

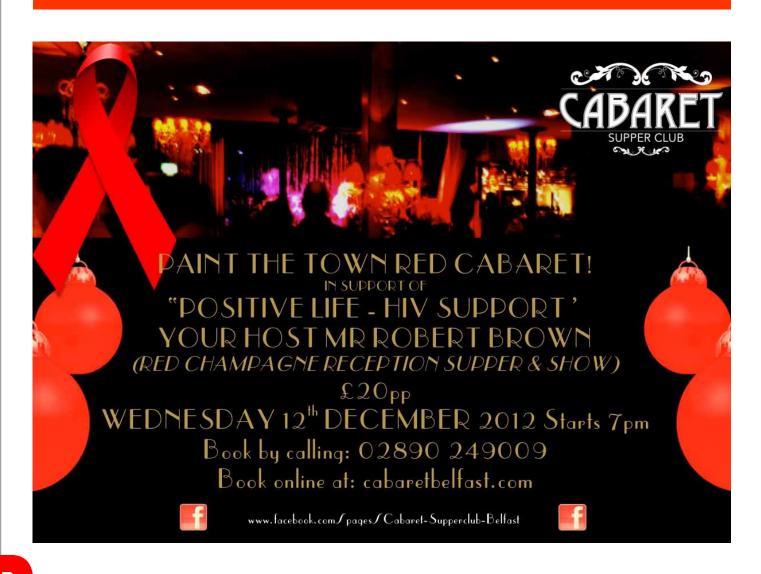
A massive thank you to everyone who has supported us since our magazines conception back in August. In the space of only several months we have amassed an incredible amount of support and an amazing team of writers that has been growing monthly.

Issue 2 brings with it an interview with Victoria Garrett, a behind the scenes look into this years 5th annual Opportunity Frocks contest, all the usual local, national and international news stories, as well as a challenge from us to you to participate in your local marathon and not forgetting our regular writers - Chris McMurray, Kosmic Karen, Maurice Dickson, Peter Fahy, Ryan Dior, Misty Falls and we are now delighted to welcome Stephen Donnan to the mix.

Special thanks to Tina Leggs Tantrum for giving us an insight into the goings on at the Op Frocks show which we have chosen as this month's Editor's Choice.

We would also like to thank Victoria Garrett not only for speaking with us about her personal experiences but also for bravely speaking out and raising awareness of transgender issues.

We hope you enjoy our second issue. Don't forget you can now get copies at LGBT venues around the country.



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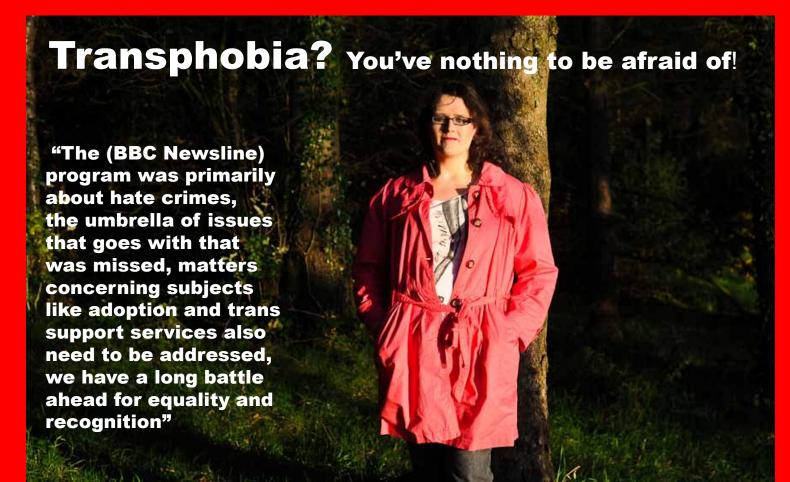
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Following the announcement last month that Justice Minister David Ford had promised a review of how hate crime laws are implemented here in Northern Ireland the BBC Newsline team ran a series of reports investigating those who have been let down by lax or nonexistent protective laws. As part of this five part hate crime series the Newsline team revealed one sector of the community who is not protected by this legislation – the transgender community. England, Wales and Scotland have all amended their hate crime laws to include transgender but as usual Northern Ireland has not followed suit. The police have been recording incidents against them since 2007, but there is no law to prosecute anyone who targets them because of their identity.

Victoria Garrett from Saintfield, County Down appeared on the Newsline show to raise awareness of the issues facing the Transgender community here. We recently caught up with Victoria before going on stage as her alter ego "Twanda" in her new show Den of Iniquity at the Foxes Den in Belfast.

Victoria was keen to stress that transphobia is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to issues affecting the transgender community in Northern Ireland and there is much work to be done in many other areas to give transgender people more security, rights and civil liberties.

"The program was primarily about hate crimes, the umbrella of issues that goes with that was missed, matters concerning subjects like adoption and trans support services also need to be addressed, we have a long battle ahead for equality and recognition"

"Transgender people are often misunderstood, even use of the LGBT acronym shows misconceptions in some peoples understanding, of course it's sometimes just a case of political correctness gone mad but on one hand you have transgender people who experience gender identity issues and on the other you have LGB people experiencing issues with their sexual orientation, two completely different matters entirely that are now lumped together".

ALL the LATEST, in the NEWS THAT MATTERS

"For example a man can experience gender dysphoria, undergo the sex change process and still be attracted to women, basically becoming lesbian" an example which highlights the very clear distinction between gender identity and sexual orientation and indeed raises awareness of the sometimes stereotypical view of people changing gender to pursue the love of another of the same sex.

My interview with Victoria made me understand that education goes a long way in helping people get to grips with this issue, trans gender people are people too, they deserve the rights and respect that we all feel we ought to have but still they are shunned, abused and overlooked by our society.

"I remember the first time a gentleman held a door open for me, at first it was slightly puzzling but upon realising what had happened I couldn't have been happier for it was the first time I had been properly acknowledged as female. I couldn't wipe the smile off my face the rest of the day. It wasn't all nice for me in the beginning though. At first some people didn't give me the time of day when I told them of my intentions to become female, some people shunned me, some didn't want to know me, but for the people who remained in my life and opened their minds to the subject, they quickly realised it wasn't difficult to accept me for who I really am, I am much more happy and content now that I feel like I am me."

This was my first time sitting and chatting with a transgender person and seeing her together with her heterosexual boyfriend Ed I could think of nothing more natural and comfortable than being in the presence of two happy people in love. It seems education through contact is invaluable.

People seem to find it hard to forget about the differences presented to them and let these differences shape a distorted view that this something too difficult to understand and too far from the "norm" to be acceptable.

Last month we reported on the findings from an equality commission survey examining experiences and attitudes towards discrimination in NI. It found that a worryingly high 35% of



people would mind having a transgender work colleague, 40% of people would mind having a trans neighbour and 53% of people would mind if a trans person had a relationship with a member of their family. If transgender people feel they are in the "wrong skin" and "can grow to literally hate the body they inhabit", why then should undergoing the sex change process to feel true to themselves and be happy also deprive them of rights and leave them vulnerable to such discrimination? The Northern Ireland assembly has chosen to dictate to people who they can and cannot be by starving this community of the rights they so justly deserve. "This isn't some form of mental illness but a biological condition influenced by pre-natal development". Putting things into perspective – would we agree with our government depriving people who have had nose or boob jobs of their rights because they wish to become more happy and content with their bodies? No, because this seems to be within the grasps of our MLA's understanding and fundamentally that is what it all boils down to. The way in which people detach transgender from so called "normality" is an absolute disgrace.

MYGAYZINE NEWS

Such negativity and neglect is a cruel norm for anyone to have to live with but hopefully change is on the horizon with Victoria wanting to hold people and government bodies accountable for their decisions and actions.

"I have stood up to represent this community and it is time for things to change, the government is now willing to listen, myself and others are talking and meeting with groups and organisations such as the PSNI and the Equality Commission regularly, we also hope that we can get a forum open in the not too distant future to offer further support".

If you caught Victoria's interview on BBC Newsline you will be aware that she was subjected to an horrific transphobic attack and as a testament to just how motivated and dedicated to this fight she has become – she became the first transgender person to take the prosecution of the individuals involved all the way through the Northern Ireland legal system.

"I feel like I got off pretty lightly, some people have been through much worse – stabbings, threats, beatings and other forms of intimidation, its horrendous. The court case felt like a small victory for me and I feel as though much more needs to be done, many don't have the support or courage to go through it all. I am not going to be behind the door and I am happy to offer guidance, advice or support to others who feel vulnerable or alone in that way. Thankfully I have had the support of a wonderful man who loves me, my amazing family and a great network of friends to get me through it all."

Victoria's partner added "Vicky has taken such an inspirational stand for what she believes in and it has required a huge amount of courage to tackle these issues head on, a lot more has to be done to give the trans community equal rights and I will be behind her giving her all the support she needs". Victoria added "I have received messages of support from all over the world Australia, Greece, Morrocco and more locally in the UK. This has made me stronger and strengthened my resolve to continue."

MYGAYZINE will be following this story over the coming months and tracking Victorias progress as well as covering other pressing issues and events within the trans community in the months to come. Hopefully now that the ball is rolling on this topic we will soon see progress as the government begins to realise trans hate crimes and rights abuses are a VERY real thing.

Special thank you to Ed Fahey for the beautiful photography.





MYGAYZINE NEWS

30 years since being gay in Northern Ireland was legalised.

Our journey continues...



Jeff Dudgeon is a local hero. This is the man who stood up to defend his right to love in the same way as any other citizen of Northern Ireland in the seventies. As with so many issues here in NI it had to be a long, drawn out and expensive not to mention embarrassing for the country even then.

Jeff Dudgeon was a clerk in Belfast's Shipyard and he was interrogated by the then RUC about his sexual activities and later in 1975 he raised a complaint with the European Commission of Human Rights. It then took until 1979 until the ECHR declared his complaint admissible. In April 1981 before a panel of 19 judges the court hearing took place with Lord Gifford and Terry Munyard representing Mr. Dudgeon. On the 22nd October 1981 the court agreed that Northern Irelands criminalisation of homosexual acts between consenting adults was a violation of Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights "Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society ...for the protection of health or morals...." Favour was shown to Mr. Dudgeon by 15 votes to 4.

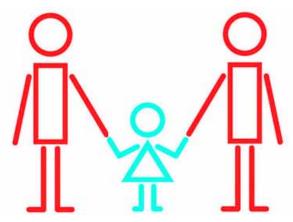
Earlier this year, as part of the New Year Honours, Mr Dudgeon was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for "services to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community in Northern Ireland". To commemorate the 30th anniversary Mr Dudgeon has been the guest of honour at a celebratory dinner in Belfast. And he will be the speaker at a cross-community 30th anniversary service, arranged by Changing Attitude Ireland, the country's LGBT Christian group, at St George's church, High Street, Belfast. Unfortunately there is a need for another brave man to take on the might of NI's backward government in Europe for the basic equal right to marry whom they love.

The Dudgeon v the United Kingdom case was significant for 4 reasons:

- 1) as the first successful case before the ECHR on the criminalisation of male homosexuality;
- 2) as the case which, in 1982, made the law on male homosexuality in Northern Ireland the same as it was in England, Scotland and Wales
- 3) as a lead-in to Norris
 v. Ireland, a later case
 before the ECHR argued
 by Mary Robinson, which
 challenged the continued
 application of the same
 nineteenth century laws in
 the Republic of Ireland
- 4) for setting the legal precedent that ultimately resulted in the Council of Europe requiring that no member state could criminalise male or female homosexual behaviour.

ALL the LATEST, in the NEWS THAT MATTERS

Ban on unmarried and same-sex couples adopting overturned



After a lengthy battle, the NI
Courts overturned the ban
on unmarried and same-sex
couples being allowed to
adopt in Northern Ireland. The
landmark ruling was made
after the NI Human Rights
Commission challenged the
current (and outdated) law
which prohibited any unmarried
couple (co-habiting opposite
sex couples, same-sex couples
in a civil partnership or not)
from applying jointly to adopt.

The presiding official in the case, Mr Justice Treacy, ruled that the current law unfairly discriminated against and in fact was aimed at same-sex couples in a Civil Partnership. Single people are allowed to apply to adopt a child, however their partner (straight or gay) would be unable to claim joint parental rights if the adoptive parent died. More importantly, however, Mr Treacy claimed that the current eligibility criteria was not in the best interests of the child.

Northern Ireland has been lagging behind the mainland UK for some time now, as England and Wales have allowed joint adoption by samesex couples since 2005, followed by Scotland in 2009. Currently the law in Northern Ireland, prohibits co-habiting unmarried heterosexual couples or gay couples in a Civil Partnership to jointly adopt, nor does it allow same-sex couples to register their names as both parents on a birth certificate.

Despite the ruling, the decision to overturn the ban ultimately rests with Edwin Poots, the current DUP Health Minister who has been on record in the past as describing gay people as an 'abomination'. Poots' record on LGBT issues is widely known, in

September 2011 he refused to bring Northern Irish blood donation legislation in line with England and Wales and preferring to maintain the ban on gay and bisexual men from donating blood.

His reasons? Have a guess.

As an openly gay man in a committed relationship I of course welcome the ruling, in the future I may want to start a family and as there is little option for me to go down the typical route adoption may be the only way for me to do this. Until yesterday this wasn't an option for me and my partner, and for thousands of other unmarried and same-sex couples across NI. Currently in Northern Ireland an estimated 2,511 (2011 statistic) children are in the care of local authorities, with only 116 children being adopted in 2010. Though there are of course many factors, the fact that unmarried and same-sex couples were until yesterday legally prohibited from adopting was undoubtedly a factor in the small number of adoptions vs the high numbers of children in state care.

There will of course be protests against the move, as Edwin Poots himself has already stated that he plans to appeal the decision (With public money?) in the High Courts as soon as possible. Bear in mind that this is a Minister who earlier declared that the newly opened Marie Stopes clinic in Belfast would be shut down if it

failed to abide by the law, and yet here he is failing to abide by the law himself. As Minister he is ultimately held accountable by the Ministerial Code, and as such it is not up to him or any other elected official as to which parts of the law he can abide by and which parts he can ignore.

The ability for Poots and those in the DUP to hide behind the law is no longer an option, the mask is slipping and the prejudice in the DUP towards the LGBT community is being laid bare. Like it or not, same-sex couples are just as loving, caring and stable as heterosexual couples, and the overturn of the ban represents a significant step forward for Northern Ireland and the equality that is so sorely lacking here. There is still much work to do, the campaign for equal civil marriage continues in Northern Ireland, as well as the campaign to remove the blanket blood ban on gay, bisexual and MSM men and with the ruling will come the need for greater support for unmarried and samesex adoptive parents, who are now finally being treated equally under the law.

Article by Stephen Donnan.



Green Party leader Sees Red

The green party leader Stephen Agnew who tabled last month's equal

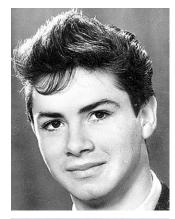
marriage motion has attacked Health
Minister Edwin Poots after his string of
homophobic outbursts and challenges
on equal rights. Mr Agnew branding
him "unfit for office" at last month's party
conference in Belfast.



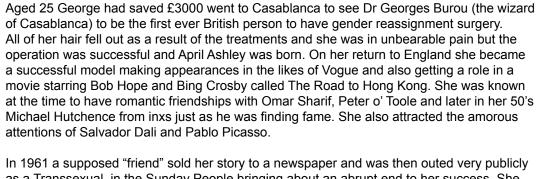
Earlier in 2012 April was awarded the MBE for services to Transgender equality



Born George Jamison on the 29th April 1935 to a Liverpudlian Catholic and protestant mixed family he faced years of bullying at school for his effeminate good looks and at the age of 14 he decided that to become more masculine he would join the Merchant Navy. Georges secondary sexual characteristics did not develop so again he faced the bullies and eventually attempted to take his own life. The Merchant Navy dishonourably discharged him shortly afterwards. In the hard times that followed he attempted suicide again and was committed to a mental institution where he was subjected to electric shock treatment among other "treatments" of the time.



In 1950 he was released from Ormskirk institution and moved to London where at one point he shared a room with a ship steward called John Prescott who later became the Deputy Prime Minister of Britain. In her book "The First Lady" she also tells of another room mate who raped him causing severe injury as a result. Later in the 1950's he moved to Paris using the name April E and became a successful Drag Artist. She joined the cast of the cabaret show at the Carousel Theatre, with the famous French entertainer Coccinelle.





In 1961 a supposed "friend" sold her story to a newspaper and was then outed very publicly as a Transsexual in the Sunday People bringing about an abrupt end to her success. She became a celebrity 'freak' but her notoriety didn't stop her marrying into the aristocracy. In 1963 she wed Arthur Corbett, the Eton-educated son and heir of Lord Rowallan. When they met Corbett was already married with four children and had a penchant for dressing up as a woman himself. He eventually left his wife and April moved into the highest echelons of British society before the marriage collapsed. It became one of the most talked about events of the decade with details of the case exploding over the newspapers. The couple faced each other in the courtroom, with Corbett claiming the union should be annulled on the grounds that Ashley had been born a man and the marriage had never been legally sound.

The court agreed, setting a precedent which left transsexuals in gender limbo in the eyes of the law. That ruling negatively influenced the rights of all transgender peoples under western law for the next 30+ years

Following a hard fought campaign, April was finally able to legally call herself a woman in 2004, when the Government's introduced the Gender Recognition Act. It was not until 2005 that she was granted a new birth certificate, asserting that she was born female – with the help of old housemate John Prescott she says: 'He was ever so supportive... he and his wife still send me Christmas cards.'

On the 16 June 2012 April was awarded the MBE for services to Transgender equality. She now lives alone in Fulham, West London.



ENTERTAINMENT

THIS MONTHS ENTERTAINMENT RUNDOWN



GAY SITCOM 'THE NEW NORMAL' IS COMING TO THE UK



The New Normal, a 'gay sitcom' written by Ryan Murphy (the creator of Glee), is coming to the UK. E4 has acquired the UK rights to the show, and it's due to broadcast at some point in the New Year.

The New Normal centres around a happy, successful gay couple called Bryan and David

(played by Andrew Rannells and Justin Bartha), who decide to have a baby with the help of a single mum, Goldie (Georgie King), as their surrogate.

We're pleased to hear that gay girls will also be getting a look-in on the action. Leisha Hailey (The L Word) will be making a guest appearance on episode 7 together with Constance Zimmer (Entourage). Hailey and Zimmer will play a lesbian couple who are good pals with Bryan and David.

The New Normal co-creator Ali Adler (who also happens to be gay) told The Hollywood Reporter "We're trying represent all different kinds of families, parents and friends and certainly that is an area we would explore."

She added that she hoped Hailey and Zimmerman would become an "ongoing part of the show". Some have expressed concerns that Ryan Murphy's treatment of lesbians in the show might be less than flattering. In fact, there have been a few objections to a scene in the pilot episode where Goldie's bigoted grandma calls a lesbian couple holding their baby "ugly men".

Also, in the second episode Bryan says he wants to go out dancing "before we fully morph into an old lesbian couple, minus the frowns and the gingerbread man bodies."

Ahem!

But with openly lesbian Ali Adler involved in the project, hopefully the script and treatment around Hailey and Zimmerman as a lady couple will be a tad more sensitive.

Online viewers can click **HERE** to check out the trailer for The New Normal, readers of our printed copies can check out our video wall on our homepage for this trailer and any other videos mentioned in this months mag. By Chris McMurray

SON OF TWO MUMS WRITES INSPIRING BOOK ABOUT FAMILY



Zach Wahls with his sister and both mothers © www.zachwahls.com

Zach Wahls, the son of two lesbians who became an internet star overnight for his vigourous defence of same-sex marriage, has written a book about his childhood and his parents' relationship.

Wahls, now 21, and his younger sister were conceived using IVF and donor sperm. They were raised by their two mothers, biological mother Terry Wahls (known as 'tall mom') and non-biological mom Jackie Reger (who Wahls calls 'short mom').

The couple have been married legally since 2009, but in 2011 state lawmakers decided to make a constitutional amendment that would repeal the legality of gay marriages in lowa.

At 19 years old, Wahls decided to go and speak in the lowa House of Representatives where he delivered a passionate defence of same-sex marriage.

The video recording of his speech 'Two Lesbians Raised a Baby And This Is What They Got', became a YouTube sensation with nearly 17 million hits. Click **HERE** or visit our homepage to see the video.

Wahls achieved mainstream media attention in the international and national press - and appeared on daytime and primetime TV shows in the US. When he met Ellen Degeneres, she called him "a hero for speaking out" in defence of same-sex marriage. Three years later he has written a memoir 'My Two Moms: Lessons of Love, Strength, and What Makes a Family'.

In the book, Wahls argues that his life is not much different from most Americans, and discusses the pain of being painted as a threat to "traditional values".

He says that family - no matter how it's constructed - is a fundamental building block of society. In doing so, he hopes to deliver a message to other kids with same-sex parents who feel outcast: you are not alone. By Chris McMurray

CLARE BALDING: "TELEVISION NEEDS MORE LESBIANS"

British television presenter and 'national treasure' Clare Balding has said she would like to see more openly gay women on TV. Balding, who was one of the main faces of TV sports coverage during the Olympics and Paralympics at London 2012, has said media companies needs to address their poor representation of LGBT people on television.

Speaking to The Times at the weekend, she said: "There's a lack of visibility. I remember an article that said, 'Lesbians are like baby pigeons: you never see them,' and then naming a couple – me and Sue Perkins. "Television and newspapers need more visible women, full stop. That's why the Olympics have been so great, because you realise that women come in all shapes and sizes, short and tall, old and young. And yes, some of them are lesbians."



She added: "I get really upset if being gay – and the fear around it – stops people being who they could be." Balding described how "terrified" she was of coming out to her parents several years ago. With her maternal grandfather able to trace his family back to King Henry V, Balding said that for years she only talked about work to her parents because she didn't want them to know about her private life. She recalled showing them an article about the openly lesbian TV star Ellen DeGeneres and calling her "amazing", but not being truthful about why she admired her so much. But Balding believes being open about her sexuality had an incredibly positive effect on her life and self image. She said: "You don't feel that people are judging you. You're not scared. You haven't got this massive secret on your shoulders." Balding met her partner, Radio 4 newsreader Alice Arnold, in 2001. They became become civil partners in 2006. On their relationship, she said: "She has made me a much better person. More politically aware, bolder, in terms of what I say, or just being more comfortable with who I am." By Chris McMurray





X FACTOR UPDATE



Rylan Clarke

Rylan has said in a web interview with The Sun that he knows he cannot win the X-Factor. He is aware that some of his fans are talking about the under fire wannabe to cause a stir and claim the X-Factor title but he replied 'I wouldn't put money on it, because you'll probably lose and gambling isn't good for you. But no, I don't think I will win,'

We know he gets some serious stick from Gary Barlow on the ITV show but claims he does not harbour any ill feeling toward the Judge saying 'I think Gary is handsome - and I used to sing Take That in a boyband,' and saying that he would be prepared to give him a lapdance on the show taking a leaf out of Robbie Williams book when he demonstrated a similar routine in front of Louie Walsh. I for one would love to see that....

Lucy Sparggan

Lucy has announced that due to her continued illness she is pulling out of X-Factor. The young

talented singer song writer who wowed viewers with her own songs as well as one or two covers that she re-arranged to suit her style. The "Beer Fear" star has announced that as her illness continues to plight her she will be standing down from the show as she doesn't believe it to be fair that she gets another free pass to the next round.

Tulisa Contostavlos who was Lucy's mentor on the show has said that she sorry to loose her has had a 'brilliant time working with her and I hope I can continue to mentor her in the future' adding 'now count her as a friend as she is an amazing girl.

Last month we told everyone that Lucy was so proud that she may have helped a young girls "come out" after watching her on the show and taking strength from her X-Factor experiences. We wish Lucy all the very best with her future and hope so much that she can come over to Belfast to visit and perform.



IAN THORPE "PEOPLE ARE OBSESSED BY MY SEXUALITY



Australian swimmer Ian
Thorpe has claimed that
people are "obsessed" with
his sexuality, despite once
again stating that he is not
gay. The five-time Olympic
champion, who has released
an autobiography entitled
"This Is Me", told AFP "I
accept there's nothing else I

can say or do," and "There'll always be people

who are sceptical; people who want me to be gay, and others who'll try and use it against me". He added: "It should have been over and done with a long time ago but people have remained obsessed with it and need to find an explanation which suits their perspective." Thorpe told ABC TV's 7.30 programme that he thinks he

gets this because he is a bit of a nerd who just happens to be good at sport and because I don't fit into the typical stereotype of what Australian athletes have been in the past. He said "I don't want to offend anyone whether they're friends that are gay... by getting angry about it, frustrated about it" but went on to say "The only thing I find frustrating is that people think I'm lying."

PINK: "I WAS AN HONORARY LESBIAN"

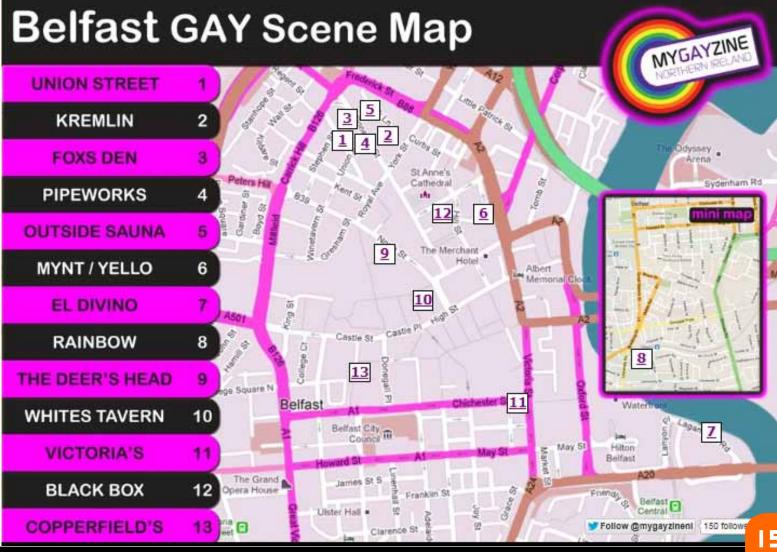
Art work from Pink's latest album 'The Truth About Love' Pink has always been a friend to the LGBT community, most recently voicing her support for equal marriage on the GaydarRadio breakfast show last month. She's been married to motocross racer Carey Hart since 2006, but has always had a - how shall we put it? - a 'rapport' with the ladies. In a recent interview with The Advocate, she opened up about her own sexuality: "When I first moved to Los Angeles, I was an honorary lesbian of Los Angeles. I wasn't gay, but all my girlfriends were," she said.

The singer added that she was uncomfortable when The News Of The World reported she was bisexual: "That wasn't my truth, and I like truth. I like absolute truth." She said: "Honestly, I've never defined myself. I've never felt the need to. I still don't. It's just like how everyone's like, 'Well, what kind of music do you do?' And I'm like, 'I don't. I just do it.' And fuck it, if you can't understand it, I'm a mystery bag." Pink also discussed her feelings about her LGBT fans:



"They've been the most loyal part of what I do. They've been my most loyal friends, to be honest. I've had a lot of my gay boys around, but my gay girls are my rootstalk. They're my honesty in an ocean of bullshit."

She added: "I should be gay by the way that I look and the way that I am. I just happen to not be. But it just makes perfect and complete sense." In September Pink told GaydarRadio: "I think that the best day will be when we no longer talk about being gay or straight - it's not a 'gay wedding' it's just a 'wedding', it's not a 'gay marriage' it's just 'a marriage'." By Chris McMurray





TOP DVD/ BLU RAYS

THE CAMPAIGN

IN A MONTH THAT SEES THE CALM BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS STORM OF DVD AND BLU RAY RELEASES OUR TOP FILM THIS MONTH IS THE CAMPAIGN. WILL FERRELL PLAYS ONE OF TWO CEO'S IN NORTH CAROLINA TRYING TO TAKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO OUST THE LONG SERVING CONGRESSMAN. ALWAYS WORTH LOOK WHEN WILL FERRELL IS INVOLVED.



STAR RATING: CERTIFICATE:

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

RUN TIME:

RUBY SPARKS

STRUGGLING NOVELIST WITH WRITERS BLOCK FINDS ROMANCE IN THE MOST UNUSUAL WAY HE CREATES HER AS A CHARACTER IN THE BOOK HE IS WRITING AND WILLS HER TO BE REAL.



☆ ☆ ☆

104 MINUTES

CRAIGSLIST JOE

AMERICAS ECONOMY IS IN THE GUTTER AND JOE DECIDES TO LEAVE EVERYTHING AND ATTEMPT TO LIVE OF THE GOODWILL AND SUPPORT OF craigslist joe THE PEOPLE ON CRAIGSLIST.





COPPER (SERIES 1)

COPPER IS SET IN 1860'S NEW YORK IN THE FIVE POINTS DISTRICT, IT CENTERES ON A YOUNG IRISH COP IN AN UNRULY IMMIGRANT NEIGHBOURHOOD.







COMING THIS MONTH AT THE CINEMA

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2



THE LAST PART OF THE STORY THAT EVERYONE NOW KNOWS. SEEMS LIKE A LIFETIME SINCE WE SEEN EDWARD, JACOB AND BELLA. THE CULLEN'S ARE FORCED TO TRY AND UNITE OTHER CLANS AS THEY ARE IN FRONT OF THE VOLTURI AFTER THE BIRTH OF RENESMEE.

STAR RATING: * * * *

007 SKYFALL



M'S PAST COMES BACK TO HAUNT HER AND 007 HAS HIS LOYALTY TO HER TESTED. MI6 COMES UNDER ATTACK AND BOND IS THE MAN TO SAVE THE DAY, HOPEFULLY!

STAR RATING: * * * * *

SILVER LINING PLAYBOOK



DI NERO AND THE EVER STUNNING BRADLEY COOPER STARS IN THIS DRAMA. AFTER BEING RELEASED FROM A MENTAL INSTITUTION PAT RETURNS TO HIS PARENTS AND ATTEMPTS TO GET HIS EX-WIFE BACK.

STAR RATING:



MUSIC SPOTLIGHT

TOP SINGLES

THE WANTED - I FOUND YOU



THE BOYS RETURN WITH THE FIRST SINGLE OF THEIR NEW ALBUM TO BE RELEASED EARLY NEXT YEAR. I FOUND YOU IS AN ELECTRO POP / DANCE TUNE THAT WILL NO DOUBT BE BLASTING IN

NIGHTCLUBS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

STAR RATING:



ADELE - SKYFAL



THE MAJESTIC VOCALS OF ADELE SHOWCASED IN THIS THE THEME SONG FOR THE LATEST BOND FILM "SKYFALL". ADELE IS JOINING A DISTINGUISHED LUCKY FEW WHO HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF

RECORDING A BOND THEME

STAR RATING: 😭 😭 😭 😭



BEAUTY AND A BEAT - BIEBER/MINAL



TWO OF THE BIGGEST NAMES IN WORLD MUSIC RIGHT NOW TEAMING UP AND RECORDING ONE OF THE MOST CATCHY AND MEMORABLE TUNES OF THE YEAR A DEFINITE FOR FANS

OF JUSTIN AND OR NICKI.

STAR RATING: 🙀 😭 😭



Online viewers can click HERE to visit the Radio 1 website and see the official singles/ albums charts now.

TOP ALBUMS

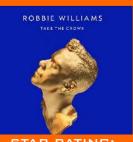
KYLIE, THE ABBEY ROAD SESSIONS



☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

THE ALBUM FEATURES SIXTEEN RADICALLY REWORKED TRACKS, SPANNING KYLIE'S INCREDIBLE 25 YEAR CAREER, THE ALBUM IS FULL OF ALL THE VERY BEST FAMOUS HITS AS WE HAVE NEVER HERD THEM BEFORE, RECORDED IN LONDON'S LEGENDARY ABBEY ROAD STUDIOS WITH KYLIE'S BAND AND A FULL ORCHESTRA.

ROBBIE WLLIAMS, TAKE THE CROWN



STAR RATING:

* * * * *

ROBBIE WILLIAMS' 9TH ALBUM ARRIVES IN A BLAZE. EVERYTHING ABOUT IT SCREAMS "COMEBACK": FROM ITS TITLE TO THE LYRICS. "TAKE THE CROWN IS THE BIG. BRASH. CONFIDENT ROBBIE WILLIAMS POP RECORD THAT HIS FANS HAVE BEEN LONGING FOR."

OLLY MURS, RIGHT PLACE RIGHT TIME



STAR RATING:

☆ ☆ ☆ ゼ

IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR OLLY HIS NEW SINGLE "TROUBLEMAKER" IS AN AMAZING POP TUNE IN FACT, IF THE REMAINING TEN TRACKS ON RIGHT PLACE RIGHT TIME ARE OF SIMILAR QUALITY, WE COULD HAVE AN EVEN MORE SURPRISINGLY EXCELLENT ALBUM THAT HIS FIRST HIT ALBUM IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW.

KELLY CLARKSON, GREATEST HITS CHAPTER 1



STAR RATING:

FIRST GREATEST HITS ALBUM BY AMERICAN RECORDING ALBUM IS SET TO BE RELEASED ON NOVEMBER 16, 2012. THE COMPILATION WILL CONTAINS TRACKS FROM ALL OF THE CLARKSON'S STUDIO ALBUMS RELEASED UP TO 2011.

NORN IRON A-Z

Amptinat? - I most definitely am not.

Beg -Wafer thin plastic vessel good for carrying "messages" also 'oul beg' when referring to an elderly lady.

Cheeser - "very good" or "excellent".

Dacent spud - Good lad **Eff Aaf** - Fuck Off in the nicest possible way.

Fingy - Someone whose name you can't remember

Getawaytafuk! - No way **Heerzbeezme** - "And then I said..."

Indeeyee - Interested in you sexually

Jump in! - (While pulling down your bottom eyelid) – Do you think I am an idiot?

Kudn't - Couldn't

Lairdindeyit - please do start eating or drinking also "wiredintillit"

Majassif - large

Ni Yer Sucken Deezel - that's a good way of going about that

Offees - Alchohol retailer

Passion - Raining heavily in Ballymena

Quare - A definitive expression (see below for example)

Ride - "Yer man's a quare ride" that man is very sexy

Scundered - Embarrassed
Theee Leet - 3 litre bottle of cider

Undies - Underpants

Vaka -Vodka

Windie Still -A window sill

X-Acktlee -Exactly

Yerbumsaplum - I don't believe vou.

Z - Verbally communicated

TEST YOUR 80'S MUSIC KNOWLEDGE

- 1. What year did The Jam release 'Going Underground'?
- 2. What is the opening line to Duran Duran's song 'Save A Prayer'?
- 3. Who released an album in 1987 entitled 'Appetite For Destruction'?
- 4. Complete the three missing lines to the opening of Spandau Ballet's song 'Gold' Thank you for coming home...... Slowly being eaten away?
- 5. Which UK motorway was Chris Rea's 1989 hit 'The Road To Hell' written about?
- 6. Who had a Eurovision Song Contest winning song in 1987 with 'Hold Me Now'?
- 7. Which member of Queen wrote 'Who Wants To Live Forever'?
- 8. Who had a US chart single with 'Born In The U.S.A' in 1985?
- 9. Which 1981 Duran Duran music video was banned by the BBC?
- 10. Which Madonna song became a number one hit in 1989 in the US and the UK?

STRANGE BUT TRUE NEWS HEADLINES

Is There a Ring of Debris
Around Uranus?

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers

Enraged Cow Injures Farmer with Axe

Plane Too Close to Ground, Crash Probe Told

Two Soviet Ships Collide, One Dies

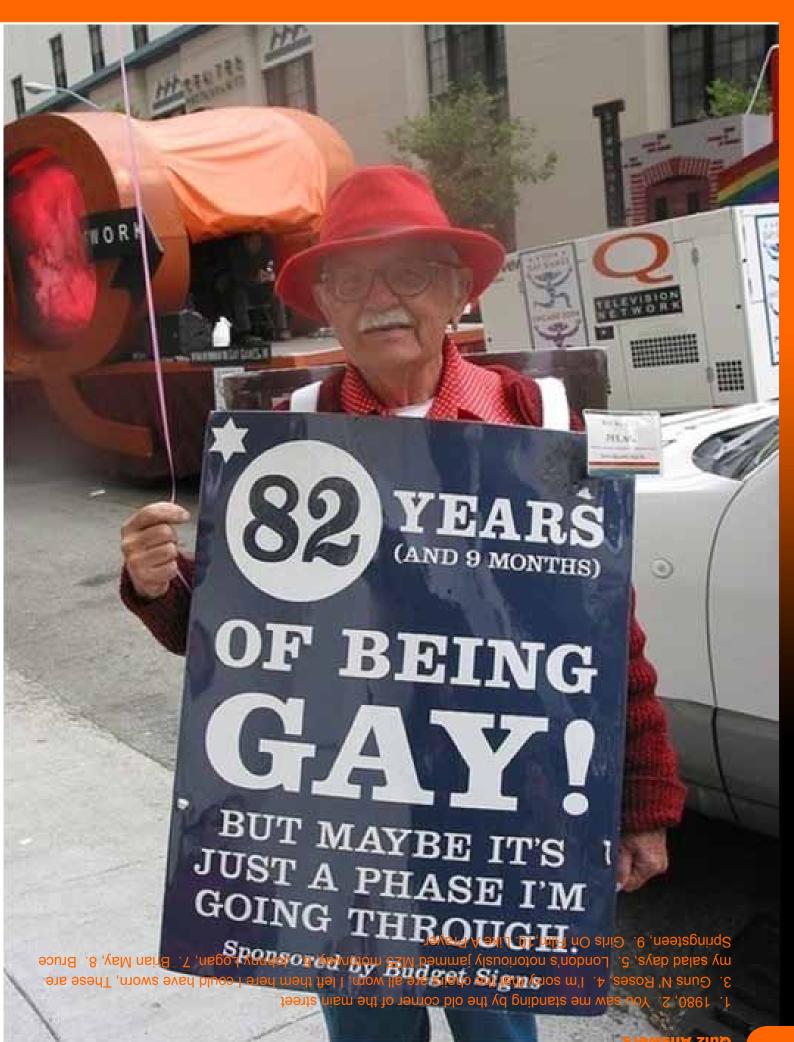
Killer sentenced to Die for Second Time in 10 Years











Bored of silting at home watching TV? Feel like there's never anything interesting happening in Northern Ireland?
Need to fill your social diary with fun, exciting things to do? If you've answered yes to any of the questions above then Thee What's On Guide could be just what you need. Each Month MYGAYZINE will be featuring a selection of the most anticipated and talked about events, gigs and listings in NI. Our brand spanking new What's On Guide will offer an insight

then Thee What's On Guide could be just what you need. Each Month MYGAYZINE will be featuring a selection of the most anticipated and talked about events, gigs and listings in NI. Our brand spanking new What's On Guide will offer an insight into some truly unmissable and alternative things to do or get involved in. Covering everything from stand up comedy, music performances, theatre, festivals, musicals and all sorts of other weird and wonderful goings on that will be sure to make you think twice about yet another night at home in front of the television. Check back each month and fill your social calendar with a variety of fun and quirky things to do.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

OPPORTUNITY FROCKS - I OTH Nov - Empire Music Hall



Here we go again!!!

The amazing Miss Tina Leggs Tantrum presents opportunity frocks 2012. The fifth annual Drag Queen & King competition takes place on the 10th of this month in the fantastic setting of Belfast's famous Empire Music Hall. Once again the hairspray, fake nails, painted moustaches and comedic bitchy rants will be in full swing as the country's best up and coming Drag wannabes battle it out for the title, crown and opportunity to perform in front of 5000+ people at next year's Pride festival. Make sure that you are quick off the mark getting your tickets for this event as this is one of the fastest growing nights on the calendar.

Oh and its all for a great cause - Belfast Pride.

This year we will see the likes of Sasha Fierce a young and talented Queen and self confessed lover of being fabulous, Rusty Sunset one of this year's drag Kings on a mission to prove that kings are every bit as good as the Queens, Crystal Starr this year's funny girl who vows not to settle until she is 'Thee crowd pleaser', Tanya Bodyy the outspoken and fiery powder keg Queen out to prove a point, Candy V Raised by crack whores and born in a dumpster Candy's sparks will be seen for miles, Deena Straddle a lady of few words who has already performed in "Belle of the Ball" and brings plenty of experience, Candy

Warhol who lists her interests as Shoes, Rhinestones and Glitter. Expect plenty of twists and turns as this year sees an exciting wildcard entry who will be revealed on the night.

This year's competition is set up to be the best ever. We can't wait.



Oppointants Procks 2012

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL, BELFAST SATURDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER 2012 DOORS OPEN 6PM





WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?

THE MYGAYZINE GUIDE TO WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT

WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?





Shakespeare's Macbeth

Luric Theatre, Belfast 21st Oct - 24th Nov

Directed by Lynne Parker Macbeth is easily the most popular of Shakespeare's tragedies and its themes of adherence to superstition and distorted ambition resonate all too well with the Northern Irish psyche. This darkly comic production will harness the wit and muscularity of the Ulster idiom with Shakespeare's supernatural thriller.

WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?



Calendar Girls

Grand Opera House, Belfast Nov 5th - 10th

Calendar Girls has been the fastest-selling tour ever and has triumphed in the West End! Now, it's returning to the Grand Opera House, featuring an all-star cast including Lesley Joseph, Sue Holderness, Ruth Madoc, Kalhryn Rooney, Camilla Dallerup, Helen Fraser, Deena Payne and Kacey Ainsworth, with Kevin Sacre as Lawrence the photographer.

WHO?

WHERE?

WHEN? WHAT?



Belfast Music Week

Various Locations across the citu.

4th - 12th Nov

The Belfast Music Week 2012 brochure has finally arrived, featuring more than 250 events in 70 venues across the city. There will be live music in a rich variety of places, including iconic venues such as the Ulster Hall. The Lyric Theatre and The MAC. But there will also be unique performances in locations you simply wouldn't expect.

WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?



WWE Raw World Tour

Odyssey Arena, Belfast 7th Nov

Special Altraction Match -John Cena vs. Dolph Ziggler.

WWE Championship Malch Ruback vs. CM Punk And all of your favorite Superstars including:

Daniel Bryan & Kane, The Rhodes Scholars, Tensai, Brodus Clay, Santino Marella, AJ, Layla, Eve And many more!

WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?



Romeo and Juliet

Millennium Forum, Derry Nov 8th and 9th

Following on from the success of Macbeth, the highly acclaimed Icarus Theatre Collective presents a bold and exciting new production of Shakespeare's most tragic tale - Romeo & Juliet.

See it whilst you still have a chance, the production continues on its international tour after the 9th.

WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?



Circus of Horrors

Waterfront, Belfast

Nov 8th

The Circus of Horrors made its debut at the 1995 Glastonbury Festival and since then has gone on to tour the World, achieving cult status and dragging the Circus industry screaming and shouting into the 21st century and beyond.

You may recognise them from Britain's Got Talent 2011. A performance not to be missed!



WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?

THE MYGAYZINE GUIDE TO WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT

WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?



Christmas Lights / Market

Belfast City Hall November 16th

Join Julian Simmons and
Cool FM for this years switch
on. With entertainment
from Barazina Youth Choir,
the city's panto stars and
CBeebies favorites the
ZingZillas theres something for
all ages. This is a free ticketed
event (tickets available Nov
6th at Belfast Welcome Centre.
Christmas Market will be at
Belfast City Hall from 12 noon
on Nov 17th - Dec 20th

WHO?
WHERE?
WHEN?
WHAT?





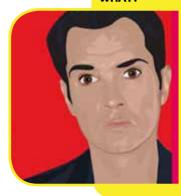
Lady Boys of Bangkok

Custom House Square

Nov 3rd - 17th

The fabulous Lady Boys of Bangkok are back in spectacular style with the new 2011 production of the country's favourite cabaret party show. Don't miss the opportunity to encounter 16 of the world's most beautiful show-girls who just happen to be men. An irresistible mixture of comedy, cabaret and raunchy capers, with Hollywood icons and living legends. Get ready to watch these gorgeous girls perform.

WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?



Jimmy Carr

Waterfront Hall, Belfast

Nov 16th

Brand new show, brand new jokes, same old Jimmy. Gagging Order promises a hilarious night out, packed with one-liners, stories and jokes: some clever, some rude and a few, totally unacceptable.

Leave your conscience and moral compass at home.

WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?



Jake O'Kane - Mouthfull

Theatre at the Mill, N'abbey

Nov I 6th

Following hot on the heels of the critically-acclaimed 'Tear Gas' DVD and live shows, Jake O' Kane returns to the stage, and this time he's going to give you a 'Mouthful'! Where 'Tear Gas' covered growing up and surviving the Troubles, Jake's latest show "Mouthful' covers everything else. Jake will be taking a no-nonsense approach to all sorts of daily life issues.

WHO? WHERE? WHEN?

WHAT?

Various Locations

Queer Arts Festival

Nov 9th - 18th



DON'T MISS!! - TheatreofplucK presents-SCENES OF LESBYTERIAN MissCONCEPTION - Sat. I Oth Nov / Brian Friel Theatre Studio / 9pm / £5 Kickstart your tampons!

BURST
TS FESTIVAL
LOVE & REVOLUTION
9-18 November

SCENES OF LESSYSTEMS LIVE LOVE LAUGH

Outburst Queer Arts Festival is Northern Ireland's annual celebration of all that is bold and good in the world of LGBT creativity. Now in its 6th year, Outburst presents in various venues across Belfast an impressive and vibrant array of queer and queer-influenced theatre, music, comedy, visual arts, film, spoken word, writing, performance and workshops. Outburst is defiantly and gloriously 'other', attracting audiences gay, straight and in-between with a sometimes challenging, always invigorating program.

OUTBURST Queer Arts Festival is a Registered Charity and not-for-profit initiative, dedicated to exploring and celebrating lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender stories and experiences through the Arts in Northern Ireland. Our programme aims to support, encourage and inspire local LGBT creativity, in addition to bringing the best in international queer Arts to the city of Belfast.

Nightlife guide



Welcome to the MYGAYZINE

Nightlife Guide

Each month we will be featuring a selection of scene photographs from around the NI Gay scene plus monthly REVIEWS of venues nationwide.

Follow our reviews on Twitter @mygayzineni

Want a review? Contact us today and we'll come and check out your location. Drop us an email today at info@mygayzine to have us pay a visit and get featured in our next issue. Check back each month and see some of Northern Irelands BEST LGBT Venues

Your Monthly Nightlife Guide

Pubs • Clubs • Restaurants • Saunas

Reviews

Pictures









£4 £2.50 £3

COCKTAIL OF THE WEEK SHOT OF THE WEEK BEER OF THE MONTH

* The supper club Friday & Saturday nights from 9pm, fork supper, VIP table service and music from our resident DJs

RAINBOW

67—69 Botanic Avenue, BT7 1JL, 028 9023 7077 info@rainbowbelfast.com



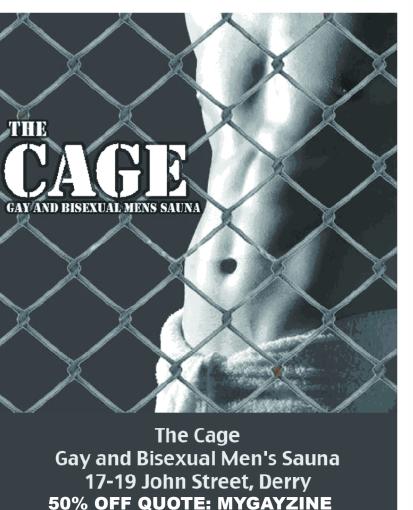
Nightlife guide

Noticed someone missing from your Wednesday nights? Missing your weekly dose of super camp sing songs and cabaret? Still got the words to Alison Jiear's hit tune "I just want to dance" from the Jerry Springer musical ringing in your ears? All is not lost -Twanda has made her return in glorious fashion strutting her stuff each week as host to a fun night of Karaoke and entertainment on Friday's in the Fox's Den. Enjoy a drink or four in the relaxing atmosphere of the den and then dance the evening away whilst listening to DJ Mo's collection of hits. FREE shots await those brave enough to tackle a song from the massive catalogue of tunes available for Karaoke. Growing it's success week on week its definitely worth a nosey when your out and about in Belfast City Centre.



STRAND ROAD, DERRY

MUSIC TO ZAM MON - THUR MUSIC TO MON THUR



Tel: 02871 418 242 Www.derrygaysauna.co.uk





the **central**

Opened in 2008 we are the only Gay bar outside of a city in Ireland. Visit us Online:

www.thecentralstrabane.com



www.facebook.com/centralstrabane



@TheCentral08



LIFEStyle

fitness

What YOU Running For??

The 2012 Dublin and Belfast marathons last year recorded yet another successful year with over 35,000 participants competing in their respective events. Not only is this a brilliant way to raise money and awareness of charities, but also to make, fight and defeat personal challenges along the way.

So here it is MyGayZine NI challenges YOU to challenge yourself!

Below is a list of some well known marathons and dates they commence in 2013. We challenge you to complete one of the events in a marathon (full, half, 5mile, 10 mile or relay) raise some money for a charity close to your heart and best of all improve your fitness and give yourself a challenge.

Virgin London Marathon 21 April 2013
Belfast Marathon 6 May 2013
Larne Half Marathon 23 March 2013
Omagh Half Marathon 30 March 2013
Newry City Half Marathon TBC June 2013
Newtownards Half Marathon TBC June 2013
Cookstown Half Marathon TBC July 2013

Getting Started

Before hitting the treadmill/pavement in your nice new pumps it is extremely important to sit down and figure out what your aims/goals are. A great way to do this is to Be S.M.A.R.T

- **S** Specific = Your goal should be specific, to run '5 miles' or to 'complete a half marathon'
- **M** Measurable = You going to need to be able to measure your progress. The best way to do this is to document your activity using an 'exercise diary'. Simply record your distance and time each time you train and this will show you the improvements in your level of fitness.
- **A** Adjustable = If for example you pick up an injury for 3-4 weeks of the programme you would then have to consider reducing your goal, say from a full marathon to a half or a half to 10 miles.
- **R** Realistic = Probably the most important. Due to the 5-8 month time scale that you have to get ready, if you have the physique of Homer Simpson your unlikely to complete a full marathon with this time. You want to complete at all cost you can always do a full marathon in 2014 if you keep at it.
- **T** Time= This programme should be between 5 8 months so therefore already ticks the box.

Time limits will also allow you to see your target/goal and how close or far you are to it.

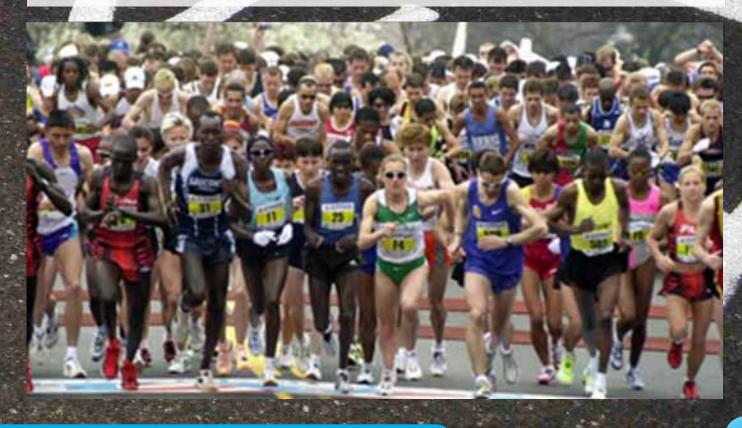
Now that you have your goals laid out you can begin to initiate your training regime. It is advised that you take a month before to condition yourself, this consists of a 30 minute run 4 times a week, if this is too much for you then simply cut it to 15 - 20 and build it up. By the time the conditioning period is up you should look back over your main goal and ask 'is it still achievable? If not why? If it is too hard just make it a little easier. Too easy? Increase the distance or the time you will complete it in.

The Programme

Week 1 & 2 - Target WEEKLY Distance 1-5 miles
Week 3 & 4 - Target WEEKLY Distance 3 -8 miles
Week 5 to 9 - Target WEEKLY Distance 10-12 miles
Week 10 to 12 - Target WEEKLY Distance 13 - 16 miles
Week 13 to 16 - Target WEEKLY Distance 18 - 25 miles

The weekly programme should consist of 2-3 sessions of 100% running and another 1-2 sessions of running and some walking to get your body used to running regularly. Try your best to avoid missing any sessions as you will relay on the continuity.

Please note this programme is tailored for a beginner and each individual is different and some may exceed these distances easily or vice versa. If you would like some more information or advice about this please contact us. We would also love to hear from anyone taking up the challenge and hear your training stories and progress. Email fitness@mygayzine.co.uk



LIFESt

"TREAT YOUR MATE or impress your DATE" try our simple and healthy recipes

Ingredients

4 small golden beetroot 4 small red beetroot 1 bunch of Rocket 1-2 tbsp chopped dill 200 g feta cheese 1/2 pomegranate, seeds only For the dressing 1 tbsp pomegranate molasses 3-4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil



Narm Beetroot and feta salad

met hod

Preheat the oven to 180C/gas 4. For the salad: wrap the beetroot in foil, place on a baking tray and roast for 1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours, or until tender. To test, unwrap the biggest beetroot and gently scrape the skin at the root end with your nail. If it comes away easily then the beetroot is done. Peel while warm and slice into thin wedges and place into a bowl. For the dressing: place the pomegranate molasses into a bowl and season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper, then gradually whisk in the olive oil until well combined. Drizzle half of the dressing over the beetroot and toss well to coat. Place the Rocket into a bowl and toss with the remaining dressing. To serve, arrange the beetroot on one half of a serving plate and scatter over the dill. Arrange the watercress on the other half, then pile the feta on top. Scatter over the pomegranate seeds.

Ingredients

30ml (2 tbsp) butter 600g (1.3 lbs) sea bass fillets Salt and freshly ground pepper 1 Red Pepper 125g asparagus 750g New potatoes 4 cloves garlic, crushed 60g (2 oz) butter Juice of 1 lemon



Method

The new potatoes were boiled first and allowed to cool. Put the asparagus into the steamer until

Melt the butter in a large frying pan. Fry sea bass skin side down first, turning once halfway through cooking time. Cook until moist on the inside, 4 to 6 minutes.

In a small saucepan, gently melt the butter. When it starts sizzling add the garlic and let it sizzle for a minute or two, allowing the garlic to infuse the butter. Lower the heat to the minimum setting, add the lemon juice, stir and let it heat through. Season to taste. Drizzle over the fish fillets when it is served.

fry the potatoes with some butter in a large frying pan until crisp. At the last minute add the red pepper and flash fried for a few minutes.

Ingredients

Crumble

225g (8oz) plain flour 100g (4oz) butter 50g (2oz) unrefined Caster Sugar Fruit Filling

2 Apples (sliced)

2 Rhubarb (chopped into 1" chunks) 50g Blackberries 2 Plums (halved) 50g Gooseberries 2 Peaches (halved or quartered) (mixed or one type of fruit only) 175g (6oz) Unrefined Caster Sugar 6 tablespoons water



Method

Set the oven to 190°C Sift flour into a bowl. Add butter and rub in with fingertips until it resembles breadcrumbs. and then stir in the sugar. Place fruit, sugar and water into oven dish. Add additional spices if you wish.

Sprinkle crumble topping over fruit (don't pack it down too tightly) Bake in oven until crumble topping is lightly browned and the fruit is tender.

Serve with custard, cream or ice-cream and enjoy!

cooking

Lets make... Spinach curry

A friend told me recently that he had a dinner party and cooked a Jamie Oliver curry which consisted of him grinding, chopping and mixing for hours, and by the end of it all he was exhausted. Now, I've got nothing against Jamie Oliver, I love his recipes, but I think curry is a simple quick dish to make in less than 30 mins. So here is a simple and quick spinach curry! By Chris McMurray.

Ingredients

1 bag (300 grams) of spinach leaves or 2/3 bunches if buying fresh from a farmers

1 tomato chopped (cheap salad variety will do no need for vine ripened ones in Indian cooking)

1 tbsp sunflower/vegetable oil 1/4 tsp of mustard seeds 1/2 tsp of cumin seeds a pinch of asafoetida (optional)

1/4 tsp turmeric powder 1/2 tsp chilli powder 2 tsp ground coriander 3/4 tsp of salt 3/4 tsp sugar



met hod

Chop and thoroughly wash the spinach. Add oil to a pan and heat, then add mustard seeds and cumin seeds, wait until they sizzle and pop then add asafoetida if using, if not add the spinach. Then add all the other spices (turmeric, chilli powder, ground coriander, salt and sugar), add the tomatoes and cook on a medium heat with the lid half on for about 15-18 mins. Stir halfway, and taste. Adjust seasoning. If you think there is too much salt I add a pinch of jaggery (goor) which is unrefined sugar (another staple in your masala box). Or just add some sugar. Serve with rice, yoghurt, rotli or anything you desire. Enjoy!!

Cocktail of the month

Recipe / method

2 Measures of Brandy

1 Measure of apple sours

2 Measures of apple juice Lemonade

Fill up a cocktail shaker with ice and add the brandy, sours and apple juice. Shake until the ice disappears. Strain into a nice highball with a few large ice cubes. Top up with the Lemonade and server with a fresh slice of red apple. Enjoy.



Sot a recipe to share? We would like to hear from you. Drop us an email with your submission to info@mygayzine.co.uk
We will publish the best each month for our readers to enjoy

LIFEStyle

Holidays - Sitges

Just 35km south of Spain's trendiest city, Barcelona, sits the perfectly formed resort of Sitges. More 'fashion parade' than 'bucket and spade' it's one of the few Spanish resorts that escaped the tourist boom of the 60's and 70's unscathed. As a result, there's not a concrete tower block in sight and much of the original architecture remains. As you stroll through Sitges, your eyes are graced with a selection of winding streets, quaint restaurants, beautiful buildings and golden beaches not to mention some top European tottie!

The popularity of Sitges never stops growing, with its own microclimate of over 300 sunny days per year and summer temperatures in the range of 26 to 32 degrees; it's easy to see why. There are few destinations of this calibre and you're sure to want to visit again and again. While its sophisticated charm used to appeal to an older crowd, recent years have seen gays of all ages taking advantage of its unique offerings.





Brought to by Maurice Dickson from Gayaway2travel. Click here to visit the website

What Sitges offers is second to none and there are few places in the world where you will find everything you need concentrated in one small area. Bars, restaurants, shops, a sauna and beaches are all within a five minute radius so it really is a chocolate box of gay delights. That's not to say it's in your face; what's great about Sitges is its relaxed attitude to sexuality. Diversity is the norm here and the resort has somehow managed to achieve the kind of harmony that's usually reserved for Disney films. The varied gay scene is mingled in with everyone else and the only 'ghetto' that exists is the über straight Calle Marqués de Montroig or, as the locals call it, "Sin street" (probably something to do with the lap dancing). Even here, there are two gay bars and you can walk hand in hand without anyone raising so much as an eyebrow. This extraordinary culture has allowed Sitges to become one big, yet tasteful, cruising ground and whether you're sipping coffee on a terrace or strolling half naked across the beach, you're bound to catch the eye of a tanned admirer.

If that's not got you salivating, why not try one of the 80 restaurants in town. The standard of food is very high (particularly the seafood) so you're bound to find something to suit your tastes. Outdoor lunching is de rigueur here and it's easy to find a seat with plenty of opportunity for people-watching. Al Fresco Café or Granja Elsa are good places to start and they offer some superb specials. In the evening, restaurants serve Catalan and regional Spanish dishes as well as international cuisines for the less adventurous (the words 'live a little' spring to mind because you're missing a treat). The restaurant at Hotel El Xalet shows Sitges at its best and the beautiful waiters at The Beach House make it a must. Also worth a visit is Monroe's, tres tres chic, new in 2009 and proving to be a bit of a smash hit. If you do want to make the night special, make sure you reserve a table; at the height of summer the streets of Sitges can become busy with people looking for the best table.



Sitges - Holiday destination best descril



For a small town Sitges is surprisingly well-endowed when it comes to bars, with venues to suit all tastes, ranging from cruisey bars with backrooms and video to traditional music bars.

Generally speaking, Sitges' bars don't really come to life until 11pm or so, although one or two (El Horno, for example) open their doors from about 5pm onwards to cater for the crowds coming off the beaches. People generally go to the smaller bars first where it is easier to have a conversation. The bigger bars, such as Mediterraneo tend to get busier around 1.30ish.

At night Sitges comes into its own. There are over 20 venues to choose from.

Head towards the super camp Bar 7 to start your evening on the right foot followed by a bit of live cabaret at El Piano or drag at Comodine. Bourbon's is a good place to follow with its hightech lighting and an interesting darkroom. If you're feeling mucho macho, Casablanca's bear bar might be more your cup of tea. The bars in Sitges tend to stay open from 10 to 3am, after which many of the larger clubs open and get going.

You can find a pocket sized gay map of Sitges in most of the gay friendly bars and restaurants.

The Parrots Pub (Plaza Industria, C/2 de Mayo) serves a lurid range of cocktails and is always popular with the gay crowd as they off the beach in the early evening. We can recommend the foam party at Trailer €15 (every Sunday/ Wednesday evening) Arrive 3am, foam starts at 3.30. Don't forget your baby oil so you are well greased up.

Partying the night away can be done with ease and El Candil's crowd are very pleasing to the eye. If you fancy a spot of clubbing after the bars close, Organic is a bustling venue and Trailer offers a Sunday night foam party, for which it's famous. You can turn up the sleazeometer by visiting man bar or XXL and if you feel like partying in your Calvin's, Le Male Bar can cater to your desires.

Gay Beaches

And what better to way to recover from a night out than spending the day on the beach? Typical of the resort's relaxed, accepting attitude, the main gay beach can be found slap bang in the middle of the resort. But if you want some slap banging of another kind, there's also a far cruiser beach just up the road. In total, you'll find 17 sandy and wellkept beaches stretching along Sitges' 4 kilometres of coastline, most of which offer sun loungers, showers and refreshments.

The aforementioned gay beach is known as 'La Platja de la Bossa Rodona' and finding it is simple - head towards the sea, look for gay men.

If tan lines aren't your thing then the gay nudist beach is well worth a visit, although it's a good 45 minute walk from the town centre.

Our rep can tell you how to get there but it's worth noting that the train line you follow is not disused, so keep off the tracks! The beach has a place to buy refreshments and snacks (although they can be expensive) and you can also rent sun loungers.

The beaches and nightlife are only a small part of what's on offer and you can make of your trip whatever you want.

Sitges has a great artistic history and the town boasts three **museums** housing a variety of collections, primarily focussing

ped as a chocolate box of gay delights!

on Catalan Modernisme. The Museo Cau Ferrat includes work by Rusinol, El Greco and some early Picassos.

The **shopping** in Sitges is also very good and while they clearly recognise the value of the pink pound, the quality leaves some British shopping much to be desired.

Whenever you visit Spain, there always seems to be a festival of some kind under way. If you're visiting Sitges at the end of August, the spectacle of the main festival is something truly special as fireworks bounce across the sea to the rhythm of Spanish music.

The Roman ruins at
Tarragona or the Universal
Studios' theme park at
Port Aventura provide two
very different attractions that
give just a taster of the outings
that the surrounding area of
Catalonia can provide. With
Barcelona only a short distance
away it would be a crime not to
pay a visit.

Sitges has something to suit even the pickiest traveller's taste and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile. We have packages to suit your needs too, as well as accommodation only deals so contact us today to arrange your trip.

Where to Stay?

Sitges has an extensive, topquality hotel infrastructure which, together with Tourist Apartments, Guest Houses (Pensio) and Campsites offers a wide range of choice for even the most discerning of visitors. If you're planning a trip to Sitges it's vital that you book your accommodation as far ahead as possible, particularly if you're looking for a hotel room in high season (June, July and August) and at Carnival time (Feb/March).

If you don't, you may have problems finding somewhere to stay. Apartment rental seems to be increasing in popularity and has several distinct advantages over staying in a hotel, not the least of which is that an apartment shared amongst a group of friends can work out a lot cheaper than hotel accommodation.

Pride Dates and Events.

SITGES CARNIVAL - 6th to the 13th of February 2013 - parades taking place on Sunday the 10th and Tuesday the 12th of February. Sitges Carnival has to be Sitges' wildest party. Even though it is on in February it is still the hottest party in town! On the most popular days you will find thousands upon thousands of partygoers dancing on the major streets across the town. So if fancy few days away or week in February then Sitges is the place to go!

SITGES GAY PRIDE - 13th -17th June 2013 - The 2013 Sitges Pride festivities will kick off on Thursday the 13th of June with the Party on the Promenade. A unique series of concerts, cabaret events, dance acts and more will take place on the main stage. Its early days, but the line-up already looks promising! All of the events on the paseo are free of charge. The main parade will take place on Saturday 15th June 2013; this is Sitges 4th gay pride parade with over 80,000 people visiting in 2012 is set to be a pride not to be missed!

exclusive travel deals!

Depart BFS 4th Feb x 7
nights self catering staying
at Port Sitges Resort 4*,
flights, baggage and hotel
included (transfers extra
but local transport more
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ONLY £240 per person
(based 3 sharing), other
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Dept BFS 12th June x 7 Night B&B staying at Hotel El Cid flights, baggage and hotel included (transfers extra but local transport more cost effective) FROM **ONLY £275 per person** (based 2 sharing), other hotels and apartments available at supplement. Although this hotel has official 1* rating, this hotel is popular with gay folk and said have one of the crusiest swimming pools. It's a 5 minute walk from the parade route and beaches, so it's not as if you will be far from the action.

(*** Offer prices checked on 28/10/12 and subject to availability and flight prices, other accommodation and departure airports available contact us for more information)

Contact Gayaway2 Travel for latest prices and when you book with us we can give you a full detailed guide on where to go, maps and directions to gay beaches and best bars and clubs to visit and apartments or hotels to suit your budget and preference. Contact us today 0845 467 3558 or visit www. gayaway2travel.com

LIFEStyle

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Price £30.00



www.watchshop.com Swatch Mid Size Colour The Sky Watch Price £38.00



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www.bench.co.uk Ladies Woogie Hooded Top Price £45.00



Superdry Ladies Sport Pitch T-Shirt Price £22.99





USC G Star Midge Bootleg Women's Jeans Price £89.00



Debenhams Guess Heart Pendant Necklace Price £55.00

READERS SECTION



READERS RANT!!

WELCOME to Readers Rant, a place to let your mouth go wild about the things that matter to you. Wether your feeling passionate about something, annoyed by someone or just wanting somewhere to express your feelings, we would like to hear from you. Get in touch with your rant and it could be published in the next issue of MYGAYZINE.

Email your rant to info@mygayzine.co.uk...
We look forward to hearing from you - heres our 1st entry...

Let me begin by saying I won't be apologising in advance for ranting because that's what this space is for and I'm popping my cork and letting it all fizzle out.

Here in Belfast we are a mere 30 minute flight or a short boat trip away from some of the biggest and best cities in the UK and it's hard to ignore their call. Each year myself and a few friends travel round the cities of the UK spending our so called pink pounds whilst enjoying what each unique city has to offer. In fact whilst in those cities we like to see everything they have to offer and we try out all the local pubs and clubs too. One thing I have noticed whilst immersed in each of the various "gay scenes" across the pond and in the South is the amount of other LGBT tourists about contributing massively to the atmosphere and of course the economy.

Why don't they come to Belfast? Why would they? We're living in the dark ages. No clubs can even serve alcohol after 1am whereas in London for example some clubs have not long opened their doors at this time and come 3am when our clubs are booting everyone out people can continue to party until dawn if they please. The Northern Irish used to be famous for their 'craic' but is it just me or have our assembly gone and killed it? Think how much money other Cities in the UK and Ireland are pulling in as a result of this tourism.

City breakers, culture tourists, sight seers and others obviously want to go somewhere they know they can have a good time. Northern Ireland simply isn't that attractive to LGBT tourists. Why you might ask? In my opinion it's alot to do with how NI has been portrayed by the media across the world because of the actions of a few wretched, narrow minded politicians. I don't want to mention names but one guy in particular Poots his own prejudices in ALL our faces and it does my BLOODY head in, especially when I saw that same unmentioned person on a news website in New Zealand. An ambassador for Northern Ireland? Unfortunately for us he is and hes at the tip of an iceberg.

I disagree with the "theres no such thing as bad publicity" crap, our wee country isn't doing a particularly good job of advertising NI as somewhere to have fun if your LGB or T, in fact it appears to do the opposite and drives people the other way, literally.

It's our time and our place this year being 2012 and all but it certainly isn't our time after 1am and definitely not a place to be if you find yourself in a city centre on a Sunday morning. Our mental laws seem to be based on extreme religious views that have evidently persisted for far too long and invasively dictate how we live our daily lives.

I got so worked up reading last month's issue of mygayzine seeing so much of this type of negative news all in the space of a few months, it shouldn't exist for it to be reported on in the first place. Hopefully my optimism will be reinvigorated in future issues and you guys can help bring about some changes. Until then I will be spending my weekends in cities not under the control of lunatic homophobes bent on telling me how to spend my Saturday evening.

Rob Laverty, Newtownabbey.



READERS SECTION

SHOUT OUT ZONE

Text us you photos and comments, we will publish a selection of the best and most memorable ones in every months issue. We will also feature your shout outs, congratulatory messages and birthday messages. Get TEXTING...

TEXT us on - 07564877618

Texts are charged at standard message rates. Please do not send any inappropriate content to this business line. By sending images and text you are consenting and giving permission for those materials to be published.



Huge congratulations to
Maurice Dickson and Paul
Finlay. The wedding the century
is on the horizon.
Lots of Love Ed & Vicky xx

Shout out to Dj Mo and Paul Finlay on their engagement. Wishing you both a very happy future together. From everyone at MYGAYZINE.

Amazing first issue guys – ann, Lurgan

Looking forward to more travel deals, last month was great but i'm skint atm hehe – ruairi, Derry

Big John Wilson turned big four oh next Monday, please print thanks Gordon

Whos the lucky girl then Chris Mc Murray? Deana

cant wait to see this printed.

happy birthday Linda from all the girls at the Monday Club Beautiful magazine populated with great content – mary ann – Donegal

Got a message for someone that you'd like to see here? Text us today at your standard network message rate.

Saw this on the deers head screens and wondered what it was, brilliant

This sooo reminds me of FREE magazine from back in the day, only taken up a level or 2 – Tom

any1 find a handbag in the Kremlin on Oct 27th. Please contact the magazine they have my details. Name on drivers license H. McGookin -thank you. My kitchen after impressing my mister with one of your recipes. I should get one of you round for the dishes. Karl, Limavady





29 October - 01:24 **Centralbar Strabane:**Hi jst 2 let u no our barman Conor okane won Mr gay NI in Dublin 2nite.

Congratulations to Conor O'Kane, barman at Central Bar, Strabane on becoming this years Mr GAY NI.

FEATURES

PETER FAHY

Peter Fahy delves into the world of comic book superheroes in this month's issue. Even if your not acomic book fan you'll love this!



Pictured above: Midnighter's wedding from the Transfer of Power graphic novel (ISBN-13: 978-1401200206). Read on and it'll all become clear...

Can someone tell me where have all the good men gone and where are all the gods? Where's the street wise Hercules to fight the rising odds? What's Bonnie Tyler jiving about? There's loads of heroes! We've got Superman and Spider-Man and Batman and Bananaman, but tell us this and tell us no more: Why are so few of them gay?

Now, before all you geeks get your knickers in a twist, I know there's a gallon of gay characters in Marvel, DC, Top Cow and Image comics, but I'm talking mainstream here, the big titles that top the best sellers list.

Why can gays not be top title

superheroes? And why, for so long, were gays excluded from the comics genre?

Mainstream publishers like Marvel and DC have historically excluded LGBT characters from their comic titles. In fact, the Comics Code Authority (the governing body that regulates all comic publications) prohibited any mention of homosexuality until 1989. Until then there were a few slight references and innuendos, but no one dared come of out the closet. The overlords of the comics industry simply wouldn't allow it. Because of this exclusion, all the comic giants were labelled 'heteronormative.' They promoted a fictional world devoid of any gay or lesbian characters.

Thankfully, this heteronormative

stranglehold isn't as strong as what it was, but you still have to wonder, what's the reason for this under representation?

We're going to have to delve into the history books to answer that question. Don't be deceived into thinking that comics are for entertainment purposes only. Back in the 40s, 50s, and 60s, comics served a social function. They were propaganda tools used to influence the perceptions of young men all across America. Captain America was created during World War II. when America was moving from an isolationist role to an interventionists role in the global conflict. The Mighty Avengers joined forces when American troops were being deployed in Vietnam. This team of heroes mirrored the global police force that America proclaimed itself to be. To put it simply, comics were used to promote cultural and social values.

Comics could manipulate young readers into thinking that America was a noble, self-sacrificing and valorous nation (not a greedy, belligerent, capitalist empire). Yes, this all happened decades ago, and you're probably thinking that it wouldn't have the same impact today, but think again. After 9/11, there was an explosion of Middle-Eastern enemies in comic fiction. You could argue that this was a release valve for all the anger Americans felt towards the Middle-East; you could also say that it was a tool for military recruitment. But I'm getting off topic here. I just want to establish that comics serve as propaganda tools that influence perceptions.

Now, back to the benders. Where do gays fit in this formula? Back in the 40, 50s,

and 60s, the cultural consensus was that homosexuals were weak, effeminate and immoral. If you're trying to promote an image of strength, honour, and hyper-masculinity, would you have a queer in your super team? Of course not! Comics as propaganda tools had no use for poofs, not if they wanted to sell an image of military strength and moral superiority.

So that's a brief breakdown of the homosexual history of comics, and I know there's a lot more to it than that. I'm just offering my perception, and as a gay man, sorry, as a handsome gay man, I believe that political and social agendas are the cause of our exclusion from comic books.

As the 20th century came to a close and a new millennium was arising, gays were still underrepresented or misrepresented in comics. Why? Constantine's a bisexual bandit, Maybe it's due to the American ego. Having a prominent gay character fighting alongside Superman or Spider-Man might disrupt this treasured image of American strength and fortitude. Critics like Fredric Wertham complained about the presence of gay characters in comics. In 'The Seduction of the Innocent' he wrote that gay themes and story arcs threatened to warp the for last. He's big, he's bad, he's fragile minds of young men, and lead them down into the depth of the depraved gay lifestyle. Someone needs to tell him to wind his neck in.

At the moment, there's a good few gay characters in comics today, but don't celebrate too soon. Don't forget that Marvel, DC, and all the major comic book his eyes, he can't run faster empires are big businesses, and they're out to get as much profit as possible, so why alienate potential markets? Maybe the presence of gay characters

has more to do with making a buck than representing modern society. Could I be more cynical?

Just this year, DC redesigned one of their leading heroes and made him a homosexual. Everyone thought it would be Batman - I myself thought it would be the Martian Manhunter (the name's a total giveaway, and that red leather harness? It's got S & M written all over it) but it's the other green giant who came out: the Green Lantern. Yes, Hal Jordan AKA the Green Lantern is a homosexual hero who defeats his evil enemies with his magical ring. Go on, make a joke, I dare you.

And there's more homosexual heroes. Roll call! Who's here. and who's queer? Northstar from Alpha Flight, Batwoman, DC's first lipstick lesbian, that silver-tongued devil John The Rawhide Kid, Shatterstar and Rictor from X-Force shared a few sexy snogs, and one of the Flash's former enemies, the Pied Piper, is a self-proclaimed shirtlifter.

Now, there is one man who I haven't mentioned yet, and some Super Peter!! of you fanboys will probably know that I've saved the best dressed from head to toe in leather. It's the one, the only, the look at me sideways and I'll knock your fucking block off, Midnighter.

Who is the Midnighter, you may say? He's a one man army. He's a killing machine. He can't fly, he can't shoot laser beams from than the speed of sound, but he can fight. By God, can he fight. Let me put it to you this way - he's a combat calculator. Pit the Midnighter against the

entire team of Ulster Titans and he'll have played through every possible attack sequence in his head. Whether number 7 tries to swing a left hook, number 4 tries to tackle him from behind, or number 9 tries to boot him in the balls, the Midnighter will have anticipated every move, and he'd demolish 10, 20, 100 men if they squared up to him.

Step aside Daniel Craig, I'm in love with another.

Yes it's brutal, yes it's bloody, yes it's utterly barbaric, but look on the bright side, the representation of gays in the comics genre is evolving - we're moving away from the effeminate stereotypes and being taken seriously. And if you don't agree with me then I'll get my boyfriend the Midnighter to rip your head off.

Now, I don't know about you, but all this talk of heroes, villains and bone-breaking battles is getting my blood pumping. I'm in the mood to prowl the streets of Belfast city and fight crime. Watch out world, there's a new hero in town. Faster than a bastard maniac, more powerful than a loco-madman, yes....it's....

> SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US ONLINE WWW.MYGAYZINE.CO.UK

ONLINE VIEWERS CAN CLICK HERE TO GET ACCESS TO MORE OF PETER'S WORK...

POETRY CORNER

UNSPOKEN...

Silent Communication Alook, a smile, a touch A promise of things to come But within the soft, slow exchange of a kiss Lies the promise of something deeper Expectations that the best is yet to be Not a word need be said For with the exchange of lips Comes an exchange of minds. Silent communication? Or fireworks exploding within, Starbursts in myriad colours Diffused and permeating our bodies With their expanding warmth, The gift of a kiss, is a silent exchange No ribbons or wrapping paper required The only wrapping ls of our arms around each other As we communicate so much, unspoken.

Following the huge success of our first poetry corner we couldn't resist spoiling you all with another of Chris McMurrays Poems. Enjoy.

A MINUTE OR 4 WITH RYAN DIOR

(Health Alert)

What A great launch issue we have had, and not surprising, a great loyal following came with it. Let me be amongst the many to thank the Editor and all my fellow contributors to this great new long awaited Magazine.

I have now retuned from filming, the first few episodes in the south of Ireland where I Played the part of a Garda officer in a new sit com that I have written Called "The Hill top Guards" no date for air as yet, as there are many more episodes to be filmed.

Now let's get back to what we at Magayzine do best and that is to keep you all right up to speed with all aspects of daily life. One of which is your right to know what your doctors aren't telling you, yes! I said they ARE NOT telling you! 'what does he mean?' I hear you say. Did you know that some pharmaceutical medicines are not really needed? Why? Well you have you ask yourself "how on earth did they get by all those years ago, when times were very much harder than we can ever imagine. For many of you, you will only have an Idea as to how we lived if you have seen an old film or two. I am of an age where I can remember when some home's were still without electricity, most home's here had no inside loo's, nor central heating and we had to chop sticks and roll up old news paper to light a coal fire. Getting up out of a warm bed covered in duffel coats was the norm and heavy Blankets were used to keep out the winter frost that penetrated the walls of our homes. We could see our breath vapour as we exhaled as if we were blowing out a puff of cigarette smoke, so just imagine how cold it would have been. The point being, how healthy most of us were back then, as hard as it was, why, because we never had to rely on what most of us now take for granted, like all our Mod Con's, we are now heading towards a nation of many overweight Diabetics. Some of us think it is our god given right for the state to keep us Errrrr!!! Why??? The welfare charter was only brought in as a safety net to help the needy and folk who, though no fault of their own found themselves in poverty. Basically it was meant as a stepping stone back to work and an income for the few who were unable to support themselves though ill health. The welfare system that has now been abused beyond all recognition, it is only now that 'the state will look after me' culture is being radically overhauled, why on earth do you think we are a magnet to immigration, just look at the UK, we are becoming strangers in our own cities, it does not take a clever person to see why. The point I am now getting to is, we need to take responsibility for our own lives you only get out of life what you are prepared to put in, so for some of us, not all, we need to take full control of our destiny.

Now, as far as your health in concerned I can give you a few tips, to help kick start the new you, Firstly ask yourself "am I living as healthy as I should be" and if not why? What changes can I make? Answer, very simple changes that will make a huge difference from day one, take plenty of exercise, ditch the junk food, not only do you save pounds in the pocket but pounds where it matters most, around your belly. Not only does exercise help shed the excess fat, but after only a couple of day's you will feel the brain rush, a high that no illegal or illicit drug can do as good as, the invigorating feeling you get when natural endorphins are set free that have been locked away in your metabolism for years is unrivalled.

A few more ways you can naturally help yourself include eating plenty of fruit and veg to release powerful antioxidants, vegetables such as broccoli and cabbage are believed by some to help protect against heart Disease just as well as powerful Staten drugs. If your 'good' cholesterol levels are low, The antioxidant an enzyme called 'glutathione peroxidise 3', or GPx3 can dramatically reduce the rise of cardiovascular disease and heart attack.

I love learning of new ways to better myself naturally without becoming over reliant on prescription drugs. I was amazed to learn of these natural, everyday foods and tonics that have just as many benefits. I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding these matters. Drop me an email through the website.

Until next Time everything in moderation and at least then you have a running chance.

Welcome to a minute or 4 with our favourite actor and writer Ryan Dior. Ryan rose to acting fame as a child after starring as Oliver in the West End and then went onto act in several films including the lead role in the Australian science fiction movie 'Patrick' and TV shows such as 'Ello 'Ello and Kavanagh QC. Ryan Dior, who was a script writer on Coronation Street for 35 years has also written for Emmerdale and Crossroads. He joins the MY-GAYZINE team to give his views and insight into how things were and talks frankly about how things are now.





ARIES - March 21 - April 19
Store your confidence so that you can fearlessly face the tasks before you. As you enter a new phase of your life it is natural to feel intimidated by change. You may worry whether your prepared for whets ahead. All WILL work out.

GEMINI - May 21 - June 20
You'll be triumphant and your desires will
manifest. Don't worry about the appearance
of challenges they are just an illusion that will soon
disappear. You will grow more in peaceful settings.
Your life is beginning more stable with a quieter form
of excitement.

Your positive nature is attractive and makes people want to help you, looking behind the scenes it is all good for you. Keep expecting the best out of life you are going to get it. Think of others who are close to you and try stepping out of the limelight for a day or so.

An enjoyable trip is in the stars. A place you are drawn to or a loved one you want to visit. When you take the initiative you are in control, but leaving it too long can give others the advantage. Make that bold move as soon as possible before you lose the opportunity

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 22 - Dec 21
It seems as if you've been on a battle footing
for months this trend reaches something of a
peak now. Expect some resistance when dealing with
people of importance on the other hand seize the moment.

AQUARIUS - Jan 20 - Feb 18
It won't take much to push you over the edge. This may be the right moment to put a relationship on the line. Give a little thought to consequences. Stay committed to your priorities and give them the attention they deserve.

TAURUS - April 20 - May 20
Your called upon to use your leadership skills to help an important cause. You have natural qualities that will inspire others to help with this cause. Live in such a way that others admire your integrity and strength of character.

Going on the attack is the theme this week.

Don't shy away from putting up a tight. Its
extraordinary how someone will rethink his or her
actions when you challenge them. Your mothering
nature is at its peak this month.

VIRGO - August 23 - Sept 22
Trust mental images you've been receiving they will bring blessings to you. It's something or someone out of balance with integrity, look and see the best within yourself and life itself. You're going to be busier this month as the sun is in sociable form.

SCORPIO - Oct 23 - Nov 21
Issues arouse your passion or anger. Make a commitment to serve in some capacity to heal situations. Be honest with yourself about your feelings including any guilt or sense of obligation. Enjoy yourself as you accomplish everything on your list.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22 - Jan 19
This month has much to offer in the way of achievement and enlightenment but you could run into a spot of bother. Least said soonest mended. There is much to be hopeful about. There is a very special changes coming to you soon. Don't be afraid.

PISCES - Feb 19 - March 20
Although it may feel your unsafe or in the dark don't be fooled by illusions of fear, be brave someone by whom you have been intimidated by will soon prove to be a loyal ally. Don't run from conflict face it the same way you do everything, with grace and love.

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AND NEVER MISS AN ISSUE!!

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Hey Gurl Hey, it's Misty Falls here and I'm back with a new topic for this month's "What's The T?" So this month we are going to be talking about Drag Queens and Pride as we have just finished what I have now renamed as Pride Season. Pride Season for me is the combination of the Pride Festivals in Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and Newry.

Firstly I just want to say a big Thank You to everyone who gave me such great feedback from the Launch issue article on Relationships. It was fantastic to hear back from all of you and I hope you enjoyed my first delve into the literary world.

Now on to PRIDE, which for all in the LGBT community is a celebration of the unique and diverse communities that we have here in Northern Ireland. For us Drag Queen it is also a celebration of Pride but also a celebration for

the Queens that have gone before us and the Queens yet to come. We do not take Pride lightly though. A lot of hard work and preparation goes into the finished product that you see at on Parade Day and this can be started weeks, if not months before the Pride Festival is to take place.

I know that for any Pride Parade, I give a good solid month before in order to start my preparations. Dresses need to be ordered and altered, wigs need to be brought, shipped, back combed and styled and the make-up needs to be restocked and taken account for. There are also shoes to purchase and accessories to hunt out, these two last are usually the hardest for me to find and sometimes cannot be found until mere days before the parade.

On the night before a Pride is normal when I am busiest, especially if I am travelling the next day to get to the parade, which I did this year for Newry. To ensure that the morning routine to get myself dragged up goes smoothly I make sure that everything is in place the night before, laying everything out in the order that I need to do it the next morning. Some may say that it is a little extreme but when you have to be up, showered, painted and ready for early in the morning, you see the benefits of doing most of the organization side the night before.

As one of the only Queens in Northern Ireland that was at all 3 Pride Festivals this year, I got an insight into how Pride differs from place to place and I'm going to give you all a little insight into how I, as a Drag Queen prep for the Pride Parades in Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and Nerwy.



BELFAST PRIDE

Belfast Pride for me is the Pride that I look forward to the most every year because it is the Pride in my home city and I love the atmosphere that comes from the LGBT Scene in Belfast is the months preceding Pride. It is also the one time a year I am guaranteed to see all my Sisters out

and about in the city. Belfast Pride Prep starts months before, especially for myself and Alexia trying to get a joint outfit sorted with the theme for that year in mind. Also on the day the prep starts with an early rise to be in full Drag for the start of the Parade. This year for Belfast Pride I feel that I topped myself with the complete package, took me 3 nights to sort out the wig but it was a huge success and loved every minute of it.



I feel that Foyle Pride for me is the one that I felt most comfortable with this year. I think this is because I found my Drag Persona more whilst living, working and studying in Derry over the last two years. I also felt more part of the Scene in Derry than I do in Belfast as it is smaller and I've gotten to know more people as friends and family more than just acquaintances. This year for Foyle Pride I tried to channel American Queen Manila Luzon by customising my outfit with her signature fur style on both my dress and

shoes. It was also the first Pride that I was not working so was able to go out that night and enjoy myself, also bumping into our resident Agony Aunt Kaye Why and getting to catch up and have a bit of banter.

PRIDE IN NEWRY

For Pride in Newry it was a new experience for myself. This was the first year of it and I was slightly apprehensive as to how the people of Newry would take the influx of LGBT people flocking to their streets. Also as it was the first time I had ever been to Newry in Drag I didn't really know what to expect. The day was made great by the fact I got to

spend it with two of my best gal pals, Lady Peaches Monroe and Fefe Geisha. A huge congratulations needs to go to Trisha Delisha and Newry Committee as the day went off without a hitch. Unfortunately the mood was darkened slightly that evening by a certain member of crowd being extremely rude but other than that it was a fantastic day.



