Martin Bell asks: “What’s love got to do with it?”
Scottish & International LGBT News
Film & Book Reviews plus SceneAround in
Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow & Stockholm

Claudia Christian
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ScotsGay

During August, Scotland's capital hosts the largest arts festival in the world. Edinburgh locals aren't all fans. It can be a right pain for those trying to get to work. Students are everywhere. And the price of a pint gets higher and higher...

But I am in the Lovin' it camp. One reason is Holly Penfold. Above is a picture taken in Edinburgh's newest bar, Destination, featuring Holly, my own favourite Fringe performer, just before we got down to some business with a riding crop.

Holly's act represents the proper Spirit of the Fringe. She is beautiful, dangerous, magnificent.

Why not get out there and explore...See what you can find?

Martin Walker
E-mail: editor@scotsgay.co.uk

A Little Lady Presents Jest

Scotsgay's Charlie Ross, one of Glasgow's very best Stand Up acts, is performing at fellow Scot, Susan Calman's late night show, Jest. The Café Royal, Midnight until 24th Aug

EDITORIAL

LGBT News
NY gay teen talks, Equality News

International News
Rex Rockford on Iraq gays, WordHive, Anti-gay jamacian singer

Fringe Reports
Reviews from the Edinburgh Fringe, Book Festival, Claudia Christian interview

Book and Film Reviews
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LGBT organisations across Scotland, including Icebreakers, Cultural, Health, Politics and more

Opinion
Fringe performer Martin Bellek asks, What’s love got to do with it?

Scotsgay Voice Ads
Scotsgay's monthly magazine for the LGBT folks and their friends. Scotsgay 60/- Light (Scene Around) appears in even numbered months, whilst Scotsgay 80/- Heavy appears in odd numbered months. ISSN: 1357-0595, published monthly. To order please send a cheque of £80 per year (North America £100) to ScotsGay Ltd, Edinburgh, EH11 9NL.

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For more information, contact James Millar on 01382 522172 today.
**Same Sex Adoption in Scotland**

The Adoption and Children (Scotland) Bill will "result in a real, positive, and immediate" change to the system of adoption in Scotland, The Caledonian Thistles said in a press release.

On 29th August, the Scottish Parliament’s Education Committee published its draft report on the bill. The report approved the bill, and recommended that the Parliament adopt the bill’s main principles.

"Under the 1978 legislation, only a married couple could jointly adopt a child, and adoption gives the child two adoptive parents. That meant that when a child was adopted by a same-sex couple, or a mixed-sex unmarried couple, the child could be legally adopted only by one partner, and the other partner would have no legal relationship to the child.

The new bill follows the principle that the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child takes precedence over all other considerations. The change to the law will ensure that children in need of parents can also be jointly adopted by couples in a civil partnership and cohabiting couples in an enduring family relationship, whether mixed sex or same sex.

The Equality Network supports Straight Fire and Rescue and is working with them to ensure that all members of the community they serve, not even if they claim their religious beliefs require them to discriminate.

For the latest LGBT news in Scotland visit www.equality-network.org.

The Equality Network campaigns for equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Scotland. It creates ways for people to contribute to making Scotland a place in which everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, can live free from hatred, prejudice and discrimination.
Iraqi gays flee death squads

Iraqi gays are fleeing the nation to escape Shia death squads. The Observer newspaper reported recently: “There is growing evidence that Shia militias have been killing men suspected of being gay and children who have been sold to criminal gangs to be sexually abused,” the report said. As a result, the United Kingdom has seen a surge in applications for asylum by Iraqi homosexuals. The newspaper said it had seen a photo of two men, suspected of having a relationship, strapped with their heads tied behind their backs — another accusation. Another picture captured on a mobile phone shows a gay man being kicked in the head. Another man is being dragged through the streets after his execution. The event itself is the Babil Brigade, which, The Observer said, “works with the Ministry of Interior and the internal armed wing of the Supreme Council of Islam on Iraq in, who make up the largest Shia bloc in the Iraq parliament.”

Cayman Islands bans Jamaican singer

Famous Jamaican dancehall reggae singer Sizzla Kalonji has been banned from performing in the Cayman Islands because his lyrics target gays and are allegedly profane, Cayman Net News and the Caymanian Compass have reported. The immigration department reportedly took the same action last year against Jamaican singer Bounty Killer, for similar reasons.

In 2004, Sizzla’s tour of the United Kingdom was can- celled after gay activists donated to tickets such as “Burn the man who rubs a man from behind” (“Fire him in the face don’t go ride man behind”) and “Shoot a queer, my big gun went boom” (“Shot battybwoy, my big gun dem weh go ride man behind”) and “Shot a queer, my big gun went boom” (“Shot a quee my big gun went boom”).

Small rally replaces WorldPride parade

After threatening to ban it, Jerusalem police allowed a small gay rally in Liberty Bell Park on 13th Aug, the event that replaced the WorldPride parade. The parade was cancelled because police said they needed officers from other cities to help protect it; and those officers were unavailable because of the ongoing war with Hezbollah guerrillas and Lebanon. Antipathy Orthodoxy Jews had threatened a massive counter demonstration against the parade, which was also opposed by Christian and Muslim leaders, the mision and right wing politicians in the “Holy City.” About 300 people attended the rally, which ended after anarchists arrived chanting against the “Israel Defence Forces” actions in Lebanon. At last year’s local pride parade, an ultra-Orthodox protestor stabbed three marchers and was later convicted of attempted murder. Orthodoxy Jews tried to block the march, and some 1,000 anti-gay militants staged a rally by action during which some three battles of urine and bags of faeces at the marchers.

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Tony Challis on the Friday Night and Saturday Live Channel Four shows helped inform my politics in the 80’s. Satire was cool. You could say anything as long as you did it in a fun, frothy, pop style. I could do nowrong. Then came the chat shows and the West End musicals. Then came New Labour, and the line, “I’m not...”

About Turn Theatre Company have returned to form with this wonderful gem of a play. Jonathan (Beautiful Thing) Harvey’s...
Hannah and her sister Lotti (Sara Canning) are two friends of mine who both happen to be tall and thin and love nothing more than a good old fashioned pampering session in the local spa. From left to right: Hannah and Lotti. We see the three of them sitting on a bench in front of the spa, talking about what they are going to do. The scene then cuts to the interior of the spa, where we see a large sign on the wall that reads “Wellness.” The sign is accompanied by a picture of a healthy woman, smiling and holding a glass of water. The words “Wellness: A Gift for the Mind, Body, and Soul” are written next to the picture. The characters, Hannah and Lotti, are both seated on a bench in front of the spa, talking about what they are going to do. The scene then cuts to the interior of the spa, where we see a large sign on the wall that reads “Wellness.” The sign is accompanied by a picture of a healthy woman, smiling and holding a glass of water. The words “Wellness: A Gift for the Mind, Body, and Soul” are written next to the picture. The characters, Hannah and Lotti, are both seated on a bench in front of the spa, talking about what they are going to do. The scene then cuts to the interior of the spa, where we see a large sign on the wall that reads “Wellness.” The sign is accompanied by a picture of a healthy woman, smiling and holding a glass of water. The words “Wellness: A Gift for the Mind, Body, and Soul” are written next to the picture.
**ScotsGay fringe – Favourite Favouri**

### The Fringe Highlights

#### Comedy

**Brooke**

I love seeing Brooke. She is always funny and never fails to make me laugh. Her unique style and ability to connect with the audience make her a must-see act at the Fringe.

**OJ Coulombeau**

OJ Coulombeau is a talented performer who always delivers a great show. His energy and ability to engage with the audience make him a standout act at Edinburgh Fringe.

**My Name is Rachel Corrie**

This show was thought-provoking and powerful. The actors were excellent, and the script was well written. I highly recommend seeing this play if you have the chance.

**Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead**

This production was a brilliant interpretation of the Shakespearean classic. The actors were exceptional, and the set design was stunning. A must-see for Shakespeare fans.

**The Same, But Different**

This play had a great message about the importance of individuality and self-acceptance. The actors were fantastic, and the script was well written. I would definitely recommend seeing this show.

**Underbelly**

The Underbelly stage is always a great place to catch some excellent comedy. This year, I caught a few shows that were particularly memorable, including those from some of my favorite comedians.

### Theatre

**My Skinniest Bumman**

This show was a real treat. It was a hilarious and absurd performance that had me laughing out loud throughout. I highly recommend catching it if you're at the Fringe this year.

**Theatre of Cruelty**

This production was intense and thought-provoking. The actors were excellent, and the script was well written. A must-see for those interested in the darker side of theatre.

### Music

**Scotch-Irish-Fart**

This musical was a great way to end the Fringe. The music was fantastic, and the storyline was engaging. I highly recommend seeing this show if you have the chance.

### Dance

**Canon's Gait**

This dance performance was breathtaking. The choreography was impressive, and the dancers were incredibly talented. A must-see for dance enthusiasts.

### Science Fiction

**Babylon 5**

I'm a huge fan of this show, and I was thrilled to see it being performed at the Fringe this year. The actors were excellent, and the production values were top-notch. I highly recommend catching a performance if you have the chance.

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### Conclusion

The Edinburgh Fringe is always an exciting and diverse festival, with something for everyone. Whether you're interested in comedy, theatre, music, or dance, you're sure to find something you love at the Fringe this year. I highly recommend checking out a few shows if you're in the area.

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*Images and quotes are placeholders and will be replaced with actual images and quotes from the festival.*

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**Clara Christian: the Festival Director**

I'm excited to see what this year's Fringe has in store. The Fringe is always a fantastic opportunity for artists to showcase their work and for audiences to discover new talent. I'm looking forward to seeing what the festival has in store for us this year.

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**ScottsGay**

ScottsGay is the leading LGBTQ+ news and entertainment publication in Scotland. We cover events, culture, and lifestyle from across the country, and we strive to provide our readers with the latest and most interesting news and features.

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**Edinburgh Fringe**

The Edinburgh Fringe Festival is one of the world's largest annual arts festivals, with thousands of performances across a wide range of disciplines. It attracts artists from around the world, and it's a must-see for anyone interested in the arts.

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**Website**

ScottsGay.com - the latest news and features from the LGBTQ+ community in Scotland.

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**Contact**

ScottsGay

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**Social Media**

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**Barely Legal** Edited by John Patrick Published by Harrington Park Press

Would you believe, it’s summer is officially over in America and already it is getting very nippy. Well, never mind, there are plenty of books to get through and this is a perfect time for everyone to start planning(summertime planning, that is). John Patrick has picked up a rather special friend in the form of Marty Zeller and they have published together yet again. 

**Barely Legal** is a frank, honest and unflinching look into some of the most controversial and intriguing topics of the day. From drugs to prostitution, from bisexuality to transgender, from the mechanics of sex to the psychology of relationships, this is a comprehensive look at what it means to be gay in America today.

**The Good Neighbor** By Jay Quin

**Barely Legal** is a collection of stories from the best of the best in gay literature. From the iconic and legendary to the new and promising, this book is a must-read for anyone interested in the world of gay literature.

**Going Down In La-La Land** By Andy Zeffer

This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the world of gay literature. From the iconic and legendary to the new and promising, this book is a must-read for anyone interested in the world of gay literature.

**The Boys of Paradise** by C. Douglas - a provocative tale of cherry boys with fun on their minds. Contributors to the collection of erotic tales about male relationships and secret passions, water sports, and non-stop queer storytelling.

**Martin Luther** by Jeffrey Chernin

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Glaswegian born of Indian bread have a treat in store as of September as WHO’S HEARTERLY DELIGHTS (5) highlights the competition amongst restaurateurs to produce incredible food. The daughter of an Asian restaurant owner, left home suddenly to avoid an arranged marriage and only returns after three years in London when her father dies. Her gambling debts have caused huge problems, but she leaves returning to her family as she has brought home the wins, the first of which are forming a successful date. Plus in a determination to remain the business with a former schoolfriend she finds herself in love with him. 

I wanted to write a true story, but a young woman falls in love with another woman in a surprising way, says director Pardhaan Peter. My partner grew up in a family owned Pakistani restaurant and we had fallen in love when making a ferry for a group of friends. She has transformed itself into a story that will certainly entertain.

Michael Douglas has the reputation of being one of the showiest producers in Hollywood in choosing scripts, that will appeal to millions. He has done it again with THE SENTINEL (8) in which is a senior part of the secret service protecting the life of the president. With terrorists from many countries, his is a constant battle with American, British and French forces trying to stop the President. The top man’s movements are secret of much of the time and you know why when you see a helicopter fly by a rocket and explode in the air.

Kim Basinger as the first lady still looks great and finds herself a character in THE FIRST LADY’S CLUB where she is perfect again as a mature eccentric actress who became known for awkward, on a character in a TV soap. Rupert Grint is a 17 year old vicar’s son who has crewcut while Colin Farrell chooses long hair and a moustache this time. It is for those of us who love gunfire, murder and fast cars.

You are too young and lovely to remember a great Rogers and Hammerstein musical of the past DELLA HAMS (5) filmed in 1958 and now remade as a glorious new period piece by the British Film Institute. Millions of recordings have sold of the soundtracks of songs that millions have loved. The movie will also feature film versions of the songs in this release. It is for those of us who love singing, dancing and fun songs.

If you are one of the many of us who are concerned about global warming, you must consider a documentary by the former US vice president Al Gore called AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH. The troubling weather we have been experiencing is explained with ice melt, drought and rising sea levels. Carbon exhaust emissions from cars wont help the situation.

The film, WHO IS KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR? (6) explains that while General Motors in America launched the electric car in 1997, six years later they paid people to return their model as the plan was to crush them.

With temperatura from many countries, his is a constant battle with American, British and French forces trying to stop the President. The top man’s movements are secret of much of the time and you know why when you see a helicopter fly by a rocket and explode in the air.

Many famous film directors have called the German, Werner Fassbinder, the most inspiring writer of his time. Making 42 movies before death killed him at 36 makes one wonder if his tragic childhood had anything to do with it. The New York Times called him the most directing provocative, original, pulsating movie maker of his generation. Now Arvino Films have put 4 of his movies on DVD. Sadly, the director himself died in 1987 in a car racing accident, but his middle age who married a Moroccan garage mechanic early and the younger sons formed a club to addict the daughter of wealthy family in the hope they will have a better life, but instead they become beautiful and pretty with Daniel and Matthew looking good enough to eat.

The day WHO STOLE THE EIGHTH VICTORY (8) takes the stage with a thrilling chorus line of showgirls and an orchestra, the audience go wild as the showgirls look as good today as they did.

Every young cow in the world can’t wait to see it. It is a musical about the return of the football hero. Bullet blowing Niall MacIntosh had acquired him for $48 million making him the most expensive player in football history. I fully bided to tell you why this documentary, 8-1 A DECISIVE PORTION. It seems the French Premier league is more popular in France than any kickfooter which is a problem for the rest of the teams. The story is full of drama and many with high definition zooms. It is the nearest you can get to playing a game as it charges readily across the pitch. Megaw, a Scottish rock band, keep you well awake on the soundtrack.

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THE JOURNEY BEGINS

DESTINATION

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I'm sure that there are those who think that Glasgow just clings to make way for the -killi
- in August, nothing could be further from the
- to start a night in Revolver on the second
- 11.30pm to 3am. Although it is advertised as a "Front 3 to the music
- The Police Surgery is on the 24th of Aug
- But 'Gay Bar' is all that is visible to the eye
- (and possibly other) shops that you would enter if you were not looking for it.
- the first store in a wave of new "lifestyle" shops for all the LGBT com-
- horse on the 26th of Aug is part of the organisation and it will still be by
- Poetry readings and exhibitions will all still be a
- 218 8th of Oct, 6th of Nov. DJs Raymo. Designed to be cruisy. £8/£10. E-mail: dv8scots@hotmail.com
- "Kate Bush" you can get tickets on 07778 266747. The Police Surgery is still on from
- 30th Sep
- The Edge, George Square, Glasgow
- 8pm to 1am
Lucy Bundy performs songs by Kate Bush
Plus disco to dance the night away
Ticket Price:£10
Tickets available from
E-mail: fakebushglasgow@hotmail.com
Tel: 07778 266747
Any profits from ticket sales will be
 donated to Cancer Research UK

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Sat 30th Sep

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The Edge, George Square, Glasgow
8pm to 1am
Lucy Bundy performs songs by Kate Bush
Plus disco to dance the night away
Ticket Price: £10
Tickets available from
E-mail: fakebushglasgow@hotmail.com
Tel: 07778 266747
Any profits from ticket sales will be
 donated to Cancer Research UK
It’s always pleasant to speak of an editor so, many thanks to Jodi at ScotsGay for her small inducement! It seems that young Alon has managed to improve his structured greatly to getting himself excluded from the popular Women’s night. Apparently, he’d nipped out to...
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This month’s news: Cheerz gets itself a new manager, PHACE News

Cheerz Bar has got itself a new manager in the shape of Mark Hodges, the Welsh lad that had managed Indigo for a short time a while back. He has a few ideas for the bar but the usual fun continues with quiz and karaoke on Thursdays with the Drag queens of Cheers! Fridays become DiscoBus Night with Sharon Motion playing the best of 80s and chart hits and Saturday is his usual mad mix of Karaoke and hits with Miss Honey and Ginger on the decks. They are also looking to get some live acoustic bands in on Sundays for a bit of chill-out afternoons after the night before so if you have any ideas of bands that might be interested get in touch with Mark at Cheers or by emailing mark@cheerzpub-restaurant.co.uk with details to be forwarded onto him. The coffee machine in Cheerz has had a pay rise and is now on until 10pm so you can have that caffeine boost all day long.

Indigo continues to be the only late night venue for Aberdeen and the legendary Steve Motion starts a new ‘Motto Night’ on Sundays playing anything that was in the charts from 1970s to 1990s to liven things up for the weekend. Ronnie’s 3rd Birthday which makes me feel a very old lad, I don’t believe that it was 3 years ago that Niki Bemrick launched the place! The night is being celebrated with a UV night so go get the paints out and glam up for a night of birthday fun.

Wellmans has finally received planning permission for the premises just off Holburn Street and should be open within a few months. ScotsGay and Aberdeen G Zone will keep you up to date on when the new place will open along with prices etc.

PHACE Scotland recently announced that they are merging with Terence Higgins Trust. This will make PHACE more of a national organisation within the UK with all of THT’s resources becoming available to all whilst keeping the personal, individual service given to people in both Glasgow and Aberdeen. For more information on the merger feel free to go along and speak to Alan at Place, 1 Waverley Place, Aberdeen or call 0845 241 2151.

Pride in Aberdeen’s website is still waiting to be updated with photos taken on the day. If anyone else has photos that they took at Pride in Aberdeen this year and want them online at G Zone, feel free to pop them in an email to andi@g-zone.co.uk and I will get them uploaded.

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ScotsGay’s one-man pillage
ram-raids Stockholm’s blue-eyed blonds

The Venice of the North; grand architecture built on islands, cleaved by canals, joined by bridges. Stockholm’s gay scene is spread throughout the city like splattered pearls, but especially in Södermalm & Gamla Stan districts. And Swedish men are a glory to behold: initially reserved, yet animals in bed.

The Absolut Ice Bar is a truly fantastic venue - regular departures from Stromkajen, outside the Grand Hotel.

The Nobel Museum is open all year round - full of constantly-changing, inspirational exhibits.

TO SEE & DO

Nobel Museum (Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan, Skeppsholmen; www.nobelprize.org/nobelmuseum) - Opened in 2001 to celebrate a centenary of Nobel Prizes; full of constantly-changing, inspirational exhibits.

TO EAT & DRINK

Lino (Restaurang Scorpio, Sodra Riddarholmshamnen 19; T: +46 (0)8 411 6976) - This quirky Italian restaurant is a gay-friendly haven for bibliophiles. The menu is a mix of traditional Italian dishes and modern interpretations.

Archipelago Boat Tour - Take a leisurely cruise through Stockholm’s archipelago; the water is calm and the views are spectacular.

M/S Gerda - Delightful, intimate floating restaurant, just east of centre attracting some of Stockholm’s most gorgeous boys.

THE GAUGER* (Ringvägen 98; T: +46 (0)8 462 1000; www.clarionstockholm.com) - Spacious, swish, modern, gay-wooing hotel, just south of centre.

102 Club, 102 English Street. Tel: (01387) 739888. 9pm-2am. Last Fri of each month. Next date: 25th Aug. Monthly club night. Salsa, merengue, ibiza trance, and their friends from Dumfries and Galloway. E-mail: mixedbag@hotmail.co.uk http://spaces.msn.com/members/mixedbagDG/

TO STAY

Rival Hotel (Mariaberget 5; T: +46 (0)8 454 7800; www.rival.se) - Chic modern hotel, part of a call-waiting cinema complex co-owned by Benny from ABBA! Rooms are spacious and minimalist, featuring large photo-prints of Swedish icons like Greta Garbo. Most roof balconies overlooking the lovely, leafy Mariaberget square. Breakfasts are grand and beds come with a “pillow menu”.

Beren Hotel (Södermalmstorg 8; T: +46 (0)8 580 32000; www.beren.se) - One of the city’s finest and most boutique-looking, whose modern rooms are complemented by the vintage old drawing room where great playwright Strindberg off relaxed; and the dramatic, gold-gilt theatrical breakfast area - cum-ballroom cum-club-room where the likes of Dita Von Teese and Cher have kitted-out entertained. Thrown regular, spectacular gay club nights!

Clarion Hotel (Pregulan 98; T: +46 (0)8 462 1000; www.clarionstockholm.com) - Vast, modern, gay-waving hotel, just south of centre.

TO TRAVEL

Fly from most major Scottish airports:
www.flysas.com
For more info on Stockholm & Sweden:
www.stockholmtown.com or www.visitsweden.com

SAS Scandinavian Airlines offer daily flights to Stockholm for
August, focused around a city centre parade and concerts at Tantolunden Park. It hosts EuroPride in 2008:
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What's Love Got to Do With It?

by Martin Belk

E-mail: martinbelk@scotsgay.co.uk

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