

Self-reflection, cabaret style

Steve Wright catches up with a lying, cheating pervert.

When most artists decide to take a break from the rush and turmoil of everyday life, they find a nice secluded retreat in the mountains in order to refine their craft. Not so for Zac Gower; he's spent six weeks in rural Tasmania surrounded by rowdy elementary school children whilst composing his latest cabaret, *Zac Gower is: a lying, cheating pervert!*

While the title alone gives you some idea what to expect from Zac, he's also happy to fill in any gaps.

Sitting down for an interview in Prah-ran on an early Sunday morning, Zac looks quite hungover, but still appears enthusiastic about his latest project.

"Actually," he corrects, "it's probably because I think I'm still drunk from last night."

That explains it.

With much-needed coffee in hand, Zac takes a moment to summarise his latest work.

"I've realized I'm not a nice person. The cabaret is a chance to take a long look at myself and all the trouble I've managed to get in over the years. I ques-

tion how I got myself into the messes I have, and address the most important question of all..." he says.

He turns his head suddenly and his attention wanders for a moment, until the slightly awkward silence snaps him back to the conversation.

"Sorry, I was just checking out that waiter's butt. Where were we?"

After catching him back up, he smiles.

"Oh. The important question is whether or not I want to get out of those messes."

A recent graduate of the Ballarat Arts Academy, Zac puts his musical theatre training to good use in a touring company, performing educational shows in elementary schools Australia-wide. Six weeks in rural Tasmania meant Zac had a lot of after-school time on his hands.

"It was a great time for self-reflection," he recalls. "But there were no opportunities to create more material for the show. I had to create a rule that reminded me a guy you'd say 'yes' to in Tasmania was probably a 'no' in Melbourne."

Instead, Zac was forced to create anecdotes from his multitude of yeses in Melbourne.

Still, he does have a sensitive side.

"Actually, there was one guy who managed to fit the bill and show me the exciting side of Tasmania. It's almost a shame I had to come back to 'the mainland' for work."

He also has a professional side as well; his rather risqué show still manages to have the full approval of his touring company colleagues.

"My bosses love the idea and have said they're all coming to opening night."

Surely the cabaret is a vehicle for change in Zac's life?

"At any point, if you take a look at yourself like this, you're going to grow in some way. That I've been able to add in some song and dance is just an added bonus," he laughs, before stopping abruptly.

"Though, I hope I don't change too much - I can already see a second show in the works. Something like, *Zac Gower is: cute, but psycho.*"

Zac Gower is: a lying, cheating pervert! runs from June 19-22 at the Butterfly Club, 204 Bank St, South Melbourne. Bookings through www.thebutterflyclub.com or (03) 9690 2000.



Photo: Steve Wright

SPOTLIGHT

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN



With the ski season opening last weekend, thoughts naturally turn to winter pleasures and pursuits; which is all the more reason to put the dates of whiteOUT! 2008 in your diary now.

"As soon as the first flake of snow falls, bookings at Mt Buller will go crazy," says whiteOUT! spokesperson Daniel Lehrer. "That's why it's essential to get in as early as possible, before the whole mountain is booked out."

Run by a dedicated team of volunteers, whiteOUT! is a four-day festival of snow, skiing and alpine events for the gay and lesbian community, held annually at the Mt Buller snowfields. An array of lunches and dinners at a range of venues ensure

that there's more than just skiing on the agenda, though naturally outdoors activities are central to the calendar of events.

"The mountain itself is very welcoming of gay culture," Lehrer says, adding that whiteOUT! is a great way to break down barriers while simultaneously getting out and about on the slopes: "While it's not necessarily the focus of people that come along, at the same time it's probably a between the lines focus for some; certainly for me. I enjoy skiing but I am who I am."

Moving away from the corporate ski market to more boutique accommodation has helped ensure a friendly welcome for whiteOUT! attendees.

"These private venues, gee, they're more

than happy to see their gay dollars coming through the door," Lehrer laughs.

As a result, whiteOUT! has grown to the point where it can offer a range of activities for people based on their degree of expertise.

"We can group people into beginner, intermediate and advanced; some people will join those groups, others are up there with their friends anyway, and will just join us for the organised dinner and drink events. Whatever suits."

WhiteOUT! 2008: Thursday July 24 - Sunday July 27. Bookings: High Country Reservations on 1800 039 049. www.whiteout.org.au

THE ALSO FOUNDATION

EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT ROLE

The ALSO Foundation is a dynamic and growing advocacy and service delivery organisation serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBTIQ) community. Committed to leading, investing, celebrating and advocating for our community, with a focus on diversity and development we are involved in a wide range of activities within our membership and across the broader community.

This role provides key support to the CEO and Board in engaging with members and promoting the organisation's profile and objectives. It offers a wonderful opportunity to work within the GLBTIQ community and would suit an efficient, flexible, passionate and energetic person with relevant experience in like roles.

An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated. A position description can be obtained by calling the ALSO Office on 03 98274999 or downloading from www.jobseeker.org.au/employment

Written applications (addressing the selection criteria) close on the 13 June 2008

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