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60 SONGS

THAT CHANGED OUR LIVES

WE COUNT DOWN FROM
OVER THE RAINBOW TO FAG

ANTHONY CALLEA

UNPLUGGED AND UNFILTERED

INTO TEMPTATION

DAVID LURS BY STAS VOKMAN

AIR BNB KILL BILL

AND OTHER REAL-LIFE SEX DISASTERS!

JOSH REID JONES

SEXY CONSTRUCTION WORKER
STARTS CHARITY PROJECT!

GREECE

UNSPOILED

A WELL-KEPT SECRET

#239

CANDY ON THE BEACH

SUMMER'S HOT NEW
SWIMWEAR



"I CAN'T HIDE
MY SEXUAL
ENERGY..."

OSCAR Y'S

SIZZLING PHOTO SHOOT

ON THE COVER:

MATT
LANGMAID

BY CHRISTIAN SCOTT

THE DNA C

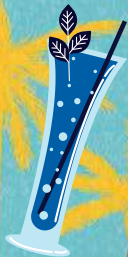
POOP PARADE

SEXY
STUFF!

IVY POOL DECK,
SYDNEY

HOSTESS
MAXI SHIELD

DJ DOM
DE SOUSA



CHRISTMAS

OLY PARTY

21 DECEMBER



DJ MKY

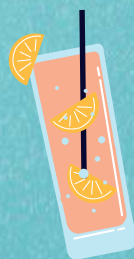


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SUMMER 2020



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December 2019



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ON THE COVER: MATT WEARS
MODUS VIVENDI FRUIT SWIMWEAR.

ON THIS PAGE: MATT WEARS RUFKIN'S
CALKINI CRAZY PURPLE BEACH BRIEF.



FROM THE EDITOR / ANDREW CREAGH

SUMMER DOWN UNDER

Apologies to our Northern Hemisphere readers but here in Australia it's summer, glorious summer, and that means the Christmas holidays.

For me, Christmas means mornings at the beach, barbeques and afternoon naps. This year I'm headed to the resort town of Busselton in Western Australia with a bunch of friends and family for our traditional eat-too-much-and-do-nothing festival.

At DNA, summer and Christmas means the December issue Swimwear shoot, which you are holding in your hands, and the DNA Christmas Pool Party, which you can buy tickets to!

This year's Swimwear cover guy is Matt Langmaid. We discovered Matt on Instagram, invited him to a test shoot, and knew straight away he'd be perfect to show off this season's new ranges.

On the cover, Matt looks amazing in Modus Vivendi's gorgeous Fruit Brief, especially with that stunning Sydney sunset behind him, captured by

photographer Christian Scott.

(Hot tip: Use the code DNA15 when shopping on the Modus Vivendi site to get a 15 per cent DNA reader discount.)

The swimwear trend this year is vivid colour. Rufskin's two briefs, featured in the shoot, are electric and vibrant. Teamm8's Tattoo range is richly illustrated. I love the florals on the boardshorts from new brand Bondi Joe, and PUMP's wet-look swimshorts come in summery pastels with retro feel vinyl. 2EROS have a geometric colour print that fans of the label with love!

I'm very excited about our 60 Songs feature in this issue. As a huge music fan, I'm especially interested in LGBTIQ music and music that resonates with us. But

this story is also about songs that have made an impact with the general population.

I first started thinking about this story during the marriage equality debate when Macklemore & Ryan Lewis' *Same Love* was a huge worldwide hit.

How extraordinary, I thought, that a rap song by a straight artist was championing our cause. Had this ever happened before? As it turned out, it had. Rod Stewart had told the story of a fatal gay bashing, and French crooner Charles Aznavour had sung from the point of view of a struggling drag artiste.

So, our Entertainment Editor, Marc Andrews, and I set about compiling a comprehensive list of sympathetic pop songs. We got to 20, then 40, then 60 and stopped! I hope you find this as fascinating as we did, and that it might inspire you to discover some new music, too. If we missed anything, please let me know.

More visually in this issue we have two exceptional photography portfolios. One is of fitness model David Lurs in a Garden Of Eden scenario, shot by Stas Vokman. Lurs and Vokman together can't go wrong! It's beautiful.

The other captures the remarkable physique of Oscar Y with photography by Shots By Gun.

Neighbours continues to push the envelope on Australian TV with trans girl Georgie Stone joining the regular cast. Georgie's story is remarkable in many ways, not least of which being how she came to be in *Neighbours*. Her in-depth interview with Matthew Myers is a must-read this month.

Whatever your December holds – a southern summer or a white Christmas – enjoy your holidays, family and friends. Thank you for supporting DNA in 2019, thank you for reading and for sending your feedback, which is always appreciated.

Here's to 2020 – I hope you join us for more great stories and beautiful photography.



JOIN DNA AT A CIRQUE DU SOLEIL VIP EVENING

Another exciting summer event for DNA this year is our Cirque Du Soleil VIP Evening.

This includes the best tickets in the house to the breathtaking touring show, *KURIOS - Cabinet Of Curiosities*, pre-show VIP treatment in the lounge with drinks and canapes and, interval drinks in the VIP Lounge and a gift bag with goodies from Cirque du Soleil and DNA.

Mark December 11 in the diary!

To purchase tickets go to Cirquedusoleil/kurios, go to Wednesday 11th December and put in the Promo Code DNAVIP.

We'll see you there!



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BURNTTOAST / HOT MEN! HOT TOPICS! HOT READERS' LETTERS!

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PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRANKLIN



DYLAN AUSTIN ON THE COVER

Ride me cowboy! – *Fredkalt56*

Brokeback lately? – *god.ra.the.crown*

My boyfriend and I love this magazine.
– *William Islas*

Thrilled to received DNA #238, as always. Your models are really unique and GORGEOUS! – *Bradford Furman*

TRUMP GIVES OK FOR ADOPTION AGENCIES TO REJECT GAY COUPLES

As reported on the DNA website.

ADOBE STOCK



So what's next? A pink triangle?
– *Lynn-Randy Ellenare*

No stopping the fuckwit. He is one let down after another. – *Peter Lawrence Manea*

Bigotry and prejudice deny children the chance of a loving forever home. SHAME!
– *William Brakemeyer*

The GOP loves babies until they are born!
– *TimDon Rush-Page*

Yet several million LGBTIQ+ people support and vote GOP. – *Anthony Newsome*

BRAZIL / SHOPPING BAGS / PRESIDENT BURGER

Brazil is known for its tourist industry. When tourist dollars stop coming in the government will take notice. Governments never respond on strictly moral grounds but a general boycott of gay and straight tourists would have an effect.

Regarding the reusable shopping bags debate, why not manufacture reusable bags in "masculine" colours like dark brown, tan, navy blue, forest green?

As the US enters another agony-filled election campaign year, perhaps popular support for Trump will diminish enough that he will be resoundingly defeated. It must be by a large margin so he cannot claim election fraud. With disastrous domestic and foreign policies, it's like having a cheeseburger for president. One is what one eats. There are signs of mental defectiveness which, in itself, is grounds for impeachment.
– *Bradford Furman*

Ed: Thanks Bradford, the 25th Amendment of the US Constitution sites an "inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office" as grounds for the removal of a president. Simply being an narcissistic idiot might not be enough! As for being "resoundingly defeated", he already lost the popular vote by 2 million in 2016.

FOX NEWS BLAMES THE CALIFORNIA FIRES ON THE GAYS

As reported on the DNA website.

Fox News is just #sad and #fakenews.

– *Sexydude03*

If we gays had that much power Fox News would be toast. History. Ashes.
– *REVVINCENT*

ALAN JOYCE WEDS LONG-TERM PARTNER SHANE

As reported on the DNA website.

I congratulate the guys on their hard fight for marriage. However, separately, in 2018, I find a CEO's salary of \$24 million to be outrageous.
– *Anthony Walsh*

Ed: The plus side is that Alan and Shane were able to donate \$1 million to the Marriage Equality campaign.

FROM THE INSIDE

I'm a prisoner in a New Zealand prison who receives your excellent and very horny magazine. I write to express how much I adore the models you have each month. Stas Tikhonov, Barrett Pall, Kurt Roberts and many others have made me explode with excitement on a daily basis.
– *Simon, Tongariro Prison*

SIMON DUNN: MY BATTLE WITH DEPRESSION

As reported on the DNA website.

So if you just try hard it will all work out? What a load of horse shit. Perpetuates the image that depressed people just aren't really trying and that we should just pick ourselves up and move on. – *Dave*

Ed: Hi Dave, I'm sorry that's what you took away from Simon's story. Managing depression varies from person to person. Simon can only tell his story, and in his case his doctor did not think medication was appropriate. When medications are prescribed to treat depression, doctors also recommend behavioural change strategies such Cognitive Behaviour Therapy.

ANTOINE MORIEULT BY CHESTERFIELD HECTOR

As seen on the DNA website.

Next to Todd Sanfield, Phil Fusco and Andrew Morrill, Antoine is a new favourite of mine. He's got it all.

– *pje821*



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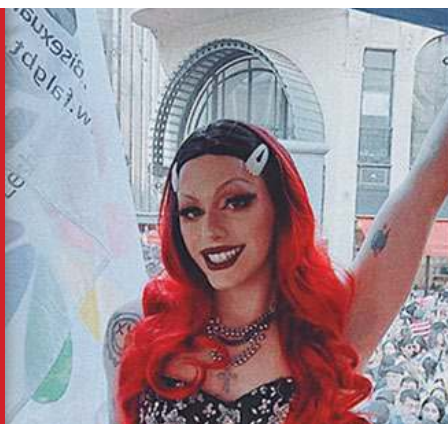


MONTH IN A MINUTE

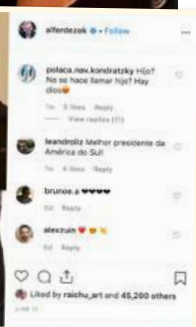
COMPILED BY TORSTEN HØJER

“My son is a rights activist in that [LGBT+] community. I would worry if my son was a criminal, but he is a great man. In that world... [he] seems to be respected and very recognised. I feel proud for my son. I want for my son the same as any father, for him to be happy.”

– Argentina’s president-elect, Alberto Fernández, responds to criticism of his 24-year-old son, Estanislao Fernández, working as a drag queen named DYHZY.



PHOTOS FROM INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS: ALFERDEZOK AND DYHZY



GAY PENGUINS Sydney’s famous gay penguins nest together for the second year running and adopt another egg. “Power couple” Sphen and Magic first captured hearts by raising a chick together last season. Keepers at Sea Life Sydney give the couple an egg but are, as yet, unsure if the egg is fertile. If it is, it should hatch before Christmas. Male penguins make great parents, says Sea Life.

THERAPY BAN Australia’s capital city, Canberra will ban so-called gay conversion therapy as part of an action plan to improve the lives of its LGBTIQ+ citizens. Australian Capital Territory officials say they realise that gay people do not need to be cured, and that telling LGBTIQ+ people they need to be “fixed” is harmful.

QUEER-MOJI Apple release a heap of new “queer identity” emojis, including gender neutral and non-binary versions. The tech giant says: “Diversifying the options available helps fill a significant gap and provides a more inclusive experience for all.”

BY GEORGE George Michael releases a new dance track from beyond the grave. The upbeat number *This Is How (We Want You To Get High)* was recorded



between 2012-2015 and only finished after the singer’s death on Christmas Day 2016. Fans welcome the chance to hear new material. Emma Thompson wrote and produced the film *Last Christmas* (the title of a Wham! song) after consulting with George before he died.

CRIMINALISED Gay sex looks set to become illegal in the Cook Islands once again as homophobic lawmakers table a new bill. The South Pacific nation had removed references to homosexuality in new legislation, but hard-line homophobes are fighting to ensure anal sex is punishable by up to seven years in jail.

DILF DOLLS Sets of gay dads dolls sell out at Kmart. The retailer is selling “assorted family dolls”, of gay couples and straight couples, selected at random for delivery, with the understanding that the buyer might get two women, two men, or a man and woman-headed family of dolls. The initiative is being praised by diversity activists.



ANAL PROBE Ugandan police force young LGBTIQ+ activists to undergo invasive anal examinations to prove they are gay and

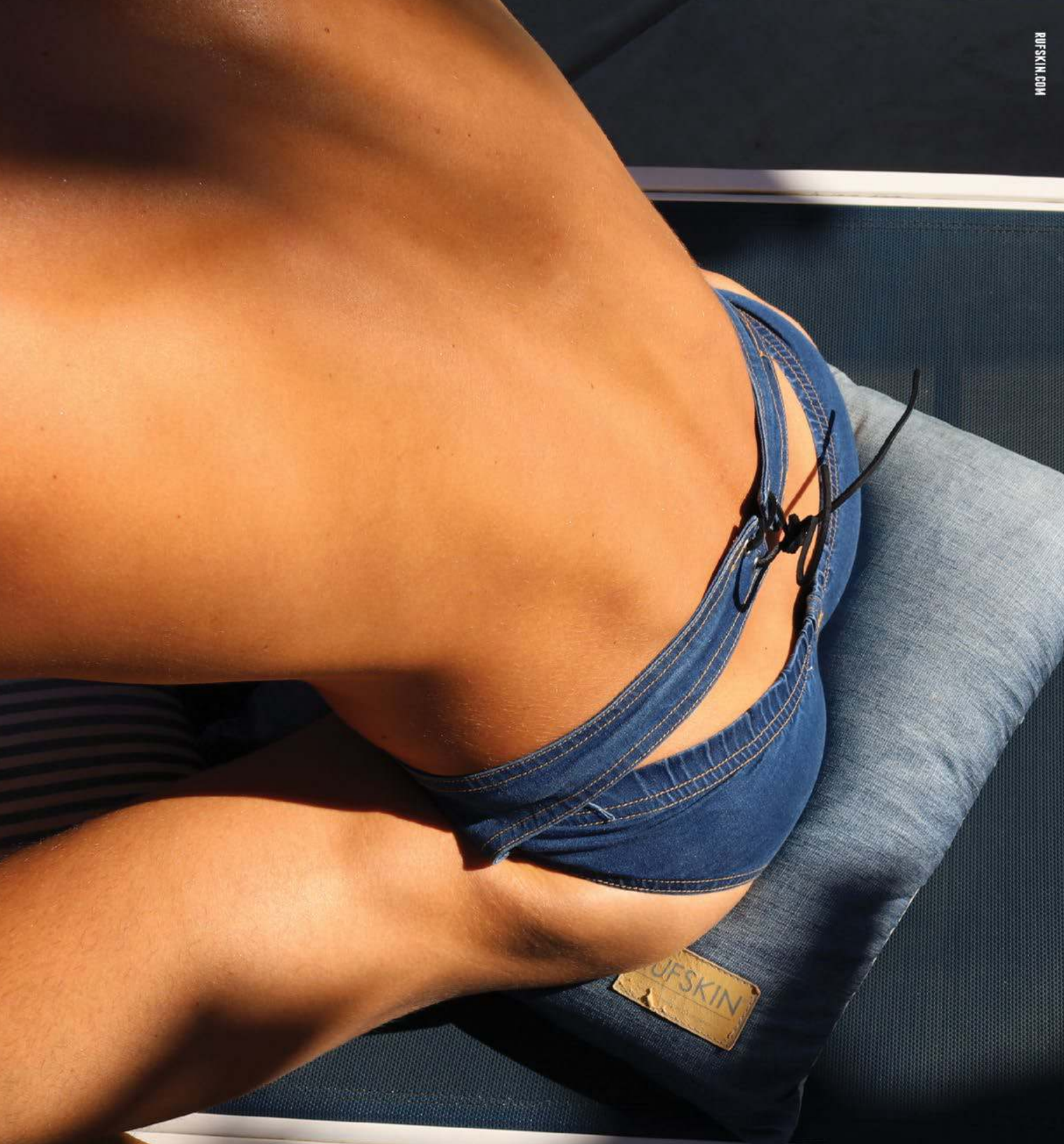


then jail them. Sixteen men were subjected to the abuse as part of a nationwide “crackdown” on homosexuality in the notoriously anti-gay country. Human rights speakers call the actions inhumane and humiliating.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY A British gay couple is wrongly accused of paedophilia by a vigilante group, who live stream footage of the pair to more than 30,000 people. Ben and Jordan (last names withheld) were subjected to abuse and “arrest” by the group, who call themselves Yorkshire Child Protectors. The group have since admitted their mistake and apologised but Ben and Jordan fear reprisals.



FOX FIRE BLAME: THE GAYS! Anti-gay Fox News host Tucker Carlson says that gay people were the cause of the recent California wildfires. Carlson and his guest were live when they stated that a power line company, whose infrastructure is believed to have ignited the fires, caused the destructive fires because they hired LGBT staff, as well as people of colour and women.



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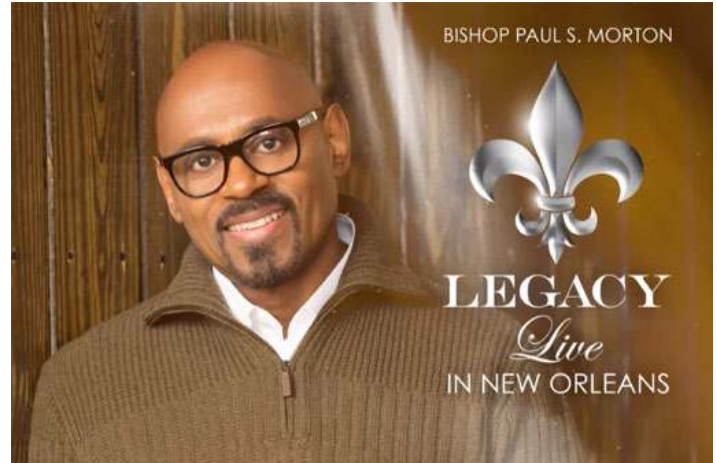
THE HATERS:

Russia steps up attempts to erase gay visibility (existence?) by reinforcing its controversial “gay propaganda law”, which prohibits homosexuality being seen, heard or learned about by young people.



THE REPLY:

Activists publish a new poll that reveals just 17 per cent of Russian youth have negative views about gay people and 68 per cent think being LGBT+ is normal. The study suggests that anti-gay government initiatives aren't working and a new generation is empowered to think freely.



THE HATER:

Singing preacher, Bishop Paul S Morton (above) urges Democrats to shun presidential hopeful Pete Buttigieg because he is gay. Morton insists that the world isn't ready for a gay president and says that if that makes him anti-gay, then God is, too.

THE REPLY:

Buttigieg makes headlines around the world by stating that if he becomes America's first (openly) gay president, international anti-gay leaders will just have to “get used to it” and that influential Americans should lead by example by supporting LGBT+ people.

ADOBE STOCK



THE HATERS:

Missouri, USA police sergeant Keith Wildhaber is called “fruity”, blocked from promotion 23 times in a row by his superiors, and told to “tone down the gayness” if he wants to move up the ranks.

THE REPLY:

Wildhaber complains to the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and his case goes to court. During a week-long trial, witnesses testify that he had long been the victim of anti-gay behaviour. The judge awards Wildhaber just shy of \$20m in compensation.



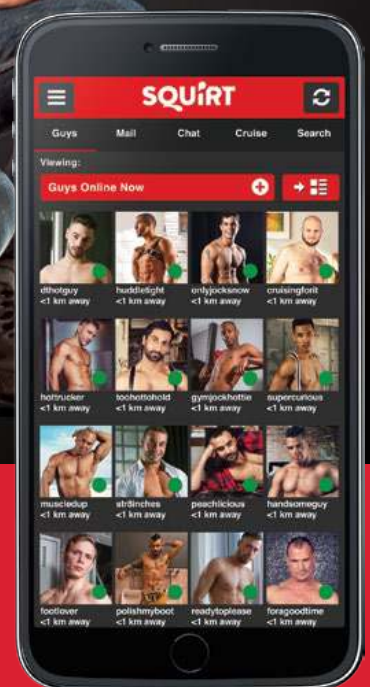
THE HATERS:

Mumsnet, the online hub for mothers sharing tips, launches a boycott of the margarine brand Flora for taking a stand against Mumsnet's transphobic and homophobic forums. Users threaten that Flora will take a “big hit” in sales.

THE REPLY:

Due to the publicity generated, Market Watch confirms that the share price in Flora is rising “considerably” and is showing signs of achieving its highest levels for weeks.

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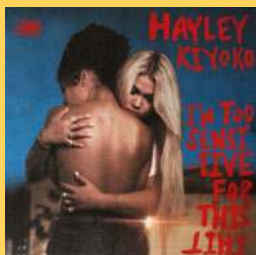
MUSIC REVIEWS / BY MARC ANDREWS



“It’s so important for people struggling to realise they’re not alone.”

HAYLEY KIYOKO *I'M TOO SENSITIVE FOR THIS SHIT*

Already considered an LGBTIQ icon at the tender age of 28 (she gratefully collected the Youth Innovator Award at The Trevor Project’s gala in November), groundbreaker Hayley has been offering sneak peeks of her second album, *I’m Too Sensitive For This Shit*. The dark, bold but still catchy *Demons* is, according to Hayley, “really personal to me. I wanted to sing about mental health and battling the inner demons many of us struggle with. It’s so important for people struggling to realise they’re not alone.” The album also contains memorable previous single, *I Wish*, which subverted the teen Lolita concept with its too-cool-for-school video. If you can’t wait until early 2020 for the release of *I’m Too Sensitive For This Shit*, check out her bad girl 2018 debut, *Expectations*, which rewrote what the sound of a queer woman making music is supposed to be. Take cover, Billie Eilish!



BEN PLATT - *SING TO ME INSTEAD*

If you were one of the many to discover the joys of Ben Platt’s voice during his starring role on Ryan Murphy’s Netflix show *The Politician* you can rejoice again now. You may have missed the fact that earlier this year Ben released his debut solo album. The lead single, *Bad Habit*, is solid croon material as if Michael Bublé were snogging Josh Groban and they both were infinitely cooler than they actually are.

Elsewhere *Ease My Mind* is gently longing (with the best gay love story video you’ve seen in years), *Temporary Love* gives Sam Smith a run for his non-binary money and *Grow As We Go* is acoustically simple and touching. An album to adore and share with loved ones.



PET SHOP BOYS - *DREAMLAND*

January 24, 2020 is a date for PSB fans to remember. It’s when their latest album – the third part of a Stuart Price-produced trilogy that started with 2013’s *Electric* and continued with 2016’s *Super* – is due to drop. Before then, to launch the project, they’ve unveiled a single together with Years And Years. We always thought these two pop entities should work together and we’re not disappointed with the results. *Dreamland* sounds like the catchiest thing either has released in yonks. As a bonus, the single comes with two new songs, *An Open Mind*, plus *No Boundaries* taken from the PSB’s musical version of *My Beautiful Laundrette*, which opened in the UK this year. Nice to have you back, gents!



MIKA - *MY NAME IS MICHAEL HOLBROOK*

You have to feel a bit sorry for Mika. The British singer, who had a global #1 back in 2007 with *Grace Kelly*, wasn’t ready to be open about his sexuality at the time. It wasn’t until five years later that he finally came out in a magazine interview, but by then sales had evaporated and he’d retreated to writing songs for Madonna and appearing on European reality TV. Now, as defined by the name of his new album (his real name, it transpires) he wants to make amends. *Ice Cream*, the first single, is groovy funk and sounds like a hit, while *Tiny Love* is like a mashup of every Queen song ever made. That’s a good thing, by the way.



SOUNDTRACK - *LAST CHRISTMAS*

Five years ago, Emma Thompson and pal David Livingstone (producer of British gay film *Pride*) decided to make a movie based on Wham!’s classic hit, *Last Christmas*. They went to its writer, none other than George Michael, to get his blessing, then began the process of crafting their movie. Sadly, George passed away before completion but not before he was able to donate a new song, *This Is How*, to the soundtrack full of beloved Wham!’80s popstasticness and some of George’s finest solo moments. “The wisdom and emotional scope of George’s lyrics have always amazed me,” says Emma. “So many feel like they were written for the movie.” A true last valentine to both George and his timeless music.



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HORSE POWER

War Horse on stage in London.

“If we can convince the audience that something is breathing, then we can suggest it is living.”

A technical and theatrical triumph, *War Horse* returns to Australian stages. The lead actor and lead puppeteer explain how the show works the puppet strings and tugs at the heart strings.

When Michael Morpurgo, the author of the children's novel *War Horse*, first heard his story would be adapted for the stage, he said, “They must be mad!”

Nevertheless, the play succeeded and gloriously so, winning the prestigious Drama Desk and Laurence Olivier Awards in the UK, as well as five Tonys.

While an Australian production played Melbourne and Sydney in 2012 with local actors and puppeteers, the National Theatre Of Great Britain is bringing the renowned original to Melbourne, Sydney and Perth for a 2020 season.

Directed by Marianne Elliott and Tom

Morris, *War Horse* is set at the outbreak of World War I, a particularly brutal conflict for both men and horses.

Joey, the beloved horse of young Devon country boy Albert, is sold to the British cavalry and transported to France. Later, when Joey is lost in No Man's Land on the battlefield, Albert determines to find his horse and embarks on a perilous journey.

For Scott Miller, playing Albert is challenging and emotional. His horse, although a puppet made of cane, leather and aluminum, takes on a life of its own in the hands of puppeteers, bedazzling even the cast. “Yes, it's very much like working with a real horse,” admits Miller.

“The puppeteers are *that* good at it. I'm not a puppeteer myself but, in a way, I feel like one because I also have to make it believable. The guys are so detailed in their movements, like how they flex the ears and tail, right down to how Joey stamps his hoof.”

Audiences nightly suspend their disbelief and engage with the life-sized puppet Joey as



Scott Miller as Albert and the puppet Joey.

if real, but does Miller ever forget that there are three puppeteers underneath.

“Every single night!” he says. “The guys make me forget it's a puppet. There's always an element of stagecraft in what we do, but there's also a huge element of surprise. I work with different teams of puppeteers, so I actually get a different horse each night. The experience is always changing for me and having different people working the horse keeps it fresh. It's like someone else playing my role of Albert. We're telling the same story, but the performance is unique to each actor. It's a wonderful opportunity to be a part of that every night.”

PHOTOS: BRINKHOFF MÖGENBURG / ELLIE KURTZ

For the audience, the chemistry between man and beast becomes incredibly real and Miller picks up on their reactions.

"I can feel the audience's emotion at the very start of the play," he says.

"In the beginning, Joey doesn't trust anyone but then I feed him, gently touch his back and I name him. I always know that at the moment the audience see Joey relaxing and feeling safe they are totally onboard with the friendship between Albert and Joey."

“

I always know the moment the audience are totally onboard with the **friendship** between Albert and Joey.

For any actor, preparation is key and taking on the role of a young horseman gave Miller the chance to immerse himself in the real world of horses.

"The first real horse I was ever actually on was during our first week of rehearsals," he says. "We went to a stable and got to see horses being groomed, we learned everything from what they snack on to how to approach them. I also got to ride, which was a great experience."

On stage, working with a puppet horse can be just as intricate and challenging as the real thing. For Miller, there's a challenge in every single performance because of the emotional strain of conveying a story that is so wrenching. Then there's the physical challenge of actually riding a life-sized horse that's a puppet.

"One of the biggest physical challenges is when I do a running jump onto Joey," says Miller. "Especially on double show days where I do it twice, and we also do it before a show to practice. I throw my legs up thinking, 'Please Joey, you can do this!' The puppeteers have to trust me one hundred percent and visa versa. But jumping on and maneuvering about is nothing compared to what the guys are doing underneath me!"

Gareth Aled is the touring company's Resident Puppetry Director. Aled originally worked the head of Joey in London. In his current role, he facilitates the work of all the puppeteers and puppets, which were created by the Handspring Puppet Company in Cape Town, South Africa.

"The company has that name because the life of the puppets springs directly from the puppeteer," says Aled.

"We don't apologise for the puppeteers being there [on stage] or hide them in the shadows. It's a simple and effective principle, where the audience just forgets that they exist and start believing in these individual characters. Joey is a full-size horse puppet with three performers creating one character."



How is it all done?

"There's a head, heart and hind puppeteer, all with a technical path and an emotional indicator," says Aled. "The head puppeteer maintains the head at height, with the suggestion of eye line. We're so observant of the eye line between humans and animals, and where the horse looks is key in conveying character and story. To portray the emotion, [a mechanism like] bicycle break levers operate the ears individually. Ears pinned back suggest fear or agitation, soft and forward is more passive and inquisitive."

"It's the work of the puppeteers, in part, that makes the play so moving. It's really fantastic to witness every evening."

Among the cast of 42, other puppeteers' work can be seen operating another horse character called Topthorn and an equally lifelike goose.

"If we can convince the audience that something is breathing, then we can suggest it is living. If we convince you of life, then the rhythm of the breath will also convince you of the puppet's emotional state," says Aled.

"Likewise, the hind puppeteer is inside the cage controlling the back legs of the horse, and bicycle break levers operate the tail, giving a lot of emotional vocabulary. They also maintain the gait of the horse to walk, trot or gallop, and each gait has a rhythmic stroke for each puppeteer. It's such a huge theatrical endeavour, which comes down to a lot of trust and listening. It's the most unique thing."

"The play begins when Joey, as a foal, is taken away from his mother and thrown into an auction pen," say Aled. "So, as an audience, you go on a journey where you start to believe in the life of this vulnerable horse. At first you see there are people operating him, but you slowly forget they exist. The audience starts to invest in the relationship between Joey and Albert, who grows up with, and falls in love with the horse."

Since opening in 2007, reviews for *War Horse* have been exuberant. *The Times* exclaimed,

"It's so exhilarating that it makes you rejoice to be alive."

Now something of a modern classic, productions have been staged in the US, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, Australia and China. Over eight million have seen it worldwide.

In 2011 it was adapted into a film by Steven Spielberg, with Jeremy Irvine (*Stonewall*) in his debut role. It was also a young Kit Harington who played the original Albert before going on to further fame as *Game Of Thrones*'s Jon Snow.

"Since I've taken on the resident role, I've been trying to figure out why this play is so successful and has the impact it does," says Aled.

"It's an important story to tell, it's the backdrop of the First World War and it feels like essential storytelling. Each individual component of the production weaves the narrative and it all works together. Even if there are some dark themes and it's very emotional, it's a play about hope, love and community, innocence and courage. I think it will stay with people for a long time."

For Miller, the relationship between Albert and Joey has a great significance.

"It's set in the war, but it's not a story about war," he says. "As human beings, we all have relationships and for a lot of us that includes animals and pets, but it's a different type of relationship. It brings something else out in us."

"*War Horse* is a story about love and friendship. It's about determination and not giving up, and I hope it gives audiences a sense of that."

MORE: In 2020, *War Horse* opens at the Regent Theatre Melbourne, 10 January; the Lyric Theatre Sydney, 15 February; and Crown Theatre Perth, 24 March. Go to warhorseonstage.com.au

MEET THE KURIOS AUSSIE BOYS



Nathan Dennis and Fletcher Donohue are touring Australia in the Cirque Du Soleil production, *Kurios - Cabinet Of Curiosities*.

They spoke to DNA...

NATHAN DENNIS

DNA: You were inspired by Cirque du Soleil at a very young age. What happened?

Nathan: Yes, I saw my first Cirque du Soleil show when I was 13; it was *Saltimbanco*. I turned to my mum and said, "I'm going to do this one day." I worked hard toward my dream and auditioned when I finished school. One year later, when I was 20, I was offered a contract on *Saltimbanco*!

What's most special about this current production, *Kurios*?

There are some new acts that have never been performed on a Cirque du Soleil stage and those acts that you may have seen before have a special twist added to them.

Is it true that circus performers can eat whatever they like because they burn off the calories every night?

It helps to have a physical job but I wouldn't say we can eat whatever we want. Onsite we have a kitchen and four chefs, they prepare most of our food so it's easy to eat healthy.

What are you most looking forward to during the Australian tour of *Kurios*?

Mostly to performing in my hometown of Brisbane and having my whole family in the audience. It will be quite the full circle moment having my mum watching, knowing that 13 years ago I was sitting right next to her.



FLETCHER DONOHUE

DNA: How long have you been performing in *Kurios*?

Fletcher: I'm coming up to my third year with *Kurios*. Before that I was working and residing in Las Vegas with the Cirque du Soleil show *The Beatles Love*.

Tell us about your character in the show.

I'm a house troupe artist meaning I get to play many characters. I'll often change my costume or character five times in a show. *Kurios* offers the audience a strong acrobatic show with excellent storytelling and characters, this offers a unique challenge for us and a way to keep things fresh and exciting. I also understudy one of the main characters, Mr Microcosmos.

You're an acronet artist. What does that mean?

The Acronet is the world's largest trampoline. Think backyard trampoline antics times seven... that's how many acrobats share this rebound playground taking heights of 13 metres with the most air time of any act in Cirque du Soleil.

Are you in the best shape of your life?

I definitely feel good in my skin and my body is able to do all that is asked of it.

What are you most looking forward to during the Australian tour of *Kurios*?

I'm just excited that I get to help share this truly wonderful show with my home country. It's always special to have a home crowd.



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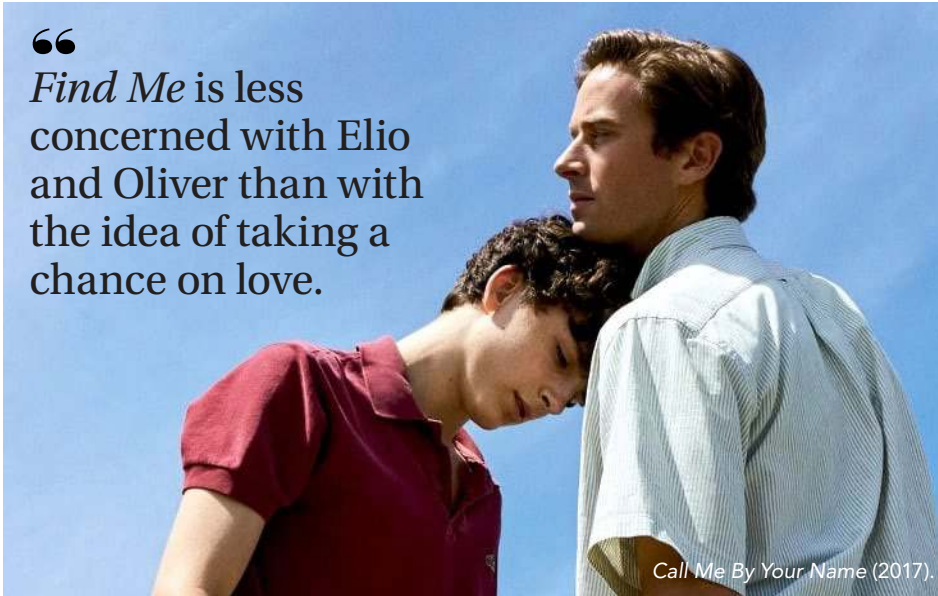
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FINDING ME

“

Find Me is less concerned with Elio and Oliver than with the idea of taking a chance on love.



Call Me By Your Name (2017).

FIND ME By André Aciman

The problem with writing a follow-up to a beloved novel (*Call Me By Your Name*) which has been adapted into an even more acclaimed and film, is that expectations are so high it's almost impossible to meet them.

Aciman has tried to dampen these expectations by rejecting the term sequel and describing his new novel *Find Me* as “inspired” by *Call Me By Your Name*. And it would be wise to take note when approaching this book, as it is *not* what fans of the Elio-Oliver romance have been hungering for.

The first half of the novel focuses on Elio's father, Sami. Now divorced, he is travelling to Rome to meet Elio, when a striking young woman sits opposite him on the train.

Miranda is going to Rome to spend time with her father who is dying. Although Sami is twice her age, there is an instant spark of attraction and a dynamic rapport. It's more than one hundred pages before Elio enters the narrative, meeting his father and Miranda and witnessing the blush of this new love.

Then we skip forward numerous years to focused on Elio, living in Paris and embarking on a new romance with Michel, a wealthy lawyer twice his age. Is this finally the new love



who will help Elio overcome the ghost of his passion with Oliver?

Some pace is added to the narrative by the puzzle of a decades-old mystery involving a musical score treasured by Michel's father for some unknown reason. And Elio, as a professional musician, is the ideal candidate to help delve into it.

In the novel's third section and final 50 pages, Oliver's perspective is introduced. He is an established academic hosting a farewell party to New York where he has been living with his wife and sons. He is restless in his marriage, still haunted to some degree by his rejection of Elio, and has invited two people to the party that he's attracted to – a male colleague and a woman from his yoga class.

Readers of Aciman will recognise many familiar themes and preoccupations in *Find Me* – inter-generational relationships, sexual fluidity and narrative time jumps – and the book is reminiscent of his more recent novel, *Enigma Variations*.

Find Me is less concerned with Elio and Oliver than it is about exploring the relationships between fathers and their children, such as Elio, Miranda and Michel. Though the main thematic preoccupation explores the idea of taking a chance on love when an opportunity arises – do you seize it (as Sami does) or do you retreat immediately (Michel) or later (Oliver)?

And what are the consequences of these decisions? Savour this question and the beauty of Aciman's elegiac prose and the pleasures of this novel will slowly unfold.

ME By Elton John



What distinguishes this autobiography is its narrative voice: witty, self-deprecating and gossipy. And although the book contains numerous gossip titbits, they tend to be humorous rather than nasty.

Elton has decades of wonderful stories and anecdotes, many at his own expense during his cocaine and alcohol-fuelled years, and this candid narration is entertaining, enlightening and occasionally eyebrow-raising. He has written the book from a place of sobriety, so can look back on his years of excess from a place of reflection but also amusement at his own antics.

But who knew Elton was such great mates with his rock star peer Rod Stewart that they have drag names for each other (Elton is Sharon, Rod is Phyliss), and that they both took a catty delight in each other's disasters?

When Elton married Renate Blauel in Sydney, Rod sent a telegram, referencing one of Elton's well-known songs: “You may still be standing, dear, but the rest of us are on the fucking floor.”

The marriage was also a startling development to Elton's on-off Australian boyfriend at the time, Gary! But Elton was operating in the grip of numerous addictions – cocaine, alcohol, food and, perhaps, shopping. Common sense didn't come into it. When Elton finally made the decision to seek help, he found it difficult to find a facility able to treat all his addictions simultaneously.

His cocaine addiction was even common knowledge among the British royal family. When Elton met the Queen's cousin Princess Alexandra at a charity concert, she enquired, “How do you have so much energy onstage? Do you take a lot of cocaine?”

If you are of a certain age and lived through the 1970s, '80s and beyond, and especially if you're a gay man, this book will strike chords. And even if you are not the biggest fan of Elton's music, the book has the same vivacity that Elton had on stage – his voice is captivating.

MORE: The Bookshop Darlington specialises in LGBTIQ books. Tel: (02) 9331 1103.
Email: info@thebookshop.com.au.
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How do you choose the most effective sunscreen for you? First, get some Sun Protection Factor facts!

Most of us love that glowing complexion we get from a day in the sun, but we happily ignore the fact that this exposure is aging our skin and increasing our risk of developing skin cancer.

Sunscreen helps protect us from the sun's harmful UV rays when applied correctly but it's important to know what you're putting on your skin as not all sunscreens are the same. So how do we find our way through the now-flooded sunscreen market to find the best one for us?

Firstly, let's remind ourselves about what SPF – Sun Protection Factor – actually is. The SPF of a sunscreen is the rating that measures the fractions of harmful UV rays that reach the skin. For example, SPF15 means that 1/15 of those harmful rays reaches the skin. SPF15 is preventing you from burning 15 times longer had you *not* applied any protection.

Follow the manufacturer's directions when applying the product. Do *not* use sunscreen that doesn't have directions. Generally, application of the sunscreen should start thirty

minutes prior to getting out in the sun to let it absorbed properly. A tablespoon of sunscreen should be applied to every limb being exposed.

Spray-on sunscreens are handy and easy to apply. However, while studies involving these sprays have looked at their effectiveness as sunblock, they have not yet tested the effects of the product being inhaled. This should be taken into consideration, especially if using on or around children.

“

Take care using sunscreens with sky-high SPFs. These can create a false sense of security.

Also, take care using sunscreens with sky-high SPFs. These can create a false sense of security, giving the impression that you can stay in the sun for longer. This is far from the truth. Sunscreens with a sun protection factor of 50+ will protect you the most but not for a longer time than SPF15 – different strengths but equal durability.

Sunscreen's come in two different forms – chemical and mineral, both using its own mechanism to protect our skin from harmful

rays. Some are a combination of chemical and mineral protectants.

Chemical sunscreens are the most common as they are cheaper and faster to produce. Mineral sunscreens are showing evidence of being more protective and safer.

Studies have indicated that some chemical ultraviolet filters may be playing a disruptive role in our hormonal balance, bringing possible health risks. Once applied to the skin, like all skincare products, it passes through the skin and is absorbed into the blood stream.

To date, the safest sunscreens are zinc oxide and titanium dioxide. Zinc oxide provides excellent UVA protection and shows no evidence of hormone disruption.

Lastly, make sure you choose a product that protects from both UVA and UVB rays.

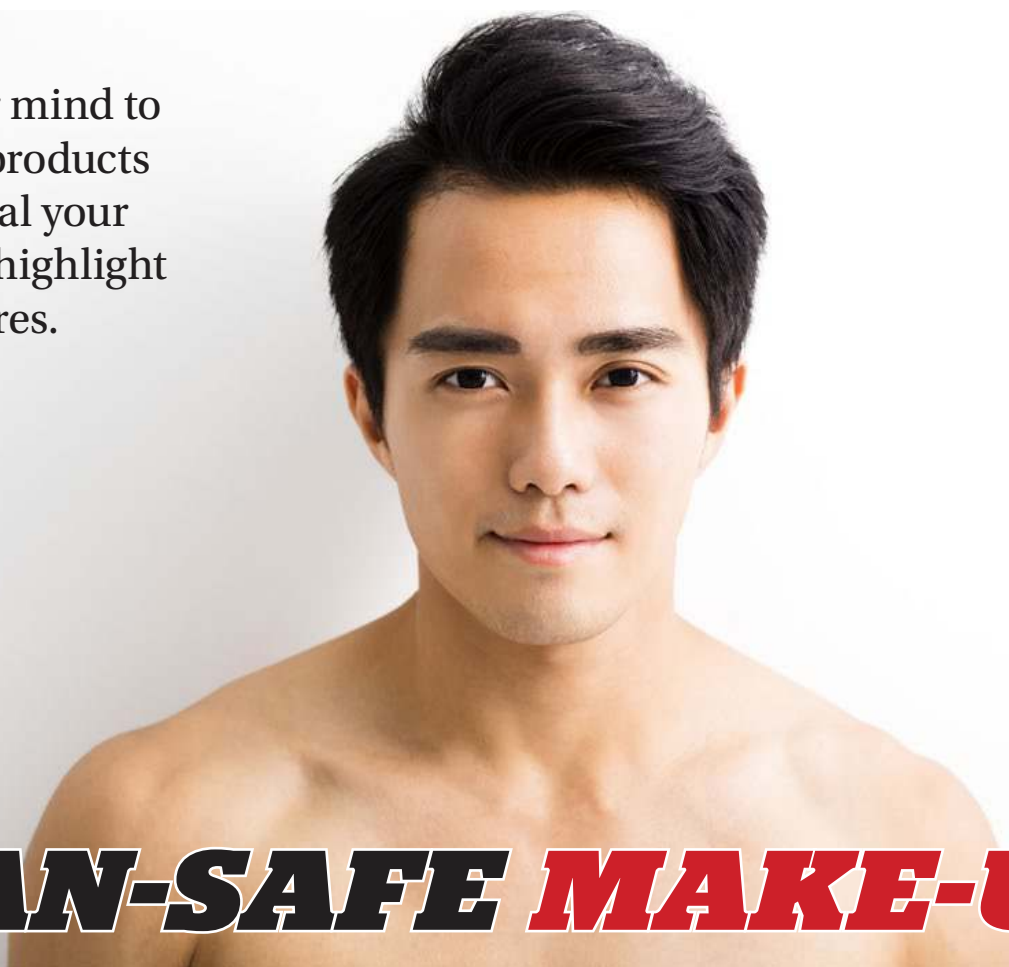
If you plan on being in the sun frequently this summer remember that sunscreen is only part of a sun protection strategy. Hats and clothing that protect from the sun are also recommended, as are UV filtering sunglasses. But the best strategy is to avoid being in the sun completely when the UV index is at its highest. There are apps to help you with this.

Enjoy the summer but don't damage yourself or risk illness in the process.

MORE: For more go to www.doctorzac.com



“Open your mind to skin care products that conceal your flaws and highlight your features.”



MAN-SAFE MAKE-UP

Make-up for men – without going all draggy!

Growing up with four sisters and no dad was very confusing for a little homo like me. I didn't understand why I wasn't allowed to wear lip gloss or play with

skincare and make-up like my sisters did.

Not that I let this stop me. I became very good at sneaking the occasional Lip Smacker gloss or Bonnie Belle facial bronzer. But, as good as it felt to pilfer the goods from my siblings, I began to feel the shame as I realised that this wasn't something little boys did.

That was a long time ago now. I refuse to tell you *just* how long ago. And now boys everywhere – straight and gay – are embracing lip gloss and make-up.

Now, don't be scared off by this topic. I'm not suggesting you trowel on the foundation like your favourite *Drag Race* queen, but definitely open your mind to the idea of using skin care products that can conceal your flaws, while highlighting your features.

First, you will need to do some research

and practice the application before you head out in public. Don't make the first time you wear make-up a date night! Imagine your date copping sight of your visible make-up line and making an early exit!

Luckily, I'm here to help and I will make it simple for you. The three make-up products men can safely use are...

MOISTURISING FACE BRONZERS

Choose one that is light in texture, hydrating and gives a beautiful natural colour to the face. The coloured pigments will smooth over skin flaws and even out your overall complexion. It will provide cover and protection without looking like foundation.

My tip: Find one that works with your skin tone. If it's still too obvious, mix it with your daily moisturiser in a 1:1 ratio.

BRONZING POWDERS

Use bronzing powder for matting shiny foreheads or to give you that day-in-the-sun glow without any of the damage.

My tip: Swirling the brush in the palm of your hand first, then lightly dust the face, always sweeping away from the centre.

CONCEALER

Cover up with a concealer to hide imperfections such as pimples and dark circles around the eyes. A good concealer will also hydrate and refresh the skin while hiding problem areas.

My tip: Never choose the colour of a concealer by trying it on your wrist. Always test it on the area it will be used on, for example, around your eyes. Apply with the applicator and then blend in with a damp beauty blender. (These look like little tear drop-shaped sponges.)

I recommend heading to a beauty bar like Mecca or a specialty cosmetics chain like Sephora for these products. The staff are highly trained to help *everyone* and will know how to colour match your skin tone, which is essential for boys. The secret is to have fun with them, tell them how gorgeous they look (always works) and ask lots of questions!

Good luck boys and don't fuck it up!

MORE: Will Fennell, Grooming Guy
willfennell.com.au
@leskinbar_bywillfennell

AMAZING RACERS



“There were places where it was dangerous for us to show affection. In Africa the producers didn’t want us getting into trouble.”

Newlywed couple Tim and Rod entered *The Amazing Race* to win but, they say, the race changed them in ways they never expected.

They tell their story to Matthew Myers.

Network 10’s re-booted *The Amazing Race Australia* delivered a diverse range of contenders: best-friend nuns, young AFL mates, an Indigenous couple, Vietnamese siblings, and a Muslim mother and daughter team. Proudly representing the LGBTIQ community were newlyweds, Tim and Rob.

“We were superfans of the show,” says Tim, “so at the start line we looked at each other and said, ‘Is this actually happening?’ We were about to race around the world together, and representing the gay community made us proud to be there.”

Tim and Rod originally met through mutual Facebook friends and tied the knot last March at One Mile Beach in Port Stephens. It was also on Facebook where they saw the callout for a “travel adventure show” casting. Once in, the boys began to prepare.

“We’re both personal trainers, so we’re at the fittest stage of our lives,” says Rod, “but we binge watched as much of the previous shows as possible. We’re not ‘handy’ so we learned a few tasks with help from the family. My brother taught me how to reverse a car with a trailer, and my dad showed us how to change a tyre. We thought we’d end up eliminated if we needed to change a tyre! How embarrassing would that’ve been?”

Competing on the show meant travelling to some countries that are not welcoming of our community. What was the response to Tim and Rod in those places?

“We had a mixed bag of reactions,” says Tim. “When you’re in these different countries you’re focused on the challenge. We ran around holding hands. We didn’t let anything deter us from showing emotion to each other but there were places where it was dangerous for us to show affection. When we went to Africa the producers gave us the heads-up because they didn’t want us getting into trouble.”

Even the other teams had no idea that Tim and Rod were married at first.

“The first time we spoke to the other teams we discovered most of them thought we were mates or brothers,” says Rod. “When you’re racing you don’t see the other teams much. You run your own race. We actually got on well with *The Influences*, Sid and Ash.”

The *Influences* became the show’s antagonists, deliberately sending other



teams in wrong directions and even stealing a dumpling from the nuns during a food challenge.

"We've now seen a lot of shady things they did," says Tim, "but we didn't see that during the race. They were really nice and it surprised us to see the negative stuff. We also loved the nuns and they loved us back. They loved everyone and were so funny. Judy could do stand-up! They'd say, 'We'll pray for you guys,' and at first we wondered if it was because we're gay, but they said that to everyone. Amani, the Muslim daughter, was super-nice to us. We loved her."

But the race is not without its tough competitors and the Melbourne footballers gave the boys a run for their money.

"Tommy and Tyler had a really good streak, coming first at different legs," says Tim. "They absolutely killed it. It took me back to the schoolyard where you could never beat those sporty guys and didn't feel good enough. They are really nice but a bit cocky and it was hard seeing one team that just continued to slay."

"It was frustrating," agrees Rod. "We'd run around for 20 minutes looking for a cab, and one would just pull up right in front of them!"

The show was hosted by ex-rugby star and DNA Straight Mate, Beau Ryan, for whom Tim and Rod have nothing but praise.

"Beau's a legend," says Rod. "Prior to the race I didn't know he'd been involved in Mardi Gras. He's so down-to-earth and made us feel comfortable. He's a big hugger, too, and we loved that!"

"At the end of the day, getting a hug from Beau was like getting a hug from your mum," says Tim, "and was exactly what we needed."

Those warm-fuzzy feelings are reciprocated by Beau. "Oh, I love them to death!" he says of the Rod and Tim. "They were fantastic. Always arm-in-arm and so proud. They've come through hardships in life, yet they hold their heads high. I know a lot of gay people, I've got gay family, and I think two people sharing their love, especially on this show... well, you've got to remember that they are relying on each other and this race brings out the best or worst. These two guys... man, I can't speak highly enough of them."

In the 2003 season of the US version, gay couple Chip and Reichen competed and won,



but it was an era in which gay contestants were still controversial and sponsors threatened to boycott. "Mate, if that happened now and sponsors pulled out, I'd pull out," says Beau.

The feedback Tim and Rod have received has been overwhelmingly positive.

"We've had some really inspirational messages on Instagram," says Tim, where the couple have over 50,000 followers. "In the social media world, you can get love and as much hate, but we don't see that. We get so much love and so many positive comments. People are just happy to see two best mates in love."

"People say we've made them feel comfortable with who they are," says Tim. "The first line we had in the show was me telling Rod his butt looked good, and I'm glad they left that in! Growing up, we never saw people like us on television that we could relate to."

"We went into the show with the goal of winning but also as two proud gay men," says Rod. "If we changed a handful of people's perceptions of what a gay relationship can be, then we're already winners. We knew each other well going into it but in those intense situations... we had to learn to pick each other up from our worst spots. Tim and I have become even closer and we now know each other on a deeper level."

The boys have many fond memories of the whole experience, but one episode stands out.

"I'll always remember the villages in Africa where all the kids were running around with us," says Tim. "They were so happy, and we thought about the issues we had back home, which were nothing compared to theirs. It was a touch of reality."

"They held our hands and ran to the next challenge with us," adds Rod.

"I spent six weeks volunteering in Uganda a few years ago, and it brought back all those memories and emotions," says Rod. "You see some pretty hectic stuff, and even though they have nothing, they have such huge smiles on their faces."

"I honestly feel this race has changed our lives," says Tim. "I'm a completely different person to who I was before. It's given me a different perspective on life, on relationships and on trust. Whenever we talk about it I get emotional because it's the greatest thing we've ever done."

TIM AND ROD'S RACY INSTA-PICS

"We get so much love and positive comments. People are just happy to see two best mates in love."



MORE: The Amazing Race Australia screens on Network 10.

Follow Tim and Rod @timandrod

Follow Beau @therealbeauyan

ANTHONY UNPLUGGED!

Ant's new song is *What's Wrong With Me?* "I hope that when you hear this song you connect with me and we share a moment together."

Back with a haunting new single, Anthony Callea speaks candidly to DNA about life with husband Tim Campbell, having “work” done and why a good cocktail can fix any of life’s problems!

By Marc Andrews.

DNA: You’ve been “unfiltered and unplugged” for a while now on tour. How’s that going?

Anthony: [Laughs.] I’m pretty unfiltered in my everyday life with friends and family so it’s been fun to bring that to the stage on this tour. No rules or boundaries and I have totally over-shared about my life on- and off-stage! Performing these songs stripped back has been an absolute joy. There’s nothing better than singing totally live with my musicians and getting to the core of the lyrics and melodies. The messages I have received from fans who came to these concerts has been overwhelming. I’m very lucky. But, hey, when you’re 36 and you’ve been doing this for over 15 years, you make up your own rules!

You’re 36 now?

Yeah, though in my head and mirror I look 32 thanks to Dr Tass!

Madonna appears to have borrowed your concept for her *Madame X* tour.

What can I say? I like to give back to the community and help fellow performers, especially ones with not a lot of experience in touring. [Laughs.]

“

We owe a lot of our happiness and the growing tolerance and understanding in the wider community to pioneering LGBTIQ advocates who fought for equality. They are my heroes.

Your new single *What’s Wrong With Me?* is sexy, contemporary and you wrote it, too.

I wouldn’t call it sexy. What I would say is it’s inherently personal, deep and meaningful. I also hope it’s a song many will be able to relate to. Telling a story through music is in my DNA and when I close my eyes and get behind the mic I feel like I’m home. It’s an honour to share this song with Australia and the world. Self-discovery is a beautiful yet confronting and scary process. I hope that when you hear this song you connect with me and we share a moment together, a moment of honesty, purity and respect. I also hope when you see the video clip, you see and feel the story through my eyes.

Is there a whole new album coming soon? Whether it’s an album or EP I haven’t made that decision as yet, but there is definitely more music I need and want to share. I have been writing solidly for the past year and am totally involved in not only the writing but production and video clip vision. It’s the right time for me personally and professionally to now share what I’ve been working on.

Your last album, 2017’s *ARIA Number One Hits In Symphony* went to #1. Is that a tough act to follow? It’s an album I’m extremely proud of and one that took a while to make, but do I see it as a hard act to follow? No, not really. This is a fresh start for me. It’s my music, my lyrics, my vision, totally independent and I’m not driven by sales or chart positions. I’m driven by advancing myself as a person, as an artist, as a partner in life. I want to be better as a whole, first and foremost. I want to own what I do and be accountable. Yes, I’ve been fortunate in my 15 years to attain some great results and that’s thanks to the love and support of my loyal fans, but now this is me giving back to them a bigger slice and insight into me... a me that has taken a bit of time to understand and share.

Apart from the tour, what’s been happening for you over the last two years or so?

Well, in 2018 I was on a national tour of capital cities off the back of *ARIA Number One Hits In Symphony* and this year, I made a pact with myself to get into the studio and write as much as possible while on an east coast regional tour. I haven’t toured regional areas for over a decade and it was so beautiful to travel to these towns and perform acoustically in some stunning theatres. It’s definitely been a very creative couple of years. I also became an uncle as my brother Matt and his beautiful wife Sarah had the first little Callea baby, Alvey.

You’re now 15 years into your career. Any thoughts about heading overseas to make your mark there?

Never say never but, to be honest, I’m content here in my own country. Having said that, there could be some talks going on at the moment with international opportunities with the release of my new single *What’s Wrong With Me?*

Fifteen years after *Australian Idol* you’re one of the few to have had a truly lasting career.

What’s been the key to your success?

Work fucking hard and then when you think you’re working hard, work even harder. Love what you do, drive your career yourself and have the right people around you. Go with your gut instinct and learn from your mistakes rather than beat yourself up about them.

Do you feel that you’re part of the wave of openly gay artists now?

I am very lucky to be living and working in a time where being gay is becoming more and more accepted and understood, however, don’t get me wrong, we have a long way to go. Don’t get me started on political figures and influential people in media who are disappointing, ignorant and corporately driven when it comes to equality and issues surrounding love and acceptance in our society. I’m in a privileged position and like to hope the way I live my life, the way I speak very openly about mine and [husband] Tim’s life, along with what I stand for, in some way has a positive impact in society and helps shut down barriers of prejudice. We owe a lot of our happiness, the growing tolerance and understanding in the wider community of LGBTIQ+ to pioneering advocates who for decades have been fighting for equality. They are my heroes.

Do you get many fans who talk about their coming out and that your story helped them?

To be honest, and without sounding like a wanker, yeah I do. Eighty per cent of the time its messages and conversations with parents and siblings of gay people. They come to my concerts, meet me at the stage door, message me on socials and send me really beautiful messages of thanks. It’s an honour and a beautiful position to be in to be able to have a positive impact on someone.

You’ve been open about mental health issues in the past. What advice do you have to others suffering similar issues?

Talk! Talk to someone you trust and let it out. Keeping it bottled up inside is dangerous and will only make it worse. Be kind to yourself.

What are the causes closest to your heart at the moment?

Homelessness. It always has been close to my heart and will always help out in any way I can. It breaks my heart to see and hear of people and families living on the streets with no home in our country. Most of us get caught up in our lives wanting more and more, but being homeless would have to be one of the most heartbreaking situations.

How do you spend most of your time when you’re not working?

Swimming, exercising, drinking copious cocktails and trying to catch up with friends that I neglect a lot of the time. Oh, and catching up on *RuPaul’s Drag Race* while eating a block of KitKat on the lounge.

Anthony, keep doing what you’re doing!

Thank you boys, I really appreciate it.

Continues over ...

On success:

“

Work fucking hard and then when you think you're working hard, work even harder.

ON APPROACHING 40!

Anthony turns 37 in December, so we asked if he has any plans on how he's going to celebrate the big 4-0.

"Fuck yeah!" he replied with a raucous laugh. "I have so many ideas, the problem is I'll need to win the lottery to facilitate my wish list! My 30th was massive, so my 40th needs to be even better and my friends are already putting the pressure on.

"One thing I know for sure is my face will be smooth and I won't look a day over 35, thanks to Dr Tass. Yep, I own it and I don't care! Ha!"

LIFE WITH HUSBAND TIM

Anthony is in a high-profile relationship/marriage with hunky Aussie actor Tim Campbell. We asked him what's the secret to being happily coupled for over a decade and married for five years and counting?

"Ha! He puts up with me, so I can't complain," Anthony laughs. "The key to a successful married life is both having a love of cocktails – espresso martinis and cosmopolitans fix everything! Seriously, I am very lucky to have Tim in my life and I love what we have together."

The two took some couple time recently to focus on each other and do some travelling to connect with Anthony's Italian heritage.

"Tim and I made a conscious effort to take some time off together, something we don't do a lot of due to our schedules," he revealed to DNA. "It was definitely a first to literally take off six weeks, travel Europe together and catch up with friends. I took him to the birthplace of my mother in Sicily, which was pretty amazing."

As DNA recently published our annual Sexiest Men Alive issue, we asked Anthony who gets his vote.

"If Tim's not part of the men to choose from clearly there must be a mistake," he spluttered with a smirk, "and therefore I can't give you my vote because the sexiest man is not part of the line up!"

Aww.

MORE: What's Wrong With Me? is out now on all music platforms. For more go to anthonycallea.com or find him on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter



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MR JUST-BE-NICE GUY

Josh Reid Jones went from running his own construction company to setting up the Just Be Nice charitable project. Oh... and he's sexy and charming, too.

DNA: What is the Just Be Nice campaign?

Josh Reid Jones: Just Be Nice is about making sure people get the help they need, when they need it, for as long as they need it. Think about when you go to hospital – you don't necessarily know what's wrong but you do know you'll be there until you get well. When it comes to help in other non-medical spaces, the avenues to help are less clear. We make sure that people are taken care of and supported into housing, employment and good mental health. That's the base level we think everyone should have access to. We're about changing the way people in organisations can help others, to make help more effective and efficient for the helper and those in need.

What prompted you to set up Just Be Nice?

I saw that people weren't getting the help they needed but I also saw there was an extraordinary amount of good will, it was just being poorly executed. The outcomes were poor, not necessarily for the people who wanted to help, who were getting good 'feelings', but for the people who needed help.

Thinking globally, are we on the brink of a big change in terms of how humans treat one another?

If we are, we're going about it in a strange fashion. There is a groundswell of sentiment... people feel left behind; people feeling the inequality in the world. But, at the same time, Trump is still the US President, Johnson is the UK Prime Minister and we have Morrison as our Prime Minister. These people at the top are... maybe not the best ambassadors for that sort of change.

LGBTIQ people still face homophobia and discrimination from political parties and religious groups. How can we move forward positively?

I'd like to see people be clear about what they want for themselves because you'll find most people want to be happy and safe. They want water and medical care and all that kind of stuff. It doesn't matter where you grew up, where you were born, if you're gay or straight or what job you have – most people want that. If we were less worried about how people are dating each other, we'd probably all get along better.



When you're hanging with your gay mates, what do you get up to?

I was actually in a wedding party two weeks back with gay mates. It was a straight wedding, but only the groom and myself were straight. The other three guys were gay and all good mates. At the end of the night the music was a mix of early 2000's R&B and we all danced together. I have wonderful gay friends doing wonderful things all over the place.

What's the campiest song on your playlist?

When I think of camp songs I usually think of *It's Raining Men* but, unfortunately, that's not on my playlist, but I do have a couple of those gay anthem House songs like CeCe Peniston's *Finally* from *Priscilla*. Now that's a ripper!

Who's your diva?

It's Beyoncé. I like her sassiness and she has a great groove. She started back when I was first getting into music. *Crazy In Love* is my favourite.

When you're out and about do guys ever hit on you?

Yes, but I get hit on even outside of gay bars, too! In fact, it's a running joke with my mum. I took her overseas one time and she was like, "It's crazy how many blokes will have a crack at you!"

Do you think there are things that straight men and gay men have in common?

Overwhelmingly, there's lots of things. For starters, a lot of the gay guys I know like boobs,



“
[Straight or gay]
we’re all boys
underneath,
it’s just that the
dating apps that
are different!

so we bond over that! But eating, drinking, having a good laugh and hanging with your mates, it’s all very much the same. We’re all boys underneath, it’s just the dating apps that are different!

Your face popped up a lot with Conchita Wurst during this year’s Eurovision ad breaks. How did that come about?

That was for a broadband company and the context was having different people chat to one another across a huge screen. They had to pick someone out and a few chose me. It was about finding common ground.

Who has been your greatest influence?

There’s a guy called Phil Beadle who is an educator and author from the UK. I’ve read his books and he’s been a really positive and relevant influence in my life. *Rules For Mavericks: A Manifesto For Dissident Creatives* is a real belter. I’ve had the pleasure of having some beers and conversation with him. I’ve also been lucky with a great mum, too, and the bonus of family around me.

How can we make a difference for those who are struggling?

A lot of people only ask for advice when they’re in their deepest, darkest time. My work is about making sure that the people around those people have the tools to assist. We need to mature the conversation toward the people who aren’t struggling right now. If you’re not having a tough time, it’s a great opportunity to reach out to those people around you. It’s about taking the responsibility for “getting better” away from the person who’s struggling, and putting it into the ecosystem they live in.

What’s your best grooming tip?

Use a safety razor where you can change the blades. Don’t use a disposable. They suck! The old school safety razors are much sharper and give a better shave. You can buy a double-edge razor online and you’ll use it forever. I got mine from Aesop.

What’s been your most embarrassing wardrobe malfunction?

I have split multiple pairs of pants in public. I’m a carpenter by trade, and when I was working on site I’d have these ratty pants, which were basically just a dick flap! There was nothing underneath with basically two threads holding the entire shorts together. If I was up a ladder, everyone got a good look straight up!

On the beach are you wearing speedos or boardies?

I wear trunks, speedos and boardies. If I’m planning on walking to the café, I’ll wear boardies, but if I’m just hanging at the beach it’s speedos.

Briefs, fitted boxers or freeballing?

Fitted boxers. When I was younger we all wore those horrible satin boxers that were sweaty and covered in stupid patterns like *Thomas The Tank* or horny devils! Fitted boxers are comfy and I feel like I could do anything in them. If I had to walk down Collins Street in my boxers I could, but in briefs I’d feel a lot more conspicuous!

How will you spend Christmas?

December is a busy time for us because a lot of families are struggling and we have a drive for help. If people are looking to help out during the Christmas period, please jump on board with the Just Be Nice project. It’s a tough time for a lot of people and we can definitely use the help.

IF YOU WERE GAY, WHO’D BE THE ONE?



Ryan Reynolds is my guy. He’s funny, tall, handsome and has a nice body. He even has nice hands. I think we could have a beer and a laugh.

MORE: For more on Josh and Just Be Nice go to joshreidjones.com

SWIMWEAR 2020

Candy On The Beach

**Bold, bright swimwear cuts, colours and prints
will set the summer sun on fire this season.**

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MODEL MATT LANGMAID

MATT WEARS RUFSKIN'S
CALKINI CRAZY PURPLE
BEACH BRIEF.





MATT WEARS THE BEACH BRIEF FROM
TEAMM8'S TATTOO SWIMWEAR RANGE.





MATT WEARS THE BEACH BRIEF FROM
TEAMM8'S TATTOO SWIMWEAR RANGE.



MATT WEARS THE WONDERLAND
BOARDSHORT BY BONDJ JOE.





MATT WEARS THE
V10 EUHEDRAL
BRIEF BY ZEROS.





MATT WEARS THE PUMPI
WATER SHORT IN AQUA.





MATT WEARS RUFKIN'S
CROWN BEACH BRIEF.





FEATURE

60

Songs

THAT CHANGED
OUR LIVES

FROM OVER THE RAINBOW TO TRUE COLORS TO FAG!

WHY THESE 60 SONGS?

These songs have spoken to us about our lives as LGBTIQ people. They have moved us, made us think, and told our stories.

More importantly, they have reached beyond our world and taken messages of acceptance and love to huge mainstream audiences, often at times when being pro-gay was not as cool as it is today.

When our straight allies speak on our behalf, it's powerful. When Rod Stewart sings about anti-gay violence in 1976 or Taylor Swift directly addresses homophobes in 2019, it makes a difference.

Not all LGBTIQ artists release queer anthems.

Elton John and Dusty Springfield have not made the list, though we salute their galvanizing spirit and trailblazing bravery.

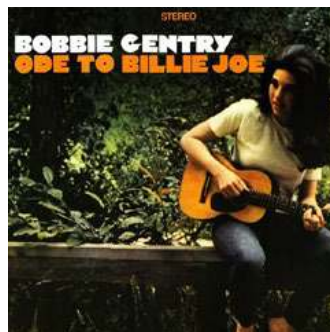
We hope you enjoy these benchmark 60 songs. They start, chronologically, in a place way up high where “the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true” and finish in a “mansion with that rainbow flaggy” where “they threw their sticks and now they’re riding my dick”. The soundtrack of our lives!

Compiled by Marc Andrews.

01 OVER THE RAINBOW JUDY GARLAND (1939)

This poignant ballad debuted in *The Wizard Of Oz* movie, which starred Garland as farm girl Dorothy, who yearns to be in a place far away where the sky is blue and dreams come true.

The sentiment resonated so strongly with oppressed gay men of the era that it became instantly iconic. “It’s a song of hope,” says Renee Zellweger, who stars in Garland biopic, *Judy*.



02 ODE TO BILLIE JOE BOBBY GENTRY (1967)

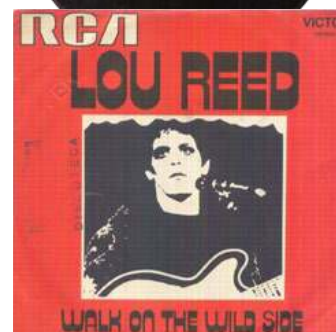
In the middle of the revolutionary '60s, this country ditty hit #1, sparking discussion about suicide in rural communities. There was much speculation about why the lead character in the song threw himself off the Tallahatchie Bridge. Nine years later the troubling tale so intrigued folks that a novel and movie were released in which the audience discovers he killed himself after a homosexual encounter.



03 LOLA THE KINKS (1970)

Lead singer and songwriter Ray Davies decided to pen a song about a girl who “walked like a woman but talked like a man” based on his own experience. “The song came out of an experience in a club in Paris. I was dancing with this beautiful blonde, then we went out into the daylight and I saw her stubble,” he told *Q* in 2016.

“*Over The Rainbow* resonated so strongly with gay men it became an anthem.



04 WALK ON THE WILD SIDE LOU REED (1972)

Voted one of the greatest songs of all time by *Rolling Stone*, this freewheeling ode to oral sex, cruising, cross-dressing and transsexual prostitution was co-produced by David Bowie, who knew a thing or two about “he was a she” gender confusion. The girls who are name-checked in *Wild Side* were Andy Warhol’s “superstars”, appearing in various gay counter-culture movies like *Flesh* and *Women In Revolt*.



05 WHAT MAKES A MAN

CHARLES AZNAVOUR (1972)

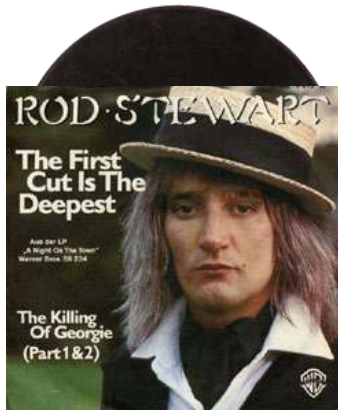
Born in Armenia but considered a French national treasure, this crooner/composer was an early gay rights activist. *Comme ils dissent* (*What Makes A Man*) tackled not just gay life, but the milieu of a transvestite showgirl. "I started with homosexuality," Aznavour declared, "and wanted to break every taboo." Fellow rule-breaker, Soft Cell's Marc Almond, released a cover in 1993.



06 I NEED A MAN

GRACE JONES (1975)

For much of her early career it was rumoured Jones was born a man. The catwalk model-turned singer carved out an early niche with disco tracks like this before refining her look and sound on *Warm Leatherette* and *Nightclubbing*. Power suits and crewcuts gave Jones an androgyny that bewildered and confronted many, but her gay and lesbian audience understood her deeply subversive messages about sex and gender.



07 THE KILLING OF GEORGIE (PART I AND II)

ROD STEWART (1976)

Back when Scottish rocker Rod was BFFs with Elton John, and they had some kind of very English homoerotic bromance of sorts going on, Rod came out with this two-parter describing the story of an actual gay friend of his who was knifed. "I think it was a brave step, but it wasn't a risk," Rod shrugged as the song became a classic rock staple.



08 DANCING QUEEN

ABBA (1976)

Voted "gayest record of all time" by Samesame website, the Swedish supergroup's most celebrated tune works for weddings, parties, anything! This *Queen* has transcended both its era and the disco genre to become a classic, instantly recognisable and loved by both gays and our straight mates and is, indeed, perfect for "having the time of your life". Oh, and it's not terrible, Muriel, it's divine.



09 I FEEL LOVE

DONNA SUMMER (1977)

Electronic music was in its infancy, yet this futuristic pioneering "experiment" produced by Giorgio Moroder took the underground mainstream, hitting #1 that year. Throbbing and risqué, the track is considered not just the birth of EDM, but also the greatest dance song of all time. Bronski Beat covered the track with Marc Almond adding extra vocal snippets of *Johnny Remember Me*. Gay as.



10 MACHO MAN

VILLAGE PEOPLE (1978)

Practically the entire back catalogue of this bunch of gay stereotypes could be up for discussion here (*In The Navy*, *YMCA*, *Sleazy*, etc), but *Macho Man* is where it all started to gel chart-wise. With tongue-in-cheek lyrics written by a straight guy, but sung specifically to the gays, these people quickly outgrew their village. And the straights loved it!

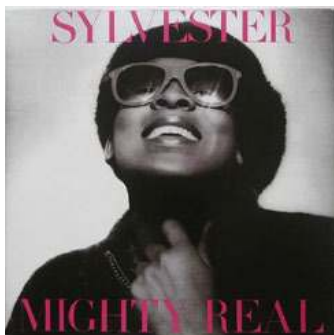
11 GLAD TO BE GAY

TOM ROBINSON BAND (1978)

A British punk rock band might not be your first thought when it comes to a sympathetic song about gay rights but hold that thought. Originally written by the out, but later bi, Tom for a London gay pride parade and released on a live EP, *Glad To Be Gay* is now considered Britain's default gay anthem, not surprising with its rousing, sing-along-down-the-pub chorus.



“With its rousing, sing-along pub chorus, it’s Britain’s default gay anthem.”



12 YOU MAKE ME FEEL (MIGHTY REAL)

SYLVESTER (1978)

America had already embraced black disco – this was black *gay* disco. Fabulously flamboyant Sylvester James broke out of his San Francisco gay ghetto with this dancefloor epic. Many thought he was a woman or, at least, a drag queen. Today he'd be described as fluid. He crafted other club masterpieces like *Do You Wanna Funk*, but *Mighty Real* remained his most effervescent moment.



13 BOYS KEEP SWINGING

DAVID BOWIE (1979)

Bowie delighted in keeping people guessing about his sexuality, much of which was, cynically, about selling records. But this risqué post-punk single went unreleased in the US due to its prickly lyric, "other boys can check you out". On gender politics and his *Boys*, Bowie said: "I do not feel there is anything remotely glorious about being either male or female."



14 ME, MYSELF, I

JOAN ARMATRADING (1980)

Turning 69 in 2019, this Brit chick is a true singer/songwriter troubadour. Her jaunty UK/Australian hit was not just about being bisexual, but happily single and swinging. "I wanna have a boyfriend and a girl for laughs, but only on Saturdays, six days to be alone," Joan sang provocatively. Despite that, Joan and her long-time girlfriend, Maggie Butler held a commitment ceremony in 2011.

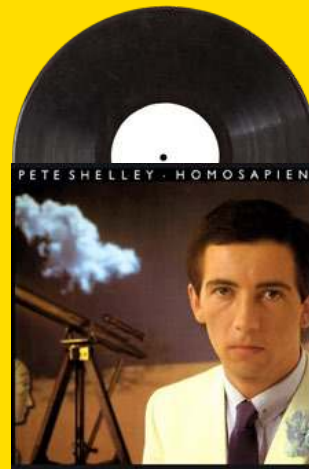


15 I'M COMING OUT

DIANA ROSS (1980)

You can't get a better closet-busting anthem than one actually called *I'm Coming Out* voiced by Miss Ross and written by Chic's Nile Rodgers and Bernard Edwards. Nile had the idea after encountering three Diana Ross drag queens, but Diana had to be convinced singing it wasn't career suicide. Luckily, she did and it went on to be one of the most heavily sampled songs in rap.

“Banned for this explicit reference to gay sex: homo superior in my interior.”



16 HOMOSAPIEN

PETE SHELLEY (1981)

A top ten hit in Australia, Canada and New Zealand the song was banned by the BBC for an "explicit reference to gay sex" (mainly the memorable line "homo superior in my interior"). It was the only solo hit for the bisexual Buzzcocks singer. The punk rocker with a keen interest in electronics and men later recorded a second version, *Homosapien II*, and toured with Nirvana's Kurt Cobain. He passed away in December 2018.

17 TAINTED LOVE

SOFT CELL (1981)

An electro-pop cover of a 1960s Northern Soul classic, lead singer Marc Almond put a swishy twist on "the way you tease" making it the biggest hit of the year. So good was *Tainted* that no less a mortal than Rihanna sampled it for 2006's *SOS*, while the Veronicas sampled it for 2007's *Hook Me Up*. Yet nothing beats the perfectly seedy Soft Cell version.



18 CONTROVERSY

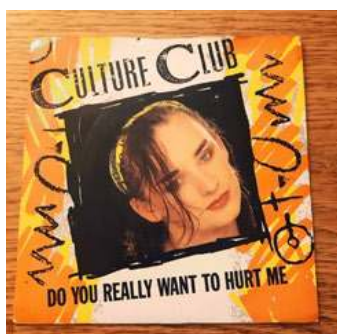
PRINCE (1981)

Before dousing himself in *Purple Rain* mega-stardom, Prince was an odd little fellow who kept people guessing, as *Controversy's* lyric, "Am I straight or gay?" illustrates. At this time, he performed live in butt-less satin chaps and high heels, taking make-up tips from London's New Romantic scene, and endearing himself to queer audiences. He was, we know now, robustly heterosexual, but gleefully dismantled gender expectations.



19 IT'S RAINING MEN THE WEATHER GIRLS (1982)

Famously turned down by Diana Ross, Cher, Donna Summer and Barbra Streisand these “two tonnes of fun” created the campiest gay anthem of all time. No surprise they were originally the backing singers for Sylvester. This song is so gay, in fact, it was a hit again in the 1990s for RuPaul, then again by Ginger Spice, Geri Halliwell, a few years later.



20 DO YOU REALLY WANT TO HURT ME CULTURE CLUB (1982)

It's hard to explain to folks today just how influential Culture Club's Boy George was in changing people's minds towards accepting differences and homosexuality. This, the band's breakthrough hit, is a swoon-some reggae ballad written by George as he pined over on-again-off-again boyfriend, band drummer Jon Moss. Many of the songs on their first two albums are about their difficult relationship.



21 I AM WHAT I AM GLORIA GAYNOR (1983)

GG is most famous for 1979's *I Will Survive* disco anthem. It helped homos, housewives and hundreds of thousands of others stay alive, and was recently performed ecstatically on TV by Billy Porter. Yet her dancefloor rendition of *I Am What I Am*, from *Le Cage aux Folles* – written by avowedly out songwriter Jerry Herman who also penned *Hello Dolly* – is sheer unadulterated closet-rattling.

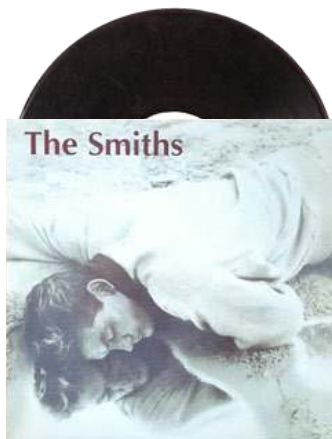


22 RELAX FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD (1983)

The early '80s was a time when experimentation could lead to chart success. This was a darker, heavier dancefloor sound than disco and the lyric, “Relax, don't do it, when you wanna cum,” left little to the imagination. The original video, not screened on MTV in the USA, was set in a gay sex club. Only two of the five boys in the band were gay, but the carnal delight of this track appealed to all.

“

These three gay skinheads wanted to make pop with a purpose.



23 THIS CHARMING MAN THE SMITHS (1983)

This Charming Man revelled in a gentlemanly, romantic world of gay men, rather than the up-front machismo of the '80s, and turned The Smiths into hetero *and* homo heroes. With Morrissey, their charismatic lead singer out front, these British indie rockers returned to themes of sexual ambiguity many times during their five-year run from 1982-1987. Morrissey went on to date a charmingly handsome boxer.



25 SMALLTOWN BOY BRONSKI BEAT (1984)

The bullying of a gay boy in a small town was the subject of this debut single, and it was a huge hit. In the music video, lead singer Jimmy Somerville lusts after a speedo-clad straight lad at the pool, but we see the consequences when his secret is revealed. Bronski Beat were three gay skinheads who wanted to make pop with a purpose.

24 YOU THINK YOU'RE A MAN DIVINE (1984)

An underground movie star since the 1970s (her shit-eating scene in John Waters' 1972 *Pink Flamingoes* has yet to be equalled), a decade later Glenn Milstead, aka Divine, turned her immense talents to camp gay disco (known as Hi-NRG). Divine's track was the first to be credited to producers Stock Aitken Waterman who then used this blueprint on Kylie, Bananarama, Rick Astley and many more.





26 WHY? BRONSKI BEAT (1984)

For their second single, Bronski Beat upped the ante with the very first line: "Contempt in your eyes as I turn to kiss his lips." There was no doubting they wanted to change the world, and this single took their "gay and proud" message back to the charts. This Hi-NRG stormer was resurrected for the 2014's movie *Pride*, proof of its unflinching gay resonance.



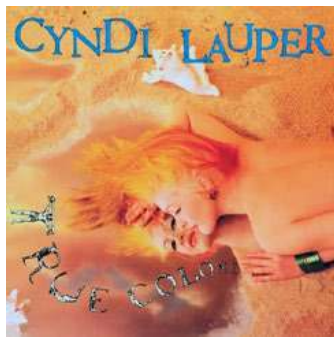
27 YOU SPIN ME ROUND (LIKE A RECORD)

DEAD OR ALIVE (1984)
Lead singer Pete Burns brought "gender fuck" into the lives of millions with this massive global hit. His aggressive masculinity and snarling singing style were worlds away from cute-and-cuddly rival Boy George. Plus, he had a wife *and* was dating the band's male drummer, and they were all mates.



28 I WANT TO BREAK FREE QUEEN (1984)

There were four people in the band but Queen will always be Freddie Mercury... and the others. For their foray into sad drag in the *Break Free* video, all four assumed suburban fem personas and the queerest thing was how much the straight boys loved it – and still do. That's the power of Freddie! Little wonder his *Bohemian Rhapsody* ended up winning an Oscar.



29 TRUE COLORS CYNDI LAUPER (1986)

Written by the blokes behind Madonna's *Like a Virgin* and The Bangles' *Eternal Flame*, this heart-tugging ballad remains Cyndi's most cherished gay hymn. The words meant a lot to Cyndi, too, having just buried her bestie, Gregory, from AIDS. *The Kinky Boots* scribe made it even more meaningful in 2008 by creating her True Colors Fund, a non-profit org to help homeless LGBT youth.

30 THERE'S MORE TO LOVE THAN BOY MEETS GIRL

THE COMMUNARDS (1987)

After Jimmy Somerville quit Bronski Beat he quickly formed a new group adept at remaking disco classics into mainstream pop hits with a queer bent such as *Don't Leave Me This Way* and *Never Can Say Goodbye*. Tucked away on their debut album was this joyous romp for innocent lovers, while another notable entry on their second album, *For A Friend*, confronted the AIDS crisis.



31 A LITTLE RESPECT ERASURE (1988)

The synthpop duo of straight Vince Clarke (formerly of both Depeche Mode and Yazoo) and gay Andy Bell (formerly of obscurity) unfurled what seemed like a customary pop ditty pleading for some Aretha Franklin-style respect. It was, as Andy later revealed, a call to arms due to the UK's incendiary Clause 28, forbidding the "promotion of homosexuality" and to oppose conservative AIDS propaganda. Rad.



32 LOVE SHACK THE B-52'S (1989)

This quirky American band finally achieved worldwide acclaim with this irresistible "love getaway" tune. The radio-friendly *Shack* was a comeback of sorts after band member Ricky Wilson's AIDS-related death. Best lyric: "Wearin' next to nothing 'cause it's hot as an oven." Eagle-eyed viewers will spot the film debut of RuPaul in the video. Four of the original five band members identify as LGBTIQ.

“All four assumed sad drag personas and the straight boys loved it – and still do.”





33 BEING BORING

PET SHOP BOYS (1990)

After half a decade making sterling pop tunes with a knowing gay sensibility, Neil and Chris crafted their finest album, *Behaviour*, as a document of the AIDS era. Complete with a deeply gorgeous black-and-white Bruce Weber video, dripping in male and female supermodels, *Being Boring* detailed surviving in an age as a gay man when some of those you were kissing suddenly went missing.



34 VOGUE

MADONNA (1990)

With so many gay-applicable works lurking in her back catalogue (coming out belter *Deeper And Deeper*, the fetishy *Erotica*, the queer *Justify My Love*, and AIDS ballad *In This Life*), Mad's most homo homage was to the gay balls and voguing scene of New York, transforming a subculture into a mainstream phenomenon. Little wonder *Vogue* became a major plot point in series two of TV's *Pose*.



35 LOSING MY RELIGION

REM (1991)

These alternative American rockers, led by the fey and later-to-be-gay Michael Stipe, had their global breakthrough with this song about an unreciprocated relationship. "It's just a classic obsession pop song," Michael later said. The heavily awarded music video, complete with overt homoerotic aesthetic, all made sense years later when Michael outed himself as a "queer artist".



36 CONSTANT CRAVING

KD LANG (1992)

The same year kd came out she also won a Grammy for her ingenious ode to unrequited love. One theory is that the song is about Prince guitarist, Wendy Melvoin, but kd has never confirmed this. So pivotal in gay history is it that electropunks Lesbians On Ecstasy redid it as *Kündstant Krøving* and *Glee* featured it in an outing episode. "It's part of me," says kd.

37 SUPERMODEL (YOU BETTER WORK)

RUPAUL (1993)

Long before *Drag Race*, RuPaul was famous as a supermodel... or at least singing about them. Being a glamazon black drag queen in "eleganza extravaganza" outfits with cascades of blonde hair got her heels in the door. Since, Mama Ru has turned her pop start into a career spanning decades. Now she's not just a supermodel, but a global brand.



“
This changed the dialogue around gays, coming out and casual sex forever.



38 STREETS OF PHILADELPHIA

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN (1993)

Having the biggest name, heterosexual male rock star in the world at the time sing a sympathetic ballad about the devastation of the AIDS crisis made a difference. Not only did this plaintive song win The Boss an Oscar and numerous Grammys it was used as the title song in the Tom Hanks film *Philadelphia*, which finally brought AIDS awareness, previously seen as a gay disease, to the mainstream.

39 WATERFALLS

TLC (1995)

Many pop songs deal with issues like sex and drugs but few had, until now, discussed their intersection with HIV. The R&B trio's hit went to #1 in the US, becoming the first song to reference AIDS make the top of the charts. The hard-hitting video, which expanded on the lyrics, "spoke for a whole epidemic", according to band member T-Boz.





JANET TOGETHER AGAIN

40 TOGETHER AGAIN

JANET JACKSON (1997)

Don't let the shimmering '90s house beat fool you. This is an elegy to a friend Janet lost to AIDS, but was also inspired by a fan's letter, who explained he'd lost his dad to the disease. Later, Janet would perform the #1 hit as a tribute to her brother Michael, who passed away in 2009. She wore a one-piece white disco suit in his honour.



41 OUTSIDE

GEORGE MICHAEL (1998)

George has so many gay-friendly songs in his catalogue (*Father Figure*, *Jesus To A Child*, *Fastlove*) but this must be top choice. The lyrics and video made fun of, and owned, George's arrest for cruising in an LA toilet. George refused to be shamed – and changed the dialogue around gays, coming out and casual sex forever.



42 YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU

KYLIE MINOGUE (2001)

We could've chosen something from her Stock Aitken Waterman Hi-NRG catalogue, or 2003's speedo-fest *Slow*, or 2010's all-inclusive *All The Lovers*. But for unabashed gayness and a homage to our culture there is no better candidate than the Robbie Williams-written *Your Disco Needs You*.



43 BEAUTIFUL

CHRISTINA AGUILERA (2002)

Created by lesbian writer/producer Linda Perry, the song is "for anyone that's been discriminated against or unaccepted, unappreciated or disrespected just because of who you are," said Christina. Its "you are beautiful no matter what they say" video included a gay couple, which was edgy at the time considering Christina's teenage fanbase. *Beautiful* was named the most empowering LGBT song of the decade.



44 GAY MESSIAH

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT (2004)

The gay son of beloved folk musicians, Rufus was well aware he was plunging into controversy when he recorded a song detailing being "baptized in cum". Inspired by the Middle East conflict, and written while dealing with his crystal meth addiction, Rufus composed a song in which the next messiah is a homosexual. "The Bible needs a gay gospel," he declared defiantly.



46 GAY PIRATES

COSMO JARVIS (2011)

This hunky singer and actor (*Peaky Blinders* and *Lady Macbeth*) chose unusual subject matter for a straight guy – historical homophobia. "I needed something where everyone else could be against them," Cosmo explained about his folksy 18th Century saga, "where it was more than a gay person in a homophobic society, where the whole thing was amplified." Stephen Fry tweeted his approval.

45 RAISE YOUR GLASS

P!NK (2010)

A long-time ally of the LGBT community, P!nk really got the party started by delivering a celebratory message to her gay, straight and otherwise fans with this uplifting track from her greatest hits album. The "don't get fancy, just get dancey" video took things one ceremony further, featuring smooching scenes from a gay marriage, inspired by her own best friend's wedding.



“The ‘don't get fancy, get dancey’ video took things to another level with scenes from a gay wedding.

47 BORN THIS WAY LADY GAGA (2011)

This Gaga missile exploded at #1 around the world at the height of Gaga-mania. “No matter gay, straight, or bi/lesbian, transgendered life/I’m on the right track baby/I was born to survive,” she sang. Controversy over similarities to Madonna’s *Express Yourself* only helped sales and it went on to become one of the best-selling singles of all time – and a millennial LGBT anthem.



“
The video of a gay couple experiencing violence helped take it to the top of charts.



48 SAME LOVE MACKLEMORE & RYAN LEWIS (2012)

If any one song was a catalyst for change in the gay marriage debate it was this persuasive rap ballad. With guest vocals by Mary Lambert, it spoke of LGBT rights, love and tolerance; helping in no small way to legalise same-sex marriage in the US. The single’s cover went a step further by featuring a photo of Macklemore’s elderly gay uncle and his husband.

49 THINKIN’ BOUT YOU FRANK OCEAN (2012)

After hit-writing for Beyoncé, Justin Bieber and John Legend, when it came to his solo *Channel Orange* album, Frank disclosed his bisexuality with the help of this “unisex” number. In a statement, with echoes of David Bowie’s from 1972, Frank confirmed he’d been inspired by a male ex. Beyoncé reportedly cried when she heard the song. Nowadays, alongside his music career, Frank runs queer NYC club PrEP+.



50 LET’S HAVE A KIKI SCISSOR SISTERS (2012)

The filthy/gorgeous Sisters went out on a high, literally, with this track from their final album, *Magic Hour*. While a “kiki” initially meant drag queens and drag hags chilling out, it later came to have a darker subtext referring to chemsex parties. The one-of-a-kind hit was later covered on Ryan Murphy’s *Glee* with none other than *Sex And The City*’s Sarah Jessica Parker on vocals.



51 TAKE ME TO CHURCH HOZIER (2013)

Its bleak lyrics dealt with Catholic Church hypocrisy, and its stark video of a male couple experiencing anti-gay violence helped take it to the top of charts. “Sexuality and sexual orientation – is just natural,” said Hozier. “The song is about asserting yourself and reclaiming your humanity through an act of love.” During live performances of *Church* Hozier has proudly waved the trans flag.



52 STAY WITH ME SAM SMITH (2014)

This gospel-infused ballad touched a raw nerve, being sung by an openly gay man (who later outed himself again as non-binary) about the hope that a one-night-stand might be *the one*. After it won the Grammy for Record Of The Year, Sam proclaimed: “I want to thank the man who this record is about. Thank you for breaking my heart because you got me four Grammys.” Boom!



53 KING YEARS AND YEARS (2015)

One of the breakout gay stars of this decade has been Olly Alexander. With *King* his band soared to #1 in the UK and top ten in many other countries. The breathless lyrics are about a “douchebag” Olly dumped, but who he couldn’t resist going back to for more. We know the type! Olly has since opened up about his self-harm and food struggles and called for the elimination of racism, ableism and sexism.



54 I AIN'T GOT TIME

TYLER THE CREATOR (2017)

Being dissed by Eminem ("I can see why you call yourself a faggot, bitch!" on his *Kamikaze* track) can only mean you're pretty damn eminent and cool yourself. Eminem has since admitted he "don't feel right" about having essentially outed Frank Ocean's BFF. Taking the bait, Tyler slyly rapped on *I Ain't Got Time* that he's been "kissing white boys since 2004".



55 MYSTERY OF LOVE

SUFJAN STEVENS (2017)

"Oh, to see without my eyes, the first time that you kissed me..." These lyrics by Stevens evoke the aching beauty of the gay coming-of-age film *Call Me By Your Name*. Stevens wrote three tracks for the film and delivered them to set before filming started, allowing the director to use them to set the mood. The lo-fi ballad was recognised with both Oscar and Grammy nominations.



56 BLOOM

TROYE SIVAN (2018)

Aussie actor/singer Troye called this, the title track of his second album, "a subversively queer song". The track appeared to be a valentine to both the new love in his life and his new love for anal sex. Initially, Troye boasted *Bloom* wasn't about flowers via #bopsboutbottoming – a brash hashtag he later deleted, insisting "it's 100% about flowers". We can't wait to see how versatile he becomes.



57 NOT THE DRUGS TALKING

KELE (2019)

Taken from gay marriage musical, *Leave To Remain*, which debuted in 2019 in London, and is likely to be turned into a film. This pounding thumper from the former Bloc Party frontman (co-written by Matt Jones, best known for gay *Dr Who* spin-off *Torchwood*) is brutally queer. When Kele cries, "I'm not on drugs, I'm just in love," we know exactly what he means.



58 OLD TOWN ROAD

LIL NAS X (2019)

The song itself is hardly a gay anthem, but it's what Lil Nas *did* at the height of his fame that makes it significant. He came out. This catchy, seductive, category-busting track became the longest-running #1 hit in the US... ever. Lil Nas had the world at his feet. What he did was use his platform to make a personal statement and bust down some barriers to LGBTIQ acceptance, especially in the hip-hop and country music genres, where homophobia remains stubbornly entrenched.

“

This is the sound of history being made, and a reminder of why we are still fighting.



60 FAG

TODRICK HALL (2019)

Speaking of whom... while it's challenging to cherry pick from Todrick's other recent classics such as the seamless *Nails, Hair, Hips, Heels* and sultry *I Like Boys*, ultimately, this empowering anthem takes the prize. It's the ultimate slay to every bully or troll ever. Success is the best revenge. This is the sound of history being made and a much-needed reminder of why we're still fighting the good fight.

59 YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN

TAYLOR SWIFT (2019)

As the world started sliding backwards politically, Taylor swooped in to bring a pro-LGBT bop to pop. She also put her money where her mouth was, creating a petition calling for the US Senate to pass the Equality Act, which attracted 500,000 signatures. Then there was the award-winning video co-produced by Todrick Hall and the year's best lyric: "Why are you mad when you could be GLAAD?"



OSCAR

DNA: You're an athlete and personal trainer – tell us more about your professional life.

Oscar Y: Actually, I'm not a personal trainer anymore. I decided to do something macro; I opened an F45 Studio in Downtown Los Angeles and I have hired an amazing group of trainers and together we help people lose weight, get fit and improve performance with creative workouts involving technology and even a live DJ in class. Fitness is my passion.

Have you always been naturally big or is your current shape something you have built up over time?

I've always been a thick guy. At school I used to be the fat one. Then I used that as an advantage to build lean muscle and I learned how to diet and work out properly to get a better shape.

Where did you grow up, and where do you call home now?

I was born in Medellin, Colombia. I grew up between Brazil and Colombia. During the last 15 years life has taken me to Brazil, Argentina, Panama and finally to the USA. Currently I live in Los Angeles, California.

What's your family heritage, and how has your family shaped your values?

My family is from Colombia and Eastern Europe. I come from a very Catholic family, which has its advantages and disadvantages. I'm grateful to have very good parents who took care of me and pushed me to go to school and to be the entrepreneur and ambitious person that I am today.

PHOTOGRAPHY SHOTSBYGUN

📷 SHOTSBYGUN

🌐 SHOTSBYGUN.COM

MODEL OSCAR Y

📷 OSCARYF45



You have a very masculine but also hyper-sexual energy in your photos. Is that how you are away from the camera?

I think my sexual energy is something I can't hide. It's something you don't learn. It's there with you everywhere you go... [laughs].

Do you love being photographed?

I love photoshoots. It's the perfect time to see my body and my hard work at the gym but also to have fun, try new outfits, shoot in amazing spots, like beaches around the world, under a bridge, in the desert, meet amazing photographers and stay motivated to keep my body on point.

What were your impressions of Gun at your shoot with him in Sydney?

Gun was amazing. There are only a few times I can connect with a photographer where we can get the correct shot so fast without spending hours and hours trying to get that look or pose. Gun thinks fast, like me. He can make any spot look like paradise, and any piece of clothing look sexy. And he is super respectful and nice.

This is DNA's Swimwear issue. Are you a beach boy or a pool guy?

I'm from Colombia so, to be honest, I can't choose. I like both. If there is sun you will find me there.

What swimwear do you enjoy wearing?

When choosing swimwear I go to simple styles and colours. Black, dark blue and white are my favourites; they're classy and, for me, that's sexy.

Do you ever choose the swimwear with the built-in cock rings or cups?

No. I prefer the free-balling cuts. Comfort is very important for me.

What is your hot button? What instantly turns you on?

I am the weakest person when I see a big pair of calves on white boys. Why? Dunno! We all have our fetish and that's mine.

“
My sexual energy is something I can't hide... It's with you everywhere you go.















NEW GIRL ON THE BLOCK

Trans actor and activist Georgie Stone is now a permanent *Neighbours* cast member.



RAMSAY ST

Show runners around the world have been including trans characters played by trans actors in their stories. Long-running Australian series *Neighbours* was looking to authentically add a trans storyline when they heard from Georgie Stone...

By Matthew Myers

Last year's *Neighbours* gay wedding between Aaron (Matty Wilson) and David (Takaya Honda) set a benchmark for Australian television and signified the changing attitudes towards LGBTIQ people.

As a cultural institution, *Neighbours* is up there with Vegemite and the Hemsworths and is very much a barometer of public opinion – if it's happening on *Neighbours*, it's happening in Australia. So it's affirming to see the *Neighbours* producers continuing to embrace diversity with the show's first transgender story.

When teenager, Mackenzie Hargreaves turns up at Erinsborough High, drama ensues. Mackenzie is played by Georgie Stone – but Stone's connection to the character and the show is much more involved.

Georgie Stone is well known for her

transgender advocacy. At age 10 she became the youngest person in Australia to receive hormone blockers, setting a legal precedent and helping change the laws for transgender kids. She and her parents notably appeared in an episode of the ABC series *Australian Story*, which educated many people about the complexities of the lives of trans kids and how legal and medical reform were urgently required. The episode made headlines and took Georgia to Canberra to address politicians directly.

So young, so much already accomplished; but could Georgie combine her trans activism with her ambitions towards acting?

"It started when I was watching my dad, Greg, on the show back in 2016," Georgie tells DNA.

“Who you are is so important... **never give that up** just to make other people feel better!

"He played the character Walter Mitchell. At the time there was a group of popular young characters including Piper, Ben and Xanthe. I thought it would be so cool to have a trans character on the show and within that group.

"It took a while for me to pluck up the courage to contact the producers. It was at the beginning of my final school year and I



Mackenzie (Stone) and Richie (Lachlan Miller) in spin-off series, *Erinsborough High*.

thought, 'Okay, I'm just going to do this.' So I emailed the show's Executive Producer, Jason Herbison and pitched it. I wrote a character profile and storyline showing how a trans character could be on the show. I was expecting a 'Thanks, but no thanks' but within two hours I got a reply saying it was a great idea and to come in for an audition! I was completely blown away!"

In the story, Mackenzie, a newcomer to Erinsborough High, befriends Yashvi Rebecchi (Olivia Junkeer) who vaguely remembers her face, having come from the same regional town of Bourke. Eventually she discovers Mackenzie is the person she once knew as Michael and accidentally outs her at school. In an added twist, Yashvi's father Shane (Nicholas Coghlan) also knows Mackenzie's secret and, through guilt about his own transphobic past, takes Mackenzie under his wing.

"I absolutely love playing Mackenzie," says Georgie. "She's an interesting person to work

out in your head. People can see that she's adorable but, in the beginning, she's very closed off and defensive. We wanted to tell a trans story as realistically as possible, but also make sure everyone could relate. We wanted viewers to see what trans people go through and see themselves in that position."

Growing up, Georgie's role model was Emma Watson (Hermione Granger from *Harry Potter*), as well as author Janet Mock (writer for *Pose*) and actress Jazz Jennings (*I Am Jazz*). Now, in her first onscreen role, Georgie is earning her own praises.

"This is my first acting gig and it's been awesome," she says. "The only thing I'd done before were school productions, but everyone on set has been so patient, giving me advice and making me feel comfortable. Nick Coghlan, who plays Shane Rebecchi, has been a wonderful mentor and friend to me. We've done a lot of scenes together and he's really switched on. I've always loved acting but being on *Neighbours* has made me realise just how much."

Transgender advocacy is incredibly important to Georgie, who campaigned for the Safe Schools Coalition and, at 15, addressed the Australian Parliament.

"We were there to advocate for law reform and were looking for bipartisan support," she says. "I was so nervous but it was lovely to have all these families come together, with so many incredible young trans people also making speeches. It was wonderful to see the politicians literally sit back to listen and really learn from us. When people said it meant so much to hear me speak, I didn't really understand what they were talking about. But looking back, I see how impactful and significant it was to have a 15-year-old trans girl in the Australian Parliament talking about her experiences and urging politicians for support."

When it comes to supporting Georgie, there's no greater admirer than the man who helped bring Mackenzie to Ramsay Street, *Neighbours* Executive Producer, Jason Herbison.

"Some people are sent to teach us and I believe Georgie is one of those people," says Herbison. "She's incredibly mature, professional and generous."

"I'd been wanting to do a transgender story for some time, particularly in the teenage space, but I knew it was essential to find the right performer. Georgie came with both acting talent and personal experience, which she was willing to share."

"This was crucial because it wouldn't have been right for us to come up with our own idea of a transgender character. We needed to collaborate with someone living the experience. Georgie also understood the genre that is *Neighbours*, so the end result was a marriage between her experiences and some good old-fashioned Ramsay Street drama!"

Unfortunately, drama can also develop in the real world by way of transphobic adversaries.

However, the response to Mackenzie and for Georgie herself has been supportive.

"I was expecting some positive feedback but, given the conservative pushback and the attacks that have come from *The Australian* newspaper, I was scared we would be attacked," she says. "There have been some negative comments but, overall, it's been overwhelmingly positive. People love Mackenzie and her storyline. It's been lovely."

Herbison agrees. "Diversity is very important at *Neighbours*, and everybody's stories should be told," he says.

"Representation matters. When it comes to marginalised people in society, everyone just wants to be visible and treated the same as everyone else. That's what you see with Mackenzie, and I look forward to the day when the fact that she is transgender doesn't warrant the batting of an eyelid. That day will come very soon in Erinsborough."

For Georgie, whose mother Rebekah Robertson explained their story in her book *About A Girl*, having family support for LGBTIQ people is of major importance, whether it's parents, extended family or chosen family.

“ Given the conservative pushback and the attacks that have come from *The Australian* newspaper, I was scared...”

"Your chosen family is where you go when your family rejects you," she says. "That came into the *Neighbours* story with Mackenzie's search for her dad [Paul Mercurio]. So many people I've talked to say they haven't spoken to a parent in years but they get through it because they have a group of people around them who they meet along the way. They love them for who they are. In the end, a chosen family can become more important."

For Georgie, the dream of working on *Neighbours* continued into the show's first spin-off series, *Neighbours: Erinsborough High*, which debuted last month. As a parallel show, "E High" was a real eye-opener, delving into issues such as bullying, mental illness, sexuality and cultural diversity.

"E High was darker than the main show," says Georgie. "Everyone was quite shocked. In fact, I was actually thinking about *Riverdale* during filming! There are some similarities and it's really quite visceral. The writers went in depth to explore issues."

"Her journey through the five episodes is about growing more assertive. She has come such a long way from the quiet, unsure girl we meet at the beginning of her arch on *Neighbours*. By the end she is excited for her future, maybe for the first time in her life."



Hendrix gets flirty with Mackenzie.



Richie and Mackenzie go public.

Georgie has already racked up a lifetime of achievements. She's an ambassador for Wear It Purple Day and the AFL Pride Game and has won the Young People's Human Rights Medal, Victorian Young Australian Of The Year and Hero Of The Year at the Australian LGBTI Awards. There's no doubt that her contribution to *Neighbours* is a milestone for the transgender and broader LGBTIQ community.

"*Neighbours* is exactly the right place to tell this story and I'm so proud to be a part of it," she says. "Advocacy can come in many forms and seeing the impact that Mackenzie and this storyline has had makes me realise how this is a form of advocacy itself."

Mackenzie now has permanent residency on Ramsay Street and Georgie is, understandably, thrilled. "I'm so excited to be coming back full-time," she says. "It's a dream come true. We have so many more opportunities to explore about who Mackenzie is."

Part of that revolves around the character's developing relationship with Richie [Lachlan Miller]. "It's really cute and awkward at the start, which reflects real life," says Georgie. "It shows the importance of communication and openness with your partner. Once they get on the same wavelength, it's beautiful, it's a really healthy relationship, which is great to see in a story about teenagers."

What advice does Georgie have for her peers?

"I've tried, in the past, to diminish myself and make myself feel smaller to put other people at ease, and that just hurt me. It can be hard, but don't sacrifice your own sense of yourself for other people's comfort. Who you are is so important and you should never give that up just to make other people feel better."

MORE: *Neighbours* screens 6.30pm weeknights on 10 Peach. *About a Girl* is available at Amazon. For support with trans and gender diverse youth visit: transcendsupport.com.au

“

A hilltop lookout at the centre of the bay overlooks the gorgeous turquoise water and white-rock beach.

Rock jumpers at Mylopotamos.

UNSPOILED

Despite a little film called *Mamma Mia*, Tsagarada remains a well-kept secret. As if fashioned by the gods themselves, this is the Greek idyll of the neo-classical imagination.

**Story and photography
by Marc Andrews.**

Movie buffs, Meryl Streep fans and, surely, every gay man in the world knows that the successful 2008 *Mamma Mia!* film, based on the successful stage musical based on the successful songs of ABBA, was filmed on location on the small island of Skopelos in northern Greece.

What most people don't know, however, is that the pivotal *Dancing Queen* sequence, in which Meryl Streep leads the jiving emancipation of Greek women through the olive groves to a subsequent and empowering plunge into the welcoming waters of the

Aegean Sea, was filmed nearby at a much more secluded and, arguably, lovelier spot.

The tiny seaside village that can claim this fanciful Hollywood honour is Damouhari, hidden away in Tsagarada on the Pelion area of the Greek coastline. As if flawlessly positioned by the gods themselves on a sequestered part of the mainland, it's a miniscule slither of idyllic Mediterranean coast boasting a picture-perfect bay, where the scene was shot. There's a hilltop lookout at the centre of the bay with a hoisted Greek flag overlooking the gorgeous turquoise water and white-rock beach.

A makeshift pontoon, created especially for the film by its producers, is gone, but the locals haven't forgotten their place in cinema history with numerous plaques to commemorate Meryl and her apparently beloved American hairdresser. These are artfully placed about the town's charming, whitewashed walls.

Meryl, her hairdresser and the pontoon may be gone but Damouhari's natural beauty remains. On moonlight nights you may hear echoes of "you can dance, you can jive"



Damma Mia beach house at sunset.

carried on the gentle evening breeze across the water. Well... possibly. You can most definitely stay in the cleverly named Damma Mia guesthouse on the village beachfront, which also offers sea views of Skopelos and the even closer island of Skiathos.

For centuries, Greece has beguiled visitors from all over the world. To this day, tourists are eager to experience its ancient traditions, artisan cuisine and sedate pace of life. That's especially the case in this classically Greek



Fakistra Beach.

secret escape, centred round the port city and airport hub of Volos.

If archaeological ruins and pagan artefacts are top of your Greek holiday list, don't miss the anthropological museum in Volos, with treasures rivalling some of the bigger finds in the Greek capital of Athens and its next biggest city of Thessaloniki, which is only a few hours drive away south. To get your ancient history fix, spend an hour being impressed by curios, jewellery and even dead bodies from thousands of years ago.

“
Plaques to
commemorate Meryl
and her beloved
American hairdresser
artfully adorn
whitewashed walls.



A canyoning adventure.

Aside from its historical cachet, the Pelion region is famous among foodies for its abundant organic chestnuts, natural forest honey and crispy dark red apples. It's the kind of place where you can amble down a serene hillside lane and suddenly find yourself engulfed by fruit orchards, blackberry bushes and wild fig trees dripping with ripe

fruit, caramelized by the dazzling southern European summer sunshine.

If you're more about capturing seaside rays with the bonus of dreamy instagrammable tapered blue, gold and red sunsets at twilight you're also in luck. Two of the beaches to be discovered in this under-visited region are so outstanding we'd like to keep them a secret,



Dancing Queen Bay.

just between you and us, so they retain their unspoiled beauty and carefree Greek charm.

The first, Mylopotamos, can be found nestled at the bottom of a winding mountain path and, so I was told by the proud locals, is considered one of the top three beaches not just in Greece or Europe but the world. A big call, but they might not be exaggerating.

Mylopotamos is a pristine beach with a natural rock doorway leading through to another beach boasting a series of striking, cavernous caves behind it. This is spectacular enough but add to this the alluring azure water and schools of fish to snorkel with. On the beach is a tiny taverna delivering killer cocktails, plus a local favourite – a refreshing,

foamy, chilled coffee served in a long glass. This is pretty close to heaven on Earth. Those Greek Gods knew what they were doing.

“Fruit orchards, blackberry bushes and wild fig trees dripping with fruit, caramelized by the summer sunshine.

The other beach gem is somewhat more remote, requiring a good half hour’s clamber down a mountainside, but offering breathtaking views of the bay below on the way. Fakistra Beach is secluded, quiet and even has its own stray dog, who will steal your shoes and bury them if you don’t feed him.

Along the path to the beach is another walkway leading to the historical “hidden schools”. During the Ottoman Empire, when the ruling Turks forbade the Greeks from speaking in their native tongue, children would be brought to secret caves in the middle of the night to learn Greek.

That’s Greece for you, though. Every time you think it’s all about the dazzling landscape, you’re reminded of the depth of the country’s history.

Pelion is also popular among adventure enthusiasts for its wide array of outdoor activities. Canyoning in particular is a must here thanks, primarily, to the numerous mountain waterfalls. Spending a day plunging into refreshing water in a wetsuit after rappelling down steep rocky cliffs might not



Exploring the caves.



Local Greek god.

be everyone’s idea of a great day’s vacation in Greece, but it won us over. The fact we had a very tall, handsome Dutch guy along to inspire us – and cheerfully divebomb us the entire time – helped.

As a wintery side note, some years it snows so heavily here that they even have a ski resort on the mountain top that opens for business. Sadly, climate change is ruining this natural quirk. The once annual snow season has become more of an occasional anomaly.

Volos is smack bang in the middle of the map between Athens and Thessaloniki and there are daily flights from both cities. During the northern hemisphere summer months there’s also direct three-hour flights to Volos from London.

If you’re after a perfect Greek adventure that’s not yet overrun by tourists like Mykonos, Santorini and stinking hot Athens, try Pelion’s little slice of heaven. In the cinematic splendour of Damouhari, reconnect with your inner-dancing queen.

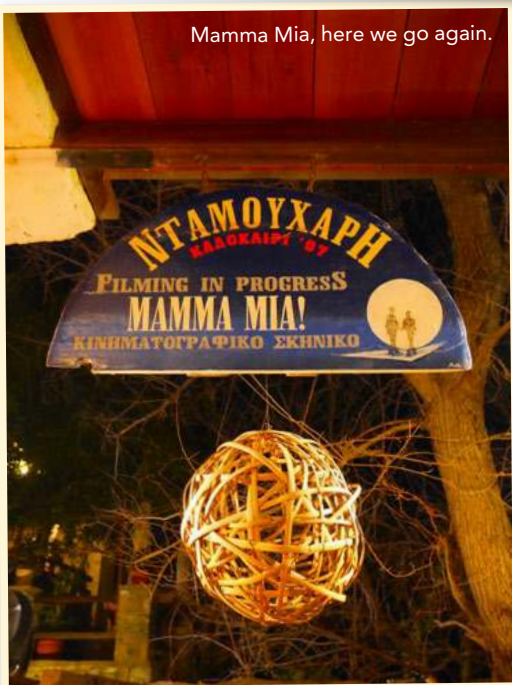
Flying the flag.



Damouhari Beach.



Mamma Mia, here we go again.



TOP 10 TIPS FOR YOUR PELION GRAND TOUR

1. You've never eaten tomatoes until you've tasted a succulent Greek tomato. Stuff your face with these tasty, healthy marvels.

2. Visitors always remark on the abundance of stray cats in Greece but let's give a big bark out to all the friendly village dogs here, even on the beaches, too!

3. The Pelion region is famous for its all-natural mountain honey and the rather rare one infused with chestnuts is unique.

4. Beach temperatures are perfect – not too warm, not too cool – and you have a choice of either the Aegean Sea, or Adriatic Coast, coastlines.

5. There is more to do in Greece than eat. That said, the walnut cake, apple cake and orange cake are ambrosia (the food of the gods).

6. Volos is pretty liberated around the edges, thanks to its university packed with good-looking students with progressive values. It's so liberated, in fact, that it has its own nude beach.

7. Avoid the busy times of year and visit in May-June or September when the little European monsters have gone back to school.

8. If you do want to explore Skiathos, and the other nearby islands, then Volos is your main ferry transport hub, in addition to boasting a shiny new airport.

9. If you need something strong to digest all the local delicacies forget Ouzo and try the local digestive, Raki (45 per cent alcohol), but beware its dizzying effects!

10. When in Damouhari do your best Meryl while leaping into the sea, but just don't mention Croatia (where the 2018 *Mamma Mia!* sequel was filmed).

Swimmer at Fakistra beach.



Olive groves.



Café scene.



Photographer Stas Vokman creates a Garden Of Eden and casts famous fitness model David Lurs as Adam. Temptation never looked better, especially in David's signature underwear range, David Lurs DL Wear.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAS VOKMAN
@ STAS_VOKMAN

MODEL DAVID LURS
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INTO TEMPTATION















**MY BEST
SEX MOVE** / WITH CAMERON MCCOOL



STRANGE BUT TRUE

Each month, Cameron answers readers' sex questions. This month, we asked readers to submit their own sex stories... and, boy, were we in for a surprise! It just goes to show that the world of sex, dating and relationships can be WTF-unpredictable!

SHUTTERSTOCK

AIRBNB KILL BILL

On a recent trip abroad, my husband and I picked up a guy at a bar and brought him back for a threesome. It didn't take long before our dicks, legs, limbs and mouths were all tangled up in hot sex when, suddenly, my groin felt unusually wet.

I looked down and there was blood everywhere. On my arms, on my stomach, all over my husband and the guy we were banging.

We all froze and then rapidly untangled. As the guy we brought home jumped up, blood started gushing from his penis like water from a lawn sprinkler. It was a total *Kill Bill* moment.

Turns out the guy had torn his foreskin. He sprinted to the shower to deal with it while my husband and I sat there in shock.

We were staying at an Airbnb (because of course this had to happen at a rental property!), so I spent the rest of the night washing sheets and scrubbing the bed while my husband comforted the guy and his newly-torn foreskin.

I mean, I felt sorry for the dude, but I definitely didn't want a bad review.

THE ROOMMATE SEX SWAP

I was hanging out in bed with a bi-curious guy who'd just fucked my brains out when my ex-boyfriend FaceTimed me. Even though I knew I shouldn't have taken the call, my ex and I had just been through a messy, emotional break-up, so I picked up.

As my ex was chatting, I noticed that he was walking around my neighbourhood.

"Wait... are you walking to my place right now?!" I asked.

My ex immediately hung up and I went into panic mode. He would flip out if he knew I was fucking someone else, so I turned to Bi-Curious Dude and said, "You have to get out of my apartment right now."

And at that exact moment, just like some dumb rom-com, my ex buzzed my apartment.

I pushed Bi-Curious Dude onto the patio and let my ex into the apartment.

"Why are you so nervous?" he asked. "Is someone in here with you?"

He started searching my place for clues. He even opened the patio door.

Thankfully, Bi-Curious Dude wasn't there, so I checked my phone and noticed a text from him.

"Hey, I jumped onto your neighbour's patio but my phone is about to die. What do I do??"

I managed to convince my ex that we should go over to his place and hook up. It was the only way I could get him out of my apartment.

As for the Bi-Curious Dude, he didn't freeze on my neighbour's balcony. My female housemate let him back into the apartment once we'd left – and then she hooked up with him!

She and I still laugh about it to this day. I don't think either of us would've believed this story if it didn't happen to us.

THE BORSCHT WICCAN

Before Grindr and smartphones, I met this guy

online and he invited me for a dinner date at his place out in the middle of the countryside.

A friend dropped me off and agreed to pick me up the next day. There were no buses or taxis this far out of the city. This is important to the story.

So I walked into this guy's place and he announced that for dinner he was serving Borscht – a sour, smelly soup dish that is not first-date menu material. Weird, but sure.

Then, during the smelly cabbage dinner, he revealed that he's a Wiccan and would like to give me a massage. Weird again, but sure.

Before I lay down on the massage table, he wrapped me up in a bedsheet like a human burrito. Then he started the "massage", but didn't touch my body. Turned out, he was massaging my aura.

I can't tell you if I enjoyed having my aura massaged or not because the only thing running through my mind was, "Oh my god how the fuck do I get out of this situation?"

Unfortunately, I had to spend the rest of the night at this dude's place. When my friend picked me up the next day, we laughed about it the whole way home.

FLESHJACK THREESOME



I was at a local gay watering hole and I hooked-up with a couple of randoms. We went back to one of the guy's apartments for a threesome. So far so good.

We hit the bedroom and started making out but soon realised we were all tops and no one wanted to bottom! My new fuck buddy said, "No problem," and pulled a Fleshjack out from under the bed.

My buddy lubed up and slid his hard cock in. The Fleshjack was long, thick and see-through, so we could see his cock pumping inside it. It was a massive turn-on. I'd never used one before and now I couldn't wait to get my own cock inside it.

He adjusted the suction and just went to town on that thing, clearly in extreme pleasure. The other guy and I wanted a turn, too. So we each had a go at fucking it, jerking each other off, kissing, nipple play and all the rest. It felt so good – but actually *seeing* my cock inside it was hot!

Eventually the first guy said he was ready to cum so he slid in and pumped away until he

had what looked like the most intense orgasm. When he pulled out, cum dribbled out the end and the other guy wasted no time taking his turn until he, too, shot a huge load inside it.

Then it was my turn. I was super-hard and knew it wouldn't take long. I slid my cock in. It was hot and wet with the other guys' juice inside. It felt amazing, and the smell of cum filled the air. One of the guys pumped it for me while he chewed on my nipple and the other guy stuck his tongue down my throat passionately. The orgasm was like an explosion on the end of my dick! I thought my balls were never going to stop pumping. My heart raced, I was out of breath and covered in sweat and cum from all three of us.

So intense and my best threesome ever!

THE STRAIGHT MATE

When I was in my twenties, I went out to a straight bar with a bunch of other backpackers. A straight guy came over to me and whispered in my ear: "I want to fuck you so hard."

He was hot. I wasn't going to say no. We jumped in a cab and headed to his place, which turned out to be a 40-minute ride out of the city.

The guy forgot to mention that he lived with his girlfriend who was asleep in the bedroom while we started making out on the couch.

Before we could get our underwear off, he said, "Hey, I just have to go pee," and headed for the bathroom. Ten minutes passed and I couldn't hear anything from the bathroom, so I decided to investigate.

He'd locked the main bathroom door, so I had to tiptoe past his sleeping girlfriend in the bedroom and enter the bathroom through the en suite door. Keep in mind that I was extremely drunk, so this wasn't an easy task.

When I got into the bathroom, the scene was absolute carnage. The dude was so drunk that he'd passed out mid-piss, fallen to the floor and shat all down his legs. That's right, I went home with a straight dude who crapped his pants.

THE SPORTS BET

I was chatting to this guy on Grindr and we decided to go for coffee. I asked him to suggest a nice café in his neighbourhood.

"Starbucks," he said.

Alright. Not the best choice for a date, but I figured I could roll with it.

The guy then spent the 10-minute walk to Starbucks – and then the entire coffee date – placing live sports bets on his phone. Apparently betting on the Croatia vs England game was more important than scoring some dick.

Readers' names have been withheld from publication.

SEND ME YOUR QUESTIONS

I'll answer them in a future column:
mybestsexmove@gmail.com.

DOMINIC PACIFICO

From skinny teen goth to porn star and DJ, he's enjoyed a double-barrelled career trajectory.

DNA: What's the Dominic Pacifico backstory?

Dominic Pacifico: I'm am a Native American/Latino gay daddy. I grew up outside the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. As an adult I've lived most of my life in California.

How did you get into porn?

I had just turned 18 when I was approached by Titan Media to do my first adult video. From there I went on to a series of photo shoots and twink videos before I became more of a jock and was picked up by Raging Stallion as an exclusive.

You are also a DJ; what inspired that career direction?

My career as a porn star was blossoming at the same time as I was becoming a popular DJ in the San Francisco Bay Area. I've worked in both fields simultaneously from the beginning, hence the name DJ Pornstar. The name was given to me by event producer Gus Bean. Music and audio production were always my passion.

Do you have a preference for one career over the other?

Having two careers in entertainment has been a blessing and an exciting journey. I would never trade one for the other. Frankly, I would have to say that one career would not have been as successful without the other.

“

Fans sites are a fad. Once social media bans the links, adult entertainers will stray away.

What was your adolescence like?

Growing up in the '90s I was a 90lbs [40kg] goth skater boy: Phat JNCO jeans with a torn-up Misfits T-shirt describes me best. I came out in junior high at the age of 13. Coming out so young required me to be pretty tough on the outside but I was a playful nerd on the inside. One thing most people don't know is that I was partially deaf growing up. I had a surgery to correct my hearing at 17. A year-and-a-half later I became a DJ. Luckily, I had a very tight crew of alternative friends of all ages who were like family to me. I wouldn't say I was popular, but I was definitely known in school by everyone. I'm writing a book with a lot more detail about my youth and how I became a DJ at an early age. Hopefully it will be picked up by a publisher in 2020.



Is there anything you miss about your life before porn?

Don't get me wrong, I love my work and I love sex, as well as sex on camera. The only thing about it is that people who know who I am treat me differently. Some people even have sexual expectations about me and my lifestyle. Day to day, I'm a normal person. I'm not hyper-sexual all the time. Either way, I'm grateful for all my friends and fans who love the entertainment and the joy of sexual liberation I bring.

A few years ago, most of the porn industry moved out of California to Las Vegas. Did that effect your career as a porn performer and as a DJ?

It was awesome and game changing. I'd already moved my production from Los Angeles to Las Vegas a couple years prior to the California mass exodus. Having more people in the adult industry now in Las Vegas brought more life and attention to my work as a producer. Since then my company has grown and I've won several awards.

How is Las Vegas social life?

I'm not a local socialite *per se*, as Las Vegas doesn't have a real LGBTIQ scene. I'm not much for frequenting the local watering hole. My social life is a bit more private as most of my other life is very public. Actually, my social life is an accumulation of relationships, nationally and internationally.

As both porn star and DJ, do you get to travel much?

As a DJ I've travelled nationally and internationally for years, from touring Canada and Australia, and a residency in Beijing. My adult industry work has taken me to Europe several times, Montréal and Brazil. I'll be producing more in Brazil. My sites, DominicPacifico.com and rawhole.com are full of beautiful Latin men I have handpicked.

How do you feel about fan sites where porn performers can create and manage their own content?

It's a fad and it's nothing new. There have been clip stores around for years. The only difference now is that they synch with social media, now only Twitter. Once social media bans this type of integration or doesn't allow the links, adult entertainers will stray away. For now, it's a really fun way for fans to buy into their favourite performers and not just the membership sites.

The US government is restricting the rights of women and the LGBTIQ community; how do you feel about this and do you use your public platform to express your opinions on politics?

I came out at a young age. Being a racial minority and gay porn star is tough. I've worked hard my entire life to prove my professionalism as an artist in the music industry because I'm a gay porn star. As a porn star, it's hard to have a respectable voice even in my own community. Even the LGBTIQ community can discriminate. Because of this, I tend to keep my opinions on political issues to myself.



As far as having an opinion on social media platforms, it's a free world. Personally, I don't think it's the best place for me to discuss these types of topics. My social media is for LGBTIQ entertainment only.

Is there a common assumption people make about you?

One big assumption is that I'm cocky or arrogant but, on the contrary, I'm extremely humble, giving and a sensitive gay daddy.

How do you relax and decompress?

I love to hit the gym. Exercise makes me feel refreshed and puts me in a great mood. After a

hard workout I feel my tension and stress levels drop. I enjoy a long dip in my hot tub and a lazy day on the couch in my boxers with my feet up.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

The beauty of the industries I'm in is the evolution from stage to production. In 10 years, I image myself running my production company and not so much in front of the camera anymore. As a DJ, I image I'll mostly be working on producing tracks in the studio.

Can we have your basic stats please?

I'm 172cm [5'8], 84kg [185 pounds] and my cock is 8-inches and uncut.

GAY TO Z

A DICTIONARY GUIDE TO STUFF GAYS LOVE
COMPILED BY PAUL JOSEPH AND TIM BENZIE

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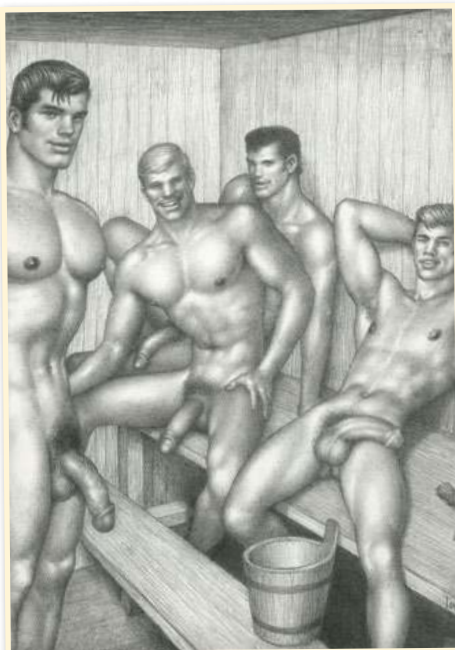
CAMP



At once a sensibility, a weapon, and a pair of darling mauve kitten heels with a diamante bow, camp has been central to the gay experience for decades. As an adjective for effeminacy it has been much derided but, thanks to *RuPaul's Drag Race*, Bob The Drag Queen (above), Todrick Hall and non-binary millennials, the act of being camp is now in fashion. But camp as a sensibility has always been important to us as a way of seeing the world and surviving. Susan Sontag's 1964 essay *Notes On Camp* got it mostly right, describing it as a way of "dethroning the serious" by spotting "an attempt at seriousness that fails". Camp is our way of reading straight artifacts like the film *Showgirls*, and making them our own through tears of laughter.

COCK

How can the schlong be considered especially gay, given that straight men have them too and that straight women want to play with them? The difference is that we both own them *and* desire them, we can have our cake and eat it and the bakery's open 24/7. The desire



for dick defines our very sexuality, so it's no surprise to spot it in gay culture everywhere from Michelangelo's *David* to everything by Tom Of Finland (above). We've fetishized every aspect of it, from its level of hungness to its "circumsituation", we've worshipped it, and we've drilled holes in toilet walls so that our only visible feature is the penis itself.

CHER

She's a timeless icon, ally and persistent source of entertainment. Central to Cher's appeal is her don't-give-a-fuck attitude. From her iconic 1986 Bob Mackie Oscars outfit and



her camp-as-tassels turn in *Burlesque* to her recent LP of ABBA covers and expletive-laden grammatically carefree Twitter tirades against Trump, she doesn't do things by halves. But let's not forget that the campy is under-pinned by quality: several great cinematic performances and holy cow the songs! The decade-defining bangers *If I Could Turn Back Time* and *Believe* top an incredible back catalogue, all with that unique voice. At 73 Cher shows no sign of slowing down, opening recent concerts with, "What's *your* granny doing tonight?" We're sure it doesn't involve belting out *All Or Nothing* on the back of a mechanical elephant!



CRUISING

Before apps made cruising the digital utopia/nightmare it is today, gay men had to rely on their eyes to get their rocks off, sometimes off rocks near a beach. The holding of the gaze that second too long, the furtive cock of the head, the not-so-furtive dragging them behind the bushes for a bumming. Cruising was how generations of gay men met in the times before pubs and even afterwards, in cruising grounds known as beats, tearooms or cottages. One of Hollywood's earliest attempts to depict gay life was even called *Cruising*, a controversial 1980 thriller. Happily, the term remains in some apps as a notification of interest and sometimes, when you look up, you might find someone staring at you in *that* naughty way.

IMAGE COURTESY TOM OF FINLAND

ADOBE

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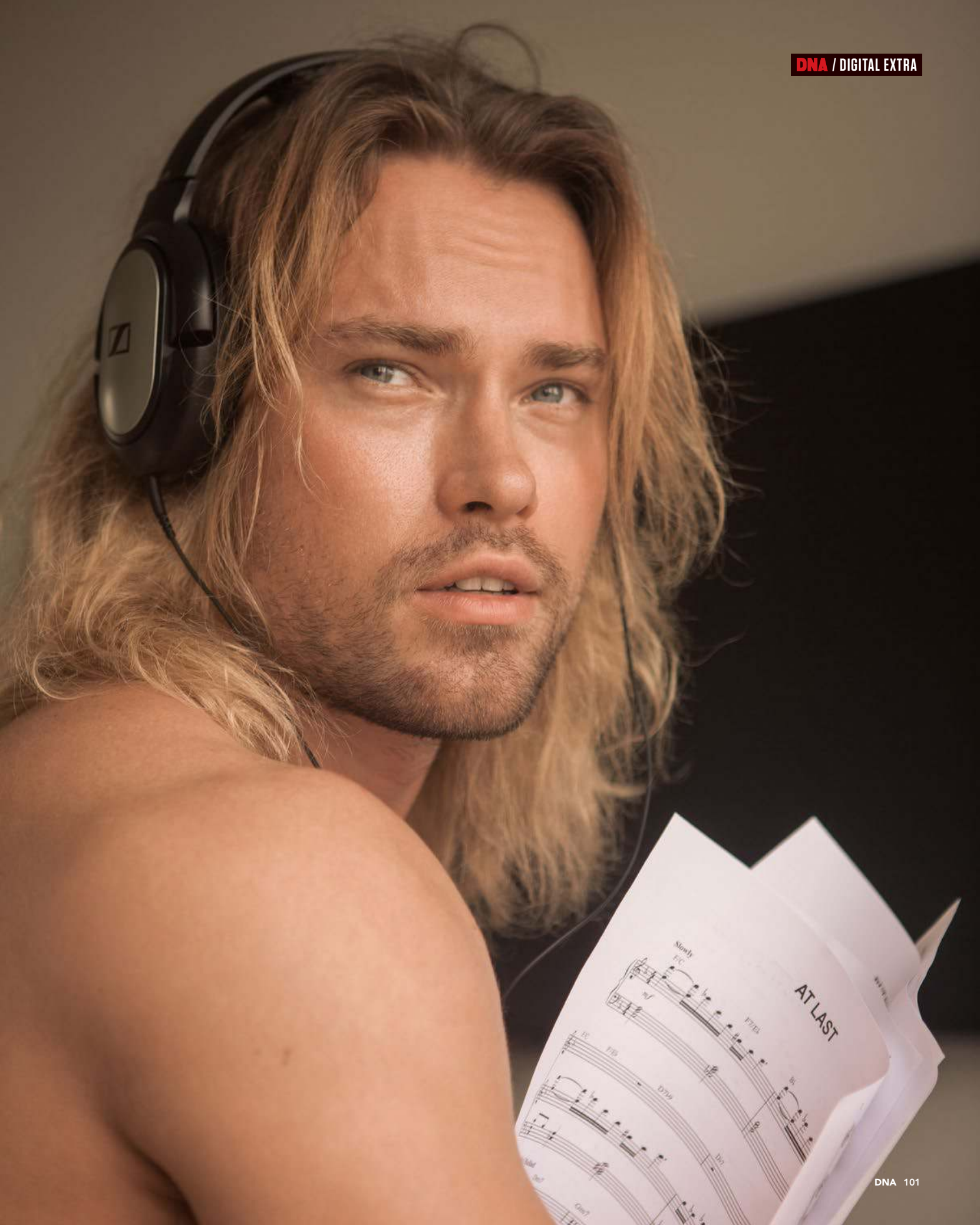
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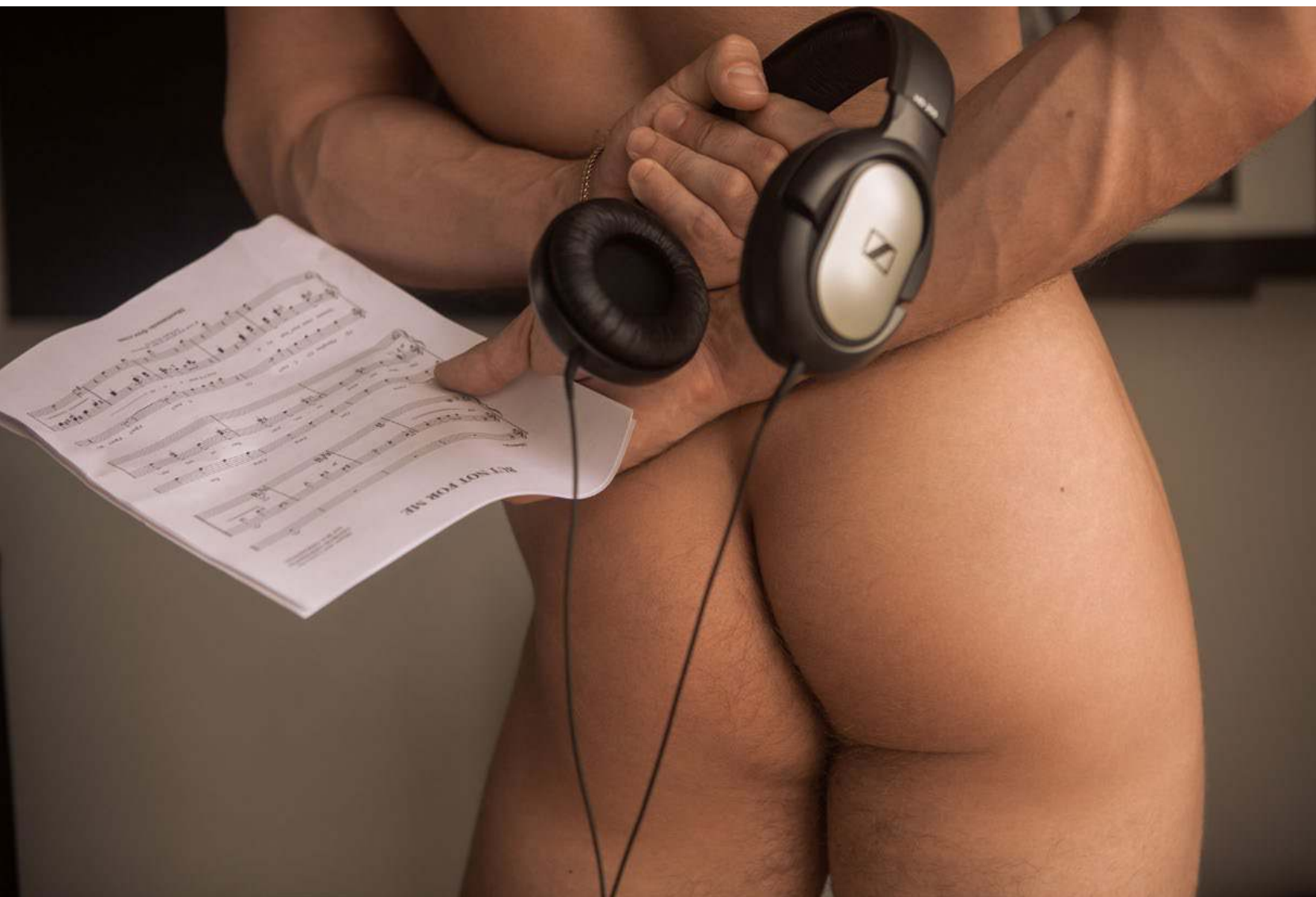




















KYLE



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A muscular man with short brown hair and a light beard is smiling and looking down. He is wearing teal swim briefs with a yellow and white circular pattern. He is standing on a ship's deck, with white railings and a blue sea in the background. The sky is clear blue.

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