He professed shock that he felt when hearing of Kel’s death - aged just 32 - is still raw. She chose not to tell the world of her cancer diagnosis. This was a very private time for her. I have very fond memories of Kel. To be honest, I would have liked to have remembered more. But much of our time together was spent partying - and my brain would be wiped out by the following day. Kel delighted in recalling my forgotten foolish outbursts or statements that in the sober light of morning of course made no sense.

Kel was a DJ, a student and a loving partner to Tereza. They had planned to marry. She was well known for her almost unique ability to give you a kick up the arse without causing offence. She was utterly non-judgemental and without prejudice.

Many in the gay and straight world struggle with my bisexuality. Kel was about as liberal as you can be. But she was comfortable in the company of people who weren’t like her. And she could spot fake with a stare.

When our peers were discussing attractive girls and pretty boys, Kel and I were bickering in the corner, talking about attractive girls and pretty boys, and religion, politics, music, philosophy, the arts, science... she had a terrific analytical mind and was open to debate any subject.

Any heated discussion regarding the doctrine that ‘the true knowledge of things is uncertain’ might be interrupted by Kel leaping onto the dance floor to do the ‘Timesquare’. She was clever, but she knew how to play. Our social group moved on and Kelly and I lost touch. Last year we were briefly reunited for one night in The Regent pub for a diet coke or two. She was keen to meet my son and my wife and so we planned to meet up again. But we didn’t.

But no regrets, Kel wouldn’t want that. Ultimately she had a profound effect on my life, in those few moments that I remember sharing. I am a much happier and a more enlightened person for having known her. She was a sceptic, but an optimist, and it is in this spirit, that I share these words (for which she would have approved).

We are going to die, and that makes us the lucky ones. Most people are never going to die because they are never going to be born. The potential people who could have been here in my place but who will in fact never see the light of day outnumber the sand grains of Sahara. Certainly those unformal ghosts include greater poets than Keats, scientists greater than Newton. We know this because the set of possible people allowed by our DNA is massively outnumbered the set of actual people. In the teeth of these staggering odds it is you and I, in our ordinariness, that are here.

- Excerpt from Unweaving the Rainbow by Richard Dawkins

Kelly is survived by her beautiful fiancée Tereza and her loving mother, Julie. - Martin Walker

Kelly Robinson

Kel was a DJ, a student and a loving partner to Tereza. They had planned to marry.

Kelly Robinson
PRIDE SCOTIA 2013

The new march route and move up to Bristo Square and Teviot Row House worked well. Hordes of folk enjoyed the day and all the city’s LGBT venues were busy in the evening afterwards. You can see more pix by Grant Wilson on the ScotsGay website at www.scotsgay.co.uk See you all at Pride Glasgow on Sat 10th Aug!
Talking of pre-booking tickets, Club V have announced that DJ sensation Lizo Lashe will be playing a set at Pride on July 24th, replacing the previous act. Fans of the venue will welcome the opportunity to see the popular DJ in action again.

For more information, visit the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde website for details on local clinics operating throughout the region.

Drop-in service:
Sandyford Hubs go to: www.sandyford.org
Sandyford Central
Tel: 0141-211 8130.

SPEAKEASY
Sun – Wed 5pm – Midnight,
Sun 12.30pm – Midnight,
Fri 11.30am – Sat 6am,
Mon – Sat Noon – Midnight.

THE W ATERLOO
Fri 11.30am – Sat 6am,
Mon - Sat Noon – Midnight.

AXM
Daily Noon – Midnight.

THE GALLERY
Mon - Sat Noon – Midnight.

LUKE & JACK
Thu – Sat 10.30am – 6.30pm,
Sat Noon – Sun 11pm.

THE PIPEWORKS
Fri - Sat 10.30am - 6.30pm,
Mon - Thu 5pm – 11pm,
Sun 12.30pm – 11pm.

THE POLO LOUNGE
Fri - Sat 10.30am - 6.30pm,
Sun - Tue, Thu - Sun 11am - 6pm.

TUNNEL
Wed & Fri 10pm – 3am,
Fri 11.30am – Sat 6am,
Mon - Thu 5pm – 11pm.

ONE-NIGHTERS
Mon – Fri 11.30am – 11pm,
Sat – Sun 11am – 6pm,
Fri – Sat 10.30am - 6.30pm.

TUNNEL
Mon – Thu 5pm – 11pm,
Sun 12.30pm – 11pm.

THE LANE
Mon – Fri 11.30am – 8pm,
Sat Noon – Sun 11pm.

THE PIPEWORKS
Mon – Thu 5pm – 11pm,
Sun 12.30pm – 11pm.

THE POLO LOUNGE
Mon – Thu 5pm – 11pm,
Sun 12.30pm – 11pm.

GLASGOW GLASGOW
Glasgow & Clyde visit:
Glasgow & Clyde area which may be
easier for you to access.

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THE POLO LOUNGE
Mon – Thu 5pm – 11pm,
Sun 12.30pm – 11pm.

GLASGOW GLASGOW
Glasgow & Clyde visit:
Edinburgh

Moving over to the New Town Bar where they had an amazing Pride! All the acts were amazing and the place was packed! DiVA Live, Ruby Reynolds, Jason Green, Scott Agnew, Michelle McManus and Nicki French! The whole weekend was just brilliant! I myself popped in for a little G and T on Pride Night and the atmosphere really was awesome! In Jul, the bar continues to have its live music nights on Thu and a good old sing along around the piano on a Sun. Stephen informs me there is something big in the pipeline for one of the Sundays coming up - more info keep an eye on the Facebook and twitter feeds. Jul also sees the launch of a new menu down at NTB. Also keep an eye out for New Town Bar's venue guide which will be hitting the scene soon as this year NTB becomes a full on Fringe Venue. More info from www.newtownbar.co.uk

A rainbow flag has been seen flying from Mother Aitken’s window in Leith.

Unique Civil Celebrations

Whilst the majority of people in the UK still choose a traditional religious funeral service, an increasing number are finding that their personal preferences are best accommodated within a Civil Funeral ceremony - a funeral which can include religious elements of whatever faith or no religious content at all, and also other elements that can be combined to better reflect the wishes of everyone involved.

At Unique Civil Celebrations we are aware and conscious of the specific requirements when arranging a funeral where the person who has passed away is part of a same-sex partnership. Our Civil Funeral celebrant, being gay himself is ideally placed to prepare and deliver a truly fitting, dignified and personal goodbye.

For more information, or a confidential and obligation chat please contact our call list telephone number below.

We also offer prepayment funeral plans and preparation of Wills. We are authorised agents and introducers of Golden Charter Funeral Plans; the UK’s largest provider of prepaid Funeral Plans.

Golden Charter Funeral Plans

Unique Civil Celebrations Limited, registered in Scotland No 439675
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4 reasons why you should make a will

People often don’t realise who might get their assets after they die, and more importantly who might not. Who is in charge of your funeral, and who isn’t.

Making a will is a sign of respect for yourself and your loved ones.

In making a will:

1. You get to make decisions that you are happy with
2. Your decisions for your life are protected
3. You can make tax savings by arranging your affairs properly
4. You can protect people you care about

Call Donald now on 0131 555 0616 or email donald.stermer@dhlaw.co.uk

© 2012 off our normal charges if you quote ref. 501 when arranging to see Donald to discuss these issues further.
Over the last year a group of passionate young people have worked hard to improve the lives of Fife’s LGBT community. There’s finally enough going on in The Kingdom to justify its own section here in ScotsGay.

Well done to the Out In Fife gang as well as Jodie, Clive, Chloe, Craig and Ryan. Pride was superb this year and the Out In Fife community group made sure us Fifers had a visible presence. The guys arranged a free bubbly breakfast to set everyone up for the long day ahead. Massive thanks to Elaine and Steve at The Jam Jar for donating the bubbly and the breakfast to everyone. The guys are planning on doing it all again for Glasgow Pride.

Fife’s very own Stephen Armitage was spotted at the community fair representing The Scout Association and some of the staff from Sky (Dunfermline) made sure they were spotted with their rainbow Sky t-shirts. Well done to all the organisers and volunteers who made this year’s Pride a truly amazing day.

On the sexual health front, a new sexual health clinic was opened at The Queen Margaret Hospital. Yours truly was at the opening and met all the wonderful friendly staff. If you haven’t been checked for a while search Sexual Health Fife on Facebook for the opening times. We also said a sad farewell to Clive King, Fife’s sexual health specialist from the Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland. Clive has been one of the inspirational people in the Kingdom and has helped drag Fife into the 21st century making sure it looks after its LGBT community. We wish him all the best as he pursues pastures new.

And for our young ones, fantastic progress has been made. There are now 3 LGBT Youth groups in the Kingdom with another in the planning stage. These provide young LGBT people a safe and controlled environment where they can meet other like minded young folk. In Dunfermline, the CONNECTED group meets every Wed evening. Open to those aged 15 to 18. For further details E-mail: vikki.robertson@fife.gov.uk. Over in Kirkcaldy the Flavours Of Fife group meets every second Wed. Open to those aged 15 to 24. E-mail: info@lgbtyouth.org. And over in Leven, the YOUTH 2 group gets together every Mon evening. Open to those aged 15 to 18. E-mail: lisa.hunter@fife.gov.uk.

So, lots going on in The Kingdom these days and lots more plans afoot. Myself and Clive will be doing a sponsored bungee jump in Killiecrankie in a couple of weeks to raise money for all these wonderful groups, helping the hardworking guys and girls continue making things better for Fife’s LGBT community. The Out In Fife social night in Dunfermline has taken a break over the summer but they have asked me to let you all know they will be back with Fife’s only LGBT night in Aug, just in time to celebrate their 1st birthday. You can keep up to date with all their goings on by liking their Facebook page.

It’s now time to put my feet up, its wine o’clock time. Stay safe people.
In Vogue: Songs by Madonna

**VENUE**
The Boards
Edinburgh Playhouse
18-22 Greenside Pl

**W RITTEN AND DIRECTED BY**
DEAN BRYANT - LIZA (ON AN E)

**SEASON**
£10 full price, £8 conc.
8th, 9th, 15th, 16th, 17th August 2013 - 9pm

**BOOKINGS**
www.edfringe.com
0131 226 0000
(Booking fees apply)

In Vogue: Songs by Madonna

- Time Out
  Sheds new light on Madonna's songs.
- Herald Sun
  Griffiths is a rare and wonderful performer.
- Artshub
  Exceedingly funny.
- Adelaide Advertiser

**Q&A**
Tell us about your show, In Vogue. How did the concept come about?

My best friend Dean Bryant is a writer/director (His show 'Liza on an E' had its West End debut in May) and he approached me out of the blue one day about working together on a one man cabaret. Madonna was the first subject that came to my mind. Dean resisted because he'd just had success with a Britney Spears show and didn't want to repeat himself but once I explained I wouldn't make any attempt at impersonation he was in.

Have you always been a big fan of Madonna?

My earliest pop memory is dancing around to ‘Holiday’ on cassette with all the Italian girls at my primary school. Ever since then she has been a constant. There were a few years where I lost interest but doing this show has put me back in touch with her extraordinary body of work.

How did it feel to SELLOUT at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival?

I'm from Adelaide so I was absolutely surprised. I found out riding home on my bicycle from Jersey Boys in Sydney and I got a text from a friend (I was at traffic lights, don't text and ride!) who was having trouble buying tickets as the website said it was sold out and actually screamed out loud. I had to reassure pedestrians next to me that I was ok and nobody had died.

Were you surprised by the overwhelmingly positive press and public reaction to In Vogue?

I was. Dean and I were worried that the concept might be a little off putting and weren't sure if audiences would warm to it. In an early draft we devoted an entire section to explaining that I actually was Madonna, contrary to how I acted and sounded but we soon realised that it works best if it's a given and audiences need to fill in the dots.

Is this your first time in Edinburgh?

It is. I've seen lots of pictures and it looks unbelievably pretty. I keep trying to get a handle on the size and scope of the Fringe but I'm not sure anything can prepare me for it so I'm just diving in.

How long have you been playing the piano?

Since before I can remember. It was my first love - I grew up playing the piano but let it go when I decided I wanted to pursue musical theatre and went to drama school in Perth instead. Doing cabaret has reunited me with that part of my brain and made me fall in love with it again.

Who, other than Madonna, inspires you?

I'm a HUGE Annie Lennox fan. I am inspired by her equal parts vulnerability and strength.

My new cabaret show SWEET DREAMS: SONGS BY ANNIE LENNOX debuted in Adelaide last week and coming to Scotland feels like a kind of pilgrimage.

Any other Edinburgh Fringe that you plan to see?

I'm in town for two weeks and will try and cram in as many shows as I can, especially all the cabaret.
I read Sandel by Angus Stewart when I was a teenager growing up in Edinburgh. It was one of many gay novels I eagerly devoured, hiding them about my bedroom so my parents wouldn’t discover them, though my grandfather did and used to borrow them. I never discovered why. Sandel was the one which stuck to me most, not only because it was beautifully written but because it struck such a positive and hopeful note, despite it being about a relationship between a nineteen year old Oxford undergraduate and a choirboy on the cusp of adolescence. Little did I know that forty years later, I would be putting it on the stage, in a very different climate from the one in which I had turned the pages forty years under the bedclothes with a torch.

“You shouldn’t be doing this year.” I was told by a number of people, including one Fringe venue. “Wait until 2013, at least.”

“Actually, I’m doing it now.” I’ve never been averse to risk taking. When Robert Love, Head of Drama at STV back in 1983, asked me to come up with a television ‘whodunit’ set in Glasgow, I took a young Edinburgh public school boy after, and I had never written a whodunit. But I said yes, and then started to read every single Agatha Christie. I could lay my hands on. It nearly didn’t happen. My first script was a disaster. I made the fatal mistake of thinking I could write until the end before deciding who indeed had done it, only to discover that Agatha had the right idea. She knew the very beginning, and that was how she misled readers so brilliantly. I had only succeeded in misleading myself. Robert Love took me aside and gave me some gentle advice. A three parter called X-Files was the answer, and that became Taggart, which became the longest running TV detective series in the world. Enough said.

When we decided that Detective Sergeant Fraser, played by Colin Mccrindle, should turn out to be gay in a Taggart episode called Angel Eyes, that was another risk, though somewhat calculated. There had never been another example of a long-running male character in TV detective show getting off with another man at the end, but we got away with it. “Life’s a bitch.” said Blythe Duff as Jackie Reid as she watched her colleague go off on his gay date. They never tried to copy it in Morse.

So when the opportunity arose to adapt and direct Sandel, I seized it with both hands. I’ve been producing on the fringe for five years now, and that’s one of the biggest gambles you can ever take. Sandel presents specific problems. How could I cast someone able to play the eponymous hero, Anthony Sandel, a choirboy outwardly innocent and pure but with a cunning, Machiavellian streak who manipulates the older youth into a relationship neither of them can get out of? And what on earth would audiences today make of a play about a nineteen year old and a fourteen year old, while elderly celebrities churlish in their shows about indiscretions committed in their twenties.

Auditioning for the part of Sandel was a revelation. It is a huge role and requires a lot of life experience, which few teenagers possess. The boy is manipulative yet endearing, smart yet incredibly insecure and prone to fits of jealousy. Most couldn’t get it. One young actor of sixteen displayed a sexual awareness that was almost frightening. But we settled for a seventeen year old from Southampton, Tom Cave, who at only five foot not only looked the part but was the part. Sometimes at an audition, you make up your mind before the actor leaves the room. I made up my mind five minutes before.

As to how audiences will react, one can only wait and see. It is interesting that in the age it was written, the Sunday Telegraph described Sandel as “depicting a love which truly exists and is not despicable”. Will it be despicable in 2013? I don’t think so, but some will see it differently, especially in quite unexpected ending. It is a love story, pure and simple, and this is quite definitely the year to be doing it.
**Name and role**

Stephen Martin, General Manager, the New Town Bar.

**How did you get involved?**

I started off as a Part Time member of staff over four and a half years ago and sort of worked my way up... I can’t believe it’s that long - I was a young thing when I started! Haha How time flies...

**Tell us about the recent changes at the NTB**

Recent Changes... Well we just spent a shit load of money refurbishing the toilets. They are stunning now. We ripped the whole thing out and started again... I do spend most of my shifts checking they are still clean, the customers must think I’ve gone mad... I also think the NTB has had massive changes over the last year or so. Our events calendar is always exciting, we have some amazing acts performing on our stage. Our new chef is amazing, so the food we are serving has definitely changed. We also have a lot of new staff, who are all lovely and very fun so that always adds a new element to things. We also have loads of new products in. Lovely changes as we enter the summer season.

**What’s happening during the Fringe this year?**

Oh my! Well the NTB are now a fully fledged venue... Venue 395, thanks for asking! We are turning our basement bar into a fully seater theatre. Not including our Sunday Fundayraisers, we have four shows doing fifty performances over the month! It’s amazing! It’s also our annual Mad, Brilliant, Fabulous, & Funny! We have a dark comedy coming up from England called Forever 27 (it looks brilliant), Michelle McManus has her one woman show with us - Michelle McManus @ The Musical (pretty much does what it says on the tin - she’s the loveliest lady so this show is going to be AMAZING - she’s already sold 6000 of her tickets). Suzie McCabe joins the NTB family last year over the Fringe doing some hosting in so, so, so funny, she saw her sell out show in the Glasgow Comedy Fest at the start of the year and just knew we had to get her. She has a full time job so the only two shows she is doing this year are with us! And Finally The Spot - it’s an exciting new venture! We have a pool of comic hosts who are going to take to the stage, along with some famous names, and perform, it means that each show will be completely different so people can come to all the shows and see something different each time. The G Spot is also raising money for Waverley Care £3 from every ticket sold will go to them! So the basement bar is going to be busy over August! We also have a great events team coming on board for the month to make sure that everyone is kept happy! The Menu Club will still be open Friday and Saturday Nights, however, maybe an hour later, have no fear! We are also doing food seven days a week - the new menu looks brilliant!

**The Sunday Fundraisers are now a Fringe institution. Tell us more about fundraising for Waverley Care.**

I love them! It may sound quite ‘up my own arse’ to say, but they are truly the best shows around. We have had some great acts over the years... Pretty much, you come along and watch acts for free. They give up their time to perform, we get money for Waverley Care, everyone is happy. Each year we try to turbo the year before - last year was INCREDIBLE, so this year we have had to dig deep to top it...

Did you enjoy Pride Scotland? For once the bar went out on the march - it was a great success - did you get your rainbow love bag? We had some amazing performances on stage from QVAN Live, Ruby Reynolds and Nicki French. Scott Agnew held it all together perfectly as always, and then DJ Marge carried on the upstairs decor until the end! We also had the Bear Ball on the Friday, which was brilliant, and then we had Michelle McManus pop in for a wee sing song on the Sunday... I didn’t get a chance to go and visit any of the other bars, but was told that everywhere was rammed too, so well done to all!

**Name check your bar staff.**

Assistant Manager - The C Bomb - Steven, Longest Member of Staff - Miss C, Chef ‘his haggis balls with fill you up’ Full time - Lindsay, Polish hottie - Kamil, Irish Charmer - Niall, Newbies - Daniel, Andy and David... Plus a shout out to the London Gorgeous Boys - Tom S, who has just left us as we goes on a uni field trip over summer.

Would you ever ‘go home’ with a customer? Hahaha... Is if I am going to tell you so you can publish for all to see... I am always open to offers of course - just needs to fit in with my diary.

**Are you personally involved in any other projects?**

I am always busy! I have just finished working on Ruthie Marshalls’ Scottish Tour ‘It was his producer - so that’s a new one for the CV)! I also run theatre programmes so spend a lot of spare time either writing shows, choreographing, working out directions, rehearsal schedules, or sourcing props and costumes! The bar also took Scott Agnew’s Tales of a Soave show to Prague in May so I was prepping for that for the last six months, then went across with Scott and Jimmy to make sure it all went well – We use the Title Tour Manager, but I prefer baby-sitter. He. I have also just bought a house, what a fucking stress that is! Allis perfect though!
MICHELLE MCMANUS @ THE MUSICALS:
Michelle comes to the Edinburgh Fringe this year with her Michelle McManus @ The Musicals show. She returns to the Festival after a sell out show in 2007. From Chicago to Cabaret – Les Misérables to Chess – a fabulous evening of entertainment!
Aug 19-25 20:00 (1hr 15mins) £10.00
Aug 23-24 17:30 (1hr 15mins) £10.00

SUSAN MCCABE: Her first solo Edinburgh show!
This Glasgow comedienne will have you falling off your seat with laughter! Sell-out Glasgow Comedy Festival Show 2013! Don’t miss her Edinburgh Fringe debut!
Aug 10,17 15:30 (1hr) £8.00

FOREVER 27: Jimi, Janis, Jim, Kurt, Amy
Winehouse... Forever 27: An exclusive club for the brightest stars. But even if you’re not rich and famous, everyone wants to be remembered for something! But just how far will Mark go to in order to live fast by dying young?
Aug 4-8, 11-15 22:30 (1hr) £7.00

SUNDAY FUNDRAISERS: Giving their time for Waverley Care the last six years - Margaret Cho, Jo Caulfield, Craig Hill, JoJo Sutherland, Bob Downe, Scott Agnew and lots more. Join us to see more Fringe stars for free!
Aug 4,11,18,25 16:00 (4hr)

THE G-SPOT: Showcasing the best of the Fringe!
Girls, gays, greedy or gay-for-the-day- join our acts as they search for the G Spot. A fun-filled hour - different every show - you’d be mad to miss it! On behalf of Waverley Care.
Aug 5-10,12-17 17:00 (1hr) £6.00, Aug 5-10,12-17 19:00 (1hr) £6.00,
Aug 5-10,12-17 21:00 (1hr) £6.00

LIVE MUSIC: Don’t miss out on the NTB Live music sessions, taking place in the upstairs bar and running right through the fringe! Follow us on Twitter or facebook for more details and to stay up to date with what’s on!
Is Monogamy Dead?

Well it’s certainly a bit wounded. It originally meant one partner for life. It’s from the Greek ‘Monos Gamos’ meaning ‘one marriage’. When people lived much shorter lives, this was more realistic. Nowadays, it's rare that people do mate for life. Our Western consumerist culture and now the Internet present us with too much choice and a constant pressure to ‘upgrade’ possessions and, perhaps, partners. Apparently divorce happens at a rate of one every three minutes and as 3 seconds – and that's just Joan Collins.

How many Edinburgh Fringe shows is that now?

I've done shows covering sport (Olympic Swingball Champion), memory (I Am Nesia) sex (The Science Of Sex and its revised version) The Further Science Of Sex and music (Rosie’s Pop Diary which then became How Not To Make It In Britpop) and now am back to investigating sex and relationships – though I'm coming from a slightly more existential perspective this time. I really want to try and resolve some of these romantic vs sexual conflicts for myself.

I've been hearing about ‘Femmes on the Thames’. It’s an all female performance showcase that I curate and I curate and curate it more. I've been curating a two year in a London. We choose slightly off-kilter but high quality acts and try to discover some that people haven’t seen before. We just had a sell-out night at Battersea Barge in which Diva magazine said some lovely things about.

You discuss sex and sexuality in several of your shows.

Yes! What’s not to be fascinated by? I love science – AND I’m a desperate romantic. So I caught between a rock and a hard place – wanting to understand what’s going on in my brain when I fancy unavailable, heterosexual women and part of me wanting to just enjoy the lovely chemical gasses, give out of the window and daydream about said beautiful women.

This year’s show is prompted by the worrying number of break ups that have happened recently among friends. I felt really sad about this and decided to see brilliant long partnerships evoked, either by the excruciating temptations of new lust or the stifling monotony of monogamy. Sometimes I call it ‘mahogany’ – when your relationship starts to feel wooden it is time to shake things up.

Let it be time to ask some questions and find out if people who are breaking society’s self-imposed rules and having open relationships, going out swinging or doing full polyamory with multiple partners are faring any better. Gay men stereotypically have more casual sex than lesbians - I've had way more friends than benefits with benefits. So tell us, if you please, what it’s like for going to lesbian saunas and sex parties when I was younger but finding very little sex there indeed.

Is the stand-up comedy circuit still dominated by men?

Yes, though it’s slowly changing and more and more female acts are coming through. There are a lot of brilliant female comedy nights now such as The Frog in Bristol which always sells out in advance. Even though I love playing those nights, I’m really worried that this inadvertently causes segregation where women’s comedy is in danger of becoming a specialist genre. Women, particularly lesbians, who go to go to see comedy will go to those acts because they feel represented by the acts they see on stage. So the audiences who are most supportive to female acts are rejecting the main circuit. This makes it tougher for a female act to shine at the Jgj where she will be seen by male promoters and agents. We need to address the fact that if many clubs make Ticketsnique audiences feel uncomfortable, not just female acts.

Do you get homophobic hecklers?

Not really. I once had a woman say “you don’t look like a lesbian’ after a gig. And then I slept with her (no, that’s not strictly true but I have said it before). I did also get a guy shout out during the Science Of Sex and suggest a threesome with him and his girlfriend. And I ‘said well, it’ll be you that gets left out’.

What do you make of the current debate about equal marriage?

Well of course I want to see full equality and everyone having access to the same types of commitment, partnership and celebration of love, regardless of sexuality. However I think language is archaic, eating from when women were possessions to be traded like cattle. It’s amazing how many women keep sexist vices in their service and are quite happy for their partner to ask their father’s permission but mostly they are then and then be ‘given away’ by a man to another man. What I’d like to completely abolish marriage and create something new for everyone. Also now that guys look likely to get to marriage, now we have to put up with all the annoying things that go with it - nagging relatives asking when you’re going to tie the knot, crazy Bridezillas and being asked to wear something hideous as a Bridesmaid. I’m a firm believer that as you become more mainstream you lose something too. Gay bars are closing across London. In one sense it’s good not to need those safe spaces any more, but sometimes those spaces are valuable too. It’s the ultimate paradox.

I hear that you were once in a feminist group with fellow comedian Zoe Lyons.

I have another new multimedia solo show Nineties Woman which is more of a documentary / storytelling show which dates back to my time spent on the collective of feminist newspaper at University of London in the early 90’s. Zoe was at York Uni at the same time as me. We didn’t know each other well but she very fleetingly got involved with the newspaper because we both had a crush on the woman who wrote the show of it. Neither of us was really there out of ideology. I reminisced with her on camera about those times and you can see clips as part of the show. I’m doing a few performances at Recovery Fringe at the Secretly Cafe at 7pm on Friday 9th and 16th. It’s just a fun extra to my main show.

Who inspires you?

My girlfriend, My best friends, Serena Williams, Stella Duff, Naomi Wolf, Carolin Martin, Golftrapp.
With teenage heart throb and former X Factor star, Lloyd Daniels, due to come to Edinburgh and Glasgow with Up4aMeet, Nathan Sparling attempted to find out more about his career since X Factor and how much of him we’ll actually see during the show.

Lloyd crosses across as such a down to earth guy and, after chatting away on the phone for a bit, we got down to some questions. The show, Up4aMeet, is about gay dating apps, I’m guessing similar to Grindr, and the poster shows Lloyd in one of his best lights – topless – along with another few topless models. Lloyd tells me that in order to find out how naked he’ll actually get in the show we’ll have to go and see it but does give me a bit of a teaser – “I get ‘pretty’ naked.”

Now for anyone who is a big Lloyd fan like myself, you’ll already be following him on Twitter and Instagram, having seen him strip down quite a bit! If anyone remembers his Gay Times photo shoot, I’m hoping for a similarly wet Lloyd in this latest tour. He tells me that he has a lot of confidence behind a camera, great for his fans and followers online, but that when you put people in front of him he loses a bit of that confidence, “Getting naked wouldn’t be that easy as comfortable as I am with myself.”

“I’m sure it’ll be all fun and games”, he tells me, when I ask about co-star Nikki Grahame, former ‘WHO IS SHE?!’ star of Big Brother. She’s joining the show, in what I’m guessing will be in a ‘fag-hag’ style part, and I can’t wait to see her in this stage role!

I think I used every technique to tease some answers from Lloyd during this interview. Benedict, another former Big Brother Housemate, appears in the show but Lloyd isn’t too sure about him. “I’ve got plans for after the show, I don’t want to say too much unless it doesn’t go anywhere but I’m willing to try my best. I feel I’ve gotten better and I know now what I want. So hopefully people will warm to it.” I don’t think it’s too hard to warm to anything that Lloyd does, as his Welsh accent continues to make me want him even more!

To round off the interview, I wanted to bring the show and his personal life together for a bit. He tells me he doesn’t use the app in question, but that he is single and misses being in a relationship. What’s his type, I asked and he tells me –

“You know what, I just like people. I’m pretty old fashioned I suppose but I like to meet someone randomly and it just to flow into something great. I’m not the type to see someone striking and think ‘here we go’ I like the whole getting to know someone and creating the beauty. I sound like an old toad I know… But that’s me.”

And we’re all grateful that Lloyd Daniels is such a down to earth boy.

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www.ladyboysofbangkok.co.uk
Tell us about your latest Fringe show, ‘Schiz’.

‘Schiz’ (pronounced ‘Skitz’) is an abbreviation of ‘Schizophrenic’, as well as being an obvious play on the slang word for sketches. It refers to the schizophrenic nature of someone who adopts different personas, as I do in the show, and the thought process that goes into a character’s creation is a key theme. As well as that I examine the way the characters get on with each other in my head! Sounds complicated, but it’s very clear once you watch the show.

This is your third year at the Edinburgh Fringe. What do you like about Edinburgh?

I like the festival atmosphere, being covered in Sangria and waking up at 6am to go out into the street and run with the bulls on the cobbled streets. Oh sorry, that’s the Pamplona festival. Um…same, except replace the word ‘bulls’ with ‘drama students’.

In last year’s critically acclaimed, ‘Kenny Moon This is Your Life’ you performed with your dad. Any plans to work with him again?

Yeah, I’d love to. He’s coming up for a week and he’s doing a few shows himself actually… Luke Benson and Dave Hardcastle run a great themed show called ‘Working Men’s Club’ and they’re thrilled to have an actual real life working men’s club comedian in to do their shows… but yeah, I’ll definitely work with dad again. He’s still got it…

You have a BA (Hons) degree in Psychotherapy and studied towards an MSc in Transactional Analysis. How did you get from that to being a character comic?

I was a trainee psychotherapist with supervised clients and on my way to qualifying, when I decided it was something I could come back to in the fullness of time, if I wanted to. I loved it but it was nothing compared to the buzz of comedy. In my experience, psychotherapists and comics are very similar in the way that they are attracted to their professions through needing to get some questions answered. They just go through different routes to get there. Oh and most of them are nuts too.

Who inspires you?

Chael P Sonnen. He’s a UFC fighter (mixed martial arts), who could be a comic if he wanted to. Through sheer will of personality, a way with words and pure self-belief he turned himself into a stand out star in the sport. Playing him onstage meant using some pretty heinous jokes from a bygone age, hopefully packaged in a way that reminded people that this used to go on in the old days (and still does now in Benidorm) and how bad it was. What I found though, was that certain people were taking these jokes at face value and couldn’t see behind this extremely un-aspirational façade. As well as this character was doing, I had to drop it for that reason.

Do you ever find yourself thinking in the voice of one of your characters?

ALL THE FUCKING TIME! It’s a nightmare and once it’s started, it becomes a hard train to derail. Stupid characters asking me stupid bloody questions at 3 in the morning.

Do you ever worry that one of your characterisations might offend?

There was one in 2011, (Tyson Moon, son of a 70’s comedian), who was an unintelligent, awkward son desperate for comedy to return to the days where one could call a spade a spade. Playing him onstage meant using some pretty heinous jokes from a bygone age, hopefully packaged in a way that reminded people that he used to go on in the old days (and still does now in Benidorm) and how bad it was. What I found though, was that certain people were taking these jokes at face value and couldn’t see behind this extremely un-aspirational façade. As well as this character was doing, I had to drop it for that reason.

Tell us about the Channel 4 pilot you were involved with.

I can’t say too much, other than the fact that I got the part in the pilot and the show has been commissioned…however, I think it’s still being written and finished now. You can never be too sure about these things and until I get dates in the diary, I’m not going to think about it. It’s a great show though and as long as I’m still in it, I’m very excited to be a part of it.

Anything else you plan to see whilst in Edinburgh?

God yes. In no particular order, Dr Brown, Kai Humphries, Daniel Sloss, Joe Rowntree, Scott Apgrew, Rob Collins and DR George Ryegold. Rob Collins in particular has a fascinating show about a mental breakdown he had earlier this year and does that remarkable thing of tackling mental illness and making it funny without you feeling sorry for him. And it’s free!
**Unedited Text:***

**Category Comedy**
- Tim Date: 19:00/1-25 Aug

**Category Theatre**
- Joan Shepard started on Broadway ever 27: An exclusive club for the pretty. Two ridiculous events combine: the centre of the stage at The New Town Bar in Edinburgh fringe to present a cabaret show.

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For tickets and more info go to edfringe.com or tel: 0131-226 0000.

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**For full details of all Edinburgh International Festival events and booking go to eif.co.uk**
PRIDE GLASGOW

Pride Glasgow has announced that headlining this year's festival will be soul superstars and M People lead singer Heather Small, best known for his hit song, the hugely successful 'Proud'.

By working with two of Glasgow's biggest names within the LGBTQ scene, AIXM and the Polo Lounge, they have been able to secure a superstar headline for the event which will once again be free to attend.

Pride Glasgow's Chief Executive, Alastair Smith stated that he, "wanted to build on the success of previous years and ensure that this year's event - the first time the event has been held annually rather than bi-annually - is a festival that the LGBT Community and its supporters can be proud of."

Pride Glasgow will be held on Sat 20th Aug. For more info go to prideglasgow.co.uk

EDINBURGH'S FIRST 'LIPS AND LASHES' A SUCCESS

LIPS AND LASHES - Edinburgh's newest and biggest Cabaret and Party Event, held its first night on Sat 20th Jun at the Corn Exchange. It was a huge success.

Congrats to Mojo, Alison Demarco, Lindsey Watson, Scarlet Diament, Ellie Peters, Miss Razzle Dazzle and the lovely Jamie Lee Morley.

ScotsGay Magazine was there with a camera. To see the rest of the pics visit the Lips and Lashes pages on facebook.
**PARENTS**

Gay and Lesbian Support Groups for µ-18s. Meets Thu at different venues across Scotland. 11.30am Sun at the Arc Leisure Centre, 12 How Street. A friendly, safe and supportive group for under 18s. Telephone: Jules Barnes, 0131-225 6244.

**PARENTS’ SUPPORT GROUPS SCOTLAND**

LGBTQ+ parents and carers, and their families, offering support and a sense of community. Please contact: Colin Mckillop, 07884 860359; or info@nus-scotland.org.uk

**SCHOOLS**

Queer Youth Hub: LGBT+ youth and queer youth groups. Queer Youth Hub is the only national queer youth hub in Scotland. 65 York Place, Edinburgh EH 3 6 B H. Tel: 0131-225 6244. Queer Youth Hub is a space for queer youth aged 13+ to gather, find support and make decisions about their lives. Queer Youth Hub aims to support queer youth to live their lives safely, authentically and with dignity.

**STUDENTS**

Many universities and colleges have LGBTQ+ Students’ Groups. For info check websites or contact GFSN (www.gfsn.org.uk) or LGBTSN (www.lgbtsn.org.uk).

**SPORTS**

**CARNABY STORMS FC**

137-139 How Street, Edinburgh EH 3 6 B H. Tel: 0131-225 6244. Carnaby Storms FC is Scotland’s first gay football club. We meet on Wed during term times. Carnaby Storms FC is a social, no pressure group for gay men and women of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. We are always welcoming new players and encourage anyone who agrees with the group’s aims and values to join us.

**GAYЫЮА KИСС**

A UK-wide, web-based organisation providing a safe space for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transsexuals, aged under 26. Provides support, information, emotional support and advice for LGBTQ+ youth. Young People’s LGBT+ Network for Northern Ireland, 1 & 2 Park Hill Building, 3 Cross Street, Belfast BT1 3TB. Tel: 028 9024 6024. Website: www.youthline.org.uk

**GAY ЮА KИСС**

A national youth service contact, Presidency Foundation, 8 Addington Square, London SW 11 2LN. Tel: 07896 474847. Fax: 020 7235 4747. Email: info@presidencyfoundation.org.uk. Website: www.presidencyfoundation.org.

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