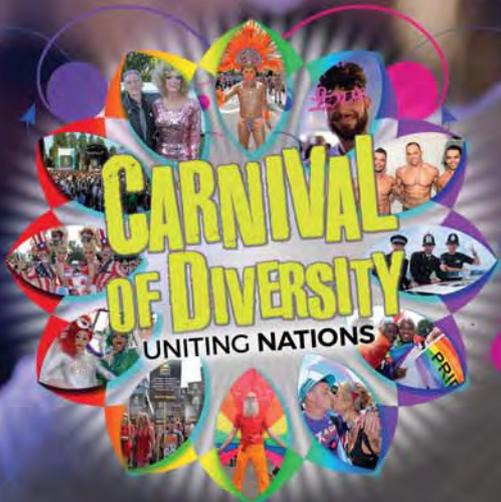
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Sunday Social
07/0216
Vauxhall Tavern,
372 Kennington Lane SE11 5HY

Words by Nicolas Chinardet
Photos by zefrographica

Late Sunday afternoons, the fag ends of the week-end, precursors the working week to come, can be pretty morose and depressing. All the more so when storm Imogen is pounding the country and messing up one's hair. So it was a relief to head to the warm and welcoming womb that is the Vauxhall Tavern, this Sunday. High up on stage and her stilettos, Charlie Hides was parading a new form-hugging tiger-print outfit and dishing out a few home truths of her own making, with no concern for her audience's sensibilities. Celebrities like Madonna and Christina were not spared either. Her impersonations of Sharon Osborne, Joan Rivers and Cher proved popular and drew the most cheers; obviously a favourite of Hides' followers'. By 7, resident DJ Simon Le Vans took charge of the decks and brought the atmosphere in the house to fever pitch and our windy weekend to a suitably storming end.



"It was a relief to head to the warm and welcoming womb that is the Vauxhall Tavern."



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The Glory

281 Kingsland Road, Haggerston, E2 8AS

Hits, tits, lips! Guess what's back at The Glory...LIPSYNC1000! Enter, in drag, of any sort, and lipsync to a song or mix, for your chance to win £1000, and/or stumble around with John Sizzle and co. at Glastonbury! It gained notoriety last year when it exploded onto the scene. It was wild! One week, a drag queen called Helen Earth pretended to piss into a pint glass to Perfume by Britney, whilst food columnist Grace Dent sat in the wings, thoughtfully munching an ice cube. You couldn't make it up. This year, Panti Bliss is judging the final. Time to stock up on emerald sequins!



Old Ship

17 Barnes Street, Limehouse, E14 7NW

It's the gorgeous Old Ship in London's historic Limehouse! A favoured watering hole of famous clientele like Ian McKellan (pictured), they've long been a notorious and well-established aspect of the East London scene. Their friendly, rough and ready atmosphere makes the perfect backdrop for a chilled post-work pint or a raucous Saturday night. Or Sunday night! This Sunday they've got a perniciously pretty performance from Misty Lee! She's a right one.



City of Quebec

12 Old Quebec Street, Marble Arch, W1H 7AF

Nestled down a side street in stylish shopping quarter Marble Arch, is the freshly revamped gay boozier City of Quebec! Go a spot of shopping at Selfridges, slink down Bond Street, pop into Calvin Klein for some pants, then head to The Quebec for a nice glass of pinot! Ladies of leisure! And now, their basement opens every weekend til' late for Disco Beats! Wall-to-wall 70's hits until the wee hours! They do a spot of cabaret on Sundays. This week it's Cosmic and Diane Horan-Hill!



Bridge Bar

8 Voltaire Road, Clapham, SW4 6DH

Saunter down Clapham High Street, preferably hand-in-hand with a burly sandy-haired Australian named Brett, and then settle in for a cocktail at the fashionably gay district's most fashionable gay bar! They've got a great ambience, comfy sofas, and bare brick! We can never say no to a bit of bare brick. That's bare BRICK. Naughty.



The Queen Adelaide

483 Hackney Road, Hackney, E2 9ED

It's the newest jewel in East London's organically sourced, fashionably askew crown...The Queen Adelaide! She's the George & Dragon's grungy, illegitimate daughter. The inside is gorgeous, all stressed leather and trendy shabby-chic vibes. They're still getting on their feet, and it's all charmingly slapdash, plastic bottles of coke poured by cute bar staff and stuff! Go check it out, it's gorgegy! Gorgegy pics!

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CentralStation

Central Station
06/02/16
37 Wharfdale Rd,
London N1 9SD

Words by Nicolas Chinaret
Photos by zefrographica

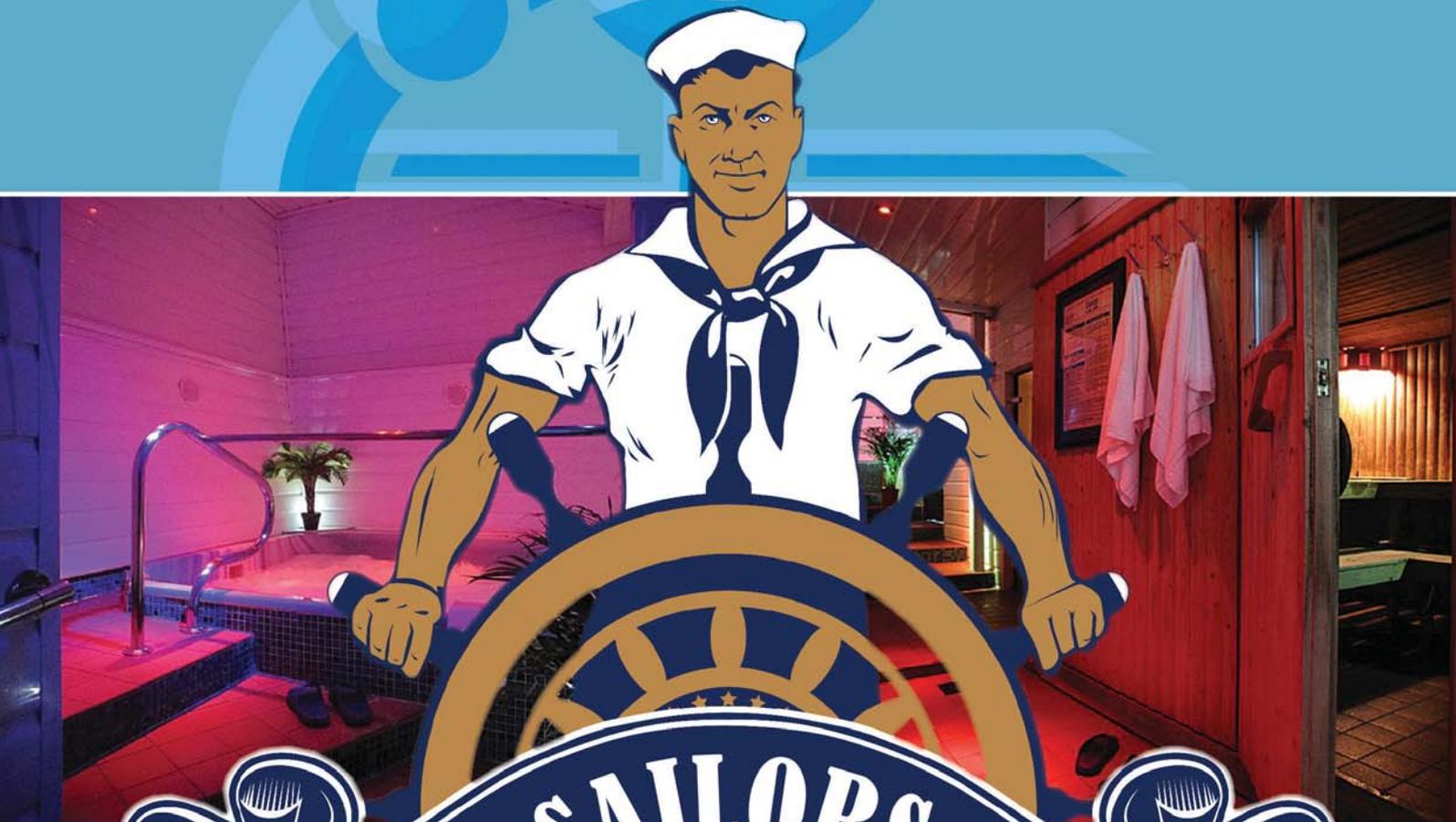
Priding itself on its adaptability and versatility, Central Station, now firmly one of the doyenne gay venues in London, was marking its 24th anniversary this week-end. Duncan and Martin, the stalwart landlords, and their friendly staff had laid out a free buffet to be washed down with free glasses of bubbly, welcoming the regulars who had answered their invitation to party with them. Raffle tickets had been sold and a lucky punter went home with a hamper full of goodies. The highly un-PC Charlie Hides had taken ownership of the stage and the mic for an evening with some of her favourite impersonations (Sharon Osborne, the late Joan Rivers, coach Sylvester and Cher). She informed us after her set that this was the venue that had given her her first residency, 16 years ago. As you'd expect, there were off-colour jokes of the kind that start online petitions, sing-alongs, some goading of the audience, and interactive video sketches complete with a celebrity cameo by Kylie. The audience lapped it up and called for several encores, no doubt also hoping that there would be many repeats of similar celebrations for this long-standing pillar of the London gay life.



"The audience lapped it up and called for several encores."



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COUNTER

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 Place, Vauxhall, SW8 1SP

Words by Dylan Jones
 Photos by Mark Storey



Thursday saw a glittering event in Vauxhall's most glamorous arch – Hells Kitchen-esque brasserie, bar and general playground of the queer glitterati, Counter! It was their first birthday party, marking a year of culinary delights, and cocktail-fuelled cabaret carnage! In celebration, they had a big bash with performances, canapés and more booze than a weekend break with Tara Palmer-Tomkinson. As people sipped, smiled and susurrated, performer Ivy Paige, critically acclaimed cabaret star and a regular fixture at Counter, slunk between tables in a jewel-encrusted corset, looking like a cross between Jessica Rabbit and Mae West. The guestlist was a veritable "who's that?" of London's gay creatives. Within five minutes of entering, we'd already air-kissed restaurant critic Hugh Wright, spilled entrepreneur Stuart Honey's drink, and lent photographer Thomas Baden-Clare a lighter. Team QX were out in force too of course, cackling away and swilling drinks, as we are wont to do. Anyway a BIG thankyou to owner Philip Reichstorfer for a glimmering, sequin-spattered, wonderful night! And thankyou to the rest of the Counter staff. Especially Gin the waiter. And his forearms.

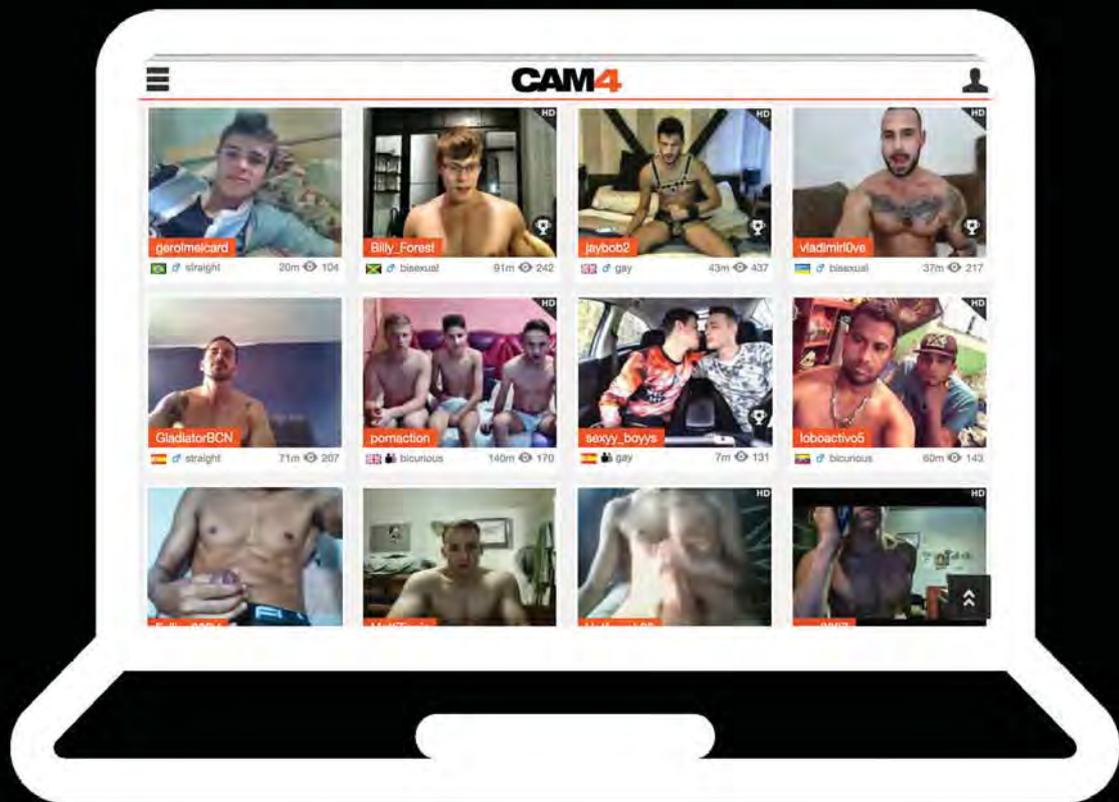


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Ku Bar
06/02/16
30, Lisle St, WC2H 7BA

Words and Photos
by Joel Ryder



KU bar was pumping this past weekend! Known for its super-hot, award-winning, topless bar boys who keep you thirsty for your next drink. Amazing DJs and VDJs keeping your body movin' all day and all night long, DJ Charlie Holland controlled the vibe while we were there, this is one smokin' hot DJ and the music he plays is amazing too! And the person cracking the whip with a firm grip in this establishment is Nieko, fluttering his feathers on this particular occasion, seducing us all with sultry looks. Birthday parties were all feeling the bar's vibe with everyone in attendance. Downstairs in the Klub, DJs kept everyone entertained until the sun started to shine again. We've got to love KU bar for all it has to offer. See you all there later!



"We've got to love KU bar for all it has to offer."





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WORLDS COLLIDE

BOYS ON FILM 14



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17 Things You Need To Know About Bar Wotever!

Bar Wotever is the weekly Tuesday night at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern that has now firmly established itself as London's premier queer event and space. For all you Wotever virgins out there, this week Jason Reid offers up 17 things you need to know about Bar Wotever...



Candy Royale



We Love Hugs



Virgin Extravaganza

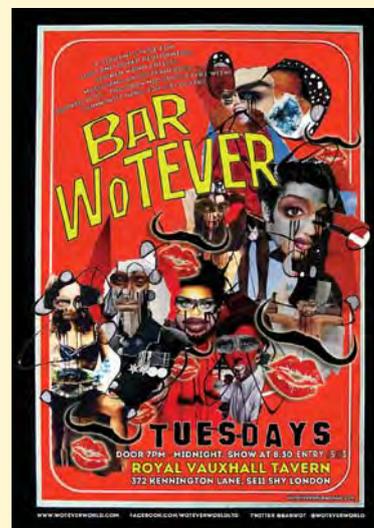
- 1) Bar Wotever is part of Wotever World - a Queer & Arts organisation that stages events, talks, clubs and film festivals.
- 2) The night was created by Ingo Cando, and was launched in 2005 at North London's Central Station.
- 3) They chose to stage the night on Tuesdays. Although this is ordinarily a quiet night in London, it is also the night when queer events are traditionally held around the world.
- 4) After a successful first four years, in 2009 they were invited to join their current home Royal Vauxhall Tavern.
- 5) The premise of Bar Wotever is that of a social/community meeting place for LGBT/ Queer people, performers and creatives from all around the world.
- 6) 'Wotever' means welcoming to all, regardless of gender, race, sexuality, age, social circumstances and financial capabilities. ALL encompassing.
- 7) There is one strict rule: no homophobia, transphobia, racism or misogyny.
- 8) Bar Wotever prides itself on its non-judgemental, friendly, thoughtful and fun atmosphere, which over the years has enabled easier networking and collaborations.
- 9) Founder Ingo is passionate about their night: "Every Tuesday, just before closing time, I feel such happiness and amazement about what I've just seen, experienced and had the pleasure to be part of. Week after week, it's a pleasure to be a part of"
- 10) No two nights are ever the same at Bar Wotever, from the style of performance to the mix of clientele.
- 11) Each month there's also a different host. Bar Wotever works with some of the best hosts on the scene, including Rubyyy Jones, Dr Woof, Aletia Upstairs, Des O'Connor, Mister Meredith and Virgin Extravaganza. Hosts lined up for future months include: Dusty Limits, Baby Lame and Mrs JonJo.
- 12) The night begins with an open mic section at 8.30. Anyone can perform a ten minute spot of their choosing. But if you make a mess, you clean it up. In keeping with the community spirit. The host of the evening then takes centre stage to perform their set, before a ten minute interval/mingle break.
- 13) The second half of the night starts with community news - a live interactive community sharing platform, for events, call outs and interests the audience are involved with and/or think are important. As always, anyone can share!
- 14) After community news, the host introduces the week's main act/s. These are the booked acts who may or may not be new to Wotever, and range from spoken word to live music via drag artistry. It's all about variety.
- 15) The show wraps up at around 10.30/11. The main DJ then provides the music until closing time (midnight). These DJs are regulars and all have a wealth of experience and music knowledge. At the moment they have DJ Jo Bunny leading the pack, together with Hug the DJ, Joe Pop, Bob's Funk-O-Mart, Gareth and DJ Malteaser.
- 16) Entry fee is £5, with a £3 concession. This is to help make it as accessible as possible for all. The entry fee is split with all those involved: crew, hosts, acts and DJ's. Ingo says: "No one is getting rich from this, but we all feel that we are part of something, and we know our audience appreciate what we do and provide"
- 17) Bar Wotever is about the people and for the people, and is London's only weekly queer variety showcase.



Dr Woof



Keith Jarrett



Bar Wotever is every Tuesday at Vauxhall Tavern, 372 Kennington High Street. 11th Birthday Party is on 8th March.

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#JULIASAYS...
by Princess Julia

Lovers of romance get ready, it's Valentines day this weekend, oh gawd! Well actually I kind of secretly enjoy it and always live in hope that somebody thinks of me... LOL! Although I think I'll probably be left off any wish lists! Anyway who cares because every Wednesday **It's Back! LIPSYNC 1000!** at **The Glory** is back!!!! A night not to be missed and I love this one, lipsyncers get ready and brush up on your mouthing techniques while us your devotees look on in wonder. On for 8 heats, show time 8pm, celeb judges, hosted by **John Sizzle**, £1000 grand prize and to enter email jonny@theglory.co

Forget about the 80's it's all about the 90's, **Sign Of The**



Times celebrates the launch of a book of the same name which covers the history of style and clubbing from the early 90's era by **Fiona Cartledge** out on

WildlifePress.com. On Friday 12th February join the gang with a party at the **Red Gallery**, 1-3 Rivington Street, Old Street where the night starts at 7pm and goes on until 2am with an array of DJ's and performances that reflect the spirit of the time.

Here's one for romance addicts (or not)... **The 'I Do' Disco Ante - Valentine's Special at VFD** is laying on the entertainments with some tongue

in cheek frolics on Saturday 13th, 10.30 till 3am.

Then girls and boys **Ladies Love Clam Jerk Vol II (Valentines Spesh)** at **The Glory** this Saturday 13th will get you in the mood if nothing else does. **Clam Jam and Jerk** join forces over the two floors with a Live Blind Date at 9pm upstairs. DJ's all night long **Bica, Jerk!, Randy & Monica** and **Packin C (Cathal)**.



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Lenard Pink: Merry Monarch and Dirty Trollops

I've always thought the people on guided gallery tours look intensely bored, and thus cementing how I felt about history at school: YAWN! Of course, it probably didn't help that when I 'learnt' about history it was presented to the class by a ridiculously strict Tom Selleck lookalike, dressed head to toe in beige (my love for bright colours began at a very young age), and my mind was always in drama class interpreting a tree. Needless to say I flunked said subject. Badly. Anyway, enough of my repressed teenage traumas, and back to Lenard Pink's Merry Monarchs and Dirty Trollops National Portrait Gallery tour, which curiously taught me more historical anomalies in two hours than I was taught in two years at school.

The creation of Mel Adams, international homosexual and historian Lenard is a flamboyant personality brimming with knowledge. Our tour took us through the Georgian, Tudor and Elizabethan era. Lenard not only explained the story behind the portrait, he also invited the group to take in all views of history (and the odd conspiracy). This of course added to the drama of the tour.



Aside from the fact that Lenard is camper than a row of tents at leather pride, what makes this tour different and ultimately much more fun is the presentation. Why should history be dull? Who says? It's just the way it is. Lenard turns it on its head, and makes the whole subject much more engaging. He jokes with the group, drops in loads of double entendres (I was in heaven) and cajoles passing tourists, who were drawn in by his theatricality. It's a guided tour but presented as if it were on the stage. The only slight criticism is that it was a tad over long, but that's the danger with improvisation. Knowing when to trim back if every tour may be slightly different.

I left having laughed like a drain for two hours in an art gallery. Something I'd have thought improbable beforehand. And I thought to myself, "If Lenard had been my history teacher, perhaps I might have ended up being a young David Starkey, or that fella who was in Blackadder who now digs things up on the telly". Who knows? I know one thing, I certainly wouldn't have 'achieved' an F grade. A hilarious tour, highly recommended by this history novice.

Tours run every Friday at the National Portrait Gallery. To book: lenardpink@gmail.com

5 Guys Chillin'

by Mark Hamil



Cael King, Gareth Kennerley



Elliot Hadley, Michael Matovski



Cael King, Haydn Whiteside, Elliot Hadley, Gareth Kennerley, Michael Matovski

5 Guys Chillin' reminded me of the faded glamour of a Stockwell flat at 7am on a Tuesday, without the glamour and more of an unabashed frankness. I think the best word to describe this play is explicit.

You can either take a viewing of this verbatim drama with a dash of irreverence, or see it as a melancholic look into an element of gay culture that poses a real chance of defining a generation. With a script condensed from more than 50 hours of interviews with guys on apps like Grindr and Scruff, this is as close as you can get to a chill out without actually being at one.

There were moments of laughter and moments where even the most hardened (if you'll pardon the pun) of dabblers in the world of chemsesh may elicit a gasp – gonorrhoea as lube, anyone?

Some would say that it took too long to reach the back stories, however I would argue, who in real life would open up about such things in double or triple the time it took these men? Yes, these guys are high, but they all arrive to the party with their own hang-ups that take a while to manifest themselves. From a young gay Pakistani guy in an arranged marriage (played wonderfully by Cael King), to a HIV positive

couple who are convinced they're happy with the constant partying, but see their resolve falter with jealousy.

An interesting point woven throughout the play was the idea of an 'etiquette' to chill outs – a sort of unwritten, drug fuelled version of DeBrett's Guide to Etiquette and Modern Manners. It's a revealing paradox that such an expression of freedom of choice, comes with a codified set of rules around issues ranging from the serious: race and sexually transmitted diseases to the not so serious: phone usage and views on fisting. M, played by Haydn Whiteside, poses as the pious one, yet, shows himself to be just as conflicted as the rest of the cast.

I wanted to be light-hearted and pepper my review with references to Selena Gomez and Céline Dion. But I couldn't. This is a topic that is really worth discussing, debating, and most importantly, having an open mind about. Kudos to the King's Head Theatre, director Peter Darney and the whole team for providing a platform for this pertinent discussion.

5 Guys Chillin' is running from 5th - 27th February at the King's Head Theatre. Visit www.kingsheadtheatre.com for more details.

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Video of the week

IN THE WORKS

Matt Smith (pictured) has been cast to play iconic gay photographer Robert Mapplethorpe in a new biopic. • And **Dan Stevens** will star with Rebecca Hall in the rom-com *Permission*, about a couple that decides to have an open relationship before they settle down and get married.

Two big movies weren't screened for the press in time for review: **ZOOLANDER NO 2** reunites ridiculously good-looking Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson as idiotic supermodels, with added Benedict Cumberbatch. And **DEADPOOL** stars Ryan Reynolds as an anarchic, sex-fuelled superhero in a form-fitting suit. Both look sassy, funny and unmissable.



ACCLAIMED THRILLER

Already an award winner, **THE SURVIVALIST** is a striking British thriller about a guy (Martin McCann) trying to live on his own after the world runs out of oil. Then his woodland hideout is invaded by two women. Clever and freaky.

BOYS ON FILM 14: WORLDS COLLIDE (18)

For this collection, Peccadillo includes nine shorts about young men caught in a range of unpredictable clashes. The strongest films have a political edge, dealing with homophobia, HIV, class and gender. The most memorable are *I Love Hooligans* (the beautifully animated story of a gay football fan) and *Aban + Khorshid* (a true account of two guys imprisoned for being gay). All nine carry a strong kick.



Film of the week

A BIGGER SPLASH (15)

Loose and lively, with a snaky plot that carries real intrigue, this comedy-drama stars Tilda Swinton as a rock star recovering from vocal-chord surgery, lounging with her toy-boy Matthias Schoenaerts (woof!) naked on an Italian island. Then their idyll is invaded by the fast-talking, even more naked Ralph Fiennes and his seductive daughter Dakota Johnson. Where this goes is lusty, surprising, and superbly played by the cast.



BOYS ON FILM 14:
WORLDS COLLIDE

Boys On Film has built itself a reputation as one of the most significant gay cinematic canons in the industry. Whether it's introspective lakeside rendezvous', or muffled shags in nightclub toilets, they've provided a sexy, fun, dramatic backdrop to mainstream queer cinema.

Released by Peccadillo Pictures, the periodic short film collection is now on its 14th edition, and still going strong. It features 9 new artful cinematic shorts, ranging from scintillatingly sexual to titillatingly twee. There's some dark tragedy, clashing of classes, concealed desire, and hedonistic humour. All sounds a bit like a night out in Vauxhall.

Here's our pick of the films on offer.



I Love Hooligans
Jan-Dirk Bouw
(Netherlands/ Belgium)
13 mins
2013

A football fan feels unconditional love for his club. However, being gay, he has to hide his identity in order to survive in the world that is so precious to him.

Official selection Hong Kong Film Festival 2014, Winner of Holland Animation Film Festival: Professional Award for Dutch Animation 2014.

An Afternoon
Søren Green (Denmark)
8 mins
2014

Mathias is in love with Frederik and now he's going to tell him. But when the moment of truth arrives, is he brave enough to make the first move?
Iris Prize 2015

Aban and Khorshid
Darwin Serink (USA)
13 mins
2014

If you only had a few hours left to live, what would you share with the love of your life? Together Aban and Khorshid explore this question during the hours before sentencing for their crime of loving each other.

Cannes Emerging Filmmakers Showcase, American Pavillion: Best LGBT Short.

Barrio Boy
Dennis Shinnors (USA)
8 mins
2014

It's a sultry summer afternoon in a macho Brooklyn hood and while cutting the hair of a handsome Irish stranger, a Latino barber secretly falls in love.

Miami LGBT Film Fest – Audience award for Best Short



Boys on Film 14 was released on DVD on the 22nd January. For more information and the details on how to purchase visit www.peccapics.com.



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17 Feb

M U S T S & M A Y B E S

THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

CLUBS & EVENTS

Clam Jam at Dalston Superstore:

117 Kingsland High St, E8 2PB. 9pm-2:30am. Free. The Premiere Thursday night for lesbians and their gay boyfriends.

G-A-Y Porn Idol at G-A-Y Heaven:

Villiers Street, WC2N 6NG. 10pm - 5am. Amateur strip night with £100 prize money! To enter email info@g-a-y.co.uk

#KIT at Eagle London: 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 9pm-3am. Members free, under 25's free in trakies, sports, rugby or football kit, £5 after 10pm. Eagle's Sports Fetish night.

Klub at Ku Bar Lisle Street: 30 Lisle St, WC2H 7BA. 10pm-3am. FREE. The party continues 'til late in the Ku basement.

Gravity Afterhours at Fire: 39 Parry Street, London SW8 1RT. 1am-8am (Thursday night/Friday morning). Gravity is set to shake the clubbing rules once again, giving Thursday nights a new lease of life.

Mari Wilson - Ready, Steady Girls at The Vauxhall Tavern: 372 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5HY. Doors 7pm, show 8pm. Tickets from £15. After her triumphant show in 2015, Mari Wilson returns to the Royal Vauxhall Tavern with her show 'Ready Steady Girls!'

Room Service at Club 49: 49 Greek Street, Soho, W1D. 10pm-3am. Don't you dare miss this fiercely social, sexy club spot, playing edgy and upfront house. Expect hot gogo eye candy and hosted by fab scene faces.

BARS & CABARET

The Family Fierce at Bloc Bar: 18 Kentish Town Road, Camden, London, NW1 9NX. 5pm-2am, £5.

Cabaret from one of London's best performing troupes.

Swing at BackCounter: South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8 1SR. 12pm-3pm. The perfect way to start or end your night in Vauxhall. TONIGHT: cocktails & jail!

Official Room Service Pre-Party at

Circa: 62 Frith Street, Soho, W1. 4pm-4am. Thursday's are the new Friday's at Soho's intimate bar/club spot with the most amazing DJ booth in town.

City of Quebec: 12 Old Quebec Street, Marble Arch, W1H 7AF. 12pm-3am. The newly refurbished venerable institution of the gay scene rocks out some pop classics for an evening of fun.

Comptons of Soho: 51-53 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 6HN. 12pm-2am. The grand dame of Soho.

G-A-Y Bar: 30 Old Compton Street. 12pm-2am. Free entry. Popular pop music bar with non-stop hits on the screens and a fun, flirty atmosphere.

Backing The Stars at Halfway 2 Heaven: 7 Duncannon Street, Charing Cross, WC2N 4JF. Popular central London karaoke fun with Kevin Walsh. Showtime at 8pm.

The Light Lounge: 1 Newport Place, WC2H 7JR. 5pm-11:30pm. Enjoy the Ku Group's newest venue; a boutique cocktail bar. 2-4-1 cocktails 5-7pm all week.

The Soho Square: 11 Soho Square, Soho, W1D 3QE. 4pm-late. Last entry 1am. Soho's multi-floored gay wonder.

Two Brewers: 114 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UJ. Bar open 4pm-2am. FREE b4 10pm, £3 after. Popular South London cabaret/club spot.

Candy at The Village: 81 Wardour

Street, W1V 3TG, 5pm-2am. Snap cackling pop & chart with Heidi Liscious and the gorgeous gogo boys.

Gossip at West 5: Pope's Lane, South Ealing, W5 4NB. Open from 8pm. FREE. Ealing's hugely popular club, bar and cabaret spot.

FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

CLUBS & EVENTS

Le Coq at East Bloc: 217 City Road, Shoreditch, EC1V 1JN. 11pm-6am. £5 b4 midnight then £10. £5 after 4am. This week at Le Coq we have special guest Mr. A over from Helsinki (Bears on Board). He'll be joined by Hifi Sean for an extended back to back set until 6am. Getting things going is Brut man Ben Jamin.

A:M at Protocol: 6a South Lambeth Place, SW8 1SP. 11pm-11am. £4 b4 1am, £8 b4 6am with QX ADVERT / NUS / Conc, £13 others. The original Saturday morning afterhours beast that continues to light up the weekend.

In Flagranti at Dalston Superstore: 117 Kingsland High Street, E8 2PB. 9pm-3am. Free b4 11pm, £5 after. Alex and Sasa of In Flagranti (Kitsuné, Phantasy Sound) are back in the Superstore laser basement after a mighty 2015.

Men Inc. Starring DJ Mihai Damon Hosted by Eagle Amsterdam at Eagle London: 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 8pm-late. Free before 10pm - £5 after. Free for Eagle London members before midnight. Men Inc. the UK's hottest all-man party social sizzles this January with a fresh DJ line up, international performers and world exclusive events.

The Valentines Ball at Ku Bar Lisle Street: 30 Lisle St, WC2H 7BA. 10pm-3am. FREE b4 10:30pm, £5

after. Pop perfection and hot floor fillers as Ku's hot 3 spin the tunes in its downstairs basement club spot. TONIGHT: Celebrate the day of luuurve with Ku as all venues are transformed into lustful, sexy haven's.

Anthem - Old Skool Reunion: Hi-NRG at The Vauxhall Tavern: 372 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5HY. 9:00pm-5:00am, £Tickets £6-£10. A Night celebrating music from the era-defining 80s gay underground, early 90s eurobeat and later Italo/eurodance hits.

BARS & CABARET

The Outsiders at Bloc Bar: 18 Kentish Town Road, Camden, London, NW1 9NX. Bloc Bar is throwing an unofficial Suede after party with Popstarz's Tommy Turntables.

Friday Night Fever at BackCounter: South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8 1SR. 12pm-3pm. The perfect way to start or end your night in Vauxhall with style and great drinks. TONIGHT: DJ Chillz

Bridge Bar: 8 Voltaire Road, SW4 6DH. Open from 4pm. Free. The end of the working week oasis.

Karaoke at Central Station: 37 Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross, N1 9SD. Open from 6pm til 3am or later... FREE The super-friendly Kings Cross bar. DJs 'til late. Hosted by DJ Chris Reardon

Circa: 62 Frith Street, Soho, W1D 3JN. 4pm-4am. Soho's intimate but packed-out bar/club spot watches Munroe Bergdorf and friends werq the floor!

Comptons of Soho: 51-53 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 6HN. 9pm-2am. The grand dame of Soho.

City of Quebec: 12 Old Quebec Street, Marble Arch, W1H 7AF. 12pm-3am. The newly refurbished

the outsiders

a celebration of **suede** and brit-pop

fri 12 feb - bloc bar 18 kentish town road - after forum gig - till late

dj tommy turntables (popstarz, proud, barfly)

pre gig happy hour 5-8pm - drinks 2.50

venerable institution of the gay scene rocks out some pop classics for an evening of fun.

George and Dragon: 2 Blackheath Hill, SE10. 8pm-4am. The friendly Greenwich local. DJ Tony Tim on the decks playing 80s and 90s camp until 4am.

Baby Lame's Shit Valentine's Show! at The Glory: 281 Kingsland Road, Haggerston, E2 8AS. 8:30pm-10:30pm. Join the award-winning Baby Lame for a chaotic night of genderfucked midnight movie sexuality and punk rock rottenness.

Followed by **Femses!** From 9pm.

Thank freak it's Friday...it's time for a FEMSESH! TONIGHT: Lydia S'Cabies & DJ Hannah Holland

Friday Night Live at Halfway 2

Heaven: 7 Duncannon Street, Charing Cross, WC2N 4JF. From 9pm. Tickets from £10. With DJ Little John & Sandra.

Ku Bar Soho: 25 Frith Street, WC1D 5LB. Open till 5am. Ku Bar's little brother stretches across two floors for that perfect Soho warm-up drinking session and a little dance with downstairs DJs.

The Light Lounge: 1 Newport Place, WC2H 7JR. 5pm-12am. Enjoy the Ku Group's newest venue; a boutique cocktail bar. 2-4-1 cocktails 5-7pm all week.

Two Brewers: 114 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UJ. 10pm-4am. FREE b4 10pm, £7 after. South London's legendary club & bar.

Fadoodle at The Village: 81 Wardour Street, W1V 3TG, 5pm-2am, Free. Into the Deep in the basement and Funhouse upstairs with Heidi Liscious and the Go Go's.

West 5: South Ealing, Pope's Lane, W5 4NB. Open from 8pm, FREE. The popular West London club, bar and cabaret spot.

The Yard: 57 Rupert Street, Soho, W1D 7PL. Open till 1am. FREE. Renowned as one of Soho's most unique and popular destination venues, with terrific outdoor space.

SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

CLUBS & EVENTS

XXL Valentines at Pulse: 1 Invicta Plaza, Southwark, SE1 9UF. 10pm-7am. £15 guests, £8 members. Big, bear night that's open to everyone in super club Pulse. TONIGHT: Moto Blanco

Night Sheen at East Bloc: 217 City Road, Shoreditch, EC1V 1JN. 11pm-6am. £5 b4 midnight then £10. £5 after 4am. Night Sheen residents Hannah Holland & Josh Caffé will be taking you on a musical trip across the underground sounds of house, techno & electronica. Joining them is guest Polanski.

Discosodoma at Dalston Superstore: 117 Kingsland High St, E8 2PB. 9pm-3:00am. Free b4 10pm/£6 after. Marking thier 2016 premiere, the Discosodoma boys return to Dalston Superstore to celebrate love and its victims, with their notorious Valentine's extravaganza!

Eagle London's 12th Birthday Party Hosted By Scottee at Eagle London: 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 9pm-4am, £5 advanced, £8 OTD. Eagle members Free all night, door £5. Free before 11pm for Eagle members! Eagle London is turning twelve and throwing open the doors on what promises to be a night to remember starring James Hillard and Scottee.

Duckie at The Vauxhall Tavern: 372 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5HY. 9pm-2am. £6. Duckie's flag ship rock 'n' roll honky tonk.

The Valentines Ball at Ku Bar Lisle Street: 30 Lisle St, WC2H 7BA. 10pm-3am, FREE b4 10:30pm, £5 after. Celebrate the day of luuurve with Ku as all venues are transformed into lustful, sexy haven's. With guest DJs SexShooters.

Savage at Metropolis: Strip Club, 235 Cambridge Heath Road, E2 9NN. 11pm-5am. £5. Weekly Saturday club night from the Sink The Pink crew.

Moto Blanco @ XXL

Saturday



Glitter Bomb at The Shadow Lounge: Brewer Street, Soho, W1G 0RF. 10pm-3am. Let disco do its dance with live entertainment, dancers and DJs.

G-A-Y at Heaven: Villiers Street, WC2N 6NG. 10pm - 5am. £5 entry wristbands available from G-A-Y Bar, Free entry with Wrist band.

Sweatbox: Foam Party at 1-2 Ramilies Street, Soho, W1F 7LN. 24 hours. 24hr pass £17, 48hr pass £19. Unwind and release some tension after a stressy week with the all the fun of the foam at Sweatbox's original weekly party.

BARS & CABARET

Pop Lovers at Bloc Bar: 18 Kentish Town Road, Camden, London, NW1 9NX. 12pm-3am. Free b4 10pm, £5 after. Pure pop heaven with a love them for our Valentine's Day party! The Unlucky Bitches going through the night.

Sassy Saturday at BackCounter: South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8 1SR. The perfect way to start or end your night in Vauxhall. TONIGHT: seductive cabaret dinner with Ivy Paige, Miss Hope Springs & Daniel Koek.

Bridge Bar: 8 Voltaire Road, SW8 6DH, 4pm-12am. Free. Snug gay bar in a railway arch, offering cocktails, wines and light meals, plus outdoor seating.

Central Station: 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, N1 9SD. Open 'til

4am. FREE b4 10pm. Cabaret then DJs 'til late.

Circa: 62 Frith Street, Soho, W1D 3JN. 4pm-4am. Soho's intimate but packed-out bar/club spot watches Munroe Bergdorf and friends werq the floor!

City of Quebec: 12 Old Quebec Street, Marble Arch, W1H 7AF. 12pm-3am. The newly refurbished venerable institution of the gay scene rocks out some pop classics for an evening of fun.

Comptons of Soho: 51-53 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 6HN. 5pm-2am. The grand dame of Soho pulling in a more blokey crowd.

G-A-Y Bar: 30 Old Compton Street. 12pm-2am. Free entry. Popular pop music bar with non-stop hits on the screens and a fun, flirty atmosphere.

George and Dragon: 2 Blackheath Hill, SE10. 8pm-4am. The friendly Greenwich local.

Ladies Love Clam Jerk Vol II Valentines Spesh at The Glory: 281 Kingsland Road, Haggerston, E2 8AS. 5pm-2am, Free b4 10pm & £5 after. Clam Jam & Jerk! join forces yet again to present the ladies with the only choice this Valentines Day.

Rose Garden's Saturday Market Slash Swap Shop at Halfway 2 Heaven: 7 Duncannon St, WC2N 4JF. Open 'til 3am. Rose Garden and DJ Little John from 4pm. Showtime at 5pm. Followed by **Xanadu** from 8pm, the Camp Disco.

SUNDAY SOCIAL

AT THE VAUXHALL TAVERN

14TH FEBRUARY

BACK-TO-BASICS
RESIDENT DJs
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£4 MEMBERS / £5 NON-MEMBERS
3PM TILL MIDNIGHT



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MYRA DUBOIS
COMMERCIAL HOUSE
AND DANCE WITH DJs
SIMON LE VANS
LIAM CHAPLIN
SEAN SIRRS

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AND CRUISE AT SOUTH LONDON'S
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OPEN 3PM
SHOWTIME 5.30PM
CLUB HOURS 7PM TILL MIDNIGHT



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Ku Bar Lisle Street: Chinatown, WC2H 7BA. 8pm-12am. One of London's hottest gay bars and clubs, with the hottest boys both behind the bar and in front of it, stretching over three floors.

Ku Bar Soho: 25 Frith Street, WC1D 5LB. Open till 12am (3am last Friday of the month). Perfect for that Soho warm-up drinking session and cheeky dance with downstairs DJs.

The Light Lounge: 1 Newport Place, WC2H 7JR. 5pm-12am. Enjoy the Ku Group's newest venue; a boutique cocktail bar. 2-4-1 cocktails 5-7pm all week.

The Old Ship: 17 Barnes Street, Limehouse, E14 7NW. 8pm-12am. Cabaret: 8.45pm. Free. Local gay bar in East London's Limehouse.

The Soho Square: 11 Soho Square, Soho, W1D 3QE. Midday-3am. Last entry 2am. FREE b4 10.30pm. Four floors of fun! DJs spin a blend of commercial, house, pop and chart remixes. Guilty pleasures upstairs.

Two Brewers: 114 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UJ. 10pm-4am. Free b4 10, £8 after. Cabaret and clubbing 'til late at the famous venue.

House Party! at The Village: 81 Wardour Street, W1V 3TG, 5pm-3am. Chunky funky techno in the basement with Paul Heron and snap crackling pop upstairs with Heidi Liscious.

West 5: South Ealing, Pope's Lane, W5 4NB. Open from 8pm. The popular West London club, bar and cabaret spot, with added Piano Lounge fun. TONIGHT: 9 Stars from RuPaul's Drag Race + 6 from the UK!

The Yard: 57 Rupert Street, Soho, W1D 7PL. Midday till late. FREE. Renowned as one of Soho's most unique and popular destination venues, with terrific outdoor space.

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY CLUBS & EVENTS

Sunday Social at The Vauxhall

Taverns: Royal Vauxhall Tavern, 372 Kennington Lane, SE11 5HY. 2pm-12am. Showtime 5:30pm. £4 members/£5 non-members. London's busiest social session. TONIGHT: Simon LeVans, Myra DuBois, Liam Chapman & Sean Sirrs.

Horse Meat Disco 'Celebrate Eagle 12 Years' at Eagle London: 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY, 8pm-3am, £6. Every Sunday the Horse Meat Disco residents transform the Eagle London dancefloor. Expect a magical night of music and an eclectic mix of beautiful people.

Beyond at Ministry: 103 Gaunt

Street, SE1 6DP. Doors 4am. £12.10. Combining hedonistic dance music & show stopping performances Beyond really is the ultimate Gay party destination.

Orange at Fire: 39 Parry Street, London SW8 1RT. 10pm-8am. £8 b4 1am with ad flyer or student card. 15 years and still going strong and still putting Sunday clubbing on the map; Orange has more energy than ever b4.

Sorry Not Sorry Valentine's Special at Dalston Superstore: 117 Kingsland High St, E8 2PB. 9pm-2:30am.

Single ladies and taken gals alike, stop right there! This is the Vally Day bash you've been searching for!

The Valentines Ball at Ku Bar Lisle Street: 30 Lisle St, WC2H 7BA. 10pm-12pm. FREE. Celebrate the day of luuurve with Ku as all venues are transformed into lustful, sexy haven's.

BARS & CABARET

Sunday Mass Launch party! at Bloc

Bar: 18 Kentish Town Road, Camden, London, NW1 9NX. 4pm-1am, Free. It's a new Sunday service at Bloc Bar with the launch of Virgin Xtravaganazah's new weekly. Father Jeffrey Hinton in the Disco Pulpit and Sister A Man To Pet bringing some Greek Orthodox glamour. Confession at 7pm.

BackCounter: South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8 1SR. 12pm-3pm. Vauxhall's new playground. The perfect way to start or end your night in Vauxhall. TONIGHT: Happy Sunday from 3pm-midnight.

Central Station: 37 Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross, N1 9SD. Open 'til 4am. FREE b4 10pm. Cabaret then DJs 'til late.

Circa: 62 Frith Street, Soho, W1D 3JN. 4pm-4am. Soho's intimate but packed-out bar/club spot with the most amazing DJ booth in town.

Comptons of Soho: 51-53 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 6HN. 5pm-2am. The grand dame of Soho pulling in a more blokey crowd.

Brunch off Broadway at Counter: South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8 1SR. 12pm-3pm. The funniest brunch this side of Bleecker Street, piano bar delights. TONIGHT: Carl Joseph.

George and Dragon: 2 Blackheath Hill, SE10. 8pm-2am. FREE. The friendly Greenwich local. The Duchess hosts the weekly Piano Bar with Ian Parker on the keys.

CK Sunday at Halfway 2 Heaven: 7 Duncannon Street, Charing Cross, WC2N 4JF. Open 'til 11pm. Another award winning Sunday at Halfway to Heaven! Followed by An

Evening with Mrs Moore & Tanya Hyde from 7:30pm.

New Bloomsbury Set: 76 Marchmont Street, Bloomsbury, WC1N 1AG. 4pm-11.30pm. Open all week for the more social gays around the Kings Cross/Bloomsbury area.

Old Ship: 17 Barnes Street, Limehouse, E14 7NW. 8pm-12am. Cabaret: 8pm. Free. Local gay bar in East London's Limehouse.

The Soho Square: 11 Soho Square, Soho, W1D 3QE. 4pm-late. Last entry 1am. Soho's multi-floored gay wonder. Ground floor DJs spin top 40 and radio edit chart dance and commercial and chart R'n'B on the 2nd floor.

Power of Three at Two Brewers: 114 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UJ. 4pm-2am. FREE b4 8pm, £4after. South London's legendary club, bar and cabaret spot.

Karaoke with Carmen at West 5: Pope's Lane, South Ealing, W5 4NB. Open from 8pm. FREE. West London's giant club/bar/cabaret home invites you to chill out here.

The Village: 81 Wardour Street, W1V 3TG, 5pm-11:30pm. Wind down with happy hour at the village between 5-9pm.

MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY CLUBS & EVENTS

Popcorn at G-A-Y Heaven: Villiers Street, WC2N 6NG. 11pm-5.30am. £5 b4 1am, £8 after, Last admission 3:30am. FREE with wristbands from G-A-Y Bar b4 1am. Massive mixed mash-up with four rooms of top sounds, from upfront, progressive house to chart hits, via R&B tuneage.

The Big Bingo Show at The Vauxhall Tavern: Royal Vauxhall Tavern, 372 Kennington Lane, SE11 5HY. 7pm, eyes down at 8:30pm, Free Entry. Bingo in a pub.....with balls!!

Hot N' Hairy at Eagle London: 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 9pm-2am. Free b4 10pm to all including Eagle members, guests £5 after 10pm, entry includes free coat check and 1st drink included. If body hair and makes you horny this is the night for you! It's the hottest Monday night fur fetish sexy social. Hosted by Luis Busto and Kurt Bearfest.

Hard-Up Mondays at Sweatbox: 1-2 Ramilies Street, Soho, W1F 7LN. 24 hours. Under 25s FREE all day, £16 others. Finding Mondays hard to handle? Relieve the pressure with this discounted day for under 25s (ID required) at Soho's only gay sauna.

Ku Klub at Ku Bar Lisle Street: 30 Lisle St, WC2H 7BA. 6pm-3am. FREE. DJs play the weekend out on a wave of hot pop.

BARS & CABARET

Cheap Mondays at Bloc Bar: 18 Kentish Town Road, Camden, London, NW1 9NX. 5pm-1am, Free. Student cabaret night, all welcome, hosted by Fagulous & DJ Meth.

The City of Quebec: 12 Old Quebec Street, Marble Arch, W1H 7AF. From 9pm. The newly refurbished venerable institution of the gay scene rocks out some pop classics for an evening of fun.

Comptons Says Relax at Comptons of Soho: 51-53 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 6HN. 12pm-11.30pm. The real queen of Soho. Bar £2.50 on popular drinks from 5pm.

Backing The Stars at Halfway 2 Heaven: 7 Duncannon St. WC2. 7.30pm. Karaoke with singer Kevin Walsh on hosting duties.

The Light Lounge: 1 Newport Place, WC2H 7JR. 5pm-11:30pm. Enjoy the Ku Group's newest venue; a boutique cocktail bar. 2-4-1 cocktails 5-7pm all week.

The Old Ship: 17 Barnes Street, Limehouse, E14 7NW. Local gay bar in East London's Limehouse.

Mrs Moore at Two Brewers: 114 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UJ, 5pm-2am, £3 after 10pm. The landmark south London cabaret, bar and club.

The Village: 81 Wardour Street, W1V 3TG, 5pm-1am. All night happy hour with 50% off cocktails and selected drinks.

**TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY
CLUBS & EVENTS**

Bar Wotever at The Vauxhall Tavern: 372 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5HY. From 7pm, show at 8:30pm. £5. Genderbending cabaret, live music and performance at the monumental

Vauxhall Tavern.

Klub at Ku Bar Lisle Street: 30 Lisle St, WC2H 7BA. 10pm-3am. FREE. The party continues 'til late in the Ku basement.

G-A-Y Late: 5 Goslett Yard, off Charing Cross Road, WC2. 11pm - 3am. Free entry. Hot pop sounds, drinks specials, cute guys and a pop perfect atmosphere.

BARS & CABARET

Bloc Bar: 18 Kentish Town Road, Camden, London, NW1 9NX. 5pm-1am, Free. Come cosy up with a midweek pint at Bloc Bar.

Circa: 62 Frith Street, Soho, W1D 3JN. Open 'til 1am. Soho's intimate but packed-out bar/club spot with the most amazing DJ booth in town.

See you Next Tuesday at Halfway 2 Heaven: 7 Duncannon Street, Charing Cross, WC2N 4JF. From 9pm. See you next Tuesday with Bette Rinse and DJ LittleJohn

The Light Lounge: 1 Newport Place, WC2H 7JR. 5pm-11:30pm. Enjoy the Ku Group's newest venue; a boutique cocktail bar. 2-4-1 cocktails all night.

Quiz Night at The Old Ship: -at 17 Barnes Street, Limehouse, E14 7NW. 9.30pm. Local gay bar in East London's Limehouse.

The Soho Square: 11 Soho Square, Soho, W1D 3QE. 4pm-late. Last entry 1am. Soho's multi-floored gay wonder.

Karaoke at Two Brewers: 114 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UJ. Bar open 4pm-2am. FREE b4 10pm, £3 after. Popular South London cabaret/club spot.

The Village: 81 Wardour Street, W1V 3TG, 5pm-1am. Happy hour until 9pm.

**WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY
CLUBS & EVENTS**

XXL at Pulse: 1 Invicta Plaza, Southwark, SE1 9UF. 9pm-3am. £15 guests, £8 members. Midweek grizzly fun for bears and their admirers.

#GETLAID at Eagle London: 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 9pm-2am. members free, under 25's free, guests £3 after 10pm. Where ladz #GetLaid! Try something horny in the cinema, or some exciting cruise areas to explore.

Uncontrollable Urge at Dalston Superstore: 117 Kingsland High St, E8 2PB. 9pm-2:30am. Free. Superstore's late-night midweek dose of sleaze from.

Klub at Ku Bar Lisle Street: 30 Lisle St, WC2H 7BA. 10pm-3am. FREE. The party continues 'til late in the Ku basement.

Royal Vauxhall at The Vauxhall Tavern: 372 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5HY. Doors 7:00pm-11:55pm. £15/£12. The story of the wildest night in the history of the capital's most iconic gay venue.

BARS & CABARET

Dusseldorf at Bloc Bar: 18 Kentish Town Road, Camden, London, NW1 9NX. 5pm-1am, Free. Post punk, minimal wave and electronic as Dusseldorf returns after last month's excellent launch party! TONIGHT: Seb & David

Wednesday Naughties at Central Station: 37 Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross, N1 9SD. Open 'til 4am. FREE b4 10pm. Cabaret then DJs 'til late.

Circa: 62 Frith Street, Soho, W1D 3JN. Open 'til 1am. Soho's intimate but packed-out bar/club spot with the most amazing DJ booth in town

Comptons of Soho: 51-53 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 6HN.

12pm-11.30pm. Super social pub downstairs, chilled club lounge upstairs with guest pianist tinkling the ivories.

BackCounter: South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8 1SR. 12pm-3pm. The perfect way to start or end your night in Vauxhall.

LIPSYNC1000! at The Glory: 281 Kingsland Road, Haggerston, E2 8AS. Doors 5pm, show 8pm. Free. It's The Glory's Juggernaut, Dragship Contest in which the hunt is on for new drag talent and a give away £1000 to one lucky star.

Sing-A-Long-A-Sound of Martha at Halfway 2 Heaven: 7 Duncannon Street, Charing Cross, WC2N 4JF. From 9pm. TONIGHT: Sing-A-Long-A-Sound of Martha D'Arthur and Justin Swift.

The Light Lounge: 1 Newport Place, WC2H 7JR. 5pm-11:30pm. Enjoy the Ku Group's newest venue; a boutique cocktail bar. 2-4-1 cocktails 5-7pm all week.

The Old Ship: 17 Barnes Street, Limehouse, E14 7NW. Quiz from 9.30pm. Local gay bar in East London's Limehouse.

The Soho Square: 11 Soho Square, Soho, W1D 3QE. 4pm-late. Last entry 1am. Soho's multi-floored gay wonder.

Two Brewers: 114 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UJ. Bar open 4pm-2am. FREE b4 10pm, £3 after. Popular South London cabaret/club spot.

The Voice of The Village at The Village: 81 Wardour Street, W1V 3TG, 5pm-1am. Karaoke with the outrageous Robyn Banks from 9pm. Win a £50 bar tab.

West 5: Pope's Lane, South Ealing, W5 4NB. Open from 8pm. FREE. Ealing's hugely popular club, bar and cabaret spot.

11pm-3am
5 Pounds

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Debbie

Saturday
February 20th

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REGULAR CLUB EVENTS: Dare 2 Bare - She Dazzle - Bears Day

www.gay-sauna.com

WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

The Backstreet: Buff at Wentworth Mews, London E3 4UA. 7pm-11pm, £9 members/£10 guests (free drink/coat check). Horny, naked cruise party.

Eagle London:

#GetLaid at 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 9pm-2am. Members free, Guests £3 after 10pm. Where ladz #GetLaid! Try something horny in the cinema, or some exciting cruise areas to explore.

The Hoist: Office/NBN at Arches 47b & 47c, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8 1RH.

Office, 9pm-1am, relax, chill and score after work.

NBN, 9pm-1am, boots or trainers with jocks, shorts or underwear.

The Underground Club: Hard Cruz at Central Station, 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, N1. 10pm-1am, free. Men only, hard, up cruise night where you can get it on.

Vault: Cruise/Underwear at 139b-143 Whitfield Street, W1T 5EN.

Cruise, 1pm-7pm, £7. Followed by **Underwear**, 7pm-1am, £8, free drink, cloakroom and re-entry. Get down to your underwear.

THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

Eagle London: #KIT at 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY.

9pm-3am. Members free, under 25's free in trakkies, sports, rugby or football gear, £5 after 10pm. Sportswear fetish night with a mix of horny ladz, fit fella's and more.

Teds Place: TV/TS Party Night at 305a North End Road, W14 9NS. 7pm-2am. £5. A horny night in the cruisey basement club in West London.

The Underground Club: Pants/Spanzk/Come To Daddy at 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, N1.

Pants, 12pm-6pm, £4 or £2 b4 2pm, underwear fun. **Spanzk**, 6pm-10pm, £25 b4 7pm & £7 after, CP night for rougher, tougher play. **Come To Daddy**, 10pm-2am, £5, for bears, daddies, big boys, chubs and chasers.

Vault: Cruise/Stripped at 139b-143 Whitfield

Street, W1T 5EN. **Cruise**, 1-7pm, £7. Followed by **Stripped**, 7pm-1am, £8. Free drink, cloakroom and re-entry. Get nude and rude. Strictly naked, except footwear.

FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

Eagle London: Men Inc. Starring DJ Mihai Damon Hosted by Eagle Amsterdam at 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY.

8pm-late. Free before 10pm - £5 after. Free for Eagle London members before midnight. Men Inc. the UK's hottest all-man party social sizzles with a fresh DJ line up.

The Underground Club: Pants/Fetish Bound at 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, N1.

Pants, 12pm-6pm, £4 or £2 b4 2pm, underwear fun. **Fetish Bound**, 7pm-11:30pm, £7.50 (discount for members). Men Only Fetish Event with a wide and varied dress code that's all about bondage and restraint play!

Vault: Cruise at 139b-143 Whitfield Street, W1T 5EN. 1pm-1am, £7 b4 7pm/£8 after, free drink, cloakroom and re-entry. Horny cruise spot minute's from the West End.

SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

The Backstreet: Buff at Wentworth Mews, London E3 4UA. 6pm-10pm, £9 members / £10 non-members (free drink/coat check). Horny, naked cruise party. Closed first Saturday of the month.

Eagle London: Eagle London's 12th Birthday Party Hosted By Scottee at 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 9pm-4am,

Eagle members Free all night, door £5. Free before 11pm for Eagle members! Eagle London is turning twelve and throwing open the doors on what promises to be a night to remember starring James Hillard and Scottee.

Expectations: Pup Out at 75 Great Eastern Street, London, EC2A 3RY. 1pm-5pm. Free. Sponsored by Puppy Pride, head on down to Expectations where it's

20% with free drinks, free treats and free entry! Woof Woof.

The Hoist: Boys & Sirs / SBN Afterdark / Huge Massive Hung Hoist Classic at South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8 1RH. **Boys & Sirs** at 2pm-7pm, Weekly meet for those into spanking / cp / punishment. **SBN Afterdark** at Arch II, 10pm-4am, naked fun and live sexshow.

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The Underground Club: Pants/Collared at 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, N1. **Pants**, 12pm-6pm, £4, underwear fun. **Collared**, 7pm-12am, £5 for Members & £10 for Non-Members. Plenty of equipment to try out, horny videos on the big screen, funky music from our resident DJs, excellent drinks at the bar, and lots of kinky people just like you.

Vault: Cruise at 139b-143 Whitfield Street, W1T 5EN. 1pm-1am. £7 b4 7pm/£8 after. Free drink, cloakroom, re-entry. Dark corners, catch a dirty movie, indulge your carnal side.

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

The Backstreet: Buff at Wentworth Mews, London E3 4UA. 6pm-10pm, £9 members/£10 guests (free drink/coat check). Horny, naked cruise party.

Eagle London: Horse Meat Disco 'Celebrate Eagle 12 Years' at 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 8pm-3am. £6 all night. Expect a magical night of music and an eclectic mix of beautiful people. Supremely special guests visit from all over the world to experience the unbridled joy that emerges every Sunday in this corner of Vauxhall.

The Hoist: SBN/Gummi/NBN at Arches 47b & 47c, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8 1RH. **SBN**, 2pm-1am, the largest naked party in Europe. **Gummi**, 6pm-12am, monthly

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rubber gear themed night. **NBN**, 7pm-1am, Boots or trainers with jocks, shorts, underwear or naked if you dare.

Teds Place: Chill Out at 305a North End Road. 7pm-2am, £3 b4 10pm, £5 after, mixed/gay crowd of cruisey guys.

The Underground Club: Streams Of Pleasure at 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, N1. 1pm-11pm. £7. Yellow fun for waterworks fans.

Vault: Underwear/Cruise at 139b-143 Whitfield Street, W1T 5EN. **Underwear**, 1-7pm, £7. **Cruise**, 7pm-1am, £8, free drink, cloakroom and re-entry, just pants b4 7pm, then cruise 'til late.

MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

Eagle London: Hot N' Hairy at 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 9pm-2am. Members free, guests free B4 10pm, £5 after. Hosted by Luis Busto & Kurt Bearfest. f body hair and makes you horny this is the night for you! It's the hottest Monday night fur fetish sexy social.

Teds Place: TV/TS Admirers & Gay at

305a North End Rd, W14. 7pm-midnight, £3. Night for lovers of trans, drag and gay beauties. Something for everyone!

The Underground Club: Pants/Butt Naked/Hard Cruz at 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, N1. **Pants**, 12pm-6pm, £4 or £2 b4 2pm. **Butt Naked**, 6pm-10pm, £5, strip down and get off with like-minded guys. **Hard Cruz**, 10pm-1am, free entry, hard cruising for horny guyz.

Vault: Cruise/Stripped at Vault, 139b-143 Whitfield Street, W1T 5EN. **Cruise**, 1-7pm, £7. **Stripped**, 7pm-1am, £8, free drink, cloakroom and re-entry, horny cruise session first before naked time (except footwear).

TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY

Bunker Bar: Club CP at 217, City Road, Shoreditch, EC1V 1JN. 7pm-11pm, £6 members/ £7 non-members. Spanking and CP party for men, with a big play area, video room, chill zones, private booths, equipment and changing area. Closed first Tuesday of the month.

Eagle London: Cruise Control at 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 9pm-2am. Members free, Guests £3 after 10pm. Darker, Harder and Sexier: get your midweek fix for whatever you're into.

Teds Place: Underwear/Naked at 305s North End Rd, W14. 7pm-midnight, £4, strictly underwear only.

The Underground Club: Pants/S.O.P. at 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, N1. **Pants**, 12pm-6pm, £4 or £2 b4 2pm, the attitude-free afternoon cruise club. **Streams Of Pleasure**, 6pm-1am, £8, yellow fun for waterworks fans.

Vault: Frat Party! at 139b-143 Whitfield Street, W1T 5EN. 1pm-1am. £7 b4 7pm/£8 after. Cruising session at this horny hot spot. Student Tuesday's; free entry before 7pm with student card.

WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

The Backstreet: Buff at Wentworth Mews, London E3 4UA. 7pm-11pm, £9 members/£10 guests (free drink/coat check). Horny, naked cruise party.

Eagle London:

#GetLaid at 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 9pm-2am. Members free, Guests £3 after 10pm. Where ladz #GetLaid! Try something horny in the cinema, or some exciting cruise areas to explore.

The Hoist: Office/NBN at Arches 47b & 47c, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8 1RH.

Office, 9pm-1am, relax, chill and score after work. **NBN**, 9pm-1am, boots or trainers with jocks, shorts or underwear.

The Underground Club: Hard Cruz at Central Station, 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, N1. 10pm-1am, free. Men only, hard, up cruise night where you can get it on.

Vault: Cruise/Underwear at 139b-143 Whitfield Street, W1T 5EN. **Cruise**, 1pm-7pm, £7. Followed by **Underwear**, 7pm-1am, £8, free drink, cloakroom and re-entry. Get down to your underwear.

THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

Eagle London: #KIT at 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 9pm-3am. Members free,

under 25's free in trakkies, sports, rugby or footie gear, £5 after 10pm. Sportsweek fetish night with a mix of horny ladz, fit fella's and more.

The Hoist: SM Gays at Arches 47b & 47c, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8 1RH. 8pm-12am. No dress code on SM Gays nights, usual GLs.

Teds Place: TV/TS Party Night at 305a North End Road, W14 9NS. 7pm-2am. £5. A horny night in the cruisey basement club in West London.

The Underground Club: Pants/Spankz/Come To Daddy at 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, N1.

Pants, 12pm-6pm, £4 or £2 b4 2pm, underwear fun. **Spankz**, 6pm-10pm, £25 b4 7pm & £7 after, CP night for rougher, tougher play. **Come To Daddy**, 10pm-2am, £5, for bears, daddies, big boys, chubs and chasers.

Vault: Cruise/Stripped at 139b-143 Whitfield Street, W1T 5EN. **Cruise**, 1-7pm, £7. Followed by **Stripped**, 7pm-1am, £8. Free drink, cloakroom and re-entry. Get nude and rude. Strictly naked, except footwear.

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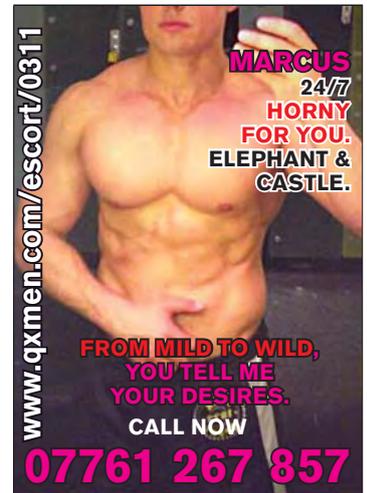
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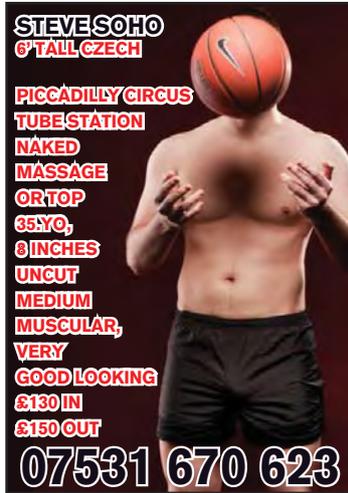
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Do you have an emotional or health worry? Contact Dr Alex via email: editorial@qxmagazine.com

Hi Dr Alex,
I have been getting headaches quite a lot recently. I don't usually get them. I've been popping some headache pills that my mum has (I think they contain paracetamol and some codeine) and that has helping but they seem to be getting more frequent. The pain is usually all around my head. Now it's been going on so long I'm beginning to worry it may be something more serious. Can you help?
Simone

Hi Simone,
Headaches are so common that it's hard to find anyone who's never had one! And we all worry that a headache can be a symptom of something more serious such as a brain tumour! Thankfully these are very rare. Even among people referred to hospital for headache, over 99% turn out not to have a sinister cause. So how do we tell the difference? And what can we do about everyday headaches?

The commonest type of headache by far is a tension headache. They tend to get worse towards the end of the day and feel like a tight band around

the head. The pain can also spread down your neck. These type of headaches usually only last a few hours and in between you feel fine. They can be brought on by all sorts of tension - either physical tension (such as pressure on your neck muscles from sitting in an uncomfortable position) or stress or anxiety.

Sometimes they can be triggered by some foods. If this sounds like your headache then things that are proven to help include exercise and relaxation. It is also worth keeping a 'headache diary' - so of what you are feeling, eating etc before your headache started

so you can learn to identify what might be the triggers. Simple painkillers such as paracetamol are usually enough to ease these type of headache.

Another common headache is actually a painkiller-induced headache. This means that if you take painkillers too often, they can bizarrely actually trigger

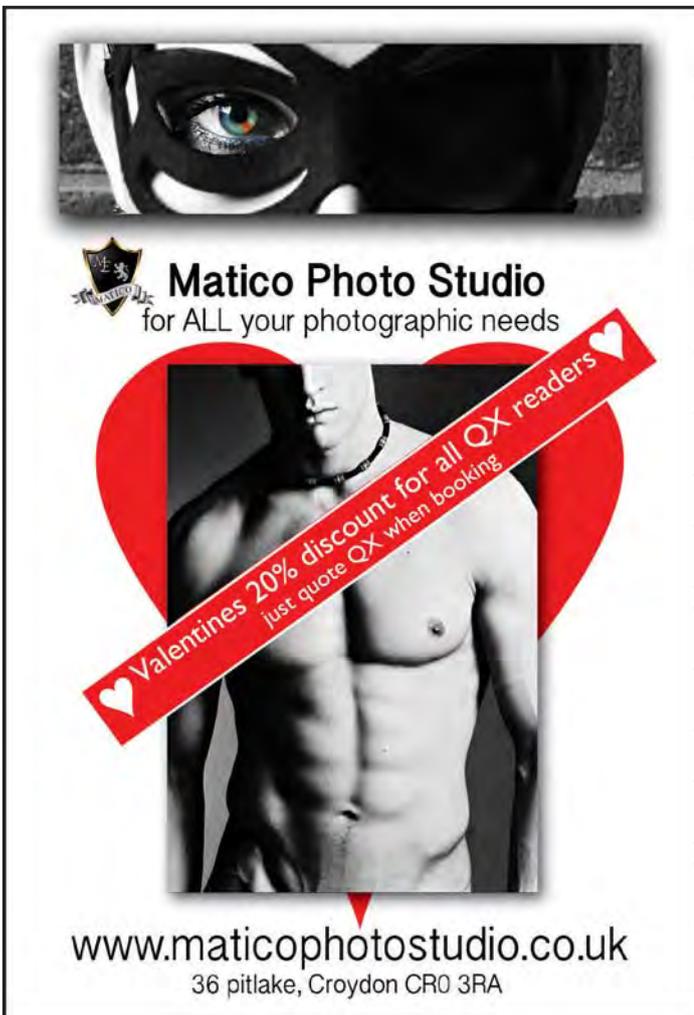
have become more frequent. You need to cut back on the amount of painkillers you are using and avoid combination painkillers containing codeine, such as co-codamol or co-dydramol.

As your headaches have been going on for some time I advise you see your GP - take

"If you take painkillers too often, they can bizarrely actually trigger more frequent headaches."

more frequent headaches. Codeine-based painkillers do this more often than paracetamol or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory tablets like ibuprofen. So I wonder if this may be the cause as you say you are taking a codeine based painkiller and your headaches

your headache diary along with you. Serious causes are very rare but you should have an examination and your eyes checked and the GP will then be able to reassure you nothing serious is going on and also find or why has triggered the headaches in the first place.



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