The Countdown has begun. For what? To find a new generation of leaders. Not just for Channel 4 but for the whole UK media industry. A group of people who will reshape the media landscape. This September we’re launching our first ever graduate training programme. And because this is Channel 4 it’s unlike any other scheme. Ours is a mission with mischief. So if you’re a graduate, with thoughts and opinions very definitely of your own then you can apply now.

The clock is ticking dodo dodo dodo dodo dodo boo. Visit channel4.com/jobs

What a month. What a joy!

I’ve enjoyed June so much - it’s been a long month since my last article and that’s because when you’re reading this Pride Scotia will have been and gone and we’ll be on our way to celebrating Pride in the best city - Glasgow!

I’d like to apologise for using one of AXMs pictures in last months issue. Having been approached by the photographer on my last visit to the venue, I’ll be sure not to use her pictures as a way of giving them some promotion. I’ll be sure to ask permission before using photos of you lot!

Let’s reflect on June though, we’ve had a good month on the scene and everyone has been busy spending the pennies and shimmying on the dance floors in our many bars and clubs across Glasgow! We’ve seen a new club open this month and even one of the oldest club nights for the gays come back once a month!

Vengeance is the latest creation on Glasgow’s scene, riled up by the boys at Milk. I’ve not been down yet as I’m waiting on them bringing in some tables, but I’m sure they know what they’re doing!

Club Devotion is an old club brought back to life thanks to DJ/Mark Higgins and the team at FHQ (above Speakeasy) - giving your ears the best in old skool classics and camp fun! This months beach party was something of a legend and I truly enjoyed the buzz of listening to the Live Broadcast whilst I was getting reddy with a Vodka and Coke! The Court Bar just keep on giving us the best Karaoke. I do love a sing song! It’s a shame the weather has been pretty crap and we can’t take advantage of the gay scene’s only beer garden, but I’m sure summer will blossom soon and the gays will be sitting outside the Court like a Pride festival every week!

Delmonica’s has had some fun at their annual staff awards and night out - only because I was the one Dunging!!! It’s dead good fun in Dels but I always have to miss the nights with DJ Daren. I thought he was Dune one day, but he’s never gone away and is always showing his vulgarity through a mic at his Thu night Quiz. I went in a little spy this month to find out if he really does live up to it - and boy, does he deliver a good quizzzz! Pop in and see him and Lainey Blackadder Blackadder on a Thu, but not for long because I hear Scotland’s biggest Drag Queen with the biggest ego in Scotland, surely? (Ed) does Karaoke in Speakeasy on a Thu!

You FOOoodies out there still need to check out the Gay Scene’s only Chef and my Second Mum, Linda @ Speakeasy! She’s been whipping up the best in home cooked foodeverysingleday and has only gone and branched out to do latenightsackson Fri and Sat Nights! Get in, and get some food in your belly. Eating is certain NOT cheating!

The Polo Lounge, Riding Room, Delmonica’s and Speakeasy all teamed up this month and their customers raised just under £1,000 for Gay Men’s Health! Last month I wrote about folk wearing the free condoms for head-dresses or for blocking toilets and you have all responded by shoving your change in the big blue buckets to help stop the spread of HIV! Well done boys and girls! You should all feel veryyyyyy proud of yourselves!

Glasgow Pride is on its doorstep - or it might be over when you’re reading this (fair a full review see your next edition)!

GLASGOW

I hear there are many announcements about the festivities around Glasgow Pride to come, so I’ll let the rumour mill and Facebook take care of publicising them! It’s been a short one, but I know next month’s will be full of pride, rainbow flags and the best of Glasgow’s Scene! Tune in next time!

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EDINBURGH

Pride Scotia took place in Edinburgh on Sat 30th June - and what a day it was! Starting from the City Chambers after speeches from local councillors and MSPs, the March moved off down the Royal Mile amidst a cloudburst - but the weather soon cleared up and, whilst it wasn't exactly sunny, the rain kept off for the rest of the day. The Omni Centre was the main venue with entertainment sponsored by GHQ (where the hosts were Hollyoaks actor Kieron Richardson and local dragster Cilla Slack) and a Health and Community Fair. Mood was the venue for the Order of Perpetual Indulgence's Tea Dance with live 20/30's band and free tea, cake and sandwiches. You can see more pix online at www.scotsgay.co.uk. These ones were taken by Iain Turnbull and Seumas MacMhloisian.

Mood (who kindly hosted the Order of Perpetual Indulgence's Tea Dance during Pride Scotia). It will be called Touch. It will be held on a Tue evening and the first one will have happened by the time you read this. Second is a new cafe bar just round the corner from the Pink Triangle at the top of Leith Walk. Wee Spinney's Cafe Bar is a new gay bar opened just round the corner from the Playhouse and CC Blooms. It's open 7 days a week and is in the basement of the Richmond House Hotel at 20 Leopold Place (London Road). Go check it out, and speak to Tommy behind the bar. And now the city is gearing up for the ever-impending festival! But before that, we have a whole lot of fun in store! This month sees the HotScots FC monthly quiz night starting at Cafe Habana. The first one is on Mon 2nd Jul, then every first Mon of the month thereafter. Come take on the HotScots if you think you're smart enough! Cash prizes to be had, and DJ BayToy on the tunes and karaoke afterwards. Great drink promos promised at the bar too, and it wasn't enough the crew at Habz will also be serving pizza, pies and various munchies on their charity and theme nights from now on. And if these go down well, the munchies may just become a regular habit feature! Habana are also going to be hosting fundraiser nights throughout Aug for a chosen local charity. If you are a show this year that would be interested in helping them raise money for a good local cause (and showcasing your show too) please get in touch. E-mail: jointed@edinburgh.lgbt

It was all go at Planet during Pride, with the bar having already sold out! Lots going on as always this month with John and crew, with the usual tombolaery, karaoke, games and drinks promos! Don’t forget about our 4 weekly HAPPY DAYS, because happy hour isn’t long enough. This is thy quiz night: play for free and there’s a guaranteed winner with a cash prize! Who can say later than that??? So get yourselves in early to find a table and enrol your team to have some epic fun and win some moolah too! Hot news on the scene of course is the refurb of CC Blooms! The place is looking glosmin’ great! Upstairs has been transformed into a chic cafe bar by day and sophisticated club by night. Why not pop in for coffee and cake over lunch, or for an early evening pre-drink snack? The crew at CC’s will be happy to cater to your every need – and then you don’t even need to move if you fancy a chilled evening of paced out drinking followed by late night clubbing! They really are giving it all to you on a plate, and with the same free entry policy they really are spoiling us! At the Newtoun Bar, they are also gearing up for the festival – this year promises to be the best yet. Which is huge considering the NTB’s ‘Fringe Sundays’ have been legendary over the last few years! But I don’t doubt that Stephen and the crew will continue to raise that bar! A thank you from the NTB crew also for everyone that came out and stood proud at Pride … Cooke monster, Divine Dave and Zack Hadley provided the best entertainment for the night. The NTB for July is going to be action packed for the Bearcats, also with the music of the fore Island years, Jamie Lee Morley, pants parties, club nights, men’s nights and much much more … Follow them on facebook for full details!! Over at Frenchie’s, their Eurovision bash went down a storm! Don’t forget to pop into this little haven just off the hubbub of Princes Street for tea, cake, vodka or cocktails – whatever takes your fancy! I spent some time at the Blue Moon on Pride evening, and the atmosphere was great. Upstairs was a veritable social melting pot of diversity as people turned into the best food on the scene, and downstairs the new bar – Pink Pockets – was in full swing. For those not in the know, Pink Pockets is open 7 til late Wed til Sun and has a full size pool table. Noosy crannies, comfortable seating and a dedicated bar … what more can you ask for?? Also you can bring your own music! Whether the bar staff play it or not will depend on how good your music tastes are! Over at The Street, they’re shaping up for festival mayhem. More info on that next month – “Get 2 Funk” – Damon Melvin and Kevin Buchanan bring you the very best in soulful and funky house with some old classics thrown in; third Sun of the month – “Any Eexecise” – Lee Marvin brings an eclectic vibe to Sun, genre hopping through funk, soul, disco, house and techno – as long as there are no bombs on seats then he’ll be satisfied! And the last Sun of the month – “Discollor” with Stuart Kane playing disco and funky house. Well that’s all from me for now folks; see you soon for all the fun of the festival! Over and out!
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GLASGOW 2012
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DELMONICAS THE POLO LOUNGE SPEAKEASY FHQ
Andrew Doyle talks to Stewart Lee

Twitter, gay marriage, comedy awards and Jimmy Carr's tax avoidance
One of the very best things about this job is that I get to write about the stuff that I like. The truth is that over the last twelve years as a reviewer at ScotsGay, I have witnessed no better stand-up than Stewart Lee. When ScotsGay last interviewed him he was tagged as the ‘41st best stand up ever’ by a Channel 4 ‘poll’. This year he won two British Comedy Awards and a Bafta. If you are a fan of real stand-up, rather than much of the guff you get on TV, go see.

Should ScotsGay only write about LGBT shows? Maybe, but much better, I think, is to try and cover stuff of interest to the LGBT reader. That includes brilliant acts, who happen to be gay, like Susan Calman and Paul Foot. It also includes queer theatre like Strip Search, Monstrous Acts or Made For Each Other. But we also look outwards and ask, ‘What else is around?’ and importantly, ‘is it any good?’

This is the first of three issues of SGfringe for 2012. As usual you can join us online at sgfringe.com, on Facebook and on Twitter.

Our reviews team is bigger than ever this year – and I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome them all – new faces and old. Special mention to Andrea Lockes - it’s Andrea’s job to daily sub-edit reviews and post them on to our website. A mammoth undertaking. Last year’s team reviewed almost 200 shows. How many this year...?
Tell us about 'Strip Search'
Strip Search is a solo show based on the diaries of Keith Vaughan. Keith Vaughan was a great British painter and friend of Francis Bacon, Graham Sutherland, David Hockney, John Minton etc. His diaries were, like his paintings, personal and not for general consumption. Behind his success was a man of intense sensitivity, tortured soul, caustic humour, anger and fear of failure. Ambiguous, romantic, he couldn’t allow himself to get too close or get too involved in his feelings or life. So he penned them all out in one of the funniest, most vivid, most raunchy, most erotic, most genuine pages ever written. It’s a journal he kept for forty years. Eventually he made his resolve - he’d break them both.

Arriving: show in the Fringe is a list that won’t win you two shows.
We wanted to celebrate the diaries of ‘Keith Vaughan’ but knew we sold out and had some great reviews, and also Daniel, who plays all but one of the roles. He also played a bit of the show, which is closer to where the plot is set, and means you should get more audience reaction. There’s a bit of audience participation too so the contrast between the two sides of the show should be even stronger.
I read Keith Vaughan’s diaries last year and wanted to make a show of them, because you really enter into the guy’s mind and spirit, but I wasn’t going to do it this year, till I saw the show, so I thought, “Bugger it, if you want something done, do it yourself!” So I formed a company and here we are.

What is your favourite writer?
I hate the self-obsession – so few are really interested in anything other than their own life – but he makes it all seem so easy. What other shows on the fringe are you keen to see and why?

Meredith Bowers, 'Maid for Each Other', has somehow managed to be the only play about same-sex marriage on the Fringe. This comedy drama about love, loss and Alzheimer’s disease is part of the Free Fringe, so there’s no excuse for missing it. “You are cordially invited to ‘Vincent and Jerry’s wedding’.”

Laughing Horse @ Bar 50/15-26 Aug.
FREE: monradabauer.com

In 1940s France, a Belgian francophile falls in love with a sexy young Mexican, and writes to the Times about the joys of pornography, or ‘grubby lesbo freakshow’. Originally devised for Glasgow’s Glasgay! Festival, it’s a joyous dissection of lesbian identity, stereotyping and representation


do scott presland

There’s plenty of theatre of LGBT interest at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2012. These are our Fringe Editor’s Recommendations...

Homo Promos present the return of the superb 2011 Fringe hit, Strip Search. Squaddle is a stripper with a fantasy military act. In a previous life he was a real soldier serving in Iraq. He tells his life story within the frame of a real-time strip, as fantasy and reality collide. Featuring the stunningly strong actor.

Dudette O’Hare, SpaceCabaret@54/20-25 Aug.

homopromos.co.uk

The same company present Locked In - based on the journals of Keith Vaughan (1912–77), a great British painter and friend of the likes of Hogarth, Sutherland and Bacon. His diaries are vivid, funny, angry, erotic, despairing. Whether Vaughan is rescuing wounded soldiers in an air raid, standing as a spy, having a holiday fling with a sexy young Mexican, writing to the Times about the joys of pornography, or demolishing the claims of pretentious conceptual artists, in this play you are always right there with him.

theSpace@Surgeons Hall/13-25 Aug.

homopromos.co.uk

Strip Search
Locked In
SpaceCabaret@54/13-25 August
theSpace@Surgeons Hall
12.30pm & 5.30pm

Those gay and bi men amongst us who have a PhD in physics might well be unsure about the app ‘Grindr’. In Confessions of a Grindr Addict, we follow Felix (Gavin Kyle) as he shares his secrets about sex and love, whilst preparing for the tandem of things - a real date. Assembly Hall/12-26 August. assemblyfestival.com

Boy in a Dress is the story of a third gendered, fallen Catholic, ex-catholic model from the wrong side of the tracks. The play combines monologue, song, striptease, postmodern philosophy and vaudeville, and explores gender, class, religion and identity. Stand Comedy Club 2/26 August.

lqj@qrophom.com

The same company produce something completely different, in the gay comedy, Mr Braithwaite Has a New Boy. Harold, a well-to-do but lonely older gentleman, takes up with young street prostitute, Johnny. “With everyone after a slice of the pie, someone’s bound to get it in the end...” You’ll never look at a choca-top in the same way again. Adoption, inheritance, a raunchy rent boy and ‘one stressed-out pussy’. C Aquila/27-28 August. outcast.org.au

From playing glitzyundra and Ronnie Scott’s to miming on children’s television, musician turned comedian Rossie Wally-looks back at the emotional roller-coaster of chasing stardom at the heady height of Britpop in a revivified version of her acclaimed 2011 Edinburgh fringe show ‘Locked in’

Free Fringe

For more funny theatre check out Strange Hangers - a self described ‘grotty lesbo freakshow’. Originally devised for Glasgow’s Glasgay! Festival, it’s a joyous dissection of lesbian identity, stereotyping and representation

Theatre previews...
Q&A

ROSIE WILBY

Tell us about your new Edinburgh show 'How (not) to Make it in Britpop'
It's a reworking of last year's show with some of the content and themes explored a bit further, and the central DIY magazine column element replaced by some more universal references to the time - such as the Death of Princess Diana. I realised that the magazine column was really about the time we had lost our punk Rock Pop Diary wasn't all that clear at times of what the show was about.

The show is billed as 'nostalgia rather than comedy'. I think being labelled as nostalgic gives a title a little more edge emotionally. I still love propr bands hard up though and will be quoting at Aloucon Mission of the Phlegmatics and a few other camera shows while I'll do my stand up set by being taking a more surreal turn and my editor John Czyzselska recently described me as a William Bibber occult fantasista in the real life history of the current talk show.

How many Fringe shows is that now?
For those who know, my very first show was called Olympic Swimming Champion 2005. I was very happy to stand up and the show was really an excuse to sell off all my memorabilia from the past 3 years and to announce I was going to retire from the Olympics which sadly lasted at around 26 shows. I'm reissuing this this in the Fringe year to make a point and a point about how much of my fringe and my Olympic life before I come up to Edinburgh. I hope to be coming up to show up to Edinburgh next year with a fewer number. I hope to be selling a selection of my Olympic kit, the worst memories at Swimmers World in 2000, and I brought The Science of Surfing授权 book is slightly different material. It's a great gift with band to become a fan this fall.

I'm running off to Wales straight after my short Edinburgh run to do that. Some other comedy shows while I'm up. My club stand up set has been taking more surreal turn before I come up to Edinburgh. I hope to bring a stand up show up to Edinburgh next year, as was very new to stand up and the show was really an excuse to string all my material thus far together.

How (Not) to Make it in BritPop

By Monica Bauer

PERFORMED BY JOHN FICO
DIRECTED BY JOHN D. FITZGIBBON

VENUE: Bar 50, Smart City Hostel, Blackfriars Street
4.50 to 5.50, 25th of August to 26th of August.

GAY MARRIAGE WITH A TWIST! NYC FESTIVAL HIT NOMINATED BEST SOLO SHOW

Best Actor in Solo Show. LGBTQ Theme. Drama with Comedy

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... If they go through with it.

"Made For Each Other is a gift all around – to an actor, and to an audience. Get to this show if you can. I guarantee that you’ll leave the theatre feeling like this show was Made For You."

Review of the NYC production by Karen Tetro/L.A.

Gay marriage with a twist! NYC Festival Hit

Nominated Best Solo Show

Best Actor in Solo Show

LGBTQ Theme. Drama with Comedy

VENUE: Bar 50, Smart City Hostel, Blackfriars Street
4.50 to 5.50, 25th of August to 26th of August.

For Information and Teaser Video www.madeforeachothertheplay.com

Made for Each Other
by Monica Bauer

What do you love/hate about Edinburgh?
I always thought it would be wall to wall fun. Until I did it.

How many Fringe shows is that now?
Perhaps a response to the real raw honesty of the current solo show!

How (Not) to Make it in BritPop?

Three Tall Women. A thirty year old woman reflects on her life with a mixture of shame, pleasure, regret and satisfaction. She recalls the fun of her childhood and her marriage; when she had an overwhelming optimism for her future. Yet she bitterly recalls the negative events that resulted in: her ex-husband’s infidelities, the death of her husband, and the estrangement of her gay son.

The show is an often funny exploration of homophobia and how people cope with getting older and wiser...

Three Tall Women


Three Tall Women: 2.30pm 10-14 August

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Next at the Space

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Three Tall Women: 2.30pm 10-14 August
Tell us about your new show Edinburgh show 'Kenny Moon This Is Your Life' is a multi-character show again, but this time I’m playing various characters from my TV past and present. I’ll show The Fringe in my home. My dad’s the host and the characters and situations are all based on true events.

How does it differ from last year’s critically acclaimed ’Get Brown’?

I don’t think you can say one way or the other… it gives me a chance to do different characters and situations are all based on true events.

Do character connections work better regular gay guy?

I don’t think you can say one way or the other… it gives me a chance to do different characters and situations are all based on true events.

Are you a fan of ’old school’ comedians?

Yes, generally I do happen to have one or two! I do agree with giving up the glits and seeing that cabinet environment and meeting a lot of the old school comedians. Some of them you sort of learn how the show ran and running in the dressing room backstage to see what the other comedians were saying and the character of Dr George Ryegold this year, but regardless I’m a massive fan of his anyway.

Are you aware of your gay fan base?

I don’t think you can say one way or the other… it gives me a chance to do different characters and situations are all based on true events.

Describe your show George Ryegold’s God-In-A-Bag

Possibly the campiest, coolest gay comic in Edinburgh, Craig Withill returns for his 85th year of entertaining gay and Blue Ringers at the Fringe. He’s committed, set out audiences love Craig - and he loves us back - even if it’s often returned with a trademark barbed comment. Hilarious, cheeky and full of fun energy. Underbelly Bristol 27-28 Aug.

Craig & Pearl are the natural successors to French and Saunders. Not only that, but, frankly, Hannah Croft and Flana Pearce are two of the most beautiful funny women you’ll ever see. They’ve been honing their act for their school years - each season they get better and better. Appearing in 2012 in a cheeky and Pearl +1 totally free! Definitely worth checking out. Cabinet Voltaire/4-25 Aug. FREE threethrones.org.uk

Bridget Christie returns to the Fringe for a new hour of her own comedy, with a show that sounds more bonkers than ever. Entitled War Donkey, expect some sharp satirical edges hidden around the edges of your funny bone. Underbelly Rooms/26-28 Aug. bridgetchristie.co.uk

This last year has been a momentous one for Britain, from the media scandals to real life events. What the average Brit may see as everyday can perplex an outsider. Dana Alexander gives us an international perspective on Britain’s most important and, believe it or not, we’re still living on the Tonic at the Caves/22-26 Aug. FREE gsgalloway.com

Kenny Moon This Is Your Life

George Ryegold’s God-In-A-Bag

During the world as a young, quirky gay comic. Daniel-Ryan Spyndall has let go of his humble, soft-spoken Canadian upbringing, awakening his inner badass! Media, celebrity, sex, and politics - nothing is off limits! He’s outspoken, he’s lovely, and has perfected the art of the Sassy Snap! So he’s performed in 22 countries worldwide, entertaining audiences with his unique brand of polite brutality. The Hudson Hotel/22-28 Aug. FREE danielspyndall.com

Dream courier and the Geordie and the Geek are working hard this Fringe. James Acaster, Paul Martin and Kenny O’Doughnutt return to Edinburgh for a fourth year, (fresh from filling their new BBC pilot) to bring you a brand new hour of trashy uplifting silliness, surrounding 80s and 90s anthems. Performing the show twice daily at 4.45pm and then again at 7.45pm, there’s now no excuse to miss the biggest selling show at the Fringe. Just the Tonic at the Caves/22-26 Aug. gingopeergodkem

Tell us about your new show Edinburgh show ‘Kenny Moon This Is Your Life’ is a multi-character show again, but this time I’m playing various characters from my TV past and present. I’ll show The Fringe in my home. My dad’s the host and the characters and situations are all based on true events.

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Describe your show George Ryegold’s God-In-A-Bag

Possibly the campiest, coolest gay comic in Edinburgh, Craig Withill returns for his 85th year of entertaining gay and Blue Ringers at the Fringe. He’s committed, set out audiences love Craig - and he loves us back - even if it’s often returned with a trademark barbed comment. Hilarious, cheeky and full of fun energy. Underbelly Bristol 27-28 Aug.

Craig & Pearl are the natural successors to French and Saunders. Not only that, but, frankly, Hannah Croft and Flana Pearce are two of the most beautiful funny women you’ll ever see. They’ve been honing their act for their school years - each season they get better and better. Appearing in 2012 in a cheeky and Pearl +1 totally free! Definitely worth checking out. Cabinet Voltaire/4-25 Aug. FREE threethrones.org.uk

Bridget Christie returns to the Fringe for a new hour of her own comedy, with a show that sounds more bonkers than ever. Entitled War Donkey, expect some sharp satirical edges hidden around the edges of your funny bone. Underbelly Rooms/26-28 Aug. bridgetchristie.co.uk

This last year has been a momentous one for Britain, from the media scandals to real life events. What the average Brit may see as everyday can perplex an outsider. Dana Alexander gives us an international perspective on Britain’s most important and, believe it or not, we’re still living on the Tonic at the Caves/22-26 Aug. FREE gsgalloway.com

Kenny Moon This Is Your Life

George Ryegold’s God-In-A-Bag

During the world as a young, quirky gay comic. Daniel-Ryan Spyndall has let go of his humble, soft-spoken Canadian upbringing, awakening his inner badass! Media, celebrity, sex, and politics - nothing is off limits! He’s outspoken, he’s lovely, and has perfected the art of the Sassy Snap! So he’s performed in 22 countries worldwide, entertaining audiences with his unique brand of polite brutality. The Hudson Hotel/22-28 Aug. FREE danielspyndall.com

Dream courier and the Geordie and the Geek are working hard this Fringe. James Acaster, Paul Martin and Kenny O’Doughnutt return to Edinburgh for a fourth year, (fresh from filling their new BBC pilot) to bring you a brand new hour of trashy uplifting silliness, surrounding 80s and 90s anthems. Performing the show twice daily at 4.45pm and then again at 7.45pm, there’s now no excuse to miss the biggest selling show at the Fringe. Just the Tonic at the Caves/22-26 Aug. gingopeergodkem
Imagine the bitchiness, most caustic drug dream and then tag him in a woman’s body. Add a strong dose of well crafted and intelligent material and you get Jo Caulfield – one of the very best in Edinburgh. We need to say that those who love men love her. Stand Comedy Club/1-26 Aug. joacaulfield.com

Another come with a strong gay following is Jim Jeffries. His straight taking, direct humour is frequently called out by others who don’t understand stand-up comedy. His popularity with gay folk is entirely down to the fact that he’s really very good. Even amongst the gay community he’s done it. He’s worked out of a few shows that seem far too good for the Free Fringe and not many people are aware of. His stand-up comedy, original, laugh-out-loud funny, and extremely engaging. JimJeffries.ning.com

What’s it like being the son of a comedian? Character comic, Mike McCabe presents a funny and moving show based around the life of his father, old school comic and New Faces finalist. Mike McCabe plays different people throughout and re-creating a birth at the end to some nice music and clever lighting. mike McCabe.co.uk

Mike McCabe and his dad - you get to see that! Jo Caulfield and Jim Jeffries - you’ve had them before. Now it’s the special one. Kev Orkian is appearing in Edinburgh as part of his 2009 show at The Underbelly. Kev Orkian started doing stand-up comedy when he was a teenager, and he was an instant hit. Two years later he’d won a national competition, and he was off to London to explore the world of stand-up comedy. Since then his career has gone from strength to strength, with his work appearing on TV, radio, and his very own stand-up special. Today, Kev Orkian is a established stand-up comic, and he’s coming to Edinburgh to bring his new show, "The News at 11". This year Kev Orkian is the Fringe Festival’s Best International Act winner, and he’s set to make a splash at this year’s Fringe Festival. The News at 11 is Kev Orkian’s latest stand-up special, and it’s sure to be a winner. The show is packed with Kev Orkian’s signature blend of sharp, funny, and thought-provoking material. Whether it’s politics, current events, or everyday life, Kev Orkian has a unique perspective on everything. And his delivery is second to none. Kev Orkian’s timing is impeccable, and his delivery is always perfect. His stand-up is a treat for fans of comedy, and it’s sure to be a hit at the Fringe Festival. So make sure you catch Kev Orkian’s "The News at 11" when it comes to Edinburgh. You won’t be disappointed!
Do you think mainstream comedy has trained audiences not to do any thinking for themselves?

Yeah, I do. But I think there's been a backlash. Woody, I think it might be economically driven as well, because the thinking audience is valuable to advertisers, because they can sell them certain types of products. But to be honest I think this Jimmy Carr tax avoidance thing is pivotal. I think the public need to get fed up with stand-ups, and then the distinctive ones will be left standing. It might be a watershed moment. I think the assumption will be that any comedian on stage is a cunt and has stolen loads of money and therefore isn't entitled to talk about anything. It might make it difficult for everyone. When I was investigated by the Inland Revenue I got a rebate. I'd like to point that out. (Laughs.)

What do you think of Jimmy Carr's position?

First of all, in his defence, what he's done is a tiny drip in the ocean compared with what some of David Cameron's friends in business have done. Which is why it's so funny when Cameron chose to single out Jimmy Carr. It's clear that no one's advised him. He hasn't talked to anyone and he's just opened his mouth. It handled properly, this could bring down the government. To joke on Jimmy Carr when you're giving knighthoods to CEOs who are exuding much more is absurd. And hasn't George Osborne got a four million pound trust fund in an offshore account?

Yeah. And Cameron's father ran a system for offshore banking to avoid tax. Yeah. And Cameron's father ran a system for offshore banking to avoid tax. Yeah. And Cameron's father ran a system for offshore banking to avoid tax. And hasn't George Osborne got a four million pound trust fund in an offshore account?
Every time I look on Twitter I get really annoyed and I’m glad that I don’t have an account. This week I looked up Jimmy Carr to see what people were saying. And just twenty-four hours after the story broke Nicky Clark, the disability rights campaigner, had said that I had been very quiet about all this, and suggested it was because he had paid for my stand up DVDs to be made.

What does she mean?

Exactly. I’ve been quiet about Jimmy Carr. I don’t have a newspaper column. I don’t have a blog. I’m not on Twitter. So Carr? I don’t have a blog. I’m not on Twitter. So what does she mean?

I’ve been quiet about Jimmy Carr since I got paid to make DVDs of my stand up shows. I’ve been quiet about all this, and suggested it was because he had paid for my stand up DVDs to be made.

Every time I look on Twitter I get really annoyed. And as for him paying for my stand up films; there’s a bit in one of my books where I say that in 2005 Jimmy Carr said he would fund a DVD of mine if I wanted one because I hadn’t made any. But I didn’t do it anyway. If I was on Twitter I’d now be in a war of words with her.

So you prefer just not to respond to these things?

I’m irritable and paranoid. I couldn’t cope with going on Twitter in order to engage with people saying things about me that aren’t true. It would drive me mad.

But for less well known comedians Twitter and Facebook can actually be really helpful in terms of generating an audience.

I can see that about it, and I wouldn’t want it to stop. But I hate this assumption that I should be involved in it. If you’re a comedian now you’re supposed to be transparent, you’re supposed to be blogging about your life every day. But if you live in the public eye it makes the on-stage character less credible. Your last show was like that, wasn’t it? We were meant to think: has he really done the things he’s talking about or not?

Is your on-stage persona a character, then?

Up to a point. I mean, obviously there is a considerable overlap with me. In my current show, the Stewart Lee comedian complains about Russell Kane’s show. Stewart Lee, the man talking to you now, wouldn’t complain about Russell Kane’s show. I haven’t seen it. But the Stewart Lee on stage would think that because Russell Kane’s a streak in his hair, he’s a broken man now. And there were lots of people doing little clubs called alternative comedians who didn’t do any of that. And now, thirty years later, we’re in exactly the same position. If there are a lot of people doing jokes about them, it’s because the mainstream comics are funny and ridiculous in the same way as they were thirty years ago.

Do you think having children has changed who you are as a comedian?

Absolutely. First of all, on a practical level, I don’t have time to write word-for-word a two and a half hour show and learn every line of it. It has to be generated on stage up to a point. So obviously that changes the tonality of the show; it sounds more conversational and less scripted. Secondly, I find that I’ve felt more engaged with society since having children. I wouldn’t say this is true of childless people generally. I wouldn’t want to speak on their behalf, but it’s certainly true for me. It’s changed me because when I was young, it was easy and amusing to affect cynicism. But I think if you’ve got children you can’t afford to be entirely cynical because you have a stake in the world, and you have to hope for their sake that things are salvageable. You have to be more optimistic, and that does change what you write about.

People know you as an outspoken atheist.

Do you have any views on the Church of England’s reluctance to give up on the gay marriage issue?

I think it’s really bad. Because as a lapsed Protestant I like to berate my Catholic wife with the moral superiority of the Church of England and now I can’t even do that. It does feel a little desperate, like they’re fighting a battle they’ve already lost. It’s over. It’s over. It just makes them look ridiculous. It’s awful for gay people at the moment to have these major institutions down on them, but it’ll probably force the issue and I think that’ll be a good thing.

The Archbishop of Canterbury’s a good bloke really, but he’s a broken man now. I’ll bet he’s really glad to be retreating back into the world of academia rather than having to fight this battle, because it probably will split the church. And for a lot of gay people who are religious it’ll be nice for them to go to a church they feel they have a connection with, but who don’t seem to despise the fundamentalism of their being. I think it will work out for the best in the long run.

Finally, what can we expect to see in the third series of Stewart Lee’s Comedy Vehicle?

It will be more abstract. I’m hoping that the third series will include a three-minute silent image of a piece of gingerbread being thrown into the air. That’s the only idea I’ve got at this point.

“Stewart Lee Carpent Remnant World”

Andrew Doyle: Whatever It Takes

The Assembly Rooms

1985 Leith Place

Edinburgh EH6 5EJ

0845 568 8515

www.thespaceuk.com

“WHAT JIMMY CARR’s DON’T HAVE A BLOG”

“I hear a lot of people on the circuit having a dig at the big mainstream comedians. Do you think you’ve started this trend?”

“I wouldn’t have thought so. When I started stand-up in the eighties there was such an identifiable difference between the mainstream television comedy and alternative comedy – a lot of people did jokes about Benny Hill and Bruce Forsyth or whoever. And I think what’s happened – although it’s got nothing to do with me – is that this identifiable difference is back again. In 1979 there were a lot of hugely wealthy has-dodging people presenting television programmes and using gay writers to create generic material. And there were lots of people doing little clubs called alternative comedians who didn’t do any of that. And now, thirty years later, we’re in exactly the same position. If there are a lot of people doing jokes about them, it’s because the mainstream comics are funny and ridiculous in the same way as they were thirty years ago.”

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“We’ll be nationalising the BBC.”

Move over Rocky Horror. There’s a new camp musical in town

Molly Wobbly’s Tit Factory

The third series will include a three-minute silent image of a piece of gingerbread being thrown into the air. That’s the only idea I’ve got at this point.

Andrew Doyle: Whatever It Takes
Q&A

STEVEN DAWSON

Tell us about 'My Brother’s A Homex-A-Roy'.

Written and first performed in 2011. It centres on a lonely guy named Harold coming to terms with sexuality and love, and how sexuality and love can come, seemingly at random, and get the best of you. It’s a bit of a love story, the other prison drama. Of course the idea of lots of horny prison sex was very appealing and ultimately won out. The actors in the original production, both straight, put the entire contents of your purse in the genuine article. To have him perform this is inventive, entertaining and ultimately winsome.

Tell us about 'Monstrous Acts'.

The intimate Fringe show that this was and how it evolved. The idea came about whilst doing some very quick research that I came across a very interesting albeit little known fact on the life of possibly history’s most notorious serial killer. I wanted to write a story, the other prison drama. Of course the idea of lots of horny prison sex was very appealing and ultimately won out. The actors in the original production, both straight, put the entire contents of your purse in the genuine article. To have him perform this is inventive, entertaining and ultimately winsome. It’s a love story, the other prison drama.

What is your next project?

I’ve had 2 actors and a theatre standing idle. I had 2 ideas. One was a ghost story, the other prison drama. Of course the idea of lots of horny prison sex was very appealing and ultimately won out. The actors in the original production, both straight, put the entire contents of your purse in the genuine article. To have him perform this is inventive, entertaining and ultimately winsome. It’s a love story, the other prison drama.

Tell us about 'Manchesters A'.

This was an opportunity to show Edinburgh audiences the variety of work we sometimes impose a different set of theatrical rules with heaps of slapstick, wit and charm. This isn’t exactly what it says on the tin - helping raise money for Scottish sexual health outfit, Waverley Care. Coordinator, Stephen Martin is keeping his fingers crossed that the line up for the farce, but judging by previous years we can expect the cream of the Fringe. And it’s free. We’ll see you there!

What do you love/hate about Edinburgh?

I do not consider myself particularly well read. I do read a lot of non-fiction, biographies (thanks to Regaine), prettier (thanks to my doctor’s charts detailing his summer!)

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Q&A

PAUL FOOT

What is your new show about?

Nothing really.

What is most unusual experience you’ve had as a stand-up?

Realising that getting booed offstage in a godless caravan park does wonders for your career.

What makes you happy?

My connoisseurs. They are effectively my family. Everything I write is for them.

What makes you angry?

A lot of things make me angry. In fact there’s a section of my show this year dedicated to things that make me angry.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

My phone contract. I wish iPhone would just sod off. I much preferred my blackcurrant phase.

What other shows will you be seeing at this year’s festival, and why?

Probably very few. I’m performing every day and find it hard to relax in the run-up to a show. If connoisseurs who come to see my show say they’d like to see something else and they tell me about it then I try to go along though. I support my connoisseurs in all of their endeavours, be it cleaning window sills, landscaping roundabouts, clog-making, anything.

Kenny Larch is Dead

Underbelly, Cowgate
7.30pm 2-26 August

Dance worlds collide! This dynamic show is packed with energy as stars from your favourite dance reality shows take centre stage.

Tommy Franzen, Alleviate, The A-Team Corporation, Brosena and more familiar faces from shows including Got To Dance, So You Think You Can Dance and Move It Like Michael Jackson join forces for the biggest dance fusion Edinburgh has ever seen! Watch as Latin meets lockin', jazz joins jump jive and contemporary goes Celtic! This feel-good production celebrates the world of dance, building to a spectacular finale that guarantees everyone is on their feet! Directed by Gary Lloyd.
Tell us about your brand new Edinburgh show ‘Thinking Bad Thoughts’

I last can’t control my big mouth. Apparently I love the ‘Vodka conversation’ that most normal people have. I often find something, say it out loud to my friends and then I kick in, do a bit of work, say getting ready my bad thoughts. Like, food Abersoch/Carnageus have a policy where they only employ sexy, attractive young people, makes me think, ‘Twisted of Speech’. The while from the public roadmap policy? And, if I cut hair in such gorgeous good for you, why does everyone working in those shops look like a cadet? I also found out I’m NOT legally married to my husband! We got hitched 15 years ago in New York but apparently we didn’t fill in all the correct papers. So that got me thinking... “Yeah, I’m single, what would it be like to be single again? Would I choose to marry the same person?”

How many Fringe shows is that now?

You’ve been doing Fringe shows for a long time now, so this is actually my first Fringe show and I’d only do For the 25 time. I think when I get to 10 shows they would let me do a “Supermarket Sweep” round Harvey Nichols.

How many Fringe shows is that now?

Well gay people have very good taste! I used to work behind the bar at Bang in London, which then changed its name to G.A.Y. (like Bang wasn’t obvious enough?), and I spent 5 years working in the big making Graham Norton TV show, so I’m a huge scone-and-carrying Tag Hag. Gay audiences bring out the worst in me, it’s like being egged on by your fag hag. Gay audiences bring out the worst in me, it’s like being egged on by your... Gay audiences bring out the worst in me, it’s like being egged on by your... Gay audiences bring out the worst in me, it’s like being egged on by your... Gay audiences bring out the worst in me, it’s like being egged on by your...

You are hugely popular with gay men and women.

Is it true that you started in comedy by setting up your own club in a bar basement?

That’s when the MC told me the best way to get good is to perform every week. So I bor...

...duo’s of a bit of TV acting too.

Oh sorry, I’ve just confused friendliness with nosiness. I don’t think there’s anything I hate out is like being drunk in Fairy Town. And the people are so friendly. Especially in Scotmid.

You are hugely popular with gay men and women.

Molly Webb? That’s the mind of that woman. I don’t know where she’s from, but she’s funny...

You’ve done a fair bit of TV acting too.

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Edinburgh International Book Festival

Yet again there will be hundreds of events in Charlotte Square Gardens between the 11th and 27th Aug when this Festival comes to Edinburgh. Masses of events for children also and a special children’s bookshop.

Many of your favourite writers will be there, reading and discussing. There will be a chance to see and hear Carol Ann Duffy, our lesbian Poet Laureate, at 11.30am on Sat 25th Aug. She is sure to be reading from her latest collection, The Bees, which includes moving poems about the loss of her mother.

Will Self appears later that same day (9.30pm) talking about his new novel Umbrella (a new summer sell out this summer!) focusing on a munitions worker who falls into a coma. Is her disease a microcosm of the technological revolutions of the 20th century?

Simon Callow appears on Sat 11th August at 4.30pm: in this Dickens bicentenary year he has written, “Charles Dickens and the Great Theatre of the World” – Dickens and his life as theatre.

Sun 12th sees Alasdair Gray, a legendary must for fans of one of the greats of contemporary Scottish literature. “Lanark” is now 40 years old, but still a very relevant read. Gray has just published his collected short stories – 75 of them, 12 new. He is on at 6.30pm.

A. L. Kennedy is there on Mon 13th at 11.30am. Her most recent novel was The Blue Book, but she has also produced a series of essays on the problems facing writers today and her own descent into illness last year.

The distinguished Irish gay writer Colm Toibin will appear at 3pm on Mon 13th. His new collection of essays has an eye-catchling title: New Ways to Kill your Mother. This is about famous writers – Sonya, Yeats, Thomas Mann and many others, their families and the effects they have on those around them.

The ever-popular lesbian top crime writer Val McDermid, who hails from Kirkcaldy, will be appearing at 4.30pm on the 14th. She will be with Prof. Sue Black, director of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification at Dundee University in a session called, “Crime Fiction on the Dissection Table.”

Important one coming up…..Amnesty International each year runs a series on imprisoned Writers and issues relating to creative freedom. An event of special interest to our readers will be the one entitled, “Live in a Human Right.” Amnesty campaigns against the persecution of the LGBT community wherever that occurs. On Fri 17th Aug at 5.30pm this event will feature extracts from works by and about people who have been criminalised or tortured because of their sexuality.

More and more…..the delightful Jackie Kay with her short stories “Reality, reality,” at 8pm on 17th; Liz Lochhead at 8pm on 19th and again at 4.30pm on Tue 21st; Jeanette Winterson at 6.30pm on Mon 20th with her life-affirming new work, “Why be happy when you could be normal?”; then Polly Toynbee with David Walker at 3pm on Sun 26th with “The Verdict,” – their analysis of the last British government – that’ll cheer you!

This is just the tip of the iceberg. To learn more about the hundreds of other events at this Festival, pick up a copy of the full programme, The World in Words, free at many venues, or log on to edfringe.co.uk

Edinburgh International Festival

The World Explodes into Edinburgh from 9th Aug to 2nd Sep. This year the Festival is taking into account the World Shakespeare Festival and the Cultural Olympic. At the same time, director Jonathan Mills is concerned, as he says, “to introduce audiences to the thinking virtually of a new generation of talented performers.”

A work of interest to an LGBT audience will be David et Jonathan – a reinterpretation by Charpentier in 1688 of an Old Testament tragedy – the story of the love between two men that comes from a book that offered so much to damage sexual minorities – indeed to human sexuality. This is presented by Les Arts Florissants at Edinburgh Festival Theatre between 17th and 20th Aug.

Another mind-expanding opera is The Mikropoulos Case by Leflo Janacek. This was a very forward looking work for the 1950s when it was written, about the desire for eternal life and youth and the unwanted consequences this can have. The mysterious opera diva Emilia Marty seems to know much more about this than she should... At the Festival Theatre 11th and 13th Aug.

There is plenty of dynamic and youthful dance available, including New York’s famous Juilliard School of Dance. With choreographers from the school and from Spain and Sweden their show comprising The Waldstein Sonata, Giselle and Episode 31 is sure to be stunning. 25-27 Aug at Edinburgh Playhouse.

Bathsheva Dance Company’s Hora is another thrilling spectacle of movement, deliberately working without soloists. Playhouse, 30th Aug to 1st Sep.

Ballet Preljocaj “draw you into an all-consuming exploration of human rituals, beliefs and relationships.” And then a thousand years of peace exists in a post-apocalyptic world. At Edinburgh Playhouse, 17th-19th Aug.

Wix A Discourse goes into the dark heart of one or the 20th Century’s many savage episodes. This is 1970’s Chile, in Villa Grimaldi, the torture and extermination centre of the Pinochet regime. Guillermo Calderon’s work exposes “both a terrible heritage and the great humanity it inspired.” 20/21st Aug at The Hub.

Shakespeare appears with A Midsummer Night’s Dream (as you are like the Russian Dmitry Kirov’s take on the play from the Chekov International Theatre Festival. 24th-26th Aug at The King’s Theatre. The Royal Shakespeare Company brings us the Shakespeare’s tragic poem The Rape of Lucrece, performed by the stunning singer Camille O’Sullivan. Those who saw her show last year will recall her very vibrant voice.

This has been a very short intro to a few if the glittering host of events. Find out more by picking up a copy of the sky-blue-with-doves programme, widely available, or go online to eif.co.uk This will open the door to a fabulous festival.
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