DISCRIMINATION DAMAGES LIVES

YES FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

AAA Anti Austerity Alliance

ISSUE 162
Dear friends, queer friends,... Your raving ScotsGay correspondent here yet again, like Janus with one face toward the past and the other looking to the future. Yes, a classical reference but with the word anus in it. Now that the tone is set, let’s get started!

It was International Day Against Homophobia, Bi-phobia and Transphobia on 19th May. To coincide with this, the LGBT Youth Scotland released their Life In Scotland report, which compiles the findings of the survey they undertook back in 2011. The full report is available on their website but the general feel lies in stark contrast to the EGA Europe Rainbow Europe Index, which put Scotland 1st in Europe for LGBT rights. Either things have changed dramatically in the past three years, perhaps there are inherent fears held by younger community members (the LGBT Youth Scotland survey polled participants aged 13 to 25) or maybe the genuine needs of our community are deeply nuanced and can’t be held in a statistical context.

As Tom French of the Equality Network points out, “We know there is still much more to do to achieve full equality for LGBTI people in Scotland”. Find it astonishing sometimes, looking at the progress we’ve made over the last 25 years, the maximum lifespan of the LGBT Youth Scotland participants which happens to be the time for which I’ve been out. Compacency is alluring after such a long struggle but it’s not over yet. There are still challenges and struggles, which with our collective energy and resources can become victories.

Great congratulations to our neighbours in the near- West as Ireland celebrate an overwhelming Yes vote in favour of marriage equality. The really interesting thing is they become the first country in the world to approve gay marriage as a popular national vote. Historically we rely on change happening legally then being followed by cultural change. Very well done to all who took part in the Yes campaign; who travelled home to vote, shared their personal stories and canvassed hard. The bizarre moment of the result day was seeing Panti Bliss on RTE with Gerry Adams. For once, I simply had no words.

I’d like to personally address those who may from time to time voice their harsh criticism of Pride events. If you think they should be better, volunteer next year and help make them even better. If you genuinely wonder why we still need Pride, please do me just one small favour. Go online, visit youtube and search for Why Pride? by Sister Unity. Watch the first video in the results. Listen. Repeat. I’ll miss things out if you don’t tell me about them. I don’t want to retire after 18 years service) and it’s really rewarding to get involved, to help hold safe and happy space for your community.

There’s a sense of joy in welcoming somebody to their first Pride, perhaps even being the first person to acknowledge their authentic identity. Even if you don’t de- cide to steward officially, I would urge you to go and approach people. Maybe you’re with a group of friends and you spot someone on their own, invite them to join you. Pass them a balloon. Reach out. If you’re on your own, spot a banner you like, march with them. Go up to the nearest steward or Sister of Perpetual Indulgence and say hello. Connect. There can be no better day to get out of your comfort zone. Pride Glasgow have just announced that Texas will be closing their weekend as the final act on 23rd Aug. Wonderful news for other people over 30 who, like me, have no idea what a Union J is.

The Edinburgh Fringe will be here before we know it (7th to 31st Aug), so be on the lookout for Fringe programmes but more importantly your ScotsGay guide – don’t forget to check out reviews on SGFringer.com throughout the month. It’s also a good idea to ensure your dating app subscriptions are up to date, because accommodation is expensive and all those struggling artists need places to stay. You know, in a way we’re supporting the Arts. Yes, that sounds about right. Why, I’m practically a Patron for that!

I’ll miss things out if you don’t tell me about them. Please send details of up- coming events, marriage proposals and hate mail to news@scotsgay.co.uk.
A s I sit writing this in the warm sunshine of the garden it feels like summer is finally here! The highlights of the summer months are the many Pride festivals taking place up and down the UK. Edinburgh has played host to Pride Scotia for many years and 2015 sees a big change as Pride Scotland becomes Pride Edinburgh to reflect our city as Scotland’s capital and leader in equality. Celebrating Pride still matters as we have the ability and right to do so without fear of persecution which for some folks living in other countries simply do not have such ability; that’s why Pride matters.

The Pride Edinburgh main event is on Sat 26th June beginning with the Pride Scotia March. People wishing to join the march should assemble on the south lawn beside the Scottish Parliament (opposite the Palace of Holyrood) at 12.30pm. The march will depart sharp at Noon and will proceed up the Royal Mile. It will halt outside the City Chambers at approximately 1.30pm for speeches before departing at 2pm continuing up the Royal Mile and then turning left into George IV Bridge and heading for Potterrow and Tivost House - the venue for Pride Edinburgh party afternoon. Due to the redevelopment of Atria’s South, organisations are having to take the event indoors so the Pride Arena is inside the Potterrow building on the first floor and will feature a stellar line up of acts hosted by Alice Rabbit. Benedict Garrett and Edinburgh’s own Phatt Anne. Confirmed acts include boy band Rewind, Allan Joy and Mr Gay UK 2013 himself Stuart Moten Jr. Meanwhile over in Tivost House there will be the Cabaret Stage, Tea Dance hosted by the Order of Perpetual Indulgence (a no alcohol space), DJ bring your spice, Trans Space, the Health and Community Fair and the exclusive VIP Lounge. Full details can be found on the Pride Edinburgh website www.prideedinburgh.org

Pride Edinburgh is collaborating with LGBT Youth Scotland as LGBT Youth presents the Pride Youth Space. LGBT Youth Scotland will have a large presence on the March, with young people joining us from across Scotland. At youth groups over the next weeks they will be designing banners and preparing costumes. If you would like to join them for the run-up please contact info@lgbtyouth.org.uk for groups near you.

Watch the LGBT Youth Pride film made last year www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dA9rQn-Ec4.

Pride LGBT Youth will also have a fantabulous Youth Space at Potterrow with young people performing live music (please let them know if you would like to perform) There will be information stalls, activities and much merriment. For full details go to www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/edinburgh

Well that’s it for this column. I hope you will join us on Sat 26th June or for the events surrounding it. In a time where the LGBTI community has gained many rights and legal protections there is still further to go for our brothers and sisters around the globe so join us and celebrate 20 years of Pride in Scotland and celebrate because we can celebrate that we love the people we love and are proud to do so!

Whatever you choose to do in the coming month, have fun and stay safe!

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Speaking of community developments, a brand spanking new LGBTI Scotland specific radio station (based in notorious homosexual/hotspot Hamilton) is on the airwaves. Local DJ Darren Pop who is fronting his very own Wed night show is the newest recruit to X Press Radio Scotland!

Good luck and have you seen Benedict Garrett? QDFT is an undeniably cool place!

As always our pubs and clubs have been working hard into the wee hours to provide beverages! Whatever night of the week, AXM has all those gorgeous boys and girls working hard into the wee hours to make your night one to remember! So, until next month, get out more, have fun and stay safe!

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Arts for artsake... revolves around a 15-year-old amateur... his relationships with his parents... The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time. Festival Theatre

The greatest achievement of the whole production is its refreshing inventiveness which truly brings aspiration back to the theatre. Anything is truly possible with enough belief and even the most imaginative ideas can be executed on the stage.

The National Theatre is delivering on its promise of developing the very best of British talent. The stage is electrically charged with understanding to the predicaments surrounding the death of a neighbour’s dog.


Thief: “Sailor thrives in the bars, dives and brothels of only the most seedy locales. Look and you will see him. Sailor lives for robbery, imprisonment and mischief. Be his victim. Sailor's virtues are simple: rent, theft and betrayal. Join him.”

Influenced by the life and works of past American greats, Thief appeared at Prithvi Festival 2012, festival premieres at the Edinburgh Fringe and gained critical success with the play receiving the Editor of Children Playing Before a Statue of Hercules. An Anthology of Outstanding Stories. Sedaris’s pieces appear regularly in *The New Yorker* and *Harper’s*.

SG: Does having an openly gay actor compared to two heterosexual actors playing the role of Sailor change the dimensions of the character?

SR: “The most important thing about the character of Sailor is that he is fluidity. The actor’s sexuality is either straight or gay. But the audience understands that Sailor is very different. All are damaged and vulnerable in different ways. One is a desire, psychotic and threatening. Another more insidious, sinister even. But all are electrically charged with amazing unpredictability and highly wired.”

SG: The Character of Sailor never reveals his sexuality although he does sleep with men for cash. Is this a deliberate blurring of the lines considering the source material?

SR: “I think it’s a case of trying to bring the human elements to life. Emotional ties society likes to use to neatly package what Sailor sees as a purely physical exchange. There is no source material as sailor was inspired by Jean Genet and many others, it is an original work.”

SG: And finally what can our readers and those attending Prithvi Edinburgh expect from an hour with Sailor this Pride Edinburgh and festival beyond at the Fringe?

SR: “Which ever actor you see, Thief is a rollercoaster of emotions in the fastest sense. It will make you laugh and it will make you cry. It may even turn you on. Most of all, however, it will make you think.”

SG: So much new films are being made that in desperation the industry has decided to revive the best of the past on new digital prints. ONLY ANGELS HAVE WINGS from 1939 has Cary Grant running a ramshackle airmail and freight service in the Peruvian Andes dodging treacherous mountain ranges in terrible weather. Said Juan Antonio watered her way home to the Station who becomes infatuated with Cary as the world public did as he was starting in movies for over 30 years. He must be seen in A- FRACTURED IN 2010 and immediately hit the NYT Best Seller Fiction List. And he is a sailor. So far Sedaris has collaborated under the name “The Talent Family” and have written half-a-dozen plays, which have been produced at La Mama, Lincoln Center, and The Drama Department in New York.

David Sadaris will perform at Edinburgh’s Usher Hall on 17th June Ticket Hotline: 0844 888 9999
dundee@scotsgay.co.uk

 drop us a line at publisher@scotsgay.co.uk

This cover is a period in his life in which for two consecutive Xmases in the early 90s, he was a Xmas Elf at Santaland in the famous New York department store Macy’s. These are the extracts from his diaries at the time and this story was given a rare outing on Radio 4, the Santaland Diaries. One day David is working to sell toys throughout America and the World. He hadn’t reached them out load for nearly twenty years!

Prior to moving to live in the UK and becoming more widely known thanks to his live readings and radio appearances, Sedaris had established himself as one of America’s most celebrated humour writers. The great skill with which he writes through cultural euphemisms and political correctness the master of satire, one of the most observant writers addressing the human condition, the man who could “lift your spirits reading out the phone book”. David Sedaris’ latest book *Let’s Explore Diabetes With Owls* received universal acclaim. He is also the author of *Holding Up Your Own* and *Taking A Trip*. David Sadaris has also written and performed a dozen plays, which have been produced at La Mama, Lincoln Center, and The Drama Department in New York. David has been nominated for three Grammy Awards for Best Spoken Word and Best Comedy Album.

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FILMS TO KNOW ABOUT by Mike McGrath

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The National Theatre is delivering on its promise of developing the very best of British talent. The stage is electrically charged with understanding to the predicaments surrounding the death of a neighbour’s dog. Such was FREAKS’(1929) about a life and truly allows Christopher’s mind to explore visually across the stage. Mixed with excellent movement design, the play’s writer and director Liam Rudden and posad a few questions! We need a new writer for Dundee...
Steampool Dry Sauna
Labyrinth Massage
Cafe Lounge
Free Internet
Large Spa Pool
Vertical Tanning

£7 Lockers & £12 Cabins
before 2pm Mon-Fri
£7 Lockers for Students
under 26’s at all times.

Breathe, Breathe, Cotton!...
THE BIG GAY BALL DOES GLASGOW

7.00pm to 1.00am at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow

Charity fundraiser for The Equality Network, LGBT Youth Scotland and Waverley Care

£65 per person, £600 per table of ten, Early bird £60 per person if bought before end of June

Three Course meal, champagne reception, half bottle wine per person. Raffle and Auction.

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