Equal marriage
– what happens next?

Tim Hopkins, Equality Network

On Nov 20th, MSPs voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill. This is the bill that will introduce same-sex marriage, as well as removing the requirement for trans people to divorce before getting gender recognition. The vote was on the general principles of the bill – the ‘stage 1’ vote.

After five years of campaigning by the Equality Network and our partners, this was the MSPs’ first chance to vote on equal marriage. It was a free vote, where the parties leave it to each of their MSPs to decide how to vote, rather than imposing a party line. 98 MSPs voted in favour of equal marriage, with only 15 voting against. 5 pressed the ‘abstain’ button, while 9 other MSPs were unable to be present for the vote. Of those 9, 8 have said publicly that they support marriage equality.

98 to 15 is the third biggest majority in favour of equal marriage of any Parliament in the world. However, we cannot take anything for granted. The next vote by the whole Parliament will be the final vote – the ‘stage 3’ vote – probably in Feb 2014. Some MSPs who support the general principle of same-sex marriage might not like every detail of the bill, so might not continue their support then.

And between now and then, there are two stages at which the bill may be amended: stage 2 in the Equal Opportunities Committee in Dec and Jan, and stage 3 in the whole Parliament. Opponents of equal marriage will no doubt be seeking amendments that undermine equality, which we must defend against.

We will also be working for a few small but important amendments, to improve the parts of the bill that affect trans and intersex people. The campaign will continue until full marriage equality is achieved! You can find more details on the Equality Network’s website:

www.equality-network.org
Don’t forget the Inverness LGBT Youth Group meets Every Tue from 7-9pm at the Black Dog, Ace Street. Contact Kim on 07974 956050.

Waverley Care High is organising its annual event for World AIDS Day at St Andrews Church, starting at 3.30 pm on Sun 5th Dec. All welcome. Tel in advance to E-mail highland@waverleycare.org.

Their outreach team visits Old Wood and North Kessock on Wed and Fri each week, distributing condoms and safer sex information for half an hour at each location between 2am and 3pm. They also run a lunchtime event and final Fri of month (pm), Brighton Park (second Wed of the month) and final Fri of the month (pm). Cardridge (third Wed of month) and second Fri of the month (pm). Nairn (final Wed of month) and first Fri of the month (pm).

The big show to ever visit Scotland is officially open and a stunning evening at the theatre it truly is. The first ten minutes of the show are worth the ticket price alone. We are instantly transported to the African Plains with a stunning rendition of ‘Circle of Life’ as a cavalcade of animals appears from every corner of the theatre. With Guguwana Dlaminii setting her stall of talent out early as Rafiki she embodies the essence of the show delivering a power house vocal and a very emotional lunchtime event throughout the show. The story of Simba the lion cub learning to become king in the animal kingdom while many seek to become top of the tree is cleverly balanced with the tale of love, and trying to force your father proud.

This is a show of colour and lush with a very expensive set design and upwards of a hundred costumes deployed throughout the production. Songs such as “He Lives in You,” “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” and of course “Can You Feel The Love Tonight” are going the Disney treatment with special- tacular choreography and clever use of puppetry which leaves the audience spellbound.

The Lion King’s schogue successful and continues to enjoy a West End run Lon- don alongside this touring version of the show currently calling the Playhouse home because of its exacting details and dedication of its performers. The show is also not only to the fact that this is the Scot- tish Lion King. The character of Zazu the tortois is given a Scottish accent and Scot- tish references are delivered with excel- lent comic timing by Melvin Glyn.

The Lion King is no means a cheap night out at the theatre but it’s worth every penny and sure to be a real Ayras treat. With colour, humour, songs, lush sets and pure escapism it makes the Lion King a truly unforgettable experience. So don’t miss out!

The biggest show to ever visit Scotland is officially open and a stunning evening at the theatre it truly is. The first ten minute of the show are worth the ticket price alone. We are instantly transported to the African Plains with a stunning rendition of ‘Circle of Life’ as a cavalcade of animals appears from every corner of the theatre. With Guguwana Dlaminii setting her stall of talent out early as Rafiki she embodies the essence of the show delivering a power house vocal and a very emotional lunchtime event throughout the show. The story of Simba the lion cub learning to become king in the animal kingdom while many seek to become top of the tree is cleverly balanced with the tale of love, and trying to force your father proud.

This is a show of colour and lush with a very expensive set design and upwards of a hundred costumes deployed throughout the production. Songs such as “He Lives in You,” “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” and of course “Can You Feel The Love Tonight” are going the Disney treatment with spec- tacular choreography and clever use of puppetry which leaves the audience spellbound.

The Lion King’s schogue successful and continues to enjoy a West End run Lon- don alongside this touring version of the show currently calling the Playhouse home because of its exacting details and dedication of its performers. The show is also not only to the fact that this is the Scot- tish Lion King. The character of Zazu the tortois is given a Scottish accent and Scot- tish references are delivered with excel- lent comic timing by Melvin Glyn.

The Lion King is no means a cheap night out at the theatre but it’s worth every penny and sure to be a real Ayras treat. With colour, humour, songs, lush sets and pure escapism it makes the Lion King a truly unforgettable experience. So don’t miss out!
H e re we go with the penultimate round up of the Xmas shenanigans and a few thoughts before we round the corner and go straight to charity! Go along with full access to the bar, also on 30th Nov, Klozet will be bringing us Mr. and Mrs. Pride and his staff will always make a sensational return to the bar on Sat 14th and finishing the year on a high, we will see Kelly Wilde on Hogmanay.

There’s some exciting stuff this Sally Dog bag, also as Dare Does is the pre party on 17th Dec with a whole host of amazing DJs, then it’s Mr. Xmas, Xmas, Xmas, all the right ones this weekend, so it’s time to get out there, get shopping and be fabulous.

With Kizetto opening its doors from noon onwards, they are managing to raise a good bit of money for Children in Need on 15th Nov, by having a Cranium Night. On 20th Nov, there will be yet another amazing Fundraiser Night for the help in the Haiyan Disaster 7.30pm with Scarlett Diamonte and Miss Cherry Beeloved on stage from 9pm, till late. Kizetto also have their Mistletoe shoes for Dec with The Lewis Hamilton Band on Fri 6th, and just when we thought that there wasn’t enough, Scarlett Diamonte is back with us again on Sat 20th. The controversial Queens of Pop will make a sensational return to the bar on Sat 27th and finishing the year on a high, we will see Kelly Wilde on Hogmanay.

There aren’t enough people doing it’s a shame, so let’s pop in from 5-8pm, costing £3 to get in. I’m sure that anyone who has seen the wonderful work of the cast. He will be adding some good to get someone that nice gift, or just have a good day. Dundee and Angus College have opened an Xmas shop, so stop by and find something to give to your loved one. #gmh, there are red ribbons in all of the bars. Here’s wishing you all a wonderful Christmas, and as 2015 comes into view, we will look forward to seeing you all back here in the New Year.

Andi Watson
abberdunedin@scotsgay.co.uk

Marc Lerra
dundee@scotsgay.co.uk

Brett Herriot
edinburgh@scotsgay.co.uk

dun deansh

Criz
glasgow@scotsgay.co.uk

Brett Herriot
How to protect your partner from losing the house

Do you know how to make sure your partner won’t be thrown out of the house if you die?

Do you think a Cohabitation Agreement might help you?

Have you considered making a Power of Attorney to have someone look after your affairs if you’re not able?

If these issues affect you, get in touch with Donald Skinner-Reid at MHD now.

At MHD we have an award winning team of experts in all aspects of Family Law ready to help you.

Call Donald now on 0131 555 0616 or email donald.skinnerreid@mhdlaw.co.uk

Photo credits: Jane Carnall/LGBT Finance and Equality Network
Edinburgh needs a new addition to the Scene....

Watch this space or Find us on Facebook
“Edinburgh Needs a New Nightclub”

This font is a clue