



FOREVER
WITH PRIDE

1st September
Issue 58

ASTHUR
PUBLICATION

Words From The Editor

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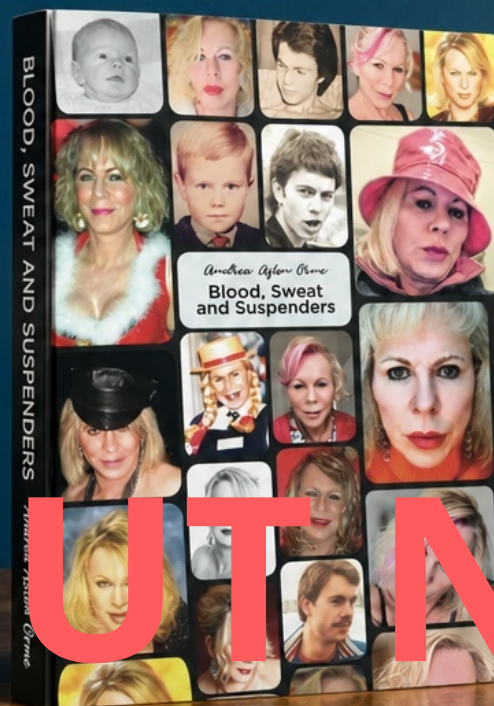
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Blood, Sweat and Suspenders

By **Andrea Aston Orme**

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AUTHOR & BOOK



It could definitely be said that I am not one for staying in one lane. I have spent most of my life navigating through interests, seeing where I ended up.

These days, I work as a therapist for Bowleaze Cove Holiday Park & Spa, but I have also been Sukulele, a musical comedy performer who played a couple of Pride festivals back in the day, an actress, most recently starring as the characters Tia and Gina in the series 'Not Another Holiday Park!' (available to stream) and, most recently, I am Arthur Footlong: The only drag king in town (to my knowledge).

A cheeky, almost-burlesque performer, with colourful makeup and hair I have yet to figure out what to do with.

I mime along to songs, uncomfortably move across the stage in the way of "dancing," and create/use amusing props

If I can ever get over the fear of singing in public again (longish story), I might even revisit my musical ways on stage.

I do miss it.

I first tested the waters as Arthur back in 2018, going out locally for a hen night on one occasion and attending Bourne Free with friends on another.

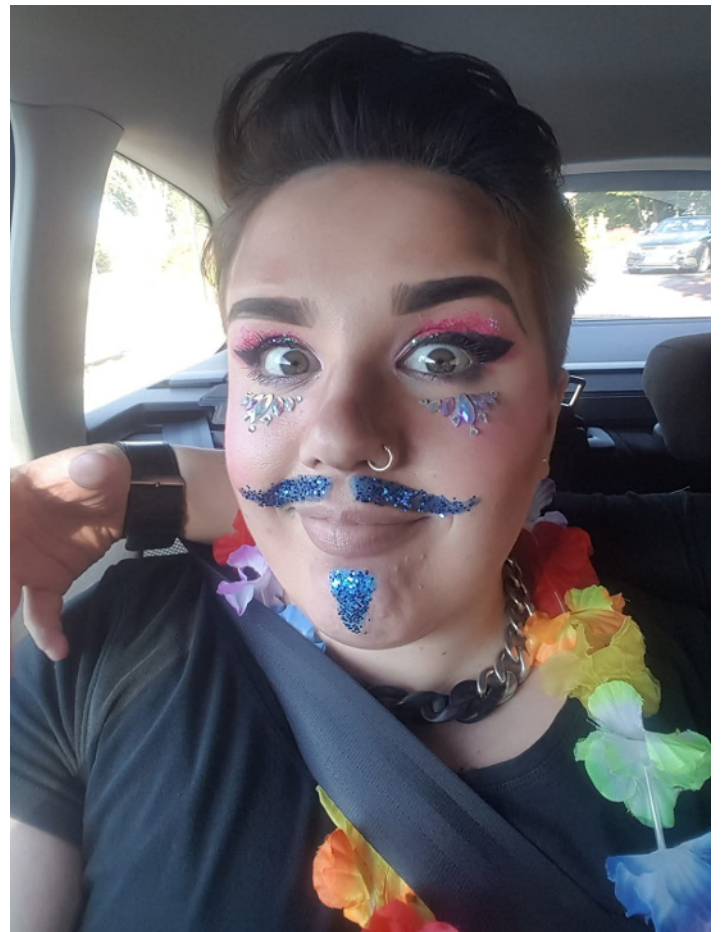
There is even a vlog on YouTube for the latter.

Not a lot of people quite understood at the time why I had a blue moustache, but I still had a good time. It will be amazing one day to see many more kings at Pride events, perhaps even myself being one of them.

A couple of years ago, after putting Arthur on hold for many reasons, I was travelling back from Stanmore and stopped at a service station.

Rushing towards the toilets, a familiar person walked past me.

It was Adam All! For those of you scratching your heads, they are a very popular drag king, and I highly recommend looking them up online.

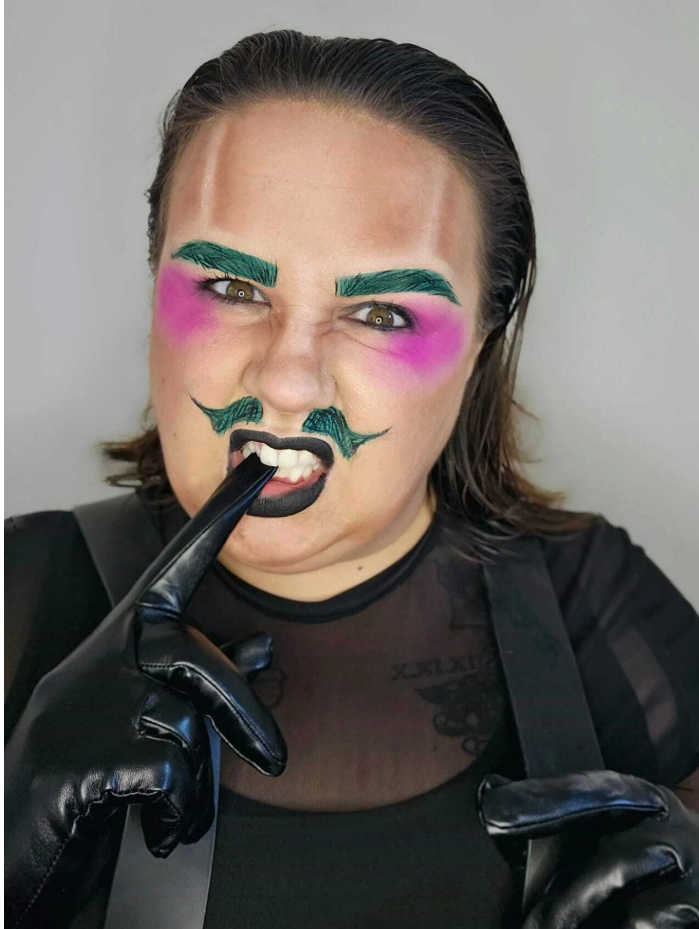


Fortunately, they were still there when I came back, and I sheepishly approached them.

We talked about king things, and I even got a photo with them.

Leaving them to it, I exited the service station, got back in my car, and carried on along the motorway on a little high.

That interaction resulted in me deciding to dress up as Arthur to attend a drag show a week later, catching the attention of fellow lovely camp king, Dandy Issues, who was hosting.



This subsequently led to them getting in touch months later about performing in my first ever show.

Unfortunately, kings aren't widely recognised these days, especially in Dorset.

I have only had the opportunity to perform twice as Arthur, both at sold-out shows produced and hosted by Dandy in Bournemouth.

The proof is there that people love to see kings perform, but we are rarely given the chance to do so.

For years, I reached out to local venues about putting on a King show in my

hometown of Weymouth, but the messages were often ignored or rejected.

On a whim, I recently tried one last time, contacting Rendezvous, one of the town's largest and most popular nightclubs.

Within minutes, they replied and gave us the green light.

Hurrah! So, on 9th October, we are putting on Weymouth's first-ever drag king show, featuring some of the many talented drag artists I have had the pleasure of meeting and convincing to travel down.

The response to the show has been positive, and I look forward to making some history.



Arthur Footlong



@arthurfootlong



Arthur Footlong



@arthurfootlong

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September 2026

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

I've mentioned for a few months now about how extraordinary this year has been from a heat and so sun point of view and the lack of rain for the garden so starting with this month there will be a bit of a change to this gardening insert.

There will still be the usual tips and jobs to do but more of an emphasis on how to mitigate some of the effects of extreme sun on the garden and what plants are drought resistant.

The forecasters are already saying next year could be the hottest on record so it's best to confront the issues rather than try and deny what's happening.

I'll start with the lawn and unless you've put

lots of water down yours will be looking rather scorched and patchy at best.

That's how mine is and it's only a year old but one thing that will help it recover quickly is adding a covering of top dressing. This is the perfect time of year to do it especially as the rain finally seems to have returned.

First cut your grass fairly short and use a box to take off the clippings.

Then spread a generous layer of top dressing, (available in bags), over the lawn in piles – a bit like you've got lots of mole hills.

Then using a flat surface such as the back of a rake spread out the top dressing throughout the lawn.

It will fill any holes or depressions you have, and it will also feed the lawn and once it has rained it will quickly disappear to the base of the grass plant.

If you have any bald patches, it's a good idea once you've spread the top dressing to add some grass seed and your lawn will quickly recover from the sun's ravages.

It's important not to do this too late as you don't want the grass growing too vigorously going into a frosty period so September is as late as you should try this.

If you've grown Impatiens and New Guinea Bizzy Lizzies as summer bedding, you can turn these into indoor pot plants if you want to.

When you remove them from the planter or garden just place them in a suitable pot and trim the top and they will grow well indoors so you get extra value from your bedding, and they cheer up a room.

Mulch is an important part of reducing water loss and you can top up in the autumn or wait for spring but to make it work you need a good thickness of bark to the surface of the soil.

Remove any perennial weeds first before adding the mulch.



Left – A current photo of one of my Dahlias which have been subject to south facing full sun but they love it as they are native of Mexico.

They do need lots of water though.

Right - also a current photo from the greenhouse showing my bell peppers just turning from green to red.

They also like lots of sun to be successful.

It's a good time to think about new spring bulbs as they need planting soon and a good idea to do before applying mulch.

Bulbs can tolerate full sun and always brighten up a patch of the garden before other plants take over the show.

Fruit does well in hot summers but a lot of them need plenty of water. Victoria plums, Apples, Pears, Figs and Strawberries, (and lots of others), have done well this summer and given bumper crops and they all produce nice decorative flowers in the spring so you get both benefits.

The sun will give the fruit extra sweetness so maybe turn over some of your garden to fruit production if you get full sun.

Lavender has tolerated, and thrived, in my south facing front garden and has not had much water.

The bees have loved it and on a warm day I've had the bonus of the smell from the oil which is said to be very soothing so perfect for planting alongside a path or walkway.

Keep your greenhouse tomatoes etc.

growing as long as you can to get that late fruit to ripen.

There is no rush to dig them up as we are supposed to get another heatwave in September apparently!

Drought Resistant Plant Focus

One thing the sun has done this year is reduce the number of weeds in the garden.

The one area that might not be true is the pond thanks to the dreaded blanket weed.

Remove this as much as possible and it will die off in the winter, but it clogs up pumps and can stifle a pond if left unchecked. It grows amazingly quickly in bright sun.

Crab apples and Mountain ash have done well this year and have bumper crops of fruit which are very attractive to us in several colours but are vitally important to birds for food going into the autumn and winter.

They don't get too big as trees go and if you have the space would be a great addition and you will have the pleasure of seeing lots of birds visiting them.



Left – The Ice Plant or Sedum spectabile turn pinky red in September. Butterflies love them and they can take full sun as they have with me.

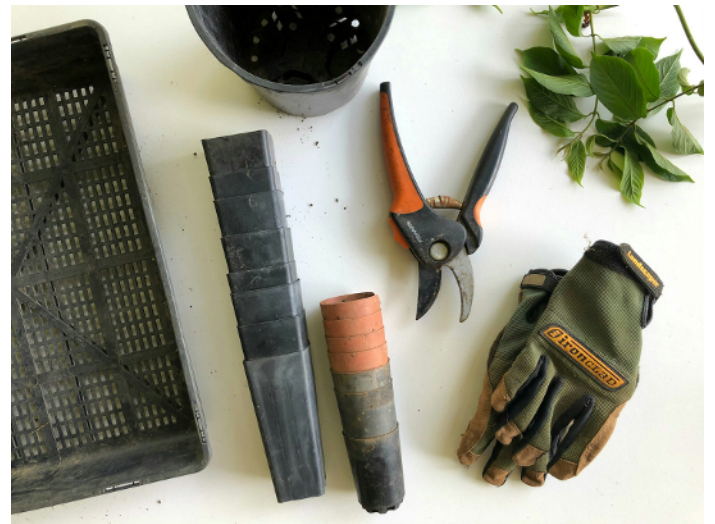
Right – Just to show you can still have some fun with extreme sun so long as you can still add water to the mix. Some people have managed very tall versions of the sun flower this year.

No frozen assets indeed this summer, more like burnt assets!

Don't forget the sun cream when working in the garden.

Spread the heavier jobs around the garden such as mulching over several days else you may pay for it with a sore back.

Now is a good time of year to take semi-ripe cuttings from favourite plants. Just keep away from direct sun and water if they look on the dry side.



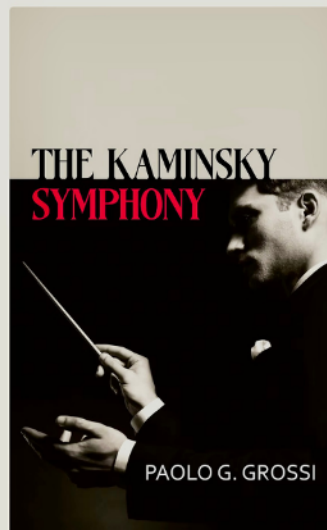
Spectrum Books

Pride in books



The Kaminsky Symphony

By **Paolo G. Grossi**



Milan, 1913. Maestro Mandelli di Castagnino is resident conductor at La Scala, having taken over from the legendary Toscanini.

Barely in his mid-thirties, he is revered by the Milanese public and fêted by the city's high society. But once the baton is down, and after another soirée in his honour organised by his sycophantic agent, he returns to an empty home, surrounded only by his servants.

Disenchanted and longing to leave his secret life behind, he accepts a post as resident chief conductor at the Odessa Opera House, causing consternation among his family and admirers.

After an eventful journey by land and sea, he settles in the elegant coastal city, improving the performance of the orchestra and winning the approval and friendship of the locals.

He also finds love, but the continent is about to sleepwalk into the carnage of a futile war and Imperial Russia is on the cusp of being rocked by the October Revolution.

Undeterred by the unfolding catastrophe and wanting to protect his beloved from the savagery of the civil war, he is confronted with a desperate choice.

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How To Become A Social Media Influencer

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By Oliver Finnly



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Lesvia

Lesvia chronicles 40+ years of lesbian identity and conflict between the locals of a small village on the Greek island of Lesbos and lesbians who arrived searching for love, freedom and community.



Since the 1970s, lesbians from around the world have been drawn to the island of Lesbos, birthplace of the ancient Greek poet Sappho.

When they find paradise in a local village and carve out their own lesbian community, tensions simmer with the local residents.

With both groups claiming ownership of lesbian identity, filmmaker Tzeli Hadjidimitriou—a native and lesbian herself—is caught in the middle and chronicles 40+ years of love, community, conflict, and what it means to feel accepted.

On the southwestern coast of Lesbos Island in Greece lies the small agricultural village of Eressos which is the birthplace of Sappho, the first female poet to write about love between women.

For centuries, Eressos had been isolated from the rest of the world but in the mid-1970's, women from across the world began to arrive, in search for Sappho's traces.

At first, the local inhabitants felt pride that these women had come to pay tribute to the great poet, born in their lands.

But in the middle of the 1980s, more women flocked to the island, including filmmaker Tzeli Hadzidimitriou, a lesbian born and raised on the island.



Photo by Bea Uhart

The women lived on the beach, there were no separations of class, country or ethnicity.

Expressing larger social and political developments, they proudly claimed the right to be called lesbians and to express their identity.



This was a radical experience, offering them absolute freedom from the prejudice they had experienced at home.

At the same time, it led to open conflict with the local inhabitants, who felt threatened by the lesbians.

In the 1990s, lesbians began to rent rooms and buy houses. Hotels and restaurants opened run exclusively for and by women.

A lesbian bar opened in the middle of the village square. The conservative villagers of Eressos embraced the new economic force.

Hetero normativity was turned on its head.

Some villagers sided with the lesbians, identifying with a persecuted minority.

Many of the local children came to consider lesbian relationships as natural and local women appreciated the freedom of the foreign women. Great change took place.

Today, a stable lesbian community of women from across the world lives in Eressos.

Filmmaker Tzeli Hadzidimitriou is one of them, spending half of the year in the village.

The documentary is based on archival films and photographs as well as contemporary filming.

The materials are combined with personal testimonies and excerpts from the director's diary, who records the story of lesbian community of Eressos through her personal experience.



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And so the most anxious, self-doubting princess in the GAY-laxy must climb aboard a deeply problematic spaceship, pick up a fabulous gay-pop runaway and hurtle across queer space on the most chaotic rescue mission ever attempted to save her ex!

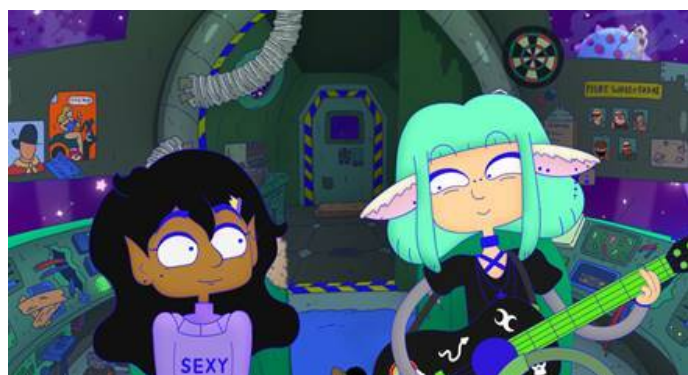
Multiple award-winning *Lesbian Space Princess* is a mad-cap animated adult queer comedy, written and directed by Emma Hough Hughes and Leela Varghese Winner of the Teddy Award and a recent Nominee for seven Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Award.



Daughter to the flamboyant lesbian Queens of Planet Clitopol is, introverted Princess Saira is devastated when her bounty-hunter girlfriend, Kiki, suddenly breaks up with her for being too needy.

After Kiki is kidnapped by forgotten incels of the future, the Straight White Maliens, Saira must leave the comforts of gay space to deliver their ransom: her royal labrys (the most powerful weapon known to lesbian kind). Only problem is... she doesn't have it!

Lesbian Space Princess is one of the titles in the Sapphic Summer collection on digital platforms. Other films include *Lesvia*, *Thirst*, *My First Summer*, *Stud Life*, *Anais In Love*, *Permission*, *Cocoon* and *Carmen & Lola*. Full details can be found on www.peccadillo.film



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Tales of the Second City

Misadventures on Birmingham's Gay Scene

Tales of the Second City – Misadventures on Birmingham's Gay Scene Uber Rides

'That's the fourth Uber driver I've blown this week,' I announced as I arrived home at 3am.

And I wasn't even trying... this time

There is pattern.

The driver picks you up in the gay village and casually enquires about where you have been on your night out.

You rattle off the names of a few venues on the scene, making sure you drop in a reference to The Fountain or, in bygone years, Boltz.

There are furtive glances in the rearview mirror.

Driver then asks, 'What happens there?'

I used to tell them a few spicy titbits, but now respond, 'Well, pull over and I'll show you.'

Works like a charm.

One evening, a satisfied driver dropped me home, after a detour to a shadowy side street, but as I got out, he insisted, 'You must forgive me.'

'Nothing to forgive,' I casually replied.

'No,' he implored, laying an earnest hand upon my arm, 'you must forgive me.'

This was not some passing remark, like you might ask forgiveness for forgetting someone's name, failing to pick up dog food on your way home, or passing wind.

His request was desperate.

This was required.

This was redemption.

He literally needed forgiveness to forgive himself for the act we had just performed.

I said the words.

He was cleansed.

I felt quite papal.

His God had been appeased and would turn a benevolent blind eye... again.

He could now return to wife and family relatively guilt free.

Back in the day, you could frequently blag a free ride home. Unfortunately, these days, payments are processed automatically, which means you perform tricks and still have the indignity of being charged.

That fourth Uber encounter of the week had the cheek to ask for a five-star review and a tip.

'I did all the hard work,' I told him. 'You should give me a tip.'

Oh, to return to those times when nature's credit card was widely accepted.

That'll do nicely.

Hear it first hand from the second city @ talesofthesecondcity.com

A man in a dark suit and fedora hat stands in a doorway, looking down a dark, narrow staircase. The room is dimly lit with warm, golden light from a lantern on the wall and a small light at the bottom of the stairs. The walls are covered in patterned wallpaper and several framed portraits. The door is open, revealing the dark interior of the staircase.

The Door Beneath The Stairs

OUT NOW
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By Robin S. Goodfellow

We are Fin, Tom and I, Ellie. A family from the UK that wanted better for our son, so we made a life changing decision to move abroad for a better life!



Let me take you right back, me and Tom met nearly 18 years ago in the UK. Tom already had the boys all under the age of 5 so what the hell was I letting myself in for? Fast forward a few years and we decided to have a child of our own.

Nearly 15 years ago, Fin entered the world, followed by rainbow🌈glitter and enough sass to always keep us on our toes.

I knew from a very young age that Fin could be gay.

He was in awe of me when I did my make up, he always had an opinion (good or bad) on the clothes I wore and loved dressing up in feminine clothes from as soon as he could walk and talk.

As he grew, you'd expect some bullying or unkindness towards him, which he

had but mainly by adults passing comments - not his own age.

But, if there was any negativity at his primary school, it didn't bother him in the slightest because I've always allowed him to be who he is! And sat back to let him explore how he is.

The confidence Fin displayed was beautifully heartwarming. He knew who he was from a very young age and I have always been his biggest supporter and protector.

Fin organised a pride day at his primary school because he wanted to be represented and the head teacher had conveniently forgotten that June was pride month.



Fin



Fin age 11 years at Leeds Pride

Fin soon sorted that and turned up at school in the biggest rainbow skirt and lilac wig you've ever seen.

In a small countryside school of 120 pupils, over 20 parents complained about the 'celebration of pride day' to the head teacher.

It became apparent as Fin got older that he was neurodivergent and had a

This made life a little harder for him especially at secondary school. And this is where we noticed his sparkle

I was not prepared to sit back and watch my son be eaten up by mental health issues and a fear of the world.

After trying to work with his school and feeling like they were failing him over and over, that led us onto our next journey: home education.

I needed to get his mental health in a better place.

As a gay child being forced to act the same, do the same and wear the same as everybody else was never going to be Fin's right environment.

You can't put him in a box; his personality and creativity will always fight to escape!

A few things were happening in the UK.

Reform was growing in popularity, there was increasing hostility towards the trans community, and I started to question whether this was really the right place for Fin.

I feared for what his future could look like if we stayed.



Tom & Ellie

Which got Tom and I thinking... Where are his people? We considered America for all of 10 mins because a certain someone became president again.

So, we searched elsewhere.



Fin with Michelle Visage

We found Gran Canaria in 2024. And that was it! We got home, house went on the market, my hair and beauty business was up for sale, and we were planning a new life!

A life for Fin where I can see he has a future, around his kind of people!

We are currently 8 weeks into our new life and spend our evenings at the Yumbo centre - we've made friends, drag queens have gifted Fin wigs, people have invited us for lunch.

The community here is everything, and everything Fin needs in his life!

Watch out world, Fin wants to light up the drag stages when he's old enough and spread joy and laughter in his future.

And as his parents, me and his dad cannot wait to see him become the amazing star he was born to be, and we will always be the one cheering the loudest from the sidelines!



Ellie Gran Canaria



A Haunting Through Time

By Robin Goodfellow



PersianLGBT



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The organisation aims to bring the Newly arrived, Asylum Seekers and Refugees LGBT members of community together to develop welcoming safe place environment for its members here in the UK.



THE ROAD TO AMERICAN DREAMS

<https://www.indiegogo.com/en/projects/blakerave/american-dreams>

Learning that asking for help doesn't mean I've failed

Over the last several years, music has taken me farther than I ever imagined.

From playing dive bars in South Dakota to recording in an old English chapel, every step has pushed me to grow, both as an artist and as a person.

I've been fortunate to release music that has connected with listeners around the world, earned some international recognition, and built an incredible community of genuine people.

I'm very excited to announce my next independent album: **American Dreams**.

This project may be my most ambitious yet. It brings together brand-new songs and reimagined fan favorites, drawing on the Americana roots that have always shaped my songwriting. It's a chance to create something fresh and dynamic that feels both familiar and new, and to share these songs with more people than ever before.

I grew up in the Heartland of America - I'll forever be grateful for that upbringing. The music that shaped me reverberated from both the region and the people around me - primarily my family.

American Dreams is a culmination of the biggest influences that shaped me as a songwriter and as a person. It's a return to the music that first made me fall in love with storytelling - the twang, the guitars, the harmonies, the heartache, the grit, and the unapologetic honesty of Americana.

I've always believed that if I wanted something, I needed to work for it... There's a satisfaction that comes with being able to say, "Wow, I did this - I made this happen." As an independent musician, the whole notion of DIY can become very daunting.



This album is the absolute, purest distillation of my identity and artistry. It's not easy for me to say something so bold, but it comes without hesitation. **American Dreams** is my coming home.

It's also very difficult for me to ask for help, but I've been humbled this time around, realising that I won't be able to do it on my own. I'm doing this project with no major label and no corporate backing... Just a small team, a lot of determination, and people like you who believe in independent music and LGBTQ artists.

Making an album at this level is very expensive. Recording, production, musicians, mixing, mastering (not to mention photography, music videos, physical manufacturing, promotion)... it all adds up quickly.

I am asking for support and inviting everyone to become part of **American Dreams**.

When you contribute, you're not simply pre-ordering an album, purchasing merch or making a donation - you're helping bring these songs into existence. You're giving queer music a voice and a platform.

Please take a moment to check out my IndieGoGo campaign. If you're able to contribute, your support would mean the world to me and help make this next album a reality. You can also support me at no cost by following my social media, music streaming, and by simply sharing my campaign and my content.

Cheers,
Blake

HAZELL DEAN

LET'S GO ROUND AGAIN

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Dear

Date : August 29, 2026

Author

Dear Aspiring Authors & Poets,

NIB Publishing House is passionately inviting you to discover a true home for your work—a place where your words are cherished and your voice is celebrated.

If you are devoted to your craft and burning to share your voice with a wider audience, we are not just interested in hearing from you—we are thrilled at the possibility of championing your vision.

At NIB Publishing House, we deeply recognise the courage, the sleepless nights, the vulnerability, and the raw emotion poured into every book you write. Writing a book is a profound, life-shaping achievement, and we are genuinely honoured by the trust writers place in us when they submit their creations or ask us to advertise their books.

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Publishing is a bold, creative business, and a successful book is the result of a passionate, strategic, and collaborative effort in editing, design, marketing, and distribution.

At NIB Publishing House, we partner with authors who are fired up and fully alive to this journey—writers who are ready to stand beside us as we bring their books into the world. We are relentlessly seeking powerful new voices and unforgettable stories that will move, challenge, and inspire readers everywhere.

If you are ready to submit, read our submission guidelines carefully and send us the work you are most fiercely proud of. If you have questions, reach out to us directly—we warmly and enthusiastically welcome your inquiry.

Warm regards,

WJ Dawson-Clark
Publisher & Editor

Forever with Pride

Official Playlist



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ROBIN .S. GOODFELLOW

AUTHOR & PODCASTER

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The RobinGoodfellow.uk Paranormal Podcast

It's vital that these are true stories and given to me without reward so there was no incentive for the tellers to share their story other than the fact they were willing to. All contributors have been anonymised so there is no need for them to hold back. These happenings are told by ordinary people in their own words.

Most of the tellers have never shared their stories with anyone else and so you will be some of the very first people to hear them. I can honestly say some of these made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up! Knowing that these are real world stories, to me, makes them all the more powerful.

Bear in mind this is for adult entertainment so please be careful who listens here as I love to spook people and give them shivers down the spine but don't want to have a negative effect on anyone.

Please tell us what you think and I'm always looking to record more audio so if you feel you would like to share your true story please get in touch and you could be added to the growing list of podcasts.



LatinoLife Presents....

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SAT 5 SEPTEMBER 2026

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Celebrating 20 years promoting Afro-Latin music in the UK, Latino Life presents the headline show at BLACK on the SQUARE, the Mayor of London's flagship, FREE, family-friendly festival celebrating Black culture in Trafalgar Square.

If you liked our Viva Club Arena at LatinoLife in the Park, you'll love our Viva Sound System, a vibrant show featuring reggaetón, baile funk, merengue, Afro-Latin house, bachata, salsa, dembow, baile funk, amapiano and much more, in an exciting curation of the UK's best Afro-Latin DJs, MCs, rappers, singers, percussionists, animators and dance shows.

Featuring Broken Pen, Ren2Faded, Erika Da Silva, Marco Santana, Baldo Verdu, DJ Jose Luis, Baile da Silva and much more. Full line up tba.



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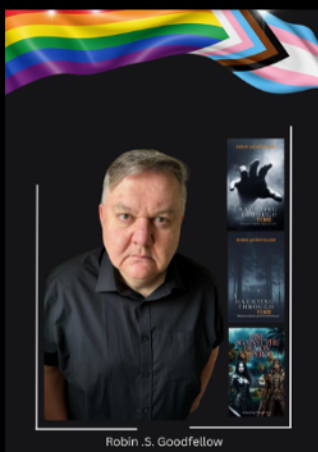
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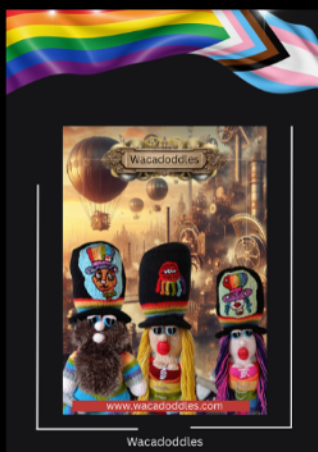
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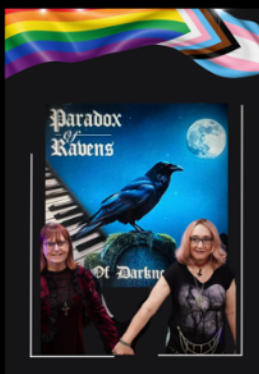


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