issue 3 - December 2012

MYGAYZINE CHRISTMAS ISSUE 2012

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INTERVIEWS Mister Underground, Father Ryan and Mr Gay NI

She's Back - It's Jeza Belle NYC's holtest drag artist shares her stories

The Ultimate Christmas Guide Gifts, Fashion, Food, Features and more

As if one Mr Gay Northern Ireland wasn't enough - we've only gone and found TWO! Merry Christmas Everyone!

MYGAYZINE DECEMBER 2012 CHRISTMAS ISSUE!

Relevant News to bring you up to speed, Local, National and International - it'll be all you ever need.

Music, Movies, Showbiz News and Fun In an Entertainment section that's simply second to none.

> Take your pick in our guide to What's On, Plan a great night out or party until dawn.

The Nightlife section features Photos and Reviews. Don't know where to go? We'll help you choose!

Lifestyle covers Fashion and Holidays, Fitness and Food You won't find another that's even half this good.

Get involved with our readers, they've got their own section Rants, Poems and Texts - we've an interesting collection.

A mix of writers bring us our regular monthly features You'll more than love them! They're talented creatures!

MYGAYZINE WISHES YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

Its all about Christmas, Christmas, Christmas in this month's issue and we've got plenty of treats inside to help you celebrate. This month seen the formation of our first Christmas themed issue and our third and final publication of 2012.

2013 brings with it a brand new and improved magazine with a fantastic line up of special guests, celebrities and new writers reinforcing our position as the best lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender magazine in the land.

Read on and delve into our Ultimate Christmas Guide - covering Christmas food, fashion, gifts and more. A huge thank you to our usual selection of writers for their outstanding contributions this month (Chris McMurray, Stephen Donnan, Peter Fahy, Ryan Dior, Misty Falls and Maurice Dickson). We would also like to thank last year's winner of Mr Gay NI, Daniel Hegarty and this year's winner Conor O'Kane for their support putting this month's issue together.

Other thank yous include the ever helpful Father Joseph Ryan for his contribution in the features section, Mister Underground for his insightful interview which can be found in the Entertainment rundown, Gemma Hawthorne and the Positive Life Volunteers for their work in the News section and Gemma Hutton from Rainbow Botanic, Belfast for inviting us for this months food and entertainment review.

December also sees our Launch issue cover star Jeza Belle make her return, back by popular demand and sharing more of her stories. MyGayZine would also like to congratulate Jeza on joining the SoSoGay UK Team. Regular feature writer Peter Fahy also did himself proud last month coming third place in The All Ireland Performance Poetry Tournament and if that wasn't enough our Misty Falls is through to the next rounds of Lurgan's Next Top Drag Act.

We won't keep you waiting any longer. Get tucked in. Team MyGayZine

CONTENTS

NEWS

PA MagLochlainn - Pages 6&7 Positive Life - Pages 8&9 UCLA Study - Pages 10&11 News in Brief - Pages 12&13

ENTERTAINMENT

Showbiz - Pages 14&15 Mister Underground - Pages 16-19 Christmas Crossword - Pages 20&21 What's Hot in Entertainment - Page 22

WHAT'S ON

Editor's Choice - Page 24 Who, Where, When, What -Pages 25-27 Venue Review - Rainbow Belfast - Page 30&31

NIGHTLIFE

READERS

Reader's Rant - Page 44 Shout Out Zone - Page 45

LIFESTYLE

Fitness - Page 32 Cooking - Pages 34&35 Holidays - Pages 36-39 Fashion - Pages 40&41 Gift Ideas - Pages 42&43

FEATURES

Peter Fahy - Pages 46-48 Ryan Dior - Page 50 Poetry - Page 51 Father Joe Ryan - Pages 52&53 Kosmic Karen - Pages 54&55 What's the T? - Page 56&57 Mr Gay NI 2011/12 - Page 58 Jeza Belle - Page 59 Conor O'Kane - Mr Gay NI 2012/13 - Pages 60&61

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MYGAYZINE NORTHERN IRELAND

www.mygayzine.co.uk

MYGAYZINE NEWS

PA MagLochlainn Gone But Not Forgotten

Earlier in November the Northern Ireland LGBT community mourned the loss of veteran gay rights campaigner and local hero PA MagLochlainn. Mr MagLochlainn had been receiving treatment for a long-term illness but died unexpectedly in hospital on November 14th. Tributes poured in from across the world to honour his inspirational work and the changes he helped bring about here in Northern Ireland.

Mr MagLochlainn, who was from Dungiven but lived in south Belfast had been president of the Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association (NIGRA) for twenty years.

NIGRA treasurer Jeffrey Dudgeon, who fought to have homosexuality decriminalised in Northern Ireland 30 years ago, said his friend will be sorely missed. "PA was the person who put his head above the parapet for longer than anyone else," Mr Dudgeon said. "He had immense

courage in that respect. He was a very caring, amazing and formative individual and it was good to be in his company. He dedicated himself to gay rights."

PA was also one of around 100 people to take part in the first Belfast Pride parade in 1991 and was recognized for his contribution to the Pride

movement last year. From those initial one hundred individuals who participated in the first pride event, the audience and support has grown phenomenally year on year, with 2012's 22nd Belfast Pride attracting an audience of 15,000+.

Graduating from Queens with a degree in French Mr MagLochlainn spent almost two decades of his earlier years as a secondary school teacher of French and his former pupils remember him fondly as an approachable and supportive man. In later years he put this teaching knowledge to good use; educating and informing the RUC on how best to deal with the gay community in Northern Ireland.

Furthermore, as a member of the SDLP, PA became the first openly gay representative to sit on a NI political party's executive in the nineties. SDLP Leader Alasdair McDonnell said "the loss of such a fondly held party stalwart will be heavily felt across the SDLP"

Less publicly PA MagLochlainn touched the lives of many more people through his role as a counsellor, both formally and informally. John Dogherty from the Rainbow Project said "PA was a leader in the LGBT community for decades. His contribution, while sorely missed, will never be forgotten. He was involved with every aspect of LGBT life at some point in his life."

NOVEMBER EDITION ALL the LATEST, in the NEWS THAT MATTERS

To all those fortunate enough to have known him, PA was a leader, role model, activist, friend and gentleman. To all those who didn't it is clear to see how he touched the lives of so many, an inspiration to us all.

Share your thoughts Online at www.MyGayZine.co.uk

Positive Life

"A positive diagnosis does not necessarily mean a negative outcome"

The HIV Support Centre has rebranded as Positive Life as part of their World AIDS Day programme, encapsulating the belief that people can live and live well with HIV.

Brian Kennedy launched the new branding which includes a new logo, website and social media functioning. Brian said "it is a privilege to see the work that Positive Life does to support people in Northern Ireland who are living with or affected by HIV. I am delighted to be able to launch their new branding and help dispel myths that exist about HIV."

POSITIVE L&FE

Living with HIV is not the death sentence it was in the 1980s. With medical advancements and the success rate of antiretroviral treatment (ART), people living with HIV can Brian Kennedy and Positive Life volunteers

PUS

Confidential

Free HIV Sexual Health Confidential Helpline www.positivelifeni.com ^{Confidential Helpline: 0800 137 437}

Helpline

le Life

live full, positive lives. "Being a gay man, I'd always known about HIV. I remember the tombstone campaign from the 1980s. For a while I had been feeling unwell, not knowing the cause but being aware that HIV could be a reason, I still did nothing. Until one day I got a life changing call..." This client was aware of HIV but also the stigmas associated with HIV but has come a long way from his diagnosis to realising that life does not end with a positive diagnosis.

MYGAYZINE NEWS

POSI

The HIV Support Centre has rebranded as Positive Life as part of their World AIDS Day programme, encapsulating the belief that people can live and live well with HIV.

Brian Kennedy and Positive Life staff

Danny McQuillan, **Director of Positive** Life said "the clients of Positive Life come from all walks of life. Any of the stereotypes about HIV do not apply to the clients of Positive Life. HIV is not the death sentence it was in the 1980s and with the developments of medication, people living with HIV can live as long as people who are not HIV positive".

Services

Positive Life

POSITIVE

Positive Life provides a range of services for those living with and affected by HIV in Northern Ireland including:

One to one support, Counselling, Confidential helpline, Advocacy services, Yoga, Art therapy, Support groupsincluding a men's, women's and a parent and toddler group, Advice clinics, Campaigning, Fundraising and Volunteering.

If you want more information about Positive Life or HIV please do not hesitate to contact us on:

Phone: 028 9024 9268 Free Confidential HIV and Sexual Health Helpline: 0800 137 437 www.positivelifeni.com Twitter: @PositiveLife_NI

UCLA Study finds "there is no scientific basis to discriminate against gay and lesbian parents"



Last month Stephen Donnan covered the adoption issue in our news section following a ruling that a ban on same sex and unmarried couples adopting breached their human rights. Following the ruling we were presented with the usual barrage of threats from politicians and the Presbyterian Church who now seek to overturn Mr. Justice Treacy's decision despite there being around 2,500 children there in State care.

Our health Mr Poot's argued that the decision "wasn't in the best interests of the vulnerable people concerned" and Jim Allister of the TUV worried that there was insufficient evidence showing that children could benefit from "the unnatural setting of a same-sex relationship".

We have good news Mr Allister!!

Research carried out by psychologists at UCLA has shown that high-risk children adopted from foster care do equally well when placed with gay, lesbian or heterosexual parents.

New research being carried out by psychologists at UCLA has shown that high-risk children adopted from foster care do equally well when placed with gay, lesbian or heterosexual parents.

In their first multi-year study of 82 children adopted from foster care by these three groups of parents – 60 children were placed with heterosexual parents and 22 were placed with gay or lesbian parents (15 with gay male parents and seven with lesbian parents).

The psychologists studied the children at two months, one year and two years after they were placed with a family. The children underwent a cognitive assessment by a clinical psychologist three times during the course of the study, and the parents completed standard questionnaires about the children's behaviour at each of the three assessment periods.

NOVEMBER EDITION ALL the LATEST, in the NEWS THAT MATTERS

The psychologists found very few differences among the children at any of the assessments over the two-year period following placement. On average, children in heterosexual, gay and lesbian households achieved significant gains in their cognitive development, and their levels of behaviour problems remained stable. Their IQ scores increased by an average of 10 points, from about 85 to 95 — a large increase, from lowaverage to average functioning.

"The children showed meaningful gains in heterosexual, gay and lesbian families," said Justin Lavner, a UCLA doctoral candidate in psychology and lead author of the study. "Their cognitive development improved substantially, while their behaviour problems and social development were stable." The children adopted by gay and lesbian families had more risk factors at the time of their placement; out of nine risk factors, they averaged one additional risk factor, compared with the children adopted by heterosexual parents.

"The children adopted by gay and lesbian parents had more challenges before they were adopted and yet they end up in the same place, which is impressive," said Letitia Anne Peplau, a distinguished research professor of psychology at UCLA and co-author of the study. "There is no scientific basis to discriminate against gay and lesbian parents," Peplau said.

The study is published in the October issue of the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry.

"The children adopted by gay and lesbian parents had more challenges before they were adopted and yet they end up in the same place, which is impressive," said Letitia Anne Peplau, a distinguished research professor of psychology at UCLA and co-author of the study. "There is no scientific basis to discriminate against gay and lesbian parents," Peplau said.

MYGAYZINE NEWS

The News in Brief...



Northern Ireland born leader of the Catholic Church in Scotland - Cardinal Keith O'Brien has been named Bigot of the Year at this years Stonewall Awards in London. The Cardinal who grew up in Ballycastle, County Antrim topped the shortlist of five because of his comments attacking same-sex relationships and describing them as "harmful to the physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing" before comparing them to slavery.

The Public Health Agency has released a report revealing a startling **10% increase in the number of people living with HIV here in Northern Ireland in the last 2 years.** The findings highlighted a continuing rise in new HIV diagnoses, up by 3%, from 80 in 2010 to 82 in 2011. There are now 522 people living with HIV infection, up 10% on 2010. Of the 82 new HIV diagnoses 48 of these occurred in men who have sex with men, the report said.





A teacher at a school in Florida has said her career has been ruined after being accused of helping to turn a student into a lesbian. Juliet Hibbs , who is straight, was investigated last year for 'misconduct' when the student's parents complained to the school principal that she should have notified them of their daughter's orientation, and may have even contributed to her homosexuality. Hibbs, who was a teacher at Florida's Deerfield Beach High School, has filed charges with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against the district as well as the school's principal and the assistant principal.

The teen dismissed her parent's allegations about Hibb's influence, arguing that a straight woman couldn't turn someone into a lesbian. LGBT organisations have called the charges laughable. She said: "My career has been ruined. Before Deerfield, I had an impeccable record." Hibbs, who has 10 years experience as a teacher, is now on medical leave and says stress over the prolonged investigation has caused her several health problems that will probably prevent her from teaching again. - **Chris McMurray**.

BNP leader Nick Griffin will not face any further action after being investigated for tweeting the address of a gay couple. MEP for the North West, he encouraged his twitter followers to demonstrate outside the home of Michael Black and John Morgan following the announcement the pair were being awarded £1,800 at Reading County Court after suing the Christian owner of a B&B for denying them the right to share a room.



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within primary legislation." Miller's statement is an attempt to allay fears of church leaders who believe that once the Government introduces equal marriage in England and Wales (expected by 2015), they would be forced to marry same sex couples against their wishes.

The Coalition for Marriage, a group that opposes equal marriage questioned Miller's statement. "The Government's solution of primary legislation, a lock, as the minister describes it, is a cheque that will bounce," it said.

"No minister can make this pledge because of European legislation and the European courts, unless the minister is planning to come out of the [convention]."Chris McMurray -

continues to be a great year for me so thanks to everyone for their continued support." Clare Balding, the openly lesbian sports presenter, who has become known as a 'national treasure' since her prolific contribution to Olympics TV coverage, was listed at number two. Gay rights activist Peter Tatchell was ranked at number three, and Paralympian and Olympic equestrians Lee Pearson and Carl Hestor came in at numbers four and five. John Mullin, editor of the Independent on Sunday said: 'I am proud to announce the 13th annual Pink List, celebrating influential and high-profile lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the UK. The top ten reflects those who have helped truly inspire Britain over the past year.' Chris McMurray -

Got News? Submit a press release at pressreleases@mygayzine.co.uk.

Same-sex couples are to be prevented from suing churches that refuse to marry them, the Government has confirmed. Maria Miller, the equalities

minister and culture secretary (left pic) told the Sunday Times yesterday that new safeguards would prevent couples from using the European Convention on Human Right's protection for freedom of religion to force a particular church to marry them.

"To make sure there is no element of doubt, we would be legislating to protect the rights of religious institutions to continue to have freedom on this matter.

"We would achieve that through some very clear and absolute locks on that freedom

> British Olympic boxing gold medal winner Nicola Adams has become a champion for the second time this year, this time topping the Pink List 2012.

The annual list, published by 'The Independent on Sunday', aims to celebrate

the LGBT heroes and heroines of the year, whether they are in the public eye or unsung champions campaigning for progress and equality.

Reflecting the many achievements of LGBT athletes at the 2012 Game this summer, the Pink List features several Olympic athletes and prominent figures in sport in highranking positions.

Nicola Adams, who is openly bisexual, said: "It's amazing to be on the list of such an inspiring and influential people, 2012





ENTERTAINMENT

SHOWBIZ

CHANNEL 4 ADMITS MISTAKE IN REMOVING THE WORD 'GAY' IN THE SIMPSONS



© 20th Century Fox Television

Channel 4 has admitted it was wrong to edit out the word "gay" from an episode of The Simpsons, which was shown by the UK television channel on Sunday.

The Independent reports that the word was cut from a 1994 episode, called 'Homer Loves Flanders', which was aired at 12.55pm on November 4. In the episode, Homer is on the way in to an American football game and is embarrassed to be seen

with his neighbour, but softens after Ned pays for food and introduces him to the star quarterback. As they drive away, passing workmates Lenny and Carl in the car park, Homer proudly yells out of the window: "I want everyone to know that this is Ned Flanders ... my friend!' Lenny turns to Carl and says: "What'd he say?" Carl replies: "I dunno, somethin' about being gay." The scene plays on the perceived sexual chemistry of Lenny and Carl's relationship, a long-running Simpsons gag. In Channel 4's version on Sunday, the episode cut to an ad break before the word "gay" was broadcast. In a statement, Channel 4 admitted its mistake: "We always

carefully consider the context in which language is used in our programming. However in this instance the episode was edited in error as neither the word nor the context was unsuitable." - **Chris McMurray**



X FACTOR UPDATE

Last month finally seen the end of X Factor entertainer and all round nice guy Rylan. Sometimes camp, sometimes cheesy and sometimes a little too over the top but do you think X Factor would have been even remotely as watchable if he hadn't been there to cause so much drama?

He is ofcourse back on our screens again soon filling in for Richard Arnold on the ITV1 breakfast show Daybreak from December 3-7 as the former 'Strictly Come Dancing' star takes a well-earned rest after leaving the BBC One dancing show earlier this month. Other X Factor related news saw Union J star Jaymi Hensley came out of the closet claiming X Factor mentor Louis Walsh was his inspiration to come out.

SIR IAN MCKELLEN AND SIR DEREK JACOBI ARE TEAMING UP TO PLAY A BICKERING GAY COUPLE



Veteran British actors Sir Ian McKellen and Sir Derek Jacobi are teaming up to play a bickering gay couple in a new ITV1 sitcom. Vicious has been created by Will and Grace writer Gary Janetti and award-winning playwright Mark Ravenhill. The show, to air next year, will also feature Rising Damp actress Frances De La Tour as their feisty best friend. Sir Ian will play ageing actor Freddie who has

lived in a cramped flat with Sir Derek's Stuart for nearly 50 years. Their worlds are turned upside down when a young man called Ash moves in upstairs. Writer and co-producer Janetti, who has also worked on award-winning US comedy Family Guy, said he was "incredibly excited" to be working with "this unbelievable cast". ITV's comedy commissioning editor, Myfanwy Moore, said the broadcaster was "thrilled this exciting and bold sitcom, with stellar performers and writing talent is to join the increasing slate of new look comedy shows on the channel". This month Sir Ian will be seen reprising the role of wizard Gandalf in Lord of the Rings prequel The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey. The film, which co-stars Martin Freeman, Elijah Wood and Benedict Cumberbatch, is due in UK cinemas on 14 December. - Chris McMurray

JODIE FOSTER FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Oscar-winning actress Jodie Foster is to receive the Cecil B DeMille Award for lifetime achievement at the Golden Globes next year. The actress is being honoured for her 40-year career as an actress, director and film producer.

A statement from the organisers read: "Her ambition, exuberance and grace have helped

pave the way for budding artists in this business". "Jodie is a multifaceted woman that has achieved immeasurable amounts of success and will continue to do so in her

career. She's truly one of a kind." Starting her career in TV ads at the age of three, by the time she was ten Foster had appeared in numerous TV shows in North America. However, she found international fame in 1976 for her Oscar-nominated performance as teenage prostitute Iris in Taxi Driver, and roles as Tallulah in Bugsy Malone and the lead in Freaky Friday. Since then, Foster has appeared in over 40 movies, winning best actress Oscars for her role as a rape victim in 1988 film The Accused and as the FBI agent Clarice Starling in 1991's The Silence of The Lambs.

The actress has also produced and directed a number of TV shows and films, including Little Man Tate in 1991 and The Beaver starring Mel Gibson (see left) last year. Jodie Foster has over the years attracted a large lesbian fan-base. Although she has never officially 'come out', in 2007 during an acceptance speech she thanked film producer

Cydney Bernard referring to her as "my beautiful Cydney, who sticks with me through the rotten and the bliss." Bernard is believed to have been Foster's girlfriend since the two met in 1993 during the filming of Sommersby. The two women have reportedly raised Foster's two children together, however there were several reports in 2008 that the couple had separated. **Chris McMurray**

MISTER UNDERGROUND

Mister Underground an electro/pop/dubstep musician from Belfast, Northern Ireland. Earlier this year he finished his third studio album entitled "Trainwreck" It was released on 10th August 2012 He performed tracks from the album at this year's Gay Pride at **Custom House Square.** Performing in front of an estimated 7,000 people, screaming and enjoying themselves." It was definitely a highlight of my career, I had fans singing lyrics back to me at the same time supporting the LGBT community"

"Trainwreck" went on to sell many copies on iTunes and was sold out in Head music store. The album included collaborations from Rebecca Creighton (Belle Amie), Trey LaTrash (American DJ, Producer, Fashion Designer) and Singer/Songwriter Sarah Manning. The debut single from the album "Medicine ft. Lucky Date" was broadcast on BBC Radio 1, BBC Radio 1 Xtra, BBC ATL, BBC Radio Ulster and was also used as an advertisement on Radio 1 for BBC Introducing. The second single "Be A Star" entered Akon's top 100 unsigned chart peaking at #32. There have also been several tracks played at catwalks throughout the UK and Ireland and "Live Your Life" was featured on The Box Dance Chart peaking at #73.He has started work on the 4th album "Blitz Kidd". This is a double disc album full of collaborations.

Belfast's Custom House Square is a brilliant venue, where would you most like to perform?

Custom House Square was an amazing venue to perform at. It has been the biggest stage and audience I have performed in front of to date. There are many venues I dream of playing at but one would definitely be the o2 Arena, London. All of my favorite artists have performed on that stage and it would be an incredible experience, The atmosphere always seems mind blowing.

You have a few really catchy videos on YouTube at the moment, have you any more planned or due for release?

Thank you, I am a pop song writer and I aim to make my tracks as catchy as possible. I have been busy writing my fourth studio album "Blitz Kidd" and this record is full of catchy hits and collaborations from artists all around the globe. I have many more tracks to be released and put out there. I am getting ready to release the second single from "Blitz Kidd" entitled "No Houses" this single also features Glenn Rosborough from (Intermission). The track will accompanied by a 7 minute video which will be shot at Islandmagee, Larne. Set to be released in early January 2013.

THIS MONTHS ENTERTAINMENT RUNDOWN

Have you got any musical hero's or heroine's that you feel are an inspiration to your style of music?

I am more of a fan of "Artists" not "Musicians", the difference is an "Artist" takes into account performance, creativity, fashion and stage presence, a "Musician" focuses solely on the music. To me my biggest inspiration is Marilyn Manson, he is an "Artist" without his inspiration we wouldn't have many other artists in the world such as Lady Gaga and Lana Del Rey. Manson is an incredible song writer and his music touches me. He has evolved as an artist and must sav he has inspired me to be who I am today, Mister Underground.

As you have really started up from scratch, do you have any advice to give young people who are trying to make a name for themselves in the music industry.

The first thing to do is find yourself, this can take time. Experiment with different sound and find the style that suits you best. The next thing to do is believe in yourself because if you don't believe in yourself no one will. Think of yourself as a bubble and all negative vibes/ comments will reflect of you because if you take them on board you start to have doubts and question yourself as an artist. There will always be haters no matter how popular you are. Don't dream it, BE IT!

We are aware you have worked with some big names in music already including William Control (Aiden), Kimberly, Silhouette, Wyldling, Intermission, Freezepop, Amy Rose and Platnum. Who in music dead or alive would you most like to perform with on stage and why?

I have worked with people on this record that I used to go to gigs/concerts to see them perform. To have them collaborate with me on my track, singing my lyrics and on my record is just such a surreal feeling. I have always wanted to perform or collaborate with Pete Burns. his voice is incredible and he knows how to write a hit. To perform on stage with him would be incredible he is a unbelievable performer.

ENTERTAINMENT



We know you used to enjoy playing sport, is this still the case or have you any other passions that you enjoy other than music?

I was very sporty when I was younger but again I feel it was all part of growing up and finding myself. I enjoyed playing football and gold but music has always been the main thing I have been focused on. After making music for a while when I hit around the age of eighteen and started writing music and producing it I knew then it's what I love doing and want to make my full time career. I do enjoy writing and drawing but again it connects with my music.

What was the first song you remember singing? Has it always been clear you were going to make a career in the music industry?

One of the first tracks I remember recording myself singing to was My Chemical Romance - I'm Not Okay. This song just connected with me as to what I was going through at that time in my life in school. From this I began writing a lot of poetry and music and I just knew that music is my escape, I can write about personal things and connect with people that are going through the same thing as me. I feel free when I write and feel I can talk about anything.

Have you got any secret celebrity crush?

YES, we all have our celeb crushes. Mine would have to be Dappy from N-Dubs, I know everyone says he is not my type but honestly in my eyes opposites attract! With up and coming mainstream artists 'coming out' do you think that it is easier to be an openly gay performer now and did you ever consider not mentioning it?

I do think it's easier now than it was when I started out a few years back. Programs like the X Factor have started to encourage people to come out and I think this is great because the public should never judge anyone's talent on their sexuality. I was always going to be open and talk about my sexuality through my music because my biggest audience I connect with would be the gay scene. I want to connect with them and say just be yourself and be proud of who you are, sexuality is not a choice and I think the world should come together and see that we are not all here for a long time and that we are all different but nobody anywhere should be judged because of who they are. Let's hope people keep it up and continue to be more open about their sexuality and maybe one day everyone can live in peace.

Are you the only performer in your family or are you all musical / artistic?

My uncle is musically driven, he actually teaches in the School of Music in England. His orchestra actually featured in a movie called "Brassed Off". Apart from this I am the only other musically talented person to come out of the family. Most of my family would be interested in sport, football, tennis, poker etc.



What do you like to do over the festive period?

Over the festive period I enjoy coming together with my family. It's nice to catch up with everyone and have a few glasses of wine ha-ha. I think everyone loves a few festive parties over the Christmas period.

But no relaxing for me this year as I will be shooting my new music video and getting set to release the much anticipated fourth album "Blitz Kidd" along with my debut fragrance "Velvet Diablo", 2013 is going to be a very busy year for Mister Underground.

CHRISTMAS

Crossword

Have a go at our brand new monthly crossword puzzle. It's great fun. Let us know how you get on through our website www.mygayzine.co.uk. We'll publish the answers online on our facebook page which can be found at www.mygayzine.co.uk/mygay.zine. This ones not too tricky!



Email: info@mygayzine.co.uk for helpful hints and tips.

Crossword Clues

Across

- 1) Small seasonal singing bird (5)
- 3) Dutch spirit distilled from potatoes (8)
- 5) I wana for christmas -Famous song by Gayla Peevy (12)
- 9) Elongated, rectangular, facial bone (5)
- **10)** Tiny leafy-stemmed flowerless plants (4)
- 11) Sweet made from sugar or treacle boiled with butter, nuts, etc. (6)
- 13) Religious rites are performed on one of these (5)
- 16) Period extending from Dec. 24 to Jan. 6 (4)
- 17) Tropical or sub tropical ecosystem (7)
- **18)** Two-wheeled carriage (6)
- **19)** Full time christmas workers (5)
- 20) At no cost (8)
- 24) Strengthen with new evidence or facts (6)
- **26)** Leave Undone (4)
- 28) Marked by a narrow focus on or display of learning especially its trivial aspects (8)

Down

- 1) Best international female artist at this years BRIT Awards (7)
- 2) Lead character of the Matrix films (3)
- 3) 1982 Christmas film based on a Hamish Hamilton book, The ------ (7)
- 4) Attempt to communicate with spirits (6)
- 6) Name of the rebranded HIV Support Centre in Belfast (8,4)
- 7) Old World parasitic shrub, branching greenish stems with leathery leaves and waxy white glutinous berries (9)
- 8) A shade of yellow tinged with orange (7)
- 12) Dutch cheese (4)
- **15)** Shooting location (5)
- 20) Ceased Moving Immediately (5)
- **21**) Representation of a person (5)
- **22)** Sound practical judgment (5)
- **23)** Any piece of work that is undertaken or attempted (4)
- 25) Unaccounted for combatant (1,1,1)
- 27) Habitual convulsive motion of certain muscles (3)

ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT'S HOT?

@THE CINEMA, OUT ON DVD, SINGLES, ALBUMS AND GAMES

There is plenty of the very finest forms of entertainment around every Christmas and there are certainly no shortages of stocking filler releases this December in the run up. We've sifted through those boring, tedious lists and charts to present you with a selection of the best releases and entertainment puchases available this month.

@ THE CINEMA

THE HOBBIT I ANNA SEVEN PSYCHOPATHS PARENTAL GUIDANCE LIFE OF PI

THIS MONTHS SINGLES

LEONA LEWIS 'LOVEBIRD'

PINK 'TRY'

GIRLS ALOUD 'BEAUTIFUL CAUSE YOU LOVE ME'

PALOMA FAITH 'JUST BE'

THE KILLERS 'HERE WITH ME'

OUT ON DVD

BATMAN: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES THE BOURNE LEGACY STEP UP 4 : MIAMI HEAT LADY GA GA: THE SECRET WORLD OF... PROMETHEUS TO ALIEN: THE EVOLUTION BOXSET

...AND ALBUMS

BRUND MARS 'UNDRTHODOX JUKEBOX' MIA 'MATANGI' KE\$HA 'WARRIDR' GREEN DAY 'ITRÉ! THE PRODIGY 'FAT OF THE LAND: EXPANDED EDITION'

GAMES

GTA V Far Cry 3 Dead Space 3 Gears of War: Judgment

RESIDENT EVIL 6

SEND THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE AN EXTRA SPECIAL MESSAGE:

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TEL: 07564877618

LOVE THE NEW

ISSUE GUYS.

Linda, Carrick

COMMENTS

CHRISTMAS

BIRTHDAYS

GET WELL SOON

ENGAGEMENTS

WEDDINGS

FEEDBACK

QUESTIONS

BY TEXTING OR SENDING PHOTOS TO MYGAYZINE YOU GIVE YOUR PERMISSION FOR THIS CONTENT TO BE PRINTED IN AN UPCOMING ISSUE. TEXTS ARE CHARGED AT YOUR STANDARD NETWORK TEXT MESSAGING RATE TO AN O2 ACTIVATED MOBILE PHONE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Hansel and Grettel

thee WHAT'S ON CONTRACT OF CONTRACTO OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACTO OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACTO OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACTO OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACTO OF CONTRACT OF CONTRACTO OF CONTRACT.

Paul Boyd's musical of Hansel + Grettel has been staged in eight professional productions since it premiered in 1997 and has consistently been one of his most successful productions. The Lyric Theatre's 1999 version broke box office records and remains the most commercially successful musical production ever staged in the Lyric's long history, achieving 98% ticket sales over an extended nine week run.

Hansel + Grettel is a full-length musical that tells the story of two clever children, two desperate parents, and an ill-advised trip into the woods where the children meet a bird, a frog and a witch with a most unusual taste in home décor. The show is performed by a multi-roleplaying cast of six and features the songs "A World Without Children" and "The Wish Song" as well as Hansel + Grettel's ballad "Lost and Alone", Fats the Frog's "The Greens", and the Witch's hysterical showstopper "Children's Portions" – all rounded off with Paul Boyd's most popular and exciting mega-mix finale! Review of previous productions:

"A most enchanting production... Boyd's appealing musical is easily the best piece of entertaining theatre I have seen all year" The Irish News

"Paul Boyd knows how to strike a chord... a superb production... you really can't afford to miss this" Belfast Telegraph

Running Time: 90 minutes approximately including interval

a trail of breadcrumbs well worth following to the Lyric this December...



WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT? THE MYGAYZINE GUIDE TO WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT

WHO?	Lisburn Christmas Festival		
WHERE?	Lisburn (Various Localions)		
WHEN?	04 - 08 Dec		
WHAT?	This year Lisburn City		



Centre is getting into the festive spirit with a brand new Christmas Festival. in association with The Little Green Allotments, The Festival will feature lots of activities and events with a focus on food, music, culture and arts across a number of City Centre Venues.

VHO?	Mrs Brown Rides Again
VHERE?	
VICKC	Belfast Odyssey Arena
VHEN?	04 - 09 Dec
VHAT?	Brendan O Carroll and M



dan O Carroll and Mrs Brown's Bous completed a staggering run of 6 sold-out shows at the Odusseu Arena in 2011. This year, they return with a brand new show. Mrs Brown Rides Again. Earlier this year the BBC and RTE Television show. Mrs Brown's Boys was nominated for a prestigious **BAFTA Award, in the** category of Best Situation Comedu.

Paranormal Gaol Tour

15 Dec

Crumlin Road Gaol. Belfast

WHO?	St. Georges Xmas Craft Fair		
WHERE?	St Georges Market, Belfast		
WHEN?	07 - 09 Dec		
WHAT?	St George's Christmas Craft		
(1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)	🚽 Fair lakes place from Friday		



fler idau 7 - Sunday 9 December. Pick up stunning Christmas presents or get arty making your own personalised Christmas cards, Products on sale include delicious chocolates, homemade iams and chulneus. crafts, toys, glitzy home decorations, scented candles. Christmas hampers and jewellery.

VHO?	
VHERE?	
VHEN?	

WHAT?



On 31 March, 1996 the Governor of Belfast's Crumlin Road Gaol walked out of the fortified orison and the heavy air-lock gates slammed shut for the final time. The closure ended a 150-year history of imprisonment, conflict and executions. The tour lakes you on a paranormal journey through the prison. In the gool's lifetime 17 men were executed www.crumlinroadgaol.com

WHAT'S ON 7??? WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?

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

WHO?	Mumford & Sons		
WHERE?	Belfast Odyssey Arena		
WHEN?	I 5th December		
WHAT?	The Tour of Two Halves-		

GUIDE



he Tour of Two Halves-
Numford & Sons are very
leased to announce
etails of a forthcoming
our of the UK and Ireland.
he band, who have now
eleased lheir second
lbum 'Babel' will perform
ve at Odyssey Arena on
lecember I 5th in a live
nusic spectacular that's
imply not to be missed,
Narcus Mumford's vocals
ever fail to impress.

Christmas Market Final Dau

Belfast City Hall

20th December

WHO?	Katherine Jenkins
WHERE?	Belfast Odyssey Arena
WHEN?	I 7th December
WHAT?	Katherine lenkins the



Welsh mezzo soorano star will perform in concert with orchestra and choir. In the lwo years since Kalherine released Believe, she has performed around the olobe. lurned 30. made her acting debut in Dr Who and become a mentor and judge on Popstar To Operastar. No wonder she calls her new album Daydream. One lhing remains constant through all of it - her voice...

J WHO?	Xmas Market Derry		
WHERE?	The Guildhall, Derry		
WHEN?	21 - 23 December		
WHAT?	The fabulous Lady Boys		
5.3PM	of Bangkok are back in spectacular style with the		



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.



WHO?

WHERE?

WHEN?

Last day of this years popular Christmas market so make sure if you have not been yet to get yourself down there before it goes to Derry for a few daus. With over 80 traders. the Christmas market offers shoopers a Gastronomic journey around the globe. But for the rest of us who would just like to chill in the beer lent with a strawberry beer - This is your last chance.

Got an event that you'd like to feature? Get in touch - info@mygayzine.co.uk 26



WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT? THE MYGAYZINE GUIDE TO WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT

WHO?	NYE Casino Royale	WHO?	Yuletide Market
WHERE?	Titanic, Belfast	WHERE?	<mark>Rowallane Garden, D'patrick</mark>
WHEN?	3 I st December	WHEN?	08-09th December
WHAT?	Say farewell to 2012 and hello to 2013 in style! Titanic Belfast will host a New Year's Eve Casino Royale bash in the spectacular Titanic Suite. Play your cards right	WHAT?	Soak up the Christmas atmosphere with craft and food stalls, in one of the most gorgeous garden settings in Northern Ireland, Rowallane Gardens, Saintfield, Co.
	and book now for a night full of entertainment, with	100	Down. Christmas trees and wreaths made by



the superb James Peake Experience with a DJ and Casino (No cash taken). The event also includes welcome drinks. canapés and party favours.

WHO?	Boxing Day Race Meeting
WHERE?	Down Royal Racecourse
WHEN?	26th December
WHAT?	Christmas' other great
	tradition? Boxing Day Race Meeting at Down Royal Racecourse - Wednesday
1	26th December 2012. Entrance is $\pounds12$ or
- and	Premium Entrance is £16

lincludes entrance to the Beef or Salmon Suite). Children under 16 go free to the racecourse and only £5 for Beef or Salmon Suite admission. What better way to spend the day with family and friends?

VHO?	
VHERE?	
VHEN?	
VHAT?	

V



the Rowallane gardening team. Lots of family festive fun, face painling and you might even bump into Santa!

all your friends & family.

Skate Odyssey

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

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.

DEC Grand HOCALANY Petty

8pm late chart hits & disco classics to suit all admin £4 ALL night Lie christmas at

Saturday 15TH DEC 5pice Christmas party Join Dame HollyWould and Miss Mae for an evening of fun and great entertainment. Free Entry and we're 9PM - Late FREE Entry

> leave as friends

المج المحد

arrive as strangers

CL@SED

'SAT 291

Celebrate THE FESTIVE PERIOD in STYLE with SPICE this RISTMAS AND NEW YEARS

Nightlife guide

Venue Review

Rain ov had been a location high on our list of places to review after we first featured their Grand Launch Party in the MyGayZine Launch issue. Reading reviews and visitor testimonials had only served to wet our appetite for the cuisine on offer at Rainbow.

RAINBOW

My friend and I were excited to finally put the food to the test and sample some of the dishes I had earmarked some time ago whilst scanning their colourful menu online.

Upon our arrival we were welcomed by several helpful members of staff enquiring about our reservation and were promptly guided to our seats by one of the Rainbow team. One thing I can confidently say about the venue is that the service provided at Rainbow is beyond exceptional. From the moment we arrived and throughout the evening there was an attentive, friendly and knowledgeable member of staff at close hand. The name of the waiter at our table has somehow slipped my mind but he certainly demonstrated a very thorough understanding of the food and speciality cocktails, fine wines, beers and bubbles available.

There is a nice selection of dishes on the large, beautifully designed, colour co-ordinated menu that wouldn't look out of place in an issue of My-GayZine. The only problem I had with the menu was squeezing it onto my table. Prices are more than reasonable for the high standard of food on offer.

Opting for something simple and light, I chose the Soup of the Day to start. I had warm vegetable soup with possibly the most delicious crusty bread I have ever sampled. My guest chose the King Prawn Pil Pil to start and we both agreed it was something else. A must try.

After our starters we moved onto our main courses with heightened expectations of what was to come next. Dishes of choice were the Herb Encrusted Salmon with French beans, new potatoes and prawn veloute as well as the Thai Chicken Goujons with Asian salad, sweet chilli jam and triple cooked chips. Credit to the chef on this as it was sumptuous. Mouth watering salmon, perfect goujons, tasty, fresh salad and two empty plates.

There was a great selection of desserts on offer afterwards. Choosing the Ice Cream Fudge Sundae was inevitable and a real cherry on the top of a lovely meal. The entire dining experience was brilliant from start to finish and just as we were tidying off Debbie Bradley was beginning her Lady Gaga Tribute Act on the first floor and the entertainment teased from upstairs.

The lively bustle of the three floor complex combined later in the evening, adding a new dimension to the atmosphere on the second floor. I have to admit I had imagined the entertainment portion of the review would consist of a typically poor looky likey, lip syncing and disco jiving her way through to a barrage of GaGa number 1 hits but it turns out I was pleasantly surprised. This lady can sing and has her own disco stick for little monsters. It was great and I'd recommend it to anyone who's a fan of GaGa, I hear there are quite a few.

All in all Rainbow proved to be a great night out with a twist. The colourful menu was very well presented and hides some pleasant surprises. This supper dining experience is a must.

lifestyle

fitness

Enjoy those Christmas dinners that little bit more by working for them!

Shape up for Christmas

Battling the Bulge?

Want to look and feel great for Christmas... make some room for that extra piece of stuffing.... or be the one that has lost some weight?

As days grow shorter and temperatures plummet, you might be tempted to turn to comfort food to brighten up the day...

But why not be the one at the Christmas party receiving those compliments and believing them!

Enjoy those Christmas dinners that little bit more by working for them!

Interval training

Interval training is built upon alternating short, high intensity bursts of speed with slower, recovery phases throughout a single workout. Interval training is the best way to burn fat. You may not lose a stone before Christmas but you will be left feeling great!

The concept of interval training can be used for a wide variety of workouts.

* If you normally walk 2 miles per day, add short bursts of jogging into your daily walk. Likewise, if you already jog, add short sprints.

* In the pool, alternate several laps of gentle swimming with one or two laps of fast swimming.

* When you're on the exercise bike, alternate three-minute sessions of gentle cycling with one-minute sessions of intense cycling at an increased resistance or incline.

* If you really want to work hard and get rid of that fat, I would recommend running on the treadmill or in the park for 20 minutes. You should look to do 1 minute sprint and 1 minute jog throughout the 20 minute run. That along with some resistance training, and a balanced diet is guaranteed to get you fit for the festive season!

32

hotels

salons

restaurants

bars

cafes



saunas

health

sports

groups

charities

B&B'S

beauty

With some LGBT people in NI still unable to find friendly, approachable service providers in their community, we will be compiling a BRAND NEW business directory for the new year.

JOIN Northern Ireland's TOP Online, LGB <u>and</u> T Friendly, Business Directory...

COMING 2013

Visit our website www.mygayzine.co.uk for more info and to get listed.

lifestyle

cooking

Submit your recipes to: info@mygayzine.co.uk We publish the best each month.

Carrot and ginger soup

Ingredients

1 ½ lbs/700g carrots, peeled and chopped, 2 medium onions, peeled and roughly chopped, 1 clove garlic, peeled and crushed, 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, 1 tsp powdered ginger, 1 tsp medium curry powder, 3 pints /1.6 litres chicken or vegetable stock, Sea salt and black pepper, Rind of 1 lemon, finely shredded, 7 oz/200g crème fraiche and 2 tsp fresh parsley, chopped



method

Heat the olive oil in a saucepan and add the onions and carrots, cook for several minutes, stirring from time to time. Do not brown the vegetables. Then add the garlic, ginger and curry powder and cook for a further minute. Add the stock and lemon strips to the pan, half cover the pan with its lid, and simmer gently for 20 minutes until the carrots are tender. Cool slightly, then liquidize the soup until smooth. Taste and season with sea salt and black pepper. Take the Creme Fraiche and place a nice dollop or squiggle in each bowl and sprinkle with the Parsley. Then serve and Enjoy!!

cook up a winter storm or enjoy a warm glass of mulled wine. It's our 2012 festive food guide

beef stew

Festive food ideas

Ingredients

12 Shallots Olive oil 2 Carrots 567g/1lb 4oz Braising steak, all visible fat removed 1 Level tbsp tomato puree 1 Bouquet garni 170g/6oz mushrooms 2 Level tsp onion gravy granules Salt and freshly ground black pepper Freshly chopped parsley, to garnish.



method

Peel the shallots. Heat a large pan with some olive oil, add the shallots and fry for 5 minutes until browned. Transfer to a plate and set aside. Slice the carrots, place in the pan with the steak, tomato puree, bouquet garni and 852ml/1½ pints water. Cover and simmer for 1½ hours. Halve the mushrooms, add to the pan with the shallots and simmer for a further 20 minutes. Sprinkle over the gravy granules and stir until thickened. Season to taste, sprinkle with parsley and serve with mashed potato or dumplings. Then serve and Enjoy!!

MULLED WINE

Ingredients

750ml of red wine, 250ml of orange juice, 100ml of water, 50ml of peach schnapps, 1/2 orange, pare the zest, 5g of star anise, 3g of cloves, 1g of juniper berries, 1 cinnamon stick, 1 cardamom pod, 1 bay leaf



method

For the mulled wine, combine the red wine, orange juice, peach schnapps and water in a saucepan. Add the bay leaf, cardamom pod, cinnamon stick, cloves, orange zest, juniper berries, thyme and star anise and bring to the boil. Simmer gently for 15-20 minutes. Carefully pass the mulled wine through a fine sieve and into a jug. It is now ready to serve.

35

lifestyle

holidays - barcelona

Whether it is a long weekend away, day trip from Sitges or cruise stop over visit - Barcelona has long had a reputation as a city with a vibrant and integrated gay scene. Whilst there are some areas that are frequented more by the gay community, everywhere in the city is welcoming and open-minded, making Barcelona a gay friendly popular destination for members of the gay community.

The main gay area in Barcelona is called L'Eixample or Gayxample, but let's starts at the beginning. The beginning being the street everyone first heads for in Barcelona - Las Ramblas. It runs from the port, to the centre of town, stopping just a few blocks short of the gay village and is famous for Barcelona's best street performers. It's a constant highway of people walking up and down it to see its many visual delights. A word of warning though, it is a favourite spot for professional pick pockets, never put your wallet in your back pocket and don't leave anything unattended, even for a second.

36

by maurice dickson www.gayaway2travel.com



Online viewers can click here to visit the gayaway2travel website
When the sun sets is when Barcelona really comes to life. After a hot day, the boys come out to play! Barcelona's gay scene is lively and stylish but remember in Spain you don't go out to eat until 10pm, the bars don't get going until midnight and the discos don't even open until 3am, a far cry from back home when clubs here are closing in Barcelona they are just beginning!, so get some sleep in before you go out because you will be out all night drooling over those gorgeous Catalonian boys.

The first thing that is going to hit you when you arrive in Barcelona is the beautiful architecture all around you. Then as you start cruising around, the next thing that is going to knock you off your feet is that those amazing Gaudi creations you've seen so much of in photos are standing......actually I'm not going to tell you where they stand because it will spoil the surprise, but you will be surprised where they are. You'll know what I'm babbling on about when you see for yourself.

Next you'll be pleasantly surprised at just how helpful and friendly the people are for a city of its size. Whatever your preconceptions are of the Catalonians, they'll soon melt away as they do their best to make you welcome in their stunningly beautiful city.

The gay area is called L'Eixample or nick named Gayxample and is north-west of the centre of town within walking distance but can also be reached by Metro from either the Universitat or Urgell stations. If you get off at Urgell take the Villarroel exit. The gay scene is lively and there's plenty of variety. Everything you'd expect from a major city's gay scene but with the added bonus of bronzed Spanish boys all over the place. Eixample is pronounced "eyesham-play".

One of the most popular gay Barcelona cruising spots on the beachfront is Chernobyl gay Beach. This is really a summer cruising spot (April to October) and is busy mostly during the day, although during the hot summer months of July and August it can be busy up until 8pm.

Barcelona is one of the few cities in the world that combines the attractions of urban tourism with the possibility of laying on a gay beach to sunbathe during the day or to enjoy the animation of the seafront in the evening or at night. Barcelona's beaches, 4.2 kilometres long and just a few minutes from the city, are a unique case in Europe of the integration of a large metropolis with the sea.

A city obsessed with the latest styles and fashions, today's Gay Barcelona hot-spot can become tomorrow's afterthought. The battle for the Pink Euro is fiercely fought. The result - you will find some of the most contemporary "fashion-conscious" designer gay bars tucked right next to the oldest

Barcelona - an opposite way of life where your night is only starting at 3am!

traditional tapas bars in Barcelona.

Beyond the bars and clubs, there's much to get you steaming in Barcelona. Saunas are very popular in Barcelona. And not just late at night... they are a 24 hour affair. The biggest company is Grupo Pases who have 4 Saunas in Barcelona. Sauna Casanova is the most popular and youthful "men's health" complex, bang in the centre with a brilliant red neon sign behind frosted glass luring in off the streets punters of all ages.

To top it all off, you have Sitges just down the road which you must check out as well. It's an easy 35 minute train ride away from Sants train station, or better yet, from Passeig de Gracia station near the gay village.

The best way to see all of the major sites in Barcelona is to take the Hop on Hop off Bus (Bus Turistic) from Plaza Catalunya in the center of Barcelona. It's just 24€ for 1 day or 31€ for 2 consecutive davs. There are 44 stops along the route, and you can get off wherever you like, and then hop on one of the next buses that come along. There are 3 distinct routes, and vour ticket covers vou for all of them.

The north route, south route and Fórum route. Each stop is announced in English, and you'll find info about each one in the guide they give you. The entire tour of all 3 routes, if you don't stay at any location, lasts 5 hours. Barcelona Gay Accommodation

Barcelona offers a good selection of accommodation specifically suitable for the Gay and Lesbian community, everything from Gay hotels, Gay

hostels and even flats and apartments that are gay friendly. There are over 1,200 Barcelona hotels available to our customers. We have selected numerous hotels in Barcelona based on our own experience and reviews. They offer excellent service and amenities and are located either in the heart of the Barcelona gay district or within close walking distance.

Pride and Other Events

This year Circuit Barcelona the main LGBT event is being held 8th to 18th August with hundreds of thousands of gay people from round the world attending this year in its 6th year. So if you're looking for the best summer party -Barcelona Circuit is the place to be with nonstop partying and not to mention the biggest gay water park party at Illa Fantasia



exclusive travel deals!

Depart BFS 12th Feb x 7 nights self catering staying at Sidorme Barcelona-Granollers 2* Central Hotel, flights, baggage and hotel included (transfers extra but local transport more cost effective) ---- FROM ONLY £325 per person (based 3 sharing), other hotels and apartments available at supplement.

Also if you missed issue 2 then check out our last feature about Sitges, if you call us we will be more than happy to offer a combined deal. By Maurice Dickson

lifestyle

fashion for him

USC - Datsun Long sleeved t-shirt Price £48



New Look Navy/White Arctic Print Onesie Price £24.99



Watchshop.com-Armani Exchange Men's Smart Watch Price £112

River Island White stud collar shirt Price £35



Republic - Converse Patch cuff Joggers Price £35



Firetrap.com - Kilgore Urban gray Onion stitch quilted zip jacket Price £95





Topman Insight "skin deep" cardigan Price £100

H&M Leather shoes Price £149.99





Next Burgundy Christmas reindeer jumper Price £25

House of Fraser Hugo Boss Maine jeans Price £99.99



cool clothing



Watchshop.com-Swatch Ladies Filamento Multicore watch Price £57

H&M Jumper Price £29.99



fashion for her

Topshop Caprice block heel hi-leg boot Price £100





Next Open back studded top Price £36

White reindeer knitted

House of Fraser Diesel Grupee jeans Price £80





New Look Navy check shoulder flannel shirt Price £19.99

Republic

jumper Price £35

> River Island Denim cut out stud sleeveless shirt dress Price £75





USC - G Star Hiroko hoodie Price £47.40

Miss Selfridge Chocolate aviator jacket Price £65



41

lifestyle

gift guide

get some inspiration



Retro Candy Floss Maker - £45.00

The Hard & Sugar Free Cotton Candy MakerTM transforms your favourite hard candies into fluffy, melt-in-your-mouth cotton candy.



Retro Slush Maker -£80.00

SMART Retro Slush Maker is from the licenced Nostaliga range creates the feel and look of a 1950's kitchen or diner.



Funky Tetris Light -£27.49

Powered by 7 Tetriminos - Plug in the blue Tetrimino and once illuminated, the other Tetriminos can be added in endless combinations.



Ambigram Door Mat - £17.50

Beautifully designed this unique ambigram doormat welcomes visitors. Read upside down when leaving the mat reads "go away".









Sling Media Solo -£89.95

Now you can watch and control your favourite HD TV source, from anywhere in the world via your laptop or mobile phone

42

Jabra SOLEMATE Speaker - £114.67

The go-anywhere, do-anything portable speaker with massive sound that lets you take your music everywhere. Portable Size. Massive Sound. ION Piano Apprentice - £69.95

The ultimate piano teaching tool for iPad, iPod and iPhone. Built-in Speakers and light-up keys make learning super simple and fun. Kitsound Muff headphones- £17.69

These super-warm earmuffs have a trick up their sleeves - you can connect them to anything with a (3.5mm) headphone jack.

all of this and more available through the christmas store on our website.

gift guide

prices were correct at time of publication. Some products may be subject to postage costs.



Wemo Automation Switch - £38.50

The WeMo Switch uses your existing home Wi-Fi network to provide wireless control of TVs, lamps, stereos, and more.



Magic Sakura Tree -£7.00

Unfold the paper tree, sprinkle on some of the included 'magic water' and wait for the beautiful pink foliage to emerge.



Choc Bath Gift Set -£6.99

Powered by 7 Tetriminos - Plug in the blue Tetrimino and once illuminated, the other Tetriminos can be added in endless combinations.



Thortons Toffee Hamper - £22.00

Filled to the brim with sweet and gooey toffee - from original special toffee to exotic flavours such as treacle, banana and liquorice toffee.



iHelicopter for iOS/ Android - £26.99

Set to be the best selling toy for Christmas 2012 (As recom. on the Gadget Show!) Hours of fun controlling the helo from your devices.



Cream Chocolate Fountain - £17.99

1/2 the size of a standard home choc fountain and serving 4-6 people the new Mini Party Chocolate Fountain is the only product you need.



Christmas Me to You Cushion - £9.99

The ultimate piano teaching tool for iPad, iPod and iPhone. Built-in Speakers and light-up keys make learning super simple and fun.



Retro Sweet Hamper-£19.95

Straight from the 70's & 80's and includes all your favs- space dust, dip dabs, wham bars and drumsticks. Also includes a free message.

43

READERS SECTION



READERS RANT!!

Ingle Hells... Jingle Hells... Jingle Hells...

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 Christmas rant...

When is the correct time to put up your Christmas tree and decorations? 1st Dec?, 6Dec?, 25 Nov? certainly not 01 Nov? The day after Halloween? All Saints Day? C'mon lads and ladies mental much? I don't think that these people are the only ones forcing an ever extending Christmas period upon us each year. No, its every single big brand in Europe. I seen the infamous Coca Cola Christmas Holidays are coming advert before Halloween this year, and not on youtube! Now surely this is taking the proverbial?

I am certainly not a scrooge at all, in fact I am the contrary, I am Christmas's biggest and most loyal follower. Growing up in my house at Christmas was magical thanks to an overactive Mother and an up for anything Dad. We put our tree up in and around the 10th of December. Not that this meant we could not start to get excited by Father Christmas coming, definitely not. Looking back I can say that the excitement of it even getting near time to put up your tree was such an amazing feeling as a child. These little, but in my mind important things are for me the fibre and pure essence of Christmas. I struggle to think of how a child living in a house that has their very best Christmas lights on full display at Halloween can enjoy the build up and excitement of every layer of the most wonderful time of the year.

M. Michaels Lisburn



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...

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

FEATURES

PETER FAHY

QUEEN OF THE WORLD

What would you do if you were king of the world? Would the power go to your head? Would you reinstate public executions? I know I would. This probably all sounds fantastical or hypothetical, but I'm actually trying to be philosophical. It's an age-old question: can one man change the world?

Or, more specifically, can one gay man change the world?

Don't be a doubting Thomas, because the answer is yes. Here's a history lesson about one prolific poof who inadvertently altered the course of human history - the mincing monarch King James I.

It's a historical fact that James, who reigned supreme in England from 1603 to 1625, was a rip-roaring homosexual who didn't disguise his love and lust for men. James didn't just dabble in the deviant sex: he reveled in it. Historians have found a wealth of evidence in the king's letters and other official court documents confirming his preferences, and his royal subjects knew full well about his sexuality. Sir Walter Raleigh even joked in public about 'King Elizabeth' being succeeded by 'Queen James.'

Queen James, commander of the British empire, was the most powerful poof in the 17th Century, possibly the most powerful poof in the world, and he could have any man he wanted. Lucky bastard.

But the question remains - how did his majesty Queen James change the world?

As I said before, James' sexuality was widely known and, understandably, it caused quite a stir. Homosexuality wasn't exactly celebrated back in the Renaissance centuries. Even though art, culture, social structures and science were being reviewed and reconstructed, homosexuality continued to be seen as sick and sinful.

So you can imagine how vexed and vociferous the rulers of the royal court must have been when they seen their lecherous, lusty king oozing over the objects of his affection, showering his male lovers with precious jewels, fertile tracts of lands, and prestigious offices.

James' generosity to his toyboys (notably to the drop dead gorgeous George Villiers, who was anointed the Earl of Buckingham) engendered some ill feelings among the upper echelons of England.

The country needed a strong and resolute leader, especially in this exciting time of geographic discoveries to the west of the Atlantic, and increased trading with Europe and the East. Could a queer really lead the country? And England was already in a turbulent state. Civil war was just around the corner, and thanks to the **Protestant Reformation** new religious factions (like those pain in the ass, holier-thanthou Puritans) were emerging and butting heads with the rest of the social classes. In times of turbulence, it's not unusual for thrones to be usurped.

King James, already unpopular for his sexual preferences but determined to hold on to his divine right of kingship, decided to do something that would cement his role as the righteous ruler of England, a decision that would resonate throughout the world, an act that could be called nothing less than the most magnificent PR move in the history of all mankind.

He commissioned the creation of the King James Bible. That's right, that big book sitting on your dusty shelf was drafted and designed by a queer.

Bear in mind that during the 17th Century, there was not one definitive Bible. Priests, **Bishops and Ministers** read from various texts, in various languages: the Latin Vulgate, the New Testament in Greek and the Old Testament in Hebrew. The Bishop's Bible of 1568 and the Great Bible of 1539 were written in English, but only the church and clergy could read and interpret these sacred texts. James, wily old poof that he was, decided to destabilize that monopoly.

The king, himself a poet and avid fan of the theatre, commissioned a talented team of writers to translate all the Biblical books into English, preferably in a style as sonorous and melodious as possible. In fact, much of the lyrical language you find in the Bible was approved by the queer king who adored art and literature.

James was the mastermind behind the book, and at the risk of sounding melodramatic, he was the editorin-chief of a book destined to change the world, a book that spurred the social, political, and cultural evolution of mankind, not least the evolution of religious belief.

James capitalized on new developments in printing press technology and soon after the compilation and composition of the KJB (or should I say gay-JB), his definitive version of Biblical exegesis went out for mass production.

PETER FAHY



This was the birth of the King James Bible. Now the common man could read the good book from the comfort of his own home, and didn't have to worry about the message being lost in translation. There was no need to learn Greek, Latin, or Hebrew - the entire breadth of the Bible was now in the king's English. Thanks to King James I.

You can imagine how this new Bible became a powerful catalyst for Christianity. The KJB was a germinal text during the development of Protestant Christianity, and as the British empire expanded, to the Americas, to Africa, to the east and west of the world, the King James Bible went along for the ride. The book was a monumental export, and irrefutably, it helped English become a global language.

The King James Bible was the book that the hell-fearing Puritans carried with them to New England, and as the centuries rolled by, the KJB influenced major American figures. According to some historians, it inspired Abraham Lincoln to write the Emancipation Proclamation, and rhythms and meters of Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech have been compared with the rhythmic language in certain sections of the KJB.

To this day, the King James Bible remains a pivotal text for Presbyterians, Baptists, and Evangelicals, and funny enough, it's those self-righteous sycophants who lambast homosexuals, blatantly blathering on about how godless and immoral we are.

Don't they realize that if wasn't for a homosexual, they might not have such an intimate understanding of the scriptures? It was a queer who gave the word of God to them in a language they could understand.

God really does work in mysterious ways, doesn't He?



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A MINUTE OR 4 WITH RYAN DIOR



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 on to act in several films and TV shows. Ryan Dior, who was also a script writer on some of Britain's longest running and best loved soaps. He has polished the frost off his jacket after lighting the Christmas lights in Leeds this month to give us an update on all things Christmassy.

GOING OUT!!!

Oh how very dare you head out without first reading "A minute or 4 with Ryan Dior". Yes, I know it's Christmas and you are all dressed up and getting drunk whilst also juggling trying to look your best for a festive pub crawl. It's all a little chaotic. Now sometimes it can be tempting to get carried away sinking all those alcoholic beverages without considering the consequences. Before going out on the pull, err, I mean town don't forget to drink some of that clear stuff I make my tea with, slug it down and you are already improving your chances of having a great night out. Re-hydrating is important, I almost wrote

impotent, me and my dyslexia!! Have a glass of h two 0 every time you have a drink, and no it won't stop your face smiling, just go with it, I assure you it'll help prevent you making a show of yourself, it'll help make you more merry. You'll probably still end up hammered or beyond moderately tipsy at some stage but get this!! You won't be quite as dehydrated in the morning making for a much merrier time all round

But that's not all I've come to learn about alcohol. Oh no. I know it sounds obvious, especially at Christmas, but it's easy to forget to eat right before drinking. A great tip is to grab 2 or 3 slices of toast, a load of nuts to nibble and nibble as often as you can. Salt from the peanuts also helps replace some of the salt lost during periods of alcohol consumption.

That's my two cents on the matter, but just remember if you want a great night out and get merry without the banging head the next day just do as I say. Another important thing this festive season, something some of us get embarrassed about talking about or mentioning is the willy covers, for the guys ofcourse, the girls are more sensible, all joking aside we do need to remain sensible. I'm not trying to put a dampner on this wonderful time of year but it's often a careless time of year when some of us let go of our inhibitions. Take precautions, sex is great, safe sex is even better. Atleast it was the last time. was that 74, hmmm ahhh 75, yes yes fond memories.

Go now and Enjoy!! Have a Fantabbydosey Christmas and a Happy New Year. The first person you see, smile, it's contagious.

From me your favourite Adonis, and the team, what are you laughing at? Look after yourselves.

> **Ryan Dior,** Writer/Actor

POETRY CORNER

STATES IN

Key To My Heart

I had closed the door upon my heart And wouldn't let anyone in, I had trusted and loved only to be hurt But, that would never happen again.

I had locked the door and tossed the key As hard, and as far as I could, Love would never enter there again, My heart was closed for good.

Then you came into my life And made me change my mind, Just when I thought that tiny key was impossible to find.

That's when you held out your hand And proved to me I was wrong, Inside your palm was the key to my heart... You had it all along.

by Chris McMurray

MyGayZine Chats to Father Joseph Ryan



'The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.'

(John 1:9)

As I walked out into the cold from the warmth of the church, I glanced at the stars on that Christmas Eve night and thought to myself what it must have been like those 2000 years ago as Mary and Joseph journeyed in fear but yet in faith that fateful night.

All around me, the faith community of which

I was part, was still gathering in clusters, talking excitedly amongst themselves as neighbours exchanged handshakes, hugs and invitations as well as Christmas blessings and best wishes.

There was a sense of warmth, welcome and genuine concern for wellbeing pervading the gathering and it was a beautiful experience which, in many ways, we have somewhat lost down through the years. Those memories came flooding back to me recently as I was preparing my Christmas pastoral letter, and I felt in many ways that it was a good basis for writing these few words to you all.

I am very conscious that Christmas can be a time of great loneliness, aloneness, hurt, pain and indeed a time of great challenge for so many in society but moreso for those of us who are members of the LGBT community.

This is not what Christmas is supposed to be about and in so many ways; such feelings come from those who are supposed to be the epitome of Jesus in our lives, namely our clergy and churches. It can be a challenge to our own personal faith when this rejection – whether perceived or actual – happens and we feel that we are not permitted to have anything to do with Jesus and God.

But it could not be further from the truth as not all of us clergy and churches behave in such a fashion.

I have had my own journey of fear and faith over the last 15 years and moreso in the last 13 years as a priest working with those who some churches conveniently discard and condemn ad naueaum without considering the fact that we of the LGBT community are also human and have feelings.

In all my years ministering, I have experienced the Christmas of being alone; feeling uncared and unwanted, considering my faith and challenging myself to live for another day. It can be very difficult amidst such to find ourselves and indeed Jesus, but what we can forget is that Jesus has never left us even if those who preach in His name have.

It is why in 2010 that I sought and was granted membership of the **Evangelical Catholic** Church and thus began the fulfilment of my own faith journey. Bishop James Wilkowski entrusted the pastoral care of Ireland to me and I sincerely hope that I do not fail his belief in me as I build up slowly but surely a true church of welcome, love and support but without the judgement and condemnation associated with others.

At the moment, in the USA, there are many joining us – straight and gay – as a faith community and others as priests and bishops charged with the responsibility (like myself) of tending to those in need of knowing that Jesus is with us always.

Here in Ireland, at the moment, I am working with some who are interested in becoming members whether as a faith community or indeed those considering the religious life. In our community, we welcome male and female clergy and sexual orientation is not ever considered as grounds to refuse the possibility of acceptance for priesthood (alongside all other usual requirements).

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome.' (John 1:5)

One custom that I remember from my younger days associated with Christmas was the lighting of a candle and leaving it lit in a window so as to guide the Holy Family on their journey and this year I offer such a lit candle to you.

This Christmas, as always for the last few years, I will again leave my door open for those who may have nowhere to go, nothing to eat or no-one to talk to. There will be a welcome for them, some food and an ear to listen to them and whatever help I can offer will be made available.

For you, as you read this piece from me, I want you to understand that the same offer is there for you whether you wish to talk or need some help with something and I am in a position to help then I certainly will do so. On more than one occasion this past year, I have had the pleasure of travelling to Northern Ireland whether it be on a break or work, and it is my hope that as I continue to develop my pastoral outreach and development of the Evangelical Catholic Church in Ireland (http:// ecc-ireland.webs.com/) I may have the opportunity and pleasure of meeting with you.

If it is desired by the LGBT community to have a Mass or celebration of Christmas in any part of the North, I am more than happy to travel and share with you the celebration of love, hope and joy that which is Christmas, namely the birth of our faith through Jesus Christ.

I sincerely hope and pray that this Christmas may bring more light and happiness to you as you discern and journey in faith towards Christ, bearing in mind that you are not alone any more, and unlike Mary and Joseph, no longer need to journey in fear or aloneness. May I take this opportunity to wish you a most blessed and peaceful Christmas,

Joseph.

Mobile: 00 353 85 788 61 71 Email: dioceseireland@ evangelicalcatholicchurch. org Web: www. evangelicalcatholicchurch. org CRYSTAL BALLS KOSMIC KAREN REVEALS WHATS ON THE CARDS FOR US IN THE MONTH AHEAD...

ARIES

March 21 - April 19 You can shift a huge workload



You can shift a huge workload but gather your thoughts first. Things work best when you take the lead but ensure you plan ahead or you may lose your chance this time. Keep taking the bus, an exchange of looks at a bus stop on more than one occasion is not chance this would be the best time to be a bit of a flirt.

GEMINI

May 21 - June 20 If your have been disappointed



in love a new interest will make you feel glad the last one slipped away, one door closes and another one has well and truly opened for you. Christmas is going to be hectic but it is totally imperative that you get your quality sleep so make sure you say no to unreasonable demands by both triends and family. It's the only way.

TAURUS April 20 - May 20

en

It's the wonderful flow of intimacy and harmony you like and only a partner can create it in a relationship. If you want to be kissed under the mistletoe you may get the party shoes on because you're going to be busy. Please don't forget to get that waxing appointment booked! Love life shows another Capricorn could be for you.

CANCER June 21 - July 22



Your love life fires up but be prepared for some friction. A Winter sun holiday will be on the cards this

could be the perfect break for you. The date of the 28th is important for you , you will hear news or revelations around this date. You're on course to appreciate the true cost of Christmas but ensure our stick to your plans for spending.

LEO

July 23 - August 22 Keeping things bright and



breezy when you're not up to par yourself is tough but your needed so much by those closest to you even if they don't admit it. Buying Christmas gifts for people in a rush is going to end up much more expensive and we can't have that going into the new year.

LIBRA Sept 23 - Oct 22

ST.

Don't tear your hair out over anyone who will always be a puzzle. The party scene is heaven sent for cementing a budding relationship or meeting someone special who will bring you to life. Knowing your own

mind is one thing speaking it is another especially on a subject someone wants to avoid.

SAGITTARIUS



Aim for what you really want instead of settling for second best. A new attraction is picking up pace that you're not totally comfortable with. You will not be alone at Christmas time there will be love from the stars that brings you lots of comfort. Make more decisions based on your desires.

AQUARIUS Jan 20 - Feb 18



The time is right for planning secrets and surprises for Christmas or New Year. Keeping things under wraps is tricky but the delight of others will be better that imagined. A fire sign has a major role to play with talents that complement your own, you see cockiness in the beginning but the partnership can be a good one.

VIRGO

August 23 - Sept 22 There seems to be some



guessing games going on right now, don't be so surprised when nothing makes sense. Trying to work out how someone feels is all part of the love game enjoy the unexpected stop trying so hard to get it right. Money news is looking good short term so make sure you are sensible.

SCORPIO

Oct 23 - Nov 21 What's with the long face?



You need to get the glad rags on and have some fun, everyone else is as you may start to notice. Someone you meet and instantly like will be a big part of your future. Chance changes can lead to life saving plans, attending an event you're not looking forward to will make you very happy

CAPRICORN Dec 22 - Jan 19



Take up a challenge, the

bigger the better. You know that no one else could possibly work harder to achieve it. There has been a lack of confidence lately so you need to achieve something you didn't think you would or could do to help get that flowing again.

PISCES

Feb 19 - March 20 Charity starts at home,



whether your accepting it or giving it you realise this month the value of family you do have. Christmas is a happy time so enjoy it give all of your important thoughts their time and place but don't get caught up in things you cannot change. Find ways of releasing pressure.

what's the t? with misty falls

Hey Gurl Hey, it's Misty Falls here, back with another 'What's The T?' This month we are celebrating all things Christmas at @MyGayZine and in this month's article I will be discussing what are the best gift ideas for Drag Queens and also what the holiday season means to me.

Christmas is infamously known as the time for giving and receiving. If and when you are choosing a gift for a Drag Queen friend, remember to go with something that is personal to them. The easiest things to buy for Queens are the likes of shoes, dresses and wigs but on a deeper level you have to think how the Queen is unique and get her something that matches her characters persona and style.

For people that know me, anything that is blue, has sequins on it or is in leopard print will catch my eye instantly and when it comes to wigs, I'm happy with anything dark or curly. It's always nice when you see someone has taken the time to consider what I like when they were chosing a gift.

Last Christmas was the first time I did the whole Drag gift swap thing with my drag sister Alexia. Shortly before Christmas I spotted two matching sequin dresses in blue and pink and bought them for Alexia and I. We didn't see each other over the festive period as we spent it with our non-drag families but I was able to give her the gift beforehand. On meeting up after Christmas break she informed me she had a surprise for me and produced two matching pairs of shoes to go alonside our dresses. We went on to use them in a duet performance a few months later. It was great that we both knew each other well enough to know exactly what to get and its times like these you realise how brilliant it is to have a drag sister there that gets you. On that note, the reason I love the holiday period so much is because of the excitement in the air and getting to see family and friends that you haven't seen in quite some time. It is a great time as within my groups of friends, both drag and non-drag, we know that once this season comes about we are most definitely going to see each other no matter what. There is nothing nicer than when Christmas day comes around and I travel to both of my grandparents houses to meet up with all of my extended family, have a proper catch up and see how everyone is doing. It's great to know that in this day and age when everything is so hectic, we can all still set aside the day just to be with each other.

Also Christmas is a great time for going out with the girls and we have already planned our Christmas night out together. As it will be the one time when we will be together as sisters and be able to celebrate what we have achieved in the last year of doing Drag. So we are all heading down to 'Tina's Drag Factor' final in Union St. Bar on Wednesday 19th December as not only is it always a great night out but we will also will see the talent that the Belfast Drag scene has to offer. So whatever you are doing over the festive season, have fun, celebrate and be safe. Wishing all the reader and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Fabulous New Year. See you all in 2013.

Love Misty Xx

MR GAY NI 2011/12 DANIEL HEGARTY

Hi my name is Daniel Hegarty and I hold the title of Mr Gay Northern Ireland 2011/2012, it's been a year gone past now and my reign is over, and in this year I have learnt and experienced so much.

My journey started in my local city Derry, in which my friends urged me to enter our local heat in which I was terrified to take part, with some support I gained the courage and took the chance, I've always tried to portray myself as confident but it doesn't happen naturally for me as it may for others. In pushing myself out of my comfort zone I found myself in a place I surprisingly fitted right into and it opened a whole new chapter of my life. After claiming the title Mr Gay Derry I then progressed not long after to the MGI competition, in which I was walking into blindly, my assumptions where I'd be surrounded by men with the bodies of gods and the intellect of a can opener, I assumed the worst and started doubting myself. The MGI comp was held in Dublin in the Arlington hotel and as a delegate, my visit there consisted of one of the most memorable times

of my life. I learned that it's so much more than a beauty pageant, and was in fact a fantastically structured organization which promotes self esteem in young gay men and to support HIV/Aids.

> Prior to the event each delegate participated in a fundraiser they had organised themselves and all monies went directly to "The New Fill Project" run by The Guide Clinic at St James's Hospital, and we also had the privilege to meet a few of the amazing people who worked there and were able to discuss the advantages of the treatment for patients and how it made a

huge positive impact on their lives. We also created a calendar featuring the delegates which were sold and all proceeds went to "The New Fill Project", as did the earnings from the entrance fee to the event itself.

The people I met in my time during MGI are people I'm a glad today to be able to call my friends, I can see clearly why they were all winners, they were so beautiful inside and out, we became a family in such a short period of time, and I am privileged to have been given to opportunity to meet them. We were all equally nervous throughout yet we supported each other and gave each other the encouragement to give it our best and show our personalities to the best of our abilities. From my personal point of view, it has made me a stronger more confident person it helped me come out of my shell and finally have the confidence I've always desired I don't have to pretend anymore, although hand me a mic and put me on centre stage I do tend to still go very red. The overall experience was an eye opener into the world around me and also to myself it is something I am truly grateful to have been part of and it will be something I shall never forget.

I would strongly recommend to those interested to take that step forward and participate in your local Mr Gay Heat who knows maybe you could be standing in my position I'm in today, you help an amazing cause, you will meet some amazing people, you will discover more in yourself you maybe never realised and most of all you will have the time of your life and memories to cherish forever.

JEZA BELLE

The bell rang this afternoon and the Postman delivered my first holiday gift of the season. A custom designed fabu Dolly Parton style New Year's Eve party outfit, created by my favorite drag designer, Kiko Amore. As I held the dress up catching the silver sequins in the light, I heard tunes of carols and cheer in my head. With a year of varied memories to chew on, I remained stuck on one daft thought; WTF is an Auld Lange Syne anyway?!

No offense to my Scottish mates, but old acquaintances forgot or not, I'm glad each year is called new. Every December I am thankful for the experiences I've been afforded in the months prior, but ultimately I am forever longing for that fresh start. January; you know the time when all drag queens pledge to lose the figgy-pudding that has replaced our padding with real curves. More importantly though, it's

a reminder that my dreams are still within in grasp and that possibilities are limitless in the New Year. Don't get me wrong, I relish every one of those twelve days of Christmas. Boxes wrapped in bows, trees lined with garland and the spirit of giving that many of us put away like our ornaments until late November. However, the true meaning of the season is one of hope and change that only a release of the past allows. I have a little rite of passage I perform every December 31st. Right before midnight as the ball drops, I remind myself how quickly life passes. I thank God for the moments I've been blessed with and run down a list of my greatest wishes for the New Year. Then, I get drunk off my behind and black out so that I can no longer remember one of those damn things on the list. Thus, I'm a queen free of resolution and limits who can push forward towards being her fiercest self. My dear friends of Northern Ireland; 'Drink a cup of kindness yet' for me this holiday, and may all of your New Year dreams come true.

Jeza ;)

Congratulations Conor O'Kane Mr Gay NI 2012/13

We catch up with the busy new Mr. Gay Northern Ireland Conor O'Kane. Conor who entered his local heat in Northern Irelands only gay bar outside a city Central Bar, Stranbane. we ask him of his plans and reasons for doing Mr. Gay

Congratulations on winning Mr. Gay Northern Ireland it must have been a very proud moment for you. What made you enter your local heat?

I wanted to enter just for the whole experience because I heard it was a life hanging and eye opening experience. I also wanted to see how the whole Mr. Gay Ireland worked and try and show set some kind of example to the local community.

It must take so much courage to even think about entering. Have you always thought that one day you would become a Mr. Gay winner? Never in a million years if you asked me six months ago would I have thought I would be Mr. Gay Tyrone never mind Mr. Gay Northern Ireland. It's so strange because it's always won by someone but I never thought It would be me!

Friends and family are paramount to anyone's life and success. How have your friends and family reacted to your amazing news?

The response from everyone has been absolutely fantastic and outstanding. My friends and family have been amazing the whole way through especially all the girls and clients in my work (Body & Mind) and the guys in Central Bar. But the craziest thing has to be the friends of friends and random people congratulating me! Like it's a completely new experience for me and everyone's been fantastic. Including Robbie and all the guys in the Mr. Gay Ireland competition they made it a once in a lifetime experience.

Probably one of the most important roles for any Mr. Gay is the charity work attached to the position. What did you decide to do

for fundraising for the Mr. Gay Ireland competition?

Well the majority of our fundraising for the competition was done before the competition. I ended up doing a sponsored waxing night. Safe to say that it got a tad out of hand and it went from legs to back sack and cracks. Thankfully I had the sense to limit it to legs and chest. So far this year me and the other guys have raised €19,000 for the new fill project in Dublin, but I'm in the process of organising a skydive because the project needs all the fundraising it can get. Hopefully the Mr. gay guys will take part because it would be a great laugh!

Have you been involved in any other charity work so far?

So far this year I've been involved in quite a bit of charity work we had the pink ladies which was in the memory of a local woman who sadly lost a battle with breast cancer, and also in the Oscar Knox appeal for little Oscar and his treatment. But hopefully I can get in contact with some charities closer to the LGBT community now before 2013 :) We heard from Daniel the outgoing Mr. Gay NI who had such a fantastic time in Rome at the Mr. Gay Europe Competition. Have you had any insights into the experience from him?

Yea I was talking to Daniel the night of the final. He gave me a great insight into what the next year consists of. Daniels a great lad and I really can't wait to get talking to him more in depth about Europe and what it entails. And I also can't wait to get a night out with him! So that should be fun.

I am sure your beating them off at the minute. But is our new Mr. Gay NI single?

Yeah I'm single! My job and now the commitments from the competition take up a lot of my time. But if you see me about say hi.

Who would be your ideal B/F?

Well I love a bit of stubble or facial hair! So November was a great month for me! So it would have to be Olly Murs, he seems like a sound fella, and of course he's also beautiful, but the real thing is he has charm and he seems to be individual! Failing that Robert Pattinson always make me melt ha-ha. Just in case some of our readers are feeling lucky and would like to buy you a drink, what is our poison of choice?

Well poison being the right word! It would be either vodka and red bull or a well kept secret between the central bar staff that is Bacardi Razz with white lemonade and black current :) it's the drink of kings!

What do you hope to achieve as Mr. Gay NI 2012/13

Well as Mr. Gay NI this year I hope to increase the LGBT awareness in the north. especially for guys like myself from rural areas who don't have the same support as the cities offer. I also want to dive head first into charity events and fundraising this year! Plus I'm hoping to represent Northern Ireland the best I can in Prague in July for Mr. Gay Europe and of course I really want to enjoy it all. Again a big thanks to all the staff and clients in Body & Mind and Central Bar, Strabane for the support and fundraising support, and to MoHawk for the catwalk tips! Oh and thanks to modern man Strabane for sponsoring me my beautiful suit.



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