

PETER FAHY
ON HIS NEW BOOK

NEVER GIVE UP

New Ireland video campaign

MISTY FALLS

CHATS TO US ABOUT THE BELFAST FLASH MOB AS WELL AS ISSUE 4's WHAT'S THE T?

WORLDWIDE PRIDE CALENDAR AND LOTS MORE!

ISSUE 4: JANUARY 2013



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!

Brand New Year. Same Great Magazine.

Thankfully we've all survived the threat of yet another apocalypse at the end of 2012 and we're back with a brand new edition of MyGayZine Northern Ireland to kick off 2013. Our 2012 launch was a huge success and we had a great reception from the LGBT community and supporters. Subscriber numbers are continuing to grow into 2013 and we're looking forward to bringing you even MORE CONTENT. MORE EXCLUSIVES AND MORE SURPRISES in the new year. Once again, thank you to everyone for your support and may 2013 bring you everything you've asked for and more.

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MYGAYZINE NEWS

LGBT Flash Mob Plans to Descend on Belfast this Easter Monday

This Easter Monday, 1st April 2013 at 2pm will see Belfast City Centre get more than just an extra few bank holiday shoppers if all goes according to plan.

WILL SHAW

Picture this: **Shopping and** going about your business on your average Monday afternoon in Victoria Square, shopping at Top Shop or Top Man, searching for that one thing in River Island that's gorgeous and the other half of Belfast isn't wearing and admiring the smell of McDonalds upstairs and wondering why you still always use the one at the corner of High Street. Or maybe that's just me.

Suddenly La de da becomes do re mi as some eiit has unexpectadly burst into song over your shoulder. Do you A) head towards your nearest Emergency Exit or B) Watch this lunatic who has just dropped his shopping. embarrassing himself in front of an ever growing crowd of onlookers? No matter how much we like to admit it we all tend to become stuck in the mud with our eves transfixed to the spontaneous queerness.

It's alright you'd think for a moment or two as the Security guard, baton intact, approaches from the rear, "that big fella will soon sort this shit out" you'd probably mutter while pretending you've stopped to look for a receipt in your shopping bag.

Add a sprinkle of "WTF" and that far from Olympic sprinter Security man has ditched his hat and baton for a verse of Freddy Mercuries "I want to break free". This is just one of the many ways a flash mob captures the attention of an unsuspecting public audience. For the duration of the ensuing performance people are captivated as they watch a singular, tiny outburst from one man snow balling and cascading into an exciting, synchronised unity of people with a message that's now iust that little bit more interesting and meaningful seeing it conveyed with such passion and energy.

Flash mobs in the past have come in many forms. Some have opted for the entertainment factor and draw people attention for several minutes with song and dance and then the crowds quickly disperse afterwards leaving onlookers in shock and wondering what the hell they just witnessed. However these events are not just limited to

your typical singing and dancing based performances, hell no. Past performances have explored instruments, acting, gymnastics, fashion, stand stills, Mexican waves and there is even a flash mob wedding proposal.

A flash mob is a group of people who assemble suddenly in a public place, perform an unusual and seemingly pointless act for a brief time, then quickly disperse, often for the purposes of entertainment. satire, and artistic expression. The term, coined in 2003, is generally not applied to events and performances organized for the purposes of politics, commercial advertising or publicity stunts involving public relation firms or paid professionals - in these cases the term "smart mob" is used.

The first flash mobs were created in Manhattan in 2003. by Bill Wasik, senior editor of Harper's Magazine. The first attempt was unsuccessful after the targeted retail store was tipped off about the plan for people to gather. Wasik avoided such problems during the first successful flash mob. which occurred on June 3, 2003 at Macy's department store, by sending participants to preliminary staging areas-in four Manhattan bars where they received further instructions about the ultimate event and location just before the event began.

Wasik claimed that he created flash mobs as a social experiment designed to poke fun at hipsters and to highlight the cultural atmosphere of conformity and of wanting to be an insider or part of "the next big thing".



Going (58)

Maybe (25)

Invited (396)

However shortly afterwards The Vancouver Sun wrote, "It may have backfired on him ... [Wasik] may instead have ended

up giving conformity a vehicle that allowed it to appear nonconforming." In another interview he said "the mobs started as a kind of playful social

experiment meant

to encourage

spontaneity and

big gatherings to

temporarily take

over commercial and public areas simply to show that they could".

Precise details of

our mob are well under wraps for the moment but time goes pretty fast and it'll be April in no time at all so expect some announcements in the following few weeks with regards to song choices, routines, locations, costumes, choreography and

most importantly the charities we will be supporting through the event.

The purpose of the Belfast Victoria Square Flash mob is to make a statement to the rest of the country that LGBT people here have a voice. Let this be our response to the politicians and organisations who wish to keep LGBT people from achieving equal rights. Rather than embroil ourselves in public disputes or tit for tat word wars over the internet we can chose to make a meaningful and powerful statement of unity and pride in one single event.

Belfast flash mob has already had an overwhelming response from the LGBT Community and we are hoping that this is just the beginning. We would like to call upon everyone from all sectors of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans gender community and its supporters to get involved on April

This is an opportunity to

- -Raise money and awareness for several relevant charities.
- -Have a laugh participating in what could be a once in a lifetime opportunity.
- -Keep those New Year's resolutions in line by keeping fit and learning the routine
- -Convey a powerful message to all those present in NI's largest shopping centre and beyond.
- -Stand up for your rights and show your intolerance of hatred.

"Participant numbers are rising daily"



Check out the

The LGBT community here in Northern Ireland is stronger than ever but there are still many challenges ahead of us on the road to equality. Whether you want to be able to donate blood, marry like any other person or to have basic recognition in hate crime legislation the time to act is now. It would be a bit silly to sit idly by and watch our liberties be locked away and force future generations to experience the same casual homophobia prevalent today.

Come together and gather at Victoria Square on Monday 1st April for a performance not to be missed. Look for our event page on Facebook if you'd like to enlist. As of writing this article we have around 80 people confirmed to be in attendance and we don't plan to stop there. The dance routine will decrease in difficulty as the performance progresses so this really is open to everyone who wants to do their bit for LGBT relevant charities and get 2013 off to a colourful start.

CONTACT US:

belfastflashmob@yahoo.co.uk
We hope to hear from you soon. Thanks.

MYGAYZINE NEWS

"I invite you all to make a short video that could literally change someones life, perhaps even save it!" - Dave Thomas



"Media guru Dave Thomas (pictured left) has worked in the media for 26 years, winning awards for his innovative work. From Radio, Television, Film and Print Media, he was also responsible for co-founding the first ever Arts and Disability Centre in Ireland called APIC-The National Arts & Disability Centre of Ireland. With his Partner Patrick Bracken, they were the first gay male couple to become Foster Carers in the Republic of Ireland. They were

also the first same-sex couple to have Civil Partnership in the town of Arklow, where they reside. Dave and Patrick also established the first ever LGBT group in their town called the 'Arklow LGBT Social Drop-In Group'. Dave runs his media company Dt Media Ireland from Arklow and founded the innovative 'Never Give Up Project. It will be officially launched in 2013".

From time to time, we all need a little encouragement.
When life's problems seem to hit you like a tonne of bricks, one can feel very alone with a feeling of being a victim of life. A supportive voice, a helping hand, can be the light that shows the way out from the darkness of depression.

Being gay can bring a whole set of problems when growing up. The feeling of loneliness and depression is not exclusive to gay people, but it does visit us too. Perhaps you, the reader of this, are nodding your head as you relate to this. Too often the results of the above is the tragic loss of a young life when it all becomes too much to cope. I am very aware of gay men and women that are being bullied in their neighbourhood, and even at their place of work. Snide remarks, namecalling, blatant discrimination and verbal with physical abuse often happen.

Never Citye Up

A campaign to inspire LCET people that are builted or feel depressed

Help Inspire. Shine a Light. Give hope.

Upload your video, your story, today! Please check out our details below.

www.youtube.com/user/Nevergiveuplreland E-mail: nevergiveup@dtmediaireland.com

MYGAYZINE NEWS

Young gay people in school often find it the most difficult. The majority of schools do not provide support or adequate education on LGBT issues. I know of one young person that came out, and was rejected by his own family! Sadly he took his own life.

The Never Give Up project has the clear objective to help change that.

So how do we achieve that change?

As a gay man, I have a story to tell. It's honest, open, and tells of some difficult times of growing up gay, but it emphasises that I did not give up when times were difficult. I kept going, and now life is good for me. I have a wonderful partner that I married in May 2012, through Civil Partnership, have a lovely little puppy called Bella, and live in a small town called Arklow in County Wicklow.



My Husband Patrick and I are loved and accepted by our family and friends for the people we are. What's important is that we live as a normal couple, doing normal things in life, and are not hiding in the shadows where some people would love us to be.

I looked at my skills from working in the media, and came up with an idea on how I can best use these skills to help others. I saw the American 'It Gets better' project, and was inspired to recreate a version of that for everyone in Ireland. I called it the Never Give Up project. This new social media project can be very affective.



Media Guru Dave Thomas is spearheading the new "Never Give Up" Project thats launching this year across Ireland. Inspired by the success of the "It Gets Better" Campaign in the US, he hopes this project will experience similar success.

So using my mobile phone and web cam, I made a video that is now available to watch on the new 'Never Give Up' channel on YouTube.

I am inviting every gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans person on the Island of Ireland to do the same. By recording your personal story and sharing it with everyone, it may inspire others to continue on with their life while they are going through a difficult time.

Our personal stories should give someone hope, by telling them that

- they are not alone
- that they are not the only ones that have gone through difficult times –
- and that by never giving up on life, they too could have a great future.

The Never Give Up project will be officially launched in 2013. The videos will go live at that stage, and from there we will encourage more people to participate.

I invite you all the make a short video that could literally change some ones life, perhaps even save it!

We will be following this story over the next few months and featuring some of the Never Give Up videos on the video wall on our homepage so be sure to check back for updates.

Details can be found at: www.dtmediaireland.com

E-mail: nevergiveup@ dtmediaireland.com

Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/Nevergiveupireland

NEVER GIVE UP IS A SOCIAL MEDIA AND YOUTUBE CAMPAIGN CREATED TO INSPIRE AND HELP LOBT PEOPLE WHO ARE BULLIED OR FEEL DEPRESSED. SHARE YOUR STORY ONLINE.

MYGAYZINE NEWS IN BRIEF...

Alliance Man quits party to join DUP over support for gay marriage.



The now former Alliance Councillor Adam Harbinson has recently quit his party in favour of the more hard-line DUP over his former party's decision to call for "Equal Civil Marriage" in Northern Ireland. Mr Harbinson then claimed that his former party are "increasingly out of touch with the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland". Alliance has criticised Mr Harbinson for retaining his assembly seat

after resigning from the Party. Leader of the DUP Peter Robinson was quoted saying he was "delighted" Mr Harbinson has joined his Party.



Rainbow Project -Running Through Our Minds

The Rainbow Project want to hear from LGB&T people from throughout Northern Ireland about their mental health experiences and needs. Completing the survey

will help the Rainbow Project campaign for and support the development of services which meet the needs of LGB&T people in Northern Ireland. To complete the survey go to www.rainbow-project.org/survey

Mobile phone advert deemed transphobic by media watchdog



The Advertising Standards Authority for Ireland (ASAI) has upheld complaints against Irish mobile phone company Meteor over what the deemed as a transphobic advert. The short promotion shows a young man dancing with a Drag Queen so he could use the bar's free Wi-Fi. When he realises that Meteor offers a free internet package, the man abruptly stops dancing and leaves the bar. The advert has been said

to promote "encouraging a cheap laugh at the expense of trans people" by TENI, the Transgender Equality Network in Ireland. TENI Director Broden Giambrone said "This ruling is a victory for the transgender community," and "We are thrilled that the ASAI has upheld the complaints. We hope this sends a clear message to advertisers that trans people must be treated with the same dignity and respect that all communities should be afforded."

PRIDE ANNOUNCEMENT

Belfast Pride 2013

BRIGHT AND BOLD

Belfast Pride has announced the details of 2013's Belfast Pride Festival, and it seems we will not have to wait quite so long on it coming around this year. There are several reasons for the change in date but it appears Belfast has alot going on this year and the World Police and Fire Games are due to be staged between the old dates. For these reasons Belfast Pride has moved the date of the festival to a full month before.

This year the Festivities will begin on Friday 28th June 2013 culminating in the flagship event and parade through Belfast on Saturday 6th July 2013. So you might just have to have a wee look at your annual leave dates and rearrange.

Belfast Pride has also announced that this year's Pride parade will be themed simply Bright and Bold. Organisers believe that this is such a wide ranged theme and everyone attending will be able to easily participate and get involved in the pride experience.

Don't forget that if you have any ideas about the Pride festival or would like to volunteer to help out, get in touch with Belfast Pride through their Facebook Page.

You can donate to Belfast Pride through this link

https://mydonate.bt.com/events/belfastpride2013

Let's make 2013 Belfast Pride the best and brightest Pride the city has ever seen and promise to keep your fingers and toes crossed til then for sunshine.

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

SHOWBIZ NEWS

BY CHRIS MCMURRAY

CLARE BALDING WINS AWARD FOR HER ACHIEVEMENTS IN TV PRESENTING

Clare Balding has been honoured for her TV presenting achievements during the 2012 Olympics at the Women in Film and Television awards. After accepting the 'Achievement of the Year' award, Balding said: "I take the award on behalf of all of the women in sports television. I think it's important for young girls who are, I hope, watching us and thinking 'that's a job I want to do' to know that warmth, humour, intelligence, doing your homework: that's what matters.



I'm not getting this award because of what I look like, or my dress sense we all know that."

In August shortly after the Olympics Balding talked about how she would like to see more openly gay women on TV. Speaking to The Times, she said: "There's a lack of visibility. I remember an article that said. 'Lesbians are like baby pigeons: you never see them,' and then naming a couple - me and Sue Perkins

"Television and newspapers need more visible women, full stop. That's why the Olympics have been so great, because you realise that women come in all shapes and sizes, short and tall, old and young. And yes, some of them are lesbians."

She added: "I get really upset if being gay - and the fear around it - stops

people being who they could be." Other winners of the WFTV evening included Lynne Ramsay, who took the WFTV directing award for her acclaimed film 'We Need to Talk About Kevin'; and writer/director Sally El Hosaini, who won the new talent award for 'Mv Brother the Devil'.

The acclaimed actress Olivia Colman, known for her roles in 'Rev, 'Tyrannosaur', 'The Iron Lady' and 'Twenty Twelve', received the best performance award. The writing award was presented to Heidi Thomas, the screenwriter of 'Cranford', 'Upstairs Downstairs' and 'Call the Midwife'.

The lifetime achievement award went to drama producer Ruth Caleb, whose work includes 'Pat and Margaret', 'Last Resort' and 'Bullet Boy'.

CHRIS COLFER FEELS "PIGEONHOLED" BECAUSE HE IS OPENLY GAY



Glee's Kurt, AKA Chris Colfer, has addressed being openly gay as an actor and said that he feels that sometimes people "made a big deal" out of his sexuality. At a recent Q and A session, the actor said he felt "pigeonholed", and people have attempted to "typecast" him because he is gay. "I've never made it a big deal, it's everyone else that's always made it a big deal. I don't think I've ever tried to be something that I'm not. I think people do that for you". "People try to pigeonhole you.

People tried typecasting me before they even saw me in anything else. I never understood that". Mr Colfer's first book, The Land of Stories, a children's book, going straight for the top of the New York Times best seller list.

KE\$HA - "I'M BISEXUAL"

Singer/songwriter Ke\$ha has spoken out about being attracted to both men and women as well as bullying in Seventeen's February issue. Ke\$ha, 25, said "I don't love just men. I love people. It's not about a gender. It's just about the spirit that exudes from that other person you're with." The US star also said, "I'm all about standing up to gay/lesbian/transgender bullying." Her "zero tolerance for people making fun of others" helped name her latest album - 'Warrior' - She added, "that's one of the reasons I named my record Warrior.



JANE LYNCH - I'M GAY BUT SOMETIMES CAN'T RESIST THE 'CHARM' OF MEN LIKE RUSSELL BRAND.



Jane Lynch the famous Glee coach has said although she identifies herself to be gay, sometimes she just can't resist the "male charm" saying also she had a 'crush' on comedian Russell Brand who she once kissed full on the lips when the two met on the Jay Leno Show. Jane has been married for two years to Lara, who she met whilst filming the first series of Glee.

REPORT CALLS FOR BETTER REPRESENTATION OF LESBIANS AND BISEXUAL PEOPLE ON TV



The BBC needs to do a lot better in its depiction of LGB people, particularly lesbians and bisexuals, according to a new report.

'Lip Service', the BBC3 drama about the lives of a group of young lesbians in Glasgow, was highlighted as problematic and even described as "laughable" for its depiction of gay women. The two year review (commissioned by the BBC itself) concluded that TV programming is still sidelining and stereotyping LGB people across all channels "especially lesbian women and bisexual people." The report called for more LGB people on children's shows and sport in particular, and demanded that **BBC News should** cover LGB issues in a more "nuanced" wav.

The investigation into the media portrayal of LGB audiences consisted of interviews with LGB organisations and a panel of 3,500 people.

The BBC's acting director general Tim Davie, chairman of the BBC working group which commissioned the review, said: "The BBC has a fundamental obligation to serve all its audiences. In fact. it's one of the BBC's public purposes to reflect the diversity of UK life. "I'm proud to have led this work for three years, and this review underlines our commitment and sets a direction for the work to continue." Shows praised by the research their portraval of LGB people include Doctor Who. Downtown Abbey and Holby City.



"Doctor Who quite often has a gay character in it but it isn't always an issue or the plotline," said anti-hate crime charity Galop. "It's just incidental, which has been quite nice."

As for why lesbian drama Lip Service received such harsh criticism - the actors trade union Equity noted that although the show is written by a lesbian/bisexual woman which is a positive step, the episodes "were directed by men and the majority of the lesbian characters were played by heterosexual actors and this clearly impacts on the quality and integrity of the representation. Some of it was laughable."

However, highprofile out and proud presenters such as Clare Balding, who recently won an award for her achievements in presenting the Olympics, and comedian/presenter Sue Perkins, were among the names receiving praise for the BBC in the review.

But coverage of LGB issues on TV news programs, including the BBC, was criticised for giving "too much time to homophobic viewpoints" as part of an effort to make discussion of issues "unnecessarily and deliberately confrontational".

The report said: "The LGB expert participants feel that the BBC should be more creative and bolder in how it represents LGB people across the range of genres and platforms."

While all broadcasters had responsibility to reflect the diversity of their audiences, the report singled out the BBC as having an "extra obligation" because of its role as a flagship broadcaster and global name.

The BBC is also tasked with reconsidering the way it constructed news and current affairs debates. The report said it should be "more creative and nuanced" with its presentation rather than setting up a debate with "two extreme perspectives."

Meanwhile, drama makers are being called on to be "bolder", and comedy programme makers were warned that the "biggest risk [is] the portrayal of LGB people being the focus of the joke. If the author or source of the humour is LGB, this is felt to be more authentic or appropriate and so there is more acceptance."

BY CHRIS McMurray

ENTERTAINMENT

PETER F FAHY GIVES US AN INSIGHT INTO HIS
WRITING AND TELLS US MORE ABOUT HIS NEW BOOK "THE SURFACE OF THE DEEP"

On the verge of the release of his new book "The Surface of the Deep – An Exploration of Homosexuality and Civilisation" - we caught up with our incredibly talented feature writer - Mr Peter F Fahy to get an insight into some of his writing routines, inspirations and interests. Peter has been with MyGayZine from the beginning and has already treated our readers to some fascinating and fun articles exploring everything from gay comic book superheroes and serial killers to the life of King James I. Alongside writing for us hes also just been awarded 3rd place in the 6th All Ireland Performance Poetry Slam Championship in Cork and we wanted to find out more.

INTERVIEW

When did you first discover you had an interest and talent for writing?

Probably when I was about 8 - I wrote a short story about a group of evil monks raising the antichrist in the Himalayan mountains. The teachers twigged on early that I was a bit...disturbed. It wasn't until university that I really had the opportunity to

write at length on subjects that I enjoyed (literature, religion and history) and it became an addiction after that.

Where do you draw the inspiration for your writing?

This is going to sound a little strange, but there's an animated character called Naruto Uzumaki from a popular anime series called Naruto. Naruto won't stop until he's the best that he can be, and he dedicates himself to getting

stronger and stronger. I idolize Naruto, and it's his commitment to self-improvement that makes me want to keep writing.

Do you have any rituals or routines you like to do before sitting down to write?

Plot everything in the pub. If I can get my preparations done in a noisy bar then I'll be good to go when I write the real thing. I have to have

THE SURFACE OF THE DEEP

An Exploration of Homosexuality and Civilisation



P. FRANCIS FAHY

WE CHAT EXCITING WRITING WITH PETER FAHY

music playing when I'm writing - sometimes psy-trance, sometimes a soundtrack, but I need music to get me in a steady writing rhythm.

We've read your collection of short horror stories "The Unspeakable" and you've already written a very dark article on homosexual serial killers, is this your favourite subject to write about?

Yeah I'm a gore whore. Horror has always been my favourite form of fiction, probably because you can break the rules of reality. I recently had a horror story published in a literary magazine called A New Ulster. Muck is an of academic essays that example of Ulster Gothic - distressed heroines. desolate locations, a foreboding sense of supernatural dread and all that jazz.

Where did the name come from for your

new book - "The Surface of the Deep"?

It's a line from the book of Genesis - 'the earth was formless and void. and darkness was over the surface of the deep.' I wanted the title of the book to have a religious connotation because I don't think homosexuals should be excluded from spiritual circles. Also. the book isn't that long. so I'm really really just skimming the surface of a subject that has an incredible depth i.e. homosexuality and civilisation.

Can you tell us a bit more about what it's all about?

The book is a collection explores the relationship between homosexuality and civilisation. It examines homophobic references in the Bible. the history of gays in the military, homosexuality in the animal kingdom and a variety of other topics

that prove homosexuals are a vital part in the ongoing story of human history.

What was the hardest part of writing your new book?

I was trying to balance academic writing with a personal, prosaic style. This isn't really encouraged in academic writing as you're meant to have an impersonal tone and form arguments in a certain way. Basically I threw these conventions out the window, but still tried to make the essays academic. But if you're writing in a personal, journalistic style then you run the risk of losing your credibility. So the hardest part was trying to make the essays both factual and entertaining, which I hope I accomplished.

I struggle to keep focused on a several thousand word essay and couldn't

also working with a

very talented musician

to create a music and

poetry crossover. He'll

be playing the violin

while I'm reading and

rhyming. I've started

working on my third book - 'The Devil You

Know', a new collection

of horror stories, and

the LGBT community

entertained with articles

in MyGayZine, so it's all

I still hope to keep

imagine the amount of dedication it takes to completing an entire book. Where do you find your motivation?

Naruto never gives up so neither do I. As well as that, I had a good bit of time to get the book in order, over a year working on it essay by essay.

Congratulations on winning 3rd place at this year's All Ireland Performance Poetry Slam Championship (videos available on YouTube). How did you get interested in this?

Funny enough, I sort of fell into Performance Poetry. I went to the Crescent to watch people perform, thought it was great craic and decided to give it a go. I can be a bit theatrical when I want to be and I love rhyming, so I combined the two of them together and you've got your performance. Performance Poetry is a great platform for entertaining people, and working with rhythms

and rhymes is another way to practice writing.

Are you involved in any notable dates or events in the near future on the Performance Poetry Circuit?

I'm still performing at the Crescent every month and I'm trying to get a spot in the Belfast Book Festival. I was recently performing down in Wilde Bar in Dublin so I'd like to go down there again and hit some other venues around Ireland.

any other projects?

What

can we

expect

to see

from

vou

Wilde Bar in Dublin so
I'd like to go down there
again and hit some other
venues around Ireland.

Check out
Peter's article on
Homosexuality and
Christianity in the
features section

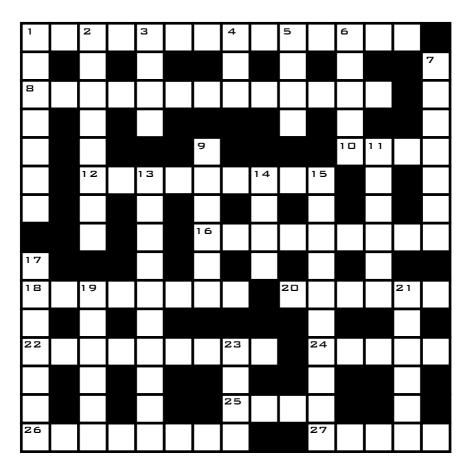
in the future?

I'm collaborating with a few people on a number of projects. I'll be illustrating a popular female poet's poetry and we plan to showcase that work in a local gallery. I'm

Pictured Left - Peter F Fahy

QUICK NEW YEAR CROSSWORD

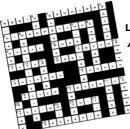
 Have a go at our brand new monthly crossword puzzle. It's great fun and just a little trickier than the one last month. A nice way to warm up the brain. Let us know how you get on through our website www.mygayzine.co.uk. We'll publish the answers online through our facebook page which can be found at www.facebook.com/mygay.zine.



Crossword Clues

Across

- 1) Winner of The Voice UK 2012 (6, 8)
- 8) Boston can be found in this American state (13)
- 10) Facial Hair (4)
- 12) The Peso is the unit of currency here (9)
- 16) In a way not sanctioned by custom or law (9)
- 18) Relinquish sovereign power (8)
- 20) Twin-engine attack helicopter (6)
- 22) Articles of commerce
 (9)
- 24) Unfathomable chasm
 (5)
- 25) National gemstone of Australia, who also provide 97% of the world's supply
 (4)
- 26) having a single meaning (absence of ambiguity) (8)
- 27) Abode of mortals (6)



LAST MONTH'S
ANSWERS CAN
BE FOUND
ON OUR
FACEBOOK
PAGE

Down

- 1) Any one of several species of small arctic rodents of the genera Myodes and Cuniculus (7)
- 2) Withdraw; separate(8)
- 3) Lower than average tide occurring at the first and third quarters of the moon (4)
- 4) Hospital ward (4)
- 5) Musical notation (4)
- 6) Praise, glorify, or honour
 (5)
- 7) Small herring-like plankton-feeding fishes abundant in tropical waters (7)
- 9) Recruit (6)
- 11) Acid found in Vinegar
 (6)
- 13) Secretion of milk (10)
- 14) Not in action (4)
- 15) Adequate for the purpose (5)
- 17) Admiration for yourself
 (7)
- 19) A small oval plum of a blue colour (6)
- 21) Heart, liver, and other edible viscera of an animal
 (6)
- 23) Ancient city in Asia Minor (4)

ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIES, MUSIC AND MORE

Christmas is finally over and it's time to hit the sales and pick up a few hidden gems in music and movies that you may have missed in 2012. Our charts and entertainment stories will ensure your always kept up to date with the entertainment scene. We've sifted through those boring, tedious lists and charts to present you with a selection of the best releases and entertainment purchases available this month.

2012 CHART TOPPERS

Music

Best selling Music Albums of 2012

Emeli Sande 'Our version of events'

> Adele 21

Lana Del Rey 'Born to die'

Ed Sheeran

Coldplay 'Mylo Xyloto'

Movies

Highest Grossing films of 2012

Marvel's The Avengers - \$623,357,910

The Dark Knight Rises - \$448,139,099

The Hunger Games - \$408,010,692

Skyfall - \$293,729,570 The Twilight Saga:

Breaking Dawn Part 2 - \$287,756,286





EDITOR'S CHOICE

The Cathedral Quarter, Belfast "Out to Lunch" Arts Festival is now in it's 8th Year and with an entire month full of comedy, theatre, music and exhibitions there's no excuse not to take a look.





"Out to Lunch" Arts Festival - Belfast

Brighten up your January and get the year off to a great start at this year's "Out to Lunch" Arts Festival. January can be a dull and quiet month as pockets recover from the damage done over Christmas. But now in it's 8th year the "Out to Lunch" Festival has again been pulling in the crowds in venues across Belfast.

The Festival has just started on January 2nd so act fast if you want to be in with a chance of getting tickets for some of the more popular events. The good news is the festival is in Belfast until the 27th January and we've lots more to look forward to. Funnyman Steve Hughes, poet Paul Durcan, singers Jim Jones and Arlo Guthrie are already sold out so get your ass in gear.

"We're hugely excited at the line-up we've put together," said Festival Director Paul Kelly. He promises a festival that will "mark the Cathedral Quarter as Belfast's Capital of Culture for 2013" and the greatest festival of lunchtime arts in the world.

Check below for some of the highlights from the festival, there are a few more and a little more info on them in our Who? Where?

When? What? Guide overleaf.

Tony Law: Maximum Nonsense



The Black Box Thursday January 17. 8.oopm Tickets: £10

Lucy Porter: 'People Person'



The Black Box Sunday 20 January, 8.00pm Tickets: £8.00

Karine Polwart



The Black Box Thursday January 10, 8.00pm Tickets: £10

Daughter



The Black Box Sunday 27 January, 8.oopm Tickets: £8.oo

WHAT'S ON ???

WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?

The MyGayZine guide to What's On and What's Hot.

WHO? OUTTO

The Agony and The Ecstasy of Steve Jobs

WHERE?

The Black Box. Belfast

WHEN?

8th Januaru

WHAT?



Skewiff Theatre Company present The Agony and the Ecstasy Of Steve Jobs by Mike Daisey, said by many to be the best original American play of the year. Daisey tells a fascinating story and if you have an iPhone in your pocket you won't want to hear. This is a passionate and powerful exposé of the appalling working conditions in Apple's Foxconn factory in China.

WHO?

WHERE?

WHEN?

Ed Sheeran

Belfast Odyssey Arena

I Oth January

This amazing self made star is back in Belfast once again to showcase his musical and lyrical talents. For those lucky to have got their hands on a set of tickets that is. There's still the possibility of find some on gumtree if your willing to spend an extra few quid. The singer/songwriter performs in Belfast's Odyssey Arena. Sheeran's past hits include Lego House, Drunk and the massive A-Team.

WHO?

Paloma Faith

WHERE?

Ulster Hall, Belfast

WHEN?

20th January

WHAT?



Paloma is performing in the famous Ulster Hall Belfast and her spectacular voice combined with the world famous acoustics of the fabulous old Hall promises to make a night to remember. Paloma will perform tracks from her new album 'Fall to Grace' with hits including 'Picking up the pieces', '30 minute love affair' and the stunning cover of the INXS hit 'Never lear us aparl'. She has been all over ly lately and now we can listen live.

WHO?

OUT TO

Doris Day - In Song, On Screen

WHERE?

The Black Box, Belfast

WHEN?

WHAT?

27th January

Local singer Brigid O'Neill will be singing the songs of Doris that cross musical genres from jazz-influenced swing to romantic ballads. Brigid will be joined on stage by Rod McVey on keyboards and Rod Patterson on double bass. The live interpretations of Doris's songs will be complemented by clips from some of her most memorable on-screen moments.



WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?

The MyGayZine guide to What's On and What's Hot.

WHO?

Holiday World Show

WHERE?

Kings Hall, Belfast

WHEN?

18-20th Januaru

WHAT?



The Belfast Telegraph
Holiday World and Caravan
& Motor home Show packs
expert advice, special offers,
not-to-be-missed promotions,
entertainment and exclusive
competitions all under the
same roof for a great valuefor-money, family day out.
Wherever in the world you
want to go, whatever your
passions Holiday World has
it all.

WHO?

WHERE?

WHEN?

WHAT?



Sons and Daughters

Ebrington Pavilion, Derry

20th Januaru

This gala evening will feature 'sons and daughters' from stage and screen — local artistes with international reputations who will reflect Derry's cultural, historical and industrial achievements in music, word and song.

Among those already lined up to appear include Phil Coulter, The Undertones, Damian McGinty, Paul Brady, Amanda Burton and Dana.

Will be recorded for television and broadcast live on radio.

WHO?

Diaries of Adam and Eve

WHERE?

Theatre @the Mill, N'abbey

WHEN?

24th January

WHAT?



Relationships: whose idea was that? One of you wants to get things done, the other wants to chill out in the garden. One of you wants a minute's peace, the other wants to talk (and talk and talk). In this witty and modern adaptation of Mark Twain's affectionate satire, Adam and Eve, the world's first couple, confront their many differences to find successful ways of living and loving together.

WHO?

WHERE?

WHEN?

WHAT?



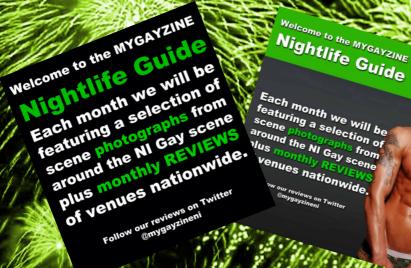
Donny and Marie Live

Belfast Odyssey Arena

30th January

Donny and Marie Osmond bring their amazing live show to Northern Ireland. The legendary brother and sister duo Donny & Marie enjoyed sell-out success of their eponymous shows in Las Vegas at the Flamingo Hotel and Casino, The Osmonds are unique in their success as a band and as solo performers. The tour will take fans on a journey through their back catalogue of unforgettable hits.

Nightlife guide



Drop us an email today at info@mygayzine.co.uk

to have us pay a visit and get featured in our next issue.

Check back each month and see read our reviews of some of Northern Ireland's BEST LGBT Venues.

Your Monthly Nightlife Guide

Pubs
Clubs Restaurants Saunas

New Year's Eve @ Kremin

"New Year's Eve so there's only one place we can go, has to be Kremlin everyone will be there, the complex is fully opened up to mingle amongst all the areas, it's worth the extra taxi fares and the twelve pound door tax... isn't it?"

Kremlin was a really fun and enjoyable night out this New Year's Eve, unexpectadly so considering previous year's usually involved getting wedged against a wall or an unsuspecting dancer. This year however the place was either a little quieter than usual or having the whole complex running at once really helped calm the familiar New Year's crowd.

Door tax seemed much too expensive for it to be a New Year's option for everyone and even more expensive when considering Stooshe and Jason played in London's Heaven Nightclub for the same price.

Fox's Den right up the street pulled in a really good crowd, a slightly quieter option and only 3 pound at the door.

LIFESTYLE

FITNESS

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS??

As the winter season comes to a close and we begin to notice that we maybe had "one too many" selection boxes this Christmas, and the new year's blues kick in when we brave the scales, it is time for a few tips on how to get back on track!

1. HIGH INTENSITY!!

You actually burn a lower percentage of calories from fat when you're training at a higher intensity. However, when trying to lose weight, it's about the total calories USED. And it's a no brainer — over the same amount of time, you burn more with high intensity activities than with low intensity ones.

2. TIMED STRATEGY

Choose timed sets of between 1-2 mins of high intensity exercise instead of counting reps and take shorter rest periods (if any) before starting your next set. This work-to-

rest cycle will boost the production of fat burning hormones, increase your heart rate and use more calories! 3. DO BIG-BODY MOVEMENTS

The more you can involve big body, all-encompassing movements the better. Exercises such as squats, lunges, push-ups and pull-ups are perfect examples for this. These exercises will give your core a good workout – and use up more calories!

NOVICES- it is highly recommended that you try to perfect these exercises without weights first to ensure correct posture and maximum effectiveness. Please seek professional advice if needed.

4. CARDIO ACTIVITIES

Like it or not, cardio is always going to be advised for losing weight. Go for a jog, a brisk walk, a swim or even a cycle. It doesn't take an expert to know that cardio is a great way for losing weight. Speaking of which; how has everyone been getting on with our marathon challenge? Please email us at - fitness@mygayzine. co.uk.

Remember: you don't have to run the WHOLE marathon, maybe some 5km or even half-marathon if you're able! It's a great way to get fit and raise some money for a charity!

TRAINERS ADVICE-

Seek out local circuit and kettlebell classes, they are perfect for fat loss and consist of all the tips mentioned above! This also becomes a great way to make friends and get motivated! My very good from "head2toe" runs a kettlebell and I would personally recommend attending this very beneficial class:

Kettlebells with "Head-2toe"

Every Monday and Thursday

7pm at Ligoneil parish hall

£4 admission

EVERYBODY WELCOME! Contact: 07877253334



LIFESTYLE

COOKING

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPES TO INFO@MYGAYZINE.CO.UK WE PUBLISH THE BEST EACH MONTH.

STEAK AND GUINNESS PIE (Serves 6)

FOOD IDEAS

INGREDIENTS

675g (1 1/2 lb) diced braising steak sea salt and freshly ground pepper 2 heaped teaspoons of plain flour olive oil 1 large onion, peeled and diced 1 large carrot, peeled and diced 4 sticks of celery, diced 1 small handful herbs (rosemary, thyme, bay leaf) 1 (500ml) bottle of Guinness 2 (400g) tins of chopped tomatoes 1 (500g) packet

of puff pastry

1 egg, beaten

METHOD

Prep: 10 mins. Cook: 2 hours 45 mins

- Season your beef with the salt and pepper to taste, sprinkle with flour and toss around until coated.
- 2.Heat some olive oil in a large pot and fry your meat until well browned.
- 3.Add the onion and fry for another minute, then add celery, carrots and herbs. Cook for a further 5 minutes stirring all the time then pour in your Guinness.
- 4.Add the tinned chopped tomatoes; bring to the brink of boiling. Stir well and drop the heat to a medium low heat to simmer for 2 hours or until the meat is tender.
- 5. To make the pies, preheat the oven to 190 degrees/gas mark 5.
- 6.Put the meat filling into a large baking dish or 6 ramekins.
 7.Roll out pastry and place over your baking dish or ramekins,
 making sure it is slightly bigger than the dish/dishes.
- 8.Brush the around the edge of your dish/dishes with beaten egg, then place the pastry on top of the dish, pressing down around the edge to secure. Lightly score the top of the pastry and brush with more egg.
- 9.Place on a baking tray and bake in the middle of the preheated oven for 45 minutes until golden and bubbling.10.Let it cool down for 10 minutes before you dig in.

Make ahead...

This pie freezes well - simply assemble the pie and freeze before baking. Once you're ready to bake, simply throw it in the oven straight from the freezer.

INGREDIENTS

50 ml extra virgin olive oil 2 garlic cloves, chopped 1 bunch flat-leaf parsley, chopped 2 fresh chillies, chopped 1 can plum tomatoes 540 g can lentils, drained and rinsed 200 ml water

TOMATO AND LENTIL SOUP

DRIVE YOUR FRIENDS MENTAL WITH THIS TOMATO & LENTIL

METHOD

- 1. In a saucepan, heat the olive oil. Add garlic, parsley and chilli peppers and sauté for a few minutes.
- 2. Add plum tomatoes and juices from the tin. With the back of a wooden spoon, break up the tomatoes into little chunks.
- 3. Add the lentils and season with salt and pepper. Add water and allow to cook for approximately 15 20 minutes until the soup has thickened.

INGREDIENTS

125q (4oz) caster sugar Juice of 2 lemons (6-7tbsp) 500g (18oz) tub thick Greek vogurt 150ml (1/4 pint) double cream 1 heaped tsp good-quality lemon curd per person, to serve 1 meringue shell per person, to serve

FROZEN LEMON MERINGUE (Serves 12)

AULD LANG SYNE & LEMON MERINGUE

METHOD

- 1. Whisk the sugar and lemon juice in a large bowl until the sugar dissolves. mix in the yogurt and cream then spoon into a plastic container. Freeze for a 2 hours until slushy. Mix well and freeze for another hour then mix again and freeze until smooth and creamy.
- 2. Spoon the ice-cream mixture into a metal cooking ring or cutter about 6.5cm diameter on a piece of greaseproof paper to make about 2.5cm high.
- 3. Place each ice-cream round on a chilled plate. Spoon lemon curd over, then place a meringue on top and serve.

21 Jan Belgium Leather Pride 2 Feb Doncaster Winter Pride 16 - 23 Mar Alpe De Huez LGBT Ski Week

23 Mar Exeter Pride 1-5 May International Bears Week Sitges

11 May Maspalomas Gay Pride 8-12 May Amsterdam Fetish Pride 25-26 May Birmingham Gay Pride 1 Jun Blackburn Gay Pride 1 Jun Waterford Gay Pride





WORLDWIDE PRIDE CALENDAR

1 Jun York Gay Pride 8 Jun Oxford Gay Pride 15 Jun Sitges Gay Pride 22 Jun Essex Gay Pride Chelmsford 29 Jun Dublin Gay Pride

29 Jun Swansea Gay Pride 6 Jul Belfast Gay Pride 6 Jul Sheffield Gay Pride 6 Jul Bournemouth Gay Pride 13 Jul Bristol Gay Pride

27 Jul Nottingham- shire Gay Pride	3 Aug Amsterdam Gay Pride	3 Aug Herefordshire Gay Pride	3 Aug Liverpool Gay Pride	3 Aug Brighton & Hove Gay Pride
		7		
brought to you by www. GayAway2Travel.co.uk				
4 Aug Cork Gay Pride	4 Aug Leeds Gay Pride	11 Aug Wakefield Gay Pride	20 - 25 Aug Derry/Lon- donderry Gay Pride	31 Aug Reading Gay Pride
1 Sept Sunderland Gay Pride	7 Sept Wales Mardi Gras, Cardiff	7 Sept Limerick Gay Pride	28 Sept Preston Gay Pride	** London pride dates are not confirmed at the time of writing**

20 Jul

Hull Gay Pride

20 Jul

Europride Mar-

seille, France

27 Jul

Norwich Gay

13 Jul

Munich Gay

14 Jul

Glasgow Gay

Pride

LIFESTYLE

FASHION



TESSUTI.CO.UK Lyle & Scott Chambray Shirt £63.75





SURFDOME.COM **Diesel Y-Profile Urban Trainers** £67.99



FIRSTCLASSWATCHES.CO.UK DKNY casual, brown, leather strap watch £115.50

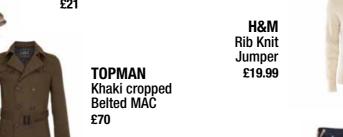


HOUSE OF FRASER Orange Firetrap Printed T-Shirt £21



SUPERDRY.COM Suede Sand Logan Boot £21







RIVER ISLAND Grey colour block Bomber Jacket £70



REPUBLIC Jack & Jones Eric **Original Jeans**

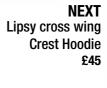
FOR WOMEN



POSHBAGS.CO.UK Kipling Jarita Bag £39.95



CHEMICAL.COM Casio Baby-G Watch £46.20





MISGUIDED.CO.UK Amorette khaki trousers £45



REPUBLIC Only stud Embellished sweater £32



H&M Boyfriend cut Low jeans £29.99

RIVER ISLAND
Grey Melton leather look
Sleeve biker coat
£75



GENIUS

TOPSHOP Knitted 'Genius' Jumper £36





HOUSE OF FRASER Madden Girl Sansoma MG Ankle cowboy boot £21

READERS SECTION

READERS RANT

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

Email your rant to - info@mygayzine.co.uk...We look forward to hearing from you - heres our New Year rant...

I am a gay lad aged 26 and have been in 2 relationships worth talking about. The first was amazing for 2 years then all of a sudden he wanted to involve others in our sex life and for each of us to see other people as long as we were honest about it. I did consider this at the time simply because I loved him and wanted to be with him I thought at all costs but talking to a dear friend of mine I was reminded that there is very little that lovers get to truly keep for one and other and what happens in the sacred surrounding of their very own love lives is theirs to keep as memories and lessons forever.

Just recently my now ex boyfriend of 3yrs came off with a very similar proposal! I've always been the more sexually active in our relationship and up for trying anything once. However introducing a third into the bedroom is beyond the point where I've drawn my line. A relationship should be a personal, private experience of love sharing in my opinion and it bugs me how common this desire is. Have we gays lost the meaning of the word monogamy?

I feel in my heart that even though the couple are consenting adults and are not lying, cheating or have anything to be ashamed of in any way. I still whole heartedly believe that there would be something that you can never get back, like a part of the relationship has been lost forever and eventually I think that it would be too much even for the most loving couple to cope with in the long term.

Love is hard, intense and passionate and requires full time attention I can't see any room or time for a third person. There has to be other people who don't think this way and are more inclined to agree with my viewpoint. Either I'm being jealous or I have a tendency to chose greedy boyfriends.

Michael, Belfast



SHOUT OUT ZONE Got a message for someone

07564877618

TEXT US YOUR SHOUT OUT TO

Any deals on American holidays? James, Rasharkin

Happy New Year all at mygayzine, ty - Leah

love my monday mag xxx. David, Dungannon

mulled wine turned out beautifully - Stephanie, Ballycastle

When can we see more celebrities? - Liam, Derry

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

Hope the new year brings use many more issues =-D - H&R

Look forward 2 issue 4 in the new year - Lisa

Loved the hot guys in the Xmas issue - Kevin B, N'abbey

Happy 25th Birthday to my wee Nelly, from Pauline

Christmas issue was brilliant, Michael, Belfast



PETER F FAHY

+

HOMOSEXUALITY AND CHRISTIANITY

So Christmas has come and gone. Did you get everything you wanted? I asked Santa to chop Michael Buble up into twenty pieces, but hold your horses - I wasn't being serious! Even though I can't stand that crooning creep, Christmas is supposed to be a time of peace, love and camaraderie, so why I wonder, have religious leaders launched a vicious and bloodthirsty attack on homosexuals during the holiday season?

At the start of December, Pope Benedict XVI gave a precious blessing to Rebecca Kadaga, the speaker of the Ugandan parliament. That horse-riding skank Kadaga plans to give a great Christmas present to Uganda's Christian community: the 'Kill the Gays' bill, legislation that would see practicing homosexuals imprisoned for life or executed.

And to add insult to injury, the archbishop of Westminster had the audacity to slander same-sex marriage during his Christmas message to the collective congregation. Vincent Nichols claimed that gay marriage is like an Orwellian dystopia, a shambolic failure of democracy. Could you be more melodramatic? It's rhetoric like this that leads to violence and discrimination.

HOMOSEXUALITY AND CHRISTIANITY

So how will the LGBT community respond to this onslaught? It would be easy to slabber back at the religious institutions, get down and dirty with a mud-slinging contest, but that wouldn't solve anything, would it? Besides, if I attacked the Catholic church my granny would take off her slipper and beat me senseless.

So instead, we have to wonder why Christianity is so opposed to homosexuality. Is there any evidence in the New Testament that proves homosexuality and Christianity are antithetical?

We'd have to start with the Old Testament to get some understanding of Christian justification for homophobia.

Everyone knows the story of Sodom, how God supposedly destroyed an entire city for their sinful sexual practices. I've already explored that story in detail and debunked that ludicrous argument. Sodom was an inhospitable city, full of cruel and spiteful citizens. We know it was destroyed. most likely through a natural disaster. but it had sweet Fanny Adams to do with queers, and attributing a city's destruction to homosexuality is as asinine as blaming us for Hurricane Katrina or El Nino. Any priest or preacher who declared that gavs are responsible for global geographical catastrophes would be ridiculed and crucified in the press, so I'm really struggling to see why that interpretation is still sustained with Sodom.

Then there's the caustic passages in Leviticus, abominations and all that jazz. The biblical book of Leviticus lists the ceremonial requirements for the tribe of Levi. Jews wandering in the wilderness with no home to call their own. Health and procreation were imperative. Indeed there was a need to breed, so homosexuality was demonized. And once again, I'm struggling to see how this passage is relevant or applicable to todav's hideously overcrowded world.

So that's a brief review of those pestilential passages. Now for the New Testament.

Does Christ ever refer to homosexuality? Technically...it's a yes and no. In Matthew 19:12,

PETER F FAHY

Jesus discusses the Eunuchs. He says:

"...Some are
eunuchs because
they were born that
way; others were
made that way by
men; and others
have renounced
marriage because
of the kingdom of
heaven. The one
who can accept this
should accept it."

Now I know what you're thinking: a eunuch is someone who chopped their bits off, and that is one definition, but the Greek word eunoûchos also referred so someone who was heterosexually celibate, ie, gay, and Christ's listeners knew this.

Happy days. Like Lady Gaga, Christ is saying that we're born this way.

There's additional evidence that asserts Christ's

acceptance of same-sex relationships.

In Matthew 8: 5-13, Upon entering Capernaum, Christ is approached by a distraught Roman Centurion who savs that his special servant (entimos duolos) is ill. Can Christ heal this boy? Jesus commends the Centurion for his faith and within an hour, the special servant is as right as rain.

The original Greek text used the words 'entimos duolos' and 'pais' to describe the sick servant. Both of these definitions have the sexual connotation of a young male lover in the Greek language ('pais' might have an etymological link to pederasty, a form of same-sex love in Greco-Roman culture, but don't quote me on that -

it might be a false cognate).

Read in this light, it appears that Jesus is supporting a samesex partnership and rewarding the faithful pair with health and happiness. Is this an argument for gay marriage or what?

But religious leaders refuse to acknowledge this interpretation. They prefer to latch on to the lines in 1 Corinthians 6:9 that say:

"Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men"

However, if priests

HOMOSEXUALITY AND CHRISTIANITY

are adamant that these lines justify their pious intolerance, then I'd appeal to their academic side. Paul wrote Corinthians, and any Bible scholar or theologian out there knows fine rightly Paul had a bit of tendency to exaggerate things, didn't he?

So based on this exegesis, it appears that homosexuality and Christianity are not impossible partners. But homophobia, on the other hand, is quite anti-Christian.

Will the Catholic church change it's attitude? I doubt it. Catechism 2357 of the Catholic church states 'Under no circumstances can <homosexuals> be approved."

But Jesus, a pacifist, a philosopher, a compassionate messiah, didn't show such disdain. Christ said that we're all children of God, gays included.

As He says, "The one who can accept this should accept it."



A MINUTE OR FOUR 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. Now in the process of working on a new one man play about dealing with depression he has set aside some free time to give us a New Year update.

Well It's me again, and already yet another year has started and is ahead for the making. We are all in charge of our own destiny. and if we put the New Year's hangover to one side, and really concentrate on what you want from 2013, putting your heart and mind and soul into it, then the world is your oyster. You can achieve anything if you really put your mind to it. The world as we have now become accustomed to is a fast moving and often fearful place that could very easily leave the unprepared behind, in every sense of the word. With the most drastic cuts the globe has seen since the war, I saw an opportunity to take a leaf from the war time way of life and get back in touch with the things people used to do such as mending and making do. A way of life that is so far detached from the modern, convenient way of living today it would scare you. A useful tip that seems disruptive and a nuisance in the short term - "saving" can prove a great reward in the long term. Look after the pennies and the pounds look after themselves. In today's world combining the war time ethos of "waste not, want not" with "saving" will ensure you ride out the credit crunch storm a little more comfortable than the rest. I challenge you to do this for a whole year and see how much

you could save, even as little as twenty pounds per week ends up a hefty sum of over a thousand pound after only a year. Repairing damaged clothing and household items can save a fortune, freezing excess or uneaten foot stuffs, recovering old furniture instead of buying new and using your home heating and electrical appliances a little more wisely can all lead to massive savings. I can go on and on but really it's all common sense. Although that's what they say about common sense — "it's not all that common". Even just glancing over several of my points it's clear that it can be easy to make small changes that can have a big impact on the pocket. So that's my challenge to you all this month – Save, Save, Save, you'll probably be alot happier and if not you will at least be richer by the end of 2013. I hope you all had a well deserved rest and a break from the mind blasting world even if only for a few days over Christmas. I know I did, but I've thrown myself back into work directing a play that we can all relate to depression, the play is called "TALK" and addresses the taboo about the many guises or forms of this illness and tells us that there is always a positive side to everything, a way to beat it for good without debilitating medication. Its a one man play, played by a very well known actor, and a vey challenging role. Many Folk suffer needlessly at this time of year from mental health illnesses such as depression, so it's all very relevant and at the forefront at the moment. May I take this opportunity to wish all my readers a very happy new year.

and I as always look forward to your comments and feedback. Do take care and may your god go with you. Ryan Dior, Writer/Actor/Director,

POETRY CORNER

That Song (for Mary)

Do you remember how
the notes of that song
dripped
gold and azure tones into your veins;
sound synergy to the soul, you felt it
in a place where there was no hiding, in a place
where naked emotions jaunt, you felt it
in that insiduous beat pulsing in your wrists
...through your spine...the drift of life force, you felt it
in the words you hummed along with a distant artist
who couldn't know she'd vocalized...actualized
your feelings in a song

Had I closed my eyes, I'd have seen the setting sun inflamed electric mauve-orange over the veld Had I closed my eyes, I might have been adrift on an endless realm of undulating ocean

Had I been alone
I would still have felt
the Great Ineffable Love

Caught by a song

2012 was a busy year for Kosmic following the successful launch of MyGayZine and she would like extend a big thank you to everyone who has been in touch over the last few months. This month she directs her gaze towards the year ahead, 2013 is considered unlucky by many but lets see what the stars have in store. Get in touch through our website or via email if you would like to contact Kosmic Karen.

ARIES March 21 - April 19

You rams are hardly shy, you enjoy a good debate and somewhere like a forum where you can express your thoughts and listen to other people's views and this will help you develop. This year, hidden worlds will unveil themselves perhaps your meditation practice could take a new direction. A wealth of deep symbolism around you requires more investigation into what it all means?

GEMINI May 21 - June 20

You're a sign that can accumulate a lot of knowledge but you might not end up using all of it. So what stays and what goes? Your wisdom is being sought out, so some editing is required. The good news is that you'll learn more teaching other people, you will learn more than you ever imagined. Clear your mind order your thoughts then you can focus on what matters to you most.

TAURUS April 20 - May 20

You're devoted to your progress and can keep going when others stop. You prefer to build strong foundations rather that getting too far ahead and having to backtrack. This year group work would suit you more than being on your own as you will learn more from the experiences of others. The written word also helps - you should think about keeping a diary or even writing a book.

CANCER June 21 - July 22

Working from home appeals to you because you can surround yourself with what makes you feel comfortable and secure. Maybe the universe needs you to stretch yourself a little. Mediumship is often associated with your intuitive side and perhaps you can extend intuition to other disciplines. New ideas and foreign travel will pique your interest and feed your spirit.

LEO July 23 - August 22

Usually you feel like taking yourself out of circulation for a while. Disciplines that require science or deep meditation could appeal to you and some may be spending time with books, not your normal usual style but those treasures house information you could find exactly what you've been looking for. Create something amazing.

LIBRA Sept 23 - Oct 22

Take our time and consider asking questions more often. Don't assume that information your getting is perfect and correct. Ask, ask and ask again if needs must. Your values are even more important to you this year and they'll take you to new teachers that help you understand yourself. Counselling is a natural gift.

SAGITTARIUS Nov22 - Dec21

Keeping your wits about you is important no matter what journey you choose. There are many opportunities on offer this year, your emotions will signal when you're on the right path. Books are your guide, but think about what the meaning rather than simply repeating the words as gospel.

AQUARIUS Jan 20 - Feb 18

As a gifted astral traveller perhaps you could use this year's line up to push yourself into a public arena, ready to share what you know and perhaps be paid for it. Don't shy away from that energy exchange - your hard work needs to be rewarded. Use your unique discipline to inspire.

VIRGO August 23 - Sept 22

Paying attention to detail doesn't sound like such a thrill but when you're dealing with healing or teaching it pays to know what your about. This year you could be combining the two or maybe learning more about natural foods or the healing property of a good diet. Get the facts clear in your head then you can apply your intuition.

SCORPIO Oct 23 - Nov 21

So what if someone else gets the limelight and you don't? Focus on what you have to offer rather than on others. You dig deeper than everyone else, it may take longer to be accepted but it gives you more staying power. Ancient Traditions and magical rituals fascinate you. Follow your mystical path and spirit will reveal itself.

CAPRICORN Dec22 - Jan 19

You don't find it easy to share your inner thoughts and feelings, but this year may need you to. Someone close could be going through spiritual training alongside you. Practical disciplines like tarot suit you well, information needs to be processed but most of all tested. Test your faith.

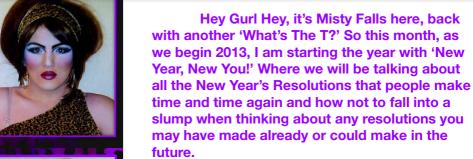
PISCES Feb 19 - March 20

Your very open to psychic matters - sometimes more open than you should be. Learn to close down when you need to and be in the right state at the right time. Telling stories will help you and can reveal more about the spiritual worlds that you think about. Enjoy a year of gifts from the universe.





WHAT'S THE T?



In the run up to the New Year you hear people or see people on Facebook talking about their resolutions and sometimes you feel compelled that because everyone else is doing it so that you need to make some also. This is not the case, resolutions are not for everyone and it is sometimes the pressure of having to keep to a new form of lifestyle that makes people crack under the pressure and revert to their old habits that they wanted to steer away from.

The most common resolutions that happen every year seem to be focused around fitness in some way, shape or form. What many people don't realise is that you do not have to be a complete gym-a-holic in order to get fit and be more active. Maybe change it about so that you can go for a walk a few times a week, all you need to keep up with a healthy lifestyle is 30 minutes of exercise per day. Alternatively why not take up a class, the most popular I have seen is Zumba, a fun way to get into shape, have fun and meet new people.

It's not always about giving something up, why not change it around and do something new or take something on. Maybe something like trying a new food once a week, seeing friends more often or making a bit more time for family. By taking



WITH MISTY FALLS

something on you get to do everything that you are doing now plus you feel better about yourself as it is a lot easier to do one more thing then constantly trying to avoid doing something else.

Sometimes the best way to stick to a resolution is to have a friend do it with you, I know that this is not always possible but if there is another person doing it with you, you are able to give each other the support to get through those tougher days.

I have also jumped on the resolution Bandwagon and have decided that within the New Year I am going to lead a more healthy lifestyle. What I have decided to do is space my resolutions out over the year so that I don't ask my body to change too much too quickly this way I can focus on each resolution individually.

My Key Tips to help with your resolutions:

- (1) Stay Positive a positive mindset and attitude promotes a healthier wellbeing.
- (2) Keep it simple do not take on too much at the one time, a year is a long time, you can space things out a bit.
- (3) One Day at a time if you slip up, pick yourself up and take it fresh from the next day.

Good luck to all the readers on whatever your resolutions maybe be, and I wish you all the success in sticking to them.

Misty x



WHAT'S THE T? FLASHMOB?

What is it about the LGBT flash mob that makes you want to be involved in it?

I have always loved Flash Mobs and when I was invited to join the event on Facebook I jumped at the chance to be involved. Not only is a Flash Mob an excellent event choice but also the fact that it is being used in a positive way to help get the message out for LGBT people in Northern Ireland that it's OK to be different and that there is a community here to help anyone who is struggling with their identity.

Do you think that this is a good way to stand up and challenge homophobia in the ongoing battle for equality?

Oh definitely, I think when the general public see that we are a strong and confident community they will know that we will no longer accept any type of decimation towards our own people. On the other hand, as I said before, it will also help people that are scared to 'Come Out' as LGBT due to repercussions that it could have yet knowing that we all have been there at one point or another may give them some strength.



WITH MISTY FALLS

It's really great to see you do your bit for charity, do you have any encouraging words for people who would love to get involved but who are being put off by the daunting prospect of performing in front of a crowd in a very busy shopping complex? Well I do try and do my bit every now and again. What I would say to people that are put off is that there is no reason to be, you will be with any people who, for them, this will be a first time experience also, let's all lose our Flash Mob virginity together. If we Drag Queens can dress up and parade around the streets of Northern Ireland then anyone can do it. Where do you summon vour courage from during performances? Performing has always been something that I have loved to do from a young age, it has always come as second nature to myself that once a spotlight is on you, you give a great show for your audience no matter what. I also think being involved in Drama throughout school has helped me greatly when it comes to my confidence, don't get me wrong I am still a bag of nerves before any performance but once the face goes on its almost as if another person has taken over.

