Jodie Fleming talks to Daiquiri Dusk and Vendetta Vain

Garry Otton on The Scottish Daily Mail
The fantastic front cover photo of Daiquiri is courtesy of ‘Cherryfox Fine Photography’, who can also find out more about www.cherryfox.co.uk. Daiquiri has also just produced two photo books about UK burlesque (both of which feature Daiquiri) one features live performance images and one studio shots. You can buy both books at order@burlesquepinup.co.uk for £15 each or individually to buy both books.

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**interview**

**Daiquiri Dusk Vendetta Vain**

We could fail to witness the explosion of the beautiful and seductive burlesque scene, as it rages through every medium of our society – from TV programmes to club performances, magazine covers and local dance classes, it’s hailed as the highest form of female self-empowerment. Jude Fleming had the fantastic opportunity to liaise with two of our very beautiful and very successful local burlesque queens, and get down and personal with them.

**How did you get started in the wonderful world of burlesque and what attracted you to it?**

**DD:** I’ve been involved in burlesque in 2005, when a friend and fellow performer invited me to come and see her. My first experience was studying Theatre, Film & Television at the time, and it was immediately attractive to me, but burlesque, as it offered an exciting new world that seemed to combine elements of theatre, dance, cabaret and so much more in dazzling, live shows. Over the next few months, I managed and directed the history of burlesque, both American and British, and wrote an article upon the new wave for my university magazine. I made my own burlesque stage debut in May 2006. In fact, my first ever choreographed routine is, to this day, one of my favourite! I’ve seen a few burlesque performances at the various South and Fetish clubs that I frequented in the early 2000’s, and whilst I really enjoyed them, I didn’t feel that this burlesque event at a show at the Britannia-Palace in 2006 put on by the Ministry of Burlesque. It was unlike anything I had ever seen before; a wonderful mix of music, comedy and sex that made it totally intriguing. It was then that I met Daiquiri and we discovered that we were on the same wavelength, culturally and in terms of our performing styles. Daiquiri is one of the most amazing performers I have ever seen, and her work is truly inspirational. In recent months I have featured on Britain’s Got Talent (Simon’s face was priceless!), performed twice in Europe, in the Seventh Annual New York Burlesque Festival, where I performed a Scottish act, which received a phenomenal reception, and travelled to California where I did not perform but did some fantastic photoshoots on the beach in Los Angeles. Over the next few years, I want to continue to expand my repertoire and skills as a performer (I learned fire performance last year, but I have yet to incorporate it into any of my burlesque shows).

**VV:** I had seen a few burlesque shows (both of which feature Daiquiri) one features live performance images and one studio shots. You can buy both books at order@burlesquepinup.co.uk for £15 each or individually to buy both books.

**Do you make up your own routines and outfits?**

**DD:** I design and make most of my own costumes.  I am involved in a very different creative process changes a little with every performance, because I devote a lot of my time to choreographing routines and showcasing them to live audiences. I have every step of the choreographic and performance process (which is good, because I devote about 80% of my waking time to burlesque) I enjoy the fact that burlesque is an unrestrained in a way that no other kind of performing arts really is. In terms of creative control and the sheer number of different types of performance that the term ‘burlesque’ can encompass. I can definitely see how that can be the case! Burlesque allows women of any age, shape and orientation the chance to express themselves through performance. The popular press my sometimes choose to focus on the traditional images of femininity, but the reality of the genre is a wonderfully varied and vibrant space where stereotypes are challenged and diversity is celebrated.

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**Coming up at the Centre**

**Here are some highlights of what’s coming up before the end of the year:**

**Sunday 9th and Monday 10th November, 6-7.30pm**

The Loftian and Borders Police and Fire Services explore how to protect your four walls and be safe.

**Gay Fawkes - The 5th Nov, 6-9pm**

Join us for a hot cocktails and walk to Carlton Hill!

**Lesbian Film Night** - 8pm on the 10th November

A women-only film night celebrating the best in lesbian and women’s film.

**Gardening Project**

**Saturday 7th and 14th November, 10-5pm**

It’s time to get out hands dirty and start planting! Help us create a garden ready for spring.

**Icebreakers new home** - We’ll be moving to 59 home, 6-7.30pm on the 10th November

Icebreakers move to the new home.

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Icebreakers move to the new home.

**Contact the Centre**

at 9 Howe Street, Edinburgh EH3 6TE

0131 522 1100 admin@lgbthealth.org.uk

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EDINBURGH

Karaoke and the usual camp dance classics

DJ Euan will be providing the fun with charts from the 70’s right through to today!

bottles of VS or £1, and pints of foster for drink offers, offering vodka + mix and CCs to Priscillas, now on there every Thu

miracle, glamorous and overall fantastic Karaoke final will be held on Thu 5th Nov, event justice with decorations abounding

long standing track record, they will do this festivities in style.

opportunities to enjoy all these great

Guy Fawkes Night!! Queue my V for considerations of dishes. Don’t go if you just know each other using the opportunities!!

The scene is brimming with considering the two best events of the year

Dr Pepper, Balfour Street, is hosting the gay and lesbian arts and cultural group

In this, and a heap of other community

Contact www.lgbthealth.org.uk for more info

At the head of the parade will be The Regent, 2 Montrose Terrace. The

be available every Wed 12.30-7pm. From

be taking calls from Wed 4th Nov. The

enterprise, groups and activities.

And some fantastic community news!!

As we all know, on 31st Oct, LGLS

exhibition includes reproductions of personal photographs and memorabilia

experiences of the crew members in foreign sea ports and more seriously, the potential problem? I think we should all give reality

time sure is ticking and it’s all a bit much

And don’t even get me started on the fact

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Glasgow Harbour which is on until Sun 29th Nov. This touring exhibition from National Museums Liverpool reveals a hidden side of the Merchant Navy, from the 1950s – 90s where exciting young men dressed as

Hollywood stars by night and operated as efficient crew members by day. 'The Tailor includes reproductions of

Calton Hill with the LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing, to watch the city light up on

[t 2009 will be visiting (I am dying to see how

Boroian from Cheryl Coles group in X-Factor

Holiday yet and already I’m being urged to

Xmas is being shoved in my face so early I haven’t even had a chance to get myflip

flops out of my case from my summer

holiday yet and already I’m being urged to buy cards and framing stuff! Buck right off with that one. Either way… mega soft cos time sure is ticking and it’s all a bit much quite frankly. So what’s the remedy to this problem? I think we should all give really the elbow and go out! Get ye coats ladies and gents.

It’s even more than that and there’s one audience for working that grey

matters, get yourself down to the Regent. If you fancy a good crack, there are a few fantastic places on our scene that will guarantee you fun. Firstly there’s the good ol’ Blue Moon who never disappoint, by you meat eater, veggie or vegan. Can’t Den Me Plume is also becoming a resounding success in all areas of fine dining, great selection of drinks and all round fantastic atmosphere. Not forgetting the wonderful new Elbow, which continues to serve up gastronomical dreams of dishes. Don’t go if you go on a diet – you will be most upset and may just have to subsidize your table

Over at GHG, we have Furburger on Fri 9th Nov – and ladies, it’s not too late to wear your easy Halloween outfits. Oh don’t give us all a fright!!! Good times, good drinks prices – can’t beat it! And Love Traffic; GHG’s answer to shag tag, continues to go well each Tue evening from 11pm-3am. Contact www.sightsat.org.uk for more info on this, and a heap of other community entertainment, groups and activities.

Although whoever the superfan is who will know this pint sized princess always

Don’t even get me started on the fact

'Geezo' they were right. I don’t know if it’s

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**UNWELCOME CENTRE**

The over-sensitive lobby groups have found much to whinge, cringe or remonstrate about at Glasgow’s annual celebration of queer culture, the Glasgow Festive Pride 2010. In particular, they provoked the extraordinary fortitude demonstrated by heterosexual, religiously inclined, with zero, with intolerance, and with gender and dress-up in women’s clothes. Under a heading suggesting this was a debate he spoke its alarm by the absence of local just-argued opinion. Grant added: the event fuelled concerns that arts chiefs in the city are intent on promoting gay rights at the expense of ‘traditional family values’. Despite his own commitment for thorough exhibitions, he said: ‘The Church to express its homophobia and conservative moral agenda with impunity. Over a proposal for school nurses to provide teenagers with an emergency contraception pill, it was the women who were left to bear the weight while Grant and his male cronies did the screaming. ‘It undermines the family and is a huge backward step’, his friend Gordon MacDonald from CARE squealed.

When File Men Project was given a ‘cash handout’ of £5,000, Graham Grant’s ‘inclusive’ gagged: ‘how thousands of pounds of public money is to be given to a

Newspaper

**FREE TO SAY SO THE Scottish Daily Mail**

**Garry Oulton’s book ‘Badge of Shame’ - The Repeat of Section 28 in Scotland is, currently being serialised in ScotsGay magazine and on the Scottish Media Watch website.**

The SNP’s recent conference in Inverness passed a resolution criticising Culture & Sport Glasgow for sending back “gay, bi-sexual and transgender asylum seekers to countries where they faced harassment or persecution.” The SNP is currently preparing to introduce legislation to ensure asylum seekers who are forced to leave their home country - which could include gay or lesbian

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Donald Skinner-Reid, Partner at Edinburgh solicitors Mount Hall Dick writes: We were delighted to win at the Law Awards for Scotland, for the third time. Family Law Firm of the Year. The Awards are run in association with the Scottish Law Society and independently judged by a panel of experts.

**A SPORT ABOUT A OTHER: A new arts show about the intersection of LGBT, Jewish and Disabled identity has been unveiled at the Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art, and runs until 21st Feb 2010. Dycila Adams and Braille, large print and audio information will be provided with BSL interpretation on an artist talk on 10th Dec. McGuinness, again, as ‘bitter to caress’, as in ‘why bother’, as in ‘we’ll cause bother until we’re treated as equals’.

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