

MAY 2013 ISSUE 8

# MAY EDITION - ISSUE 8

# HI FROM US

We're back
with issue 8
of MyGayZine
Magazine and
we're pleased
to announce our
publication has
expanded to include
both the North and
South of the border. This
means more juicy stories,
news and pictures from
all across Ireland.

This month we've brought vou more contributors and articles than ever. There are interviews with Rvan Jagger and Jessie K ahead of their 2013 pride performances. Mister Underground discusses his battles with mental health, Father Joseph is back with his update on the election of the new pope and his thoughts on the Irish Constitution vote on equal marriage and Lucy Lashes gives us the lowdown on the emerging Donegal LGBT Scene.



Plus all our regular contributors spread across 7 sections. Misty's chatting pride fashion, Chris McMurray gives her thoughts on news, entertainment and shares a poetry helping, Maurice reviews his recent trip to the Algarve, Peter Francis Fahy discusses Queer Fear and Ryan Dior's disappointed by the current situation on the Manchester gay scene.

We're also pleased to welcome Lucy Lashes as our resident agony aunt. She'll be taking your questions via email: info@mygayzine.co.uk or via text message on our shout out zone number: 07564877618.

We won't take up any more of your time. Thanks to everyone involved. Enjoy x

Bounce into May with your complete LGBT Guide to the month ahead.

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# **Equal Marriage NI**

On April 29th we saw yet another motion calling for marriage equality defeated at the Northern Ireland Executive, this time by 53 votes to 42, with 3 abstentions.

The motion was tabled by Sinn Fein MLA's Caitríona Ruane, Barry McElduff and Bronwyn McGahan following an overwhelming vote in favour of a referendum on legalising samesex marriage in the Republic of Ireland.

The motion read:
"This Assembly
recognises the
importance of
the Constitutional
Convention; notes
the participation
of parties from the
Assembly; welcomes
the 79 per cent
majority vote at the
Constitution in favour

of marriage equality; and calls on the Executive to bring forward the necessary legislation to allow for same sex marriage"

An alliance amendment which emphasised the freedom of churches to practise and define marriage as they choose was also voted down at the assembly meeting (46 for, 51 against, 2 abstentions).

The largest opposition to last month's bill came from Unionist representatives, particularly the DUP who effectively vetoed the motion in the days leading up to the assembly debate

through a 'petition of concern'.

The DUP continue to put up barriers for LGBT people by refusing to allow a straight forward democratic assembly vote decide on this issue.

Finance Minister Sammy Wilson, of the DUP, defended his party's use of the petition of concern saying it was important to stop "reckless legislation".

He insisted the motion would not promote safeguards or equality and he did not believe a balance of opinions had been accurately reflected during the debate.



Newry and Armagh UUP MLA Danny Kennedy said he was opposed to any change in legislation due to his religious beliefs which he said were consistent with the teaching of the Presbyterian Church.

The Presbyterian Church had sent messages to all MLA's in the run up to the discussion warning politicians that marriage for same-sex couples would "effectively demolish" generations and centuries of societal norms.

Alliance Party
leader David Ford
who stepped
down as elder at
Second Donegor
Presbyterian Church
earlier last month,
around controversy
surrounding his
support for equal
marriage added:

"Equal marriage is a matter of great importance to many in our community, to many citizens who have a legitimate expectation that they will be treated equally by the state, but I also acknowledge that it's an issue of great sensitivity and of

huge significance for a number of religious denominations and other faith groups".

Colum Eastwood of the SDLP said he believed that if two people of the same gender loved each other and wanted to commit their lives together they should be supported.

One of the most passionate and well informed speeches of the day came at the close of the discussion when Caitríona Ruane took to the floor...

(Continued)

"...Attitudes in Ireland are changing, changing because people do not want to see others discriminated against, changing because the LGBT community have said enough is enough. They are standing up for themselves and their communities. They understand that if they don't [stand up], the hateful words of the never, never, never brigade will continue to fan the flames of homophobic behaviour. They understand that if they don't stand up and become visible more young people will die by suicide, because if they don't hear a counter voice to the vitriolic gay bashing they will internalise it... it is not a waste of time talking about rights... or protecting our children."

With the amazing tidal wave of equal marriage sweeping the globe lately it was difficult not to get a little excited by the approach of last month's debate.

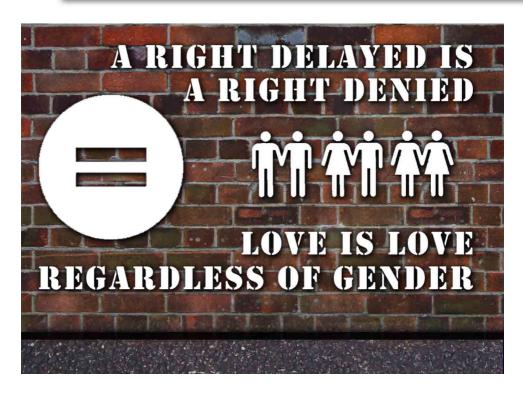
Unfortunately the DUP have shown they will consistently wield their "petition of concern" weapon whenever LGBT issues are being discussed and it's difficult to see how, they, while still our majority party will ever allow this motion to pass. Other parties who leave the issue of marriage equality to "personal conscience" should show more leadership and unity within their parties by getting to grips with understanding this issue once and for all and adopting it as their party policy.

Same-sex marriage is now legal or in the process of being legalised in fourteen countries and there is still hope the surge of equality will reach us one day. Only by making the most of every opportunity to raise the debate can we ever make progress towards adding our name to the list.

Chair of The Equal Marriage NI John O'Doherty reassured the LGBT Community that the motion's defeat is just a setback in what looks set to be a long and hard fought battle: "We are not disheartened at all, we will continue to fight the good fight" and Canon Charles Kenny the Secretary of Changing Attitude Ireland believes that recent developments only bring us closer to equality: "The year is drawing nearer when the love and justice expressed in the gospels will win out and sweep away the faith-based prejudice against gay and lesbian couples".

### **Equal Marriage NI on Facebook:**

"Disappointing outcome today but the fight for equality has always been an uphill battle. We stand together as a community fighting for equality, confident in the belief that marriage equality will become a reality in Northern Ireland. We shall overcome."



It's clear to see that the debate can only be seen as progress but it has also highlighted stubborn barriers in the beliefs of others who fail to recognise LGB&T people as entirely equal.

Equal Marriage NI were present at the recent May
Day Rally in Belfast
and appeared to
be reignited by the
debate at Stormont
in April. The group
got an applauding
reception in Belfast
and there were chants
of support from
the crowds as they
walked through city
centre yelling:

'What do we want? Equal marriage! When do we want it? Now! If you won't vote for us or ours, we won't vote for you or yours. Through the courts or on the hill, equal marriage, yes we will'

We'll leave it at that.

# **Poots' Blood Ban Debate Update**

Northern Ireland Health Minister Edwin Poots' decision to maintain the lifetime ban on gay men giving blood in Northern Ireland has been debated in the High Court.

Mr Poots himself a born-again Christian who disapproves of same-sex relationships, said it was taken purely on health grounds to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

The gay man challenging the ban has been granted anonymity due to his perceived vulnerability and is now seeking a High Court ruling to bring Northern Ireland's policy into line with the rest of the UK.

The Belfast Telegraph reports that the man revealed in court that he has now become a born-again Christian who now disapproves of gay relationships.



Northern Ireland Attorney General John Larkin, the chief legal adviser to the Stormont Executive, questioned the legitimacy of the challenge.

Earlier in the week, Mr Justice Treacy was told the lifetime prohibition was disproportionate, with an estimated one additional HIV infection per billion blood donations if a 12-month deferral period was introduced.

David Scoffield QC said: "Working that figure into the increased risk of one infected donation per billion, we estimate the Minister is concerned about an additional infected donation being made roughly every 50,000 years."

Following final submissions Mr Justice Treacy reserved judgment in the case.

### Pride Season in Ireland kicks off this month with Kerry's 1st ever Pride



# **Anyone Fancy A Big Gay Lunch?**

Celebrating Solidarity at the Big **Gav Lunch Members of the** Northern Ireland **LGBT Community** celebrated the **European Day of** Solidarity between Generations with a very special Big Gay Lunch at the end of last month, 29th April at QueerSpace in Waring Street, Belfast.

EU day of Solidarity between generations highlights the need for greater intergenerational solidarity in an ageing society.

'The Big Gay Lunch' was organised by Gay and Lesbian Youth NI, QueerSpace and Linking Generations NI to bring together younger and older members of the LGBT community to

Pictured left to right: Lynn Johnston,
Gareth Barnes, Patricia Lewsley-Mooney,
Commissioner for Children and Young People
and Colin Flynn, QueerSpace.

share their personal experiences, food, friendship and fun.

The event reflects the ethos of The Big Lunch - valuing what everyone in the community can bring to the table and building stronger community spirit.

NI Commissioner for older people, Claire Keatinge and NI Commissioner for children and young people, Patricia Lewsley-Mooney, opened the event to encourage the promotion of dialogue and mutual support between generations of the LGBT community.

'The Big Gay Lunch' was organised by Gay and Lesbian Youth NI, QueerSpace and Linking Generations NI to bring together younger and older members of the LGBT community to share their personal experiences, food, friendship and fun.

# Together they made this statement:

"We are delighted to open the event this evening together. Ours is a stronger and better society when people of all ages understand, respect and value one another. This event celebrates the benefits of increased understanding between generations.

"For the Lesbian,
Gay, Bisexual
and Transgender
community there
is added value and
significance in events
such as this, as older
people and young
people have many
issues in common.

"Young people in particular can benefit from hearing about the experiences, and learning about ways that older people have dealt with challenges throughout their lives."

Everyone attending The Big Gay Lunch was encouraged to bring to the table an item that meant something to them, sharing fashion, music and personal treasures and memories.

Together everyone prepared the refreshments, helping 'break the ice' and paving the way for more serious discussion.

"This successful event highlights the benefits of bringing different generations together to share experiences, get to know each other and offer support to one another.

There are many cross generational issues that provide an opportunity for generations to engage with one another and make a positive change

through having their voices heard."

The Big Lunch, an Eden project, funded by Big Lottery helps reduce isolation and encourages stronger relationships between neighbours and local people.

The idea is that anyone can have a Big Lunch from fundraisers to street or garden parties or picnics in the park with friends and neighbours— the main ingredients are food, friendship and fun.

The main date is Sunday 2 June when neighbours and communities all over the UK are encouraged to get together and have their own Big Lunch.

# **MYGAYZINE NEWS**

To take part simply order a free Big Lunch pack at www.thebiglunch. com and bring people of all ages together to share good old fashioned community spirit.

When you host a Big Lunch in Northern Ireland this year you could win £1000 to bring the good ideas in your neighbourhood or group to life.

For further information contact Lisa James at Carlton Baxter Communications on 028 9032 5533 or email lisa@ carltonbaxter.com

To request your free pack visit www. thebiglunch.com or contact grainne. mccloskey@ thebiglunch. com or call 07703189048

# About The Big Lunch

- The Big Lunch takes place annually on the first Sunday in June, but events can be held on another day if it works better for the community. The Big Lunch 2013 will take place on Sunday 2 June.
- The Eden Project started The Big Lunch in 2009 in the belief that we're better equipped to tackle the challenges we face when we face them together.
- The Big Lunch is led by the Eden Project, funded by The Big Lottery Fund and supported by MasterCard, Kingsmill and Asda
- 8.5 million people took part in Big Lunch or Big Jubilee Lunch events in

2012, an increase on previous years – the best part of 1 million people in 2009 and 2010 and 2 million in 2011

- The Big Lunch is led by the Eden Project, funded by The Big Lottery Fund and supported by MasterCard, Kingsmill and Asda
- The aim is simply to bring as many people as possible together for lunch with their neighbours once a year and encourage the sharing of conversation, ideas, skills and resources.
- 8.5 million people took part in Big
  Lunch or Big Jubilee
  Lunch events in
  2012, an increase on previous years
  the best part of
  1 million people in
  2009 and 2010 and 2
  million in 2011



# Lesbian asylum seekers are asked 'inappropriate' questions by UK judges



Lesbian asylum seekers in the UK are regularly being asked "inappropriate and insensitive" questions by judges it has emerged.

Research from
the University
of Southampton
- based on
interviews with
11 lesbians from
countries including
Pakistan, Saudi
Arabia, Uganda
and Jamaica has found that
immigration judges
often do not believe
LGBT asylum
seekers are gay.

One lesbian seeking asylum from homophobic persecution in **Uganda** was reportedly asked by a judge whether she'd ever read Oscar Wilde. Others were asked: "Why have you not attended a Pride march?" and one immigration iudge woman from Jamaica he did not believe she was gav because she did not "look like a lesbian".

Claire Bennett, a researcher at the University of Southampton, told The Independent: "I thought I was quite unshockable just in terms of how dehumanising criminalising the whole asylum process is. I was wrong." Of the 11 asylum seekers Bennett interviewed, one gained asylum at the first decision, six gained asylum after several appeals, and four are still going through the system.

The government has never released statistics from immigration tribunals on how many people each year apply for asylum claiming that they face persecution because of their sexuality.

However it is believed by support groups that around 98% of such claims are rejected first time around.

Home Secretary
Theresa May told
MPs in March that
the Border Agency's
performance was
"not good enough"
and confirmed it
would be split with
its work moved back
into the Home Office.



### NEW ZEALAND



# New Zealand joins the growing list of countries with equal marriage.

New Zealand became the 13th country in the world to legalise equal marriage.

MPs voted in support of New Zealand's Marriage (Definition of Marriage) Amendment Bill – with a majority of 33. Seventy seven MPs voted in favour - 44 voted against.

The bill introduces equal marriage for all regardless of sex, sexual orientation or gender identity. It will now go for royal assent, after which it will come into effect within four months.

Same-sex marriage is now legal in the following countries: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Uruguay which introduced equal marriage earlier this month.

New Zealand is the second Commonwealth country to legalise equal marriage. Canada legalised equal marriage in 2005.

Before MPs voted, New Zealand Labour MP Louisa Wall, who introduced the legislation, said that the time is right for change.

"Marginalising and discriminating against particular sectors do not benefit society and families," she said.

"It is a simple choice; do we support discriminatory laws or not? I know I don't and hopefully that is true of most of the members of this house."

# NBA Star Jason Collins Opens Up His Closet



American
basketball star
Jason Collins has
spoken for the
first time about
his sexuality,
confirming he's
gay in an article to
Sports Illustrated
magazine last
month.

He's the first openly gay athlete in one of the big-four American team sports to come out as an active player.

Collins, who has most recently played for the Washington Wizards and the Boston Celtics, wrote: "I'm a 34-vear-old **NBA** centre Back. I'm black, And I'm gay. "I didn't set out to be the first openly gay athlete playing in a maior American team sport. But since I am. I'm happy to start the conversation. I wish I wasn't the kid in the classroom raising his hand and saying, 'I'm different.' If I had mv wav. someone else would have already done this. Nobody has, which is why I'm raising mv hand."

Former US president Bill Clinton has praised Jason Collins for going public about his sexuality, becoming the first NBA player to come out as gay and continue their career. He said in a statement: "I have known Jason Collins since he was Chelsea's classmate and friend at Stanford, Jason's announcement todav is an important moment for professional sports and in the history of the LGBT community. It is also the straightforward statement of a good man who wants no more than what so many of us seek: to be able to be who we are: to do our work: to build families and to contribute to our communities.

Thousands of allies, fans and celebs have tweeted their support for Jason Collins: New York Mayoral hopeful Christine Collins also noted that he wore the number 98 jersey for every game in the 2012/13 season, as a mark of respect to Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, who was kidnapped and murdered in 1998.

Quinn, NBA star Kobe Bryant, actor Neil Patrick Harris, singers Ricky Martin and Lance Bass, the Boston Red Sox baseball team, former England rugby star Ben Cohen, the NFL's Chris Kluwe, Brendon Ayanbadejo, NBA Commissioner David Stern and countless others.

Michelle Obama
tweeted from
the First Lady
of the United
States (FLOTUS)
Twitter account,
commending him
for coming out, and
saying "We've got
your back". Barrack
Obama also gave
his support saying
that he "could not be
prouder' of Collins.

Collins also noted that he wore the number 98 jersey for every game in the 2012/13 season, as a mark of respect to Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, who was murdered in 1998.

Collins said: "My one small gesture of solidarity was to wear jersey number 98 with the Celtics and then the Wizards.

The number 98 has great significance to the gay community in the US as one of the most notorious anti-gay hate crimes occurred in 1998. Matthew Shepard, a University of Wyoming student, was kidnapped, tortured and lashed to a prairie fence. He died five days after he was finally found.

Collins, has since been subjected to a tirade of abuse on the social networking site Twitter, including a number of death threats. One Twitter user said: "Jason collins comes out the closet! Kill that biiitttchhhh!!! @nba lo!".

Unsurprisingly the hate filled Westboro Baptist Church have

decided to picket NBA Playoff matches because the games are "full of fags" as well as branding Jason Collins a "filthy Beast".

Let's hope the bravery of this professional sports star will inspire others to summon the courage to "come out". Homophobic abuse and problems keeping advertising contracts are often the reasons many pro players choose to live their lives in the closet. Until perceptions of gav people in sports change there is unlikely to be more stars following Jason's lead. Will challenging homophobic attitudes in sport encourage more sports personalities to leave their closets behind? Or will more sports stars come out as gay and act as catalysts for changing homophobic attitudes? We'll have to wait and see.

# China: Lesbian couple stage street 'wedding' to demand LGBT acceptance



© Yang Cheng Evening News

Over the weekend we heard about a brave lesbian couple in South China, who dressed up as brides and smooched openly in a busy street to demand public acceptance of same-sex relationships in the country.

According to Yang Cheng Evening News, Xiaoyang and Xiaoxiao donned white wedding gowns and took to the High Street in Guangzhou. While many shoppers scuttled away in embarrassment, some younger people showed their support.

The girls' demonstration was timed deliberately to coincide with the visit to China by Iceland's Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir and her wife Jonina Leosdottir.

Xiaoyang said, "The news (of Prime Minister Sigurdardottir's visit) has made so many gays, and lesbians in particular, both thrilled and excited."

But Xiaoyang had been disappointed when most media outlets only reported the PM's visit, completely ignoring the existence of the PM's wife. "Such a phenomenon in a way reflects how China still doesn't quite approve of same-sex marriage or homosexuality." Many passers-by were reportedly confused when Xiaoyang and Xiaoxiao approached them with a sign reading: "Marriage is not about hims or hers, please give lesbians your blessings."

At one point, security officers even tried to chase the brides down the street, meanwhile some straight couples shook their heads and showed their disapproval. However, a few young people offered their blessings and asked to have photos taken with the couple. One guy even scolded the security officers and said: "Hey! Why don't you let a woman love a woman?"

Homosexuality was decriminalised in China in 1997, however it is still early days for LGBT people in terms of public acceptance. As of yet no anti-discrimination laws to protect LGBT people have been introduced, and same-sex marriage is not legal in the country.

# **NEWS SNIPPETS - MAY 2013**

# **IDAHO Day 2013**

The International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO) was created in 2004 to draw the attention of policymakers, opinion leaders, social movements, the public and the media to this issue. It is not one centralised campaign; rather it is a moment that everyone can take advantage of to take action. IDAHO day is now celebrated in more than 100 countries, in all world regions and in places as diverse as Australia, Iran, Cameroon or Albania. The date of May 17th was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder. For more information on how you can get involved in organising an event, visit



www.dayagainsthomophobia.org The organisers are calling on LGBT communities and our allies to get "Flying the Flag" for May 17th 2013. Keep your eyes peeled for the IDAHO Global Rainbow Flashmob!

# **Harvey Milk Day 2013**

On May 22, many public schools in California, USA observe Harvey Milk Day and remember the achievements of the gay rights activist who was assassinated in 1978. On October 11, 2009, Californian governor Arnold Schwarzenegger established Harvey Milk Day to be held as a significant observance on May 22, which is Milk's birthday. Visit http://www.harveymilkday.co/participate to see how you can get involved.



# SHOWBIZ NEWS

## Chris McMurray

# PORTIA DE ROSSI: ELLEN AND I DON'T WANT KIDS



For those of us who don't have kids and are not planning to get sprogged up any time soon, sometimes reading about all the happy 'celesbian' families can feel a bit alienating.

So it's refreshing when you hear one half of the world's most famous lesbian couple saying that they're enjoying life as a couple and they'd rather NOT start a family.

In an interview with Out magazine, Portia di Rossi

has talked about how she and her wife Ellen do not feel the need to have children.

She said: "You have to really want to have kids, and neither of us did. So it's just going to be me and Ellen and no babies."

The 'Arrested Development' star said she never felt the pressure to procreate like many women do when they are in their mid-30's.

"There comes some pressure in your mid-30s, and you think, 'Am I going to have kids so I don't miss out on something that other people really seem to love?'

"Or is it that I really genuinely want to do this with my whole heart? I didn't feel that my response was 'yes' to the latter."

She said that she and Ellen are smitten with each other and happily settled.

"We've settled into happily married life. We really support each other in whatever we're doing and we're incredibly happy, which is why you don't see us in the press so much. There's no drama to report."

Ellen and Portia recently travelled to Portia's native Australia, where Ellen filmed 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show' in Sydney and in Melbourne.

The talk show host let slip, "I shouldn't put it out there but I can see us living here one day. I'm moving here; it's so beautiful."

While Ellen continues her daily daytime talk show, Portia will be returning to the small screen on May 26th when Netflix premieres a brand new 15 episode season of the comedy 'Arrested Development'.

# 'ARISE SIR IAN & SIR DEREK'.... TO THE TOP OF THE VIEWING RATINGS



Vicious - Monday's @9 on ©ITV

Legendary actors Sir lan McKellen along with Sir Derek Jacobi won the ratings war for Monday 29th April as their new sitcom 'Vicious' opened with 5.53 million viewers, 23.0% of all viewers at 9pm while another 344,000 viewers saw it on the +1 channel.

Created by Will and Grace writer Gary Janetti and award-winning playwright Mark Ravenhill, it sees McKellen and Jacobi play Freddie and Stuart, a bickering gay couple who have been together

for almost 50 years and seen them hosting a wake to mark the passing of a dear friend.

Some TV commentators have criticised Vicious for pandering to old fashioned gay stereotypes. However, writing in the Guardian, Ben Summerskill, chief executive of gay rights charity Stonewall said the programme represented progress for gay representation on TV.

Tom Sutcliffe, from The Independent, criticised the show's excessive use of canned laughter. He

said: "The basic schtick in Vicious is high-camp bitchiness, a form that reached an apogee in the American sitcom Will & Grace. This is a sadly depleted version, though, and it's delivered by McKellen and Jacobi as if they're playing in Wembley Stadium and only the upper tiers are occupied, with a heavily semaphored effeminacy that seems to belong to an entirely different era "

Gabriel Tate, from Time Out, praised the show: "It's a very traditional studio sitcom setup, made watchable by its stars and enjoyable by a waspish script.

Also, in its combination of old age and homosexuality, it could be argued to have broken a little ground." He also added: "Not that creators Mark Ravenhill and Gary Janetti much care about that: this show is all about low blows and easy laughs – at which it excels."

## DAUGHTER OF ANTI GAY MARRIAGE MP CREATES PRO-EQUALITY MUSICAL 'MISÉRABLE LESBIANS'



The daughter of an MP who recently voted against samesex marriage has "dreamed a dream" and is developing a new musical to support **LGBT** rights called 'Misérable Lesbians', a spoof version of 'Les Misérables'. Katie Amess, daughter of Tory MP David Amess, said: "I have always been pro-gay rights. Misérable Lesbians is a jokey title with a very serious message, which is that everyone deserves equal rights."

She said: "I love my father and he's entitled to his opinion but I disagree with him on gay marriage. I have my own views and I am very pro-gay rights, even though I am straight myself I believe everyone should be treated equally and I am proud to do my bit to support gays and lesbians and raise awareness of this very important issue. I am sure Dad is happy I am finally working. Mum's watched the film, but Dad hasn't."

In 'Misérable Lesbians', Katie Amess plays Courgette – a play on the character of Cosette in the original Les Misérables. Courgette is a young girl who "fights the good fight" in revolutionary France to help a rebel band of lesbians achieve their goal of sexual freedom. The writer and director of Misérable Lesbians Sandro Monetti said: "Gay rights is a hot topic around the world right now and through our comedy musical we hope not only to make people laugh but also to make them think.

"Our show is about women in 19th century France locked up for the crime of falling in love with each other. They – and the brave rebels who support them – dream a dream of gay marriage one day being legal.

Amess and Monetti are raising finance to develop Misérable Lesbians through the crowdfunding website Indiegogo, and are aiming to stage the show in Edinburgh and off-Broadway in New York. David Amess, who represents Southend West, was among 175 MPs to vote against same-sex marriage in the House of Commons vote in February.

### RUSSELL TOVEY 'PLAYING GAY COULD BE RISKY'



Actor Russell Tovey, former star of BBC's hit supernatural series 'Being Human' says he believes his career is unique because he always plays straight characters. Speaking in an interview with The Independent said "Every character I play is straight, which is unique, my agent says, because it's not really been done before that someone who is completely out is able to play straight roles. So for me to play gay it has to be something special, because it might actually be more of a risk. So I'm waiting for that role – I want it to be something that moves things forward."

### RICHARDON SHOCKED BY SEXIEST MALE NOMINATION



Holluoaks-©Channel 4 Weekdays 6:45pm Hollyoaks star Kieron Richardson says he's "shocked" to have made the sexiest male category in this year's British Soap Awards when he was talking to the Liverpool Echo. The out gay actor, 27, went on to say "It's a bit of a laugh but being competitive I want Hollyoaks to win as many awards as possible.

Mentioning Hollyoaks co-star Danny Mac, Kieron said: "I love Danny to bits. He's better looking than me. But I've got good cheekbones and an all-right face. I'm doing it for all the people who hate going to the gym and love eating crisps, burgers and kebabs, and also for gay people."

# MOVIES & MUSIC UPDATE

### AVAILABLE MAY 2013

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. Check back each month and keep up to date with the latest and greatest entertainment releases. May brings with it a bumber month of Blockbusters, DVD's and Downloads in the lead up to the Summer release Bonanza. Check out this month's cinema releases below and find out when this month's hottest DVD's, Singles and Albums will be available to purchase on the next page.





Safe Haven 7th Mav Jack Reacher 14th May **Cloud Atlas** 14th May

A good Day to Die Hard 14th May

**Beautiful Creatures** 21st May



THIS MONTHS SINGLES

**30 Seconds to Mars** 'Up In The Air' - 5th May

**Little Mix Ft. Missy Elliot** 

'How Ya Doin?' - 5th May

**Chris Brown** 

'Fine China' - 12th May

Stooshe

'Slip' - 12th May

**Paramore** 

'Still Into You' - 19th May



...AND ALBUMS

Alison Moyet - 6th May **The Minutes** 

Little Boots - 6th May

Nocturnes Amelia Lilly - 20th May **Be A Fighter** 

Daft Punk - 20th May **Random Access Memories** 

Stooshe - 27th May

**London With The Lights On** 



# JESSIE K

Those of us lucky enough to get a listen to Kerri Foster aka Jessie K on Blast 106.6 last month will be fluttering with excitement in anticipation of her Newry Pride performance on Saturday 29th August.

With the help of a creative team put together by her management Kerri has beautifully transformed her appearance and persona to match that of Jessie J in a transformation that would fool even The Voice UK judging panel.

Not only does she bear a striking resemblance to the global superstar, Jessie K has also risen to the challenge of mimicking her incredible vocal abilities and after months of intense training with vocal coach (and Diva Dolls member) Alex Jay she's ready to take her tribute act to venues across the UK.

We decided it was time to find out more about this insanely talented local artist before she takes to the stage in Newry later in the year. Find out just how similar she is to the real thing in our exclusive entertainment interview on the next page.

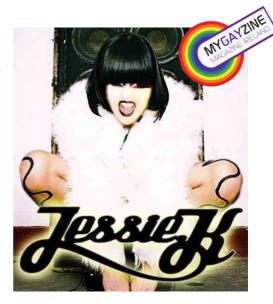


You blew us away on the radio last month and our readers can listen to clips of your performance on your website www.jessiek.co.uk but just what made you take up the challenge of creating a tribute to one of the world's most talented singers?

The decision to challenge was not an easy one. Over the years I've been asked to take on tributes but swore I'd never open myself up to the criticism that would come with it. That was until Jessie came along and I found so much respect for her as a very "real" artist with an attitude keeping true to herself I felt someone should step up and try to put together a tribute that would do her justice, and why not wee me!

In 2012 Jessie J became the first solo artist in the UK to have six Top 10 chart singles from one album and she has written and covered many more. Which of her collection of massive hits and songs can we expect to hear at your performances this year?

You can expect to hear practically every song on her album & her new one which is set to be released this month which i am excited about. Jessie J also performs tracks live for her fans which have never been released including her version of Rihanna's 'We Found Love' which is just remarkable.



Jessie refers to her fans as "hearbeats" because her fans "ensure her survival" and because she suffered heart problems when she was younger. Other than Newry Pride where can your very own "heartbeats" expect to see you appearing this year?

My very own heartbeats can expect to see me at many huge events in the very near future including some Pride events across the Province. In particular Newry Pride which is into its 2nd year & I'm proud to be part of it. On 29th June 2013 I will be part of a fabulous line up for Newphonic Festival in Newry also supporting Mr Saxobeat singer Alexandra Stan. I'm really looking forward to this event as other acts such as Starbov Nathan & The Diva Dolls will be performing too. All details are on my website with links for tickets etc. Mv Management Team are also working on a brilliant plan so that Heartbeats can

### ENTERTAINMENT

(continued) come and enjoy my show like they would if they went to see Jessie live in London, but it's in it's early planning stages & details will be released in the coming months.

There's an unbelievable amount of emotion poured into Jessie's singing, especially songs like "Who You Are" and "Big White Room". How do you get this kind of emotion into your performances?

I believe I can achieve the amount of emotion as through my own experiences in life I can relate to many of Jessie's lyrics. From chatting to Heartbeats on Twitter I can clearly see that her lyrics have helped so many young people. No matter what struggles you may be going through whether it is sexuality, race, religion or body image there is nothing we cannot conquer & it does not mean we have to do it alone! Jessie's lyrics repeatedly emphasise this & I can connect with them as I'm sure many of your readers will be able to also.

### How long has it taken to perfect your voice to perfect such a realistic similarity to Jessie J?

You never stop working to achieve that level of perfection so I continue to work hard. She is a vocal acrobat. I am very fortunate to have a brilliant team behind me who are so professional & very experienced with great vision & whilst I do the hard work of practising & have been doing so for a number of months they continue to work equally hard on the production & concepts. I have continuous performance & vocal help from my mentor. This is to ensure that we produce the best show possible & at the same time pay tribute to such a talent that is Jessie J.

### When did you first get interested in singing? (and where might we have heard you perform before?)

I first got interested in singing as a child growing up listening to my mums wonderful voice and seeing her perform in the opera house etc... People may
have heard me perform
at weddings, Christmas
parties and clubs over
the years I was in a
popular function band
for many years and more
lately have been working
alongside my good
friend as part of a duo
performing on a regular
basis across Belfast.

# Which of Jessie J's songs do you enjoy performing most and why?

Although I find it very emotional to sing I particularly enjoy Who's Laughing Now. I was bullied at school which still affects me to this very day and although I have not seen the fame or success. My bullies have since been at my performances and approached as if they were my friends and not girls that picked on me and at times made my life a misery. But I'm stronger, wiser & have great support from my family & very good friends. I'm proud of what I do & who I am & Who's Laughing Now really just hits me!

Over 12 million
people in the UK
tuned into Comic
Relief this year when
Jessie J shaved her
hair off for charity.
What's the craziest
thing you've ever
done? Would you
go as far as shaving
your head?

I am sure there are some crazy things I've done that I can't mention lol one that does come to mind was abseiling down the Europa Hotel for charity. Oh yes, if it were to raise millions for charity I would shave my head, I think it is a very small thing to do when there are so many suffering in this world.

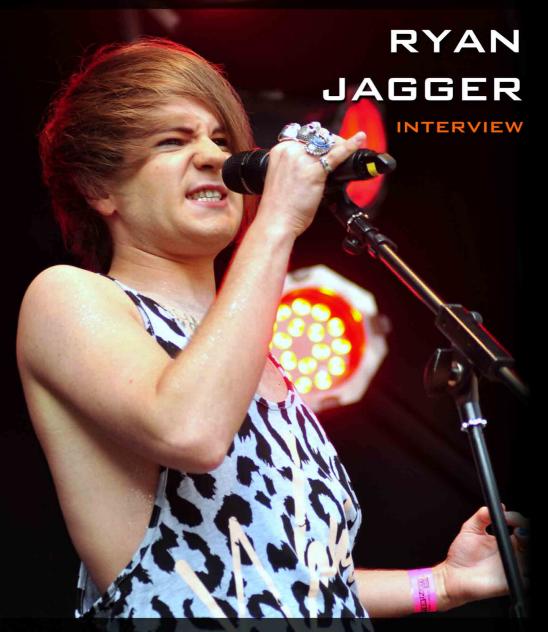
What would you do/ say if you ever had the chance to meet your idol?

That has to be the most difficult question as I would have so many things I would love to say to my idol but the first thing I would do would be to hug her and

thank her for inspiring me to be who I am in my darkest times and come through any hardships I have had to face a stronger person. Everyone from time to time needs to be told "it's ok not to be ok". That line from Who You Are has kept me going on many an occasion.

Visit the Jessie K website for further information and event bookings www.jessiek.co.uk





RYAN IS BACK AT BELFAST PRIDE BY POPULAR DEMAND AFTER HIS FANS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND LAUNCHED SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER IN SUPPORT OF HIS RETURN. WE SPOKE TO RYAN ABOUT LIFE, MUSIC, PRIDE AND HIS LOVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND.

You blew the crowds away at last year's Belfast Pride Festival performing in front of thousands in Custom House Square, what have you been up to since we last saw you?

Belfast Pride blew me away, not the other way around! The crowd w crazy with me as soon as I jumped on stage. It was the first time I'd been to Northern Ireland and I'll never forget it. I feel lucky that I got the chance to share my so excited to be coming back for Party in the Square this summer to do it all over again! Since I saw you, I've writing & recording my debut E.P which will be on iTunes in twentythirteen.

You're certainly no stranger to taking to the stage at pride events, how do the Belfast crowds compare to others you've played at?

Belfast Pride 2012 was hands-down the biggest and the best audience I've ever played for and partied with in my life! I could literally feel the love up there on stage radiating from everyone and it was amazing to have such a good time while also sending out a strong message of positivity, equality & unity. Homophobia sucks!

B.Y.O.B went down a treat at last year's Belfast Pride and we've heard rumours of a new track in the pipeline for your 2013 Pride Tour. What details can you reveal about the new song you're working on?

'Bring Your Own Booze' is my most popular tune so far and the crowds always sing and chant it back at me. I wrote it a few years ago while suffering a hangover from a house-party the night before. I'd got loads of texts asking if it was "B.Y.O.B" bash and I was all "Hell yeah, I haven't won the lottery and I'm not buying your drinks all night" and I just thought it was a cool idea for a song. I took a 2-year hiatus from making music but I've finally recorded a new single called 'Bombshell' which has really sexy lyrics over this hard, euphoric club

sound that I can't wait for you to hear... I'll sing it live at Belfast Pride 2013, so let me know what you think

# What do you like most about Belfast?

The city, the people, the

# Have you always wanted to become a musician?

I've never dreamed of doing anything other than music, writing it, recording it and performing it to as many people as possible. I've always scribbled song ideas since I was a geel kid in school with pictures of Michael Jackson glued all over my books. I wasn't academic but music was something I could just do. Writing gave me identity and got me through some tough stuff that other guys & girls reading this probably went through, or are going through, as a teen. I believe you have to dream big and follow your heart in everything you do, whether it's creating catchy-as-hell pop songs or something more important.

(Continued ->)

### What do you love/ hate most about the music industry?

Hove music, but hate the industry. It's a moneymaking machine that favours profit. It's sad when artists with so much promise disappear from the charts, dropped after their first album, or even their first single, because the record label has moved on to sign up the latest, "hottest act. You can have a million-pound deal, and be a "has-been" before on telly every year is to music. I feel blessed that I make my own music, in my own time, for my fans... only they can tell me what to do, and what they wanna hear from

# What do you like to do in your free time?

Music is my life, but when I'm not doing that I like chilling with my friends, watching movies and working out when I can be bothered. I live in Cleethorpes which is a small, quiet sea-side town, I love running along the beach late at night, on the sand, under the stars, listening to music.

# 2012 saw you work alongside some of the UK's hottest talents and singing with the likes of Alexandra Burke and The Wanted. Which celebs have you enjoyed meeting the most?

It's always fun sharing a gig line-up with lucky enough to open for some really talented artists. The Wanted were the coolest boys I've met so far, I supported them in Birmingham and hanging out with them backstage was awesome. Before the show we drank pear cider, did vocal warm ups and sang an acapella version of Michael Nature' together. One thing I've learned though how many famous, playing, it's always the crowd who are the real stars of the show... they make it. Oh, and if you were wondering, I fancy Nathan from The Wanted... but I don't

think he ever felt the same way about me!

# Who is your all-time favourite musical inspiration?

Michael Jackson, the King of Pop.

# Who do you like most on the current pop music scene?

I try and keep my finger on the pulse and my ears on what's in the charts at the moment, but I mainly listen to underground, under-the-radar club Dj's who make incredible sounds that really inspire me. Shout out to Dj Lucky Luciano & Dj Ben C, who remixed my song 'Star Sign'.

# Have you any guilty pleasures on your MP3 Player?

I have too many guilty pleasures on my iPod! I'm in love with Barry Manilow & cannot resist singing 'Mandy' or 'Copacabana' on karaoke after a beer or two... I'm such a 'fanilow'! I also like country music & I'm a sucker for Dolly Parton, her original version of "I Will Always Love You" is beautiful.

# RYAN JAGGER

INTERVIEW

If you were left stranded on a desert island what three items would you like to have with you?

Friends (actual ones not the DVD box-set)
 A boombox.

David Attenborough.
 He could take me on a tour of the island and

tell me what all the tropical animals & birds were... and which ones I could eat... and which ones would eat me! That would be pretty special, I love his wildlife documentaries, and his voice.

LET TRO

How excited are you to be back at Belfast Pride 'due to popular demand' and what can we expect from your show?

I couldn't be more hyped to be returning to Belfast, especially because I was asked back only after my awesome twitter followers from Northern Ireland tweeted Pride and told them they wanted me there on July 6th. It's all down to them requesting me, and their support means the world to me so I'm going to come back with an even bigger show, even louder music & together I reckon we'll have the biggest party of summer 2013.

Bring it on!



# **International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival**

# Various locations, Dublin City 06th - 19th May

Dublin is going 'wilde' in May to celebrate ten years of international gay theatre. Musicals, drama, dance, Opera, drag, cabaret and comedy from five continents will be presented in over 200 performances in Dublin city centre venues during May 6th to 19th 2013.

Founder Brian Merriman explained what to expect at this year's festiva:. "We present works by gay authors or that have a gay character, theme or relevance such as feminism, masculinity or gender identity in small theatres throughout the city centre at reasonable prices... There are some free events including a nightly festival club where casts, crews and audience socialise" continued Brian Meriman. "The Festival presents the best in new writing that appeals to a mainstream audience and we are delighted to welcome visitors during the 'Year of the Gathering in Ireland' for a unique theatrical and social experience" he concluded. The 30 play programme features productions from Ireland, the UK, USA, Canada, South Africa and Australia and is available for online booking in April on www.gaytheatre.ie

The festival began in 2004 to mark the 150th anniversary of Oscar Wilde's birth in Dublin and since then the IDGTF has grown to become the largest of festival its kind in the world, attracting visitors from all corners of the globe. Patrons include Tony Award winner Terrence McNally, award-winning author Emma Donoghue and Senator David Norris.

The programme for the festival changes entirely each week. Weekend and Bank Holiday matinees start at only €10. For the full programme and secure online booking see the website above for more info. Box office and phone booking opened in late April.

# THE 2013 INTERNATIONAL BUBLIN GAY THEATRE FESTIVAL

The Festival creates new opportunities for visibility and affirmation for existing and emerging gay artists and theatrical works. The Festival's criteria for inclusion into the programme are broadly interpreted to include works by gay writers, works that have a gay relevance or theme, or works that include either performance or another artistic contribution by gay people.

Participation and attendance is open to all who wish to witness and acknowledge the immense contribution of gay people to theatre in all its forms.



# WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?

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

WHO?

Sparkplug

WHERE?

The Mac Theatre, Belfast

WHEN?

8th May

WHAT?



Part of the Cathedral Arts
Festival, this Irish Times
Award 2013 nominee takes
you on an adventure into
the heart of surreal rural
landscape the combines
lyrical comic storytelling
with original music and
songs played on a variety
of intriguing instruments.
He's got the blues bad
and things look gloom but
across the meadow he sees
a vision...his boat has come

WHO?

North West 200

WHERE?

Various Localions 12th - 18th May

WHEN?

WHAT?



The International North West 200 is one of the world's top three motorcycle road races. This adrenaline-packed event follows the famous circuit between the towns of Portrush, Portstewart & Coleraine. As part of the Festival, Coleraine Borough Council is providing entertainment such as plus a full week of stunt shows, outdoor concerts, fireworks, exhibitions and marquees.

WHO?

Derek Acorah

WHERE?

Waterfront Hall, Belfast

WHEN?

26th Mau

WHAT?



Derek Acorah's, of the Most Haunted TV series brings his sincere and friendly approach and his psychic abilities to the big stage at the Waterfront Hall. This is sometimes a controversial topic and his "gifts" have been questioned by many but he was recently described by The Guardian newspaper as 'The Model Of The Modern Medium'and is he's quickly filling theatres across the land.

WHO?

WHERE?

WHEN?

WHAT?



The Drifters

Waterfront Hall, Belfast

09th Mau

The Drifters return to the Waterfront to celebrate their 60th Anniversary with their Diamond Dynasty Tour, featuring the current line up Pierre Herelle, Michael Williams, Ryan King and Carlton Powell. The Drifters have seen massive chart success on both sides of the Atlantic and across the world, with over 114 million album sales, 214 million singles sales and a vast catalogue of hits.



#### WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?

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

WHO?

**Meal Loaf** 

WHERE?

Odyssey Arena, Belfast

WHEN?

I 4th Mau

WHAT?



Meat Loaf, one of the most successful recording artists and world's leading performers, has announced that he will be returning to the UK with his "Last At Bat" tour to bid a final opposite to his fans. This series of incredibly special dates will see the singer perform a two-act show that will include some of his greatest ever hits and songs from his debut album 'Bat Out Of Hell'

WHO?

WHERE?

Odyssey Arena, Belfast

The Big Reunion

WHEN?

17th Mau

WHAT?





Due to the extraordinary fan response to ITV2's hit show 'The Big Reunion' and tickets for the hotlu anticipated Hammersmith Apollo show selling out almost immediately, all six acts from the show (Atomic Kitten, 5ive. 911. Honeuz. B\*Witched and Liberty X) will be hitting the road this Mau to wow audiences in arenas all over the UK & Ireland.

WHO?

Can't Forget About You

WHERE?

Luric Theatre, Belfast

WHEN?

23rd May - 16 June

WHAT?



While primarily a very funny comedy, Can't Forget About You louches on deeper themes such as grief, loss, sexual mores, cultural identity, sectarianism and the question of how Northern Ireland moves on from the politics of the past and faces the future. Can't Forget About You is the first play written for the Lyric by David Ireland, one of Northern Ireland's hottest <mark>young writing talents.</mark>

WHO?

WHERE?

WHEN?

WHAT?



year's Forbidden Fruit festival in Dublin City. The two-day event, will feature sets from Chic.

Crustal Castles, James Blake and Four Tet. Some of the Irish acts include Le Galaxie, Fight Like Apes and Tieranniesaur will also perform. Tickets are on sale from online www. ticketmaster.ie and usual

ticketmaster outlets.

Forbidden Fruit Festival

Kilmainham, Dublin City

Kasabian and Primal

Scream will headline this

01 - 02 June



#### WHO? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?

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

WHO?

**Belfast Continental Market** 

WHERE?

**Belfast City Hall** 

WHEN?

24th - 27th May



Belfast sees a return of the ever popular Continental Market and thats not all this year there is a second Market at the Titanic Maritime Festival over in the Titanic Quarter on the 25th 26th and 27th May. With traders from as far afield as Morocco, India, Belgium, France, Russia, Tanzinia, Spain and China. There's always something for everyone.... Oh and the beer tent is back too.

WHO?

Sing- A- Long A Greece

WHERE?

Grand Opera House, Belfast

WHEN?

22nd - 23rd Mau



Ever wanted to know what it's like to be a T-bird or a Pink Lady but never quite felt cool enough to pull it off? Well, now is your chance to don those pink jackets, grease up those quiffs and let your inhibitions go for an evening where you are the stars. Watch Danny & Sandy and the gang, while singing and dancing along to the lyrics. It couldn't be easier or more fun! Fancy dress is strongly encouraged and full audience participation essential.



Cat Laughs Comedy Festival

WHERE?

WHO?

Various Venues, Kilkenny Cily

WHEN?

30th May - 03 June

WHAT?

Founded in 1994 in response to the burgeoning wealth of Irish comic talent with no clear national outlet for expression. It is known as a more intimate and laid back festival as there is no competition between the comedians to win awards or sell tickets to shows.

The world-class programme blends the top Irish and international talent in shows featuring globally renowned comic stars as well as newcomers and breakthrough acts.





## **NIGHTLIFE GUIDE**



DROP US AN EMAIL TODAY AT INFO@MYGAYZINE.CO.UK FOR INFO ON GETTING YOUR BUSINESS LISTED

CHECK BACK EACH MONTH FOR INFORMATION ON IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND'S BEST LGBT AND LGBT FRIENDLY VENUES.

#### Kremlin

#### El Divino

#### Club Glam

Located in Belfast, The Kremlin is one of Ireland's largest gay nightclubs & presents a variety of popular club nights every night of the week except Mondays. Join Pat Kent and Titti Von Tramp on Monday nights in the gorgeous surroundings of El Divino for three floor of music, cheap drink & entertainment. The 25th of May sees Glam host their Supherhero theme night at Bar Zu, Rosemount Factory. Hosted by Fi Fi Fontaine and Shania Laa Rue. Spot Prizes for best dressed.

#### Fox's Den

#### Mynt Belfast

#### SPICE

Twanda is back to health and has resumed her role as hostess of the Den Of Iniquity on Friday's in the den. Join Twanda and DJ Mo for a night of karaoke fun and entertainment.

Belfast's fab polysexual venue, bar opens its doors to everyone and anything goes. Great for a quick spot of lunch. Hosts a variety of different live acts and themed nights.

Join SPICE for a Eurovision Night Special on May 18th.

Listings for future SPICE @Deer's Head can be found on facebook.

#### SILK?

#### **Union Street Bar**

#### Sunflower



Union street is at the heart of Belfast's gay scene and is well known for it's extremely popular Sunday Bingo Show. Public House & Live Music. Opened in December 2012 the Sunflower Public House is a hub of live music a stone's throw from the heart of the Cathedral Quarter.

## **NIGHTLIFE GUIDE**

#### **SOUTH OF THE BORDER**

#### **Dignity Bar**

Situated in the heart of the Johnstown Quarter of Waterford City, offering customers a chilled, relaxed atmosphere "with the fun & frolics of your holidays thrown in.

#### Loafers Bar, Cork

One of the oldest gay bars in the whole of Ireland. Hosts a lesbian night on Thursday's. A trendy neighbourhood style bar.

#### Ruby's, Cork

Ruby's hosts Corks biggest gay club night every Friday in Cork's City Centre. from 11pm til Late. Bar and club host theme nights and special appearances.

#### 31 Thomas St

Limericks Premier gay venue for the ultimate night out on the town. Set over three floors with two modern bars and a dedicated club.

## Front Lounge Dublin

Established since the 1990's and nestled in the heart of Dublin, the Front Lounge is a classic modern pub.
Regularly hosts a variety of events.

#### Panti Bar, Dublin

2 level bar regularly hosting lots of fun events. They're especially fun when hosted by Panti herself: one of Irelands best known Drag Artists.

#### The Dragon

The bar's Georgian façade is little indication of the extravagance inside. An array of the hottest names on the Dublin Dance scene keep the dance anthems pumping throughout the week.

#### Chamber's Bar, Cork

Such is the popularity of Chambers since it became a fullt-time gay bar and club on August 1, 2009 that it has forced the closure of two other venues in the city. Chambers is packed from Tuesdays-Sundays, with Thursday officially being Lesbian Night (guys ARE welcome) and Friday being the only NON gay night (bouncers will let you know) as Chambers opens up to Cork's Salsa community. EUR5 cover Fri & Sat.

**Check back next month** for more pics, reviews and info on the hottest **LGBT** nightlife venues and club nights across Northern Ireland and the **Republic of Ireland** 

CONTACT US FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO GET LISTED INFO@MYGAYZINE.CO.UK

## **NIGHTLIFE GUIDE**



The crowds packed into SPICE for last month's visit from sisters Diamond and Ruby Sitges, organised in aid of the NI Hospice. We visited to take some snaps of the event and see what all the fuss was about.

## Lady Diamond and Miss Ruby Sitges visit SPICE @ The Deer's Head Saturday 13th April 2013 - Event Photographs.



The drag acts brought bags of upbeat, Sitges energy and atmosphere with them and despite the Belfast rain, everyone present got more than a little taste of Spain. Thanks to Desy and the team for a great night.

## LIFESTYLE

## **COOKING**

Submit your recipes to info@mygayzine.co.uk & we'll publish some of the best each month.

Show of your cookery skills this May with this easy to follow recipe for a meal for four. Its Father's day on June 16th so it's also an opportunity to "get your Gordon Ramsey on" and impress your family when the big day arrives. Healthy meals that are incredibly quick, easy to follow and you can pick the ingredients up at your local supermarket.

1. Heat oil in a large pot on

## Chicken Noodle Soup

#### **Ingredients**

- 2 Tsp oil
- 1 cup diced onions
- 1 sprig fresh thyme
- 1 tablespoon grated root ginger
- 3 whole chicken legs - drumsticks and thighs, skin removed
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 10 cups water
- 1 large whole star anise
- Boiling water
- 5 oz broad rice noodles
- 1/2 cup diced carrots
- 1 whole chili, thinly sliced (optional)
- 1/2 cups sliced green onions, white and green parts

medium heat 2. Add onions and thyme and saute until onions are translucent, about 2 - 3 minutes 3. Add ginger and saute for 30 seconds. 4. Add chicken legs and saute with onions and ainaer for 5 - 6 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. 5. Pour in water, add star anise, cover pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and let cook for 35 minutes or until

chicken is cooked through.

Meanwhile, soak the rice

- noodles in boiling water for 20 minutes.
- 6. When chicken is cooked through, remove from pot with a slotted spoon and let cool for about 15 minutes. Using 2 forks, shred the meat from the chicken and discard the bones.
- 7. Turn the heat to high, add in the noodles and carrots and bring the pot to a boil.

  Let the noodles cook for 5 minutes then add the chicken meat to the soup.

  Taste for seasoning and adjust if necessary.

  8. Remove pot from
- Remove pot from heat and stir in chili and green onions and serve.



## Garlic Beef with Green Beans & Red Peppers

#### **Ingredients:**

- 2 tablespoons olive or peanut oil
- 2 pounds sirloin/top round/filet/flank steak (whatever you have on hand), sliced into long, thin strips
- 1 onion, diced, 2 peppers, diced
- 1 pound green beans, cleaned and destemmed
- 1/4 cup water (if needed)
- Rice, cooked according to package directions (for serving)

#### **For the Sauce**

- 1 tablespoon olive or peanut oil
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- Two thirds of a cup of Hoisin sauce
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons lowsodium soy sauce
- 1 to 2 teaspoons
   Sriracha
- One third of a cup water

1. Slice your beef into long, thin strips. Heat 2 tablespoons of olive or peanut oil in a large saute pan over high heat and add in your beef. Cook for 3-5 minutes, until almost completely cooked (it can still be a little pink, as it will continue to cook a bit on the plate) and remove with a slotted spatula onto a plate with paper towels so the juices drain a bit. 2. Drain all but 2 tablespoons of juices out of your pan and add the diced onion. Cook for 5 minutes over medium-high heat until softened, then add in the cleaned and de-stemmed green beans. Add in 1/4 cup of water, if needed (just enough so the beans can steam), and cook for 5 more minutes, stirring frequently.

3. While you cook the onions and green beans, heat 1 tablespoon of olive or peanut oil in a small sauce pan over medium heat, then add in your minced garlic. Cook for 3 minutes, until fragrant, then add in the rest of the sauce ingredients. Stir to combine, then cook over medium-high heat for 3-5 minutes until bubbling and slightly thickened. 4. Add the sauce to the pan with the onions and green beans and cook over medium-high heat until thickened a bit more (about 3 minutes). Add in the beef and cook until heated through (about 3 minutes). Serve over rice or more vegetables. Serves 4 (or serves 5 when served over

rice).



## **ALGARVE**

This month I have decided to write about our recent holiday to the Algarve in Portugal and in particular the beautiful resort of Praia Da Rocha. As a lovely and romantic St. Valentines present from my financé Paul we set off from George Best City Airport on 24th April and experienced the best 7 days we could possibly have dreamt of.

Stunning and breath taking sandy beaches, delicious cuisine and friendly locals made it a holiday we will never forget and we will definitely be returning again next year.

There are daily flights from both Belfast International and a daily early morning flight from George Best City Airport operated by Aer Lingus. We took off at 6:30 am landed at 9:30 at Faro Airport and headed for our coach transfer, which took an hour to reach Praia da Rocha.

Praia da Rocha is the beach resort next to Portimão marina, another bustling holiday resort in its own right. It became a **REVIEW BY MAURICE DICKSON** *WWW.GAYAWAY2TRAVEL.COM* 

tourist centre at the end of the 19th century, when it was the favoured summer resort of families from, not only Portimão, but also the rest of the Algarve and Andalusia; and then in the winter with English visitors. The Hotel da Bela Vista with its Belle Epoque architecture dates from this time and stands out amongst the modern buildings along the beachfront, it is presently ranked the number 1 place to stay.

The beach itself is vast, even in the middle of summer there is plenty of space. The avenue, Tomás Cabreira, which runs along the top of the beach, is full of restaurants, cafes, and shops and is particularly lively at night with a variety of bars, and clubs to choose from.

The accommodation in Praia da Rocha is mostly hotel and high-rise apartment block based, but you'll find that they are well spaced out and close to all the local amenities, those lucky enough to be facing the

## "A welcome break away from Gay Life and a Beach lover's paradise. Praia Da Rocha is the jewel of the Algarve"

sea will have wonderful views.

Praia da Rocha is popular all year around and it was lovely to see people of all ages enjoying the April sunshine, taking a stroll, relaxing on a bench or enjoying a drink at one of the many cafes.

The resort is ideal for anyone who wants to be close to a fantastic beach, have plenty of places to wine and dine or party until late. There is also a casino along the avenue that hosts a show every night, with dinner, dancing and an opportunity to have a flutter on the tables! You'll find that most of what you need is right on your doorstep and there's not much need to rent a car. If you want to wander around the main shopping centre then Portimão is only a short walk or bus ride away.

There are all sorts of water sports available on Praia da Rocha, and a variety of boat trips are available from the Portimão riverfront (along from the marina at the eastern end of the beach). A lot of events go on throughout the year - fantastic fireworks and live music to celebrate New Year, powerboat racing or jet skiing on the river, and lots of beach sports and events during the summer. It is also very popular for cruise ships to dock and visit, you'll notice them sailing across the bay at some stage.



If you want to travel a little further afield then there are lots of things to do within easy reach of Praia da Rocha. The water park, Slide and Splash, is in Lagoa - just a short distance away and the Zoomarine near Albufeira isn't far either.

The Zoomarine has outdoor pools (so don't forget your swimming gear) as well as dolphin shows, sea lions and birds of prey shows which are amazing! We visited Zoomarine on the Monday and the shows were incredible. We also enjoyed the rapid



river ride (warningyou'll get a bit wet!), the Harakiri water slide, 4D cinema and a few other smaller amusement rides. We advise prebooking this with Gayaway2 Travel before you go as it works out cheaper than in the resort itself and return transport is included.

We mustn't forget golf - one of the Algarve's big attractions - there are several excellent courses within very easy reach of Praia da Rocha, including the championship course of Penina and newer courses near Silves (one designed by Nick Faldo and the other by Christy O'Connor jnr).

To get a taste of inland Algarve then pay a visit to Silves - an historic town with a large, well preserved, Moorish castle. One way of getting there is by boat from the river front at Portimão. It is very picturesque and the castle is the largest in the Algarve, quite spectacular.

If you are a serious shopper, then take a trip to Algarve Shopping Mall near Guia. The mall is easily reached along the A22 motorway - take the turning for Albufeira/Guia, follow the signs for Guia and the mall is on the left over the road bridge.

#### **Beaches**

Do you know the movie The Beach with Leonado di Caprio? It is about tourists arriving in Thailand who dreams about finding the perfect beach and is willing to do whatever it takes to get there. We think we found one of the most beautiful beaches in the Algarve, the

beach has plenty of the orange rock formations and arches shown in photos and postcards from Portugal. Nestled between Alvor and Portimao, a beach known as "Gay Eye" can be found. Our tip is to hire mountain bikes and cycle along the strip and cliff shore line to the town of Alvor a short distance away. You will find lot expensive hotels with signs saying beach restricted to quests only but this is not allowed under Portuguese law, keep continuing past Alvor and you will come to a nature reserve and a dirt track, follow this and keep along the coastline. From a high rock, we were able to see few guys walking down on a perfect beach and they were naked! Not everyone was naked but there was something going on at one end of the beach. It seemed that there is a tiny passage to another beach that naked guys were passing back and forth from. It was indeed one of Praia da Rocha's most perfect beaches, it can be hard to find but well worth it.

The Praia da Rocha beach is not to be overlooked either.

Take a stroll to the eastern end of the beach you'll come to a fort, the Fortaleza da Santa Caterina. From the top of it you can look down the whole length of Praia da Rocha and see it in its full glory.

If you look over to the left, you can see the fantastic multicoloured marina and across the river towards Ferragudo.

Many visitors like to come to the fort to watch the sunset.

There are plenty of fun things to do at the beach including jet skis, pedalos, windsurfing and paragliding.

The eastern end also has an area for beach sports where many competitions take place during the summer.

Praia da Rocha is supervised and is classed as an 'Accessible Beach'.



#### **Gay Scene**

One thing Praia Da Rocha lacks is an established gay scene as such, but in the neighbouring town of Portimão, you can find a few local small gay venues, which well worth a visit especially at the weekends.

We took a visit to Boémio Disco Club, open Wed-Sun from 11pm to 6am, situated close to town centre beside the river and the old bridge and only about 10 mins taxi ride, this small club offers various entertainment from drag shows, dancers and all night fun with mainly local Portuguese clientele but friendly and welcoming.

There are however numerous Irish Bars and nightclubs, next to Club Praia Da Rocha where we stayed is Daly's Irish bar, great staff, live entertainment and theme nights.

The area is very gay friendly and we even walked hand in hand along the beach and seen other gay couples doing the same.

## LIFESTYLE

## **HOLIDAYS**

## MAURICE DICKSON WWW.GAYAWAY2TRAVFI.COM

## Where to Stay?

We stayed at the Club Praia Da Rocha a 3\* on an All Inclusive basis which we found to be great value for money.

We booked a studio and were given a spacious 1-bedroom apartment that was clean but a tad out dated but who spends all of their holiday appreciating the décor in their accommodation.

The pool was spacious and clean and the stip and beaches are within 5 minutes' walk. Food was repetitive so we decided to eat out a few nights and amazed value for money restaurants around. The top place to stay is Bela Vista 5\* Hotel & Spa which set on the sea front cliff offering a boutique stay in a stately historic building costing from £100 per night.



### **Eating Out**

Claire's on the top of the strip we could not fault, you pay the price of a main course and get vour starter and dessert free! Great choice. wonderful friendly service and loyalty scheme buy 6 meals and get 7th free, the owner even marked our scheme valid forever! La Gioconda - is located next to Claire's, tucked away in the corner. We were persuaded by a nice looking guy (not much persuasion needed really!), and glad we did. The restaurant was busy but great service and an Italian

menu with local cuisine. We both enjoyed lovely meal, wine and great ambience and atmosphere is definitely popular choice amongst locals and we could see why.

Fusion Bistro Bar – this is situated on the right near to the Spar supermarket. The woman serving told me her mother is the chef and the restaurant uses fresh local ingredients in the style of homemade Portugese cooking, just pity it was our last day, but definitely on the list for when we go back next year.

## **Gayaway2 Travel Offer**

**Dept Belfast City Airport 16th October, 7 nights** 

1 bedroom apartment at Club Praia Da Rocha,

20kgs luggage Allowance, Includes transfers



## LIFESTYLE

## **FASHION**



River Island Light Wash American Flag Cross Denim Shirt £40

## **FOR MEN**

H&M Checked Wool Jacket £79.99



Topman Grey/Blue Contrast Hem Sweatshirt £20



A

USC Tapered Ranch Jeans £89



Figleaves.com
FGL Paisley Pattern
Swim Shorts
£24

Next
White Brooklyn
68 T-Shirt
£12



Superdry.co.uk Light Grey Hanbury Boot £99.99



Flipflopcity.com Havanas Bravo Flip Flop £17.99



House of Fraser Retro Traveller Nylon Watch £85



Schuh.co.uk Lakai Brea Trainers £55

## **FOR WOMEN**







Superdry.co.uk Burnout Angels Shirt £27.99

**House of Fraser** Jane Norman Cropped Skinny Jeans £28

**Topshop** Checked Shirt By Boutique £80



**New Look** Blue Denim **Knee Shorts** £19.99



USC Sol Cal Marl Hoodie £12



H&M Ladies Light Fabric Trousers £14.99



Next Washed Look Rucksack £28



**Debenhams** Pearlface DKNY watch £90



## **READER'S SECTION**

## **READER'S RANT**

Make an appearance in next month's issue: Email your rant to: info@mygayzine.co.uk



I have lived in a small village on the outskirts of Enniskillen in Co. Fermanagh all my life and never really wanted to move anywhere else in the country. If you're familiar with my surroundings you will know that this place is one of the most beautiful in all of Northern Ireland.

I came out to my family when I was just 17, I had no real experiences but knew it was right for me as I had been fighting with myself internally with feelings of self loath and worthlessness. I am now just coming 22 and have travelled quite well to gain my experiences in other parts of the Island of Ireland and the UK. I therefore realised that while Fermanagh is stunning and completely filled with real

salt-of-the-earth residents, when it comes to LGBT we are unrepresented and a little out in the cold.

Mentions of a Fermanagh
Rainbow Community lasted
a few short months after
last years LGBT float at the
St. Patrick's day festival but
even that has now fizzled
out. Search "gay Enniskillen"
on google and your greeted
by a barrage of dodgy dating
sites, search "gay Belfast"
and your laughing all the
way to the Kremlin.

I see the gays out and about in Enniskillen but there is still no dedicated gay bar or club to serve us. I've literally no choice but to travel up to Belfast, Strabane or Derry to get a night out and socialise in a place I can truly relax and be myself. Not only this but there is no organisation here to help with struggling youths or people. More

importantly there is no place to get sexual advice in a location I feel comfortable and accepted.

It is said that in times ahead that the LGBT communities will have to stand shoulder to shoulder to fight against inequalities and discrimination but how can the LGBT people in the South West of Northern Ireland stand together in their community when there isn't one to speak of.

There are loads of dating sites that people avail of down here meaning that most of the people here in my view are still hiding in their closets and meeting up from time to time to express their true nature and then return to their world of straightness. Maybe it's because there is no way else these people can learn that being gay is OK and being gay isn't something that needs hidden away, only to be expressed twice a week at a car park followed by days and days of self hatred and low self esteem. It is so important for everyone to have access to this kind of help and down here in backwardland we are in need more that most.

**Shane McKinnely. Enniskillen.** 

Whether your feeling passionate about something, annoyed by someone or just wanting somewhere to express your feelings, we would like to hear from you. TEXT US YOUR COMMENTS 07564877618

## **SHOUT OUT ZONE**

TEXT US YOUR SHOUT OUT TO 07564877618, YOU CAN EMAIL US AT INFO@MYGAYZINE.

CO.UK OR DROP US A MESSAGE THROUGH OUR WEBSITE: WWW.MYGAYZINE.CO.UK.

Great to see Lady Portia on the front cover. Looking as good as ever Larry, Antrim Happy 3rd Anniversary to Gerry and Darren from Dublin. Hope for many more happy years together. Nichola & Dan. MYGAYZINE
NORTHERN IRELAND

TEXT US
07564877618

Hiya to Bazcam, well done for joining the Mygayzine team congrats to both of you Shauna, Dungannon

Happy 40th to Big (KE-)Babs McKenna in Derry. Love from Bronagh

Loved last month's issue and look forward to meeting you at pride. Willy, Liverpool Well done on the printers story! Great to see people are taking action against these bigots! Lisa, Dundrod

Brilliant night at the
Deer's Head. can't wait
to see the pics

A year ago I stopped becoming a christian thanks to Richard Dawkins, I am straight but fully support all aspects of gay culture, especialy the right to marry.

S. Jacques

I can't get Ibiza out of my head! GH, Lisnaskea see here? Text
us today at your
standard network
message rate. Text
us your photos
and comments,
we will publish a
selection of the
best and most
memorable ones
in every months

**Got a message** 

for someone

that you'd like to

**Get TEXTING...** 

issue.

## **FEATURES**

# <u>Mister Underground</u> **Dealing with Depression**

Christopher Preston is no stranger to MyGayZine Magazine and has already contributed to two previous editions. This time he's back for an open and honest chat about his battles with mental health, the challenges in his personal life and how it has influenced his musical creativity.



talking to Aware NI about helping others with depression/mental health problems. This to me has a very personal meaning as I have also experienced anxiety and depression

I have recently been

Ever since around the age of 18 I had major anxiety problems which have included panic attacks/depression.

at first hand.

There were days I couldn't leave the house or didn't want to get out of bed... It was a very dark time for me.

There eventually came a point where I felt I had to do something about it because it was controlling me and affecting my daily life. Everything from my job, the relationships with my family and my social life.

Feeling so low and reaching this rock bottom situation also started to cause me distress and I was losing sleep at night. I thought that I could start using my negative past and flip it into something positive by helping others who are suffering with anxiety/depression.

There are a few people I help out at the moment who would send me emails etc and I would work with them on a one to one basis and will hopefully assist them and help them overcome this disorder.

People find it difficult opening up about this issue and me being so open and honest about my experiences will hopefully show people there is light at the end of that tunnel and there are people out there who can help.



The stigma attached to mental health problems means that few are willing to chat about their experiences and explore the issues in full.

People have been quick to criticise my music and can be quite judgemental of the role I play as Mister Underground.

I use my music as a scapegoat to free my mind. My anxiety/ depression was becoming less and less the more I was working on my music.

I feel if you write your feelings down it can lift a huge amount of weight off your shoulders and months down the line you can read back and reflect on how you have changed as a person.

It's a beautiful
thing to be able to
communicate with
people through music,
it's a way to send a
message to people
going through the same
thing and in a way my
music is like my own
very public diary. When
I think about the lyrics
from a song I've written
I recall the emotions
I was experiencing at
that time.

That to me is what being an artist is all about, living for now but having your past to look back on and learn from. Most people are too absorbed in their beeping gadgets, their relationships, jobs and everything else to pause a moment for thought and take stock of their own state of mind.

The past few months have been quite rough as I've been dealing with an intense break up. It's difficult when you love someone and you know that their feelings for you have changed completely.

I feel the best way to deal with it is to completely cut ties with them in your life or to at least stop talking to them for 30 days. After this time you will feel it gets easier.. Time really is a the best healer.

# MISTER UNDERGROUND new single & video

After 8 months it's now time to release a new single! Finally!... The new single is entitled "Painted Grey" and includes guest vocals from Medz, an upcoming female vocalist from Bristol... I'm sure you'll be hearing a lot more form her in the coming months...



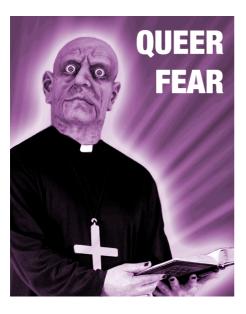
The track will be accompanied by the 10 minute music video for "5ex/Painted Grey". 5ex is an exclusive track that will feature on the brand new album "Blitz kidd #1" and will be played at the opening titles of the new music video directed & edited by BigBad Llama (Tony Webster).

"You cut me dry, Our love was a lie, Was it ever alive. Was it always a lie..." "A sky painted grey, Another love lost today, Foolish hearts from the start, Said they never depart, Now they've fallen apart, Separated by dark"

Video will premiere on VEVO/Vimeo in June 2013

## **FEATURES**

## Peter Francis Fahy queer fear



Do youse wanna hear a really scary story?

Let's see what my twisted mind can conjure up....

Deep into the darkest hours of the night, 3AM, the witching hour, gay Greg lay alone in bed. Outside, furious winds howled and hollered, shaking the window pane and whistling into the cold room.

The faint fog of gay Greg's trembling breath disappeared into the dark. He shuddered from the freeze, but he shuddered more for the fear, fear because the creatures were here, the

demons who tormented him all his life had now come to claim him.

Old wood creaked as the creatures climbed the stairs, coming closer, closer, until the bedroom door cracked and burst into splintering bits as the monsters made their thunderous entry.

First came the hell howling priest, his eyes on fire, ablaze with the ferocious light of his own righteousness, holding his ancient Bible high in the air, a Bible as black as death and as heavy as a tombstone, a black Bible to bash the sodomites with dogma and damnation!

Beside him was the other creature. a buck naked female, horny as hell and squeezing at her breasts, circling her hips and pushing her pelvis out, exposing the monstrous mouth between her thighs, wet lips puckering open, a bloated tongue licking at the greasy flaps and two sharp rows of shark teeth jutting out from the pink folds, a hideous mouth that would chomp on gay Greg's genitals and suck every seed out of him, creating babies, babies, babies, forcing him into fatherhood. All around the priest and girl swirl the ugly unborn baby heads, fluttering like moths, screeching 'daddy' over and over again.

Queer fear, as the name suggests, is a sub-genre of horror that explores homosexual anxieties and pressures, serious subjects such as AIDS and homophobia, all deconstructed and reconstructed into fantastical forms.

Gay Greg trembled in terror and screamed in fear as heterosexuality was forced upon him.

The wild wind shattered the glass inward as the priest grabbed Greg's kicking legs and hauled him from his bed, into the depth of darkness, where he'd be twisted and transformed into someone he was never meant to be.

#### Aarrrrgggh!

How's that for horror? It's a bit of a hack job, but it's what's known in the entertainment industry as Queer Fear.

So what is Queer Fear, and how does it differentiate from regular fear?

Horror is the perfect genre to dramatize social fears and concerns. It's a magic mirror for humanity's darkest dreads: murder, genocide, social dissolution. Queer fear, as the name suggests, is a sub-genre of horror that explores homosexual anxieties and pressures, serious subjects such as AIDS and homophobia, all deconstructed and reconstructed into fantastical forms.

Conventional cinematic horror is, to use Judith Butler's term, notoriously heterosexist. We see heterosexual

females hounded or harassed by a demonic male antagonist, and the films usually end with a heterosexual male rescuing the female. They become the straight survivors, the building blocks of a nuclear family.

To expand on that idea, conventional horror serves an important social function: it reinforces heterosexual relations and ensures heterosexuality is the predominant social code. Think about some of the most popular and prolific horror films: The Exorcist, Nightmare on Elm Street, Halloween, Poltergeist, all these films feature fractured families - a destabilization of the family unit, and it's when the family is in danger that the boogeymen barge in.

The 'family in crisis' theme is one of the common denominators in cinematic horror, and because of that patriarchal and heterosexist message, gay viewers can feel alienated from the movie experience - we're unable to fully appreciate the dreamlike participation or voyeuristic frission of cinema because we can't completely relate to the characters or themes.

But now, in the 21st century, there's opportunities in film and publishing for homosexual horror, for sexually specific representations and stories that would not have been permitted or tolerated in the 20th century.

"Who hasn't seen The Lost Boys? Would you say there's a homoerotic subtext in this movie? There definitely is, not just because Joel Schumacher, the director, is openly gay. The film is peppered with homosexual hints and references."



A great example would be the groundbreaking anthology of homosexual horror stories called Queer Fear. The stories all have the common ingredients of horror: murder, monsters, mutilations, mysteries, but told from a homosexual perspective. The stories move away from heterosexually encoded horror and let gay writers dramatize their fears and concerns.

Michael Rowe, the editor for the Queer Fear anthology, won numerous awards for his project and has already released a second volume. I should get in touch with the guy and see if I can get some of my gory stories in the third collection.

But beyond the books, homoerotic horror has proved popular in film as well. Gay horror films such as Hellbent, Zombies of Mass Destruction and No Night is Too Long made a bit of a splash in box-offices around the world, and proved to movie-makers that successful horror doesn't have to be heterosexually encoded.

However, that's not to say homosexuality never surfaced in horror films before. Harry M. Benshoff explores the cinematic presence of homosexuality in his book 'Monster in the Closet: Homosexuality and The Horror film.' Writing from a post-modernist perspective, Benshoff reviews the history of horror films, specifically the role of the movie monster, and argues that a homoerotic subtext existed in films from the 50s, 60s, and 70s.

Movie monsters are essentially melodramatic and monstrous representations of 'the other' or the

## Peter Francis Fahy | queer fear

unknown, and it wasn't uncommon to demonize something that was feared and misunderstood throughout the 20th century i.e. queer sexuality.

Consider 'The Creature from the Black Lagoon' (and we've all went one with one) - a bog beast that emerges from the swamp to attack men and drag them back to a murky lair. Benshoff argues that if you scratch the surface of this movie monster, you'll see a dramatic demonization of homosexuality. It makes sense - back in the 1950s, homosexuality horrified mainstream society, and this mucky movie monster is a distorted reflection of those fears.

But let's move forward to films we all know and love. Who hasn't seen The Lost Boys? Would you say there's a homoerotic subtext in this movie? There definitely is, not just because Joel Schumacher, the director, is openly gay. The film is peppered with homosexual hints and references.

Think about it: there's a gang of strange and dangerous boys who live on the fringes of society. These hot young vampires terrorize the happy seaside town. Substitute the word 'vampire' for 'queer' and you'll get a different perspective on the characters.

Then there's the sizzling sexual tension between gang leader David

and new vampire Michael. How does Michael become a vampire/ queer? He just has to exchange some bodily fluids with David. And who could forget Michael's wee brother Sam, who dresses up in shirts that would put Elton John to shame. And to top it all off, there's that cracker scene where Sam opens his closet, and what do we see pinned to the door but an erotic poster of Rob Lowe. Could you be more queer?

So it's good to know that gays aren't entirely excluded from the horror genre. And if you want to read some homoerotic horror set in bloody beautiful Belfast then check out The Unspeakable, my collection of gory gay stories. Yes, it's shameless advertising, but what do you expect from a lost boy like me?



## **FEATURES**

## <u>Father Joseph Ryan</u> papa francisco - the new pope



On Wednesday 13th March, I was travelling on the train towards Belfast when my mobile phone rang with a colleague advising me that a new pope had been elected and the announcement from the balcony of St Peters was imminent.

I had a flashback by almost 8 years to when the exact same moment the announcement of now Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was made and the sinking feeling so many people experienced. My prayer as I sat waiting to hear the new pope being named was that the gift of early retirement of Benedict XVI would not have been squandered by the cardinals at this critical juncture of the history of the Roman Catholic Church.

And thank God they did not fail us or indeed the Holy Spirit as the then-

Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was announced as the 265th successor to Saint Peter. When I eventually got to see the announcement for myself, with the new pontiff stepping out on the balcony, the names of two popes came to mind right away – Blessed John XXIII (he who established Vatican II) and Paul VI who succeeded him.

Blessed John XXIII unleashed the Holy Spirit in the church through the calling of Vatican II and always seemed to have that most basic and simple of ways about him which typified his being a man of the earth and of the people. Paul VI (despite the Humanae Vitae debacle) steered the church through difficult times post-Vatican II and done it in a strict but humane way, most notably the improved relations between Orthodox and Catholic.

Firstly, let me reflect on Pope Francis or 'Papa II Poverello' as he has become known which means the Pope of the Poor Little One and this is very evident with every word, gesture and deed he has uttered, implemented and imparted. Gone is the majestic vestments and clothing, most notably the red Prada leather shoes, the red mozetta (cape), the sharing of the bus-ride with his cardinals, back to the Santa Martha hotel after being elected as pope, where he also insisted on paying his bill and now lives.

He has chosen a gold plated ring over the ornate Fishermans Ring normally worn by pontiffs; he has kept his own plain silver pectoral cross and wears regular clergy clothing under the white papal cassock.

I could go on about these minor but important changes in symbolic terms, but it is important to note that he has gone further than just mere clothing etc in his duties. He has visited local churched to celebrate Mass and after which he goes outside and greets all who attend Mass and chats, shakes hands and blesses each and all.

## 'Preach always....and use words where necessary'

(St Francis of Assisi)

He visited the juvenile prison for the washing of the feet, and caused some consternation when he washed the feet of (wait for it now) 2 young women and one of whom was not even catholic!! Oh the humanity of him....

Each time he speaks, the words of mercy, compassion, love and justice come from his mouth and practised by him in deed and action. One only has to reflect upon him lifting the child from an audience member and holding him dear to him and giving the child a kiss of peace to which the child reacted and hugged the pope, before returning the kiss of peace. Oh the humility of him....

He has decried the abuse of minors in the church and has instructed swifter justice be brought against those who have betrayed the people of God, with more excommunications and laicisations than heretofore promised. Oh the honesty of him....

## 'Where there is despair, hope' (St Francis of Assisi)

Secondly, I firmly believe that he will hold the line on the church teachings on many issues as all and any pope before him has done but he is reaching out in a way not really seen before and I only hope and pray that he continues as he has begun and indeed wish and pray for him that he be guided at all times by the teachings of St Francis.

This holding the line on church teachings has become very evident and to the fore in the last while with Francis continuing the process begun under now Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in relation to the American nuns and sisters. This has been a questionable, divisive and very challenging process and looks as if it is going to take a lot of patience and understanding before it ever reaches an amicable conclusion.

It is a time of great change and challenge within the hierarchy and indeed for all of us who remain on the fringes – whether by choice or otherwise – and not unlike St Francis, as we ourselves seek guidance, Let the Holy Spirit guide us so that Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; and Where there is sadness, joy. If Pope Francis can do it, what excuse do we have for not doing it?

## **FEATURES**

## Father Joseph Ryan the constitutional convention



I now reflect on Sunday 14th April, just one month after the naming of the new pope; and this day now being somewhat historic here in Ireland as the Constitutional Convention announced its overwhelming vote in favour for the Government to hold a referendum on same sex marriage.

It is perhaps only right that we remind ourselves of the response of the Irish Roman Catholic Bishops to the near reality of same sex marriage being made possible via referendum in Ireland.

A little something to keep in mind is that in the Republic, if you wish to get married in church, then you give 3 months notice to the civil registrar of your intention including date venue and officiant. This is because the State licences religious celebrants to officiate at both the religious and civil ceremony which we collectively refer to as the wedding.

This is almost unique in Europe where otherwise you would be obliged to be civilly registered as husband and wife by going to the local state registrar and once that is done, whatever denomination you are (if any) you can then get married according to that denominations rituals.

The Irish Roman Catholic Bishops have threatened the Irish Government that if it proceeds with granting same sex couples the right to marry (as opposed to civil partnership as is currently stands) then they (the Bishops) will instruct their clergy to cease acting as state registrars at weddings and only perform the religious rituals.

This would be so done so as to protect the special place of marriage in society according to the Bishops but yet discriminate against same sex couples.

How contradictory to the pope they are behaving and indeed to Christ Himself whose message of 'do unto others as you would have done unto you' should be giving their Graces food for thought.



As a member of the LGBT community and as a priest, I have hope and confidence in Pope Francis who obviously believes in practising what he preaches but as for closer to home, well I will not hold my breath.

We are living in interesting times indeed, and the move towards joining New Zealand which recently became the 13th country in the world to permit and legally recognise same sex marriage with France now looking increasingly likely to be the 14th. It is regrettable that Archbishop Vingt-Trois of Paris recently stated that to permit same sex marriage in France will result in protests and perhaps violence on the streets and such inflammatory language will encourage just that!! No

doubt the good Archbishop will then do the inevitable Pilate and wash his hands of his own comments when such trouble will occur. Indeed, the problems have begun in France with 14,500 registrars saying they will not officiate at same sex marriage ceremonies if it becomes law.

Here in Ireland, one has to wonder will those in such positions to officiate exercise their consciences according to the Episcopal (bishop) diktat or according to the words of Christ: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13: 34-35)

## poetry corner

## **Chris McMurray**

## write me something Beautiful

write me something beautiful without a single sheet of paper or the use of a tedious pen

I want the ink to spill from your tongue, as your lips against mine become the words, and the fluidity your hands creates the punctuation.

our breath
will craft the
direction,
as our kisses
slowly
turn into
paragraphs,
allowing the
movement
of our bodies
to create the

of this perfectly

written novel.

## A WOMAN'S TOUCH

Dimensions of space and time so many aspects of the divine within the arms of trust a calm my lover's lips a soothing balm so sweetly my love be gentle finding in your eyes such hues Things you say to me and do Tonight I am moved by you Letting down my guard Letting you inside my heart Feeling your depth & warmth flowing ever so freely forth Touches so tender and light knowing your strength holding tight my spirit and flesh meld on this night only a woman's touch feels so right Every moment with you is beautiful Feeling so connected beyond this plane knowing you in such expansive ways we bond ever closer from night to Passions yearning to be expressed making love discovering new depths silence and whimpers all in a symphony Feeling your heartbeat as you lay next to me we unite and find our piece of heaven knowing the moments are freely given Precious are the expressions we

You are a woman that is beyond

compare...

we

100

am

70

## Cassie Harold

## Give into me...

a punch in the stomach, oh yes i see very clearly, i see the troubles and pain you endure, i see those weeping eyes, i hear the words you speak, but tell me is that the truth?

or are the bitter words you harbour a smoke screen for your pain? i can see you're expecting me to be the one you lean upon, but sorry my dear.... you must go on your way and sing your own song.

oh i feel the feelings
you carry deep inside,
i see all that you are,
but your denial and
truth collide,
at war with yourself,
trying desperately not
to give in,
you thought i would sust
crumble,
did no one tell you that
i am built like an ox?
i am not the type to
bow down.

but i am here waiting, god only knows how much itry, you know as well as i do, my tears for you shall never run dry, oh yes you, you and all the sexual desire that seeps from your pores, that spark of electric energy, demanding that i take you now, i would love to put these words into action, a slip of the tongue or so to speak, but it's you, you alone must take the reins.

see... when all that denial is turned into truth, you'll find a new way of hitting the roof, i listen, i hear the deep breaths, shaking as you exhale, i see the words you long to say already set like tire in your eyes, i know that tough exterior is a disquise, that smile on your face, you know that one you only use for me, give your mind a rest and set yourself free, steady your thoughts, give into me, give into

it nagin

## **FEATURES**

## **Lucy Lashes**

## emerging gay scene in donegal



Lucy Lashes is an established drag performer in Co. Donegal and is known as one of Ireland's few live-singing queens! You may have read her articles in Rainbow MSM and seen her appearances on BBC and Sky Television. She has ran her own transformation service, strutted her stuff across Northern Ireland down as far as Cork and has ioined us for this issue to tell the readers what it's like to be LGBT in Donegal and what they have to offer for the LGBT community after years of building a scene.

In my eyes, the LGBT community in Donegal has come a long way. For years there has always been a

prevalence of the community as in any part of the world – but Donegal never had a place for us to call our own...now we have far from few! I was fortunate enough to see it built from the beginning and take part in it.

Breakout, a youth LGBT group was set up by Donegal Youth Service in 2009 in Letterkenny and Buncrana with the aim to support LGBT teens and their families in a safe environment.

The way in which this group has impacted on people is phenomenal; 'I didn't realise I needed Breakout until I started going!' The group meets in Donegal Youth Services HQ in Letterkenny every Saturday afternoon for cups of tea, chat,

training and outings. This group and their work have been in the public eye of Donegal since, particularly their event 'Chalk it up' where they took to the streets of Letterkenny and covered the pavements with positive messages about LGBT in chalk.

The amazing thing about it was that everyone passing joined in too! Since then, 'Chalk it up' has appeared throughout Donegal! 2010 saw the start on Donegal's first LGBT group, Amuigh ('Out' in Irish). This new social group allowed people from all over Donegal and beyond to meet up in Letterkenny in a safe environment, attend talks, or even go to the pub for a few drinks! In the same year, Amuigh organised Donegal's first big gay night 'The Pride Factor'. I remember seeing it in the papers and all over Facebook and thinking; 'Holy f#@k! Donegal made history!' I never seen anything like it and I never thought I'd ever see it in Donegal!

A large function room in Arena 7 covered in pride flags with people from Donegal and beyond singing at the top of their voice! (Scarleh for some of them though because they can't sing for sh\*t!) I had the lovely opportunity of hosting Amuigh's first Alternative Prom....except I wasn't too bothered about wearing a prom dress!

Word wasn't long spreading that the gays were coming out to play, and within weeks 'The Eden Experience', Ireland's premier travelling gay night came to Letterkenny! What was supposed to be a monthly event magically turned into a weekly event



and Letterkenny was buzzing with its new sleek gay venue! Myself and Ms. Scarlett Rose (another fabulous queen from our neck of the woods) became the resident hostesses with the mostesseesssss! We even had acts up from Galway and Dublin and crowned a Mr. and Ms. Gay Donegal! Since then the Donegal gay scene has had more facelifts that Joan Rivers with the launch of Rainbow Club, Indigo and Koko...all the same venue! Well, you know what they say! Perfection takes more than one attempt! While that was sorting itself out, myself and Scarlett Rose teamed up to make the live-singing drag duo Donegal Divas and toured around Ireland! We went to the most of the main prides, had gigs in hotels, festivals, pubs, clubs...and the straight people LOVED IT! 'Do you like our legs? They make lovely earrings!'

## **FEATURES**

## <u>Lucy Lashes</u> gay scene in donegal



It was strange doing drag in Donegal because people really didn't get it! It was only when we started to immerse ourselves into the entire community, they seen drag for what it was – entertainment!

Like all good things the club came to an end, but with a promise that it would return. The club might have come and gone, but the community was still here and so was their spirit. I didn't go anywhere! I stuck around like a bad smell and continued my shows! Since then, Donegal had its first ever pride event in conjunction with Northwest Pride. How did we do it? We found one of the straightest pubs in Letterkenny and turned it gay for a night! The amount of support shown that night from all over the county and beyond made a clear statement that Donegal is still gay and proud! Recently several faces from the LGBT community in Donegal came out and told their story in the LGBT Faces of Donegal Exhibition in April.

Fach individual had a different story and picture to show their personality. This Breakout project included students, couples, brothers, sisters, mothers, teachers, An Garda Síochána and people in the public eye. The exhibition was a massive success and these stories showcased by a very talented photographer Christina Jose Irwin remained on display in the Regional Cultural Centre for two weeks. Christina has even done photography for Civil Partnerships and was a massive support to the project and is available through www.facebook.com/ ChristinaJlrwinPhotography.

The exhibition is planning its display in other venues throughout the country on a national level. If you have a venue you would like to display the exhibition in, please contact Sinead Murray (Breakout) on 0035386-1247968 or email sinead.murray@donegalyouthservice.ie.

Letterkenny has also started up a new LGBT clubbing venue called Shine! Situated in a safe and central location, Shine has brought gay clubbing back to Letterkenny! Shine launched its brand new monthly event in Oceans Bar, a former top-class casino and restaurant with sleek style and sexy surroundings.



The opening night was in March and was such a success that the venue started running out of supplies due to the demand! Shine just had a UV Glow Party on May 4th and it was mental! The organisers came back with a vengeance with more supplies. more staff and it went extremely well - possibly the largest gathering of LGBTs in Letterkenny as people came all the way from Belfast to check out the fuss! The next night is scheduled for June and promises to be a great success! You can keep up to date with Shine's events at https://www. facebook.com/shine.letterkenny

I've been born and raised in Donegal, and I think it's a great place to be if you're a member of the LGBT community! We're the friendliest county in Ireland with the sexiest accent (apparently!) Don't knock it till you try it (not the accent!) Come down to Donegal for a visit...and ask for Lucy Lashes....she'll keep you right!



Do you have a problem or a question that's burning inside you like syphilis? Then don't forget to look at Lucy's Agony Aunt column in the next issue!

# misty falls presents what's the t?



## **PRIDE FASHION**

So in this month's 'What's the T?' We look a few months into the future and talk about one of the biggest social and cultural event in the LGBT calendar, the Belfast Pride Festival, and what to wear, and further more what NOT to wear, to release the inner Queen in us all.

For a Drag Queen, Pride outfits can start being planned months in advance, I know in previous years as well as this coming year I've spent a good few months planning different ideas before settling on a chosen design.

Other Queens that I know are having pieces shipped from around the globe and order these long times in advance to make sure they are here for the big event.

This year the theme for Belfast Pride is 'Bight and Bold' - Bright colours and Bold statements for equality. Belfast Pride had this to say "The theme has been

inspired by our late colleague PA MagLochlainn who passed away last November - PA was one of the founder members of Belfast Pride and worked tirelessly for LGBT rights for many years and his focus on Equality has inspired your new Pride committee to consider the origins of Pride as well as its purpose. The Bright Colours of the Rainbow flag representing the diversity of LGBT people and reflecting a diverse, entertaining and thought provoking week of events while encouraging us all to think about the rights that we still lack and to speak up and make positive, Bold Statements for Equality during the parade and the entire festival."

This year I have started plans well in advance, bought the base for my outfit in January, the rhinestones in March and the fringe in April, all I need to do is piece the different elements together to make my costume for this year.

For those of you in a creative

mindset. Belfast City Centre has a good selections of material shops as well as places to buy outfits and then customise them vourself. I get all my material in The Spinning Wheel, where I had to hound the counter woman for fringe. You don't know how hard it is to buy until vou actually start searching for it. For those less creative and looking for that extra special something, Belfast also has a great range of designers for people who love to make a statement. one of which is Van Der Simon **Knitwear whose fabulous creations** been worn by Ireland's top drag artists and appeared at Belfast Fashion Week.

Creativity isn't only required when selecting or designing an outfit, drag performers also need to plan their make-up, wigs and accessories. No-one wants to look the same as another Queen and we go all out to make sure it doesn't happen.

This years I predict to see every colour of the rainbow embodied at Pride as well as a return of Neon Print and colour variations. It's going to look as though a factory full of skittles exploded over Belfast with boy George inside. This year Belfast have to make a real statement after another Equal marriage motion was defeated at Stormont last month. The louder and more colourful our message, the more of a statement we will be sending to those in opposition to equal rights. Primark have a great range of Neon accessories in store at the moment, so get vourself down and stock up!



To keep up with all things Pride this year and for years to come make sure to LIKE the Belfast Pride Festival Facebook page and follow them on Twitter @ belfastpride and mention them in comments #Bproud2013. Also follow my Pride Outfit progress and all things Misty on FB:www. facebook.com/missmfalls, on Twitter: @MissMFalls and Instagram: @MuckleFalls.

**Love Misty xxx** 

It's May already and we're quickly approaching the middle of our year and with that often comes a time of reflection and soul searching. Should you progress on the path you've already set out on or should you take an opportunity to broaden your horizons, make positive changes or let your soul wander. I've looked to the skies for advice this month and the cosmos looked back.

## ARIES March 21 - April 19

May should provide more time to re-appraise and fortify situations. Consolidation is a keyword. Adopt a calm and practical approach, especially around security issues and finances. From late last month you may have felt the cost of living going up, and how important it is, in family situations, to have mutual support

## **GEMINI** May 21 - June 20

You may be busy finishing up the details on something, or madly trying to get something together in time. A word of advice – slow down and breathe occasionally too. Haste can make waste you know. Important - worry will achieve nothing, except to make things harder. Whatever will be – will be.

## TAURUS April 20 - May 20

See your horoscope for more information.

The enormous energy of the Sun and Mars, empowered by transformative Pluto, is providing fresh courage and motivation to move beyond the familiar. Overall, taking the initiative early this month, and playing within the rules, can produce rewards before the month is out. The financial opportunities are coming through across the last week, and money making ideas launched then can hit the jackpot.

#### CANCER June 21 - July 22

Friends can be a huge support now, and you may even find some old pals getting back in touch at the right time. Group activities are also in season, and new friendships can evolve though similar interest clubs or subjects. You're increasingly in tune with the collective and radiating the right signals to like-minded people.

#### LEO July 23 - August 22

Communicative Mercury is highlighting friends from the middle of May onwards and the winged messengers union with congenial Venus over the last week can bring people together around you. This is advantageous for Leo students, writers, and those who work with the media or directly with the public.

## LIBRA Sept 23 - Oct 22

On a personal basis relationships will either strengthen through greater commitment, or divide through a lack of it. You're more likely to see situations in black and white, and it's helpful to do that now. One thing to be careful of is to be giving out a lot more than you're getting back. If other people are too demanding, let them know that it's a two way street.

## SAGITTARIUS Nov22 - Dec21

Take note of dreams, intuitive hunches, and recurring feelings, as they are telling you something important about yourself. Something is surfacing that you may have denied because it meant walking a different and risky road. Now is the time to face that fear of the unknown.

#### AQUARIUS Jan 20 - Feb 18

Although the planets are dealing more with your private life than public one, new projects can certainly be launched. However realize that you are really starting from the ground up and it may be a good six months before some things reach realization.

## VIRGO August 23 - Sept 22

This time of widening horizons may coincide with physical travel, moving, or key in with expansive new interests with an eye to the future. In some cases there can be a second chance involved, particularly applicable to alliances or relationships. If you've moved on from a partnership, you'll start to feel more confident on your own.

#### SCORPIO Oct 23 - Nov 21

Overcoming the fear of being alone, and being responsible for your own decisions is a big part of this eclipse energy, as is finding an internal peace if you're within a relationship. You also have self-sufficient Saturn in Scorpio this month putting the onus on self-responsibility, this is essential to continue your spiritual development.

#### CAPRICORN Dec22 - Jan 19

The inner planets are aligning in your house of pleasures and enjoyment. Not surprisingly this is also your house of 'creative self-expression'. The easy advice is be yourself – and remember just who that really is. The mid-month Solar Eclipse also provides a timely reminder to live for the moment.

## PISCES Feb 19 - March 20

You may be doing some extra study, attending some think tanks, or more involved in negotiating or sales. There may be more intermediate travel attached to this, Outside of professional settings you can still be connecting up with people more than usual.



# a minute or four with Clor

Well Hallo, have I got news for vou... Where do I start???? Before I do. just have a squint outside, at what you might ask? The sun is shining again!!! Maybe a bit damp now and then but hev we have to take the good days and milk them. Go out as often as you can, especially in the sun as you get the feel good factor totally free and you can top up on your vitamin D as well. Now I don't know if you've heard, but my play was an absolute blinder of a success, both the opening night and the press night were packed and we got standing ovations on both nights, you can see pictures online. What a fabulous review by one of the Uk's Top Critic's and we are about to start an adventure round the UK on tour, then over to the south of Ireland and after that we will be gracing Belfast. The rehearsals were hard work and consumed a lot of my time, I'm definitely glad to see the back of them. Well done to Bruce Jones for such a great performance, next stop **Dance House Theatre Oxford** Road, Manchester. Now I have some worrying news

on the club front, well the Gav Village in Manchester, Boozefuelled revellers could kill the Gay village in Five Years I've been told. You know what a greedy world this is and it's only getting worse. I am ashamed to say that the gay businesses are cutting their own throats, no I take that back I'm not ashamed, but maybe they should be as they're blatantly ripping off their own. At one time many moons ago, when being gay was illegal and any gay social activities were banished underground, everyone looked out for each other and shared information. Bars that were gay friendly had to hide behind banners that wouldn't attract attention and gays were accommodated discretely. This was a time when big businesses hadn't yet monopolised the gay scene and held people to ransom with extortionate door taxes and drink prices. There is a stark difference between then and now. back then there was camaraderie towards their own kind, unlike today when the gay pubs and clubs can't get enough of our cash.

Ryan's back with us this month and taking time out of his hectic schedule to present another edition of "A minute or four". This month he's discussing the huge success of his new play, speaking about the issues facing the Manchester gay scene and being his usual quirky self.

Look at Pride, we need to start again with that fest in my opinion. Why? Well open your eyes, I have touched on this in an article in a past issue, £3 for a pack of chips, £3.50 for a hamburger, that really does taste of anything other than beef, maybe horse, now £30 for a weekend pass armband. Then after paying all that the Village pubs double their prices. Now many of the stall holders are now having to tender their bid for a pitch, and the highest bid wins, again in my opinion the organisers have forgotten what Pride exactly stands for!! Last year I sent some guys over to a stand and what they came back with was worrying, one said "You will never guess what that guy over there told his worker", when I asked what I was shocked!! " Just give them the burgers we had condemned" he whispered. I immediately told a steward and my reply was I'm not gay mate go and see the organisers"... Any bit of wonder the Village is cracking. Late-night drug dealing, disorder and drunken violence are also big problems on the Manchester scene. The city centre boss has

warned the area must clean up its act soon-or face disappearing forever, Councillor Pat Kearney said "Late-night drinking has ruined the Village, I Pioneered the 24 -hour city but if the village doesn't get its act together it's got five more years. There is a problem with community safety and crime and it's attracting people it was never intended to". All these issues are causing many members the community to stay away. Well guys and gal's if we don't change things soon then it's back to the old days. So come on Manchester Village you are on the world stage now, show some ball's and clean up your act! Now I know you're probably wondering where the problem and answer section is this month, well give me a break!!! I have just come of stage with Talk but boy have I got some great stories you have sent me and am pleased to say I will be including them in my next month's column, now until then play safe and may your God go with you.

Ryan Dior XXXX

