



FOREVER WITH PRIDE

LET'S TALK

The Rainbow
Bar

Yby
Potlach

Paradox Of
Ravens

FLURISH With
NEURODIVERSITY

FAT PIGEON
ART

1st March 2026
Issue 52

Editors Words

Well the first day of spring is just around the corner as are the first of the fabulous Pride Events so don't forget to take advantage of our free Pride Event Facebook group it was set up to let you all post about your up and coming events. [Here's the link to the group.](#)

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?

Bitchin' Boutique

CURVACEOUS VINTAGE AND ALTERNATIVE APPAREL

Bitchin' Boutique was established in 2016 by Lisa, its birth sparked by a love of Neil Gaiman and the chopped corners at the back of plus size items available on the High Street.



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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
linktr.ee/RS_NVT





Let's Talk LGBTQIA+

Welcome to Let's Talk LGBTQIA+, founded in 2024, with the aim of creating a one-stop shop for all things Queer. We want to make it easy for everyone to find a safe-space that fits them, and fits around their interests. Not only that, we want to build a library of Queer excellence, whether that's online businesses, in the media (Podcasts, YouTubers, Musicians), online groups, Streamers and more! Somewhere where everyone in our community can find something for them, and something to support. Best of all, it's global.

One of our best features is our "Your Spaces" map. Here we hold Queer shops, pubs, clubs, venues and reoccurring in person events.

We pin these locations and ask for information regarding accessibility, toilets and costs. We're always expanding and adding more to our site, ensuring everything is as good as it can be!

What's the difference with us? We don't use AI to add to our directories, we are purely community driven. This means everything listed here has been added by a member of the community, for the community.

This way we know these venues are safe, and someone from the community has confirmed that. All listings and entries are moderated to ensure nothing gets submitted we don't want.

If you're a performer, host or local venue, you can submit your one-off events to us to! We'll then promote these across our socials when an article goes live on our website, again showing that there is something out there for everyone.



your experience of being out at work, events you've experienced or anything you think people will find interesting! You can submit your story by visiting our 'Contact Us' page on our website. We'll then contact you to ask some follow up questions and allow you to provide any images to go with your story.

We get better with your input, meaning Let's Talk is purely community driven.

We work in a similar way on our socials as well, where tagging us in your post/content, guarantees we'll repost or share to our stories.

Let's Talk is here to help the community and costs nothing to use. We accept donations, and all funds raised go back in to the website to bring new features and a better experience for all. As we grow, we aim to split all funds raised between improving & maintaining the website and donating to our communities chosen charity.

We're currently running a campaign to help others by sharing our stories. We want to build a library of everyone's journey, whether that's coming out, your gender transition,

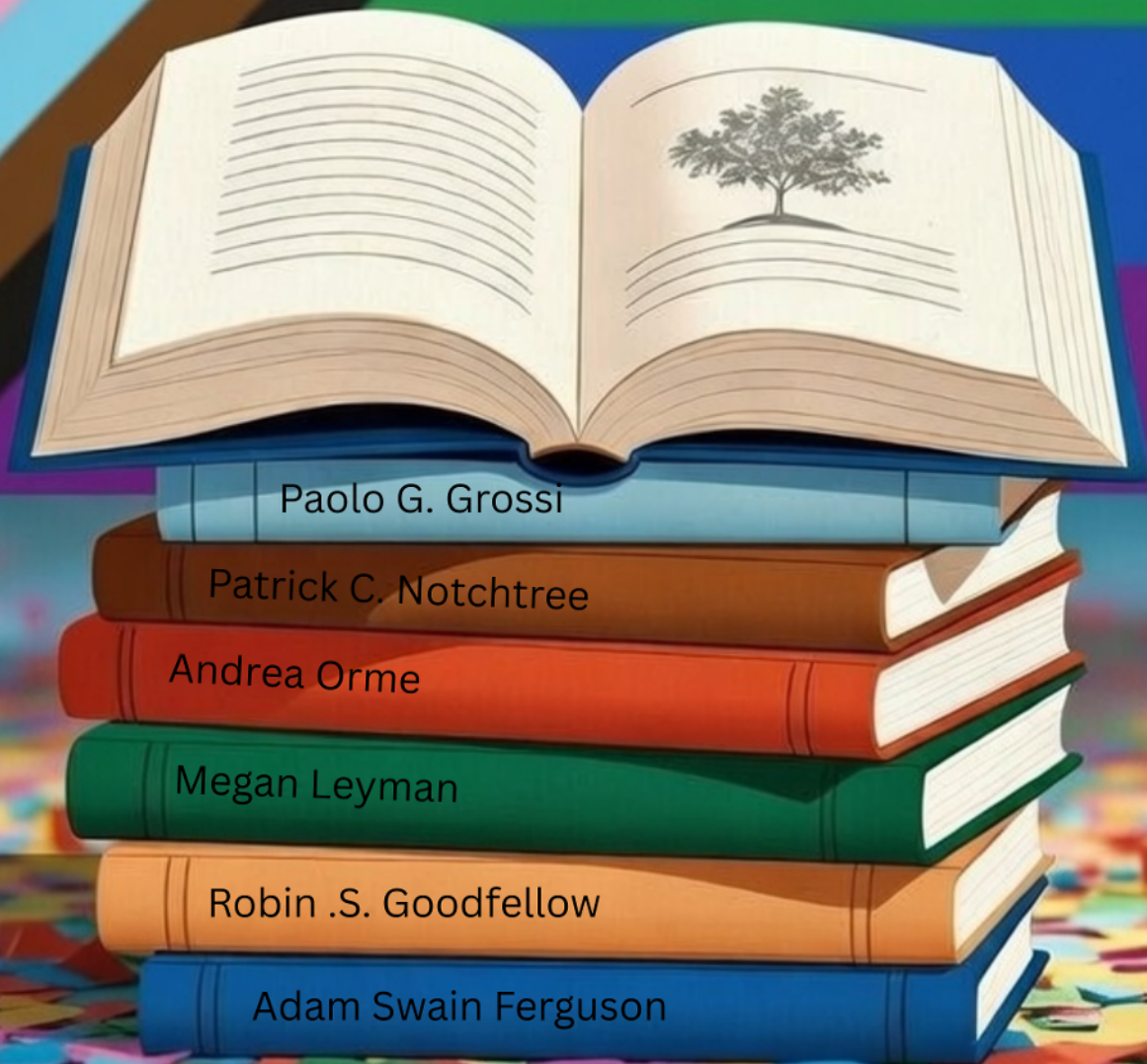


Visit our website at <https://letstalklgbtqia.com/> check out our directories, growing resources and make sure to follow our socials where you can find even more ways to get involved!

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Queer Authors

BOOK CLUB



A Reading List for
the Rainbow Revolution
www.foreverwithpride.com



March 2026

Sponsored By

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

What a wet start to the calendar year we've had. It hasn't stopped the plants growing though if it's dry enough. My garden still has Snowdrops and Crocus and now Tete a Tete Daffodils all flowering together. I've also got Roses already growing after being pruned in the autumn and I'm in the north east, so it looks like it is going to be another early year for the garden to start sprouting. Officially that's not supposed to happen until April.

March is the start of the busy time for gardeners depending on what you've decided to grow. Seed potatoes are in the shops and are already chitting so are ready to be put in sacks in a cold greenhouse that will give them a nice early start.

If you have heat, you can wake up your dahlia tubers but keep them away from frost. The forecast is for very mild even possible record high temperatures but don't forget the night time temperatures drop considerably. Use propagators or polythene tents inside your greenhouse for extra protection and to make the most of any heat you have on.

Trim back the old flowering stems from the likes of Lavendar if you haven't done it already. You still have chance to shape your Wisteria before it flowers and the leaves come out. Once that happens it's not so easy where you're pruning. You can cut your grass on a dry day but just take the top off don't be tempted to cut it low yet, reduce the height gradually. Forsythias will be flowering soon so don't prune those until the flowering has finished as they flower on the new stems next year. Give them the maximum growth time after pruning.

You will be fine to sow hardy seeds this month, but tender ones will need heat. If you start them don't forget you need somewhere to transplant them on and if relying on your windowsills make sure, they're cool else the seedlings will be long with few leaves – that's called etiolated or gone leggy. You can use a good multi-purpose compost for seeds and for transplanting if you just want to stick to one. If you start your seeds off in a propagator then don't leave them in too long. Transplant as soon as they are large enough to handle.

This is a key time of year to be careful watering and it's easy to overdo it. This can cause the rot called Botrytis and damping off disease in seedlings. A well-drained compost and trays and pots with holes in the bottom for drainage will help.

Be careful tidying the garden that you aren't hurting still hibernating animals like hedgehogs. If in doubt leave until later. With better light coming from the sun, the ponds will soon start warming up and any fish will be more active. Remove any surface rubbish else it will only sink to the bottom.

This will be a good month to get the power-washer out and clean your decking and paths and once dry the decking can have another coat of stain and protection. It looks better and is also better for the wood.

Once things get shooting strongly you can think about taking the softwood cuttings for the new season, but this will be at the end of the month at the earliest. I've copied the photos and explanation below for taking Fuchsia cuttings, but it applies to most others too. Use rooting powder with softwood cuttings and ideally a heated propagator.



Left – a typical Fuchsia cutting taken from the mother plant with the bottom cut just below a set of leaves. Remove leaves, as in right picture, dip in rooting powder and place in the seed and cutting compost and water. Place in a plastic bag or ideally, a heated propagator. They should root in a few weeks.

- Plant of the Month - Daffodil

There are lots of flowering plants at this time of year. Officially it is the month of the Daffodil and I love the smaller ones as they don't get blown over by the wind. There will be plenty of primroses in garden centres ready for topping up your planters giving a full range of bright colours. They are good value for money and will cheer everyone up.

You will also find seedlings and young plants at good garden centres if you prefer to buy those rather than sow your own seeds. Nothing wrong with that and it stops you having lots of spare seedlings left over.

Stargazer Lilies and Tree Lilies are ready for planting and should be just at the sprouting stage. Plant them deep as they have a large top so need to be stable in the ground.

Top up on your mulch if it is a bit thin as this will help keep the weeds down and the moisture in the soil for the plants as well as looking good and a nice background for your plants



left – miniature daffodil Tete a Tete which stand up to the March winds better than their full height cousins. Left are the primroses grown in a cold greenhouse since they were tiny seedlings in October. They produce a beautiful range of colours and are very hardy. With no heat they've been little cost to produce.

Keep your assets warm and cosy especially when pricking out early!

BLAKE RAVE

Home Music Bookings Merch Tour Press

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Q



FOR THE LOVERS & THE DREAMERS



Passionate LGBT Artist Crafting Soft Rock Music

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.

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FOREVER WITH PRIDE

Your Monthly Dose of LGBTQ+ Culture, News, and Stories



Public Playlist

Forever with Pride and Friends Playlist 1

Music from our Forever with Pride friends.

 **Forever with Pride** • 10 saves • 90 songs, about 5 hr 30 min

**50 Songs 5hrs 30 mins of
music by queer artist's all
ready for you on our
website's Spotify Playlist**

www.foreverwithpride.com

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Flourish with Neurodiversity

Flourish and Thrive, Not Just Survive!

Through both lived and professional experience, I have come to believe that when we have the right support and environment, we can reconnect with our strengths and move from survival into flourishing and thriving. My work is grounded in the idea that understanding ourselves, our identities, our differences, and our strengths, allows us to live in ways that are authentic, sustainable, and fulfilling.

As a neurodiversity coach, advocate, and educator, I support people to embrace who they are, particularly those who have spent years masking, adapting, and trying to meet expectations that were never designed for them. Through my work at Flourish with Neurodiversity, I specialise in supporting individuals with ADHD, AuDHD, which includes autism and ADHD, and Tourette's, with a particular focus on late diagnosed adults and those navigating burnout, identity, and the process of unmasking.

My journey into this work began long before I had the language to describe it. Like many neurodivergent people, I grew up feeling different without understanding why. I learned early how to perform,

overachieve, and push through exhaustion in order to be accepted. Masking became a survival strategy. It helped me navigate school, relationships, and later workplaces, but it also led to burnout, anxiety, and a deep disconnection from myself.



Receiving a late diagnosis was both validating and life changing. It brought relief and self-compassion, but also grief for the years spent struggling without support or understanding. That process of rediscovery, learning about my brain, unlearning internalised expectations, and rebuilding my life in ways that actually worked for me, is what now shapes the work I do every day.



This work is deeply personal. I bring lived experience not only as a neurodivergent person, but also as a parent navigating neurodivergence within my own family, and as a professional who has worked within systems that often misunderstand or overlook neurodivergent needs. I understand the complexity of supporting children while also learning to support yourself. I understand the exhaustion of constantly adapting and the courage it takes to begin living differently.

Through coaching and neurodiversity support sessions, I help clients move from confusion to clarity, from burnout to balance, and from masking to self trust. Together, we explore identity, nervous system regulation, executive functioning, emotional wellbeing, and strengths focused strategies that are realistic and sustainable. My approach is compassionate, practical, and grounded in the belief that change happens when we work with our brains, not against them.

While my work centres neurodivergence, I also recognise the meaningful intersection between neurodivergence and LGBTQIA+ identity. Many people experience parallel journeys of self-discovery, often later in life, which can bring both liberation and complexity.

Flourish with Neurodiversity is proudly LGBTQIA+ affirming, and I am committed to creating spaces where people feel safe to explore every part of who they are. At the same time, my core focus remains the same, helping people understand their brains, reclaim their energy, and build a strong sense of belonging within themselves and their lives.

Alongside individual coaching, Flourish also supports children, teenagers, adults, families, and parents as well as organisations. We work with those navigating late diagnosis, burnout, and identity shifts, as well as parents supporting neurodivergent children while exploring their own neurodivergence. We also partner with organisations, teams, and leaders to move beyond awareness and into meaningful, sustainable neuroinclusive practice. Real change happens when environments adapt, not just individuals.

One of the most powerful aspects of this work is witnessing transformation. We see clients move from self-doubt to self-acceptance, from exhaustion to renewed energy, and from hiding to living authentically. We see people reconnect with their passions, creativity, and confidence. We see leaders learn to listen differently and create cultures where difference is valued and supported.



This work is not about fixing people. It is about liberation. It is about recognising that the traits we were taught to hide, intensity, sensitivity, curiosity, creativity, are often the very traits that allow us to make meaningful impact in the world.

If there is one message, I hope readers take away, it is this. You are not broken, too much, or too complicated. Your brain is not the problem. With the right support, understanding, and environment, you can build a life that feels aligned, fulfilling, and truly your own.

If you are ready to move from surviving to flourishing, I invite you to explore my work at www.flourishwithneurodiversity.com.

Whether you are seeking coaching, neurodiversity support, workshops, or organisational change, I would love to connect.

This is more than a career for me. It is a movement.

A movement towards acceptance, authenticity, and belonging. And I am honoured to stand alongside a community that continues to challenge expectations, celebrate difference, and create spaces where every person has the opportunity to flourish and thrive.



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SO MANY...**

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LGBTQ+ PODCASTS

Tales of the Second City



THE PARANORMAL

A Haunting Through Time!

Podcast

- WITH -



**ROBIN .S.
GOODFELLOW**



Welcome to

"Paradox Of Ravens"

From the moment Anne and Sara got together in June 2024 it soon became apparent that there was something special developing.

Anne is a classically trained pianist from a young age and Sara who enjoys singing has always had the ambition of joining a band.

Anne played in many groups during the 80s and hence developed a skill to write and compose music from that era.

Sara's influences were more streamlined towards a rock style and together they decided to write music that incorporated a distinct feel from the 80's.



Anne starts a song by playing around with a pattern of melodic notes and then the track develops into a structure being the foundation of the song. She transfers that to midi using a "reason" programme on the computer and then starts to build the song into a more musical tune adding many instruments along the way including drum patterns. Then Anne and Sara start to write lyrics that suits the atmosphere of the music.

The first six months was all about writing and they were invited to play in Plymouth at a convention for their first performance in November 2024.

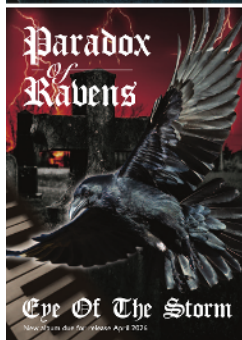
They decided to release a couple of singles to gauge the response and were featured on several radio stations.

The next step was to continue writing towards their first album and at the same time gaining experience on the road performing at several venues around the country. Although based in Lincolnshire they did not want to focus only on their local area.

Although recording did take up most of the time in 2025 they did manage to perform at Thetford pride and would love to do more this year to promote their brand name and music throughout the LGBT community.

They spent 5 months in the studio and completed their first album ready for the launch on a live stream session on the Doc Mason Peterborough City radio show on 2nd October 2025.

It has been met with some great reviews on social media, and this album is now available on Vinyl, Cd's and cassette. You can obtain a copy through several retail outlets which are advertised on their Facebook page.



Here is a brief about the band, their debut album "Edge of Darkness" and their forthcoming album "Eye of the storm" due out soon in May 2025:

Paradox Of Raven :

Are an Electronic 80's style group using "ear worm rifts" and strong melody to create original music.

They use lyrics with a "Dark" undertone which is symbolic of their first album.

"Edge of Darkness"

They continue to record in Nottingham ready for a release of their second album "Eye of the Storm", around May 2026.

The first album

"Edge of Darkness"

had a dark side approach that suited Sara's dynamic voice and enabled Anne to write and develop the "Paradox" style around her strengths.

Writing new tracks always adds to the direction of the band and even at the embryo stage tracks can sometimes develop from a simple combination of chords or a catchy rift.

This is typical of the 80's era. It's a direction they both enjoy and hope that this will lead to more opportunities to express their music to a much wider audience.

The second album

"Eye Of The Storm"

takes on a more complex approach which provides an interesting new dimension. The orchestration is more prominent with some tracks having a classical influence and yet still retains those catchy rifts which Anne enjoys creating.



Looking ahead to the second album "Eye of the Storm."

This will be presented in a Special Limited Edition Double album Gatefold Sleeve combining a 180g heavy duty "Red marble" effect.



Looking forward to the future the band wants to promote and perform their music around the UK.



Just scan the QR Code or click on an image.

AXTON MITCHELL

Trans Poet & Author

*Where poetry tumbles like
water through wild stone
and silence*

Poeaxtry's Poetry Prism | Axton N. O. Mitchell
@poeaxtry_



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A detailed steampunk-themed hot air balloon with a large, ornate basket. The balloon's envelope is dark blue and red, with intricate brass-colored mechanical details and gears visible. Three crocheted characters are seated in the basket: a white dog-like figure on the left, a brown bearded figure in the center wearing a top hat with a rainbow band, and a pink-skinned figure on the right wearing a top hat with a rainbow band and a pink top. The balloon is set against a dramatic sunset sky with orange and purple clouds. The basket has a small control panel with dials and levers.

Wacadoddles

www.wacadoddles.com
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London is lucky to have not one but two Soho Theatres; the one in Soho which is very very popular, a great place to hangout, and is smack dab in the middle of town. The newer one in Walthamstow, which is actually not that far away (20 minutes on the Victoria Line), is in a very beautiful, and very large, auditorium that is just as comfortable and cozy as the one in Soho. And with two theatres, we are lucky to get twice as much fun on offer. Herewith a sneak preview of some upcoming shows:

SOHO THEATRE SOHO



THE VIRGINS

Written by Miriam Battye

Directed by Jaz Woodcock-Stewart

Now playing until Sat 7 Mar - 2:30pm 7pm

From: £14

Friday night. Four girls. Two boys. alone in a house. Some of them are in love. Most of them are virgins. Everyone's pretending they know what they're doing. Tonight's the night they stop pretending. A bit nervous but at the same time giggly, the

six youngsters navigate first sexual experiences while in the family home of two siblings. The Virgins, set over one night, and a snip at 85 minutes, offers us a fun and funny show of first sexual experiences (we've all been there, and survived) with a great young cast that will make you yearn for your younger days.

Miriam Battye's The Virgins directed by Jaz Woodcock-Stewart, ends on March 7th.

TENDER

Written by Dave Harris

Directed by Matthew Xia

Thu 23 Apr – Sat 30 May - 2.30pm 7pm

From: £14

'Thank you for trusting us with your pleasure! 'The Dancing Bears strip club is failing. Ten covers on a Saturday night. One booking next week. The new club down the street are packing fifty women a

night with their twelve-inch synchronised dicks. When the boss's daughter shows up, she realises they're gonna need a bigger show. From the★★★★★Tambo & Bones powerhouse duo: writer Dave Harris and director Matthew Xia comes a steamy, boisterous and tender story about breaking free from masculinity's seductive cage

LEILA NAVABI: RELAY

Wed 11 – Sat 14 Mar - 8.45pm

From £18

A bold, joyful punk-musical one-person show about making a queer family on your own terms, written and performed by award-nominated comedian, writer and composer Leila Navabi. The critically acclaimed show was included in The Guardian's "10 Best Shows to Catch" at Edinburgh Fringe this summer, and was nominated for the Brighton Fringe Award for Excellence.

ANDREW DOHERTY: SAD GAY AIDS PLAY

Mon 16 – Sat 21 Mar - 8.45pm

From £17

Andrew relaunches himself with a ground-breaking piece of tragic theatre – the depressed love child of A Little Life and Angels in America, cooked up in an effort to be taken more seriously by The Pulitzer committee and earn his one way ticket to success. Sad Gay AIDS Play sees brave and fame hungry Andrew throw the book at AIDS and ask the Arts Council to pick it up.

SOHO THEATRE WALTHAMSTOW

JORDAN GRAY: IS THAT A C*CK IN YOUR POCKET, OR ARE YOU JUST HERE TO KILL ME?

Fri 20 Mar - 8.00pm

From £28

Following acclaimed runs in London and Edinburgh, the multi-award-winning star and creator of ITV's Transaction hits the road with a guitar on her back, a bounty on her ballbag, and some very poorly written death threats in her DMs. When Jordan stripped off live on Channel 4 (and won a BAFTA in the process), bigots around the globe went ballistic. Luckily... so were her tits.

SUE PERKINS: THE ETERNAL SHAME OF SUE PERKINS

Fri 10 – Sat 11 Apr - 8pm

From £38

You may know her as Bake-Off Sue, Taskmaster Sue, Just A Minute Sue, or the Sue that gives you travel envy - but stand-up Sue is full of surprises. In this brand-new show, she shares the unlikely happenings from a career in the spotlight. What's the fallout when your pituitary gland goes haywire on live TV? How do you convince the public you didn't really fall onto that Hoover attachment? And when intimate photos get splashed all over the internet, how do you switch the shame to dignity and joy?

JINX MONSOON IS JUDY GARLAND IN END OF THE RAINBOW

Fri 15 May – Sun 21 Jun

From £29

Jinx Monsoon is Judy Garland. The legend. The icon. The voice that defined an era. London, 1968. At the legendary Talk of the Town, Garland readies herself

for a series of concerts that will both captivate and haunt. The world adores her, yet behind the glittering spotlight lies a fierce struggle for control, survival, and the relentless drive to perform at whatever the cost. Step into the bittersweet world of Judy Garland in Peter Quilter's *End of the Rainbow*, reborn in a stunning new production directed by Rupert Hands and starring

Broadway sensation and two-time RuPaul's Drag Race winner, Jinkx Monsoon.

For more information on other shows at both theatres, please go here:

<https://sohotheatre.com>

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The story behind The Rainbow Bar

We are Keels and Becks, best friends and co-owners of The Rainbow Bar.

Some businesses begin with a gap in the market; the Rainbow Bar began with a gap in lesbian representation. We created The Rainbow Bar not just as a business but as a commitment to each other, to friendship and to our fabulous community.

The Rainbow Bar is a mobile bar created by two friends who believed that inclusive spaces shouldn't be limited to one postcode.

As part of the LGBTQ+ community, we know what it feels like to struggle to find safe spaces where we can fully relax and be our true selves.

The Rainbow Bar is so much more than a business it's visibility we wished we had growing up. Too often women led businesses are underrepresented even more so when those women are openly gay. We didn't want to be quietly successful behind the scenes; we wanted to stand proudly at the front of our own business.

In our own personal life experience, we feel there is still a long journey ahead for our community, and this is why we aim to attend festivals, weddings, parties and corporate events wherever communities gather.

Everyone deserves to be seen everywhere, not just at Pride events.

Visibility matters, representation matters, and seeing lesbian founders running their own successful business matters.

At every event we have the same ethos and values,



L- love out loud, celebrate sapphic joy, queer connection and authentic self-expression unapologetically.

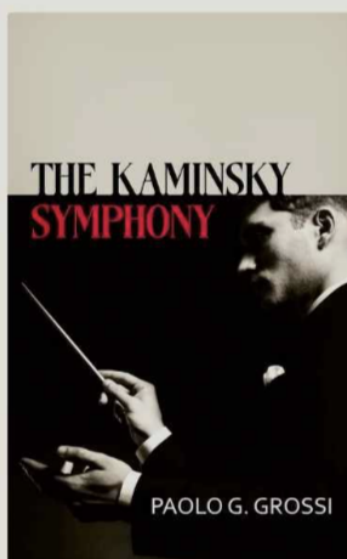
G- Gather safely, create a welcoming affirming space wherever the bar parks, respect always come first.

B-Build community – centre lesbian, bi, trans and queer people while uplifting every identity under the rainbow.

T- Toast visibility, raise a glass to being seen, heard, and celebrated.

Our future with The Rainbow Bar involves continuing to be present and visible while inspiring people to be themselves, follow their dreams and to not allow anyone to hold them back or dull their sparkle. Be proud to show your true colours.

"Find your people, follow the rainbow"



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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Bitchin' Boutique

CURVACEOUS VINTAGE AND ALTERNATIVE APPAREL

Hi!

My name is Levi, and I live on the Isle of Wight. In 2021, I was offered the amazing opportunity to take over the running of my favourite small business. Bitchin' Boutique has gone from strength to strength. We are an online store, selling clothing in UK sizes 16-32 (but always happy to order in other sizes by request if they're available).

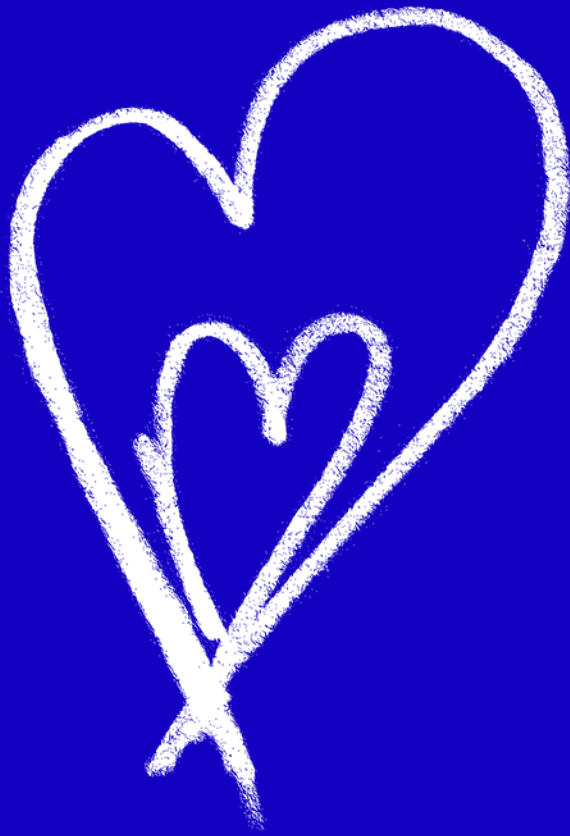


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www.bitchinboutique.co.uk



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You.**



We're here to help. Online, on the phone and in your local community.
Because no one should have to face a mental health problem alone.

mind.org.uk



Free Review: Paradox of Ravens



Listening to Paradox of Ravens on vinyl after years was an electrifying, sensory journey that beautifully contrasts the fleeting nature of modern digital streaming. Anne and Sara's mesmerizing techno synth sound catapulted me back to my adolescence, to the thrill of dancing at my local youth club, immersed in the pulsating energy of the synth tracks that defined my youth.

Unlike the instant gratification of tapping play on a smartphone, the Edge Of Darkness vinyl demands a sacred ritual—gently extracting the disc from its sleeve, placing it on the turntable, and delicately lowering the needle. This deliberate act serves as an anchoring ritual, grounding you in the moment, enhancing the overall experience to an exquisite level.

With no option to skip songs, the vinyl record invites you to embrace "deep listening," allowing you to savor the album as a cohesive artistic masterpiece from beginning to end. It reveals the subtle musical intricacies—like exquisite vocal harmonies by Sara or Anne's synth keyboard wizardry—that might otherwise fade into the background of a digital playlist. Cradling the 12-inch sleeve enables you to interact with the stunning artwork and insightful liner notes in a transformative way that mere digital icons can't replicate.



For many, this tangible ownership offers a feeling of authenticity and permanence that far surpasses any streaming service. For those of us returning after decades, the sound acts as a powerful "memory machine," whisking you back to that magical time and place when you first encountered this record. You can only purchase the album on vinyl; it's not available for download.

To explore how to buy their music and much more, head over to Facebook and search @paradoxofravens. With their blessing, Forever with Pride is excited to raffle off a vinyl copy of Edge Of Darkness. I hope you revel in listening to this album as much as I did!

Editor FwP, William



WIN YOUR VERY OWN VINYL RECORD

Paradox of Ravens have
sent us a vinyl record
copy of their new
album and we're giving
you the chance to win it!

One Ticket £2
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Draw Date
March 30th
2026



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PLAY SMART

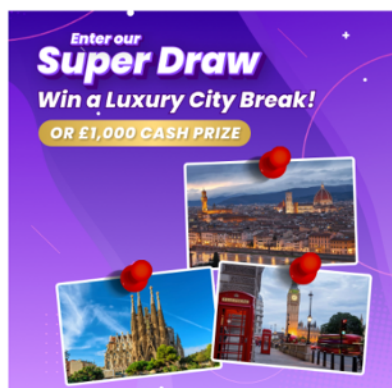
Thank you for your support every
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LGBTQ+ E-Magazine
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**B
12**

**G
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**N
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30



Win a Luxury City Break!

Anyone else wishing for summer!? In our February Super Draw you could win a Luxury City Break (or £1,000 cash), and start planning that getaway: whether you want to hit the West End for a weekend, see the architecture and nightlife of Barcelona, sample the art and food of Florence, or soak up the culture in Paris, this prize is simply not to be missed! Get your tickets before Saturday 28th February to be in with a chance to win.

Forever with Pride Free E-Magazine is trying to get to 100 supporters

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Tales of the Second City

Misadventures on Birmingham's Gay Scene

Square Peg in a Round Hole

One of my straight best mates had an epiphany early on in our friendship. Lee and I were sitting up late, talking shite, drinking cans of Carling, and eating tandoori chicken kebabs, when it dawned on him. 'Gay guys are just like straight guys, but with other men.' Yeap, that just about sums it up.

I was telling him about cruising local parks. He shook his head enviously. 'If there were a park I could go to that was full of girls who were just up for it, I'd be there all the time.'

The conversation probably moved on to Carry On movies and the merits of Kenneth Williams. It usually did.

Lee and I still catch up regularly, work and his family commitments permitting. I used to visit a couple of times a year when he was living his bachelor boy life in London.

One afternoon in a Covent Garden pub, this straighter than straight bloke proudly told me how he had cruised a fella in Selfridges on Oxford Street.

As Lee ascended the escalators, he clocked a familiar face descending on the opposite side.

He was sure he recognised this guy from somewhere.

He kept casting furtive glances in his direction, as they got closer and closer, trying to place him.

As they crossed, on parallel trajectories, the other fella glanced back. It was only as they passed that the penny dropped.

Lee looked back over his shoulder to confirm at the exact same moment the man on the downward journey also turned around.

The other fella gave Lee that lingering look and smiled suggestively.

They had just performed the textbook move. Oh God, Lee thought, snapping his head back to face front, I've accidentally cruised Kevin Spacey.

Another occasion, another pub. Lee told me about an erotic misunderstanding with a beautiful French mademoiselle.

He had been chatting up this colleague for a while, until she finally agreed to go for a post-work drink with him.

One drink led to another, and she invited him back to her gaff.

Things were off to a good start in the bedroom then she asked if he wanted to try something a little more risqué. '

Erm, sure. What were you thinking?' 'Ave you tried eet... in zee other 'ole?' (She probably didn't sound like Yvette from Allo Allo in reality.) 'I'm openminded.

I'm up for that.' She slipped into the bathroom to prepare, leaving Lee on the bed, presumably feeling very continental, and thinking (in the words of our mutual hero, Kenneth Williams), I'm about to get 'ma crepe suzette'.

Finally, this belle femme returned... wearing a strap-on dildo. He had literally got the wrong end of the stick. 'She didn't?!' I sputtered into my beer when he hit me with the punchline. '

Did you go there? Did you, you know, take it up the up the derriere?' Well, I sorta had to, I was committed by that stage, but I didn't like it!' he said. 'Luckily, it wasn't a really big one.'

Talk about a square peg in a brown hole. I'm sure most straight blokes would have thrown on their clothes and scarpered (or 'peg it',

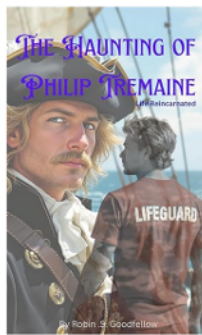
as we say in Birmingham), but Lee stayed and took it like a man. Sacre bleu... and Carry On Up The Wrong Un.

Hear it first hand from the secondcity @ www.talesofthesecondcity.com

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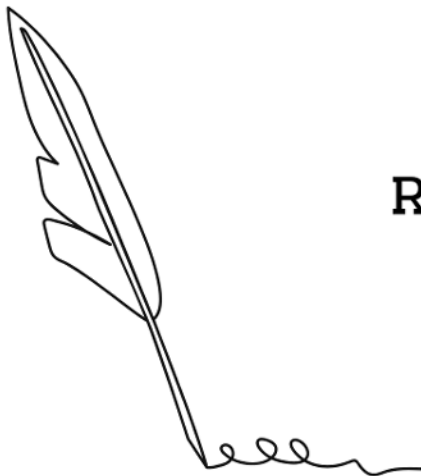


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Yby Potlatch X is an artist and musician whose work moves through sound, emotion, and inner landscapes rather than fixed genres. Based in the Netherlands, Yby creates music as a form of presence — a place where vulnerability, strength, and imagination are allowed to exist together, without apology or explanation.

From an early age, creativity was not a choice but a necessity. Music, voice, and art became ways to express what could not always be spoken. Rather than following trends or commercial expectations, Yby developed a deeply personal artistic language — one that values atmosphere over clarity and feeling over certainty.

As a queer artist, Yby Potlatch X approaches creativity as an act of freedom. Freedom to be layered, sensitive, powerful, and undefined. In a world that often demands labels and simplification, Yby's work offers

something rare: permission to be complex. The music does not instruct, convince, or perform — it listens, it holds, it makes space.

The world Yby creates is intimate and cinematic, shaped by voice, silence, and emotional depth. Each piece feels like a quiet landscape the listener can enter.

Rather than telling people what to think or feel, the work invites them to recognize something of themselves — emotions, memories, or longings that may not yet have words.



For Yby Potlatch X, creation is not about productivity or output, but about truth. Making music is a way of listening inward, of allowing emotions to surface gently, without judgment. It is a slow and intuitive process, rooted in honesty rather than expectation.

Art has always been both a refuge and a form of transformation. Through sound and expression, lived experiences are softened, reshaped, and shared. In this way, music becomes a bridge — between inner and outer worlds, between artist and listener, between solitude and connection.

Being visible as a queer artist is not about making statements, but about offering presence. Simply existing openly and authentically can be a quiet form of courage. Yby's work reflects this belief: that tenderness can be strength, and that openness can create belonging.

What Yby Potlatch X hopes to offer others is not perfection, but recognition. A feeling of being seen without being explained. The music invites listeners to slow down, to rest inside themselves, and to trust their own sensitivity.

Whether discovered by chance or sought out deliberately, Yby's work is meant to stay with you. It does not rush; it does not demand attention — it remains. In a noisy world, that gentle presence can feel like coming home.

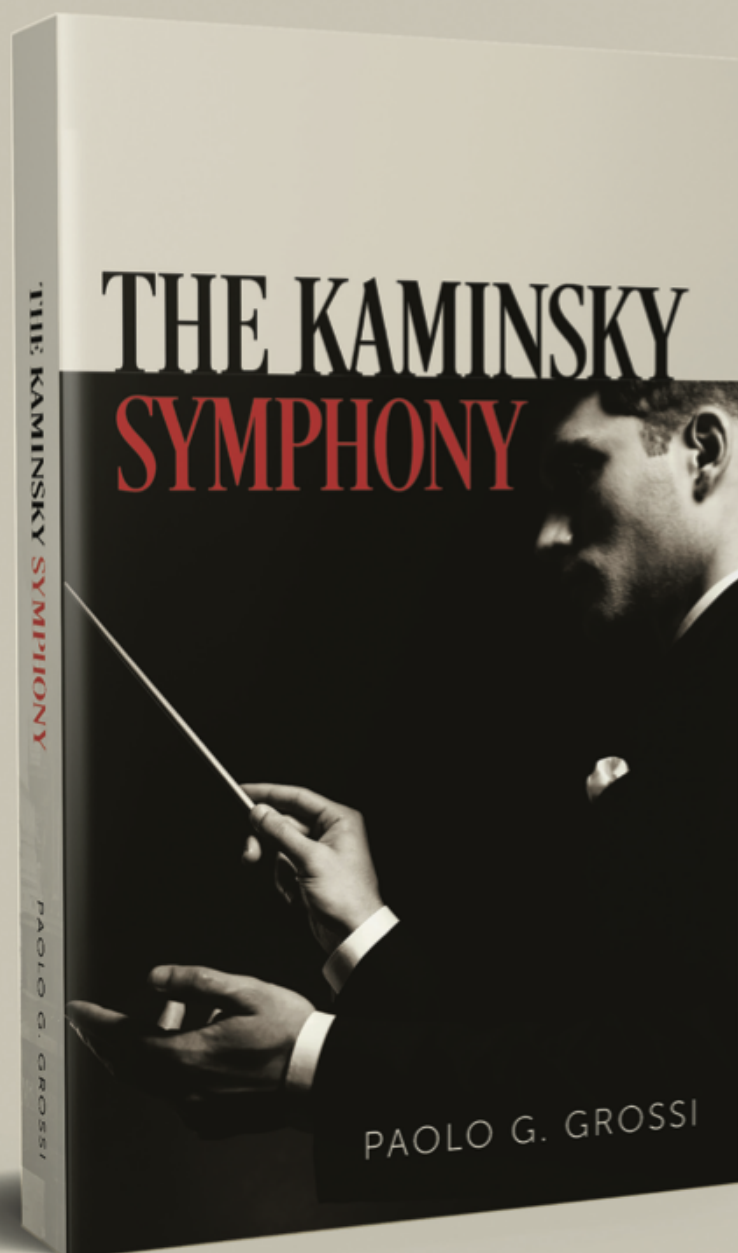
Those who feel drawn to Yby Potlatch X can follow the journey through music platforms and social spaces, where new work continues to unfold. Each connection is an invitation — open, human, and without expectation.



ybypotlatchx.com

Two men swept away by love and impending tragedy in the dying days of Imperial Europe.

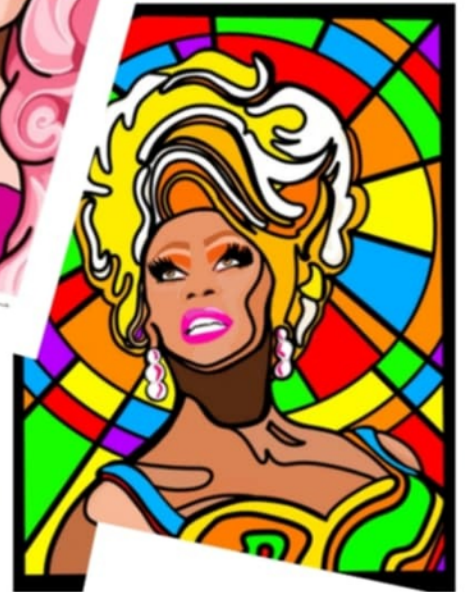
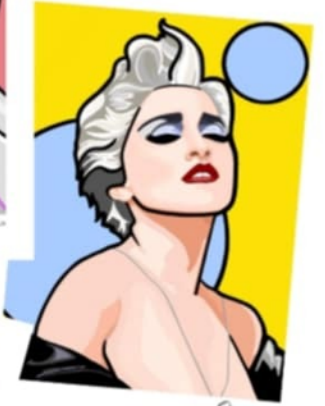
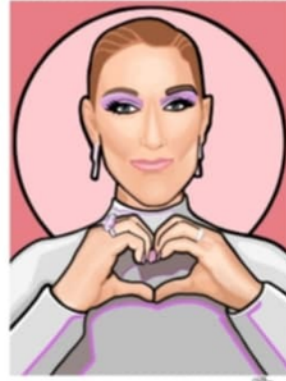
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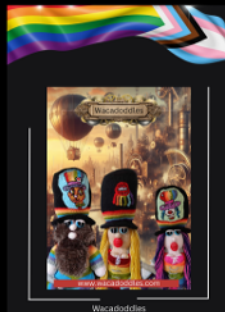
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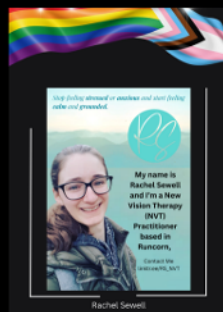
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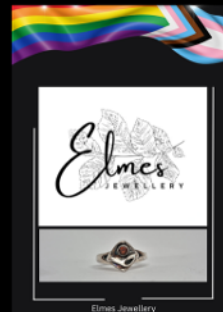
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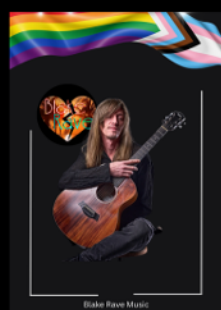
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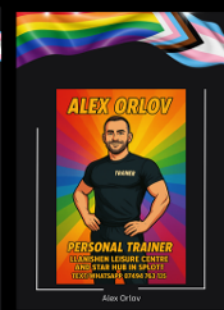
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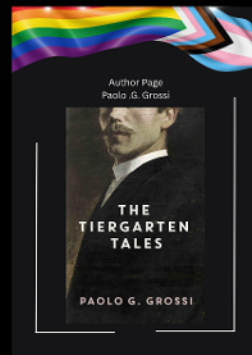
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