

Forever with Pride E-Magazine

1st March
issue 40



FOREVER WITH PRIDE

FREE FOR ALL TO READ!

www.foreverwithpride.com

Established 2021

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

So many times throughout my life, I have felt the deep ache of my face not quite fitting in—because of my age, my gender, my sexuality, or even my disability. This feeling can weigh heavily on the heart, leading many to despair under the burden of rejection. It was this very realization that inspired me to launch ‘Forever with Pride E-Magazine,’ a space dedicated to reaching out to every individual who may feel sad or alone, who may think their face doesn’t belong. I want to assure you that reading this magazine will always be free of charge—I believe in making it accessible to all. As you explore the incredible LGBTQ+ businesses, services, and individuals featured in our vibrant Queer World, know that you are seen, you belong, and your face truly does fit in here now and always will.



RITA DE LOS ANGELES

Rita De Los Angeles – Authentic Country Rock with a Story to Tell
Rita De Los Angeles is a passionate singer-songwriter and solo country artist, blending country-rock vibes with an indie-folk touch.

Originally from Los Angeles, she now calls the Cologne area of Germany home.

Before stepping fully into music, Rita was a well-known figure in the lesbian community of L.A., New York, and San Francisco, as the owner of the iconic lesbian coffee house Little Frida's and publisher of the nightlife 'zine Female FYI.

Her music is an expressive fusion of rock, country, and pop, creating a raw yet relatable sound. "I write acoustic-driven songs and play most of the instruments on my recordings," says Rita. "My dark, smoky voice is central to my sound, but at heart, I'm a guitarist first. That's why my playing is such a dominant force in my music—whether it's steel-string acoustic, nylon flamenco, electric, or even slide guitar for those country-infused tracks. Sometimes, I weave in flamenco-inspired riffs, a nod to the South of the Border sounds I grew up with in Southern California."

Rita's diverse influences stem from a musical upbringing shaped by classic rock, pop, and the Arabic melodies her Egyptian parents played on Saturday nights. But it was country music—her mother's favorite—that left an unexpected mark. "As a teenager, I hated country," she laughs. "I was into AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, Pat Benatar, and Joan Jett. But when my mom passed in 2020, I found comfort in country and Americana.



Now, I can't get enough. My mom and I were incredibly close—only 18 years apart—so every time I perform, I imagine her in the audience."

Her lyrics are drawn from life itself—love, loss, joy, and grief. "I write from experience, from simply being human and making my way under the sun."

Proudly Out & Loud

Rita has been openly out for so long that she barely remembers a time when she wasn't. On stage, she never shies away from singing about loving women and proudly sharing that she's married to a woman. "I mostly play to straight audiences in rural areas and perform about 30 shows a year. I've never had a bad experience being out on stage—just the opposite. The support has been amazing."



Handmade Music – A One-Woman Band

Rita is hands-on with her music, writing, producing, and engineering all her tracks in her home studio. She performs all vocals and guitar parts and often plays piano, bass, cajón, and harmonica. For instruments like fiddle, brass, and drums,

she occasionally calls in friends to collaborate.

Her music is available on all streaming platforms, including five singles and a full-length country Christmas album, *Americana Christmas*. She plans to release at least four more singles in 2025.



Catch Rita Live

Rita performs up to 30 shows a year, primarily across North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), Germany, during the spring, summer, and fall. Each winter, she returns to Southern California to play. She has a special love for intimate living room concerts and welcomes inquiries from those interested in hosting.

For booking, music, and more, visit www.ritadelosangeles.com

Instagram: [rita.delosangeles](https://www.instagram.com/rita.delosangeles)

Facebook: [ritadelosangeles](https://www.facebook.com/ritadelosangeles)

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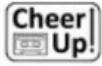
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Oedipus



Photo by Manuel Harlan

You wait for years for an Oedipus and then all of sudden two show up, one after another.

In October 2024 Oedipus at Wyndhams theatre opened up with megastars Mark Strong and Lesley Manville. Now in February we have another Oedipus hot on the heels and one month after the first one closed. This one stars megastar (and Oscar winner) Rami Malek as the titular character along with Indira Varma as his wife Jocasta.

In case you didn't know, Oedipus, which is first and foremost a famous Greek play/tragedy is also the word that describes a person who has sexual desires for their opposite-sex parent while viewing their same sex parent as a rival. In Greek mythology it was the King of Thebes who unwittingly killed his father and married his mother. So for 100 minutes straight thru with no interval The Old Vic presents Oedipus.

It all starts out very dramatic: a shadow of a face on the front of the opening curtain, then freestyle dancers take to the stage to set up the drama and tension, and when the actors appear you can feel the audience holding their breathe. On a bare bones stage, the story unravels - it's pretty much all about the acting. And the acting is fine, they are all very relaxed and suited to their roles. And we the audience are the townspeople who listen to Oedipus (Rami Malek), who has just become leader of Thebes - a drought stricken city, and he tells us that there will be water soon.

Varma is superb, Ceceilia Noble as Tiresias cuts a strong figure on the stage, as does Nicholas Woodeson as the Shepherd. So how is Malek? In his first stage role since 2007 (according to online sources) he is fierce and determined, with a strong forceful voice, but I'm still on the fence if he is suited for this role. He is not as comfortable on stage as the other actors are - he appears to be stiff and a bit unsure of himself, but perhaps that is because the role calls for a delicate balance between determination and authority, is where he just falls a bit short.

But what is really wrong with this production is the aforementioned dancers. They appear and take over the stage several times, interrupting the drama and tension we are so getting absorbed into. And even at the end, the last dance session is too long, and underscores the big reveals at the end. If the dancing were to be cut in half, then this production would be tighter and more dramatic, but to be honest I just wanted the dancers to get off the stage and let the play tell its story.

Oedipus is good but a bit frustrating, which is probably what the Greeks intended.

Oedipus is now playing until March 29th, 2025

www.oldvictheatre.com



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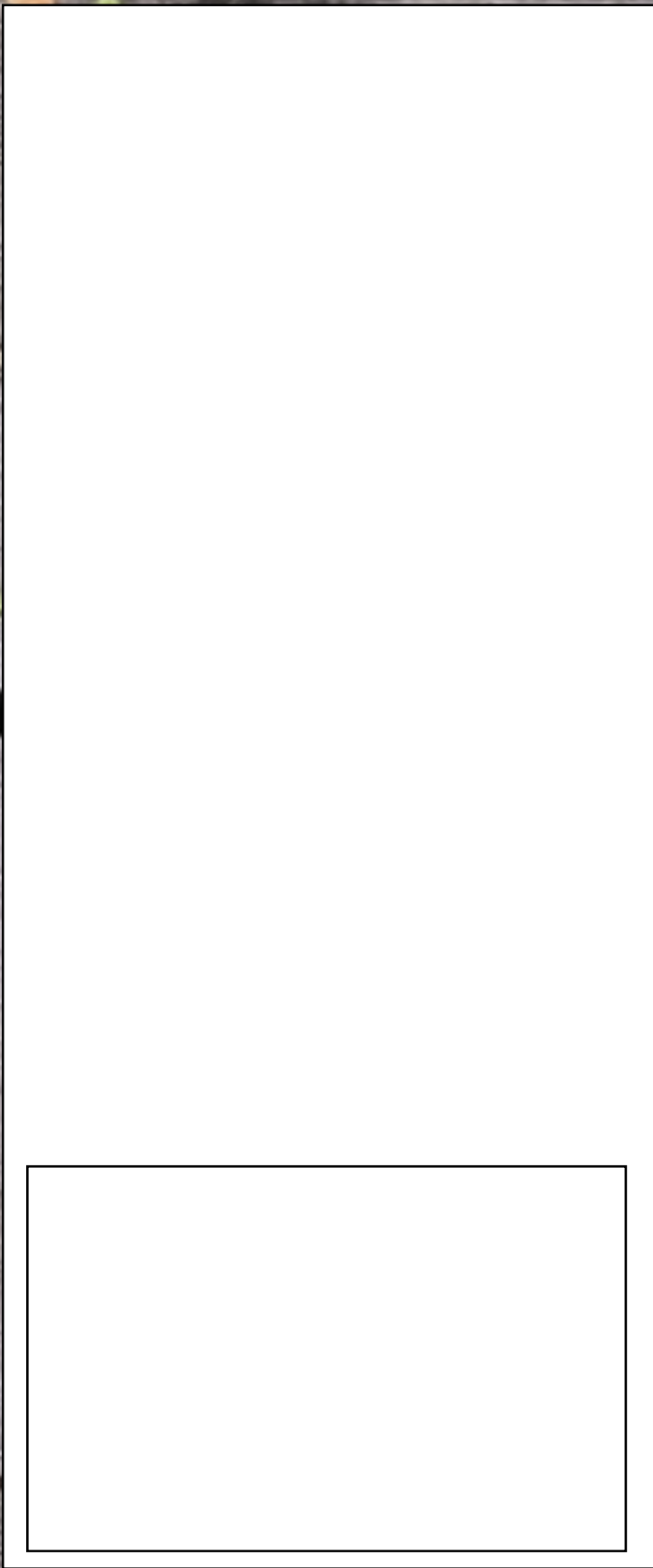
**Gay Gardeners UK, Plants, Seeds and
surplus Exchange Group**

March is finally here! The two least interesting months in the garden are behind us and we can start looking forward to the new season. It's one of my favourite months of the year with lots of anticipation. Remember this month is famous in lore for high winds either at the start or towards the end of the month so it's not plain sailing for the garden in March and there will certainly still be plenty of cold daytime temperatures and night time frosts so don't get too enthusiastic too early else you will have to start again.

I get itchy fingers at this time of year, eager to sow the new seeds and there are some hardy ones you can start off but remember it's easy to start the seeds and cuttings off in a heated propagator but then you have to do something with them when they have germinated or rooted and energy prices keep increasing making a heated greenhouse more and more of a luxury for a lot of gardeners. Wait until the end of the month at the earliest for most seeds and cuttings. Apart from anything else they will catch up earlier sown plants due to the longer day length and better quality of light.

Be careful at this time of year and even at the end of the month for rotting diseases such as Botrytis and Damping off. The latter can wipe out a tray of seedlings overnight so watering levels are critical as is the density you sow your seeds at.





- Plant of the Month -

Remember not to get those assets frozen especially when pricking out! Peaking too early can lead to disappointing results!!



LGBTQIA+ mental health



Being LGBTQIA+ isn't a mental health problem. And it doesn't cause mental health problems.



Forever with Pride LGBTQ+ Free to Read Monthly E-Magazine provides a much loved and valued service for the community.

It's getting harder to enjoy reading your favourite magazines due to their cost. Forever With Pride Magazine has taken care of that by launching it as a free to read e-magazine. We've stayed away from print editions, by being a digital-only publication. We need your help so we can continue to offer and even expand our free service we need your help!
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Yours sincerely,
Forever with Pride

Third prize



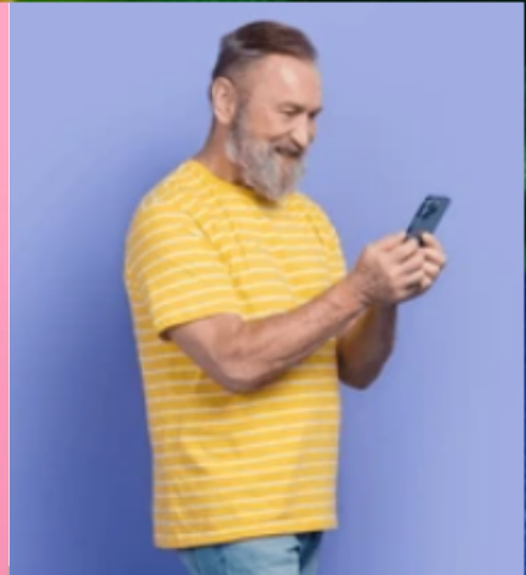
Roger in Highbridge supporting Forever with Pride LGBTQ+ Free to Read Monthly E-Magazine matched 2 numbers and won 3 extra tickets

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Here at Forever with Pride we're All Things Blog/Vlog & YouTube

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Would you like to join our bloggers and vlogers and YouTubers here in FWP?

If you have answered yes and would like to share it here in Forever with Pride each month we would love to hear from you.

Oh, and joining us is free so come and get seen!

FINDING MY VOICE:

HOW I GOT INTO THE MUSIC BUSINESS

With Blake Rave

CAREER

If you're an aspiring musician, you've probably felt the pull—the undeniable urge to create, to perform, to put your heart into a song and share it with the world. I've been there, and my journey into the music business has been anything but straightforward. If you're just starting out, I want to share a bit of my story—how I got here, what I've learned, and what I wish I knew when I started.

Like many artists, my love for music began early. I've always had music in my blood—literally: my grandfather was a brilliant Spanish guitar player. I only met him a handful of times when I was young; ironically, I didn't know about his love for music until after he passed. I grew up in a small town with few opportunities for musicians. But that never stopped me from dreaming. I wrote my songs and performed whenever and wherever I could. I wasn't born into the industry, I had to carve my own path—something most independent musicians can relate to.

I first came to London in 2022 with a recording contract. The album was 'Home' and the deal was with a music production company with producers around the globe. Visiting a big city like London for the first time was a game-changer. While it was a dream-come-true, there were many struggles, such as financial stress and starting from scratch in a place where nobody knew my name. But every connection, every performance, every challenge helped me grow. I found a community, I found freedom to experiment with my sound, and most importantly, I found my resilience.

One of the biggest lessons I've learned is that talent is just one piece of the puzzle. Passion drives you, but persistence is what keeps you going when the gigs are small, when the industry feels impenetrable, and when self-doubt creeps in. Early on, I had to learn to put myself out there—networking, playing open mics, and saying 'yes' to opportunities even when they felt intimidating or underwhelming.



TIPS FOR CREATIVES

For anyone looking to break into the industry, here's my advice:

1. Be adaptable. The music world is unpredictable. Stay open to different gigs, collaborations, and even setbacks—they all lead somewhere.
2. Find your people. Surround yourself with musicians and creatives who inspire you and push you forward.
3. Keep learning. Whether it's improving your instrument skills, learning the business side of things, or just staying open to feedback, growth never stops.
4. Stay true to yourself. Trends come and go, but authenticity is what makes an artist memorable. The industry will test you, and not always in ways that seem fair. Know your worth and stand your ground, because not everyone will have your best interests at heart.

There's no one path into the music business, but if you love what you do and you're willing to work for it, you're already on your way. Keep creating, keep pushing forward, and I'll see you out there!

Welcome to
Alphabetti ~ Amasatine ~
Miss Serpentina and Lord Skullington



Tales of the Second City

Misadventures on Birmingham's Gay Scene

Double Trouble

They were all over me: hanging on my arms; draped over my shoulders; hugging my waist; pawing, clinging, and scampering about... like I'd paid for the meerkat experience at Twycross Zoo.

"Let us come home with you," insisted one brother, as he foraged and groped.

"Yes, we can stay all night," agreed his sibling.

As much as I was revelling in the Pornhub fantasy... my partner would kill me if I arrived home at 3am... with twin twink.

The evening began with watching the usual entertaining mayhem from outside Missing, a bar in the heart of Birmingham's gay scene: a shoplifter was ejected from Tesco Express with such ferocity that he literally flew out of the automatic doors and crashed to the pavement with a bone-jarring thud; the jolly preacher wandered passed, cheerfully condemning us all to Hell with a loving smile; a herd of rollerbladers glided by to the thumping sounds of an 80s style gettoblaster; Joe Lycett strolled up the road wearing a flamboyant sweater.

I love Hurst Street!

Time for a change of scene, so I headed to Sidewalk... not realising it was the monthly Furmeet, the largest regular Furry gathering in the Midlands.

Furries are a gentle crew, who meet up dressed as anthropomorphised animals. Each character sports a unique outfit, consisting of large headpiece/mask, big furry paws and feet, sometimes full hairy bodysuits, and Basil Brush style tails.

I got talking to staff about how much the venue enjoys their custom.

"They are so polite and no trouble."

"And hopefully house trained," I commented. "I've noticed how socially awkward they are without their Masks. The costumes bring them out of themselves."

The Furries are a lovely group who have found their pack. Although, those paws must be a hinderance when holding a beer... or eating a bag of peanuts.

In Equator Bar, I met a mismatched couple from the Middle East. One had sponsored his boyfriend to get him into the UK. This was his first night of being openly gay on the scene... On any gay scene.

"I've told him that he can be himself... without fear of being beheaded," his partner told me.

Well, isn't that the least we can hope for from a night out?!

Despite my better judgement, I opted for 'one' final drink back at Missing. This was where I encountered the identical twins. They were spinning around the dancefloor, silly, jubilant, and as cute as a couple of shiny conkers.

Next thing I knew, the twins were on me like a case of shingles.

As much fun as their joint attention was, it soon became apparent that one brother was far too inebriated. His knees buckled and I had to scoop him up and pop him on a bench, where he sprawled for a moment like a boneless chicken fillet, then slid to the floor. I picked him up again and returned him to the perch... only for him to melt to the floor once more.

"You've got to take him home," I told the marginally more sober of the two.

Twinky twin number two, reluctantly ordered an Uber and helped me manoeuvre his brother to the exit, but once outside he reneged all responsibility and turned to re-enter the pub.

Security barred his way, telling him, "You gotta get him in the cab an' go with him."

Bro scrutinised his identical sibling's face for a moment, like staring into a mirror... then audaciously declared, "I don't know him. I've never seen him before in my life," spun on his heels and flounced back inside.

That's brotherly love for you.

The next morning, that familiar face they shared popped up on Grindr.

I messaged, 'Are you the drunk one... or the REALLY drunk one?'

'Just the normal drunk one,' he replied.

I asked about his brother's fate after being abandoned on the pavement.

Apparently, he got home safely, albeit on wobbly legs and seeing double... but then, weren't we all that night?

Find more tales from the gayside of the UK's second city at:

www.talesofthesecondcity.com



THE PARANORMAL

A Haunting Through Time!

Podcast

- WITH -



**ROBIN .S.
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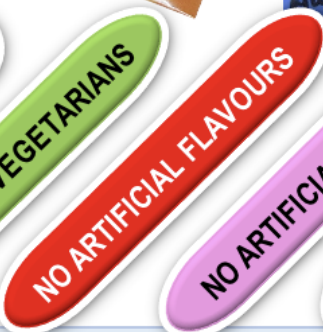


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TRANSFORM

BY SJR



Who wants safe queer spaces? Who wants our trans sisters to feel beautiful and safe? And who wants to feel their true authentic self? ME!

Hey, I'm Samantha the founder of TRANSform by SJR. As a queer person, a lover of all things skin care, an advocate of safe practice aesthetics I have created a nonjudgmental and safe clinic for my queer family.

As humans love to feel beautiful, and we deserve to feel beautiful. TRANSform by SJR is a clinic for my LGBTQIA+ community. Within my clinic I provide consultations for aesthetics work and skin care treatments. There is a serious lack of queer identifying, queer representation and queer supporting clinics and this is something I massively pride myself on.

I started my clinic after noticing there is a lack of aesthetic clinics supporting the LGBTQIA+ community and advertising their support. I wanted to create a space for my queer family to come and feel comfortable. As a mental health nurse, I have seen the effect on clients who have unsupportive families and friends around them. I wanted to create a clinic where not only do I help my patients achieve their aesthetic looks and skins goals but become their supportive network.

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My goal is for my clients to come to my clinic and feel beautiful before and after treatments. We live in a world where the LGBTQIA+ community are not seen as equals to the cis gendered straight people. At TRANSform by SJR, I see you.

Not only do I help my clients achieve their desired look, but I also help with post and pre-op scars using a skin rejuvenation treatment called polynucleotides, an injectable bio stimulator to help the improvement of scars. Having a course of polynucleotides pre-surgery improves the skin elasticity, boosting hydration and collagen production so the body can heal effectively. Polynucleotides are beneficial for healing and repairing damaged skin. If you're wanting a supportive network to help with your transition, please let me be part of your journey.

Prior to any treatments, I offer a free consultation in which we discuss the things we love and dislike. I thrive asking my clients what they love about themselves to boost self-love and body positivity. Within these consultations a treatment plan is created so each client has their own personalised skin and aesthetics package.

Aside from aesthetics I am a qualified mental health nurse and a level 7 delegate in aesthetics treatments. Whilst in my nursing position I am constantly advocating for my LGBTQIA+ community.

My clinic is for the she's, they's and gay's. Please know you are welcomed; you are loved, and you are respected.

And just a quick one, no TERFS need asking for a consultation. It's a no





The logo for "OUT LOUD P.O.D.C.A.S.T". The words "OUT LOUD" are in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font. Behind the letters are numerous vertical bars of various colors, including purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, and red, creating a rainbow effect. Below "OUT LOUD", the word "P.O.D.C.A.S.T" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, with dots separating the letters.

The OUT LOUD Queer Music Podcast is presented by The Q LGBTQ Creative Network. Hear great Artist interviews and conversations and discover the latest and greatest new music releases by LGBTQ artists from around the globe. Hosted by The Q founder Kenney Fitzpatrick. LGBTQ artists can submit their music at curatedbyq.com to be featured on a podcast episode.



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Let your voice be heard!



formed in early 2023 with the simple idea of offering a coffee meetup once a month.

It soon became apparent that the local community in general wanted to support us and wanted more than we were offering, so we started to plan for a safe space scheme, putting together training resources, building a website, and branching out.

Spectrum Inclusion was founded in February 2023 in response to a lack of LGBTQIA+ groups in East Lancashire and particularly Rossendale where we are based, and we have in fact just celebrated our second birthday.

Towards the end of 2023, we were approached by some people in Darwen who liked what we were doing and wanted to set up a social group there, and Spectrum Inclusion Darwen came into being.

Our founder, Jack, came out as a trans man in November 2022 and in looking for local information and support, he found there was a marked lack of anything LGBTQIA+ in the area and Spectrum Inclusion Rossendale was

We also offer family drop-in sessions in Rossendale once a month, and at the start of 2025, we started an LGBTQIA+ crafting group in Burnley.





In early 2024 we recognised that we were no longer a simple community group but were expanding into an organisation with a growing reputation and so we registered as a Community Interest Company (CIC).

This will allow us to apply for larger amounts of funding, which will help us to keep up with the increased demand placed on our services, as well as allowing us to develop more resources and training for the community, expanding accordingly to the needs of the community.

The name 'Spectrum Inclusion' came from the growing understanding that gender identity and sexuality, as well as being two separate things, are on a spectrum, and that your position on those spectrums can change and isn't necessarily fixed, as our founder, Jack, has experienced.

From coming out as gay at 17 to the realisation he was an asexual trans man at 39, he uses these experiences to help shape the work that Spectrum Inclusion does and also to highlight the importance of visibility: he often says, "If I'd had the representation of trans people growing up, I might have accepted the truth a long time ago instead of being almost 40 to start my journey."

In March 2024, we launched the pilot of our Spectrum Lantern Campaign, which initially aimed to have 12 community groups and local venues who were identified as being specifically safe and friendly for the LGBTQIA+ community.

We offer informal training which we have found encourages discussion and allows people to ask questions that are relevant to their group or business.

After receiving overwhelming support for this Campaign, we secured more funding in late 2024 to add another 30 groups and venues to the list by the end of March 2025.

There has been interest in expanding the Campaign beyond Rossendale as well, something we are currently looking into.

The moth and lantern identifies places, as a decal in the window, or a list of groups and venues can be found on our website; the significance of the design is to offer a light to the LGBTQIA+ community so they don't have to hide in the shadows.

In July 2024, in partnership with The Whitaker Art Gallery and Museum in Rawtenstall, we held Rossendale's first Pride event which over 500 people attended.

We had entertainment and support from other local groups, like Rossendale Radio and our local youth group; activities for the whole family, including badge making and banner making; and a parade around the park.

This year we are planning to release some helpful guides for those transitioning or wanting to transition (FTM & MTF), and for parents, families and allies.

These will be available to download from our website and physical copies will be available locally.

If anyone would like more information about what we do or if you need support, please don't hesitate to get in touch (even if you're not in Lancashire).

We are always looking for volunteers, sponsors and people to fundraise for us as well, if you'd like to support us.

Website

www.spectruminclusion.co.uk/

Facebook

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Email

info@spectruminclusion.co.uk



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We need your help so we can continue to offer and even expand our free service we need your help!

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Yours sincerely,

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Bursting shopping bags

By Richard B

Bill walked back from the supermarket with heavy shopping bags, and, per usual, he bemoaned he had a bad back and he really could do with another person to help him carry heavy shopping bags all the way back to his house, where he lived alone.

Bill let out a heavy sigh. It had recently been Valentine's Day. He had watched a young couple, a boy looked about 18, laughing and holding hands, with a young woman of about the same age, both dressed in trendy clothes, near the traffic lights. He saw an older couple soon after, swinging their clasped hands backwards and forwards and similarly laughing together. Bill let out another sigh. If only I had a partner, a nice man who could help carry my shopping bags. They seemed to be getting heavier, the further he walked.

Now his left foot seemed to hurt him.

"Oh curse these wretched shopping bags!"

He walked under the bridge. Suddenly a pot of cream fell through one of the shopping bags and spilled all over the pavement. "Oh blast!!!!" Bill said.

"Are you OK?", came a soft voice behind him.

Bill turned around quickly.

A man of about Bill's age stood there, dressed in a grey suit with thin chestnut brown hair.

"I saw that you seemed to be struggling with your shopping, have you far to go?", said the man.

"Ah you're very kind, but I'm nearly home, but thank you so much for caring, sir"! (Bill was about 15 minutes on foot, until he reached home).

"Oh that's good then, " replied the man. "I don't like see people struggling and I like to help people if I can".

"Ah thanks it's so kind of you", replied Bill, "but I'm nearly home".

"No worries, take care, mate," said the man.

"Actually, may I ask you a favour?

"Sure".

"Could I be really cheeky and ask for a lift? My feet are hurting me and I don't think I can walk home. And I don't trust that these shopping bags won't burst!" said Bill. "Ah yes of course, where do you live?"

"Off Pinkerton Drive near the Co-op? It's only about 5 mins up the road?"

"That's no problem, jump in", smiled this kind man.

Bill felt so happy. He opened the shiny blue door of this man's car and sat in the front seat, and only just about managed to fit the shopping at his feet.

The man started the car and he drove off, reversing near the primary school and then zoomed off left.

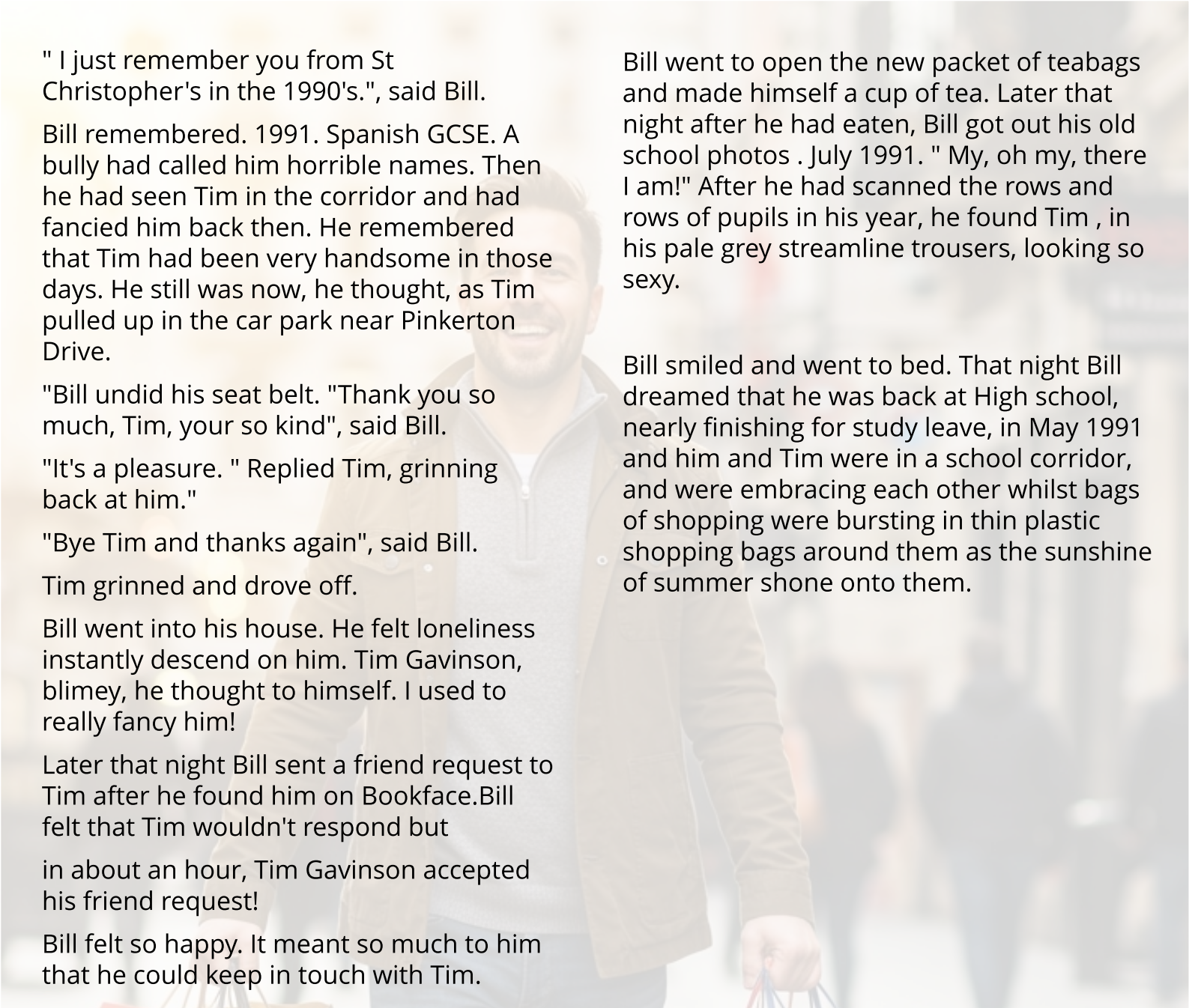
"I'm sure I know you from somewhere!" said Bill.

"Yeah? I'm called Tim."

Tim... Tim... Bill thought.

"Yes, I think, yes is your surname Gavinson?"

Tim smiled. "It is!!! How on earth do you know?"



" I just remember you from St Christopher's in the 1990's.", said Bill.

Bill remembered. 1991. Spanish GCSE. A bully had called him horrible names. Then he had seen Tim in the corridor and had fancied him back then. He remembered that Tim had been very handsome in those days. He still was now, he thought, as Tim pulled up in the car park near Pinkerton Drive.

"Bill undid his seat belt. "Thank you so much, Tim, your so kind", said Bill.

"It's a pleasure. " Replied Tim, grinning back at him."

"Bye Tim and thanks again", said Bill.

Tim grinned and drove off.

Bill went into his house. He felt loneliness instantly descend on him. Tim Gavinson, blimey, he thought to himself. I used to really fancy him!

Later that night Bill sent a friend request to Tim after he found him on Bookface. Bill felt that Tim wouldn't respond but in about an hour, Tim Gavinson accepted his friend request!

Bill felt so happy. It meant so much to him that he could keep in touch with Tim.

Bill went to open the new packet of teabags and made himself a cup of tea. Later that night after he had eaten, Bill got out his old school photos . July 1991. " My, oh my, there I am!" After he had scanned the rows and rows of pupils in his year, he found Tim , in his pale grey streamline trousers, looking so sexy.

Bill smiled and went to bed. That night Bill dreamed that he was back at High school, nearly finishing for study leave, in May 1991 and him and Tim were in a school corridor, and were embracing each other whilst bags of shopping were bursting in thin plastic shopping bags around them as the sunshine of summer shone onto them.

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Dorian Film Awards: 'The Substance' and Film's Star Demi Moore Score Big with LGBTQ Critics

Allegorical Trans Chiller 'I Saw the TV Glow,' Netflix Doc 'Will & Harper,' Provocative Tennis Drama 'Challengers' All Notch Double-Wins

Thursday Feb 13, 2025 - Los Angeles - GALECA: The Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics, counting [more than 500 entertainment critics, journalists and media icons](#), has announced the winners of its Dorian Film Awards. Writer-director Coralie Fargeat's shocking Hollywood satire *The Substance* was crowned Film of the Year, with the Mubi release taking five Dorians in all, including star Demi Moore for Film Performance of the Year and Fargeat for Film Director of the Year.

Moore's morph from former Brat Pack Era fixture to raw, unflinching indie movie firebrand impressed GALECA voters enough to also bestow her with the group's Timeless Star career achievement award. Previous winners in the category, which tributes "an exemplary career marked by character, wisdom and wit," include the likes of Jodie Foster, Jane Fonda, Nathan Lane, John Waters, Rita Moreno, Jane Fonda, George Takei and Sir Ian McKellen.

Writer-director Jane Schoenbrun's thought-provoking horror tale *I Saw the TV Glow*, which had led the Dorian hunt with 9 nominations, took LGBTQ Film of the Year as well as LGBTQ screenplay honours. *Will & Harper*, the irresistible road-trip documentary charting actor Will Ferrell's enduring friendship with trans comedy writer Harper Steele, won both Documentary of the Year and LGBTQ Documentary. And Galeca members

showed 40-love for *Challengers*, director Luca Guadagnino's homoerotic spin on Jules and Jim. The film's writer Justin Kuritzkes earned Screenplay of the Year, while rock legends Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross for their tension-building techno score.

Wicked fans will be pleased that Dorian voters held plenty of space for the musical fantasy's stars. The group gave Ariana Grande a pinky hug for Supporting Film Performance of the Year, Jonathan Bailey was named Rising Star, and Cynthia Erivo—who plays misunderstood, green-skinned heroine Elphaba Thropp in the hit—won LGBTQIA+ Film Trailblazer. Past recipients of the latter honour—which is meant for an artist who "inspires empathy, truth and equity"—include Janelle Monáe, Pedro Almodóvar, Isabel Sandoval and Colman Domingo.

Fun fact: Domingo, Dorian-nominated this year for *Sing Sing*, proved victorious over Fargeat, Schoenbrun, Guadagnino and Tilda Swinton in the race for Wilde Artist, a special accolade named in homage to Oscar Wilde reserved for "a truly groundbreaking force in entertainment."

"In our 16th year, GALECA's members still have wicked fun toasting their favourites in film both mainstream and LGBTQ-themed," said group president Walt Hickey.



Added vice president Diane Anderson-Minshall, “I’m certain even some ultra-conservatives who are out to erase all sorts of ‘woke’ words and letters—not to mention history—are secretly taking note of our winners. Everyone appreciates the expert Q+ eye on entertainment.”

Other GALECA Dorian winners this year: The trans-empowering Batman spoof *The People’s Joker* and writer-director-star Julio Torres’ comedy *Problemista* were both dubbed Unsung Film gems; director RaMell Ross’ somewhat experimental *Nickel Boys* was named Visually Striking Film, and the twisty animal adventure *Flow*—another dazzling cinematic experience—took Animated Film of the Year.

Best Non-English language film honours went to Brazil’s fact-based protest drama *I’m Still Here*, released by Sony Pictures Classics in the U.S. The controversy-plagued Emilia Pérez was named best LGBTQ non-English language film.

GALECA: has been busy. The Society recently launched its latest \$3000 Crimson Honors scholarship contest for aspiring film, TV and New York theatre critics in public colleges (applications, due March 20, can be submitted via galeca.org/crimson-honours). The group has also donated \$1000 to The Los Angeles Press Club’s emergency relief fund for journalists affected by the city’s devastating January fires. And the membership recently announced its choices for America’s 10 best on-air TV news journalists, among them Christiane Amanpour, David Muir, Lester Holt, Kaitlan Collins and Jacob Soboroff.

GALECA: THE SOCIETY OF LGBTQ ENTERTAINMENT CRITICS

16TH DORIAN FILM AWARDS LIST OF NOMINEES

FILM OF THE YEAR

Anora (Neon)
Challengers (Amazon MGM Studios)
I Saw the TV Glow (A24)
Nickel Boys (Orion Pictures/Amazon MGM Studios)
The Substance (Mubi)

LGBTQ FILM OF THE YEAR

Challengers (Amazon MGM Studios)
Emilia Pérez (Netflix)
I Saw the TV Glow (A24)
Love Lies Bleeding (A24)
Queer (A24)

DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Brady Corbet, *The Brutalist* (A24)
Coralie Fargeat, *The Substance* (Mubi)
Luca Guadagnino, *Challengers* (Amazon MGM Studios)
RaMell Ross, *Nickel Boys* (Orion Pictures/Amazon MGM Studios)
Jane Schoenbrun, *I Saw the TV Glow* (A24)

SCREENPLAY OF THE YEAR

— Original or adapted

Sean Baker, *Anora* (Neon)
Coralie Fargeat, *The Substance* (Mubi)
Justin Kuritzkes, *Challengers* (Amazon MGM Studios)
Jane Schoenbrun, *I Saw the TV Glow* (A24)
Peter Straughan, *Conclave* (Focus Features)

LGBTQ SCREENPLAY OF THE YEAR

Rose Glass and Weronika Tofiliska, *Love Lies Bleeding* (A24)
Justin Kuritzkes, *Challengers* (Amazon MGM Studios)
Justin Kuritzkes, *Queer* (A24)
Jane Schoenbrun, *I Saw the TV Glow* (A24)
Julio Torres, *Problemista* (A24)





NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE FILM OF THE YEAR

All We Imagine as Light (Sideshow / Janus Films)
Emilia Pérez (Netflix)
Flow (Sideshow / Janus Films)
I'm Still Here (Sony Pictures Classics)
The Seed of the Sacred Fig (Neon)

UNSUNG FILM OF THE YEAR

To an exceptional movie worthy of greater attention

Didi (Focus Features)
Hundreds of Beavers (Cineverse, Vinegar Syndrome)
My Old Ass (Amazon MGM Studios)
Problemista (A24)
Thelma (Magnolia)

UNSUNG LGBTQ FILM OF THE YEAR

Femme (Utopia)
My Old Ass (Amazon MGM Studios)
National Anthem (Variance, LD Entertainment)
The People's Joker (Altered Innocence)
Problemista (A24)

FILM PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR

Adrien Brody, The Brutalist (A24)
Daniel Craig, Queer (A24)
Colman Domingo, Sing Sing (A24)
Karla Sofía Gascón, Emilia Pérez (Netflix)
Cynthia Erivo, Wicked (Universal)
Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Hard Truths (Bleecker Street)
Nicole Kidman, Babygirl (A24)
Mikey Madison, Anora (Neon)
Demi Moore, The Substance (Mubi)
Justice Smith, I Saw the TV Glow (A24)

SUPPORTING FILM PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR

Michele Austin, Hard Truths (Bleecker Street)
Yura Borisov, Anora (Neon)
Kieran Culkin, A Real Pain (Searchlight Pictures)
Ariana Grande, Wicked (Universal)
Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor, Nickel Boys (Orion Pictures/Amazon MGM Studios)
Jack Haven, I Saw the TV Glow (A24)
Clarence Maclin, Sing Sing (A24)
Guy Pearce, The Brutalist (A24)
Margaret Qualley, The Substance (Mubi)
Zoe Saldaña, Emilia Pérez (Netflix)

DOCUMENTARY OF THE YEAR

Dahomey (Mubi)
Daughters (Netflix)
The Remarkable Life of Ibelin (Netflix)
Sugarcane (National Geographic)
Will & Harper (Netflix)

LGBTQ DOCUMENTARY OF THE YEAR

Chasing Chasing Amy (Level 33)
Frida (Amazon MGM Studios)
Merchant Ivory (Cohen Media Group)
Queendom (Greenwich Entertainment)
Will & Harper (Netflix)

ANIMATED FILM OF THE YEAR

Flow (Sideshow / Janus Films)
Inside Out 2 (Disney)
Memoir of a Snail (IFC Films)
Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl (Netflix)
The Wild Robot (Universal, DreamWorks)



GENRE FILM OF THE YEAR

For excellence in science fiction, fantasy and horror

Dune: Part Two (Warner Bros.)
I Saw the TV Glow (A24)
Nosferatu (Focus Features)
The Substance (Mubi)
Wicked (Universal)

FILM MUSIC OF THE YEAR

The Brutalist (A24) - Daniel Blumberg
Challengers (Amazon MGM Studios) - Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross
Emilia Pérez (Netflix) - Clément Ducol and Camille
I Saw the TV Glow (A24) - Alex G
Wicked (Universal) - John Powell and Stephen Schwartz, et al.

VISUALLY STRIKING FILM OF THE YEAR

The Brutalist (A24)
Dune: Part Two (Warner Bros.)
Nosferatu (Focus Features)
Nickel Boys (Orion Pictures/Amazon MGM Studios)
The Substance (Mubi)

CAMPIEST FLICK

Hundreds of Beavers (Cineverse, Vinegar Syndrome)
Madame Web (Sony)
Megalopolis (Lionsgate)
The Substance (Mubi)
Trap (Warner Bros.)

"WE'RE WILDE ABOUT YOU!" RISING STAR AWARD

Jonathan Bailey
Vera Drew
Karla Sofía Gascón
Jack Haven
Mikey Madison
Katy O'Brian
Drew Starkey

WILDE ARTIST AWARD

To a truly groundbreaking force in entertainment

Colman Domingo
Luca Guadagnino
Coralie Fargeat
Jane Schoenbrun
Tilda Swinton

GALECA LGBTQIA+ FILM TRAILBLAZER

For creating art that inspires empathy, truth and equity

Vera Drew
Cynthia Erivo
Luca Guadagnino
Jane Schoenbrun
Julio Torres

TIMELESS STAR (Career achievement award)

Honouring an exemplary career marked by character, wisdom and wit
Demi Moore

Wins per studio:

Altered Innocence - 1
Amazon/MGM/Orion 3
A24 - 3
Mubi - 5
Netflix - 3
Sideshow / Janus Films - 1
Sony Pictures Classics - 1
Universal - 1

About GALECA & The Dorian Awards

Formed in 2009, GALECA: The Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics honours the best in film, television and Broadway/Off Broadway, mainstream to LGBTQIA+, via the Dorian Awards. A 501 c 6 nonprofit, GALECA serves to remind bigots, bullies and our own beleaguered communities that the world looks to the informed Q+ eye on entertainment.

The organization also advocates for better pay, access and respect for its members, especially those in our most underrepresented and vulnerable segments.

GALECA's efforts also include the Crimson Honors, a college film/TV criticism contest for LGBTQ women or nonbinary students of colour.

See our members' latest reviews, commentary and interviews, along with looks at entertainment's past, on Bluesky and elsewhere @DorianAwards. GALECA's YouTube channel features the group's past Dorians film and TV Toast awards specials, video chats with filmmakers and performers, plus talks with members about their latest books and more. Find out more at [GALECA.org](https://galeca.org).

GALECA: The Society of LGBTQ Entertainment journalists is a core member of CGEM: Critics Groups for Equality in Media, an alliance of underrepresented entertainment journalists' organizations.

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