SCOTS GAY

Back in Dec 1994, the first issue of ScotsGay hit the stands. It featured a young and dark haired Phillip Schofield on the cover – a publicity shot from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Extraordinarily, hearing this, the young picture emerged as a Scottish realisation that the fledgling publication was actually aimed at gay people.

My own involvement with ScotsGay began almost four years later, in Mar '98, when I received a phone call out of the blue from the editor, John Hein. News was that Ian Dunn, the LGBT activist (lesbigay activist back then) had suddenly died from a heart attack. Did I want to contribute to an obituary? I didn’t see eye to eye with Dunn (couldn’t stand the bloke) so I politely declined. An offer to write a monthly gay scene column for the mag was however, happily accepted.

I have nothing but admiration for anyone who writes regally about the gay scene. It’s hard to keep news fresh, relevant and interesting when so often there’s very little to go on. I didn’t last that long, but I did start pencilling a Bi-Vocal piece which centred on Scottish issues affecting fellow bisexuals.

It wasn’t until issue 39, 12 August 2000, that I began regularly reviewing shows at the Edinburgh Fringe. Something I’ve enjoyed ever since. John Hein and Martin Powell had already established ScotsGay as the only LGBT publication that took the world’s largest arts festival seriously, but the number of shows of queer relevance were increasing year on year so I joined them for the fun. By last year that team of three had become a team of sixteen. ScotsGay’s coverage of the Fringe for LGBT folk remains unrivalled.

Issue 65a (Sep 2005) saw me take over as typesetter for the mag. My early attempts at design were pretty woeful – check out the pdf section of the ScotsGay website if you fancy a laugh. What was supposed to be a temporary arrangement lasted 96 issues… I edited ScotsGay from issues 69a-87 (Mar 2006 – Feb 2008) then quit the utterly time-consuming job to co-write and direct a play called ‘This Year’s Thing’ which marked the fortieth anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Later still I sold advertising on behalf of the mag, another temporary arrangement that, well, you get the idea.

And it’s been a pleasure, most of it. It’s true that John Hein and I would often come to blows over some issue – occasionally creative but more often, organisational – but angry swear words would quickly be forgotten and the world kept turning. What John did was give me plenty of opportunities to learn ‘on the job’. I rarely got a thank you, but that’s not his way. I thank him never-the-less.

I’m a big fan of live stand-up comedy and ScotsGay has enabled me to meet many of my favourite comedians, some of whom have become firm friends. I’m delighted that, after penning a couple of terrific pieces over the Fringe, Jo Caulfield has agreed to be a regular contributor. As I quit as arts editor, designer and advertising manager, I know Jo is joining a magazine in safe hands.

Martin Walker

Benedictory

Jesus Gya (Sep 2002) was the take over as hypenamist for the show. His early attempts at design were pretty weak – check out the old section of the ScotsGay website if you fancy a laugh. What was supposed to be a temporary arrangement lasted 96 issues… I joined ScotsGay as hypenamist (Apr 2003). I then quit the job to concentrate on writing and editing. I’ve just celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Later still I sold advertising on behalf of the mag, another temporary arrangement that, well, you get the idea.

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The Big Ben of TV stand-up comedy, ScotsGay has had me in its sights many a time. Perhaps not surprisingly, some of whom have become firm friends. I’ve delighted that, after penning a couple of terrific pieces across the Fringe, Jo Caulfield has agreed to be a regular contributor.

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Martin Walker
The ladies from Fife Inbetweener also meet fortnightly at The Man! The Rock pub in Dysart with the exception of Fri 1st Nov as they will be joining the Out In Fife gang at the Hallowe’en night in Kirkcaldy. This looks like it’s gonna be a busy night in Fife Inbetweener offering everything from social nights to fun days away for the Kingdom’s lesbian community. If you need any more information on them just drop Ceej a wee E-mail: brendethuq@btinternet.com.

And if you’re not quite old enough for these groups, fear not children. There are four youth groups in the kingdom for young LGBT people, all of them with a fabulous team of youth workers. In Glenrothes there’s PROUD, ryancmartlrg@fife.gov.uk, and in Leven lisa.runter@fife.gov.uk, and in Dunfermline there’s CONNECTED, vikki.robertson@fife.gov.uk. A special mention has to go out this month to Kirkcaldy’s Flavours of Fife youth group. Over the last couple of months, the young folks have been working on a video at writing and starring in an educational video to tackle homophobic bullying in schools. I had the pleasure of attending their ‘Silence Helps’ preview screening and was really impressed with the work that the young people had done. Hats off to them, they should be really proud of themselves and perhaps couple of future Hollywood stars in the making. You can get more information on them and their videos by emailing info@gayyouth.org.

Time to go and get creative for the forthcoming Hallowe’en night. If anyone needs more info on it search and ‘like’ Out In Fife on Facebook or E-mail: outinfifeteam@hotmail.co.uk

For you sporty LGBT folks, Simon Venn holds a free jogging session starting from Inverness Leisure every Wed at 6.30pm. All levels of joggers are welcome! Contact him on 0753 535 905 or E-mail: simonvenn@yahoo.co.uk.

Members of the Highland LGBT Forum visited Orkney in September and Shetland in October where the Equality Network hosted a gathering of 30 LGBT folk, their family and friends in Lerwick.

Next year the Forum and LGBT Moray are planning a big event in Nairn. Keep checking www.gay-ness.org.uk for details on this and all other local events.

Hey y’all. After a long awaited re-launch, Out In Fife is back with a Hallowe’en themed night happening at The Windsor Hotel, Kirkcaldy. The date we all need in our diaries is Fri 1st Nov running from 7pm till 1am. The night will consist of a quick AGM where those interested can join the committee as well as a night of getting freaky. You can get free condoms and we are on the subject of sexual. And if you’re not quite old enough for these groups, fear not children. There are four youth groups in the kingdom for young LGBT people, all of them with a fabulous team of youth workers. In Glenrothes there’s PROUD, ryancmartlrg@fife.gov.uk, and in Leven lisa.runter@fife.gov.uk, and in Dunfermline there’s CONNECTED, vikki.robertson@fife.gov.uk. A special mention has to go out this month to Kirkcaldy’s Flavours of Fife youth group. Over the last couple of months, the young folks have been working on a video at writing and starring in an educational video to tackle homophobic bullying in schools. I had the pleasure of attending their ‘Silence Helps’ preview screening and was really impressed with the work that the young people had done. Hats off to them, they should be really proud of themselves and perhaps a couple of future Hollywood stars in the making. You can get more information on them and their videos by emailing info@gayyouth.org.

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Remember... the Lion King: Discover the dark night so all your grubs – grab your seats! And join in the fun of scene... (everyone looks a little bit better in the dark). There will be fun from burning, traditional vigils at the stalls, the upper gallery get fun filled monthly outing out here in the stalls of Dundee. Firstly we welcome back Sandy's Ross and Deanne from their punt away to the South of France and Kilimanjaro at the Edinburgh Playhouse. Span – show us your white bits located poppeth through to Edinburgh for a night last month and wouldn't you love to make a special appearance? And we special mention to our dear friend Mary Woodward who played Rafiki and we asked her what it means to her to be part of the Lion King? So survivors of Africa it makes me proud to be able to dance to the color and music and scenes of my homeland in a way which combines the languages, rhythm and style which can only be found in Africa with the magic of Disney.

The acclaimed stage adaptation of Disney’s 1994 animated film was first seen on Broadway in 1997, where it recently celebrated its 15th anniversary. The production has now been seen by well over 50 million people across continents and the acclaimed West End production continues to sell out at London’s Lyceum Theatre in its 15th triumphant year.

A free exhibitions – EXPLORE THE LION KING – From Inspiration to Realization – is also on display at Edinburgh’s City Art Centre until 12th Jan. This interactive exhibit features costume, character models, sketches, set models and more. Venue: Edinburgh City Art Centre

Andy Watson
Mike Lindsay & Robbie Burns
dundee@scotsgay.co.uk

Klozet’s is full of gorgeous young lads and girls and you’re never going to forget your visit! Peyton Parker, who plays Ralfiki and we asked her what it means to her to be part of the Lion King? So survivors of Africa it makes me proud to be able to dance to the color and music and scenes of my homeland in a way which combines the languages, rhythm and style which can only be found in Africa with the magic of Disney.

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So let’s get to it and see what’s happening on our vibrant scene. Citings plans afoot there is much to see and to do.

Welcome:

The nights are getting darker earlier, Halloween is in sight then the sparkle of the fireworks on 5th Nov and already the shops are filling up with Xmas stock (yes I went there, sorry). The colder weather makes our scenes pubs and clubs and emporia even more inviting and with lots of exciting plans afoot there is much to see and to do. So let’s get to it and see what’s happening on our vibrant scene.

Out on the Scene:

Starting with those hard work peeps at the Equality Network they have their Annual Reception at the Scottish Parliament on 5th Nov. As this year’s reception will be held just two or three weeks before the first crucial Parliamentary vote on the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill the event will focus on the final push for equal marriage in Scotland.

This is your opportunity to make sure MSPs know how important passing this Bill is. So please go to: http://www.equality-network.org/about/annual-reception/.

Down on Dublin Street it’s all change at the New Town Bar from whence bar manager Stephen James Martin has now departed for pastures new. During Stephen’s tenure, the bar had a complete makeover and now sports a fresh look in both the upstairs and downstairs bar along with brand new toilets. The instigation of the food menu and the bar’s transformation as a performance venue and hub during the 2013 Edinburgh Fringe was also down to Stephen and his hard working team. Life changes many things and Stephen has left to return to his true passion in the theatre world, but the bar remains moving ever forward and will continue to offer the best food and drink and entertainment and we will continue to have all the Goss from the goings on right here in ScotsGay. From everyone here in ScotsGay, a massive thank you to Stephen for all you achieved especially the funds raised for Waverley Care during your tenure and best of luck for the future, Lovely!

Back in 1993 an LGBT scene institution was born when Joy rocked the Cahon Studios (now Studio 24) and although the club night closed over seven years ago, Joy is back for a 20th Anniversary special edition on Sat 23rd Nov back in its old, kicking off at 10:30pm, the original DJ Steve up of Maggie Joy, Alan Joy, Trendy Wendy, DJ Michelle and Brett King all re-turn, with tickets priced at £10 (££ on the night from the door) which are available at both The Regent and Café Nom De Plume. This is one trip down memory lane you don’t want to miss out on.

GHO Clubnight out at Mood Nightclub got off to an amazing start. With Thu nights packing in the punters with top drinks promotions, the best DJs and a range of special theme nights coming up, this is one night that’s set to stay on the scene for a very long time. I’ve heard nothing but good things from those who have already gone and experienced the return of the legendary night club and if you go along to Planet for the pre club, make sure you get Cisz or one of her team to stamp you for reduced entry price into GHO.

The end of Oct will see many of our scene venues getting into a spooky tastic mood as all the venues get into the Halloween spirit with various theme nights and promotions on offer. Starting with Habana they have their Monster Ball on Sun 3rd Nov. They are going all out with the decorations as they simply love Halloween! The ghoulish Lady Razzle Dazzle will be performing a spooky-tastic show at 8pm! It’s going to be a camp, scary, feet! Prizes for best dressed and caustion cocktails will also be available from the bar. Miss Cosi Crown returns from Benidorm and will be performing a show for World AIDS Day. Her shows are always extremely popular. Check on Facebook for exact date and more details. Confustic Karaoke is is popular as ever every Thu from ginn with Di Paton. Also don’t forget to check out the Facebook pages for CC Blooms, Planet, New Town Bar, The Regent and all the other venues we are so lucky to have on our scene.

Final Thoughts:

Oct is always a quite month out there in the city. So, as we head into the final part of the year with the various celebrations that bring, it’s so good to see so much going on in our vibrant scene. It’s also a great thing that new club nights are flourishing as demonstrated by GHO and we mark the best of our past with the return of for one night only. It’s all there for your choosing and the scene is there to let you be who you are, without judgement – something which is massively important. Speaking of which, I hear the wheels of the pride machine are now starting to turn for Pride Scotia 2014, on Sat 23rd Jun, so look out for more info in future editions of the mag!

Finally whatever you choose to do in the coming month, have fun and stay safe! Brett x
HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS GROUP and available by phoning 0906 Daily 10am -11pm.

MON-THU 6 pm -2am, Fri 6 pm - for life.

wwww.amis.org.uk


0141-248 996 9.

@ diversitylgbt

850087.

and act as a consulting body to all

clydebanklgbt@yahoo.co.uk

A.L.E.D. LGBT (Equality of Dumfries and Galloway.

Brechtin. DD9 7AT. Tel: 07543 975590.

TRAQUAIR CENTRE, 15 MANSFIELD STREET, FORRES FROM 10.30AM.

WEB TALK GROUP:

Meet in the back lounge, side

of the creative process. No

friends. Information line: 07963

inform@eppingford.org.uk

No need to book, just turn up.

of the social side is just as important

and to sign-up:

to share, or would like to find out

comorbidities and social isolation.

of the Out-skirts online magazine

PO BOX 6754, London. WC1A 1LB.

@ EdwardCarpenterCommunity

@ Alianah.

March onwards, Monday 6pm - 8.30pm.

Bears

CLUBS: Gay & Lesbian Social Group (South Lanarkshire)

The University of Edinburgh

CARS: Edinburgh Gay Men's Group (South Lanarkshire)

CONTACT: Intersex Scotland

An Intersex group for anyone identifying as intersex in Scotland.

Intersex Scotland is a network of volunteers and activists working across Scotland to raise awareness of the experiences of intersex people and to promote equal rights for everyone. The group is led by people with first-hand experience of intersex.
Thursday 31st October
Hallowe’en Themed Drinks
Shots from £1.50
Fancy Dress Competition
Fundraising for LGBT Youth Scotland
Raffles and Auction
Hallowe’en Quiz starts at 8.30pm in Planet Bar
Continue the Party in GHQ until 3am

ghqclub@outlook.com

Every Thursday
Pre-club Party at Planet Bar
Win £100 at the Weekly Quiz

£3 ENTRY - £1 Students

THE GHQ EXPERIENCE
WITH MISS CILLA SLACK AND FRIENDS

Discount entry passes to the NEW GHQ CLUB night @ Mood available - just like old times