LADY MUNTER’S Big Night at Glasgay!

Andrew Doyle talks to Paul Sinha

PRIDE GLASGOW A Page of Great Pics
Like a brick in a devil’s handshake, transy talent in Glasgow is both expertly hidden and also surprises you when you least expect it. Oh, don’t get me wrong, we have our fair share of drag queens and fashionably hip glamos – some a LOT better than others, in every sense or no word – but attempts at bringing them all together tend to fall apart over heels. My club night Valley of the Dolls has always attracted a very particular crowd, as the Sunday Herald remarked: “Many of those arriving take their fashion direction from the late Australian performance artist Leigh Bowery… the fiercer the clothes the better; the same goes for make-up and hair. Animal horns protrude from the shoulders of the DJ’s leopard skin coat; braces and Trilby hats bounce around Joelle Valerie Woolverton’s skirts.”

Which is of course fabulous, but what about the rest? Those for whom pounding electro and wonderfully ridiculous clothes just doesn’t cut it? When do they get to shine?!

Well, every dog has his day (and honey, there are some right dogs out there!), and EVERYONE who wants to will get the chance to show up and show off on Saturday 25th October as I, in association with Glasgay! debut Glasgow’s first EVER vogue ball!

For the benefit of the uninitiated, a vogue ball is an event in which people “walk” (i.e. compete) for trophies and prizes. Those who walk often also dance and vogue while in various genres of drag often trying to pass as a specific gender and social class, and most people involved with ball culture belong to “houses” led by a single leader.

“What is a house?” we hear you say. As described in the seminal vogue documentary Paris Is Burning, I’ll lay it down sharply.

“They’re families, but this is the new meaning of families. It’s not a question of a man, woman and children — it’s a question of a group of human beings in a mutual bond. A house is a gay street gang. Now, where straight street gangs get their rewards from street fights, a gay house street-fights at a ball, and you street-fight at a ball by walking in the categories.”

There will be five categories where one individual from each house can catwalk off against the members of the other houses’ representatives in the same chosen categories. This competition has a category for everyone, from drag queens to transvestites (there’s a difference; look it up) to cross-dressers. Fashionistas to aber-butch gays, bears, daddies, the lot! The winners from each catwalking round will then face-off against the remaining contestants, with the winner of the night being crowned Queen of Glasgay! 2008 and receiving some VERY special, exclusive ‘money-can’t-buy’ prizes that will be announced on the night!

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Or subscribe for just £18 for 12 issues (in the UK)
Cheerz Bar is still keeping you all up to date with all the latest stuff that you all seem to enjoy reading. Please let me know of Cheery’s newsletter if you’ve missed one recently. They’ve been included in the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) Good Beer Guide 2009, with Deuchars IPA which is always available, the real ales are Regent and as if all that wasn’t enough, they also celebrate a sophisticated four years on our scene.

There’s nothing quite like a brand new club night this month, called Mumbo Jumbo which is held at the Whole School on Saturday 20th September. It features a wide range of music including House, Funky, Grooves and Party Rocking Tunes!

Another date for your diaries is the announcement of a Xmas Taskforce! Sure to be a bustling and lively season, they’re keeping an eye on the already fledged men’s chapter. As well as a second public meeting early on Saturday 19th December at the Union Chambers, you can also have their first meeting coming up already! My, doesn’t time fly! They have a whole raft of plans for the next year and are well underway with their planning.

The Aberdeen planning group for LGBT History Month will be held soon to get some ideas together for next year. Held in January, it’s your chance to look back into LGBT history by looking into the archives and planning the stages for next year. For more information please get in touch with the planning group on Aberdeenscotland@gmail.com. For Aberdeens LGBT venues see page 18.

* For Aberdeens venues see Page 19. For Edinburgh’s venues see Page 19. 

** See more pics from Edinburgh at: www.beko.co.uk/ScotsGay Magazine

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GLASGOW
(I don't follow the scene - I AM the scene)

The centre closed in February after its funding came to an end, but has now reopened and is celebrating its relaunch.

The U K's only health and wellbeing centre for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people is re-launching in October with a lively week of events designed to showcase the range of activities and services it has to offer.

For further information contact the Centre:
LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing,
9 Howe Street, Edinburgh. EH3 6TE.
Tel: 0131-5231100
E-mail: maruska@lgbhealth.org.uk

LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing,
3rd Floor
27 Union Street
Glasgow
0141 221 0415

£8.00 before 1 pm £10.00 Thereafter.

OPENING TIMES

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reasons are ridiculous and attendance is poor. In the theme of Freshers' Week, teacher says "That's do better!" Wednesday nights are their "Playtime Night" which allows the children to play in their pyjamas and play their own games. Other than that the best night of the week is the live music sessions on Saturdays which previously had had a steady stream of regulars.

The centre is also re-living their favourite moments from the last year.

If you go there you'll be pumped up all night with the amazing idea of the drinkable passes from their. Bebo site re-launch!

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact the centre.

E-mail: maruska@lgbhealth.org.uk
Tel: 0131-5231100

LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing, 9 Howe Street, Edinburgh. EH3 6TE.

are you a young person interested in training and employment in the arts? if so, contact your local youth service or the glasgow arts bureau. Contact us on 0141 221 0415 or email info@glasgowarts.org.uk

As always, the mix is fantastic, with the newbies and the regulars all attending and enjoying the new and improved programme.

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See more pics from: www.glasgow.co.uk
StonewallScotlandMagazine

Aisha Kweku, Alix Jones, Janet Kessler, John Park, Jonathan Angell, Johnny Young

See more pics from: www.glasgow.co.uk
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Photography by Simon Page

Stonewall Scotland

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Concert Groups are listed on Pages 16-19.

For Gay's venue listings see Page 11.

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Don't miss this what a month it has been. Glasgow Pride was on and I endeavoured to say the least. We may not have made it there physically but with a few drinks online on a Friday night and a few videos from all around, so we could enjoy the festivities. I think we did enjoy it, judging by the amount of vomit lining the streets and outside heads on the Monday, a good time was had by all and we definitely managed to get you all hot and goldy!! Proud of us all are we.

Enough of the past - let's move swiftly onto the future, here is the pick of the up and coming month.

Bemusement is ongoing supreme as goddamn per with their plans for Freshers' Week. Thursdays are there for the taking on 19th of September with their 'Back To School Night'. Their motto is Don't Fence Me In, it's a splendid party for the party-otherwise-than-previous favourite the very fabulous Miss Liza. I've been told that all attention are to dress in school uniforms, no idea what happens... We know you've been away with bored breaths to see what the creative minds at Del's have come up with this time and with even more anticipation to see how many boxes its time should.

Del's sister club, The Polo Lounge is also offering their own one of a kind performance from the protagonist on Poopsuits. Oh this might well be our Get Away and夏? I am sorry to say after attending this one I see other performances are anything to go by! And remember you can 'thave a masquerade night every night, then there is only one option for you - more nights at Delmonic. As reignsupreme as well.

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Paul Sinha

Paul Sinha talks to
Andrew Doyle

Paul Sinha is a comedian, an author, and a stand-up comedian. He is known for his dry wit and his ability to make people laugh. He has appeared on numerous TV shows and has released several books. He is also known for his advocacy work and his support for LGBTQ+ rights.

Interview:

INTERVIEW

Interviewer: Paul Sinha, welcome to the studio.

Paul Sinha: Thank you, it's a pleasure to be here.

Interviewer: You're a stand-up comedian and a writer. Can you tell us a little bit about your journey into comedy and how you found your voice?

Paul Sinha: I started performing stand-up in the early 2000s. It was something that I always wanted to do, but I was working as a doctor at the time. It was a way for me to express myself and to entertain others. I found that people loved my dry, observational style of humor, and I decided to pursue it further.

Interviewer: You've had a lot of success in your career. What do you think has contributed to your success?

Paul Sinha: I think it's a combination of factors. People have always enjoyed my style of humor, and I've worked hard to improve my craft. I've also had the support of my family and friends, who have encouraged me to pursue my passion. And finally, I think it's just a matter of being in the right place at the right time.

Interviewer: You've been involved in activism for LGBTQ+ rights. Can you tell us about your experience with that?

Paul Sinha: It's been an incredible journey. I've been involved in LGBTQ+ rights activism for over two decades, and it's been a pleasure to work with so many talented and passionate people. It's been a honor to be a part of such important work.

Interviewer: You've also written several books. Can you tell us about your writing process and what inspires you to write?

Paul Sinha: Writing is a way for me to express myself and to share my thoughts and experiences with others. I find inspiration in everything around me, from everyday observations to social issues. I try to capture the essence of a moment or the spirit of a place in my writing.

Interviewer: You've also been involved in sports. Can you tell us about your passion for sports and how it relates to your comedy?

Paul Sinha: I've always been a sports fan, and I think it's helped me develop a sense of timing and rhythm that's helpful in my comedy. When I'm performing, I try to keep a similar pace and cadence to the way I think about sports. I also find that sports can be a great source of material for my comedy.

Interviewer: You've been involved in some high-profile advocacy work, such as being a spokesperson for a dating app. Can you tell us about that experience?

Paul Sinha: I've had the privilege to work with a number of organizations over the years, and I've always tried to use my platform to raise awareness about important issues. Being a spokesperson for a dating app has allowed me to reach a wide audience and to amplify the voices of those who are marginalized or underrepresented.

Interviewer: You've also been involved in politics. Can you tell us about your experience with that?

Paul Sinha: I've always been interested in politics, and I've been involved in various political campaigns over the years. I think it's important for people to be involved in the political process, and I try to use my voice to advocate for causes that I care about.

Interviewer: You've also been involved in the arts, such as writing plays and working as a film actor. Can you tell us about that experience?

Paul Sinha: I've always been interested in the arts, and I've had the opportunity to work in a number of different capacities over the years. I find that the arts can be a great way to express oneself and to connect with others.

Interviewer: You've also been involved in charity work. Can you tell us about that experience?

Paul Sinha: I've always been interested in giving back to my community, and I've had the opportunity to work with a number of different charities over the years. I think it's important to give back to those who have helped support you, and I try to use my platform to raise awareness about important issues.

Interviewer: You've also been involved in business. Can you tell us about that experience?

Paul Sinha: I've always been interested in business, and I've had the opportunity to work in a number of different capacities over the years. I think it's important to be entrepreneurial and to think creatively about how to solve problems.

Interviewer: You've also been involved in education. Can you tell us about that experience?

Paul Sinha: I've always been interested in education, and I've had the opportunity to work in a number of different capacities over the years. I think it's important to provide high-quality education to all students, and I try to use my platform to advocate for that.

Interviewer: You've also been involved in travel. Can you tell us about that experience?

Paul Sinha: I've always been interested in travel, and I've had the opportunity to visit many different countries over the years. I think it's important to travel and to learn about different cultures and perspectives.

Interviewer: You've also been involved in writing. Can you tell us about that experience?

Paul Sinha: I've always been interested in writing, and I've had the opportunity to write a number of different things over the years. I think it's important to express oneself through writing, and I try to use my platform to advocate for that.

Interviewer: You've also been involved in music. Can you tell us about that experience?

Paul Sinha: I've always been interested in music, and I've had the opportunity to work in a number of different capacities over the years. I think it's important to be creative and to express oneself through music.

Interviewer: You've also been involved in film. Can you tell us about that experience?

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Why do you paint your figures in Black and White?
I used to do full colour pictures, but I was, asked by a friend to do a commission using just black and white to go in a room she was designing. I was really pleased with the finished picture and then experimented with producing a few more pictures where the subject was in black and white and only the background was colour. I loved the design element to the pictures and also loved it when people thought they were photographs or pencil drawings. I soon started to sell lots of these and it just became my thing. Now I find it interesting experimenting with the backgrounds. I have done a series of pink and pale greens for the Adonis Gallery and I am working on a couple of other colours for a show there next year.

What is your favourite kind of model?
I honestly don’t have a favourite kind. I’m only interested in the pose, shapes and textures of the body. I like painting muscle guys, skinny lunks and the more obvious models but equally love painting a big fat hairy guy. They all have interesting bodies to me and I paint every picture for myself, so I don’t care if a picture might not suit. I never think about the commercial side to paintings, I wouldn’t care if I never sold a picture. Although goodness knows where I would keep them all.

Do you do commissions?
I have done some. I recently had a chap email me out of the blue with a naked picture of himself asking to be a model. He had chosen an interesting pose so I painted him. The picture will be in my next exhibition. I don’t mind guys sending me naked pictures ...why would I, I’m Gay!! (laughs) ..but I can’t promise to paint them all.

You’ve just turned 40 and joined The Adonis Gallery in London, why did it take so long?
Well, I’ve been painting ever since I was seven actually and I always intended it to be my career, but after Art College I took a year out to get some work experience. I joined the BBC in a job that was only supposed to be for three months and I ended up there for seven and a half years! I guess I liked earning money too much to stop and go back to painting. I then got head hunted to join another Music company and that lead me managing recording artists, which I love doing.

But you have now taken up painting again seriously?
Yes I have. I am really lucky to be able to balance both careers. Being self employed gives me a lot of freedom to choose when and what I work on and I get a huge amount of pleasure from doing both. Painting is my way of relaxing and uses a totally different part of my brain than management.

You manage the singer Jacqui Dankworth, is she supportive of your painting?
Jacqui is great, she’s always been really supportive of my work. Jacqui is one of the leading vocalists of her generation and has a large Gay following all over the World, and so she’s totally comfortable with both my sexuality and the kind of subject matter of my work. I don’t just paint male nudes though, I have done many different subjects, including Jacqui, but the male nudes are what I seem to be getting most attention for.

 Didn’t you re-start your painting career on Ebay?
(Laughs) Yes. It’s true I did. I did about ten pictures of various models just for fun and to get back into working with oil (paint). When I showed them to my friends they all kept saying I should try and sell some on Ebay. I put a couple on and within days they were snapped up. By the end of the first year I had sold almost 150 pictures. In fact, I could hardly paint them fast enough. But I’m not on Ebay anymore. you have to go to www.adonisangallery.com to buy online now! Still, it was great fun doing Ebay and there are some buyers out there who got some great bargains!! (Laughter)

Artist DAVID CARR
MODELS, MUSIC & OIL

Interview by Anthony Stafford

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