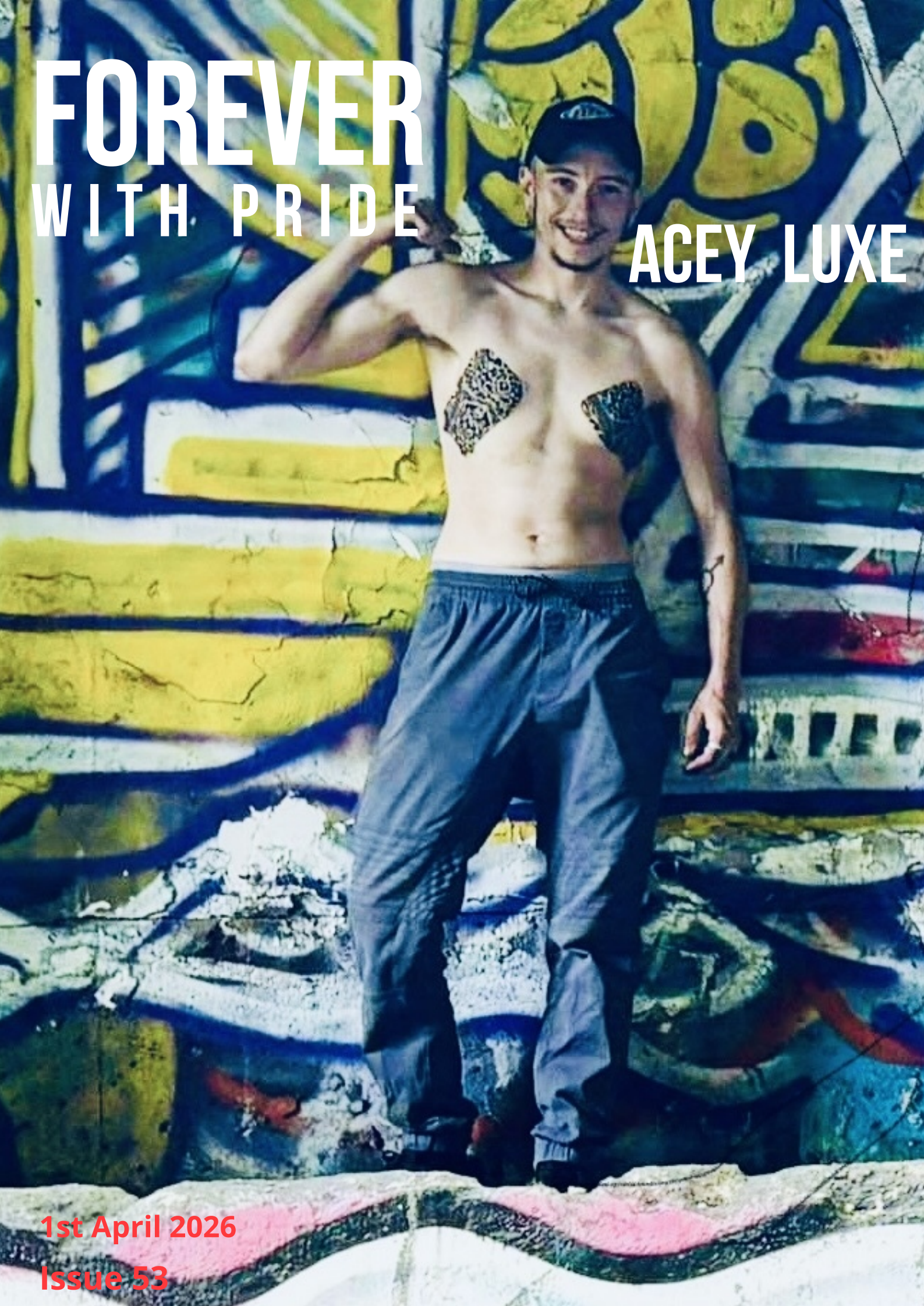


A full-page photograph of a man, Acey Luxe, posing in front of a vibrant, abstract graffiti wall. The man is shirtless, wearing a black baseball cap and grey athletic pants. He has two large, dark, leopard-print tattoos on his chest and a small tattoo on his left forearm. He is smiling and has his right hand raised to his shoulder. The graffiti background features bold yellow, blue, and white patterns, with some red and pink at the bottom.

FOREVER WITH PRIDE

ACEY LUXE

1st April 2026

Issue 53

EDITORS WORDS

Don't forget to click or tap on the photos and logos in the e-magazine to find out more information about the people taking part. Will you be the winner of or vinyl record competition?





Jewellery That Speaks
Our jewellery is more than adornment—it's a story of craftsmanship, quality, and passion. Each piece is thoughtfully designed to celebrate your unique journey, blending timeless artistry with modern elegance to create treasures as meaningful as they are beautiful.

elmesjewellery

Stop feeling stressed or anxious and start feeling calm and grounded.



My name is Rachel Sewell
and I'm a New Vision Therapy (NVT) Practitioner based in Runcorn, Cheshire.
Contact Me
Unkr.co/RS_NVT



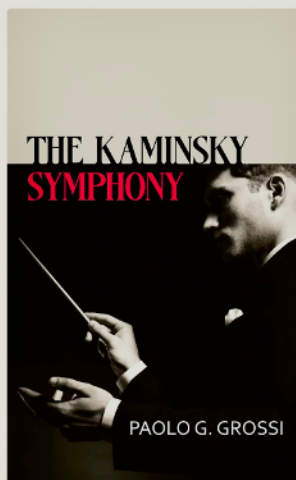
Spectrum Books

Pride in books



The Kaminsky Symphony

By **Paolo G. Grossi**



Milan, 1913. Maestro Mandoli 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 Classa 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 this civil war, he is confronted with a desperate choice.

Out Now



Forever with Pride

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My life in exile began on 17 January 2001. In the early hours of that morning, I realised I could finally get off the lorry that had brought me to the UK. It was cold, yet somehow sunny. I remember trees everywhere, like a jungle. There were four of us on that lorry. I was around 16, full of questions—about the language, about England, about what would happen next.

We all went our separate ways, each trying to find an easier path into a new life. I felt I had no choice but to approach a man wearing a dog collar, holding a mobile phone. I thought, “A man of God—he must be kind. He will help me.” But as soon as he heard me say, “I am a refugee,” he turned away, closed his window, and made sure he could not hear me.

I stood there, confused, then turned in another direction. A young white man in a van, wearing a labourer’s uniform, stopped and asked, “Do you need help?” I only recognised the word “help,” but I said yes: “I am a refugee.” He used his phone—I later realised he had called the police.

I never found him again to thank him, but I carry that gratitude with me. The police came and welcomed me.

They took me to what I believe was Ashford police station. I slept. I could barely feel my feet. They gave me warm coffee and warm clothes. Later, I was kindly taken to a hotel near Dover, where I was given more information about what would happen next.

Worcester Trans Night

LOVE IS LOVE

Date: 11 of April 2026

Time: 5-8 pm

Venue - 1 Sansome Walk

Worcester WR1 1UG

Register now: Junia Spencer (+44 7448662040)



By 2008, I had begun discovering myself, alone in London. I created a Facebook group, then called “Persian LGBT Liberations.” At first, I had to hide behind usernames and passwords. It felt like locking myself in a closet—closed tightly so no one could see me, but hoping somehow, they could still hear me.

Slowly, people gathered. We met in cafés for coffee. Friends found me, and I found them. For the first time, I took part in London LGBT Pride. There were only two or three of us, maybe four. We didn’t know what to do, what to expect, or anything about registrations or paperwork.

In 2012, I moved to Birmingham. I was searching for a place where people could truly come together. I saw the word “inclusion,” but I couldn’t find its real meaning there. At one event, I was treated as a stranger, even though by then I had been labelled a public figure. Later, I noticed a young man outside—Bolivian, if I remember correctly, Latino—holding back tears.

I approached him and asked what had happened. He said, “I am all alone here in Birmingham, and I was asked to leave because I am not one of them.”

I went back inside and spoke to the organiser. “Is this true?” I asked. He said yes—they were only funded to support specific members of their community. I challenged this: “But this is a minority within a minority.”

From that moment, I decided the Persian LGBT organisation must truly live up to the meaning of inclusion.



Today, with approximately 1,200 members from across the UK and around the world, we create opportunities for everyone—LGBT or not—regardless of background.

We welcome skills. We hear voices. Every month, we bring LGBT asylum seekers together across the UK: the first Saturday in Cardiff, the second Monday in London, the second Saturday in Worcester, the third Saturday in Manchester (Rochdale), and the fourth Saturday in Birmingham.

We bring communities together listening to one another, learning from one another, and creating space for everyone. A platform where diversity and inclusion are not just words, but lived realities.

Unity is our strength.



[\(9\) Persian LGBT Community in Birmingham/UK | Facebook](#)

www.persianlgbt.org

The banner for Blake Rave's website features a black background with a film strip motif. At the top left, a heart icon contains a musical note, followed by the text 'BLAKE RAVE'. To the right, navigation links for 'Home', 'Music', 'Bookings', 'Merch', 'Tour', and 'Press' are visible, along with a shopping cart icon and a search icon. The film strip itself contains four frames, each showing a black and white portrait of Blake Rave. Below the film strip, the text 'FOR THE LOVERS & THE DREAMERS' is written in a serif font. At the bottom, there is a large image of Blake Rave playing an acoustic guitar. To the right of this image, the text 'Passionate LGBT Artist Crafting Soft Rock Music' is displayed, followed by a short bio: 'I am Blake Rave, an artist passionate about crafting soulful music that resonates deeply with audiences across the globe. With over 8 years in the industry, my journey has been defined by heartfelt compositions and meaningful lyrics that touch hearts and provoke thought. I have played to a diverse audience throughout the UK and USA.' A dark blue button with the text 'Click or Tap Here' is located in the bottom right corner. Musical notes are scattered throughout the design, including a large one on the right side of the banner.

A large, ornate steampunk hot air balloon with a dark blue and red striped envelope. The balloon is suspended by a complex system of brass gears, pulleys, and ropes. Three Wacadoddlers are visible in the basket below. The balloon is flying over a city at dusk, with smoke rising from its engines.

Wacadoddles

www.wacadoddles.com
Click or Tap Here



“FROM WRITING TO RECORDING TO BRINGING IT TO SCREEN...THE WHOLE PROCESS CAN BE VERY DRAWN-OUT.”

This song came about at a very exciting time when I was in a new place, meeting a lot of new people. I did meet somebody special, and they're still a special person in my life. There was a moment where we thought maybe it's more than friendship. Even after deciding it's wasn't, a flirtation with the idea that it could be still lingered... But was it all just in my head?



Creating, recording and releasing music is such a ride. Once it's written, you wait to record it. Once it's recorded you wait for it all to come together, and then you wait even more to release it... This song is easily 3 years old by now, and is just finally out! It takes AGES!

2025 saw the creation of the music video for Maybe It's You, which was published and submitted to the 2025 Berlin Music Video Awards. It has just now been officially released, while this year's video submission, Never Broken, still awaits judgment. Head over to YouTube to check them out, and please like and subscribe!

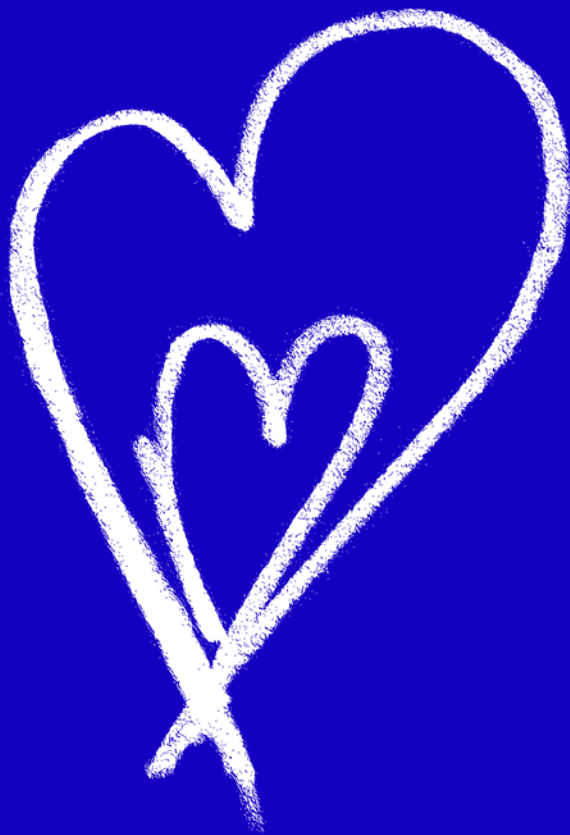


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Tales of the Second City



Misadventures on Birmingham's Gay Scene

Tales of the Second City – Melbourne

Misadventures in Australian's Second City

Summer Lovin'

In the words of Australia's own Olivia Newton-John, 'Oh, those summer nights!'

The perfect place to meet dozens upon dozens of handsome fellas is Melbourne's Fitzroy Gardens after dark, a park notorious for nocturnal activities.

All night every night, guys cruise the paths and cluster beneath leafy canopies.

The best pick-up spot in town.

With over one-hundred and ten nationalities making up Melbourne's population, the smorgasbord of hot men can be overwhelming.

One evening, a stunning thoroughbred stallion of a man strolled boldly into one cavernous bush, where manifold men had congregated. He was butt naked and ready to go.

This is in a busy city centre park.

Where were his clothes?

Oh well, no point dwelling on details, when it's time to saddle up and ride.

I perceived a subtle change in the vibe of the cruising ground since my last visit to the city. There was an air of ego that had not been present before.

Had the beat become so uber popular that an elite had developed, or more disconcerting, was it because I had slipped over the precipice of fifty?

My ginger hair is more salt and paprika these days, jawline weaker, and those laughter lines are starting to look hysterical. I've even noticed a few grey pubes (My penis looks very distinguished).

A while back, I was standing at the bathroom sinks in a club, looking at my reflection in the mirrors. I patted my stomach forlornly and commented, 'I need to do more crunches.'

'Babe, you look fine,' a twink at the urinals assured me. 'You have the perfect dad bod.'

'That's not the look I'm going for,' I signed.

But I'm not out of the game yet.

In Fitzroy Gardens, I was busying myself with a stunning Brazilian (All shaggy hair, trimmed beard, and matching chest). He looked like a model who'd slipped from the pages of sunny holiday brochure.

Another figure appeared from the bushes and stood watching.

His smile was playful, and eyes shone with mischief and humour.

When he turned and left, I disengaged and followed.

We hooked up on a wooden bridge beneath a cover of palms.

He was sexy, sweet, and effortlessly funny.

'You remind me so much of a friend from home,' I told him.

He reached for nape of his neck, as though about to remove a mask and reveal his true identity.

'See,' I grinned, 'that's exactly the sort of thing my friend would do. You are the only other person I've met who can make me laugh during sex.'

'That's a compliment, right?' he smirked.

I assured him that it most definitely was, albeit it a rare one.

'That was lovely,' I told him as we prepared to head off in opposite directions. 'We'll never meet again.'

That statement proved premature, as less than ten minutes later, our paths crossed on a street corner.

We were both heading roughly in the same direction.

Turned out we shared similar interests, attitudes, and even careers.

We talked and laughed like old friends.

He was from New Zealand, only in Melbourne on a brief stopover on his way to China.

We arrived at my accommodation.

'Thank you for walking me home.' I glanced up at the illuminated windows of my hostel, then back at him with a glint in my eye. 'Are you man enough?'

'Oh Yes,' he smiled.

We kissed on the steps as the city hummed around us.

'In another life, we could be great friends,' I said.

"How about in this life,' he suggested.

I considered for a moment, then gently shook my head.

'Just passing by,' I told him.

But we'll always have Melbourne.

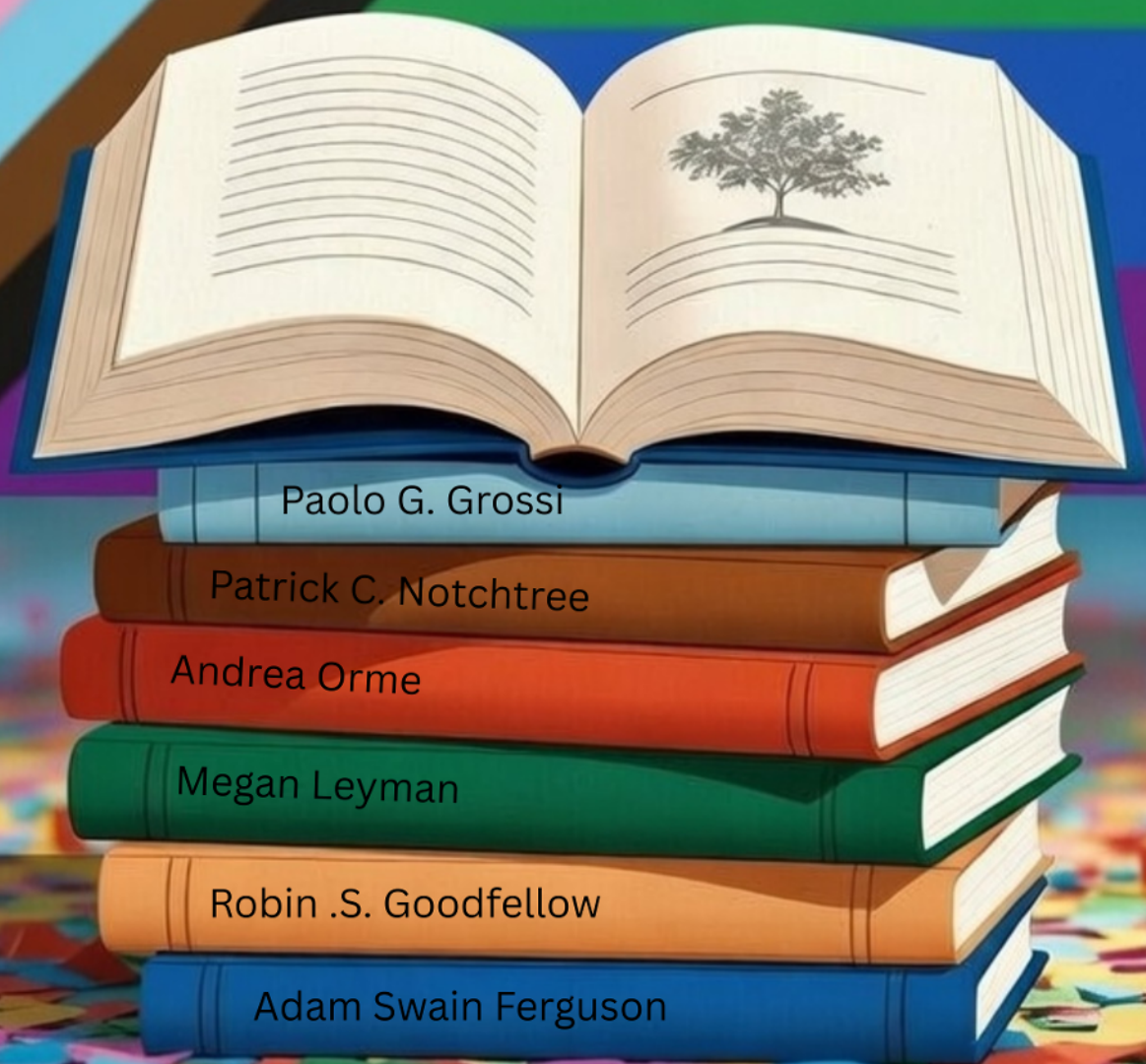
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Queer Authors

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Acey Luxe

ARTIST | MODEL | DRAG KING



Based in Mansfield, Ohio, Ace Powell is a multifaceted creative and community organizer dedicated to expanding the landscape of trans-masculine visibility.

Professionally, Ace serves as a model for Trans Tape, where his work focuses on the intersection of self-care and body autonomy.

By modelling for the brand, he provides a visual roadmap for others in the community, moving the conversation from "transitioning" to "thriving." On the stage, Powell is better known by his persona, Acey Luxe.

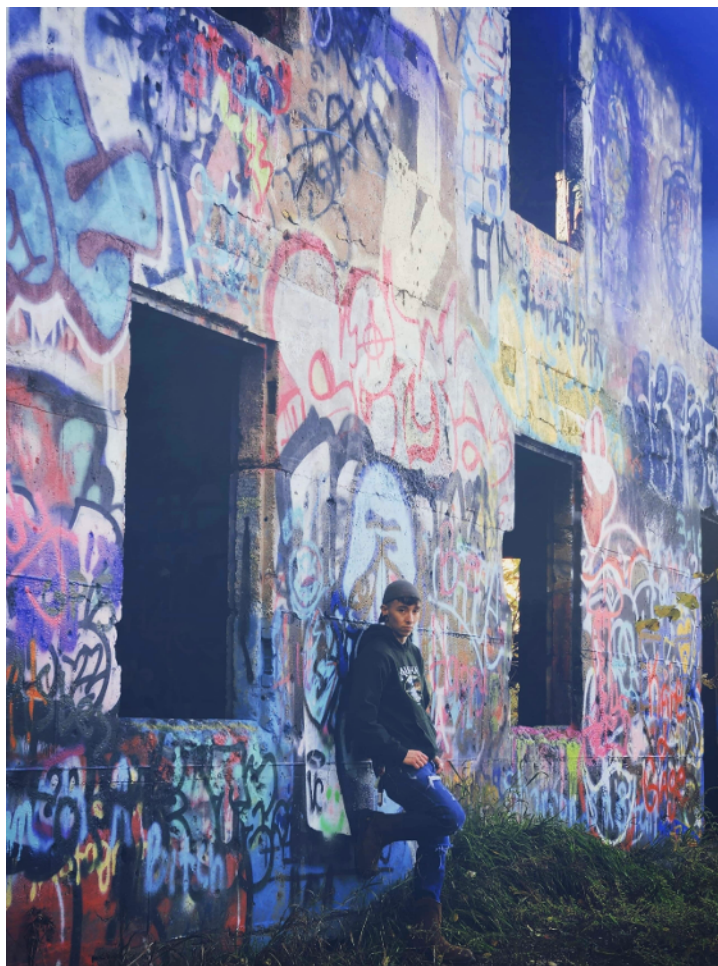
As a prominent Drag King, he uses performance art to challenge and deconstruct traditional masculinity.

His artistry as Luxe is a celebration of theatrical freedom, providing a high-energy contrast to the grounded, quiet transparency of his editorial modelling work.

Despite his growing profile in the arts, Powell remains deeply rooted in local, daily life.

He balances his creative pursuits with a role as a Starbucks barista, a position that allows him to maintain a constant pulse on his neighbourhood and foster genuine, one-on-one connections with the people of Mansfield.

Looking toward the future, Powell is currently channelling his leadership experience into the nonprofit sector.



As the founding President of a new Richland County LGBTQIA+ outreach organization, he is transitioning from individual advocacy to structural support.

His goal is to establish a permanent resource hub that offers peer support and tangible community aid, ensuring that visibility leads to lasting, local change.

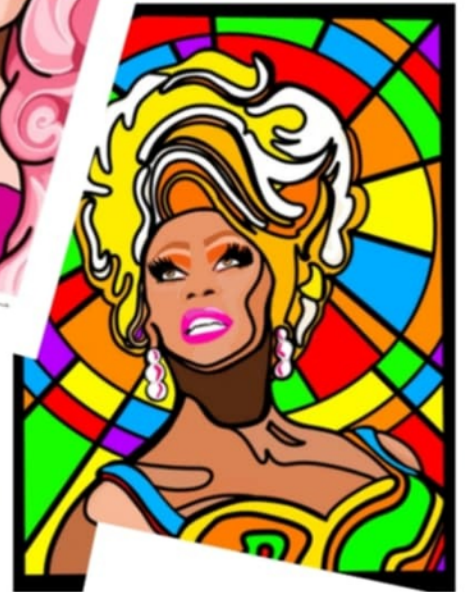
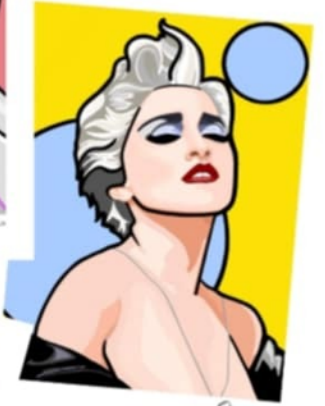
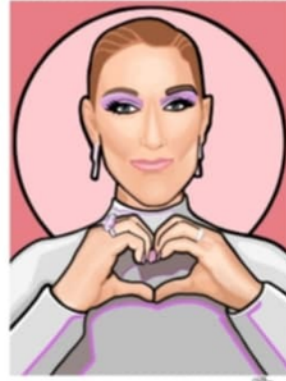
Whether through a camera lens, on a stage, or behind the counter, Ace Powell's work is defined by a single mission: the pursuit of community joy and the commitment to showing up—for himself and for those who follow.

A husband, artist, and advocate, Ace remains committed to the idea that we shouldn't just survive our journeys—we should flourish in them.



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April 2026

Sponsored By

**Gay Gardeners UK, Plants, Seeds and
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This is the busy time of year for starting off new plants both seedlings and cuttings especially if you aren't using any heat in the greenhouse which let's face it these days no matter what you would use is very expensive.

It doesn't mean there are things you can't grow it just means your plants won't be as early.

The alternative of course, is to buy either young plug plants which could be the most cost-effective method or buying large plants from the garden centre and so catching up like that.

Not as much fun maybe but they can help the budget.

The hedges have already been shooting for several weeks which gives you an idea that we are ahead as far as traditional gardening books and what is in flower and when is concerned.

My tall bulbs are all growing like crazy and filling up parts of the garden while the Daffodils are still flowering.

My Magnolias flowered in March yet last year in this magazine I had them as flower of the month for April!

The fish needless to say are very active in the pond so watch out for Herons that will take them if they get the chance. Mine are freely reproducing from the original five goldfish I bought a few years ago.

The surface plants I used really helped reduce the amount of water lost through evaporation last summer so I will do the same again this year.

They also give the fish some protection from unwanted attention and some shade too.

One thing I will say, at the end of the summer be ruthless and throw as much of them away as you can as they won't survive the winter frosts and the debris would only fall to the bottom of your pond. Don't buy many as they multiply quickly in full sun.

If you haven't already it's time to wake up the Dahlias but you might need to put them in a heated propagator to start them off. Don't forget they originate from Mexico which is why they take a bit to get going in our climate.

They will need some water and compost but not too much and you will see the new shoots developing. You can decide to just let them grow and place in containers or the open ground or to take some cuttings first if you want to increase the number.

Similarly, Fuchsias will need a bit of water and heat to start sprouting but keep away from frosts. Remember we can still get damaging frosts into the first week of May so you might need to use garden fleece or polythene covers inside your green house to give more tender plants some protection.

Be careful not to splash too much water around as that can lead to rot in plants when the temperatures are still low.

If you're about to cut your grass, make sure you raise the cutting height for the first cut otherwise instead of a green lawn it will likely be yellow or brown. You can add a spring weed and feed this month if you need to.

Some even have some grass seed in so you can rectify small bald patches in your lawn. Water in if rain isn't forecast for forty-eight hours. This is important so as not to burn your grass.

Use a box to remove the cuttings and it will look that much tidier. You can also use a half-moon to straighten the edges but if you do make sure you use a line of string with pegs either end as your eye isn't good enough, trust me.

If you follow the traditional books for pruning Roses then they say prune this time of year. I always prune mine in November as regular readers will know. Your Forsythias can be pruned this month after flowering as next years flowers sprout from the new shoots created by pruning now.

Trim old and dead flower heads from Lavender. Don't cut back Daffodil leaves until they have gone yellow as they need to feed the bulb for next year's flower.



Left – what the plant plugs will look like if you buy through the post. They grow quickly when potted up and help you with the cost of heat.

Right – new potato plants shooting in one of the sacks you can get in shops or online. Add extra compost or soil as the shoots grow and you will harvest more potatoes.

- Plant of the Month Wisteria -

April is a fantastic month in the garden and lots of things are looking good including my favourite family of plants, the Japanese Maples.

Their new growth looks amazing. However, I'm going to pick another favourite of mine that I have growing along the front of my house and up the front garden – Wisteria.

They love south facing full sun and in the right position will grow quickly so you don't have to be careful with the pruning.

The young shoots can be twisted around tree branches or wires and after a few weeks that growth firms up and maintains the shape.

You can buy ones that flower the same you as planting these days so I would recommend you give one a try they look truly stunning in full flower.

The garden will also have lots of strong bulbs this month such as Alliums.



Left – Wisteria trained on wires going over the front of the house and up the garden using a wooden support frame.

Right – Building the colour contrast seen from the front door going up the garden using Wisteria, Cotinus the red underneath and then Japanese Maples in their new growth.

Make sure those assets are used to their very best and given plenty of air!

Bitchin' Boutique

CURVACEOUS VINTAGE AND ALTERNATIVE APPAREL

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Hi, my name is Sara Pattern and I'm a member of Paradox of Ravens together with Ann Hunt we have created a musical identity which come from Anne's joy of performing in the 80's and my joy of the music of that era plus our shared love for gothic horror which has filtered into the music.

Our first album was called Edge of Darkness and I thought it might be nice to go through it track by track to see our feeling as we made this exciting excursion into music.

Music Tracks

1 Ground Control:

Anne started this song as an instrumental and as we listened to the track the lyrics came together as we imagined an astronaut floating out in space with his only communication being with Ground Control back on Earth. As the song continues and it becomes apparent to him that he would never get back to Earth.

2. Al Capone:

This song was one of the earliest we worked on as Anne had developed the music shortly before we first met. She had been watching a documentary about the gangster Al Capone and so she decided to base the song around it. We had first met around this time and I remember it being a song she showed me when I auditioned to sing. It has an upbeat tempo that is infectious and our engineer in the studio really liked when we recorded the track.



3. Future Of Ai:

This song is about the fact that we only live a short life but by creating Ai we may have created a potential monster that will one day take over the world. This song I particularly liked as it enabled me to have my voice put through a vocoder effect for parts of the chorus which enhances the song.

We can already see this development with Ai creating music, artwork and movies. Who know where this will end?

4: Time Stands Still:

Another song which was inspired by the life of Ian Curtis of Joy Division who sadly took his own life just as the band was about to tour America. The band continued afterwards and enjoyed success as New Order. This song is about the price of fame and how the pressure to succeed can be too high.



5. Have to Say Goodbye:

Our most romantic song about breaking up in a relationship though struggling to understand Why? Another early song for us and one I have good memories of. I performed it when we were testing out microphones in a music shop ready to go out performing live and getting the thumbs up from the staff. This a memory I think of fondly.

6. & 7. Save My Soul and Edge of Darkness:

These were the last songs we recorded for this album and was a last minute addition to it, but we both knew they had to be on there. It's a song about depression and crying out for help which leads into being on the Edge of Darkness and coming back from there. It ends with the character in the song realising the joy of life. That is something that both me and Anne feel strongly about in being able to talk about mental health issues which still holds a stigma, where all any of us really needs is help and understanding.

8. Dance of the Vampires:

Ok it's fair to say that both of us are into gothic horror and this song is about a romance between a vampire and its victim. The lure of a vampire that can offer immortality but at a price runs through most vampire stories and it's one that fits this song well.

9. Ravens:

This is the song that really started it all though not the first written but before we had a name for our group, I can remember telling Anne about me attending a reading of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" late at night and how it made me feel uneasy and swept up in the recital of it. Anne decided to write a song about that and came up with Ravens. It was the first song we recorded and inspired us to call ourselves Paradox Of Ravens which fits us well and is coincidentally about the Ravens Paradox theory which explains what a Paradox is. We are so proud of Paradox of Ravens, and the name suits the dark feel of our songs and is perfect for us.



10. Rosary:

This one is a personal song about my son James Steven Pattern who died In 2019 at the age of 22 . He suffered from muscular dystrophy and was so brave and had an amazing sense of humour through his short life. The song is about the last night we had together and how we both said how much we loved each other on that night.

Bonus track: Oblivion:

Only available on cd this track is a sci fi epic about standing up for yourself on the edge of Oblivion and perhaps in this day and age, we can all try to do our best for ourselves and others in a world that seems not to care.



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The Truth About The Fairy Realm

By Robin .S. Goodfellow

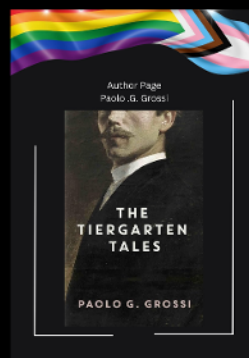
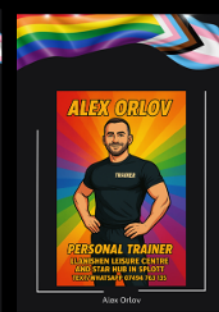
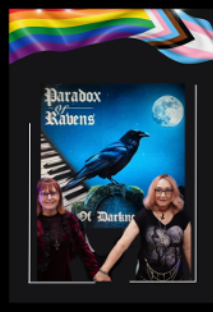
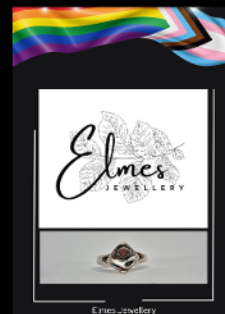
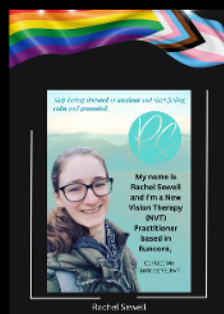


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2026



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