The Panto Preview:

Pantos are opening around the country and here are some of the biggest! King’s Theatre Edinburgh plays host to Allan Stewart, Andy Gray and the big hit themselves. Letterkenny Mr. Duff Stott with Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Musselburgh and Portobello go head to head with two productions of Enid Blyton. The Brunton Theatre in Musselburgh are bringing Mark Cox’s creation to life while following the success of their debut performance last year. Momentum Entertainment return to Portobello’s Wash House with Cinderella. In Aberdeen, Elaine C Smith leads the charge into His Majesty’s Theatre with the Oils Produced Peter Pan. In Glasgow ODOS are bringing David Hausehoff to the SECC along with the Krankies and Michelle MacManus. For a Peter Pan and across town Rob C. Don Chalmers (George (first act as Nicola before unleashing a big brassy production number complete with In stant costume change to open act two featuring a cameo by her former boss. The crowd is loving it. The Gang need to get those digs in against the local newspapers and the new leader of the Labour party which while funny to some isn’t quite as funny to others. Then however is perhaps the worst of the Gang Show, if you don’t like a sketch you can get your bottom dollar it will soon go over and the next item will knock your eyes out. The opening sketches are a magnificent performance by Cameron Kilday of the song. But from Mrs. Spina’s which is beautifully judged to lead the Gang into the finale with Hannah Knowles performing, the opening direction and its assured of a tremendous future as this is one of the end of the road for the show. Do you what you must to ensure your night, your night and you get just a glimpse closer to Heaven.

Mozart & Fan Tutte Scottish Opera

Reviewed by Mary Woodward

The really struggle with Cosi: the music is sublime but off the plot... Two young men are fed up of their fiancées: their tutor invites them to test this with the help of the girl’s maid, Despina. They pretend to go away, and return in disguise to woo each other’s betrothed. At first both girls resist, but one succumbs swiftly. The other resists bravely, but finally goes week – whereas the deception is revealed and the tutor says: “I told you so”. He advises the couples to go back to their original pairings, saying “you may be safer, but you’re also a lot wiser.” You might see this as a simple realist: I find the cynical deception and the act this causes almost impossible to forgive.

This production was so superb I forgot all my reservations until the very final scene. Set in 1960’s Italy, where sisters Fiordiligi and Dorabella are opening a dress shop, the simple set started with the drapery windows facing us, then cleverly reverse to place most of the action inside the shop and then transform into the garden in which the seductions take place. The girls’ friends were delighted, and the foreigners’ slightly exotic and flamboyant disguise was completely credible. The translation was lovely and kept the audience engaged and entertained throughout, and Nick Fitcher’s direction from the piano kept the action moving at a cracking pace.

It was a joy to have young and perfectly cast singers playing and the agencies of young love: all are names to watch out for in future. Rosalind Coates’s strongly defined Fiordiligi and Jenna Fabian’s Despina are in tune with the vocal demands of core scolo and more than capable of speaking them. Emma Kerr’s Dorabella was a real drama queen, easily overcome and eager to persuade her sister, and to join her in playing with fire. Trystan Llyr Griffiths’ Ferrando and Ben McIntyre’s Guglielmo were as ‘wrong’ girls so beautifully and with such ardour that I began to wonder whether they’d ever really loved the ‘right’ girls... Jennifer France’s Despina, ever the realist, relished her involvement in the deception, sang delightfully and displayed excellent comic timing. James Mc-Campbell’s Don Alfonso, elegant and detached in his cream suit, was manipulated as everyone expected and waited to be prove right: cool fan tutte all women are thus.

Another triumph for Scottish Opera’s touring programme!

Cool Fan Tutte toured Stirling, Helensburgh, Ayr, Kilmarnock, Dundee, Blyth, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, Wick, Inverness, Musselburgh, St Andrews, Greensock, Oban, Ullapool, Stornoway, Poltrock and Linlithgow.

for Festival Programme and more information check out... www.prideedinburgh.org.uk
Available here on iPlayer after broadcast. To be worth a watch on a cold wintry evening, however, not for a warm summer night on the screen too. It’s sure to offer. I also hear the clunging a perfect stranger…it’s Xmas! For those not able to make a ‘Halloween’ costume and selfishly special pair go to MySTI: Hole for her Detox Inspired dead wife look. (Her moan will be coming up shortly). As well as holding a spoof. One thing that almost certainly will not return to the small screen this year is Miss Piggy. I found a pattern in the absence that some of them seem to rest on what they’re known for. As much as I appreciated watching Mika peep at her ‘Oh no she betta don’t look like syn’; I much preferred when La Gypsi Esmeralda and Gia Gunn hit the stage and used their famous quotes and turned them into snazzy songs with routines and death drops (or near death experience drops in Gia Gunn’s case). We’re all aware of how much we depend on our artists and have to keep it fresh…you know, like Mysti’s vagina.)

Looking ahead, in Dec we obviously have the spectacular A Lad in Tights, following sell out hits such as Fannie and Tom Harlow, this year features the debut lead of Jordan Abberley who is set to astound you as we travel through Peking and will be coming up shortly! As well as holding a spoof. Also in Dec, we have the hilarious Mz Acid Taint who is set to astound you as we travel through Peking and will be coming up shortly! As well as holding a spoof.

A Fabulous History of Gay Scotland will be screened on BBC 1 Scotland on Mon 16th Dec at 9pm, featuring stories about a time when it was illegal to be gay in Scotland and the struggle ever since. I hear you may see Tom Harlow and perhaps a familiar diva who sings the Waterloo. So pass by for a chant Pride and with new alt pro LGBT cabaret night Pandora Boxx is hosting the Mr Gay Scotland Alternative club night A Lad In Tights is going to offer. I also hear Pandora Boxx is making her Scottish debut at Katies in the Worst Show Ever in Dec, sure to be lots of laughs.

The Waterloo has the lovely Christine Macdonald on karaoke on Sun afternoons, she is such a wee star! So go for a posy by a song. The Gallery will I’m sure have live entertainment and great drinks promotions on offer for the festive period. The Merchant Pride will have the gorgeous Barbara Bryceland on Sat then the even more gorgeous Bruce Fraser Doing the reggae? AXM is hosting the Mr Gay Scotland finals for Mr Gay World, so if you want to have a peep at some peccy get on over. Manager also held the last show of this year with the fabulous and ever lovely Jordan. I’m not sure what to do with photos of house queens Ann Retamone, Jessica Diamond and Miles Brown. They will be back in Feb for Tova and Katynoir.

The Polo Lounge with those ever banging DJs Bellev De Mal and my close personal friend Danny, whether it’s a work Mon, a cheapo Thu or a funky Sat, you’ll be dancing all night long and disco winning a perfect stranger…it’s Xmas. Alternative club night Contra at The Brunswick had another punky funky fresh night this month, PVS at the Art School was a hot hootenanny! DILF at the Poetry Club and with new alt pro LGBT cabaret night Trigger at the Classic Grand, Hot Mass and others we certainly have lots of choice and variety in our wee city! So go exploring! Have fun! I’ll speak to you all next month in the festive edition.

World AIDS Day is coming up and this year’s theme across Scotland is “WHATIFMYTAUX” takes a close look into reducing stigma and prejudice. Please see the posters and information around various events GMH have put together around WAD this year. Including: Educational stalls across Grampian’s universities and colleges, red ribbon initiative, red party fund raiser, town centre information points, MBST Testing, stigma busting interactions and a candlelight vigil.

GMH is inviting people from Aberdeen and the North East of Scotland to a special flash mob to show support for World AIDS Day on Sat Dec. The flash mob will form a human red ribbon, with participants dressing in red clothing to show their support and solidarity with people living with and affected by HIV. A minimum of sixty people is required for this but the more there are the bigger the ribbon will be. Each person will be wearing red tops (trousers if possible) and will form the shape of a red ribbon which will then be photographed and put on-line for WAD 2016.

When: 26th Nov at 2pm. Where: Union Terrace Gardens, Aberdeen. Why: To raise awareness of World AIDS Day. Message: To show support and solidarity for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS around the world.

This month’s Moan will be short and sweet due to the volume of photos in this issue.

STOP ADVERTISING XMAS BEFORE HALLOWEEN!!! Think about it, how much money could be made on capitalizing Halloween as a holiday for adults and kids? Also: It’s a cheap trick to dressing like an absolute idiot and every one’s OK with it, stop shoving Xmas down our throats, we want sweets down our throats! Not Jolly Holly whatever the hell it is. Just Stop…OK!!

That folks, is it for this month’s article. Next month I shall be discussing what lies ahead in 2016 for Aberdeen and discussing ways of setting rational achievable goals. Till next month folks.
**CAFE NOM DE PLOMBE**
60 Broughton Street. Tel: 0131-552 5761. W ed-Sun 5pm-3am. New club in the UK and is also the oldest gay drinking shop. Scotland's oldest gay bar.

**DELMONICA’S BAR**
552 5761. W ed-Sun 5pm-3am. Busy gay bar with friendly staff.

**PLANET**

**KA TIE’S BAR**
477 3567. Daily 11am-11pm. New and upmarket gay bar. Stylish sauna forming part of busy gay hotel and sauna complex. Includes large spa pool, sauna cabin, large steam room, video access, tanning booth. Lockers required. £14 (£10 conc). www.katiebar.co.uk

**KA TIE’S LOUNGE**
42 Gilmour Street. Cover charge.

**SPER IER LOUNGE**
42 Gilmour Street. Entrance and lounge bar.

**THE SANDY’S**
9 Of South Merchiston Circle. Tel: 0131-662 9112. Sun N oon-5pm. Locally owned and operated. Free Wi Fi. www.sandysedinburgh.co.uk

**THE STICKY BITS CAFE’**
CARLISLE
13 Hadrian Street. Tel: 01224 7338. 5pm-3am. New club in the former Bennet’s premises. www.stickybitscafe@hotmail.com

**SILK & SECRETS**
23-24 Greenside Place. Tel: 0131-668 7717. 12noon-11pm. Gay club in the former Pump Room. www.silksandsecrets.com

**THE BROADCAST**
18 Albert Place, Leith Walk. Tel: 0131-622 3650. W ed-Sat 8pm-3am. Popular club in the former ‘On Top of the World’ building.

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