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Cover: balletboyz

Haydn Pope  
news@scotsgay.co.uk  

In this digital age, more and more phone apps are coming to the market and also into our societal awareness. Alongside other gay dating apps, a new service is being launched called POZ (Positive Connections), for people who are HIV-positive and looking for love. Founder Andrew Goyensett was diagnosed in 2013 and like so many others has faced stigma and rejection over his status. POZ seeks to provide an opportunity for people to meet and date, as well as additional functions relating to health services. It’s available to download via Apple and Android stores. The Sexual Advice Association has also launched a new app called SMART, which will give comprehensive advice on a range of sexual health issues for men and women. I’ve asked them whether there is anything specific for MSM, gay women and Trans sexual health needs. It would be such a shame if they were not as useful and inclusive as an early-90’s sex education video. We’ll see.

On a lighter note, Pride Youth Games is to be held 30th July at Stirling University. For more information on to register, visit lgbtports.org. The Games are a UK wide event for LGBTI young people aged 16-25 and there will be a relay, Discus and Snooker relay, Stock Marathons and Wrestling Contests? Synchronised Snoring? Sign me up for that! Gold medal (made of chocolate preferably).

If you’re looking for culture this month, Balletboyz are tearing the UK and bring their brand of insane hotness to the King’s Theatre Edinburgh on 22nd May, then Dundee Rep 23rd-24th May. Failing that, hold on until July cause we’ve got the Ab Fab movie to look forward to. Two months to go! At the rate we’re losing celebrities this year (Victoria Wood and Prince in the space of a couple of days) we’d better form a protective circle around June Whitfield quickly!

Zander Bruce  

At the end of May, I had the pleasure of being at the LGBTI Hustings, which saw leaders of the five major political parties in Scotland come together to discuss politics with a queer bent. Hosted by Stonewall Scotland, the Equality Network, LGBTI Youth Scotland and the Scottish Transgender Alliance the event was something I never thought I’d see – the leaders of a country being held accountable by our community directly, on our terms. Subjects discussed were inclusive education, funding for Sandyford Clinic and plans for legal recognition of Intersex people during the next Parliament. Few amongst knew that just a couple of days later Kezia Dugdale who was in attendance would come out as being in a relationship with a woman. Officially this gives us the most LGBTI government body in the world. Including UKRP (the son’s shining, so I’m feeling generous), four of the six main parties in Scotland are led by LGBTI people (I look forward to the day we get to add AIM to that as well). Yes, there was a random ridget shooting untelligible abuse from outside that sent a ripple of unease through the audience and the moment between Ruth Davidson and presenter Louise White where suddenly it all got awkward (like the realisation a fight just broke out with any idea of how it started), though generally it was a lovely event and quite a milestone.

One subject that was hinted at by Kezia but wasn’t covered due to time constraints was the recent decision by NHS England to not pursue the introduction of PrEP on the National Health. Subsequently Nicola Sturgeon has measured that Scotland will determine its own policy and this month NHS England have announced they “will carefully consider its position on commissioning PrEP”. The estimate is that for every day that PrEP is not available seven MSM (Men who have Sex with Men) will be diagnosed as HIV Positive. I read a haunting article the other day relating to a Robert Maplethorpe exhibition and lamenting the lives lost to AIDS, the cultural loss of the artists, visionaries and the contribution they would have made. Where are the elders who should have been here to guide and inspire this generation?

Haydn Pope, owner of AXM in Glasgow, sadly passed away last month after a long battle with cancer at the age of 92. AXM will continue to operate but all profits will go to the Mimi Malawi charity which supports vulnerable children in Africa. Before his death Haydn had raised over £300,000 for his favourite cause. Another prominent member of the community, Martin Gincy, known to many as DJ Bunny of Habana has also died this month. His energy and humour will be deeply missed.
It’s raining, it’s snowing, it’s sunny, it’s lags off, it’s taps on... must be April! The Glaswegian climate is as temperamental as a two bob drag queen on a comedown! So we start with a BIG Pride Glasgow announcement! From Toploader to Prides, this summers festival line up is looking like we are going to be having ourselves a rare time down the Green! Not X Factor reject in sight! I look forward to seeing what else is on offer this year!

DILF, which I believe stands for Daddies In Lovely Fetish wear? No! Is packing in every hairy fairy, sub bum, head master - In Lovely Fetish wear? No? Is packing in every furry fairy, sub bum, head master -

The Gallery has a lovely outdoor area to enjoy a refreshing beverage whilst watching the gays mince by! The Ridin Room has everything from spinning hoops on fire to burlesque! A cabaret venue fit for a queen of five! The Waterhole has DJ Carmen from Black Pudding’s Flying Handbag making her return to Glasgow!

Speakeasy with their lovely staff, tasty food and the Trophy Room upstairs has just what you need on a lazy afternoon in town, with the lovely Wil making sure all your needs are catered for! And he’s a handsome chunk of a man so what’s not to love? Pollo as ever has choons from B&B to Cheesy Pop! All throughout the week, Del’s has the lovely Delo hosting karaoke! Also SUCK on every Wed!

If you’re looking to win some cash on a Sat afternoon then jump down Under-ground and see if your balls come up at Bear’s Bingo (that’s me that is) and why not stay into the night with tunes from DJ Moros. Lastly I’d like to give a shout out to my drag daughter Miss Tess aka Roman, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer and is currently battling it courageously with a smile. Time is precious folks so don’t waste any! Get out there and have yourself as much fun as possible!

W hat hello again Aberdeens, how are we? Oh, that’s nice. Have you been out enjoying the weather we’ve been having? I myself have had a lovely afternoon or four basking in the sunshine with a beer in hand! I wonder how long this will last? Hopefully this is the start of a scorching hot summer, but we’re in Scotland so I doubt it very much! Now it’s time to look at our darling little city and see what’s going on!

Ayr saw another shift in the entertain- ment at Cheerz with Miss Tiss Peaches taking over Thrus nights with the return of the Kiki. This girl always brings her A game when it comes to entertaining and she’s asking you to do the same. She provides a theme for each week and asks anyone who wants to perform to enter their ideas into the mix. Once the best and worst of the week have been de- cided a nail biting lip sync ensues to see who the ultimate winners is! This is every Sat down at Cheerz Bar, O’Midnight!

And if you want to see what Miss Peaches looks outside of drag, be sure to get your tickets for this year’s summer show Greased Up to see an array of talent including some of your favourites. Kevin Thorium, Loui Nepby (set to play two magnificently mind melting, gender bending roles) and of course my mum’s personal favourite: John Cadino! Tickets are available from http://www.skiddle.com/whats-on/Aberdeen/Cherizzle/Nightclub/Greased-Up-The-MusicalsItShitsUpOr-You-can-check-out-the-Cheers-Bar-Facebook-page.

Coming up in Cherize this month we have the X Factor contestants Divo Fever and a Shoes and whilst I can’t comment on X Factor Shows (as I wasn’t in the country whilst they were contestants), I can say that I enjoyed Divo Fever’s numbers this year on X Factor and so I will probably head down to see the boys show us what they’ve got!

The big news is that girl group Booty Luv will be back in Cherize on 27th May to give us some of their top hits like Boogie Zone and Shire. After the fabulous show put on by Stooolie in Cheriz Nightclub, the venue is becoming a great place to hear live music, and also support local talent. Speaking of local talent, will be back with two shows in May! The first is the Mad May Day Madness! When the girls will be taking you from 6pm-sam with games, and music galore, all hosted by Memo Romy! What more could you want? And the divas will be back on the 9th with their monthly show, set to be a treat for all the family (if they are over the age of all already).

As always keep an eye out on the La Lombardia Facebook page for exclusive performances by Miss Cherry Bakewell! Taking your Sat nights out of the clubs and into their Basement Bar, Cheriz invites you to come in and have a drink whilst she entertains you between 9pm- and Midnight. This is a great way to start your night folks so don’t miss out!

Both University groups will soon be coming to a close for the summer months however, for those of you still here in the summer there will be plenty of activities to take part in which I will list here next month! Till then make sure you get your heads down and pass all these exams and dissertations!

Before I round off this months article, I would like to pay tribute to one of the best musicians that ever lived. He was a sexual god whose music constantly bor- dered on the erratic fantasies of man. I am of course talking about Prince. His iconic voice and legendary songs will never be forgotten in my eyes and hope- fully his death will lead to a resurgence in his music so the new generation grow- ing up without his influence can get a touch of magic added to their lives. RIP you hero, gone but never forgotten!

And that’s it for this month folks, be sure to come back next month when I’ll be talking about what the summer has in store for here in Aberdeens!
Edinburgh’s Panto Legends
CannedLaughter Review:
best in the UK but they all come from a performed by an excellent on stage band with the memories the music brings Century Boy younger self (played by love for the first time is played to com - her collection of Jackie magazines and is divorced Jackie (played perfectly by The rather weak story is of newly make up, male celebrities and sharing a generation especially during its Don’s West End which featured the return of O’Brien himself. movies and a hot rocking band this is a timeless show which when done well will do it justice.

The Rocky Horror Show Review:
It’s now over 40 years since Tim Curry slipped on the stockings and suspenders for the first time and writer Richard O’Brien unleashed the legend that is The Rocky Horror Picture Show to the world and this new touring production which follows hot on the heels of the birthday celebration. Some scenes are53

CannedLaughter Review:
Edinburgh’s Panto Legends look lovely and received the efforts for making the Kings Christmas Show the best in the UK but they all come from a rich heritage in the business that was crafted from working across the Club cir- cus and the early days of this Scottish theatrical scene. for years the Theseeome have decided to get serious with a play that melds com-edy, observation, pathos and drama to-gether in stanns staid effort so much so that the audience are left in awe of this third different of the three parts great. Written by Ed Curtis and Allan Stewart (the fortunate soul who can cut the dia- logue and power through the numbers which leave it feeling a little out of the show rather than the Rocky Horror Show itself). And the results are awesome performances from Limmy Jane as Franke, Diana Vickers as Janet, Ben Freeman as Brad, and Dominic Andorson as Rocky along with the rest of the cast (including a witty and fun Nar- rator in the form of Norman Play, en- sure all the boxes are ticked and the audience haven’t been shortchanged anywhere in the Rocky Horror Show rolls ever onwards in its latest edited format. While you might not shiver in anticipa- tion as much as in previous production you can rest assured you will be doing the time warp again whichever you’re doing.

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Dvorak Rusalka – Scottish Opera Glas- gow Theatre Royal 5 April 2016

This was the first performance of Rusalka in Scotland in 40 years. Previous only performances in Scotland were in 1964’s Edinburgh Festival by the national Opera Company. That said, we were in Prague it was well worth waiting for Rusalka, a water nymph in love with the human prince whom she has seen hunt- ing the stalls, sideshows and quack doc- tors, when they encounter Dr Gallagher’s Power’s Jane loved, was horrified about the same name, is her third world première in eight years. same name, is their third world première in eight years. 1964’s Edinburgh Festival by the national Opera Company.

The 39 Steps Review:
Using a cast of four and keep the running time to ninety minutes, this is a comedy that takes on a classic that for the most part works as the four actor/power act their way through dozens of characters. Merging slapstick, shadow puppetry and clever costume styling, this is a play which transforms the serious story of man wrongly accused of murder setting out to prove his innocence taking him to the wilds of the Highlands and back to Inverness to finally reveal just the 39 Steps are. The production kept a delicate balance between the real and the fantastical, with a fairy-tale quality underpinning subjects such as the role of gender and the nature of human nature. My one criticism is the confusion of weather nymhms with mer- maids – the former do not usually have tails – though I must commend Ms Duncum for her skilful handling of the Set, lighting and costumes were excel- lent and the ‘water’ projections at the start of the woodland acts. The fun of dryads, huntsmen, palace servants and courtly castes contrasted with the underlined the principals’ basic human tragedy and within the story’s anonymous accident are the extras who smoulder, blaze and ultimately bring about the end of the world. Ellen does die, and the police investigate Frank. They and Jane realise they must investigate for themselves. In the night, an attempt is made on Jane’s life: she and Francis find their way to Ravello and the Matron and Wardiness of the asylum are particularly noticable. There were plenty of gorgeous musical moments – Frank’s version of the “Eenie Meenie” tune is a great hit. The audience are left in awe of this production which when done well will do it justice.

Karen McLean The Cabinet of Dr Caligari – Scottish Opera Connect Com- pany Glasgow Woodside Hall 11 April 2016

Both chorus and orchestra were excel- lent, delivering an intricate and fascinat- ing score, the perfect showcase for such a haunting tale. The chorus was a fine blend of lively individual characters, many of whom were centre stage throughout the evening. It was all expertly conducted and enabled the voices to blend seamlessly. The orchestra and principals combined in a ravishing feast for the senses. Black and gold set and costumes make a sombrely gripping backdrop against which the ageing Queen Elizabeth’s costumes symbolise her power and glory, power- less to hold to her last love of life, Richard, Duke of Norfolk, Earl of Leicester. He now loses Sarah, married against her will to his best friend the Duke of Nottingham. The intersecting love triangles smoulder, blaze and ultimately bring about the end of all – Leicester beheaded; Sarah Heartbroken; Nottingham burn with both of best friend and wife; the Queen alone, friends, heartbroken and ready for death. Scottish Opera’s Connect Company au- ditions singers and orchestral musicians aged 14 – 25, creating an impressively talented group who perform with young professional soloists. Karen McLean’s work, based on the silent silent film of the same name, is their third world première in eight years.

It’s 1807, and the caravan has come to Glasgow Green. Francis, a local farmer, and his friend Ellen are among the crowd enjoy- ing the stalls, sideshows and quack doc- tors when they encounter Mr Sackville. The present the somnambulistic Gé, in his sleep, caused by his prediction of Ellen’s death that night shatters the holiday mood and disperses

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MILLIONS were shocked when Robin Williams left this life as his comedy made him seem one of their families for so long. His last movie BOULDER (not to be taking a risk with other titles) is a striking climax to an incredible career but Williams lovers need to know about it. He plays a salaried bank employee in a marriage where they have separate bedrooms. The script has no explanation for their past sex life. Driving one night he almost knocks over an attractive prostitute, Lee, looking for clients and offers her a lift. They end up in a motel room together where Lee states: “It’s sooo if you blow me and say us if I blow you.” Robin baffles the young man which is not easy as he is a drug addict being beaten up by violent drug suppliers. As Robin Williams was very wealthy only his intimates would know his reasons for accepting this film. As is the case he has been Michael Cain’s values for although he has the best looking wife in Britain he seems to accept any movie to get out of the house. Film fans have different motives for making their films. I’m told Robert De Niro has an obsession for buying property in New York city which could be why he has made terrible films for more than a decade. With all we have been reading recently about offshore accounts we may never know how much he owns.

Shamir Sarf is a gay British lady who wrote an impressive book that she has now directed on film set in Moscow. SPITE THE FALLING SNOW (laa), I would honor movies as knowing the story of Russia since the revolution a year ago when they murdered the royal family is horrific enough for me. The dictator Stalin murdered vast numbers of his own people and Putin is currently only a fraction: less lethal sending his troops and endless ammunition to Ukraine when his people wanted independent. Miss Sarf knows how to hold tension in a world where you turn on taps to make the sound of your voice in a case anyone is recording you: Whether you are in favour or against the government it is a world that would be terrified to live in, but a very attractive cast helps.

SING STREET (saa) is a musical about Dublin teenagers getting a group together and rehearsing their songs. It is constantly entertaining having a looking boy in the lead whose looks will impress many in five years time and the world in ten years.

FLORESCENT JENNINGS is a documentary about a woman desperate to be a classical soprano whose out of tune voice became a source of great amusement in the twenties and thirties when she hired concert halls to perform. Meryl Streep plays her with energy supported off -by a brilliant Scottish mind and a co-ed writer. There are four titles on two discs and the craze was the most popular entertainer in Britain.

The Network label is also worth seeing for memorable nostalgia as they have a series called BRITISH MUSICALS OF THE THIRTIES and their volume 5 has the royal family is horrific enough for me. Thank goodness young Britain today has TV series in the UK’s separate generations. With all we have been reading recently about offshore accounts we may never know how much he owns.

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