

February 1st Issue 14

FOREVER WITH PRIDE

**Stop
Youth
Aids**

**ASK
Jane**

**LGBTQ+
Monthly
Music
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LGBTQ+ Film**

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Queens**

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Editors Words



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If the answer is yes why not get in touch by email telling a bit about who you are and what you do, you'll be glad you did.

Email:

foreverwithpride@foreverwithpride.com

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Co. Clare - Ireland



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SHOBSY - DAME STUFFY - SPARKLE - CARRIE DEWAY - DJ RUTH
REGINA GEORGE - MISSY ONYA BECKS - PHIL T GORGEOUS
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TICKETS ON SALE NOW



TheOutingFestival.com

Here are some of the The Outing Festival Events For 2023





The Outing Festival | Valentines Weekend

10th-12th February 2023

10 Years of World's Only Queer Love Festival

<https://www.theouting.ie/>





EMPIRE OF LIGHT

Film

Synopsis: A romance develops in a beautiful old cinema on the south coast of England in the 1980s.

Cast: Olivia Colman, Micheal Ward, Colin Firth, Toby Jones

Director: Sam Mendes



Beautifully directed and shot (at an old cinema in Margate, UK), Mendes' film is a tribute to cinema and the art deco buildings that used to house them.

Colman plays middle to late aged Hillary as the cinema manager, while Ward (Top Boy, Small Axe), plays Stephen - a new employee at the cinema who Hillary takes under her wing. Hillary doesn't have much in her life, just her job, and is engaged in a clandestine sexual romance with the owner of the cinema (a very good Colin Firth). But there is something about Stephen that Hillary finds alluring and attractive, and Stephen feels the same about her, somehow. Soon enough they fall into each others arms and have relations in the empty room that is on top of the cinema. But Stephen is only there short-term, he's got big plans for his future, and a girl his age waiting in the background to be his girlfriend, and a mother who encourages him to leave the small town for bigger things.

Even though 'Empire of Light' will take your breathe away for its stunning oceanfront backdrop, the romance between Hillary and Stephen, which is the crux of the film, is not quite believable. Hillary is too dowdy and plain and we don't quite believe that Stephen would fall into her arms when he can have the pick of any of the women in town. Mendes (American Beauty, 1917), should've chosen a more believable female star in this role (Kate Winslet would've been perfect), but nevertheless we are left with a stunning film with a plot that is just not believable.

FAB UK saw 'Empire of Light' at the London Film Festival.

Synopsis: Renowned musician Lydia Tár is days away from recording the symphony that will elevate her career. When all elements seem to conspire against her, Lydia's adopted daughter Petra becomes an integral emotional support for her struggling mother.

Cast: Cate Blanchett, Noémie Merlant

Director: Todd Field

TAR

Film



Cate Blanchett is brilliant as conductor Lydia Tar (and just this week she won a Golden Globe for Best Actress for this role), but at 158 minutes it's a long slog to get from beginning to end.

Lydia is in a same sex relationship with a member of her Berlin orchestra - Sharon (Nina Hoss), and Lydia has total control of all the musicians and the staff, she makes all the hiring and firing decisions and can elevate anyone who she feels has earned it (and perhaps one that she might take a liking to). When Olga (Cellist Sophie Kauer, very very good in her first film role) joins the orchestra, it is a bit obvious to the everyone (and especially to Sharon) that Lydia is interested in Olga in reasons that are not professional, and has members of the orchestra raising their eyebrows. Things get worse for Lydia when a former member of the orchestra commits suicide and leaves a note with serious allegations against Lydia that risks her reputation, professional and personal life.

Blanchett is absolutely brilliant in her role, one of the best performances of her career (she already has two Oscars under her belt), and is a shoo-in for the Best Actress Oscar. But Tar the film is very slow, the first 70 minutes don't amount to much, but after this the film kicks into high gear and the plot, and drama ramp up.

Director and Writer Todd Field brings us a great story that needed a bit tidying up, but it is a very good film and deserves all the kudos it has been nominated for, with Blanchett in center stage, in more ways than one.



Allegiance

Theatre

Legendary actor, and Star Trek veteran George Takei, stars in a new show that is fascinating, moving and brilliant.

'Allegiance', now playing at London's Charing Cross Theatre, is basically the story of Takei's life. At the age of five, in 1941, Takei and his family were sent to an internment camp right after Japan bombed Pearl Harbour; they lost everything, and were held for years. Takei says it has been his mission to tell his story, and 'Allegiance' is his story, and while he didn't write it, the show is his.

A story set to music, with a book by Marc Acito, Jay Kuo, and Lorenzo Thione, and music and lyrics by Kuo, 'Allegiance' consists of a cast of 16, mostly Japanese actors, and with a fantastic Telly Leung as Sammy, a young man on the cusp of adulthood. Aynrand Ferrer is great as Sammy's sister Kei. Along with their dad Tatsuo (Masashi Fujimoto) and grandpa Sam (Takei), their lives are disrupted, and uprooted when America gets involved in WWII after Japan bombed Pearl Harbour. They get moved into the camp where life will never be the same. Sammy is desperate to enroll as a soldier to prove that he is loyal to America, yet still feels his father resents him because his mother died giving birth to him. But their lives are changed forever, especially as Sammy falls for nurse Hannah and Kei falls for a man at the camp.

Without it giving too much away, 'Allegiance' is cleverly bookended by the main character (Takei) and how his life became what it is and what it was. It's a magnificent journey for the audience, all the songs resonate and relate to the story, and all the actors are excellent. Thanks George for bringing this to London, and I highly recommend everyone who reads this to go see it.

'Allegiance' is playing until April 8, 2023 <https://charingcrosstheatre.co.uk>



LGBTQ Salsa is a free weekly salsa dance class that takes place every Thursday in Manchester. Salsa is a fun dance to learn, and very popular. There are many classes and socials in Manchester, but LGBTQ Salsa is the only class that teaches salsa in a way that is free from any assumed gender roles. Everyone has the chance to lead and everyone has the chance to follow.

The Salsa community is already making good strides towards inclusion of LGBTQ dancers. There are many welcoming instructors and dancers, classes do occasionally have same-sex couples, and the role names "leaders" and "followers" are slowly replacing "men" and "ladies". However, it still has some way to go. There are some things that are done out of tradition or because that is the way that they have always been done. It is time to examine these traditions and assumptions and re-evaluate how classes are structured



and taught. Building a class around an assumed couple of a man leading a woman is limiting and does not completely reflect who we are and how we to dance in 2023. LGBTQ Salsa strives to teach in a way that makes sense for our diverse community. As well as fostering a more inclusive atmosphere, learning how to both lead and follow can give you a more complete understanding of salsa and make you a more rounded dancer.

The class is open to all levels, whether you are a complete beginner or have been dancing for many years. You don't have to bring a partner, you can come alone, but couples are certainly welcome. As with most dance classes, the couples will swap and change throughout the class. We hope to see you on the dance floor soon!"

Our social media site is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LGBTQSalsa>





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GARDENING WITH GOODFELLOW February 2023



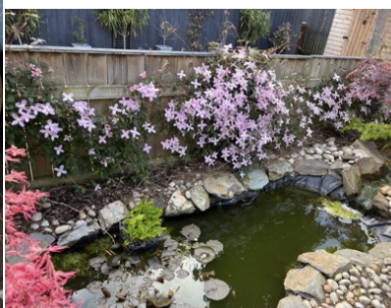
Click on any photo to be taken to the very friendly Facebook group : Gay Gardener UK, Plants, Seeds and Surplus Exchange Group.

"FWP does not own or run this group or control it's content"

The month of Valentine's Day, red roses in florists and teddys wearing heart t-shirts to tempt us all to open our wallets. You could always spend the money on something for the garden instead which will last a lot longer such as summer bulbs for the garden or an orchid for the house. If you do invest in an orchid, make sure it is in a clear pot as the roots have food giving bacteria attached to them and they need light to survive. Water once a week by standing in water for

about twenty minutes then pour away the excess water. The flowers last a long time if you keep them in a cool place and so you get much better value for money.

In the garden apply slow-release fertiliser to the base of roses and other flowering shrubs. You can divide large clumps of herbaceous plants and swap with friends and neighbours so you get free plants and more variety. Top up the spring bedding in pots if the weather has got the better of the ones you planted previously. Trim back ornamental grasses and anything that the frost may have affected the foliage on like red-hot poker, fern foliage and lilies. Be careful not to damage the young buds at the soil surface.



It's time to prune back late flowering clematis especially ones like 'Montana' which can get out of hand if not cut back. Also start chitting your potatoes

If you have a heavy soil and plan on growing vegetables later in the season, it may be a good idea to add some lime to the soil. This helps break up clay soils and frees up nutrients for plants to use but it needs to be added a couple of months before you add your plants. Check the instructions on the box.



Early potatoes are worth the effort as they taste good and will save you money and just need a little more protection using a cloche or similar.

You can start chitting your potato tubers so they start shooting – this gives them a head start before planting and this would be for the early varieties as it takes a few weeks for this to happen. You can always use a cloche to keep the worst of the weather off once planted in the garden.

If you have heat available you could consider waking up your Dahlias and Fuchsias by adding a little water but be careful, they don't rot as it is still early if you don't have heat in your greenhouse.

You can sow broad beans under cover, they don't need heat and are quite hardy. If you sow them now, you will have an early crop. When ready to plant out, place a cloche on top and they will do well.

If you are adventurous, you could try sowing Fuchsia seed, any plants that develop will be different from anything else out there and you can even have the privilege of giving it a name as you will have produced something unique unlike taking cuttings, which are identical to the parent.

A lot of gardeners will be tempted to sow lots of vegetable seeds this month and grow them on the window ledge. The trouble with this is that there is a long time before the possibility of frost disappears and the plants will often become tall and etiolated, so you will be better to wait until next month if you are, like a lot of us, saving money by not heating the greenhouse.

Remember take it easy at the start of the season, don't rush or peak too early as this will only lead to disappointment just as in other things!



**Fresh from their
appearance on
DRAGONS' DEN**

**Jordan and Nicholas
McLnerny are back with
their innovative exercise
class - DRAG DIVA FIT**



Exercise is a Drag!

How best to describe it? Let's quote from our first Time Out review

'DRAG DIVA Fit starts like any other fitness class.: People in Lycra do stretches against the mirror whilst instructor Jordan encourages us to choose our weights. But before long the studio's double doors swing open and in walks our Drag Queen – or King. Fitness first this is not.

Once the room is full, the class begins. It's aerobics with a RuPaul twist. Exercises include 'Spicy Slut Squats' – your usual but with over-the-shoulder glares. 'Giving Face Lunges' – with hand movements straight out of 'Vogue': and (my personal favourite) 'Bitch out of my way Fast Feet' – running on the spot while elegantly slapping imaginary passers-by.

The Queens, on the other hand, don't exert themselves too much. Instead they wander around eating chocolate, fanning themselves and shouting at attendees to make more effort'

Before the class ends we're lined up and prompted to do a catwalk. I hadn't expected this, and feel a bit panicked, but the claps, cheers and wholesome atmosphere encourages me to sashay my way down the studio without a care in the world.

I realise Jordan was right – we are ALL Beyonces'

We started DRAG DIVA FIT in 2019 as a way of making exercise fun, and creating a safe space where we could celebrate body positivity. Over the years we have featured over 12 Queens and Kings – and garnered huge publicity in local press, Time Out, ITV and BBC News – links below.

We have also just appeared on **DRAGONS' DEN** where we introduced the Dragons to our amazing Queen – Umami....

Come and join us

www.dragdivafit.co.uk

For more details about the classes we offer and bespoke events we can offer YOU!

ITV News – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcSFxOyj6E4>

BBC News - <https://youtu.be/8Os1mAPhJMM>



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001gr77/dragons-den-series-20-episode-1>

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Ask Tracy

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CONTACT PAGE
WWW.FOREVERWITHPRIDE.COM/CONTACT/

Question

I'm a 56 year old female bisexual.

I have been from a very young age. I did settle down for 23 years of marriage and had 3 wonderful kids. That ended and I've had a 5 year relationship with a male cross-dresser.

6 months ago I left a male transgender after 1 year.

I'm guessing I don't really know what I'm looking for. I'm at a low just now and would like to talk to anyone else who may of experienced these confusing feelings. Any advice or your similar stories would be great. I just feel lost atm.

Thanks for reading

x Viv

Hi Viv,

Thank you for reaching out for advice.

I note you say you're a female bisexual and have known this from a young age, yet it appears your definitive relationships have all been with those who present as male.

Could it be that these relationships haven't fulfilled the inner desires you hold, and haven't allowed you to explore your attraction to birth females, thus leaving you feeling emotionally unsatisfied?

Are your family and children aware of your sexuality or is this hidden and therefore a reason why your relationships have been with those who present as male ?

I feel you owe it to yourself to further explore if it's not being in a fulfilling relationship that's making you feel low or if other reasons, such as dissatisfaction with your work life balance or career choices, or if friendships are bringing you down.

Have you thought about maybe joining some local groups in your area, reading groups, walking groups, women's groups in which you can explore who you are as well as identifying as bisexual, as you're far more than just your sexuality, despite this being an important aspect of your identity.

I'm not sure what part of the UK you reside in, but I've attached some links to support groups, social groups below.

I would also suggest if making positive changes in your life doesn't lift your mood you seek some advice from your GP, life is hard for all of us right now and additional worries may be weighing heavy on you.

Take care and please look after yourself, Tra

<https://www.openingdoors.lgbt/>

<https://www.gmcvo.org.uk/news/rainbow-flourish-new-groups-lgbt-people-over-50>



12 Outstanding LGBTQ Music Releases of 2022 That You Need to Hear



GLOBAL LGBTQ CREATIVE NETWORK
CONNECTING CREATIVES AND COMMUNITY



12 LGBTQ New Releases You Need to Hear

We're taking a look back on the start of 2023 and some of the best new releases from LGBTQ artists that arrived in January. The month may have rushed by, but these tracks pack enough punch to stick around for a long time!



OUT LOUD RADIO
BRIAN FALDUTO



Brian Falduto – Big Boys Club

Queer country music continues to its rise in popularity and no one is leading the charge harder than Brian Falduto. Many audiences may remember him as the sassy design kid from Jack Black's iconic film "School of Rock", but very soon he'll be known as a leader in queer country music. Continuing to carve out his own path through one of the industry's least inclusionary sectors of music, Brian Falduto's most recent release, the radio made foot stomper "Big Boys Club", inches him even closer towards country music gold.



OUT LOUD RADIO
BUTTERFLY FEELS



Butterfly Feels – Anointed

Butterfly Feels kicks 2023 into gear with the signature R'nB flavour that she has become known for. "Anointed" is next level Butterfly Feels and sets a strong and impressive start to the new year. If this is the beginning, bring on the rest of 2023. Creating hand in hand with her wife, producer and artist "Nor Kin4Life", Butterfly cements herself as power player in the wave of new queer music.



The Q Blog

Catch up on all the latest articles, interviews and more in our Q Blog section.



RADIO REPLAY

Hear the weekly OUT LOUD Queer Music Radio Show now on demand whenever you want!

[Listen Now!](#)



Danielle Grubb, Queen of Cups – You, Me, and Love. Alive in the Sound of Rhythm.

Danielle Grubb teams up with fellow artist Queen of Cups to bust out infectious, Rock R'nB badassery with a groove that will have you funkified and tripping back in time with retro glee.



Fabian Raad – Insatiable

Alpha's member Fabian Raad strikes out on his own to bring us all a disco infused feast. "Insatiable" sits beautifully among peer artists Years and Years and Sigala, but is deeply rooted in old school flash and flair. There's an understanding of experience all over the track that can't be faked. Fabian Raad has the disco goods.



Galen Conroy – Finding My Way

Nova Scotia's Galen Conroy continues to find his way through the music forest, and he takes one very large step closer with his latest, the moody but upbeat "Finding My Way". He stays in the creator and producer seat and opts to allow the song to come alive through guest vocalist EP. Thematically dark, but sonically bright, Galen Conroy creates a vessel that tackles issue but allows hope to glitter through.



Gregory Dillon - LSD

The wonder boy of queer brilliance, Gregory Dillon returns with his unmistakable vocals and his penchant for creating emotional music that will carry you into the clouds and have you day dreaming with him as the lead in your teenage dream. If there was a mold for pop artistry that is near perfection, it would be Gregory Dillon. Press play and let him take you away.



ILON - Skater Girls

The Tik Tok generation of music kiddies may be the soup du jour, but it's artist like ILON who bust through the noise to grab the brass ring of "laying it down". ILON is an artist our queer girls need. Power pop with a definite point of view and the ability to deliver relatability through vocals and story. Catch up mainstream radio. ILON is your new obsession.



Kelsey Montanez - I Sold My Soul

There's an inferno burning inside Kelsey Montanez that is begging to get out. You can feel the fire flickering and swirling throughout her latest song "I Sold My Soul". It's a steamy retro rock banger that is sure to become a request staple in her discography and will be a live biter that will have audiences hanging off her stage like disciples trying to feel part of her world.

the Q32
LGBTQ
MUSIC CHART



Isanka - Home Alone

I heard, I shared, and the masses agreed...Isanka is a wonderful addition to the queer music landscape. He's just getting started, new release "Home Alone" a deliciously mysterious dance pop calling. Like a Siren beckoning you into the ocean, Isanka is luring you into the ether for a euphoric dance flow.



Shelectro - Get Yourself A Dream

UK electro sensation Shelectro keeps turning up the beat and slapping us with dance bliss. New song "Get Yourself A Dream" is her biggest sound yet and it is a definite floor filler. The opening hook is such a statement sound that it will become easily recognizable and have club goers screaming "hold my drink, it's my jam" as they stampede to show praise to their electro goddess. Positive and pulse pounding.



Terry Blade - Won't Be Around

Wow. That's all that can be said listening to Terry Blade's latest "Won't Be Around". Guitar licks that smack of pain and grit, and the deepest and best blues vocal you could order up fills every corner on a track that is dark, brooding, electric, exciting, sexy, and bold.





Trapcry - Solo

Trapcry knows exactly how to ignite your libido and grab your attention. He's incredible when being bad, but on "Solo" Trapcry is a musical depth charge. A deep bass undertow flanks a dance groove that's lit up with Trapcry's alluring vocals to make for a near sublime intoxicating experience. Music should always be this good.

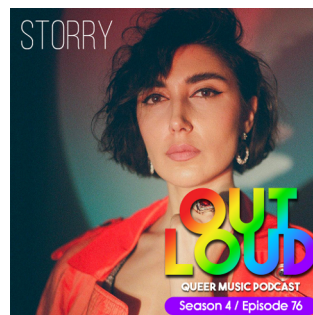
Q32 LGBTQ Music Chart

For the Week of January 29, 2023

1. Tyler James Bellinger - Darkest Place
2. Ariela Jacobs - Hey Lover
3. Travie Austin, Brad Kemp - Call Me Daddy.
4. A'BIGGs - The Ways
5. Aidan Shamray - Romance I go to Paris
6. Bright Light Bright Light - I Don't Know What I'm Gonna Do
7. Homer Marrs - He's A Bitch
8. Jaime Adrian, Velvet Code - Belong
9. Dan Aura - Living Room
10. BEGINNERS - If the World is Ending

See the full Top 32 and vote for your favorite artists and songs at:

<https://curatedbyq.com/music-chart/>



Out Loud Podcast

Latest Episode:

Season 4 Episode 76

Featuring Singer Songwriter
STORRY

Canadian Juno nominated Singer Songwriter STORRY stops by for an epic and candi conversation about her new album "CHILL: The Come Up", her experiences as a woman in the music industry, and gets real about sex trafficking.

PLUS music from Anthony Ciulla, Danah Lee, Giuliano, Ian Allen, Malleous, Ray Curenton, Sheva Elliot, and The Famous Daxx.

Choose your favorite podcast platform and listen now!

<https://curatedbyq.com/podcast/>

For even more amazing music be sure to check out and follow the Q's New Queer Friday Spotify playlist. Updated every Friday with the latest new releases from LGBTQ artists around the world.

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6WmCVnyGDVsMGmxvEh1C2d?si=2cb8a04c01474d2a>



What is a Naming Ceremony

A naming ceremony is not a legal requirement so there is no need to register the ceremony. Nowadays parents have the opportunity to hold a non-religious naming ceremony to celebrate the birth of your child, as parents you can also hold a naming ceremony to welcome adopted children into your family.

As parents you are still able to nominate God parents / guide parents. And you are able to hold this meaningful and special naming ceremony in any venue of your choice.

This naming ceremony is a great way to have your family and friends together to celebrate the birth of your child. As parents you are able to give the naming ceremony a sense of ritual by including special words, poems, music, asking family and friends to take part in this special occasion.

As parents this ceremony gives you both the opportunity to declare in front of your family and friends that you are going to be the best parents that you both can be, and you are asking your family and friends to help you both to achieve your goal.

By Phil Parslow

Phil Parslow

Celebrant
Monmouthshire



Wedding, Civil Partnership, Same Sex
Wedding, Wedding Vowel Renewal, Baby
Naming Ceremony, Funeral, Memorial
Service, which are personal to you both
your family and friends.

treetopsmount@yahoo.com

THE VEGAN QUEENS



How long have The Vegan Queens been performing together and how did it all start?

Well... Momma Gemini used to host a tv show on a local Manchester channel and, for pride season, planned a pre-Pride special, with two local drag queens. She invited her soon-to-be daughter Miasma to take part and, from there, the Vegan Queens took off! We launched our YouTube channel, started gigging and, slowly but surely, built our reputation on the circuit. We've now been performing together for six years.

You did a YouTube where you talked about being a vegan and how proud you are that you took the decision to go vegan, how does it go down at events when you talk about it?

We've always had a great reception. We've been very lucky in that people tend to embrace the vegan message - or at least be open to it. In a way, we've already won the audience round by being our big, noisy, northern Drag Queen selves, so they tend to be ready to listen - and more importantly, **hear** - and to have a little ponder, whilst we dazzle with a showtune!

You took part in many pride events in 2022 was there one that stood out to you more than the others and if so, why?

2022 was an incredible season and each and every one of the Prides we hosted or performed at was very special to us. The Vegan Queens champion local Pride events where the community are front and centre of all decisions made and celebrations held. It would be impossible to choose a favourite as they all mean so very much.



So what's in the pipeline for The Vegan Queens in 2023?

What's in the pipeline? Ooer missus! We are performing at Vegan CAMPOUT in July, which is huge deal for us, as it's the biggest vegan camping festival in the world. We'll, hopefully, be having another incredible Pride season and our vegan activism has taken a step forward and there are hints that this will be very present in 2023! Watch this space! Other than that, more of the same - performing to lovely audiences, being daft on YouTube and spreading the plant-based message.

You were trolled by some vile people regarding you as drag queens and the effect you are having on children's lives and wellbeing you stood up to them, but it must have had an effect on you both.

We were angry, rather than upset, that we were targeted . It's particularly hurtful when these attacks come from within the community. We ended up removing ourselves from a series of gigs with children and young people, not for our own safety, but for theirs. We didn't want our audiences to experience such negativity and intolerance. Moving forward, we hope that, collectively, we can move beyond these outdated attitudes and unite both the community and our allies in a celebration of all things rainbow!

Looking through your photos it really does look like you're both having as much fun as your audience if not more. How do you keep that spark going day in day out.

We have an absolute ball - being with, and performing for, people is very much our happy place'. Of course, we get tired and little jaded sometimes, as everyone does, but a lick of lipstick, a little more mascara and the incredible response we get from our audiences keep us joyful - and in order to spread joy, one must be joyful!

You have a YouTube channel that is full of fabulous content, it must take up a lot of your time. How do you fit everything into a working day?

As busy women of the world, we've become adept at the art of juggling! Stay focused on the moment you're in, and nothing is insurmountable. It helps that we truly love what we do and believe in it, so 'work' is always a pleasure.

Socials links:

Insta: [instagram.com/veganqueensuk](https://www.instagram.com/veganqueensuk)

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

Twitter: [Twitter.com/veganqueens](https://twitter.com/veganqueens)

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@TheVeganQueens>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006vq92>



NOT JUST AN E-MAGAZINE



What will you find inside our website

E-Magazine, Find My Blog, The Q
LGBTQ Shop & Services Directory,
FWP Gift Shop, Film & Theatre Review,
LGBTQ+ Events Calendar

www.foreverwithpride.com





IRIS PRIZE

**Iris Prize - the 'Oscars' of the
LGBTQ+ short film world
Is now open for submissions**

- **Will you be the first winner from France?**
- **Maybe you will be the fifth winner from Australia?**
- **Cardiff to host the world's best LGBTQ+ short films once again in 2023**
- **Organisers are keen to continue to share LGBTQ+ stories from all over the world and closer to home**
- **14 awards, including new for 2023, Iris Prize Best British Performance Beyond the Binary, sponsored by Out & Proud**

Organisers of the world's largest LGBTQ+ short film festival have today (16 January 2023) announced that submissions are open for the 17th edition of the **Iris Prize LGBTQ+ Film Festival to be held in Cardiff, Tuesday 10 October to Sunday 15 October 2023.**

The Iris Prize LGBTQ+ Film Festival is looking for amazing short and feature films and has 14 awards to hand out including the internationally coveted £30,000 **Iris Prize supported by the Michael Bishop Foundation**.

Closer to home, the winner of the **Iris Prize Best British Short sponsored by Film4 and Pinewood Studios** will receive a package of services sponsored by Pinewood Studios and all of the nominated films are eligible for consideration for BAFTA and can automatically be entered by the filmmakers. All films in the Best British 2023 shortlist will be broadcast on Film4 and streamed on their online streaming service, All4, as part of Film4's continuing support for the Festival.

The festival has also confirmed a new category for this year, **Iris Prize Best British Performance Beyond the Binary**, supported by Out & Proud.

William Rutter, Out & Proud said: "In 2022, Out & Proud was delighted to sponsor the Iris Prize LGBTQ+ Film Festival for the first time. This year we have extended our support even



further by sponsoring even more awards and so, in 2023, we enthusiastically look forward to supporting LGBTQ+ performers and film makers worldwide.

"Through our sponsorship we aim to help recognise and reward the phenomenal efforts that have gone in to producing films not just made by the LGBTQ+ community but also telling LGBTQ+ stories. The Out & Proud App is a real-time what's on guide and support directory for the LGBTQ+ community and for us working alongside Iris not only seems a natural partnership but a perfect one too."

The Iris Prize LGBTQ+ Film Festival will present 14 awards in the following categories

Iris Prize– the largest LGBTQ+ short film prize in the world supported by The Michael Bishop Foundation

Iris Prize Best British Shortsponsored by Film4 and Pinewood Studios

Iris Prize Best British Performance in a Female Rolesponsored by Out & Proud

Iris Prize Best British Performance in a Male Rolesponsored by Out & Proud

Iris Prize Best British Performance Beyond the Binarysponsored by Out & Proud

Iris Prize Best Feature,sponsored by Bad Wolf

Best Performance in a Female Role in a feature film, sponsored by DIVA Magazine

Best Performance in a Male Role in a feature film, sponsored by Attitude Magazine

Best Performance Beyond the Binary in a feature film, sponsored by Peccadillo Pictures

Youth Jury Awardssponsored by Cardiff University

Community Awardsponsored by Mark Williams in memory of Rose Taylor

Education Awardsponsored by Mark Williams in memory of Rose Taylor

Micro Short Awardsponsored by Mark Williams in memory of Rose Taylor

Iris Prize Co-op Audience Award

Berwyn Rowlands, Iris Prize Festival Director said:“This is an exciting time of the year for me personally, and the wider Team Iris, when we make the call for submissions, during one of the darkest and often most dismal months of the year.

“Every year we build on the success of the previous year, and this year we are pleased to announce that we will be awarding a new prize for **Best British Performance Beyond the Binary**. This award joins the two new performance awards introduced last year, thanks to the sponsorship of Out & Proud. Having another performance award will hopefully encourage more actors to join the host of directors, producers, and writers who attend the festival every October.”

Submissions are being processed via Filmfreeway and the link is [here](#)

or you can follow this link: <https://filmfreeway.com/IrisPrizeFestival>



The main festival sponsors are: The Michael Bishop Foundation; Creative Wales, a Welsh Government agency that supports the creative sectors in Wales; the BFI awarding funds from The National Lottery; Film Cymru Wales; Film4; University of South Wales; Cardiff University; Co-op Respect; Bad Wolf; S4C; Gorilla Group; Peccadillo Pictures; Pinewood Studios; Attitude Magazine; Diva Magazine; The Ministry Venues; FROOT and Aberystwyth University. The festival also works in partnership with BAFTA Cymru, Pride Cymru and Stonewall Cymru.

The **Iris Prize**– the largest LGBTQ+ short film prize in the world is supported by The Michael Bishop Foundation. £30,000 is available to the winner to make a new LGBTQ+ themed film in the UK. In 2020, for the 5th time, Iris was identified as one of the “top 50 film festivals worth the entry fee” by Movie Maker Magazine. In 2017 the festival was promoted by BAFTA to A-list festival status, alongside Cannes and Sundance, by officially being recognised as a qualifying festival for the BAFTA awards.

The **Iris Prize LGBTQ+ Film Festival** is a six-day celebration of LGBTQ+ film which takes place annually in Cardiff, Wales, UK. The 2023 festival will be our 17th edition and much has changed since the first 3-day festival in 2007 with 1,500 admissions. Today the flagship festival is almost a week-long, attracts 11,000 admissions, and the online offer is a month long with a UK on-line audience of 84,000.



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ADULT DESIRES

I R E L A N D



So, who is the face behind Adult Desires Ireland, Well it's me Denise! Let me tell you a bit about myself.

I am a mother of three, two boys and a girl – 18,15 and 11. I am a wife to Dave, a sister, an aunt a friend. I make lunches and dinner I do the washing and clean!!! I am literally your normal run of mill type of gal who sells sex toys!!!

So, let's start from the beginning..... I have worked in this business for 10 years now starting with the fabulous company Ann Summers – doing parties and games in the clients home so much fun!

ADULTDESIRESIRELAND.COM
BEDROOM
Collection
NAUGHTY



I thought to myself why don't I start my own company which we did called "Canoodle" I had this company for two years. I actually did a party for a TV Programme called "what women want" hosted by Maia Dunphy that was a great experience and did some radio interviews, but due to unforeseen circumstances I had to shut it down.

Now that my Children are a lot older my husband Dave and I decided to start a new company in February 2022 Adult Desires Ireland. We know from experience that having a sex toy company can have its challenges especially when you are trying to advertise on social media and also it really is a taboo conversation there is still so much prejudice around sex so we have to be careful what we advertise. I do get messages and phone calls and most of the time the client will start by saying "I'm so embarrassed" or "I'm mortified" so my job is to put my customers at ease and make sure they are comfortable talking with me.

We sell these products because we know how much they can enhance your sex life and add that bit of naughtiness in the bedroom whether you are in a relationship or single, having an orgasm can so easily relieve stress and make you feel more relaxed believe me I know from experience!! We are here to cater for everyone's needs, there are so many sex toys to choose from, from rampant rabbits to vibrating butt plugs and our biggest sellers' masturbators the variety is endless.

ADULT
DESIREs

PRIDE



Our products and packaging are chosen very carefully, now we don't try everything because let's be honest there wouldn't be much else done if we did!!!!!! Our toys are body safe and the packaging is fabulous, thanks to our wonderful suppliers, and brands that we purchase, Calexotics and pipedream are just two of our favourites and not to forget our discreet packaging no one wants the neighbours to see a vibrator waiting at the door for you, that's why we don't mention our company name on your delivery or what is in the box!!! We have also started to introduce some Lingerie, sexy dress up and some bondage wear so there is something sexy for everyone.

Adult Desires Ireland
It's our pleasure to give
you pleasure



We are so excited to be involved with "The Outing Festival" again this year which is being held in The Inn at Dromoland, Co Clare from the 10th- 12th of February founded by the fabulous Eddie McGuinness! we had an amazing time in Lisdoonvarna in October 2014, met the most amazing people and can't wait to see everyone again xx

So that's me and our company in a nutshell. Thanks for reading my lovelies xx

And don't forget **"It's our Pleasure to Give you Pleasure"**

Denise & Dave

Adult Desires Ireland, web: www.adultdesiresireland.com





LGBT+ HELPLINES / SUPPORT GROUPS

Do you identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, NB+ or are just confused? Do you have family or friends who are struggling?

However you feel, if you need support or just a confidential chat there are many people who are there to listen and help.

Sometimes we need them and sometimes our family or friends may need them. Remember here is a place to find lots of them!

Check out our Weymouth Gay Group website helplines page
<https://weymouthgaygroup.weebly.com/helplinessupport-groups.html>



Weymouth Gay Group

*Friendship, chat, support,
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Weymouth Gay Group

Weymouthgaygroup@gmail.com
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MERBOY

WRITTEN BY LIAM SESAY
DIRECTED BY SCOTT LE CRASS

21 FEBRUARY - 4 MARCH
OMNIBUS THEATRE



February is LGBTQ+ History month, so what better time to launch a new theatre Company – Campfire Theatre - dedicated to telling unusual LGBTQ+ stories of ‘warmth, campy and love in the face of adversity from across the world’

I spoke to Liam Sesay – writer and producer of their debut show – MERBOY – at the Omnibus Theatre, Clapham -which describes itself as a ‘a fantasy world of fairytale meets the dramatic yearnings of 1960s girl band music and the intense depths of gay shame – a poetic and queer retelling of *The Little Mermaid*’



‘Ironically, the idea for MERBOY came about through both the universality of gay experience where we grapple with inherited shame – but also the effects of the Lockdown, where I got to learn a lot more about my mother’s background – she’s from Sierra Leone – and how she had to deal with rejection.’

What was it about the Little Mermaid that so appealed?

‘Originally I was more aware of a Japanese Anime version – much more brutal than either the Disney film or indeed the Hans Christian Anderson story.’



But it was when I read a letter from Hans Christian Anderson where he confessed to unrequited love for another man, and how his religion forbade it, that it began to really come into focus.

'Absolutely. Disney of course gives their version a happy ending, which doesn't exist in the original story. So I wanted in MERBOY to acknowledge that darkness as intrinsic to a hunger for love, but somehow find a way out of shame, to banish it'

Is there where the idea of drawing from famous girl groups – The Supremes, The Ronettes – came in?

***Marooned out at sea
and the greedy moon is fat
Fed by the tide
to show far and wide
That I have grown."***

'There was something about their glamour set against these songs of love and yearning that was incredibly attractive. Of course, I used to lip synch along to the songs with my Mum's hair brush.

My director, Scott Le Crass, told me he asked his Dad for a pool table at Christmas, so he could use the cue as a microphone!'

The idea of 'performance' is central to gay identity, isn't it?

'Yes. Perhaps that's because when we were young, we spent a lot of day performing in one way – to disguise ourselves – only to come home and in the privacy of our own rooms, perform very differently'

The director, Scott Le Crass – is fresh from his recent success directing Maureen Lipman in ROSE at the Park Theatre.

He has a number of shows opening over the next month, at the Vault Festival, as well as MERBOY.

He told me he was 'very fortunate to be directing three plays which represent a broad spectrum of the LGBTQ+ Community. I feel very empowered to be sharing these fresh and honest stories that have a unique lens on LGBT Life'

So what will an evening with the MERBOY be like – last word to Liam.

'It will be an evening of High Camp fun full of fabulous lip syncs from our amazing cast, in a show which has a huge heart and is definitely NOT another gay tragic narrative. Oh, and there will be sailors!'

LINKS TO BUY TICKETS BELOW –

<https://www.omnibus-clapham.org/merboy/>

<https://vaultfestival.com/events/buff/>

<https://vaultfestival.com/performances/thirsty/>



LGBTQ+ Help and Support


Switchboard Contact Us
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Reengage
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Re-engage, a charity dedicated to ending loneliness and isolation among those aged 75 and over, introduced its rainbow call companion service.

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STONEWALL

Who we are

We are a team of bold, passionate people fighting for the freedom, equity and potential of LGBTQ+ people everywhere.



Our vision is to provide a place where the D/deaf can meet with friends, family, colleagues, professionals and provide a hub for support, education, social activity, therapy and advocacy in a safe environment.

<https://www.deafhub.wales/>



Weymouth Gay Group celebrates 15 years!



A group of gay guys and their friends are celebrating 15 years of meeting up weekly in Weymouth pubs.

Weymouth Gay Group started 15 years ago as there was nowhere then socially for LGBT guys (18+) to meet up.

A spokesperson said - There are two aspects to our group, our twice weekly pub meets and our outreach to the LGBT community and beyond.

One attendee described the group as "*Real Ale & Real Friends!*"

The twice weekly pub meets are very informal and friendly. At one time we had over 30 LGBT people regularly attending, with guys traveling from Dorchester, North Dorset and even Somerset to join us.

Our numbers are also boosted during the summer with LGBT tourists visiting the area.

Our guys have a wide range of interests, backgrounds and ages! This helps ease in new people into our group as someone is bound to have a similar or same interest around our tables. Thursdays the group meets up on table 26 in The Swan Weymouth from 8pm.



Our Monday meet ups have developed into "Meals Out on Mondays", an opportunity to eat out at the many restaurants that our seaside town offers. This is a way of enjoying quality food and company! The summer months are enjoyed with beach BBQs, and trips to Pride events.

It's great to see a new shy person blossom over time, and form lifelong friendships and even relationships in our group.

Our second area that has developed over recent years is our website and connections with a range of other organisations and groups.

We are very pleased that our website has been called "The LGBT Bible locally" by the NHS. We have a lot of info there, 25 – 30 Dorset LGBT events each month,

local LGBT news (70+ stories last year), plus our helplines page. During 2022 we produced a poster promoting our helplines page and sent this to all the local Doctors surgeries and other NHS outlets.

This has been very well received having one website page devoted to helplines and support groups for LGBT people. It also helps with some of the enquires we get every year, while we offer friendship, we are not a support group, but we are happy to sign post to a range of local, regional and national organisations.

On social media our twitter account has almost 2,500 followers, and is, like our website, a brilliant way of keeping up to date with news and info for those who may not find it easy to attend our pub meet ups.

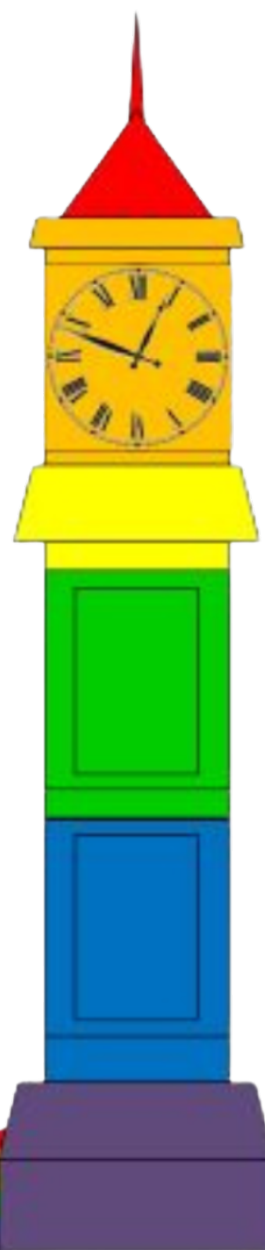
We are a member of a number of umbrella LGBT groups including The LGBT Consortium, Dorset LGBT Voices Forum, LGBT Network for Change and we also help to promote groups like The Gay OutDoor Club, Gay West and many more in our Events diary listings.



Real Ale & Real Friends

We'll be celebrating our
15 years during this
year, especially in LGBT
History Month
(February) and Pride
month (June) and you
are welcomed to join us
too!

"Forever with Pride
E-Magazine would like to
thank you to Weymouth
Gay Group for supplying
the photos".



Weymouth Gay Group

Email: weymouthgaygroup@gmail.com

Website: <https://weymouthgaygroup.weebly.com>

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Weymouth Gay Group

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Youth Stop AIDS (YSA) is a youth-led movement campaigning for a world without AIDS. We ultimately want zero new HIV infections, zero HIV-related stigma and discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. Our priority is to equip and empower young people to be skilled and effective HIV and AIDS campaigners. We are co-funded by Restless development and StopAIDS. Restless development is an international organisation that shifts power to young people, placing them at the forefront of their work and supporting them to make change in their communities and become leaders. StopAIDS is a UK-based HIV, health and rights advocacy network working to support UK and global movements in challenging inequalities and systemic barriers to health. More Information about the work Restless development and StopAIDS do can be found on their websites.

Some of Youth StopAIDS recent work includes our 2020 Speakers tour: Lock down edition. This was a yearly, week-long journey around the UK, where people can hear first hand the inspiring stories of young people overcoming the challenges associated with HIV and using these experiences to make a positive change locally and globally.

HIV is still an important issue in the UK and globally, YSA has been campaigning on it for years with our 'It Ain't Over' and 'Step up for HIV' campaigns. Although the UK is on track, it has cut its international development budget which means globally we are behind the 2030 targets.

YSA and young people as a whole do care about health justice and will be putting pressure on the UK government in the year ahead - join the fight!

We plan and attend regular events throughout the year, as we've done in previous years such as parliamentary visits, pride, and other stunts and protests.



We'd like to encourage young people to get involved. We are sharing all the upcoming opportunities to take action with Youth StopAIDS, Restless Development, StopAIDS and other HIV and youth related charities.

Sign up to become a YSA Campaigner [HERE](#) or Group Leader [HERE](#)

Monday 6th February 2023 - HIV Testing week begins: Let's end new HIV transmissions in the UK and abroad.



National HIV Testing Week is a campaign to promote regular testing among the most-affected population groups in England. Regular testing helps to reduce the number of people living with undiagnosed HIV and those diagnosed late.

<https://www.hivpreventionengland.org.uk/2023/01/09/get-ready-for-national-hiv-testing-week-2023/#:~:text=National%20HIV%20Testing%20Week%20starts,ways%20you%20can%20get%20involved.>

HIV Stigma March & Rally 18th March - Fighting HIV Stigma And Proud: Terrence Higgins Trust is partnering with 30+ groups and charities including YSA to march together on Saturday, 18 March 2023. The march will gather at Forum Magnum Square, SE1 from 12pm on Saturday 22 March. We'll reach Trafalgar Square at 2pm and hold the vigil and rally there.

YSA Pre-March event 18th March 10:30am at the Waterloo Action Centre (tbc)- YSA will be hosting a breakfast session before the March, all the young people attending can get to know each other and head to the march together. So if you're a young person interested in attending the march feel free to sign up and come with us. This breakfast session will also include a brief training on HIV Activism/organising locally.



To get involved and stay up to date on the latest YSA campaigns and involvements follow us on Instagram @youthstopaids_uk and Twitter @Youth_StopAIDS. You can also check out our website

<https://youthstopaids.org/>.

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