

QX
GAY LONDON

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THE BIG BEAR BLOW OUT!

XXL CELEBRATES ITS 13TH BIRTHDAY

20 G-A-Y MEMORIES FOR 20 G-A-Y YEARS

As G-A-Y turns twenty it's celebrating with a brand new compilation three CD and digital album, 'G-A-Y The Album'. We turn to G-A-Y owner and maestro behind the music **JEREMY JOSEPH** to give us twenty stellar memories of G-A-Y connected to the artists on the album.



Madonna

It's rare for Madonna to go on compilation albums and she personally approved Hung Up to go on G-A-Y The Album. It was very surreal at the time, Madonna at G-A-Y: I couldn't tell anyone, all I wanted to scream was 'OMG MADONNA IS AT G-A-Y!' and I could only tell my dogs. Around that time Live Nation were spending no money on the Astoria as they knew its days were numbered, so I lied that Madonna's management said that the backstage area needed decorating. I said she wanted it done completely purple; 'Confessions on the Dancefloor' wasn't Madonna making demands, it was me. Now I confess!

Adele

Adele is the only act in twenty years that we've managed to keep 100% secret. It was a little bit scary, because at the time there were rumours of various artists, but I'm not sure why we were worried, for f**k sake it's Adele! This showed G-A-Y to be different from any other club: having an artist come on, just her and a piano, going from an up-tempo disco to a full-on acoustic set. One of the reasons we didn't announce Adele, was because she'd recently cancelled performances because of throat problems. Until she got out on stage, she didn't know what she was able to do, but at least with 'Someone Like You' she had a club full of very loud backing singers.

Lady GaGa

After the sound check she said to me, 'So what you doing now?' I said 'Well I'm gonna go home and watch TV until the club opens' and she said, 'Oh I'll come back with you then.' So Lady GaGa came back to my flat and we just sat there eating sushi and watching TV. It was surreal. I left her at the flat, I trusted



her not to steal anything, and I went to Heaven to get it open in time. There was such a huge queue and it was one in one out, so she decided not to disappoint: she literally walked along the queue and through the club! People double-took!

Kylie

Kylie presented PinkPaper's 10th Birthday at G-A-Y with me. The night before I got a phone call saying 'It's just come on the



news that Michael Hutchence has died.' The next morning her manager called me and said: 'she still wants to do it.' Kylie arrived at the Astoria for rehearsals and I could see she was upset; I said to her, 'You don't have to do this', but she didn't want to let anyone down. She also didn't want to come across as heartless though or that she wasn't grieving for Michael. I said we should mention him on stage and if she found it too difficult to say, she could grab my hand and I'd take over and say something. When it got to the point, she wasn't able to and I had to take over. But the fact she still did the show because she didn't want to let anyone down, just says so much about Kylie as a person.

Dannii

When I first started booking acts it was very hard to get them, so Dannii was our first real current act and that was a turning point for G-A-Y. If it wasn't for Dannii, it wouldn't have led to other artists including Kylie. That's why when we left the Astoria, it was important to me that Dannii was the last act to perform. One of the most emotional nights at G-A-Y was following Kylie getting the all clear from cancer, G-A-Y was doing the launch of Dannii's Greatest Hits, Kylie came to support her 'little



sister' as she called her on stage. After the year they had been through, they stood on stage together, an incredible moment that all fans of Kylie and Dannii wanted to see.

The Spice Girls

I remember on the night of the Spice Girls at G-A-Y, I nearly had a water fight on stage with Mel B. You have to remember this is the beginning of their careers and I was worried that I'd forget their names when taking them off, so I wrote them on my hand. Mel B saw me checking my hand and tried to throw water at me, so I grabbed a bottle of water and threatened to throw back; war was averted!

Geri

When Geri released 'Ride It' we did a signing at G-A-Y Bar and I wanted to bring Soho to a stand still, so I suggested Geri came down Old Compton Street riding a horse. On the night Geri got on the horse and suddenly from nowhere, there were paps and fans, and I was running by the horse to make sure she got safely down Old Compton St, but just as we arrived towards the bar, I could see a taxi had parked outside. So there's Geri on a horse and me running ahead screaming: 'Get that cab moved!'

One Direction

The first time One Direction performed at G-A-Y there was such an atmosphere that I'd never seen before from an X Factor act immediately after leaving the show. I said to the manager, 'I think this might be the only time they do G-A-Y as they're going to be worldwide.' But they did come back again: the second time I learned, 'never give One Direction a cake on stage unless you want to wear it.'



P!nk

Not only did P!nk decide to bring her arena show, but she also put on a full concert of an hour and a half! She did go on stage ten minutes late, but for the only acceptable reason; she was playing with Gizmo and

Hayley (my dogs) backstage. The icing on the cake for G-A-Y, was P!nk decided to put an extra date on sale at Wembley and asked if G-A-Y would do it with her. To go on stage at Wembley before P!nk was an unforgettable moment...

Girls Aloud

One year Girls Aloud did New Year's Eve and I said after they bought in the New



Year whether customers wanted them back on stage drunk or sober, the audience voted drunk. Recently Kimberly said in an interview that she couldn't even remember the show!

S Club 7

S Club actually split up on stage at G-A-Y. When they decided to call it a day, I approached them about doing a last gig and they confirmed that they'd do it. Literally when they performed the last song, that was it, they wouldn't be together any more. It was emotional for the band and the reaction was amazing. You could feel the emotion from the band and fans.

Olly Murs

Olly is a man of his word! I was the winner in our bet, which was if his single went to number one that he'd get naked on stage next time he was at G-A-Y. He said 'a bet is a bet', and literally he stripped on stage, fully naked! He had his hands covering his bits and, although I'm not a size queen, I can confirm he needed both hands. Olly is very cheeky and that's part of his charm, so whenever he's at G-A-Y, I try and come up with naughty things to do!

Saturdays

Food fights have become a regularity at G-A-Y! It was Vanessa and Una's birthdays and we got them cakes to celebrate. I went up to Frankie and said, 'does this cake smell off to you?' and as she went to smell it, I pushed her nose in it and that led into a huge cake fight backstage – there was cake everywhere, on the ceiling, on the carpet, on the walls, all over The Saturdays and as the cake was made from cream within half hour, we all stank. When Una was leaving backstage she got papped covered in cake and the headline was that she was 'worse for wear' but she was just covered in cake.

Ke\$ha

Each year, G-A-Y has the artists who are voted off the X Factor supporting headline acts. When Ke\$ha performed at G-A-Y, her support act was Jedward. Imagine not

knowing who they are and meeting them for the first time. Jedward are lovely guys, but very inquisitive and extremely hyperactive. Ke\$ha was lovely, but I can't help wondering if she was thinking 'what the fuck?'

Amy Winehouse

The first time Amy performed at G-A-Y, she cancelled her sound check, however she arrived on time at night and everything seemed to be running to plan. I introduced Amy, and the audience reaction was huge: the band started to play and Amy goes on to perform her first number, but as she finishes her first song, she literally threw up into her hand, caught it and ran off stage into the toilets. I had to be the bearer of bad news to the crowd. I was told it was food poisoning, but because of Amy's much publicised history, nobody believed me and they all started booing. But credit where it's due, she re-booked a date with G-A-Y and did the most incredible show.

McFly

The first time McFly performed they stripped down to their underwear, performed the encore and literally dropped their underwear and ran off stage. Second time, McFly volunteered Dougie to drag up, so on stage, the other three did his make up and he dressed as a woman; he lived up to the word drag, because he looked like he'd been dragged through a bush covered in make up. The last time McFly performed at G-A-Y, I said, 'do you have a party trick?' and their reply was setting fire to their pubes, also known as the flaming bush!

Pussycat Dolls

The second time The Pussycat Dolls performed, they brought in their arena stage set which includes poles, so when they weren't looking, Michael and I started pole dancing on their set. We got spotted and they decided to show us what to do: it's not every day you get pole dancing lessons from the Pussycat Dolls! We weren't asked to join them on stage though.

Rita Ora

Rita came down to see Alexandra Burke perform at G-A-Y and I got introduced to her: Hot Right Now had already been Number One and I made her a pinky promise that when she releases her first solo single, she'll launch it at G-A-Y. As soon as she had a release date for R.I.P, I got a call confirming a date. On Rita's second performance at G-A-Y, Harry Styles came down and it led to another G-A-Y famous back stage food fight: but the mess was a



nightmare, maltesers everywhere. It was the cleaners I felt sorry for.

Christina Aguilera

I asked Christina to do 'Beautiful' and at the time her management thought I was insane for a ballad to be performed in a nightclub. So they said no, they wanted to do an up tempo show, but I wouldn't let go. At the last minute they agreed. Christina sang 'Beautiful' and 2000 people sang along. As I gave her flowers on stage, I whispered to her, 'told you so' and she looked at me and went 'yeah'.

Steps

They went on and did '5,6,7,8' but when they did 'Last Thing on My Mind' the reaction was phenomenal and as they started singing,



I turned to their manager and went 'oh my god this band is not a one hit wonder'. It was the beginning of a huge pop band. Some things happen before a band has a hit and it was a pinnacle.

G-A-Y The Album will be released on 7th October on Sony Music. This Saturday 21st September sees G-A-Y The Album Pre-order Launch Party at Heaven, under the Arches, Charing Cross, WC2N 6NG. Free entry and queue jump if you've pre-ordered G-A-Y The Album or £2 entry wrist band available from G-A-Y Bar.



THE INFORMER

THE WHO, WHAT, WHY, WHERE, WHEN OF GAY LONDON...



MAKE A SPLASH!

Free Swimming Coaching for HIV+ Swimmers

Email: john@caralife.com

Do you want to improve your swimming stroke and technique? If you can train once a week and live in London then the HIV Swimming Programme would like to hear from you, as there's limited space still available. It's run in partnership with the Cara Trust and funded by the National Lottery. It's open to all people over 18 and living with HIV. They are also happy to hear from any ASA swimming teachers, who may be able to cover busy periods for a generous hourly rate.

HEY JOE, WANNA GIVE IT A GO...

'Joey Arias'

3rd - 12th October, 9.30pm.

£10-20.

Soho Theatre, 21 Dean Street,

Soho, W1D 3NE

www.sohotheatre.com

Joey Arias was an icon in New York City's vibrant downtown performance scene. He worked with the legendary musician Klaus Nomi until 1983, before gaining fame in his own right as a cabaret singer and drag artist. His scandalous wit and incredible voice elevate him above others in his field. And he'll be doing a run at the Soho Theatre this October, which is not to be missed.



LGBT HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

Older LGBT Housing Project

darwin.court@peabody.org.uk

This autumn Europe's first LGBT housing for the elderly will open in Stockholm. The property consists of 38 apartments that have been renovated into senior housing flats and there will be common areas for social interaction and a number of programmes for the residents to get involved with. There has been huge demand for this, with not nearly enough out there for the elderly LGBT community and we at QX are delighted. The waiting list for the property is open now, for more info please email the above address.



Ride Out for Human Rights
with Peter Tatchell

Start: 10:30am @ Gays the World bookshop
6 Oct 2013
66 Marchmont Street, WC1N 1AB
London

Discover London's Famous Humanitarians & LGBTs

Visit www.petertatchellfoundation.org for more info

RIDING HIGH

Ride Out for Human Rights

6th October 2013, 10.30am start. £20.

Gay's the Word Bookshop, 66 Marchmont Street, WC1N 1AB

www.petertatchellfoundation.org

If you enjoy cycling then join the Peter Tatchell Foundation for their 'Ride Out for Human Rights'. It's not a race, it's a fun bike ride to 11 mystery landmarks associated with famous LGBT people and humanitarians. If you haven't got your own bike then just pick up a Boris. It's £20 to register, with money going towards the foundation. Get peddling...



NEVER FORGET THIS, ALSO

Act of Remembrance and Renewal

Saturday 12th October,

6.30pm-7.30pm

St. Paul's Cathedral, EC4M 8AD

To launch Hate Crime Awareness Week you've been invited to their opening Act of Remembrance and Renewal. It takes place at St. Paul's Cathedral and will feature music, readings, addresses,

prayers and blessing. Please come along, light a candle and remember the struggle of all those before us, as well as our own.



GET IN ON THE ACT

Win Tickets To 'The Act'

8th - 26th October,

Tues - Sat 8pm

Ovalhouse, 52 - 54

Kennington Oval,

SE11 5SW

Tickets: £10 - £14.

Booking: ovalhouse.com

The Act is a play created by Thomas Hescott and Matthew Baldwin (no, he's not an extension of the Baldwin Brothers), that focuses on the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967. Using personal anecdotes,

House of Commons speeches and cabaret-style song, you're told the story of a respectable civil servant by day that immerses himself with the low lives of Soho by night. For your changes to win a pair of tickets, just email your name and contact details to: letters@qxmazine.com

MAD FOR M.A.D.

Make A Difference Memorabilia Fair

Until Monday 23rd

September, 11am.

ebay.eu/1dhNfGM

The Make A Difference

Trust - a UK based charity providing support for HIV through the entertainment industry - have got some one of a kind pieces from the theatre world up for grabs. Among the hoard of prizes are signed dance shoes worn by Flavia Cacace (foot fetishers alert), tickets to 'Rock of Ages' with dinner at the Hard Rock Café, a signed script of Viva Forever and signed CDs by Kerry Ellis - among plenty of others. Visit the website above and getting bidding - not only will you end up with a fabulous prize, but you'll also be doing some good with all proceeds going to the charity.

The **MAD** Memorabilia Fair



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MARK AMES PRESENTS

XXL



XXL FUR'TEENTH BIRTHDAY

SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

9PM - 9AM AT PULSE, 1 INVICTA PLAZA, LONDON, SE1 9UF

WWW.XXL-LONDON.COM

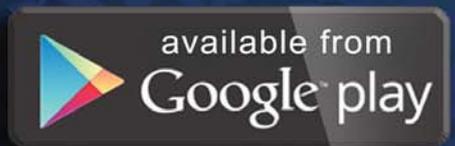
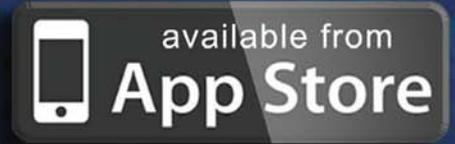
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X TO THE X TO THE L!

XXL IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST and most inclusive gay club nights in the whole of our glittering London town, and they're entering their teens for the first time on Saturday night! Yes, **MARK AMES**'s furry brainchild will be officially turning thirteen and they're inviting all their loyal fans and any newcomers to come celebrate with a woof, a bark and full-on wolf howl, whilst drinking and dancing the night away until the early hours down in the cavernous venue that is Pulse. To find out more about the daddy behind the magic, we caught up with Mark to ask him about the history of XXL and what to expect from the upcoming extravaganza for bears, friends and admirers!

Tell us about yourself, Mark, for anyone who might not know you.

Hmm... Serious in business, but I have a heart too - and love to laugh! [laughs]. I'm pretty down to earth and a bit too blunt for the precious. I hate the term "straight acting" - what the fuck does that mean? But I'm certainly not camp either, I guess I'm an average hard-working, hard-playing homo and proud of it too. I love being with people who when you say "well actually I'm one of those... hmm... shirt-lifters" and watching that awkward moment as they recoil in defence... With an "oh I'd never have known sorry!" As I say "no need to be sorry, I'm not" and keep digging [laughs].

What gave you the idea to set up XXL in the first place?

It was needed and I wanted to make it happen. Right man in the right place at the right time!

What was the very first event like? Were you very nervous at who would turn out or were you confident?

I was confident but you're always nervous: even now I take nothing for granted and when my staff do, it's best we part company as my bears and admirers come first.

How did you go about developing XXL into the nationally recognised brand it is this day?

Why would I tell anyone our secret? I do follow my instincts and beliefs and keep a tight ship, but that's no secret!

What are some of your favourite memories of XXL over the years?

Give me a whole issue as there's so many, but it's the customers that make XXL worth doing. One smile from a customer can make the most hassle-some event worthwhile to me and always will.

Any near tragedies or disasters, that you had to muscle through with a 'show must go on' ethos?

Think I just answered that but to learn to bounce off adversity and tragedy in this game, all good club people are hard-skinned and resourceful types; you have to be. It can be a very lonely world at times and you still have to smile like nothing's wrong but as long as you believe in what you do, you will. And I love XXL and the Bear scene.

Why do you think XXL has such a loyal legion of fans and regulars?

Its bigger, it's better and it's bolder. It's non-judgmental and formality free; in a word it's FUN!

And finally, what can we expect from the birthday extravaganza this weekend? Any tricks up your sleeve?

BIG FUN! And for the rest you need to turn up! But the first 100 bears (and I do mean bears only) will get a personal gift from me; non-bears you better get eating for next year and you can start by eating cake at the birthday.





LAI D BEAR

This month mega-club XXL turns 13. In celebration of the milestone, we've picked our favourite famous bears – and exposed their dirty gay secrets (naturally).

By Anthony Gilét

PADDINGTON BEAR

Public Flasher

He's been cruising train station toilets for over 50 years and anyone who's lingered around Paddington loos long enough will know that there's nothing but fur beneath that duffle coat of his. And we don't even wanna know what he keeps in that battered old suitcase.

THE 3 BEARS

Group Sex/Orgies

You may well be familiar with the tale of Goldilocks and the three bears, "this ones too soft... this one's too hard... this one's just right..." – we have a feeling it wasn't the chairs she was sitting on. And she was tasting more than just their porridge. It was definitely no coincidence that the slut ended up in every bed of the house (and probably over the kitchen table too).

YOGI BEAR AND BOO BOO BEAR

Master and Slave

This famous bear couple are seldom seen without the other in tow. Yogi Bear is clearly the dominant out of the pair, while Boo Boo follows him around like his little bitch. Yogi is also often seen carrying a "pic-a-nic basket" of treats, that he uses to store Boo Boo's collars, harnesses and lube.

FOZZI BEAR

Bondage

Known for his character in The Muppets, Fozzi bear loves to be tied up and manipulated – and doesn't even mind if there's an audience watching. In fact, he gets off being surrounded some odd looking creatures while a man tugs him around – maybe he should try one of the many fetish nights in our city.

WINNIE THE POOH

Food fetish

Everyone knew Winnie was a homo from day dot, what with that effeminate name, red belly top and his overly close relationship to Christopher Robin. But not everyone knew about his love for 'sticky situations'. Constantly carrying around a pot of honey, word in the woods is that he likes to slather it on more than just bread.

KUNG FU

PANDA

S&M

Po is a Panda bear that gets gain out of pain; it's often hard to tell if his black spots are part of his Panda skin or just bruises from another hardcore kink session. He also likes to be the one giving the beating, and isn't opposed to a spanking; yep, he likes to whoop ass – in more ways than one!

RUPERT

Rent Bear

He really expects people to believe that he jets all around the world on these 'adventures' when he can't even afford to move out of his parent's house – please, these quests have Sugar Daddy written all over them. And it's no surprise, he's good mates with Willie (of course he is).

BALOO

Cross Dressing

Famed for mincing around the jungle with a rather androgynous looking boy, Baloo busted out more catchy musical mantras than a Friday night cabaret act at the Two Brewers. As for that grass skirt and banana skin weave, girl he was only a coconut bra away from being the Alex Reid of the jungle.

SOOTY

Fisting

It's no secret that the innocent looking bear spent most of the 50s with a fist (and third of an arm) inside him while he squealed like a little bitch. And we're sure you all know the sexual connotations behind him waving his 'wand', exclaiming "Izzy Wizzy, let's get jizzy" – we mean 'busy'.



XXL: Thirteenth Birthday will be at Pulse, 1 Invicta Plaza, Southwark, SE1 9UF on Saturday 21st September from 10pm-6am.

CLUB NEWS



20/09/2013: COCK N ROLL

It's a nonsensical, musical night, put on by the **Hard Cock Life** crew. Expect the best post-punk, indie and electro tracks from DJs **Cummy Bear**, **Josh Cole** and, of course, **Pete Cockerty**. It's time to shack out

to all those classics you normally only ever hear in your bedroom.

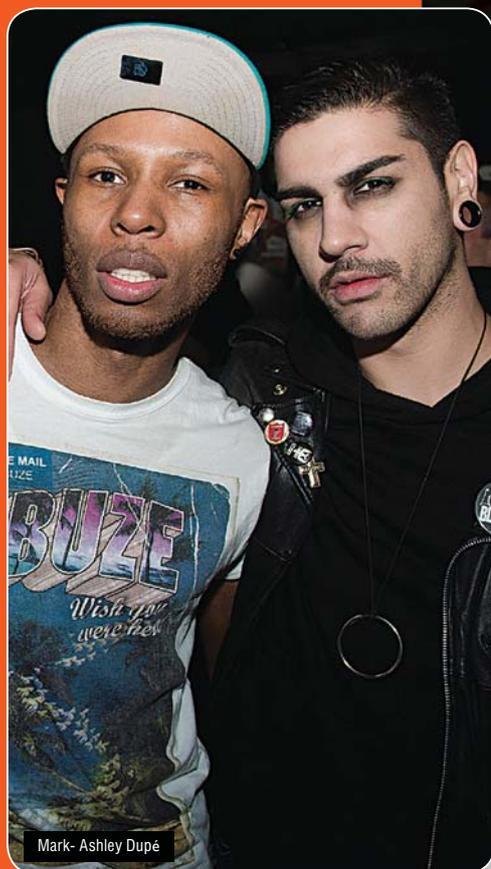
Dalston Superstore, 117 Kingsland High Street, E8 2PB. 9pm-3am. Free before 11pm/£5 after.



21/09/2013: HANDSOME

Handsome in name and also in nature, the hot boys and their friends flock here. It's about friends, smiles and a good time, whilst playing classic US house. **Hannah Holland** graces the main room decks, whilst the handsome diva himself **Mark-Ashley Dupé** gives us dirty-glam urban vibes in the R'n'B room, whilst **John Sizzle** does exactly that, and sizzles in the fun room. Where the handsome boys go to be a hot mess.

East Bloc, 217 City Road, EC1V 1JN. 10.30pm-6am. £7 before midnight/£10 after.



Mark-Ashley Dupé

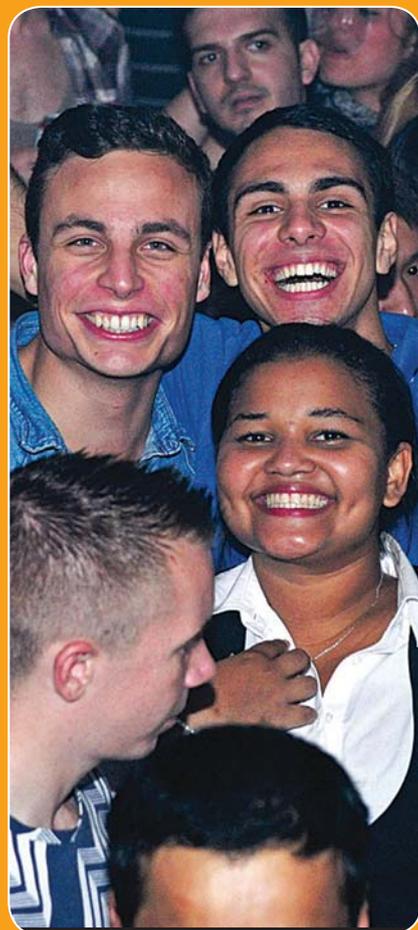
21/09/2013: G-A-Y ALBUM PRE-ORDER LAUNCH PARTY

If you haven't heard about it by now then you must have been chilling with the ostriches, G-A-Y are excited to be releasing a G-A-Y Album with tracks from the last 20 years of G-A-Y. Some of our

favourite artists, old and new, will be featured and from 21st September you'll be able to pre-order, prior to its

release. Every time the DJ on the main floor plays a track from the album a siren will go off and balloons and confetti will fall from the heavens, into Heaven. There'll also be the chance to win a 42 inch Sony LED TV in the DP Lounge. Perform a song from the album and the best entry will win. Also, every single person who comes will receive a FREE Album Sample Mix CD. We can't wait.

Heaven, under the Arches, Villiers Street, Charing Cross, WC2H 6NG. 10pm-5am. £2 wristband available from G-A-Y Bar.



21/09/2013: MACHO CITY VS ANAL HOUSE MELTDOWN

Macho City takes over the Superstore on Saturday for a big Macho Saturday. Upstairs **Jacqui Potato**, **Cathal** and their friends will be pumping out the tunes, whilst downstairs will be the **Macho City Darkroom** with **Dave Kendrick, Charlie Porter** and **Dan Beaumont**.

Let's build this city!

Dalston Superstore, 117 Kingsland High Street, E8 2PB. 9pm-4am. Free before 10pm/£5 after.



Jacqui Potato



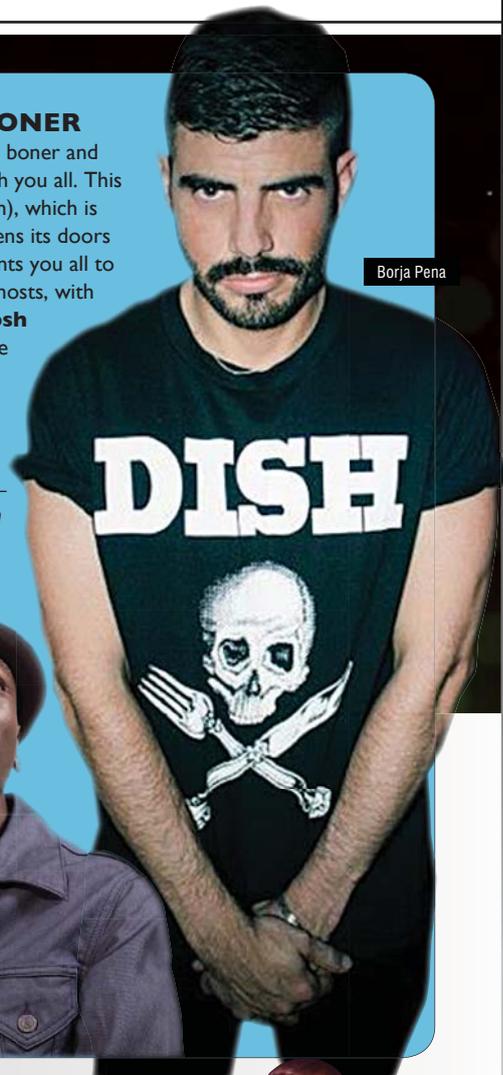
Cathal



21/09/2013: BONER

The Eagle is getting a boner and wants to share it with you all. This new night (four south), which is anything but stiff, opens its doors this Saturday and wants you all to cum. **Johnny Yihi** hosts, with **Borja Pena** and **Josh Caffee** providing the tunes. Come to the new premises house warming and help them celebrate.

Eagle, 349 Kennington Lane, SE11 5QY. 10.30pm-3am.



Borja Pena



Josh Caffee

21/09/2013: XXL FUR'TEENTH BIRTHDAY

XXL is the only place in the world where we can grapple with the bears, shimmy to camp classics on the dance floor, get sore knees (and more) and not get judged. We, quite literally, do not know what people did without it thirteen years ago!! So, of course, we'll be at the thirteenth birthday party this Saturday, wearing bells, growling

along to 'Happy Birthday to You'!

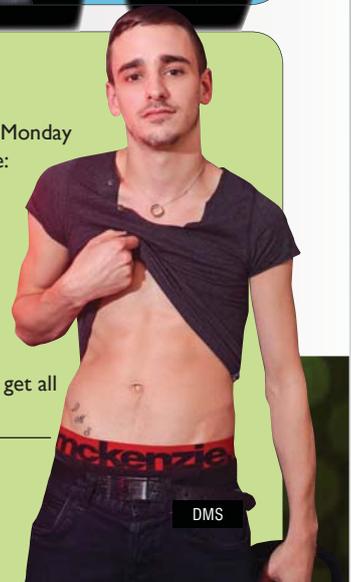
Pulse, 1 Invicta Plaza, Southbank, SE1 9UF. 10pm-6am. Members £18/Guests £15.



23/09/2013: POPCORN ELEMENTS: WATER

Earth, Air and Fire have been and this Monday it's time for the glistening, slippery one: **Water**. The element may be wet but the music most certainly won't be; three floors each dedicated to house, R'n'B or dance. DJs include **Little Rob, DMS, Jamie Hammond, Paul Moreno** and **Zach Burns**. And it's free entry before 1am with the ad (printed in this magazine). Let's get all mermaid on this shit!

Heaven, under the Arches, Villiers Street, Charing Cross, WC2H 6NG. 10pm-5am. Free entry wristband also available from G-A-Y Bar.



DMS





Andrew Moore

26/09/13: VIBE

A new Vibe hits Thursday nights in Vauxhall, where a hoard of DJs will take over Barcode for a night of Hip Hop, R&B and Bashment. The likes of which include **Maximus Crown, Ellie Cocks, Sam DMS and Dayne Harper**, who will be serving urban realness weekly. Hosted by **Barbie Miraj** and

Andrew Moore, we're expecting a crowd of fun-loving club kids and cute boys.

Barcode, 69 Albert Embankment, Vauxhall, SE1 7TP. 11pm - 4am. Entry: £5 with flyer, MOTD.



Barbie Miraj

26/09/13: G-A-Y PORN IDOL

It's the weekly event that sees scene queens **Tanya Hyde, Michael Mitchell** and **Baga Chipz** judging the stripping skills of patrons. So whether you're an amateur at getting your kit off, or feel like you should have been one of the Pussycat Dolls, anyone and everyone is welcome.



Turn them on or make them laugh and you could be in with a chance of bagging £100. Have you got the balls to do it? Winners go on to perform for £1000 in the final.

Heaven, Under the Arches, Villiers Street, Charing Cross, WC2H 6NG. 11pm - 4am. Entry: Free entry with wristband from G-A-Y bar.

DJ OF THE WEEK

FRANKCO HARRIS @ CLUB TIN TIN



MARK-ASHLEY DUPE'S MISFITS TOP 10

1. Jet Blue Jet (feat. Leftside, GTA, Razz & Biggy) - Major Lazer. Everything about this tune is just BASHY! Makes me one just wile out!"

2. Pump Tire - Pepe Soup It's a fusion of like Afro beats, Bashment & House... Always a fun one to play when everybody starts to PUMP TIRE!

3. So in Love (Jackinori Remix) - Maisha Bleau Love this Jackinori Remix, got introduced to it recently and every time I play it people go in on the dance floor!

4. Change Your Life (feat T.I) - Iggy Azalea TUUUUUNE!

5. Antenna - FUSE ODG

Gotta love this track, can't get bored of it... I seen old grannies trying to bust a few shapes to it too! Good UK introduction into the sounds of Afro beats.

6. I'm Out (feat Nicki Minaj) - Ciara

Just a sexy tune, Ciara and Nicki both sound heavy and everybody loves reacting the video on the dancefloor!

7. Grown Woman - Beyoncé

Can't get bored of it!

8. Deh? - Lady Leshurr

Her lyrics and beats are too much! One to watch!

9. Show Me - Janet Jackson

Old school favourite from Janet.

10. D.P.M.O (Don't Piss me Off) - DJ FRANK.co Rework

This rework from DJ Frank.co is THE ONE!! Dutty, Grimey, Kuntay and everything else! Love it!

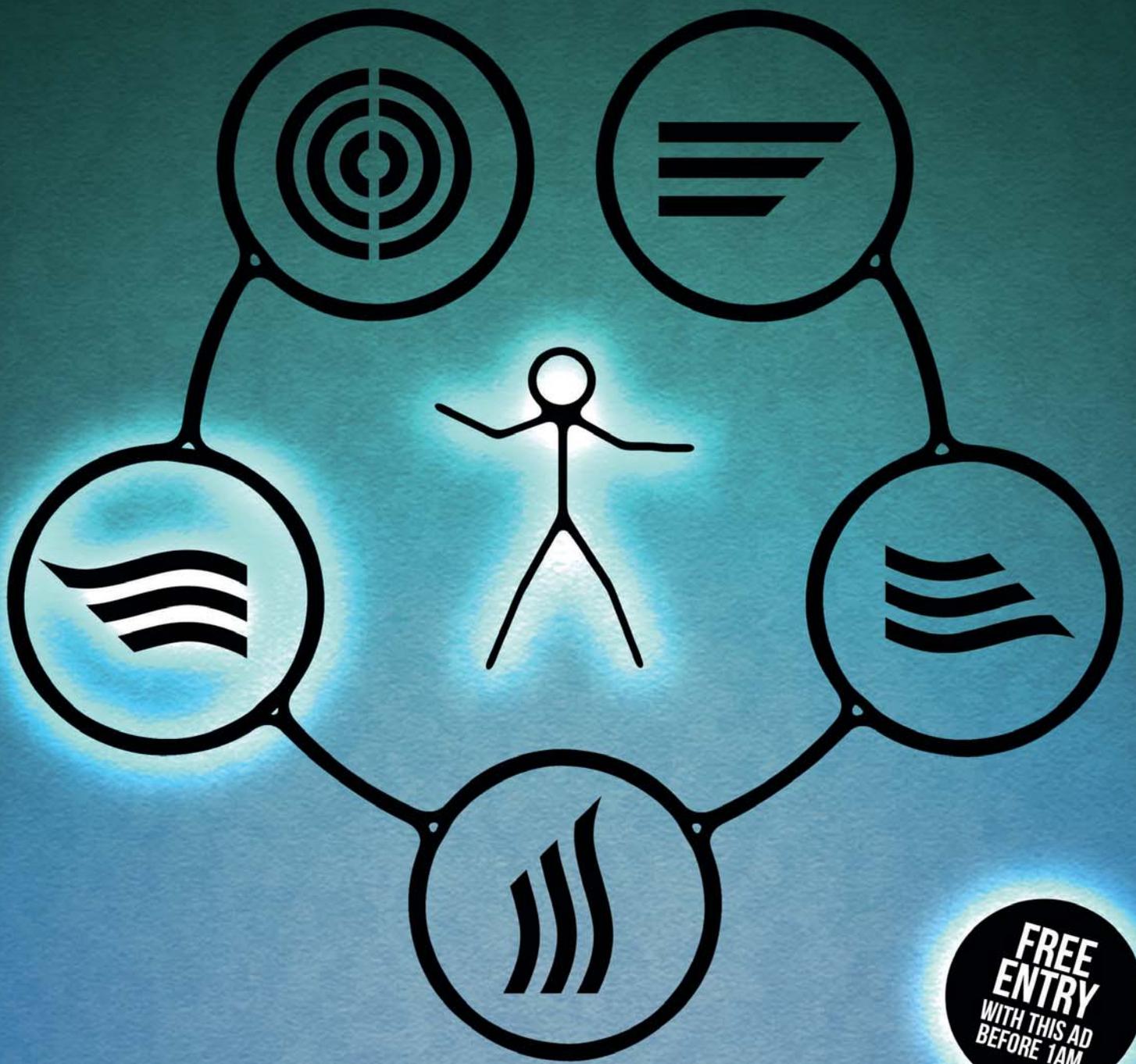
Tell us in one juicy sentence who you are... I'm Mark-Ashley Dupé, London Club Promoter & DJ of nights like The Bloc Party, Dupé's Den & new Soho weekly, Misfits at The Shadow Lounge!

What kind of music do you play? I try to play all genres of music, as I like a lot of different types of sounds, but you'll most probably catch me in the club playing a mash up of R&B, Afro Beats & K*untay House beats!

And what can we expect from your next set at Misfits? Catch me playing every Wednesday at Misfits at The Shadow Lounge! It's become one of my favourite places to play because the crowd really like to indulge in a little midweek shack out to a little bit of everything, so I get to have a lot of fun with my sets!



Misfits is every Wednesday at The Shadow Lounge, 5 Brewer Street, Soho, W1F 0RF. 10pm-3am.



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STUDENTS -FREE ENTRY WITHH YOUR STUDENT CARD B4 1AM**

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MKS @ G-A-Y
 14/09/13
 Heaven, under the
 Arches, Villiers Street,
 Charing Cross,
 WC2N 6NG

WORDS BY
JAMES EGAN
 PHOTOS BY
CHRIS JEPSON

THE ORIGINAL SUGABABES, now the mighty Mutya Keisha Siobhan, took to the stage in London's premier palace of pop last Saturday, in a triumphant return to the same club that saw one of their very first performances of their debut single 'Overload' (and according to Jeremy Joseph, a cheeky cover of 'Like a Virgin' too), as well as sets from every single line-up of the Sugababes ever. Main bitch Mutya, looking all kinds of ghetto fabulous, flame haired siren Siobhan and the longest serving Sugababe (aka the Sugamama) Keisha reminded us why we all fell in love with them in the first place, after over a decade of catfights, hit singles and line-up changes that make the Supremes look like the Babysitter's Club. The look? Fire hot. The sound? Scorching. Giving us the classic Overload (and serving sassy choreography), a fierce 'Freak Like Me' rendition and brand new empowerment anthem 'Today', the standout moment of the set was a cover of Rihanna's smash 'Diamonds', a song Siobhan let us know they'd been saving especially for the night. Was it good? WE. CAN'T. EVEN. Rihanna should probably just sign the rights over and head down to Paks now, because her wig? SNATCHED. There was a definite full-circle feeling in the air, as the trio launched into their final track of the night, 'Flatline' we're not ashamed to say we even got a little bit emotional. They were a long time gone, but MKS at G-A-Y proved that this time, the girls are here to stay.



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SATURDAY 21st SEPT
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G-A-Y The Album Released - Mon 7th Oct
£2 ENTRY WRIST BANDS from G-A-Y Bar

SAT 28th SEPT
G-A-Y The Album
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THANK YOU

SAT 5th OCT
G-A-Y The Album
LAUNCH PARTY
 Starring Icona Pop



DISH

DISH
14/09/134
East Bloc
217 City Road, Hoxton,
EC1V 1JN

WORDS BY
ANTHONY GILÉT
PHOTOS BY
MARK STOREY

IT WAS THE FIRST Dish since the sun went into hibernation and we couldn't think of a better way to warm up our loins than heading over to East for a sweaty skank out. As we tottered down those stairs to the Bloc, it's fair to say that after a few (too many) drinks, it was like we had a death-wish. Special guest Shoplifter and Janne (of Helsinki) stirred things up nicely in the main room, while seniorita – and queen of reinvention – La Paquena proved blondes don't always have more fun with a darker vintage look that we can only describe as Katy Perry meets Tom Selleck... J'adore! Ray Noir and Ollywood delivered a tasty side dish while resident Cathal and hot tranny mess Jacqui Potato worked a frenzy in the front room. Last (but certainly not least) Tom Stephan served a fulfilling main course of house that had our pelvises popping harder than Miley Cyrus having an epileptic fit, *that's how you do it, bitch*. Another night of madness surrounded by the crème de la crème of sexy east London lads only made our appetites wetter for the Mr. Dish competition next month!



VAUXHALL'S NEW WEEKLY THURSDAY URBAN NIGHT

23:00 - 04:00



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HOSTED BY

BARBIE MIRAJ | SOCIETY | ANDREW MOORE | NUNO

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 VIBE VAUXHALL

Barcode

69 ALBERT EMBANKMENT, VAUXHALL, SE1 7TP



SWEATBOX

SWEATBOX 5TH BIRTHDAY PARTY
14/09/13
1-2 Ramillies Street,
Soho, W1F 7LN

WORDS BY
CHRIS JOHN
PHOTOS BY
JOEL RYDER

QX HIT THE sizzling streets of Soho for one of the hottest parties in town as Sweatbox celebrated a fantastic fifth birthday in association with AlphaMale Media last weekend. The only 24-hour gay gym and sauna in the West End has gone from strength to strength since its launch a whole half-decade ago and the fans were out in force as the Sweatbox team marked the occasion in dazzling style. Upstairs the guys transformed the gym floor into a happening club space, complete with licensed bar and pumpin' DJ sounds. Down in the depths below there was plenty of torrid action amidst a tidal wave of foam in the sauna and steam room complex that had the naughty chaps getting up to all sorts of fun beneath the bubbles. Elsewhere and those prurient pranks continued in the maze of private cabins with plenty of willing hunks hanging out for some of that man-on-man action. Meanwhile, there was always the chance to chill, surf the net, grab some refreshments or simply catch up with pals in the ever-so-relaxing lounge area before getting back into the thick of things at one of the most happening homo-joints in the capital. Sweatbox is open 24 hours 7 days a week!



HOTWIRED



London's Biggest
Leather Party

sat 12 oct 2013
10pm>6am

ewer street car park
29 great suffolk street
london, se1 0ns

DJs

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Brent Nicholls
Dick Rock
Hugo,sland
Lucious Flajore
Wes db

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dance floor
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clubtickets.com

HOTWIRED



ENERGY BEARS
 14/09/13
 Barcode Vauxhall
 69 Goding Street,
 Vauxhall, SE11 5AW

WORDS BY
CHRIS JOHN
 PHOTOS BY
JOEL RYDER

QX CLUB NEWS beefed it up with a crowd of hot homos as Energy Bears rocked the Vauxhall block for a spectacular fourth birthday bash last weekend. Featuring a roof raising attack of killer DJ beats and a happening crowd of bears, hunks and inbetweeners, Barcode was the place to be for lovers of grizzly grooves galore as the crew whipped up a frenzy

across two rampaging rooms.

Highlights saw the likes of JusDiz and Rob C tearing up a frantic soundtrack of fearsome house licks out front, whilst there was more excitement to come from special guest, Circuit Festival star, Dmitry Tlove on the main dancefloor alongside Micky Galliano and Robb White. Meanwhile, the antics continued outside, despite the chill in the air, with the sociable folks catching up on all the scene news on the ever-popular Barcode terrace. Back inside and there was still a raunchy live show featuring top porn studs Matteo Valentine and Ben Statham to look forward to as the proceedings carried on right through 'til 7am. Energy Bears is back at Barcode next month!



BOWER

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PEÑA**

**JOSH
CAFFE**

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RED STRIPE
B4 11PM**

**SINGLE
4-DOUBLE
HOUSE SPIRITS
B4 11PM**

**21
SEPT**



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349 KENNINGTON LANE, SE11 5QY



COCKTAILS AND COCKTAIL:
THE INITIATION
 14/09/13
 Green Carnation,
 4 - 5 Greek Street,
 Soho, W1D 4DD

WORDS BY
JACKIE JOCKSTRAP
 PHOTOS BY
DARREN ORBELL

WE'RE ALWAYS UP for a new club night, so when the online blog **cocktailandcocktalk.com** announced it was throwing its first soiree to celebrate two years of hilarious hedonism and ratchet one night-stands, the QX team went down to check out the hype. And although the weather was more disappointing than a five-minute thrashing with a flaccid Grindr shag – we weren't gonna let that stop us.

Creator **Anthony Gilét** hosted like a true socialite (with a Paris Hilton perma-pout) while among the crowd of cute boys and club kids, hosts **Darren Palfrey**, **Andrew Moore** and **Nick Byam** got everyone involved. Sporting more bling than Amy Child's vajazzle, **Maximus Crown** kick-started the night with some irresistible R&B, before **Mark Ashley Dupé** dropped the funky house that had fags, hags and drags living. Finally **Matt Bogard** closed the night with underground house beats that were dirtier than Ralph Harris in the 90s. Come 3am, everyone was totally Ke\$ha'd – but not ready to stop!

"Friday the 13th: Unlucky for some... Carnage for others" proclaimed the event invite – and it wasn't lying, because 'carnage' was apt. And you know Carrie Bradshaw never partied this hard. We're hoping it will be the first event of many!



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UNTIL 3.30AM

NO COVER
CHARGE

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HOUR

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DRINK DEALS

Before
11pm*

* Pints of Foster's & Strongbow, House Spirits (25ml) & mixer (Includes Smirnoff, Bacardi, Gordons & Captain Morgans)

SOHO'S ONLY GAY ART GALLERY SPACE

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Jesse Rose rocking the HMS Festival

Gutterslut

Per QX on fancy dress day

Sluts on tour (Part II)



D'Johnny enters Festival

Cliff Joannou's last experience of going away with the **GutterSlut** crew left resident vocalist Crystal MC in a Berlin hospital with a punctured lung (it was a very wild night of dancing) and ended with Per QX missing his flight due to an (other) unexpected extended session at Panorama Bar in Berghain. So, it's with a little trepidation he accepted this latest invite – a weekend at **Bestival**!



Crystal MC

TEN YEARS IN and Rob da Bank-curated Bestival has firmly established itself as the worthy closing event to the UK's series of summer festivals. Taking place on the idyllic Isle of Wight, it's far more accessible and easier to navigate around than the monster that is Glastonbury, yet, incredibly, no less spectacular.

I arrive on a soggy Friday night, yes a day late, and I have my tent graciously set-up by GutterSlut promoters Per QX and Nic Fischer. (Thank the Goddess these boys came prepared!) I'm based in the artist area, and I am camping it up. Yes, we are *camping*... in a friggin' tent. (FYI 'camping': pun not intended, but incredibly relevant as I'm just metres away from cabaret star Scottee, Sink The Pink, and their posse of trannies, drags and hot gogos.) With packets of wet wipes at the ready, torches, pillows, duvets and more, this bitch is ready for his first outdoor living experience. Thankfully, this is camping 'The Ritz'-stylee, with hot showers and deluxe toilet facilities on hand. I never said I was *that* butch.

I'm here on the invite of Per QX and Nic Fischer, joining D'Johnny, vocalist Crystal MC and their new favourite femme duo, the spunky north Londoners Red 'N' Pink. I missed the GutterSlut boys opening night Thursday set, so there's catching up to be done! We head on out into the nightlife with our tour guides Per and Nic giving us a whirlwind trip around the Bestival site. Per's fashioned himself a rain mac out of a bin bag. Exquisite styling.

The production is insane: Bollywood inspired club set-ups; a vast forest of obscure delights; an entire nightclub has been recreated in a

tree; and much, much more. There's even a giant ship, the HMS Festival, which has been recreated in one corner of the site, lording over it all as the king of all DJ stages. Earlier in the day Jodie Harsh, Kris Di Angelis and Severino spin for Room Service there. This muthafukking stage redefines the term 'DJ decks'.

Across the park, things get more bonkers as Gideon of Glasto's Block 9 returns with Maceo's Crew Bar, which features DJ sets by the likes of Horse Meat Disco. And in the middle of it all is the Grand Palace of Entertainment. A seemingly innocuous set-up, that behind the theatrical frontage where trannies, gogos and drag stars gyrate and entice passers-by in is a rockin' club that Scottee and co. and Sink The Pink take

over every night, before GutterSlut closes the weekend on Sunday with a monster night of their trademark underground sounds.

The sun is out for the rest of the weekend. Saturday is the fancy dress day. This year, it's a navy theme and Per has been kitted out by Pale Blue Door's Tony Hornecker, who dresses him in an outfit direct from the Royal Opera House. Tequila, vodka, rum and more are consumed and there's even a special appearance by a few wigs as the party continues. Per takes us over to the Hidden Disco where Cats and Dogs spin. We're forever grateful to Per and Nic for introducing us to this deck genius.

The DJ line-up over the weekend is immense. Those in the know will choke at the sheer quality of music

on the bill. From the likes of Disclosure and Rudimental, we also take in sets by Richie Hawtin, Seth Troxler, Jesse Rose and Julio Bashmore.

On Saturday night, we get down with Snoop Dog, while on Sunday it's Elton John who shuts the main stage down with a truly regal show that demonstrates why this man retains the crown as one of music's ruling kings.

Lest we forget another personal festival highlight, experiencing Tarek Halaby, whose stirring club aerobics/new age master class has the Big Top jumping before Swedish duo The Knife take the stage. [And breathe...!]

Then it's all over to the Grand Palace again where Per joins D'Johnny and Nic for our mad weekend's closing session. Cue the massively sexy beats that we've come to know and love from the boys that redefined gay clubbing over in East London, and opened the doors to many of the nights that populate the area today.

The lunacy that has become synonymous with GutterSlut is unrivalled. Crystal MC keeps the crowd firmly shaking their butts as the boys rotate on the decks, delivering smash and smash. The stage overflows with trannies and the drag characters keep on coming. This is GutterSlut as they do best: wild, chaotic and utterly insane. And this is why these boys are still here, rocking you out of one of the best festival experiences I've ever been blessed to share.

Cheers to GutterSlut for another awesome weekend away. There are no broken bones or lost DJs this time around, but we have one helluva load of cherished memories that we have them to thank for!

When's the next trip? :-)



Cliff and his sexy sailor



Scottee

GutterSlut returns to East Bloc (217 City Road, London, EC1V 1JN) on Saturday 28th September, 11pm-6am.

GutterSlut

GUTTER SLUT

LONDON
SAT 28 SEPT



11.00-06.00

HOSTED BY A MAN TO PET
NIC FISHER PAUL HERON JOSH CAFFE
MS CRYSTAL MC
DISCO SAUNA

QBOY FERAL IS KINKY & ANTHONY BOYNE

EAST BLOC : 217 CITY RD (OLD STREET TUBE) : EC1V 1JN

Raising the Bar

The Victoria

188 Hoe Street,
Walthamstow, E17 4QH

The gay Walthamstow weekly invites the sparkling blonde

Lady La Rue to entertain the audience this Saturday 21st.

Trained by one of the drag greats Lady La Rue has entertained

across the country and has worked with the likes of Girls

Aloud and Pavarotti – and this weekend

she comes to

Walthamstow with glitter in her eyes. Once she's finished DJ Dizzy will keep you dancing for the rest of the night.



Lady La Rue

MEET THE GAFFER

DUKE OF WELLINGTON

77 Wardour Street, Soho, W1D 6QA

The Duke of Wellington has slowly become one of our favourite haunts for the man of Soho. Where else can you strut on a corner without getting arrested? We spoke to the manager, **Matthew Evans**, to find out why he loves working there...

How long have you been the gaffer of the Welly for?

I've worked at the Welly for almost 7 years, but officially became manager at the beginning of this year.

Why do you think the Welly is such a popular Soho destination?

It's a down to earth pub where everyone is welcome with a 'local pub' feel. You can meet guys, go for drinks with your friends, celebrate special occasions, and would be happy to bring your mum. We pride ourselves on providing fun, friendly, and quick service. We offer a good range of drinks whether on a night out or just popping in for a drink after work. I have brought in new DJ nights and more drinks offers for our customers,



Matthew Evans

including our £2 drinks, which will now be ALL DAY Monday.

Who is the average Welly punter?

As I said, we welcome everyone and we get all types of customers through our doors.

And finally what can the clientele most expect to hear you saying?

We don't really have a catchphrase or anything, but we like to chat and a banter with our customers, so we look forward to seeing you and say hi.



Halfway II Heaven

7 Duncannon Road, Charing Cross, WC2N 4JF

At Halfway II Heaven there's something furry in the basement and we wanna get down there. Saturday nights from 9pm are **'Bears Downstairs'**, with **Justin Swift** on the decks. Expect cheesy disco all night, as Justin will happily play all your requests whether it be your favourite show tune, theme tunes, plain pop or R'n'B. Halfway to Heaven? No, you'll BE in furry disco Heaven.

Rich B



Rupert St

50 Rupert Street, Soho, W1D 6DR

This Thursday 19th, **DJ Rich B** take to the Rupert Street decks and plays the night out at **'Enriched'**, starting at 8pm. He'll also be inviting some special guests to join him every week. This weekend it's **DJ Tony Bruno** on Saturday 21st, and **DJ Little John** Sunday 22nd from 9pm, getting you into the weekend groove.



HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY
KAZBAR

HOSTED BY MC

LONNIE GORDON

LIVE PERFORMANCES FROM

JANET KAY

(QUEEN OF LOVERS ROCK, SILLY GAMES)

KATHERINE ELLIS

(TEARS, WHEN YOU TOUCH ME)

ANGIE BROWN

(I'M GONNA GET YOU)

SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER
FREE ENTRY OPEN TILL 3AM

RAISING MONEY FOR



DJ ALESSANDRO LONDRA & DJ MARK NORTON

 KAZBAR

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WWW.KAZBARCLAPHAM.COM

Raising the Bar

Bar Titania

75 Charing Cross Road, WC2H ONE

This weekend at Bar Titania they have got a right old treat

for you: On Saturday

21st they've got **Puck's Extravaganza** where the bar tops are taken over by those sexy nymphs the **Titania Dancers**, who'll be shaking their behinds to the sounds of **DJ Little Rob**. And they're not just any dancers, they're fully trained dancers that will not only excite you with their hotness, they'll entertain you with their sexy moves. Then on Sunday 22nd **Mzz Kimberley** is doing her new shows and she's got a load of new numbers she's gonna perform. Expect some great music, comedy all in opulent surroundings.



DJ Little Rob



Mzz Kimberley



Saunabar

2 Portsea Place, Marble Arch, W2 2BL

This central London sauna is ideal for some after work fun, open from midday to 11pm. It's very stylish, with opulent fixtures and an array of services. There's a sauna, steam room, bar, private rooms and communal areas to meet the other guys. You can also get a massage from their qualified therapists. Whether you're horny or just want to relax, it's the perfect place to go.



GO JIMMY,

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY



MS. SMITH is most definitely a legend on the gay scene. The kind of queens he knows are unable to knight him, but if they could he would be awarded the order of the garter for his services to the gay bar industry. But don't feel too bad for him, we're quite sure he's sported a much more colourful garter, once or twice. Jimmy Smith turns the ripe old age of 107 this week, but with an array of drag queens in his phonebook he's mastered the art of make up and is pretending it's his 30th again and on Friday 20th September the Two Brewers are throwing their annual birthday party for him. Jimmy has been around, he's worked everywhere from Hampstead to Brighton and, much like he's done, we trawled around some of the bars he's worked in to dig up some dirt, but unfortunately everyone seems to love him, just look...

Jon, Two Brewers, Clapham

"It really is a full time job working for Jimmy, finding his glasses, his keys, the diary... He has a knack in business of spotting the good, the bad and the ugly and he doesn't hold back! Our working relationship is more like crazy auntie and drunken niece than manager and assistant. Jimmy always has my back. I am proud to be one of his bitches."

Dan, Black Cap, Camden

"I'll quote Oscar Wilde, 'the only thing to do with good advice is to pass it on, it is never of any use to ones self.' Jimmy has taught many people so much. I wish him many happy returns at what can only be described as another sequel to his infamous birthday bashes."

Neil, Comptons, Soho

'He's a bit of a father figure, I've learnt a lot from him. He's a very talented pub manager. It's a pleasure to know such a great man.'

Karl, Rupert Street, Soho

'Jimmy is a cunt... No I'm joking. He's been an inspiration to me. I've known him for twenty years and he's responsible for my fifteen years at Comptons. He was the one who put me up for it. We've shared some very interesting and funny times together. I have huge love for him.'



Jimmy Smith's birthday will be celebrated in conjunction with Craig Harman's in an event named 'Brokeback Birthdays' on Friday 20th September, 10pm-4am, at The Two Brewers, 114 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UJ.



PAM ANN

Speedy Boarding:

*£14 entry to club from 18.45
free glass of bubbles
on check in*

Economy:

£10 entry to club from 19.45

Show 8pm

'FINAL CALL'
SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

THE TWO BREWERS - CLAPHAM HIGH STREET - SW4
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE BAR OR CALL 020 7819 9539

MITZI MACINTOSH

11/09/13

HALFWAY TO HEAVEN, 7 DUNCANNON STREET,
CHARING CROSS, WC2N 4JF

WORDS BY JASON REID

PHOTOS BY JOEL RYDER

WE ESCAPED THE rotten, monsoon-like weather last Wednesday to spend the evening in the cosy surroundings of Halfway 2 Heaven. As always, we were welcomed warmly, with a much needed pint and the promise of an evening of top notch cabaret, in the form of lip-sync whiz Mitzi Macintosh, performing in her fortnightly residency, 'Come Mime With Me'. And she didn't disappoint one bit. Routines, that are more like beautifully polished mini productions, were served up alongside improvised and friendly chatter - touching on certain British anomalies that fascinate antipodean Mitzi, such as, curiously, dogging and Celebrity Big Brother. The night has an interactive theme, too, which enables the whole audience to feel involved. You have the option to slip a suggestion into Mitzi's box - in keeping with the theme set. And everyone is also provided with name tags, but not in an arsey 'let's all have a group hug and share a secret with the circle way', but a fun, relaxed way to get people interacting. This week was nicknames we had at school. There were some bizarre ones! The real joy in the night comes from marvelling at Mitzi's magnificent costumes, stunning make up and captivating routines. And even though we've seen her 'Ring Ring' and 'No Wire Hangers' numbers many times before, we were mesmerised - as were most of the audience. The intensity of the dialogue. The manic gesticulations. The animated facial contortions. The on point lip syncing and delivery. And the lighting quick costume changes. All elements that make the perfect lip sync artist. Mitzi is one of the UK's best, in our opinion. That miserable changing of seasons feeling had soon subsided and we left feeling reinvigorated and full of warmth.



THE
BLACK CAP
CAMDEN TOWN

SUNDAY 29th SEPTEMBER

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM SHOWTIME 7PM

**TICKETS £10 IN ADVANCE
£12 ON THE DOOR**

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WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM



**BACK TO
BLACK CAP
GALA**

HOSTED BY

SANDRA . MYRA DUBOIS

STARRING

DAVID HOYLE

JUNE BROWN . TINA C

LAURA JANE BUTLER . TITTI LA CAMP

LE GATEAU CHOCOLAT . LA VOIX . SCOTTEE

JONNY WOO . TANYA HYDE . BAGA CHIPZ.

DAVID MILLS . LADY LA RUE . TOPSIE REDFERN

DJ LITTLE JOHN . CHRIS REARDON



in aid of
**AMY WINEHOUSE
FOUNDATION**

MR & MS. MANGO TREE

15/09/13

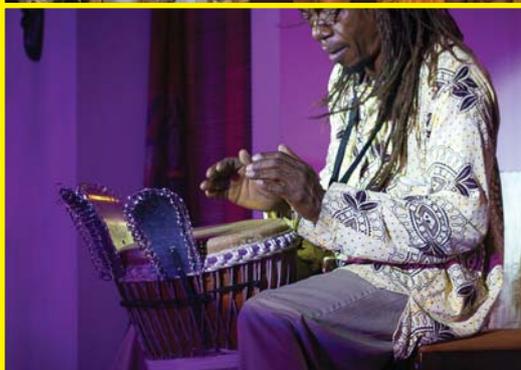
MANGO TREE, 46 GROSVENER PLACE, BELGRAVIA, SW1X 7EQ

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY JOEL RYDER



WELL IT WASN'T what I expected, I thought I would walk in to a small gathering with an unknown host and a solitary spot light, while listening to Kylie Minogue on repeat.

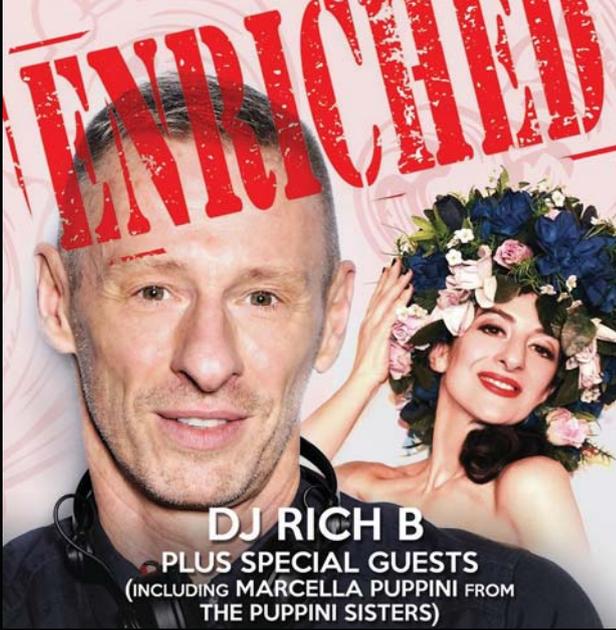
But no, to my delight and utter gleefulness I stepped off my chauffeur driven route master and on to a bright red carpet adorned by two doormen in black tie, a photo wall for the papas to catch people on the way in and champagne on arrival. I was delighted, if not slightly under dressed for this glamorous occasion at tantalizingly delicious Mango Tree restaurant in Belgravia, right in Her Majesty's back yard. I was adorned with a rose to denote VIP status to get up close and personal with the budding contestants, and I walked into this buzzing atmosphere of well dressed socialites, celebrities and glamorous contestants including last year's winner, Miss Mango Tree 2012, Rosalinda Garcia. Waiters and waitresses whizzed around us, serving delightful concoctions of little Thai goodness, which were absolutely divine; I highly recommend this restaurant! A full on stage and catwalk was awaiting and lights all around, like the audition set of the X Factor. Among the judges were the infamous Daniel Lismore, Ashley Rogers, past Miss Mango Tree winners and our very own queen of the typewriter Cliff Joannou. There were twelve stunning contestants for Miss Mango Tree and twelve swelteringly hot men competing for Mr Mango Tree and all if this was hosted by the multi award winning, hostess of hostesses, Mrs Moore, who did an outstanding job of hosting and an even better job of understanding what the contestants were saying, bless them all. Even Rhianna and Beyonce stormed the stage and gave epic performances! Well, an impersonator, but a damn good one, I'd book her. Also the ever-glamorous Miss Dee Chanel gave us an impromptu number, fabulous as always. After about 3 hours of heats and entertainment the atmosphere was tense with anticipation to find out the winners of 2013 and I can now tell you that Valerie won the crown at the end of the night, congratulations! A big thank you must go to the organiser Madame Tip.



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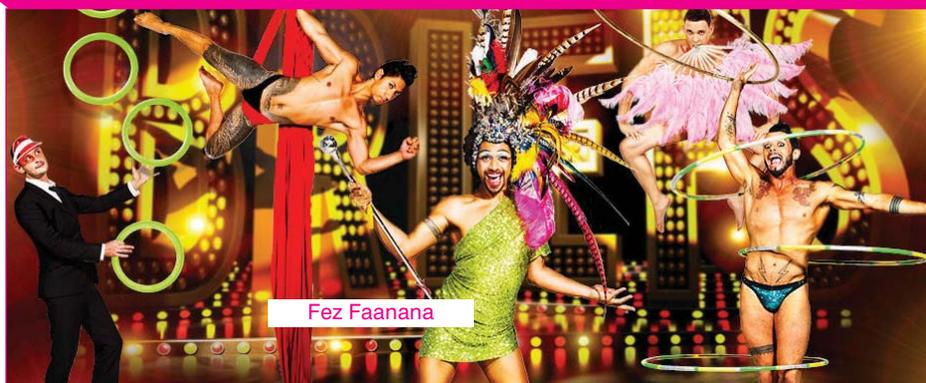
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BRIEFLY SPEAKING!

This week Jason Reid caught up with creative producer and Briefs' performer **Fez Faanana**, to get the low-down on the circus/drag troupe that's been described as the 'Aussie Cirque du Soleil meets Ru Paul's Drag Race', ahead of their London shows this week...



Fez Faanana

Jason: You've just been up in Edinburgh for the Fringe. How was that?

Fez: 25 shows in 26 days! But so much amazingness happening all around you. It was our third year and I think we've managed to sort out how to make it work for us. The first year was a gobsmacking eye-opener. The second was a beating, and the third, I think we managed to get it right.

So Briefs were formed in 2008. How did it all come about?

The Briefs movement happened in a very unplanned kind of way. It was spawned from a party/club night that entailed cheap booze, cheap door charge, elegantly trashy moments and a killer dance floor. It was a speakeasy of sorts, which evolved into a beast of a show, that's now taken over our lives. It was a platform for artists to be able to experiment with some late night naughty acts. Collectively the acts made a show; we took it on the road, and something unexpected happened. People actually bought tickets to watch what we had thrown together.

Has the line up and content changed much since those early days?

Because the nature of the show was a kind of welcome accident, the show and the company constantly improvises its way through the touring circuit. The cast has had

a big change for the 'Second Coming' which has been a recipe for a marvellous disaster. From the outset we planned to make this new show different, celebrating a new pack of stunning and clever idiots who are ready to shake shit up.

Tell us a more about the new show...

The Second Coming is a shiny new thing which is a homage to circus, drag, dance, design, comedy and burlesque. This new show was about creating a new spectacle that kept the trademark 'rough and tumble' spirit of the company whilst trying to make something fresh and fancy.

Give us a little insight into each member, and their individual talents and personalities..

- **Ben Lewis** is no stranger to the stage. He has a performance history that makes Kylie look like an amateur. He's the serial killer of circus. His attention to detail is ridiculous and he is beautiful genius that needs to be witnessed.

- **Mark Winnill** is one of the original Briefs boys - a founding member. He keeps the show skillfully decadent and beautifully statuesque. This king of burlesque refuses to let the glitter fade.

- **The Evil Hate Monkey** hails from Brooklyn, New York. He is a brilliantly bratty bandit who loves his bananas and he is

ready to share them with the world.

- **Louis Biggs** is an amazingly talented carnie kid. He is nineteen, he is handsome, he loves maths and is stupidly charming. Oh, and he's forever breaking hearts.

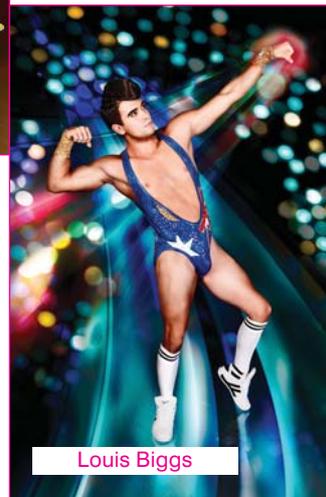
- **Dallas Dellaforce** is a shit-storm of amazingness. A talent that needs to be witnessed. He/she is not only a demon on stage, he/she is also a fierce performance artist who has some fiercely fashionable things to say.

And yourself?

Hm... I'm talking a lot less in this new show and I'm trying my hand at some things that are out of my comfort zone. Did someone say tranny magic and puppetry?

I don't know, did they? You tease... But I did see, intriguingly, there is some dog satire thrown in...

I don't want to give too much away but the



Louis Biggs

Be(a)st in Show act has been a memorable moment for many audience members. Some good and some traumatising. The dog act is a favourite for the cast to perform; it hints at some uncannily realistic traits that

equate to some skillfully beautiful and hilarious moments.

Right then, dish it. Who's the bossiest? I'm the bossiest. I am a bit of a control freak that maybe needs to back off.

Ben is always right. Mark and Monkey fight for the brat title. Dallas is a hot mess. Louis is gullibly cruisey. And somehow it all works...

Along with the circus stunts and drag acts the show is peppered with 'Aussie humour'. How do you think it differs to Brit humour?

I think Aussie and Brit humour is really similar. Both of them have a piss take and piss head mentality that is up for having a giggle atthemselves. The irreverent sense of humour is a massive commonality.

ASK LARGER QUESTIONS

After exploring terrorism in his 2010 drama *The Space Between*, actor-filmmaker **TRAVIS FINE** turned to the struggle for gay rights. *Any Day Now* is based on a true story from the late 1970s about a gay couple prevented from adopting a young boy with Down's Syndrome. With a strong cast including outspoken queer actor Alan Cumming, *Any Day Now* packs a strong punch. **Jack Leger** spoke with Travis about the film...



Travis Fine

Your filmography shows that you're clearly interested in bigger themes.

I am thankful that I've been given the opportunity to explore bigger themes in my last two films. Those are the types of films I watch. So I want to make pictures that challenge me, that inspire me and they ultimately force me to ask larger questions of myself and of my audience. For this film, the most challenging aspect was walking the fine line between gritty realism and overt melodrama.

Alan and Garret are excellent as Rudy and Paul, but young Isaac Leyva is a real discovery.

For the role of Marco, we put the word out with casting directors and with Down's Syndrome societies. We got a lot of submissions, but as soon as I saw Isaac do his first scene, I knew he was the one. When I told him that he had the role, he said, "The dream of my life has come true."

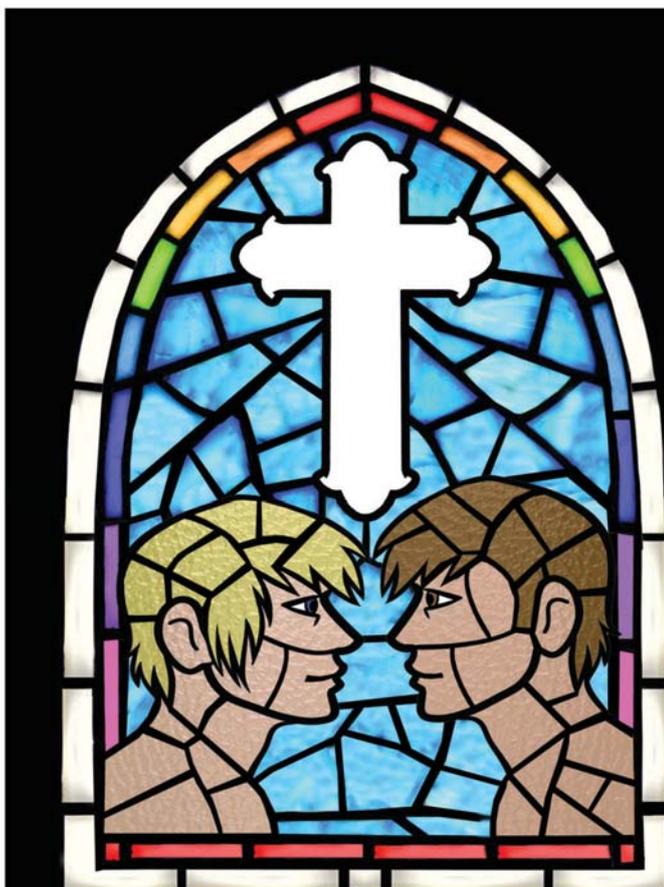
How have audiences reacted?

The story of two gay men trying to adopt a special-needs child is not exactly something I'd call a "crowd-pleaser". So I was quite surprised when we won the audience award at Tribeca Film Festival. But with each successive audience award, I realised that we had created a picture that moved people, made them laugh and made them think. That's been one of the most satisfying aspects of the entire experience.

These events happened 30 years ago. How are they relevant in light of recent advances in LGBT rights?

There are still many places, including states in America, where gay adoption is difficult or impossible. And there are still places where a person's sexual orientation can get them imprisoned or even killed. Until there is equality for all regardless of their orientation, skin colour, religion, gender - until the day that every person is judged as Martin Luther King called for by the "content of their character", this story is relevant.

Any Day Now is out in cinemas now.



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 Music by Damon Intrabartolo
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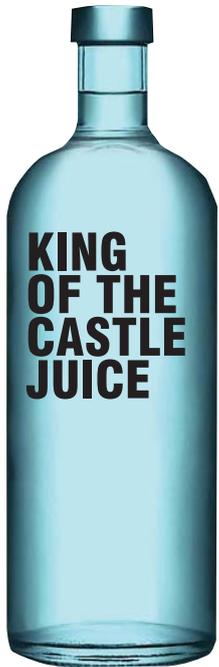
Wednesday 9th October - Saturday 27th October - 7.30pm
 (No Monday performances. Sunday matinees at 2.30pm)

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The Villagers of Orgy

By Darren Palfrey

THE GAY SCENE can often be described as a magical place and when you've had one too many it most certainly is, but all sparkling lands have an underworld and this week we're gonna take a look at the characters that inhabit the mysterious land of Orgy...



THE KING OF THE CASTLE

The host. Often an older man who utilizes his opulent apartment to surround himself with beautiful boys. Will feign an interest in your life, but primarily just wants to suck your youthful penis dry. Be friendly, he's usually got the keys to the drinks cabinet.

THE DRAG(ON)

Wherever you take this one, he'll find the dressing up box and if there isn't one, he'll make some kind of outfit from the host's harness and toilet roll. He'll walk around on tip toes throwing out bitchy comments and relishing being the centre of attention. But at the end of the night, with lipstick around his mouth and strands of blonde weave stuck to his sweaty chest, he'll be genuinely bewildered as to why no one wants to sleep with him.

SLEEPING NOT-SO-BEAUTY

He's the one that HAS to take himself to the edge of intoxication. He's the one everyone rolls their eyes at when he walks in, but cause he's sweet when he's sober no one asks him to leave. He never has anything interesting to say and as he gets more wrecked he shouts out random obscenities for attention before a crescendo to some overly enthusiastic sexual advances that even the sluttiest ogres aren't interested in. The climax of his performance is when he inevitably passes out in the toilet, knickers around his ankles.

THE WISHING WELL

This is a group of accommodating bottoms at an orgy, in a land where tops are rarer than a four-leafed clover. They sit on Grindr, cracking their iPhone screens in desperation, just wishing and wishing for a top!

SIR VALIANT VIAGRA

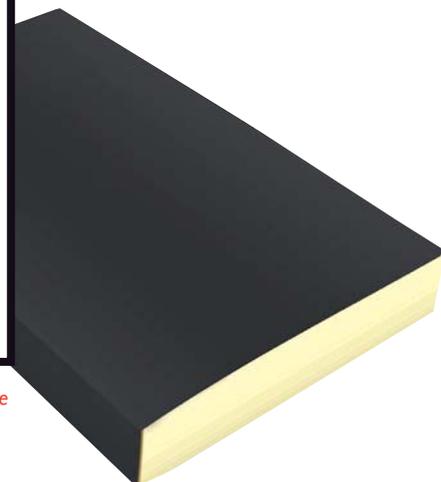
The saviour of the Wishing Well. This heroic character is the one who pops seventeen little blue pills so he can attempt to be the active one at a party of starving bottoms. The rest of the party, sick of scissoring, will be forever grateful and form an orderly queue at his mattress.

THE 'GOOD' FAIRY

Disturbed from Bible studies, he'll walk in with morals higher than his hair. Giving scathing looks at the naked bodies he walks past, insisting 'I didn't realise it was THAT kind of party.' Can be identified by the delighted 'Hail Marys' he screams from the bedroom after being introduced to the hung Brazilian.

DAMSEL IN DISTRESS

This is the heterosexual female housemate who, confined to her room, quivers beneath her vintage 'My Little Pony' bed sheets (that she thinks are cute). She desperately wants her flatmate to clean his act up, but only so she can marry him. Oblivious to the fact her shower has been used as a douche twice as many times as she's used it as a shower, she can't work out why her hair always smells of anal mucus.



Editor's note: we all know sex parties exist on the London gay scene and we're not here to try and stop you or pretend they don't happen. But if you do decide to drop down to meet the villagers of Orgy, we just ask that you remember to 'sheath your (park) sword'. In other words: use your head, please use a condom.



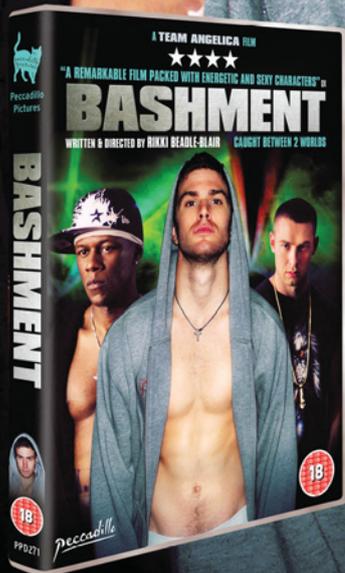
"A REMARKABLE FILM PACKED WITH ENERGETIC AND SEXY CHARACTERS" OX

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But is it ART sweetie?
BY PATRICK CASH

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it is conducted well it can be subversive and scintillating.

And rarely do performers do it better than the likes of Bourgeois and Maurice. Using their singing and musical prowess to craft clever, witty lyrics, combined with their onstage personas of sharp incisive Bourgeois meets ostensibly slow Maurice, they provided an array of searing social commentary, wrapped in engaging show tunes. And, from social media to the interactive haranguing of places like East Dulwich, they consistently proved very, very funny.

If you've never been to a show termed as 'cabaret' before then it'd be highly advisable to start here,

for this explosive duo drag the genre kicking and screaming out of its alleged weariness into a fresh, sparkling vision. And if you think that sounds like something to watch, you should see what they're wearing up there too...

AWARD-WINNING cabaret duo Bourgeois and Maurice put on a stellar show at the Soho theatre last week. Staged in Soho Downstairs, the theatre's newest cabaret space located in the basement, the room held an enticingly intimate atmosphere with its own fully equipped bar,

tabled layout and high stage. When the action started Maurice waltzed on to her customary spot upon the piano, and the appreciative people applauded, whilst Georgois Bourgeois appeared from the back of the space, prowling like a panther with a microphone, purring

the duo's opening song as he handed out treats. Break down the fourth wall, why don't you, Bourgeois?

But cabaret has always been about breaking down the limits of traditional theatre: often thought of as an aged form of entertainment, in fact when

SCREEN TEST
BY JACK LEGER

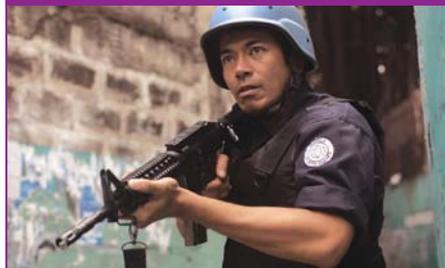
IN THE WORKS



Robert Pattinson and **Dane DeHaan** will team up for a film about the real-life friendship between photographer Dennis Stock and iconic actor James Dean. And **Ian McKellen** will play Sherlock Homes in a new movie set after the sleuth retires to a Sussex village in the 1940s.



FILM OF THE WEEK



METRO MANILA (15)

British filmmaker Sean Ellis (*The Broken*) dives into Filipino culture for this bustling family drama, which shifts into a seriously intense

thriller as it progresses. It's about a farmer and his wife who relocate to the capital Manila to find work, but get caught up in crime and prostitution. Even though the plot sometimes feels rather overwrought, the raw, earthy style makes it a white-knuckle ride.



DEAD AGAIN



Ryan Reynolds plays a dead cop drafted into the afterlife **R.I.P.D.** - Rest In Peace Department. With gunslinging partner Jeff Bridges on board, it feels like an unfunny, uninspired mash-up of *Ghost with Men In Black*.

EVENT OF THE WEEK



CAMBRIDGE FILM FESTIVAL

Have a day out! A terrific collection of LGBT films screen in Cambridge 19-29 September. These include documentaries about iconic drag-actor Divine, author-composer Paul Bowles and a 2008 teen hate crime film. There are

also dramas about a gay priest (Poland's *In The Name Of*) and a family man's coming out (Germany's *Free Fall*), plus a rare chance to experience the trippy, uber-gay odyssey *Fellini-Satyricon* in its restored glory. For info: cambridgefilmfestival.org.uk

IT'S A CRIME

Halle Berry is terrific as a frazzled emergency call-centre operator in **THE CALL**. Even when the plot turns ridiculous, she makes us believe it. • Much artier, **COLD COMES THE NIGHT** is a small-town thriller that sees Alice Eve's single mum coerced into a nasty situation by blind hitman Bryan Cranston. Dark and unsettling.

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PRINCESS JULIA



Last time we spoke it was London Fashion Week, but wait there's a bit of an overlap... **The London Design Festival** is upon us, on until the 22nd September. Let us remember that club life covers a multitude of interests so let's get on it... (londondesignfestival.com). Also I must mention an exhibition I'm quite involved in for the next month **ICA Off-Site: A Journey Through London Subculture: 1980 to Now**, it's on at **The Old Selfridges Hotel**

(1 Orchard Street, WIU IQX) (behind Selfridges)

until the 20th October, and it's free to experience talks, screenings and events throughout its duration. www.ica.org.uk That's it for the daytime entertainment, so let's crack on

John Sizzle



Severino



Hannah Holland



Jamie Bull



with the nightlife... **Meat 10 Launch Party** at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern (372 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5HY) looks fun on Friday 20th September. A bit about **Meat**, it's a quarterly gay pin-up print zine published by photographer Adrian Lourie. On the decks will be the fabulous **John Sizzle** (Grizzle, Gay Bingo), on till 3am!

The **Hot Boy Dancing Spot** boys invade XOYO (32-37 Cowper Street, Old Street, EC2A 4AP) also on Friday 20th playing host to a very credible DJ rosta including **Holy Ghost**, **Alex Metric**, **Shit Robot**, **Moonboots** and of course **Jonjo Jury** himself. Whoop! (www.xoyo.co.uk/events/Hot-Boy-Dancing). The Lovely Jonjo is busy this weekend...

Handsome returns on Saturday 21st at East Bloc (217 City Road, EC1V 1JN) along with **Hannah Holland**, **Severino** and **Jamie Bull**. Like a family get together, Handsome brings together a slice of London nightlife we just can't do without.

POP
 BY DUSTY O



BOY GEORGE

It has been 30 years since **Culture Club**'s 'Karma Chameleon' hit the top spot here and in 25 other countries. The band's lead singer **Boy George** is probably better known to younger music lovers as the man in the hat and make up who was a drug addict and did time in prison for hand cuffing a hooker to the radiator. To the older and better informed, Boy George is way more than that; a singer who sold 75 million records, a best selling writer, columnist for the Daily Mail for many years, fashion designer for B-Rude, writer of musicals, an 80s fashion icon, the subject of hundreds of front covers and an international DJ who still commands 5 figure figures for a 2 hour DJ set. George is a bit like a living Judy Garland. He never seems to cease courting controversy and his personal story has been like a rollercoaster of scandal, drugs, sex workers, obesity and self-loathing. However he still fascinates people and has the ability to get his mug in the papers and on TV pretty much as and when he wants to. There is no doubt that he is a genuine gay icon and still retains a portion of the affection that was so much in evidence at the start of his career.

So, what is this leading up to? A new single and a new album of course. "**King of Everything**" is



the first release from the album '**This is What I Do**', which is a self-release on George's record label Very Me. If George is to be remembered for anything other than his tempestuous lifestyle, hats and make up, and an increasingly ageing back catalogue, then this release needs to be a hit, or at least respected as a great song from an undeniably good vocalist. It is obvious, by the effort it must have taken to transform his look - he now sports a slimmed down appearance and new Johnny Woo style beard and image - that George wants people to notice him and take his music seriously again. Well, do you know what? They SHOULD,

because this is a brilliant slice of rocky, guitar riddled pop music that has heart and soul in abundance. It reminded me of Oasis when they were good but even better than that. George's vocal positively soars through the catchy chorus. He sounds better than ever - warm, husky in parts, brimming with personality and as sensitive as his hey-day ballads. No silly production blurb here, just solid instruments, a great tune, a fabulous vocal and one hell-of-a comeback single for an artist who when he is good is STUNNING and when he is bad is very naughty indeed. We love you George. Welcome back.

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Friday 27th September

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Cabaret: BAGA CHIPZ

Saturday 21st September

KLUB KLIMAX

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Piano Lounge: IAN PARKER

Cabaret: JACQUI CANN



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3. CANDY BAR

4 Carlisle Street, W1D 3BJ

Long-established lesbian venue in the heart of Gay Soho. Now part of the award-winning Ku family, Tuesday night is for the fellas with Candy Bar.

4. CITY OF QUEBEC

12 Old Quebec Street, W1H 7AH

This long-serving pub is a traditional boozier in every sense. Popular with a more mature gay crowd and their admirers, there are quiz nights, karaoke, weekly Sunday night cabaret and basement disco.

5. COMPTONS OF SOHO

52 Old Compton Street, W1D 6HJ

The Grand Dame of Old Compton Street. This ever-busy drinking den has a cruisey downstairs with circular bar, plus a loungeier, grandiosely furnished upstairs – complete with a full menu of pub grub and lunches on Sundays. Great music, and they often show live rugby/football matches for the butcher fellas.

6. DUKE OF WELLINGTON

77 Wardour Street, W1V 3TH

A local pub right in the heart

of the West End. This more traditional-looking gay boozier boasts an eclectic and friendly clientele and is particularly busy at weekends.

7. FRIENDLY SOCIETY

79 Wardour Street, W1D 6QB

A discreet door hides a wonderful kitsch and kooky sub-surface bar where Barbarella meets Barbie. Friendly, fun and quirky.

8. G-A-Y BAR

30 Old Compton Street, W1D 4UR

Soho's palace of pop, which boasts three floors of purple-walled, pop tuneage beamed from loads of plasma screens. Scores of pretty young party things and endless cheap drinks promotions means you're assured a fab night out.

9. HALFWAY II HEAVEN

7 Duncannon Street, WC2N 4JF

A traditional gay boozier, with a friendly bunch of after work regulars and off-duty drag queens who are very welcoming to newcomers. Downstairs boasts regular cabaret and karaoke nights.

10. KING'S ARMS

23 Poland Street, W1F 8QL

Long-serving, friendly and always popular drinking den for bears and their pals.

11. KU BAR FRITH STREET

25 Frith Street, WC2A 7BA

Affectionately known as 'Baby Ku', spread over three floors, the funky basement bar is a pleasing plateau of comfy seats, plasma screens, great lighting and a diverse clientele. Not forgetting the hot boys behind the bar!

12. MOLLY MOGGS

2 Old Compton Street, W1D 4TB

Offering not only a warm and friendly atmosphere, Molly Moggs also has a packed event programme across the week, generally involving singing and sequins. A cosy, charming venue that, whilst being predominantly gay, does also attract a mixed crowd to its cabaret shenanigans.

13. NEW BLOOMSBURY SET

76b Marchmont Street, WC1N 1AG

A gorgeous spot for socializing nestled in the heart of bustling Bloomsbury. Pulling in a diverse mix of suave and sophisticated gays, from professionals to students, the cushioned cubby holes are great for big groups or an intimate date.

14. RETRO BAR

2 George Court, WC2H 6HH

A hidden gem that brings a slice of 'Shoreditch cool' to the West End. A laid-back, trendy but unpretentious crowd, chillin' to indie and retro tunes.

15. RUPERT STREET

50 Rupert Street, W1D 6DR

This popular bar has a sophisticated and stylish clientele, with a diverse food menu during the day and live DJs playing to a packed-out venue at the weekend. A favourite pre-clubbing destination.

16. YARD

57 Rupert Street, W1D 7PL

A wonderful, relaxed venue with a gorge New York style loft-bar, Soho's ONLY smoking balcony and courtyard, plus a bevy of beautiful boys, professional gayers and everyone in-between.

LATE BARS

17. MANBAR

79 Charing Cross Road, WC2H 0NE

One of the newest bars on the scene with sexy lighting and a hot, funky crowd. A range of events every evening, from talent nights to bear's clubs, with DJs, buzzing beats and the works. Don't miss monthly LGBT sporting night Champions.

18. CIRCA

62 Frith Street, W1D 3JN

Cozy club/bar off Soho Square, featuring super-friendly staff and a buzzing atmosphere. DJs play pop and clubber beats, with a late license until 1am. Worth checking out for the amazing mirror-ball DJ booth alone!

19. EDGE

11 Soho Square, W1D 3QE

Featuring four gorgeous floors of bar and club action; a great place for after work drinks and a haven for pretty young things/polysexual party peeps at the weekend, plus top DJs. Not forgetting their

super late license on Friday and Saturday nights until 3am!

20. ESCAPE

10 Brewer Street, W1F 0SE

A late night, ever-popular cozy dance bar with music videos and DJs.

21. FREEDOM

66 Wardour Street, W1F 0TA

A polysexual, two-floor bar that caters to many a well-heeled gayer and their trendy hetero acquaintances. There's also a glitzy disco downstairs with club nights, live performances and more.

22. THE GREEN CARNATION

4-5 Greek Street, W1D 4DD

Opulent, refined, slick and sexy, the upstairs is deliciously decadent and full of well-heeled gayers, whilst the ground floor is much clubbier.

23. KU BAR LISLE STREET

30 Lisle Street, WC2H 7BA

A wonderful, three-floor bar/club with a diverse crowd of party pumpin' pretties. Upstairs has the gorgeous champagne bar, perfect for private parties, the ground floor is regularly heaving, and the Ku Klub is open 7 days a week with different themed nights of pop tuneage. The beautiful bar boys will have your mouths watering.

24. VILLAGE

81 Wardour Street, W1D 6QD

A three-floored wonder of stunning Soho socialites enjoying chilled-out drinks.

CLUBS

25. G-A-Y LATE

5 Goslett Yard, WC2H 0EA

The late night version of its Old Compton Street sister, which sticks to the winning formula of top pop, plasma screens, hot boys and flirty girls – but continues until the early hours of the morning!

26. HEAVEN

Villiers Street, WC2N 6NG

Probably the most famous gay disco on Earth! Boasting five rooms of sounds, this legendary venue caters to a wild mix, from polysexual and studenty crowds to mad trannies and muscle boys, with plenty of special events and wild parties, including G-A-Y every Thursday (Porn Idol), Friday (Camp Attack), pop artists perform live or regular themes every Saturday, and dance night

31

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5

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49

50

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9

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3

11

23



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12

MOLLY MOGGS
Theatre Bar

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Lane Julie Laid
Sunday @ 5pm
Wednesday @ 8:30pm

Mary Mac
Sunday @ 8:30pm

Jeff Kristian
Monday & Thursdays
@ 8:30pm

Cookie Menstar
Tuesday @ 8:30

46

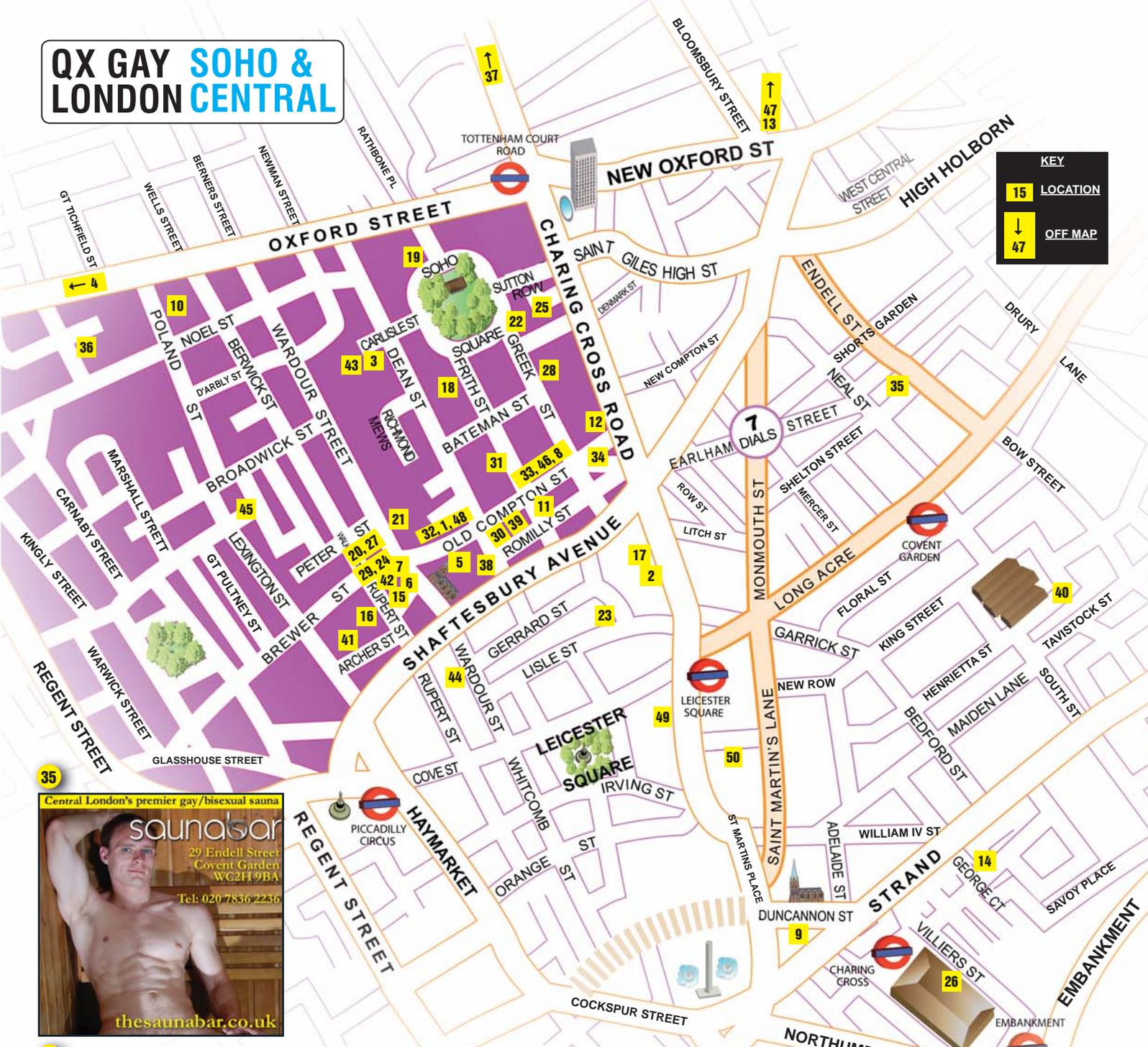
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KEY

15 LOCATION

47 OFF MAP

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Popcorn every Monday. Playing the best in pop, dance, R&B and anything you can shimmy to.

27. MADAME JOJOS

8-10 Brewer Street, W1F 0SE

A legendary Soho venue that exudes an opulent air of glamour, with various nights of kitsch cabaret, top live music, club nights, including the wonderful Trannyshack every Wednesday.

28. MIABELLA

12-13 Greek Street, W1D 4DJ

A sexy Soho boutique lounge club, host to glam nights such as the eternally popular Room Service, every Thursday.

29. SHADOW LOUNGE

5 Brewer Street, W1F 0RF

The spiritual home of the swish, stylish scene queen, this decadent club de jour is pumping seven nights a week with glamorous louche loungers and dancefloor divas alike. The weekends are packed with cocktail-sipping, air-kissing urbanites and more than a few celeb clientele nestled in the enclaves. With top DJs, and a trendy selection of music, it's open to all, but there are plenty of benefits for members.

GAY-FRIENDLY FOOD

30. HERMAN ZE GERMAN

38 Old Compton Street, W1D 5JU

You can get a different kind of German sausage down Old Compton Street; a Bratwurst, a Brockwurst or even a Leberkäse to be exact. This little German eatery will welcome you with a smile on their faces and an array of German favourites. And they even do healthy no-oil-used fries.

31. @SIAM

48 Frith Street, W1D 4SF

A contemporary Thai restaurant in the heart of Soho, @Siam offers gorgeous surroundings with a great atmosphere and an authentic, memorable Thai dining experience. With swanky modern décor, well-dressed staff and a menu crammed with a selection of eclectic food choices, @Siam is a delicious and affordable option in the heart of Soho.

32. BALANS

60-62 Old Compton Street, W1D 4UG

London's queen of gay-friendly dining, slap-bang in the heart of Soho's gay village. Featuring a varied menu of modern international cuisine, superb

cocktails, fine wine list and late night/early morning dining. Quite simply the place to be seen with Cosmo in hand and hot boy in tow.

33. BALANS CAFÉ

24 Old Compton Street, W1D 4TP

You can always spot an array of trendy Sohoites, media types and gays about town enjoying a breakfast, brunch or late night snack in this buzzing café.

34. ED'S EASY DINER

12 Moor St, Old Compton Street, W1D 5NG

A funky and fun typical 50s US diner, offering a fantastic atmosphere, colourful décor and friendly and attentive staff. Choose your own music through the jukebox – and enjoy fresh burgers cooked to order, as well as milkshakes that have earned legendary status.

MEN ONLY

35. SAUNA BAR

29 Endell Street, WC2H 9BA

Does exactly what it says on the tin – a fab sauna and bar for boozing and cruising. Includes spa, sauna, steam room, cabins, video lounge and massage services, in a discreet location in the bustling Covent Garden, just a hop, skip and a jump away from Soho. A perfect way to release some after work tension.

36. SWEATBOX

1-2 Ramillies Street, W1F 7LN

A sauna, gym and emporium of spa therapies and massages all under one roof, this ultra modern, men-only space also holds regular club events such as foam parties, with 1-day and weekend passes, plus monthly and annual memberships available. Open until 2am weeknights and 24 hours over the weekend.

37. VAULT

139 Whitfield Street, SW1W 0HH

A cruise bar where you can have drinks at the bar and unwind in front of the movie screens or wander the dark corridors and hidden vaults to discover secret treasures. There's also themed nights of nudity and underwear-only. Just a stone's throw from Soho.

SHOPS, SERVICES, GYMS AND MORE...

38. 56 DEAN STREET

56 Dean Street, W1D 6AQ

A welcoming, ultra modern

and very friendly sexual health clinic that offers both walk-in and appointment services. With fast HIV testing, Hepatitis B vaccinations, free condoms, emergency contraception and advice.

39. CLONE ZONE

35 Old Compton Street, W1D 5JX

A gay man's shopping paradise, featuring DVDs, toys, clothes, underwear, books, magazines and more. Plus, head to the basement downstairs for a feast of strictly adults-only goodies, such as porn, DVDs, dildos, plus fetish/bondage gear.

40. JUBILEE HALL

Jubilee Market, The Piazza, WC2E 8BE

Whatever your level of fitness and whatever your goals, the friendly, sun-lit Jubilee Hall gym has something for everyone. Offering a huge selection of free weights and state-of-the-art equipment.

41. CENTRED

Unit 1, 10-11 Archer Street, W1D 7AZ

Kairos in Soho (KIS) is a registered charity and community development organization with the long-term vision of a society where every LGBT person is able to live free from prejudice, harassment and discrimination. Providing a safe place, and a range of activities to develop a sense of community, a support network and wider social and strategic change.

42. PROWLER

5-7 Brewer Street, W1F 0RF

The number one stop for your every gay need; ranging from toys to clothes, books to DVDs and a dedicated section for porn, Prowler have got it all! Located in the heart of Soho, Prowler offers a comfortable, easy shopping space with friendly staff on hand to ensure you find exactly what you need.

43. SOHO SALON

5 Carlisle Street, W1D 3BJ

This chic, modern, family business offers a wide range of treatments, with friendly staff that adhere to the highest standards. There are laser treatments for hair reduction, thread veins, acne or skin rejuvenation, plus micodermabrasion, oxygen facials and more. Other male grooming treatments include waxing and sugaring, or you can choose from a range of massages.

44. TURNING POINT

32a Wardour Street, Soho, W1D 6QR

This leading health and social care organization provides help for those affected by drug and alcohol misuse, mental health problems and those with learning disabilities. They offer a 'Smart Muscle Service' for users of performance and image enhancing drugs every Tuesday from 6-9pm.

45. FACE CLINIC LONDON

Urban Wellbeing, 7 Silver Place, Soho, W1F 0JT

10 Harley Street, W1G 9PF

If you're looking for a decent facial (not that kind), the Face Clinic has everything covered from botox, to fillers to chemical peels. They have clinics in Soho and Harley Street, perfect for a little lunch time nip and tuck, so you can look ten years younger by the time the weekend rolls around.

46. OUTLET

32 Old Compton Street, W1D 4TP

Gay accommodation agency to suit all budgets and tastes, from holiday accommodation to long-term rentals and more.

47. GAY'S THE WORD

66 Marchmont Street, Bloomsbury, WC1N 1AB

Not just the UK's only gay bookshop, it's also a wonderful resource of gay literature and information, from serious to camp. There are also regular readings, meetings and a real community vibe. A little walk from Soho but worth it!

48. FIFTY&DEAN

50 Old Compton Street, W1D 4UB

Featuring men's designer underwear, loungewear, streetwear and other goodies upstairs and R18 DVDs, sex toys and adult playthings down in the basement, with a cool industrial-style decor to boot!

49. EXTREME NEEDLE

5 Bear Street, Leicester Square, WC2H 7AR

Offering a different kind of prick than perhaps the type you're used to, Extreme Needle has two studios in central London that boast professional and artistic tattoo design and body piercing.

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MUSTS & MAYBES

YOUR GUIDE TO THE WEEK'S BEST
**BAR
 CLUB
 CABARET**
 EVENTS IN LONDON

FULL LISTINGS AVAILABLE AT WWW.QXMAGAZINE.COM

THURSDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

CLUBS & EVENTS

G-A-Y Porn Idol at Heaven, Villiers Street, WC2N 6NG. 11pm-4am. FREE entry flyers from G-A-Y Bar. The return of London's biggest amateur strip night as contestants of all shapes, sizes and looks take part to win £100. Final winner wins £1,000. Think you have what it takes to win? Simply text 07789 553 868 to take part!

Boy Trouble at East Bloc, 217 City Road, Old Street, EC1V 1JN. 10.30pm-4am. FREE. A new Thursday experience for East London gays as East Bloc opens its doors for an early weekend house explosion of double-drop pop and Italo house.

Room Service at Miabella, 12-13 Greek Street, Soho, W1D 4DJ. 10pm-3am. Don't you dare miss this fiercely social, sexy club spot, playing edgy and upfront house.

G-A-Y Late at 5 Goslett Yard, off Charing Cross Road, WC2. 11pm-3am. Hot pop sounds get played out across the club, drink specials, cute guys and an almost unrivalled highly electric atmosphere. Open 7 days.

Ku Klub at Ku Bar Lisle Street, Leicester Square, WC2. 10pm-3am. FREE. The legendary Tasty Tim and Hunky Shariff spin the pop sounds and floor fillers.

Contact at Barcode, 69 Albert Embankment, Vauxhall, SE1 7TP. 10pm-3am. £5, £2 NUS. A new weekly

night of sexed-up whore housesounds from Steven Geller and guests at this seminal Vauxhall venue. Plus, Contact dark room sponsored by Fitludz!

Gigolo at The Shadow Lounge, 5 Brewer Street, W1F 0RF. 10pm-3am. £5 conc, £8 others. Midweek soiree for sluts with attitude at Soho's famous Shadow Lounge. Hot happenings as porn stars provide the eye candy.

BARS & CABARET

Demon's Karaoke at BJ's White Swan, 556 Commercial Road, E14. 9pm-3am. FREE. Sing-along to your fave hits.

Backing The Stars at Halfway 2 Heaven, 7 Duncannon Street, Charing Cross, WC2N 4JF. Long running popular central London cabaret pub. TONIGHT: Kevin Walsh entertains (8pm).

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

Gogo Thursday at Manbar, 79 Charing Cross Road, Soho, WC2H 0NE. 10pm-3am. Sexy gogo dancers galore at this popular Soho bar with DJ Nick Shepherdson.

Enriched at Rupert Street, 50 Rupert Street, Soho, W1D 6DR. From 8pm. New weekly dance session from Rich B with Marcella Puppini of the Puppini Sisters.

Titty Idol - Quarter Finals at Bar

Titania, 75 Charing Cross Road, WC2H 0NE. 6pm-11pm. Up and coming cabaret stars and wannabe performers compete from 6.30pm. Hosted by David Stinson.

Open Mic Night at Comptons, 51-53 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 6HN. 12pm-midnight. Lee Reed tinkles his ivories for a Soho sing-along (8-10pm) in one of Old Compton Street's oldest and classiest venues.

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

Molly Moggs at 2 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 4TA. 8.30pm. FREE. Big laughs and song from Jeff Kristian.

Bette's Boozy Thursdays at The Admiral Duncan, 54 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 4UD. Middy-11pm. Bette Rinse begins the weekend early at this legendary Soho pub (from 9pm).

KUstic at Ku Bar Lisle Street, Leicester Square, WC2. 7-10pm. FREE. Weekly live lounge and unplugged session.

VS at Circa, 62 Frith Street, Soho, W1. Munroe Bergdorf and Adam Turner get you warmed up for Room Service with some unrivalled Thursday night hotness!

Ted's TV/TS Night at Ted's Place, 305a North End Road. 7pm-2am. £5. The night for fellas in frocks and their admirers.

Queerly Out Classic at Escape Bar,

8-10 Brewer Street, Soho, W1F 0SU. 9pm-3am. Classic pop gay student night in the heart of Soho.

FRIDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

CLUBS & EVENTS

Therapy at Shadow Lounge, 5 Brewer Street, Soho, W1F 0RF. 11.30pm-3am. With Paul Heron, Miswhite, Adam Turner and Douh Silva plus VVIP host Elektra Paris.

Super Electric Party Machine at East Bloc, 217-219 City Road, EC1V 1JN. 10pm-6am. £5. The freshest, hottest talent playing the best new music with DJ Larry Tee and guests at this hot-ass East London basement club spot.

Fitludz at Barcode, 69 Albert Embankment, Vauxhall, SE1 7TP. 10pm-8am. £6 members, £8 guests. The club session for horny lads with hot grooves from the DJs and an extended cruise space.

G-A-Y Camp Attack at Heaven, Villiers Street, WC2N 6NG. 11pm-4am. FREE with wristband from G-A-Y Bar. Main Floor plays 70s, 80s, 90s, 00 & 01, Star Bar is 02 to present day, videos in the Pop Room. Musical theme sing-along in the Departure Lounge.

Cock n Roll at Dalston Superstore, 117 Kingsland Road, Dalston, E8 2PB. 9pm-3am. Free b4 12am/£5 after. A new night from the creators of Hard Cock Life. Pete Cockerty, Josh Cole and Cummy

THE ORIGINAL PRESENTED BY PAUL BOYD'S MUSICAL

MOLLY WOBBLY'S TITT FACTOR

PERFORMERS: GARY WILMOT • SOPHIE-LOUISE DANN

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 9PM to 3AM

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DRINKS FROM 99p!

QUEERLY every Tuesday & Thursday
 at Escape Bar Soho, W1F 0SE

£8 entry with this coupon

Bear are on the decks, playing indie, electro and post-punk.

Dirty Diana at Vogue Fabrics, 66 Stoke Newington Road, Dalston, N16 7XB. 10pm-3am. £5. The underground night returns for more dirty disco from Jacqui Potato, Chema Diaz and Bunni Splanchnik.

Meat 10 at RVT, 372 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11. 10pm-3am, £3 before 11pm, £5 after. Meat are back with a new issue and another of their not-to-be-missed parties, with special guest DJ John Sizzle joining the meat boys.

Tonker at Eagle London, 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11. 9pm-3am. FREE b4 10pm, £6 after. Big bear bar boozing, cruise and tunes has disco, house & soul.

Spunk - Hombre at Manbar, 79 Charing Cross Road, Soho, WC2H 0NE. 8pm-3.30am. FREE. Manbar DJs play commercial dance for a crowd of uperit blokes and butch boys 'til late. Resident DJs Brent Nicholls and Amox. Plus, pole dancing beauties.

Wrong! (2.30am Saturday morning) at Union, 66 Albert Embankment, Vauxhall, SE1 7TP. 2.30am-1pm. £7 with flyer or concession guestlist/otherwise £12. No pop, no commercial dance, just cutting-edge house music, it's Vauxhall like it used to be, featuring residents Steven Sharp, Jamie de Rooy, Thomas Wonderland and Xavi Lopez.

Ku Klub at Ku Bar Lisle Street at 30 Lisle Street, Leicester Square, WC2. 10pm-3am. FREE b4 11pm, £5 after. Pop perfection and hot floor fillers as Ku's hot 3 spin the tunes in its downstairs basement club spot.

BARS & CABARET

The Two Brewers at 114 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UJ. 5pm-4am. £5 after 10pm. London's legendary cabaret and club bar. TONIGHT: Jimmy and Craig's Brokeback birthdays. Cowboy attire desirable.

BJ's White Swan at 556 Commercial Road, Limehouse, E14 7JD. 9pm-4am. FREE entry before 10.30pm/£5 after. Popular East London pub. TONIGHT: Cabaret from Sandra.

Central Station at 37 Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross, N1 9SD. Open 'til 4am. FREE b4 10.30pm, £5 after. Cabaret and DJs 'til late. TONIGHT: Cabaret from Lady La Rue.

Comptons of Soho at 51-53 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 6HN. 12pm-midnight. The grand dame of Soho. DJ Jo Publik from 9pm.

Silver Service at Halfway 2 Heaven, 7 Duncannon Street, Charing Cross, WC2N 4JF. 9.15pm-3am. Silver Summers serves up her unique brand of cabaret. TONIGHT: Cabaret from Roxy C. Moorecox.

Sauna Bar at 29 Endell Street, Covent Garden, WC2H 9BA. 11am-7am. £16. £5 off entry with QX advert. The only licensed gay sauna in the West End,

open 'til super late every weekend.

The Edge at 11 Soho Square, Soho, W1D 3QE. 8pm-3am. FREE b4 10.30pm. Four floors of fun! Open extra late with top tunes from the DJs spinning top 40, pop, funky house and more.

Club Delicious at West 5, South Ealing, Pope's Lane, W5 4NB. 9pm-late. Crazy fun times at West 5 with DJs and special acts on stage.

TONIGHT: Entertainment from Son Of A Tutu.

Discipline at Circa, 62 Frith Street, Soho, W1D 3JN. Open 'til 1am. Soho's intimate but packed-out bar/club spot watches Munroe Bergdorf and friends werq the floor!

Frankie's Fun-Filled Friday at The Admiral Duncan, 54 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 4UD. Midday-Midnight. The popular Soho bar spins out floor fillers from DJ Frankie Fantastique.

Rupert Street at 50 Rupert Street, Soho, W1D 6DR. After a complete overhaul Soho's sexy bar is ready to shine again!

The Yard at 57 Rupert Street, Soho, W1. 2pm-12am. Soho's largest outdoor space, with balcony overlooking central courtyard. A smoker's paradise!

Bottom's Faerie Friday at Bar Titania at 75 Charing Cross Road, WC2H 0NE. Dancers from 8pm. Sumptuously decked-out new gay venue features top DJs and sexy dancers.

Camp as Hits at The City of Quebec, 12 Old Quebec Street, Marble Arch, W1H 7AF. 10pm-3am. Venerable institution of the gay scene rocks out some pop classics from the 80s on.

Kazbar at 50 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UL. 5pm-1am. Funky Clapham dance bar with special guest DJ.

The Victoria at 186 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, E17. Open 'til 3am. Lively East End pub features karaoke every Friday!

La Mix at Ku Bar Frith Street, 25 Frith Street, WC1D 5LB. Open 'til 3am. Ibiza style party with Rodrigo dressing the venue up in suitable Balearic style. DJs Alvaro and Kerol on the decks.

The Black Cap, 171 Camden High Street, NW1 7JY. Open till late. Party rocking gay pub up in the North of London, gives you premier cabaret and entertainment all weekend. TONIGHT: Cabaret from Lizzy Drip.

Weekend Warm-Up at the Duke of Wellington, 77 Wardour Street, Soho, W1D 6QA. Open till 12am. Free entry. Get ready for another great weekend by kicking things off at the venerable Duke, with DJ Gordon John.

SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

CLUBS & EVENTS

G-A-Y The Album Pre-Order Launch

Party at Heaven, Villiers Street, WC2N 6NG. 10.30pm-5am. Discount wristbands from G-A-Y Bar. The palace of pop and quite possibly the world's most famous gay club packs out this cavernous venue. TONIGHT: Every person who comes receives a FREE album sample mix CD.

XXL at Pulse, 1 Invicta Plaza, South Bank, SE1 9UF. 10pm-7am. £8 members, £15 guests. 4 huge arenas, a mega cruise space and chill space. Plus, big tunes from resident DJs Christian M, Alex Logan, Joe Egg and Mark Ames. TONIGHT: Huge party for XXL Fur-teenth Birthday!

Boner at Eagle London, 349 Kennington Lane, SE11 5QY. 9pm-4am. Free 9-10pm, £6 b4 midnight and £8 after. New night at The Eagle with sexy beats from Borja Pena and Josh Caffé. Gorgeous garden, free BBQ and 'fun rooms'.

Handsome at East Bloc, 217 City Road, Old Street, EC1V 1JN. 10.30pm-6am. £7 before 12am, £10 after. The R&B beats bring all the handsome boys to the Bloc. House music by Hannah Holland, Severino and The Lovely Jonjo. Old school booty-shaking from Mark Ashley Dupé.

Hombre at Manbar, 79 Charing Cross Road, Soho, WC2H 0NE. 8pm-3.30am. FREE. Manbar DJs play commercial dance with resident DJ Rob C plus pole dancing beauties.

West Central Station at Black Cap, 171 Camden High Street, NW1 7JY. Open till late. In aid of GMFA, this promises to be the campest night of the year in this party-pumping North London pub.

POP! at Vogue Fabrics, 66 Stoke Newington Road, Dalston, N16 7XB. 10pm-3am. £5. Serving up the finest in old and new pop music from Prince Nelly and Duchess of Pork.

Macho City at Dalston Superstore, 117 Kingsland High St, E8 2PB. 9pm-4am. Free b4 10pm, £5 after. The Macho City dream team is back in the basement full of burly masculine men, with Dave Kendrick, Charlie Porter and Dan Beaumont pumping out the house.

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

Ku Klub at Ku Bar Lisle Street at 30 Lisle Street, Leicester Square, WC2. 10pm-3am. FREE b4 11pm, £5 after. The party continues in Ku's basement club with hot pop and floor fillers from DJs Doug and Thanos.

Inferno at The Shadow Lounge, 5 Brewer Street, Soho, W1F 0RF. 10pm-3am. Everything goes on Saturday nights when Andrew Elmore spins the greatest hits of the week and the hosts are at their cheekiest. Dancers, shot boys and hot boys all around, a 5 hour non-stop party!

Sweatbox Foam Party at 1-2

Ramilies Street, Soho, W1F 7LN. 24 hours. £16. Unwind and release some tension after a stressful week with the all the fun of the foam.

Duckie at RVT, 372 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5HY. 9pm-2am. £6. Authentic London club/entertainment nighter. Hosted by Amy Lamé, record players Readers Wives.

Beyond (after-hours) at Area, Albert Embankment, Vauxhall, SE1 7TP. 3am (Sunday morning)-midday. Mammoth mash-up explodes across Area with big main floor upfront house and edgier sounds in the Chapel Bar.

Bootylicious at Club Colosseum, 1 Nine Elms Lane, Vauxhall, SW8 5NQ. 11.30pm-6am. £6/10 before midnight, £8/13 after. Bootylicious reopens the third room at Colosseum for a one-off record label takeover by DJ Schroff from FKK records. Plus DJ Randall Watson.

BARS & CABARET

The Two Brewers at 114 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UJ. 5pm-4am. FREE b4 10pm, £6 after. Cabaret and clubbing 'til late at the famous venue. TONIGHT: Cabaret from Cassidy Connors.

Central Station at 37 Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross, N1 9SD. Open 'til 4am. FREE before 10.30pm. Cabaret then DJs 'til late. TONIGHT: Cabaret from Maisie Trollette.

Klub Klimax at West 5, South Ealing, Pope's Lane, W5 4NB. The popular West London club, bar and cabaret spot, with added Piano Lounge fun. TONIGHT: Entertainment by Jacqui Cann.

BJ's White Swan at 556 Commercial Road, Limehouse, E14 7JD. 9pm-4am. FREE b4 10.30pm. 100% funky house and club classics in the mix. TONIGHT: Cabaret from Cookie.

G-A-Y Bar at 30 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 4UR. Midday-Midnight. FREE. Soho's palace of pop with the hottest videos screened out across the venue, great drinks deals and discount entry wrist bands for G-A-Y @ Heaven.

The Edge at 11 Soho Square, Soho, W1D 3QE. 2pm-3am. FREE b4 10.30pm. Open super-late with DJs spinning upfront vocal house, with hot gogo dancers gyrating away as Felicia Van Cartier exudes fabulousness.

Comptons of Soho at 51-53 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 6HN. 12pm-midnight. The grand dame of Soho pulling in a more blokey crowd.

The George and Dragon at 2 Blackheath Hill, Greenwich, SE10 8DE. 6pm-4am. Free entry. Friendly Greenwich-based boozier with welcoming atmosphere and top cabaret at the weekends. TONIGHT: Cabaret from Tanya Hyde.

Rinse Out Your Haggis presents Guilty Pleasures at The Admiral Duncan, 54 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 4UD. All the pop hits on at this



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Saturday Market + Bears

Downstairs at Halfway 2 Heaven, 7 Duncannon St, WC2N 4JF. Open 'til 3am. Rose Garden's Saturday Market from 4pm. Bears go down with the gruff guys and Justin Swift from 9pm.

Puck's Extravaganza at Bar Titania, 75 Charing Cross Road, WC2H 0NE. 1pm-12am. Commercial tunes, house, pop and even a dash of disco, with dancers from 8pm, plus Strictly Come Dancing on TV and DJ Little Rob.

Sauna Bar at 29 Endell Street, Covent Garden, WC2H 9BA. Midday-2am. £16. £5 off entry with QX advert. Unwind after a night of clubbing at the only licensed gay sauna in the West End.

The Old Ship at 17 Barnes Street, Limehouse, E14 7NW. 8pm-midnight. Local gay bar in East London's Limehouse. TONIGHT: Special Saturday night with Miss Jason!

Rupert Street at 50 Rupert Street, Soho, W1D 6DR. Kick Saturday night off with sounds from the hottest DJs at this lively Soho bar. TONIGHT: Weekly Beyond pre-party.

The Yard at 57 Rupert Street, Soho, W1. 2pm-12am. Soho's largest outdoor space, with balcony overlooking central courtyard.

La Mix at Ku Bar Frith Street, 25 Frith Street, WC1D 5LB. Open 'til 3am. An Ibiza style party from Ku's very own Rodrigo with DJs Alvaro and Kerol on the decks.

Kazbar at 50 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UL. 4pm-1am. The DJ funks up the dancefloor with the best remixes and videos past and present. Glendora hosts with guest DJ Paul Morrell.

The Quebec, 12 Old Quebec Street, Marble Arch, W1H 7AF. Legendary gay boozier near Marble Arch, with Pick N Mix on the stage at 10pm.

Circa at 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!

The Victoria at 186 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, E17. Open 'til 3am. Free before 9.30pm, £5 after. Lively East End pub that turns extra flamboyant on the weekends! TONIGHT: The long awaited return of Lady La Rue.

The Big Saturday Night Out at Duke of Wellington, 77 Wardour Street, Soho, W1D 6QA. Open till 12am. Free. DJs on rotation each Saturday keep this happening pub fresh and party-central!

SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

CLUBS & EVENTS

Kazbar Sunday Lock-in at Kazbar, 50 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UL. 5pm-late. The party continues at Clapham's popular club-style bar spot

with a weekly dance session. DJs spin classic house and massive dance anthems with DJ Chris Brogan.

Hot 2 Trot at East Bloc, 217-219 City Road, EC1V. 10pm-late. FREE b4 midnight/£5 after. Pagano & co make home in sexy Shoreditch basement. Now featuring Punk'd in Room 2 and HOT Kitsch POP in Room 3.

Horse Meat Disco at Eagle London, 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 8pm-4am. £6. The HMD gymkhana continues to shake Vauxhall down every week.

Filadz Sunday at Barcode, 69 Albert Embankment, Vauxhall, SE1 7TP. 10pm-6am. £7, £5 members. Horny boys get ready for a sporty Sunday scrum. Sexy cruisy scally fun!

S.L.A.G.S./Chill Out with Charlie Hides TV at RVT, 372 Kennington Lane, SE11 5HY. 2pm-midnight. £8, £5 after 7.30pm. Long-running and hugely popular afternoon/evening clubbing session slot playing anthemic tunes, big remixes and house. Plus, Charlie Hides TV delivers a multi-media cabaret collision from 5.30pm.

Sunday Session at Manbar, 79 Charing Cross Road, Soho, WC2H 0NE. 3pm-11pm. Free. Enjoy an end to your wonderful weekend with sounds spun by DJ Nick Shepherdson.

BARS & CABARET

The Old Ship at 17 Barnes Street, Limehouse, E14 7NW. 8pm-midnight. Free entry. Local gay bar in East London's Limehouse. TONIGHT: Cabaret from Candy Slag in Drag.

The Quebec at 12 Old Quebec Street, Marble Arch, W1H 7AF. Legendary gay boozier near Marble Arch features weekly cabaret. TONIGHT: Cabaret from Titti la Camp at 9pm.

Bit On The Side at The Black Cap, 171 Camden High Street, NW1 7JY. 10pm-1am. FREE. Baga Chipz hosts her salacious Sunday spot of frisky fun at Camden's legendary Black Cap.

Birdcage at Titty's at Bar Titania, 75 Charing Cross Road, WC2H 0NE. 6pm-late. Showcase of cabaret and fun starring Mzz Kimberley on her rollerskates.

The George and Dragon at 2 Blackheath Hill, Greenwich, SE10 8DE. 6pm-2am. FREE. Friendly Greenwich based boozier with welcoming atmosphere and top cabaret at the weekends. TONIGHT: Cabaret from the Duchess.

Studio at Circa, 62 Frith Street, Soho, W1D 3JN. Open 'til 1am. Dusty O brings you the campest Sunday nighter on the block, a little sparkle to the heart of Soho!

The Edge at 11 Soho Square, Soho, W1D 3QE. 2pm-3am. See off the Bank Holiday weekend at Soho's

multi-floored gay wonder, specially transformed into a summer paradise with tunes from DJs Nikos and Zach Burns.

CK Sunday at Halfway 2 Heaven at 7 Duncannon Street, Charing Cross, WC2N 4JF. Long running popular central London cabaret pub. Weekly CK Sunday fun with Crystal D'Canter and Martha D'Arthur (4pm), followed by Kelly Mild and Aaron Alexander.

The Power of 3 at the Two Brewers, 114 Clapham High Street, Clapham, SW4 7UJ. 5pm-2am. Show 6.30pm. £5 after 8pm, £6 after 9pm. Sunday fun at this legendary south London cabaret.

Strictly Sunday at BJ's White Swan, 556 Commercial Road, Limehouse, E14. 6.30pm-3am. Retrotastic tea dance offering everything from ballroom to disco via Latin, Salsa, Jive... and line dancing. Dance lessons 6.30pm-8pm. **Ku Klub** at Ku Bar Lisle Street, 30 Lisle Street, Leicester Square, WC2H 7BA. 10pm-11am. FREE. Lady Lloyd's hit factory hits Ku Bar Lisle Street, with hot boys on the dancefloor.

Rupert Street at 50 Rupert Street, Soho, W1D 6DR. La Voix hands out her vol au vents at this chic, newly refurbished Soho bar.

Molly Moggs at 2 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 4TA. From 2pm. FREE. Dame Julie Paid entertains the guests at this intimate Soho boozier.

Baga's Holiday Camp at The Admiral Duncan, 54 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 4UD. 5pm-10.30pm. Baga Chipz takes over the Old Compton Street spot for a salacious Sunday sesh.

West 5 at Pope's Lane, South Ealing, W5 4NB. Open from 8pm. FREE. Disco with Aaron from 10.30pm. Happy hour all night. TONIGHT: Cookie's Karaoke from 9pm.

80s Music Night at Duke of Wellington, 77 Wardour Street, Soho, W1D 6QA. Open till 11.30pm. Free. Retro fun to round off the weekend with all your best-loved 80s classics.

MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

CLUBS & EVENTS

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

Popcorn at Heaven, Villiers Street, WC2N 6NG. 11pm-5.30am. £4 b4 1am, £5 after, £8 after 2am. FREE with wristbands from G-A-Y Bar b4 1am, NUS/service industry staff FREE with ID. Massive mixed mash-up with four rooms of top sounds, from upfront, progressive house to chart hits.

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TONIGHT: 'Water' with Zach Burns, Jamie Hammond and Paulo Moreno.

Bear Trap at Manbar, 79 Charing Cross Road, Soho, WC2H 0NE. 8pm-2am. FREE. Weekly beary Monday. Great drink specials with top tunes from Eduardo Herrera.

Ku Klub at Ku Bar Lisle Street, 30 Lisle Street, WC2. 10pm-3am. FREE. DJs Alvaro and Kerol K play the weekend out on a wave of hot pop.

G-A-Y Late at 5 Goslett Yard, off Charing Cross Road, WC2. 11pm-3am. Late night dancing spot for pure-pop enthusiasts doing the funky chickens.

BARS & CABARET

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

Karaoke at City of Quebec, 12 Old Quebec Street, Marble Arch, W1H 7AF. From 9pm. FREE. Grab the mic and show the boys what ya can do with your gob! Hosted by Stevie Tee.

Comptons of Soho at 51-53 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 6HN. 12pm-11.30pm. The real queen of Soho. Bar £2.50 on popular drinks all day. TONIGHT: Guest DJ Heidi Liscious.

Rupert Street at 50 Rupert Street, Soho, W1D 6DR. The trendy Soho

drinking spot celebrates Monday with Bar £2.50!

Star For A Night Karaoke at The Admiral Duncan, 54 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 4UD. FREE. Queer karaoke with Tanya Hyde (8-11pm).

Backing The Stars at Halfway 2 Heaven, 7 Duncannon St. WC2. 7.30pm. Kevin Walsh gets the pub going with this karaoke weekly.

Give It Some Welly at Duke of Wellington, 77 Wardour Street, Soho, W1D 6QA. Open till 12am. Free. Drinks deals extravaganzas at the Duke with £2 selected drinks all day.

TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

CLUBS & EVENTS

OMFG at Shadow Lounge, 5-7 Brewer Street, Soho, W1F 0RF. 10pm-3am. £5, free for members. After a two year hiatus Munroe Bergdorf returns to the Shadow Lounge for the relaunch of her signature night, with a posse of London's hottest guys and sexiest T-girls.

Queerly Pop at Escape Bar, 8-10 Brewer Street, Soho, W1F 0SU. 9pm-3am. Free entry until 10.30pm, then £3 members/£4 with flyers/£5 others. Hosted by KLUBKIDS star Jason

Prince and DJ Matt Unique, QueerlyPOP presents London's best pop music and Karaoke entertainment. Great value drinks available all night.

Candy Boys at Candy Bar, 4 Carlisle Street, Soho, W1D 3BJ. 8pm-3am. FREE. Candy Bar gets penetrated by the Ku Bar boys every Tuesday.

G-A-Y Late at 5 Goslett Yard, off Charing Cross Road, WC2. 11pm-3am. The weekend begins early or finishes late to a melodious mix of classic pop.

BARS & CABARET

Tiffany Wells Double Bill at The Quebec, 12 Old Quebec Street, Marble Arch, W1H 7AF. The legendary gay pub in the heart of London. Tiffany Wells presents two shows at 9pm and 10pm.

Come on Down at Halfway 2 Heaven, 7 Duncannon Street, Charing Cross, WC2N 4JF. From 8.45pm. Drag Idol winner Martha D'Arthur hosts her new night at the landmark gay cabaret venue.

Titania's Faerie Chorus at Bar Titania, 75 Charing Cross Road, WC2H 0NE. 7-9pm. Join the fun, open to all. Plus, get in early as they rehearse Christmas songs for a winter showcase.

Spotlight at Manbar, 79 Charing Cross Road, Soho, WC2H 0NE. 4pm-2am. Duncan Day hosts this weekly talent search, from singers to fire eaters.

Karaoke at Two Brewers, 114 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UJ. 5pm-2am. £3 b4 10pm, £4 after. Sing-along the mid-week blues with Kevin Walsh.

Tuneful Tartan Tuesdays at The Admiral Duncan, 54 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 4UD. Mary Mac's tarty Tartan weekly at the always fun and friendly boozier in the middle of Old Compton Street.

Cookie Monster at Molly Moggs, 2 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 4TA. 8.30pm. FREE. Song and sinful fun from Cookie.

Retro Tuesday at Duke of Wellington, 77 Wardour Street, Soho, W1D 6QA. Open till 12am. Free. Nineties music plus old school games will rev up your Tuesday night.

WEDS 25TH SEPTEMBER

CLUBS & EVENTS

Spoken Word London at Vogue Fabrics, 66 Stoke Newington Road, Dalston, N16 7XB. Doors 8pm, sign up 8-9pm, readings begin 9pm. Free. Open-mic night for poetry, monologues, theatre, comedy, rap and all types of performance. Hosted by QX Assistant Editor Pat Cash.

Foam Party at Sweatbox, 1-2 Ramilies Street, Soho, W1F 7LN. 24 hours. £16. If you can't make the weekend wet fun, why not head down tonight? Relieve the midweek stress! The foam flies at 7, 8

and 9pm.

Ku Klub at Ku Bar Lisle Street, 30 Lisle Street, WC2. 10pm-3am. FREE. Sexy and glamorous as Vicki Vivacious spins the records.

XXL at Pulse, 1 Invicta Plaza, South Bank, SE1 9UF. 9pm-3am. Members free, others £3. Midweek, dance, booze and cruise at the world famous club for hunks, chunks, bears and admirers.

Record Box at Manbar, 79 Charing Cross Road, Soho, WC2H 0NE. 10pm-3am. A night of indie, northern soul, rock 'n' roll, disco, new wave and more classics from DJ Nico DeGeglia's extensive music collection at this blokey off-Soho bar.

MisFits at The Shadow Lounge, 5 Brewer Street, Soho, W1F 0RF. 10pm-3am. Mark-Ashley Dupé delivers a taste the best fresh 'n' creative music and fashion to Shadow for a new weekly night of booty shakin' R'n'B.

BARS & CABARET

Comptons of Soho at 51-53 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 6HN. 12pm-11.30pm. Super social pub downstairs, more chilled club lounge upstairs with guest pianist tinkling the ivories.

Myra's Social Club at Halfway II Heaven, 7 Duncannon Street, Charing Cross, WC2N 4JF. From 8pm. Drop in for a pint as Myra DuBois delivers the laughs.

Two Brewers at 114 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UJ. FREE b4 10pm, £3 after. South London's famous bar/club.

The Admiral Duncan at 54 Old Compton Street, Soho, W1D 4UD. Midday-11pm. Weekly cabaret at this legendary Soho pub.

Wednesday Naughties at Central Station, 37 Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross N1 9SD. 10pm. FREE. Sandra's back! With her new weekly residency of sauce, filth and excellent cabaret this will fire up your Wednesday evenings.

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

Detained at Circa, 62 Frith Street, Soho, W1D 3JN. Open 'til 1am. Circa goes all-out with the dance, pop and R'n'B remixes every Wednesday. DJs Attack Attack Attack, Kingsley, Munroe Bergdorf and Kris Di Angelis on rotation.

Winsome Wednesday at Bar Titania, 75 Charing Cross Road, WC2H 0NE. 6pm-11pm. Vocalist Chris Royal entertains at the bar from 8pm.

Bingo with Mary Mac at West 5, Pope's Lane, South Ealing, W5 4NB. Open from 8pm. FREE. Join in some fabulous bingo fun with Mary Mac at Ealing's biggest gay bar. Happy hour all night long.

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21/09/13: HARDON

HARDON



HardOn is the dirty party where all the bad boys come out to play and you can get involved with your rubber/leather/sports kit/skin or just your boots dress code, just no plain jeans or trackies! And on Saturday 21st it's the 10th Birthday Party with a live show by Aitor Crash (pictured), one of the most famous and sexiest pornstars to grace this planet. Presented by Suzie Krueger.
Union, 66 Albert Embankment, Vauxhall, SE11 7TP. 10pm-late. £15 members, £20 guests.

THURSDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

The Underground Club, 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, NI. PANTS (1-6pm) Underwear fun. SPANKZ (6pm-10pm) CP night for rougher, tougher play. Followed by COME TO DADDY (10pm-2am). **Vault: Cruise/Stripped** at 139b-143 Whitfield Street, WIT 5EN. DAY CRUISE (1-7pm. £6). STRIPPED (7pm-1am. £7). Free drink, cloakroom and re-entry. Get nude and rude. Strictly naked, except footwear. **Eagle London Cruise** at 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 9pm-2am. Members FREE, guests FREE b4 10pm, £3 after. Men-only cruise bar for blokes, bears, and their mates. **Contact** at Barcode, 69 Albert Embankment, Vauxhall, SE1 7TP. 10pm-3am. Weekly cruise session, large dark room and horny house beats.

FRIDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

The Hoist at 47c South Lambeth Road, SW8 IRH. 10pm-3am. HOIST CLASSIC vs SWEAT sportswear cruising. TONIGHT: FF Special & Classic with more slings, more lube and more fun. **Vault: Cruise** at 139b-143 Whitfield Street, WIT 5EN. DAY CRUISE (1-7pm. £6). NIGHT CRUISE (7pm-1am. £7). Free drink, cloakroom and re-entry. Horny cruise spot minute's from the busy West End. **The Backstreet** at MAI Backstreet, Wentworth Mews, Mile End, E3 4UA. 10pm-3am. FREE in tall boots, members free

b4 10.45pm/£4 after, £7 others. Leather/rubber club spot. **Fitladz** at Barcode, 69 Albert Embankment, Vauxhall, SE1 7TP. 9pm-9am. £8. Get sexy at this cruise and club sesh! Horny lads and hot grooves, plus extended cruise space. **New Cross Cruise Club** at NXCC, 309 New Cross Road, London, SE14 6AS. 9am-9pm. £10 incl. free locker. TV lounge, smokers' terrace, showers, darkrooms, slings, booths, cabins, sauna, steam room over two floors. Naked, underwear, swimwear, sports, shorts, jocks or towels. Refreshments but no alcohol served. BYOB permitted.

The Underground Club at Central Station, 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, NI. PANTS (1-6pm, £4 entry) Undies only! FEET ON FRIDAY (7pm-midnight) Meet guys into guy's feet, socks and footwear in a private and friendly environment. **Cruise/Dark Room** at Ted's Place, 305a North End Rd, W14. 7pm-midnight. £3. Dirty, sexy cruise night.

SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

Vault: Cruise at 139b-143 Whitfield Street, WIT 5EN. DAY CRUISE (1pm-7pm. £6) NIGHT CRUISE (7pm-1am. £7). Free drink, cloakroom, re-entry. Dark corners, catch a dirty movie, indulge your carnal side. **The Hoist** at Arches 47b & 47c, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8 IRH. BOYS & SIRS (2pm-7pm) Spanking/CP/punishment

event; SBN AFTERDARK (Arch 1) Dresscode naked and live show.

The Underground Club at Central Station, 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, NI. PANTS (1-6pm, £4) Best undies for the boys. Then ABC (7pm-midnight) the Adult Baby Club for adult babies and diaper lovers.

Pleasuredrome at Arch 124 Cornwall Road, Waterloo SE1 8XE. Open 24/7. £15, £12 under 25 with ID. FREE towel.

Cruising all day and night with plenty of rooms to play in. Licensed bar.

Buff at MAI Backstreet, Wentworth Mews, Mile End, E3 4UA. 6pm-10pm. £8 members/£9 guests (free drink/coat check). Naked, wear shorts or underwear.

The Backstreet at MAI Backstreet, Wentworth Mews, Mile End, E3 4UA. 10pm-3am. Free members b4 10.45pm/£4 after, £7 others. Free all night in rubber.

Harder at Bar Berlin, Arch 47c, South Lambeth Road, SW8. 10pm-4am. Macho, strict and tough dresscode night of leather, rubber, skin, uniform, industrial, or just boots/jocks. Toughest dress code in the world.

SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

Pleasuredrome at Arch 124 Cornwall Road, Waterloo SE1 8XE. Open 24/7. £15, £12 under 25 with ID. FREE towel. Cruise all day and night, plenty of rooms to play in. Licensed bar.

Buff at MAI Backstreet, Wentworth Mews, Mile End, E3 4UA. 6pm-10pm. £8 members/£9 guests (free drink/coat check). Horny, naked cruise party. Stay on for after-party 'til late - arrive before 9.30pm! (Closed 1st Sunday of the month for Lycra night HERO'S)

Fitladz Sunday at Barcode, 69 Albert Embankment, Vauxhall, SE1 7TP. 10pm-4am. Members FREE, £5 guests. Horny boys after a sporty Sunday scrum. Uplifting tunes, upferit guys and cruising. **The Hoist** at Arches 47b

& 47c, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8 IRH. S.B.N. (2-7pm) Fully naked cruise club. N.B.N. vs S.E.X. (9pm-1am) Wear what you like, do who ya want.

Vault: Underwear/ Cruise at 139b-143 Whitfield Street, WIT 5EN. UNDERWEAR (1-7pm. £6). CRUISE (7pm-1am. £7). Free drink, cloakroom and re-entry. Just pants b4 7pm, then cruise 'til late.

S.O.P. at The Underground Club, Central Station, 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, NI. 1pm-midnight. £7. Yellow fun for waterworks fans.

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

MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

Vault: Cruise/Stripped at Vault, 139b-143 Whitfield Street, WIT 5EN. CRUISE (1-7pm. £6). STRIPPED (7pm-1am. £7). Free drink, cloakroom and re-entry. Horny cruise session first before naked time (except footwear). **Cruise/Dark Room** at Ted's Place, 305a North End Rd, W14. 7pm-midnight. £3. For hungry, horny buggers.

Pleasuredrome at Arch 124 Cornwall Road, Waterloo SE1 8XE. Open 24/7. £15, £12 under 25 with ID. FREE towel. Cruise all day and night with plenty of rooms to play in. Licensed bar.

The Underground Club at Central Station, 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, NI. PANTS (1-6pm) BUTT NAKED (6pm-10pm) Strip down and get off with like-minded guys. HARD CRUZ (10pm-1am, free entry) Hard cruising for horny guys.

TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

Club CP at East Bloc, 217 City Road, Shoreditch, EC1V 1JN. 7-11pm. £6 entry, no membership. Corporal punishment night with big play area, video room, chill zones, private party booths, maze and

equipment to use. **Vault: Cruise** at 139b-143 Whitfield Street, WIT 5EN. 1-7pm, £6. 7pm-1am. £7. Cruising session at this horny hot spot.

The Underground Club at Central Station, 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, NI. S.O.P. (6pm-1am) Yellow fun for waterworks fans.

Eagle London Cruise at 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY. 9pm-2am. Members FREE, guests FREE b4 10pm, £3 after. Men-only cruise bar for blokes, bears, and their mates.

Underwear/Naked at Ted's Place, 305s North End Rd, W14. 7pm-midnight. £4. Strictly underwear only.

WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

Eagle London Cruise at 349 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11 5QY.

9pm-2am. Members FREE, guests FREE b4 10pm, £3 after. Men-only cruise bar for blokes, bears, and their mates.

Buff at MAI Backstreet, Wentworth Mews, Mile End, E3 4UA. 7pm-11pm. £8 members/£9 guests (free drink/coat check). Horny, naked cruise party. Heated outdoor 'naked' smokers terrace.

N.B.N. at The Hoist, 47b South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8. 9pm-1am. £6. If ya like to strip, but prefer to add some boots or a tasteful accessory rather than go full monty.

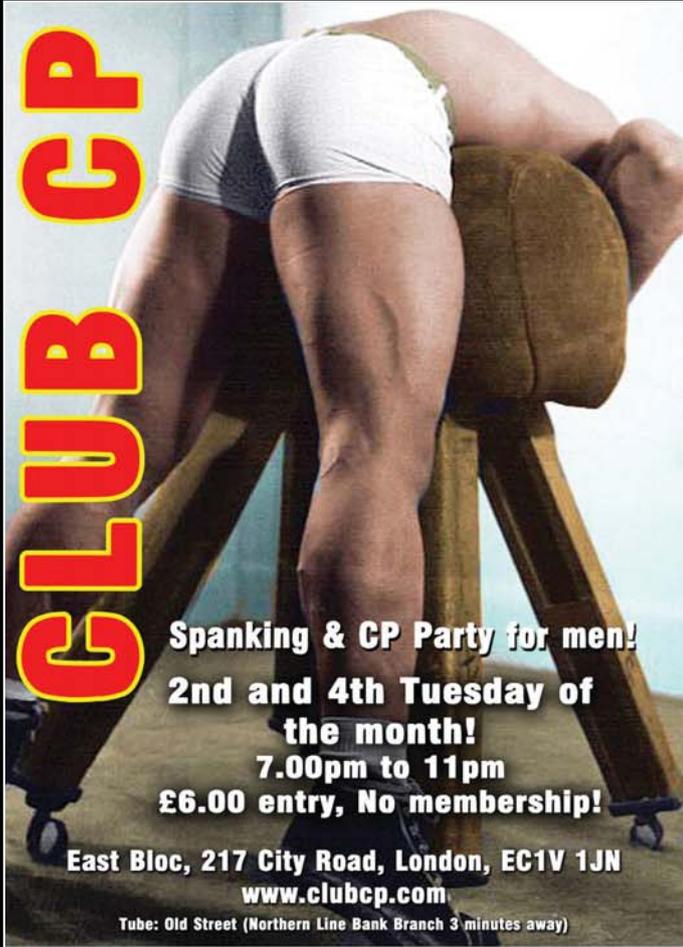
Vault: Cruise/ Underwear at 139b-143 Whitfield Street, WIT 5EN. DAY CRUISE (1-7pm. £6) THEN UNDERWEAR (7pm-1am. £7) Free drink, cloakroom and re-entry. Get down to your underwear for more.

The Underground Club at Central Station, 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, NI. UNIFORM (6-10pm, £6 inc coat check) a new monthly night for guys into uniforms, construction/lycra/hi-viz/suits/sports gear/military/painters-decorators/mechanics, then HARD CRUZ (10pm-1am) for men only, hard, up-for-it guys.

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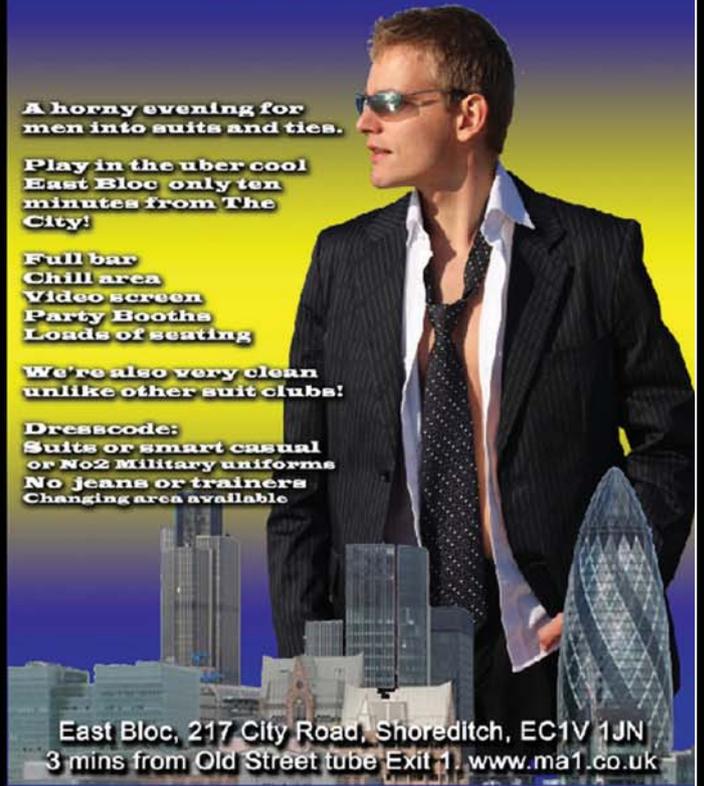
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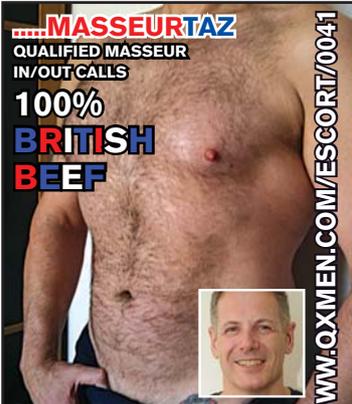
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Health watch

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

DR ALEX, GP

Herpes: Did you know?

There are two types of the herpes virus. Type 1 usually causes cold sores around the mouth but also up to half of cases of genital herpes. Type 2 usually only causes genital herpes.

If you pick up genital herpes at first you may feel generally unwell with a mild fever, and aches and pains. Next small, painful blisters appear around your genitals and/or anus. They tend to erupt in crops over 1-2 weeks.

The blisters soon burst and turn to shallow, sore ulcers. The glands in your groin may swell and feel like lumps at the top of your legs.

Genital herpes is usually passed on by skin-to-skin contact with someone who is already infected with the virus. The moist skin that lines the mouth, genitals and anus is the most susceptible to infection. This means that the virus is most commonly passed on by having anal or oral sex, or just close genital contact with an infected person. So, if you have a cold sore around your mouth, by having oral sex, you can pass on the virus to cause genital herpes.

At least 8 in 10 people with genital herpes simplex virus do not know that they are infected and never have symptoms, but can still pass on the infection to others.

Sometime a first episode of symptoms appears months or years after being first infected. This is why a first episode of symptoms can occur during a current faithful sexual relationship. You may have been infected months or years ago from a previous sexual partner who did not realise that they were infected.

The first episode of herpes is the worst and usually lasts 2-3 weeks. Recurrent episodes of symptoms then develop in some cases from time to time, but are usually less severe than the first episode.

However antiviral medication can ease symptoms when they develop.

Some people who have frequent recurrences of symptoms take antiviral medication each day to prevent symptoms from developing.

Herpes cannot be cured. Once you have picked up the virus it lies inactive (dormant) in a nearby nerve and so can erupt from time to time.

If you have had herpes then you should not have sex when you have any symptoms as it is more likely to pass on at this time. However it is possible for it to pass on when you don't have symptoms but this is less likely.

Condoms will only give about 50% protection.

It is very difficult to broach herpes with a partner but they would probably want to know. You can then discuss ways to minimise the risk of transmission together. One option is also for partners to have a blood test. 60% of people in the UK already have the type 1 and 10% already have the type 2 and so a blood test can see if they already have immunity to the virus that you have. If that's the case then you wouldn't then need to worry about passing it to them.

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