Countdown to the Referendum

YES vs No
The LGBT National Youth Council (LGBT NYC), coordinated by LGBT Youth Scotland, has launched a campaign to ensure that transgender identities are included within Scottish Education. The ‘T.E.A.’ in their ‘Time For T.E.A.’ campaign stands for Transgender Education Awareness, and they are calling for teachers and youth workers to talk about transgender identities and to tackle transphobic discrimination and bullying.

LGBT young people from across Scotland voted this campaign as a priority for the LGBT NYC at LGBT Youth Scotland’s National Gathering in 2012. The campaign has been developed in response to the very negative experiences faced by many transgender young people in education. The Life in Scotland for LGBT Young People: Education Report shows that 76.9% of transgender respondents had experienced homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying in school with 69.2% experiencing transphobic bullying at college and 37.5% at university. As a result of this bullying, 42.3% left education.

With support from LGBT Youth Scotland and the Scottish Transgender Alliance, the LGBT NYC developed a campaign video to raise awareness of the experiences of a transgender young person during a typical school day. The video provides insight into the way that their peers react to and treat them, which includes some direct verbal abuse and some peers struggling to know how to help. Ultimately, it encourages viewers to think about the impact this has on the young person and challenges the way we view gender.

This video was released on the 13th September 2013 with TESS writing an exclusive on this campaign as the first Transgender Education campaign targeted at Scottish Education.

http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6356602

The Transgender Education Awareness Campaign is important because I feel it is not an area that is discussed in education. Unless they know someone who is transgender, then young people in Scotland are unaware of what it means and therefore can be transphobic, without even knowing it (member of the LGBT NYC).


Workshops and resources developed by young people are available to download for free, in the hope that teachers, youth workers and peers will join the campaign and begin to talk openly about this topic. They have also created an eye-catching tea-themed photo pledge to start the conversation.

Campaign webpage: http://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/sup-campaigning-Time-for-TEA
Alberta: Edmonton & the Canadian Rockies

For a stark town-country contrast, take the mere 4-5 hours trek, due west of Edmonton, to Jasper - in the awesome eponymous Jasper National Park – either on VIA Rail (www.viarail.ca) or the SunDog Shuttle Bus (www.sundogtours.com).

Stay at Whistlers Inn (www.whistlersinn.com) which exudes a cosy Canadian Rockies alpine air, as do adjoining Whistle Stop Pub and Cassia’s Italian Restaurant (www.cassias.ca). For wickedly creative food, try Evil Dave’s Grill (www.evildavegrill.com), or the nearby Jasper Brewing Co. (www.jasperbrewingco.ca) for classy pub grub.

SunDog Tours (www.sundogtours.com) offers a range of year-round excursions with excellent opportunities to spy local wildlife including the odd wolf, moose, eagle or bear. For magic mountain moments, take the Jasper Tramway (www.jaspertramway.com) – either in the winter brings downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling and the like – or over the river to Muttart Conservatory (www.muttart.org) at the Muttart Conservatory (www.muttart.org) for classical performances.

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS
Air Canada’s new great-value leisure carrier, Air Canada rouge, started flying between Edinburgh and Toronto this July (2013), with frequent direct onward flights, from Toronto to Edmonton, via Air Canada’s domestic network. For more info and bookings, visit: www.aircanada.com/rouge

Other useful sites: www.travelalberta.com; www.edmonton.com; www.jasper.travel

Home to the Canadian Rockies, it’s even here they shot Brokeback Mountain! Adrian Gillian visits the province of Alberta for soaring peaks in Jasper and big city buzz in capital Edmonton! Adrian Gillian braves the Canadian Rockies for ScotsGay

With district names like Old Strathcona and Bonny Doon attesting its heritage, no Scot will feel too far from home in Edmonton. Alberta’s capital hosts festivals all-year-round, plus offers fine dining, eclectic neighbourhoods and a compact scene.

Stay at modern boutique downtown style palace, the Matrix Hotel (wwwMatrixMode almonds.com), flitting downstairs to its contemporary fine-diner, Wildflower (www.wildfloweredmonton.com) when peckish - or over the river to Cassia’s Italian Restaurant (www.cassias.ca) at the Muttart Conservatory (www.muttart.org) at the Muttart Conservatory (www.muttart.org).

Jubilee Auditorium (www.jubileeauditorium.com); check out the Royal Alberta Museum (www.royalalbertamuseum.ca); take a free tour of the imposing Alberta Legislature Building (www.assembly.ab.ca/visitor); or explore interesting districts like Old Strathcona (www.oldstrathcona.com) with its Farmers’ Market (www.farmersmarket.ca), or the “Gallery Walk” (www.gallerywalk.com). Ride a segway (www.rivervalleyadventure.com) around the riverside parkland before popping into the distinctive pyramid-topped Muttart Conservatory (www.muttart.org).

Edmonton’s gay scene is a tight-knit trio just west of Downtown. Start at Woody’s bar (15273 Jasper Ave), before Buddies club (15238B Jasper Ave), then Steamworks sauna (15245 Jasper Ave)!
Founded in 1993, with appearances by Sir Ian McKellen and Rhona Cameron, Glasgay! celebrates its Twentieth Anniversary in 2013. The central theme to the programme will be “LEGACY”. They will celebrate the progress of new lesbian writers such as Louise Welsh, Zoe Straffon, Stella Duffy and Jackie Clune. Joining that illustrious list is Stef Smith, an emerging new Scottish talent, who has been commissioned by the festival to write a new all-female, two-hander, CURED. Stef Smith’s recent awards include a Laurence Olivier for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre in 2012, Writer-on-Attachment for National Theatre of Scotland and writing and directing SILENCE OF THE BEES (2012). This musical adapted from the John Walters movie starring the late great Robin Williams has been made accessible for a family audience but still retains its charm thanks to the hard working cast who power through an array of catchy pop tunes and a wealth of tightly choreographed dance routines.

The highlight of the whole production is Mark Benton (he has just started his Strictly Come Dancing (starring) who delivers quite simply the best “Edna” in the history of the show. Channelling Divine he adds the charm of Harvey Fierstein plus his own spell binding talent and brings a vivid and true interpretation of Edna to the stage – a fine achievement. He leads the company from the front and delivers a comedy master class with Paul Rider as Wilbur, Edna’s much loved Husband.

With a flash 60’s set, groovy music and dose of nostalgia plus a story which makes a relevant point on racism, it’s a sad reminder that as far as human race we have come we have still got further to journey.

Thank goodness we have the power of musical theatre to remind us of the possibilities of being better people. Check out Hairpray as it continues its journey around the country.

Quick Mention:
Local Edinburgh Company “Showcase Musical Productions” return to the stage with their new production “Musical Diversity”. Delivering a mixture of musical styles as performed by a company of over 40 performers and a 15 strong orchestra this is shaping up to be a magical night at the theatre.

Tickets are available from www.show-case.co.uk

Curtain Down:
That wraps up another month on the theatre scene; enjoy Glasgay! and its 20th year of producing the best in LGBT theatre and arts! See you in theatres.

Brett
E-mail: Edinburgh@scotsgay.co.uk Twitter: @Brettherriot

This musical adapted from the John Walters movie starring the late great Robin Williams has been made accessible for a family audience but still retains its charm thanks to the hard working cast who power through an array of catchy pop tunes and a wealth of tightly choreographed dance routines.

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Well what a month Aug was. Edinburgh hosted its biggest and best Festival ever and it was both a busy pe-
riod for me personally and for ScotsGay who collaborated with Broadwayway.co.uk to bring the best and biggest con-
certs in the history of the Magazine. We chose to give the Edinburgh Column a month off to allow for the extended Festival coverage. However, all

Edinburgh

Brett

Herriot

Edinburgh @scotsgay.co.uk

glaschu

Nathan

Sparling

glasgow @scotsgay.co.uk

Will there be some gossip on the scene this past month? After just five weeks, Nanny Clinks left Katie's Bar to return home to Speakeasy and brought us a de-
lightful new game-show, Strike it Lucky! She's giving away cash, meals for two, tins of beans and wooden

The rest of scene will also be providing its usual high level of entertainment with several big nights coming up at Hana, the useful fun and excellent food at CC's and when it all gets too much you can al-
ways go and chill out at the Ballethouse for a relaxing night out if you want more.

The annual BearScots Festival in Oct will see BearScots hosting the second largest bear event in the UK with over 600 guys descending on the Scene. The three day event includes late club nights, brunches and afternoon cabaret. There is a new event this year, Wet Fur @ Glenogle Baths which has already sold out. BearScots is only able to host this event with sup-
port from the local gay community. Bear Scots will have New Town Bar as their main bar for the week-
end. Stephen, Jimmy and the bar staff will be working hard to host the welcome party, the popular Underbears party will return on Sat afternoon and NTB will host farewell drinks on the Sun night.

Mitch and the gys at GC Blues will be offering an exclusive Fri night where the take both floors of the club with Bearastic upstairs and dancing downstairs at Woof! For hungry bears they are serv-
ing brunch on Sun as part of the weekend package. On Sat, to keep the Bears’ tummies full, Alan and Colin from Nom de Plume will be laying on a big brunch to get the masses ready for afternoon as the bears go off swimming, strip down to their pants for the Underbear party or relax at the

Brett x
It’s just one year until Scotland takes the biggest political decision in 300 years. 18th September 2014 will be the day Scots go to the polls and vote for Independence or to remain part of the United Kingdom. As we mark this political milestone, Stuart Duffy talks to Ruth Davidson for Better Together and Patrick Harvie for Yes to hear why it's time to engage in the debate.

RUTH DAVIDSON MSP Leader of Scottish Conservative Party

With just 1 year to go, how important is it to engage people across Scotland in the referendum?

I think it’s incredibly important, it’s a generational thing. It’s not like a general election where you get another chance in five years if you don’t like the outcome. It’s so important that everyone speaks to their friends and family, their workmates, their communities about the group they voted for or against. It’s now the time to talk, listen and tell politicians what they think too. We need to have a proper debate and when the decision is known next year we can then come together the next day or even business. I get feeling people are more comfortable talking about the referendum because it’s such a huge issue for all of us. There has to be a role and space for people who aren’t sitting in Parliament to talk about the concerns they have and ask for answers.

We’ve brought together members of the LGBT community and listened to them about the type of country they would like to be doing for Better Together and it’s very much a community-led. It’s not about politicians dictating what should be done and in many cases it’s the same types of work as the parent organisation since LGBT people have similar questions and thoughts on the referendum like schools, hospitals, defence and the economy.

Why do you feel LGBT people would be better off voting No?

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Patrick: I think there was some anxiety amongst people that a new system of government might revert to a system perhaps too influenced by big business and belief but with a proven groundless fear. Not just because of the Scottish Parliament but also steps across the UK and Europe towards equality and a changing society. Some of the old theories about our community which were rather un-popular in the past have now become quietly somewhat mainstream now and we’re accepting who we are. Taking this step for non-independence should be nothing to fear and I think it opens up new possibilities and we can take responsibility for the decisions in our country in a way we can’t right now. Many LGBT people have distinctive needs in terms of safety, whether together with the NHS or issues around discrimination in the workplace and we can’t legislate for some of these, rather we need to provide those needs in a way that’s right for Scotland.

Patrick: what do you feel are some of the main issues which will engage people as they prepare to vote?

Patrick: I think there are very much more opportunities for Scotland and there is very little chance that Westminster will offer fundamental reform of either its political culture, economic policy or other areas so we can really start to close the gap between rich and poor, for example. There’s far more chance of achieving that by using the power for ourselves and showing leadership on some of these issues and to demonstrate is what we can do as a country a better place. Our generation has, for understandable reasons, found itself with this problem of an old system about politics but we need to give the generation coming after us a future we can be proud of.

Patrick: I don’t see the arguments about national identity very useful in terms of changing people’s mind. I think if you are motivated this way you are probably fixed one way or another. Those who are ‘maybe’ voters I can’t see moving their opinion too much by appealing to their sense of national identity. Both British and Scottish identities can co-exist at the moment so why can’t they continue to co-exist when we have a different constitutional settlement? The cultural entity that is Britain with its shared business, family life and infrastructure, won’t go away! Human beings are such diverse complex creatures and we are not just one thing or another, LGBT people probably understand that better than most, but the emotional aspect of this vote will be more about nerve and whether we have the confidence to re-

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We’ve made lots of progress on LGBT rights and equality in Scotland yet still have bullying and discrimination issues to deal with. We’ve also seen that people have confidence to be themselves and that people have confidence to be gay kids can walk a mile and that gay kids can talk to other LG BT people as to hear the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom saying that the whole country recognises that. I think it will make a huge difference.

If the country agrees with you next year, and if we could see into the future, how do you believe our LGBT community will have evolved?

Well I hope that our community will be bigger and that people have confidence to be who they truly are and to come out. I hope we are more visible and that although there is more to do, that we’ve given our kids the very best start in life through the choices we’ve made.

The usual rumours of Foundation re-opening are flying around and I can confirm that someone has put a bid for the premises but not what they are going to be turned into. I am sure if it is a gay friendly venue they will have a social media presence in time.

For the next few months I am going to try and highlight other gay friendly bars and venues in town and this month I focus on Siberia Velvet Bar on Belmont Street. Siberia is a great place to kick back and relax at any time of the day with a great and impressive food menu with something for everyone and all freshly cooked. It is also one of the few bars in town where you can sit outside too and chill with a bottle of wine or a cheeky cocktail. Angela and her staff are all very friendly too and if you would like to book an area for a party or get together let them know, the bonus is that students get 25% off food and anyone can buy a VIP card for reductions on food and drink.

Pop in at Belmont Street or find out more on facebook or twitter.

Mike Lindsay & Robbie Burns
dundeecity@gmail.com
Aberdeen

Well after a successful first issue (or so we have told!) we’ve back with another month of news and dates to add to your calendars. Hopefully you have all had a good summer break! – if not... where exactly have you been? The Dundee scene has been right at the forefront over the past weeks with some fantastic acts, bands and well, just general entertainment all round! Before we kick off we would like to congratulate Sonja and Wendy on their engagement after a very romantic proposal in the Salisbury Dug. We would also like to let you know that we also went get engaged last month – YAY Cupid was obviously out on the scene... at least we think it was Cupid, there was a sighting of a half naked male with his bow and arrow out in the Gallowgate also, on an unrelated note Michael Roncore is back on his old stomping ground in the Kiosk! So pop in and give him a bit of a face to the cheek from us. Happy Birthday to Jenny Maccie – Salty Dog’s Mistress and Grandad Dean at O’UT on his 30th and a half so Richard and Alan Black Dr and Salty Dog at Klozet – is everyone getting old??!

That’s enough of that pandering for now! Let’s have a look at what’s happening out on the scene.

The Salty Dog - Keep an eye on this for the alternative scene... this month they are offering a grand little line up. Starting with the Koxora Conspiracy on the first Sat of every month (Oct 5th) : top tunes and remixes from international DJs. “Hair of the Salty” takes over on the Sunday Club every weekend – curing all your Blues! Vagabonds’ Party, Buffet and Balter galore with a core cast of DJs – what a great way to kick off another weekend of debauchery! Be sure to get your vocal cords out for Karaoke from gems with Ginger every Fri Sat. “Charity Weigh In” Mr John Justice (Owner and Darren Davidson (Tubby) have vowed to drop the pounds for charity – but only if you donate some pennies! More details coming in the next issue! Ross has informed us he is looking for a new member of staff to sort you out in your for a deck scrubbing position!

Klozet – open Thursday to Sunday night for all those unsuspecting straights who may wander in on the right! Celebrate your partner in the ring! What a laugh! Your chance to win £40 is back again with the Annual Halloween Party on 28th Oct. Make sure you dare to dress up and get ready to be set off by the band, drinks giveaways and games will be a huge delight for all those unsuspecting straights who wander off in the street!

If the country agree with you next year, and if we could see into the future, how do believe our LGBT community will have evolved?

There will probably be a long period of shock and a time of adjustment for the country as we realign our institutions but also just emotionally getting used to it! But I hope we will give us all a huge confidence boost – really we can do it. It’s like when you leave home for the first time or start a new job or when you graduate, striving out on your own. We’re ceasing to take that next step. Such a national change will give us hope we have the ability to face up to the serious challenges we all have in the world and to do something about them for ourselves. Trying to find a way to adapt to the world around us, creat- ing a just and fair society - phenomenally dif- ficult issues but saying we will stand up and change the way things work for our own good. It will be a massive step for us, really starting to make the soci- ety the one we all want to be part of.
LIDDELL CENTRE, 15 MORNINGSIDE ROAD, EDINBURGH EH10 5DJ. TEL: 0131-556 9471. WRITE: 58A BROUGHTON ROAD, EDINBURGH EH10 4JL.

CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS TO THE COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS. FREE REGISTRATION TO ADD COMPREHENSIVE DIRECTORY OF LGBT ORGANISATIONS.

INFO@WOMENSLIBRARY.ORG.UK

PUBLICATIONS

TAPED COMMUNITY REPORT TO TO SEVEN ANNUAL REPORTS ON AIDS/STI PREVENTION. AVAILABLE FROM:

UPCOMING MEETINGS: DUNDEE (01382) 202620

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

AIDS PROJECTS:

AIDS ACTION: 58A BROUGHTON ROAD, EDINBURGH EH10 4JL. TEL: 0131-556 9471. WRITE: 58A BROUGHTON ROAD, EDINBURGH EH10 4JL.

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