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This magazine is blatantly a promotion for the opportunities created specifically by WayOut. However for over twelve years I have built what I do on the premise that my series of books, (formerly The Tranny Guide and in the future He or She and the Transgender AtoZ), must promote every opportunity I can find, for TG people and friends. I believe in unique individuals being offered informed choice.

After my twelfth book I seriously considered what I should do to keep my work fresh, to keep up with technological developments and world events. I wanted to know how to reach out to more people and to cross-fertilise ideas from various parts of the world more efficiently.

When I wrote my first book there was no internet and very few ways of finding anything out, about a subject, which at that time, still had no name. You could look up 'transvestite' or 'transsexual' in the library, but there was very little useful information to be found short of scary "psycho-babel". In the books that were available at that time, the 'T' subject was still talked of as a sexual act and the concept of a third gender was still a long way off. A request for waxing at a beauty salon was likely to be met with shocked horror and disclosure to a partner or friend was likely to be met with a complete lack of any understanding. (There were however magazines from the USA in sex shops that held hope for the future).

After twelve years I knew that I had helped achieve some degree of change and that I was no longer writing for people who were totally ignorant of the subject. Yet I believe there are still thousands, maybe millions more people still to reach out to. People who are unaware of their true potential. People who have yet to release themselves from the shackles of gender stereotyping.

Air Kissing in the USA with Vicky Lee

An example of the inspirational reporting that you can find in Transgender AtoZ and my new book HE or SHE

Awesome, that's what I think of the USA (those early magazines!) However just based on the size of the population I believed there must be many, many people who are struggling with transgender concepts. Yet I have had relatively limited success in the USA with my books.

The USA, because of the size of the country, has many events "conferences" held in hotels. These events provide people the opportunity to fly in from around the country and immerse themselves for days or weeks in a wide variety of niche subjects from geeky technical stuff to various types of reunions. Compared with the USA, UK hotels have in the past been in short supply poor quality or expensive. Compared with the USA, it is fairly easy to get together with like minded others anywhere in the UK in the same day. Therefore it is not surprising that the biggest Transgender get together in the UK has been the Beaumont Rotherham weekend which in recent years attracts maybe 200 people.

In September 2004 I visited SCC (Southern Comfort Conference) in Atlanta USA. This event runs for a complete week attracts over 700 people and is in its 14th year. I was in awe and I was to be their keynote speaker at Friday lunch (a grand affair in the biggest ballroom I have ever seen). I was nervous and in awe. I arrived early in the week and had many very relaxed chats at the bar with "old hands" late into the night. I was the new girl in town and as I expected few knew me or my books. I was relieved to find that the "delegates" were a very diverse crowd (much as I meet at The WayOut Club). First time out Oxfam trannies through always out designer trannies to politically active transgenderists and pre and post op transsexuals. Dress varied from fashion accident through fetish into chic and fabulous. I felt VERY comfortable and very at home. The week gave me the opportunity to be anonymous and freshly enquiring, (something I miss at home, being better known and also tied on Saturdays hosting my own club). I made a lot of friends at SCC and after giving my talk and performing in their talent show I left a little less anonymously. I made my plans for the future of my publishing at SCC and I hope to return soon to launch my new books in the USA.



Previously I have visited the USA on fly drive holidays – straight in and straight out. (I have lived and worked in California for a three month stay). But I found on this trip hopping around from city to city by air (Chicago – Atlanta – Dallas – Las Vegas) how easy it was and relatively cheap and how BIG the USA is. The conference facilities at the hotel were outstanding and again relatively cheap.

During my visit there was a lot of coverage on television of the presidential (Bush – Kerry) election. The SCC delegates wanted to talk about this and

the issues involved (especially because I was British). On election night as I watched the centre of the USA map turn red with Bush voters I realised that this vast area of the continent, that I had criss-crossed by plane, held very few people who could even BEGIN to think about transgender at this point in world history. My people were in the blue areas around Chicago the West coast and the East coast. I still believe in truth that there is the same proportion of people with "the transgender gene" as I call it, in the Midwest of the USA but I know from my bar side and pool side chats at SCC that these people are drowned in mediocrity and fundamentalism. But even these lost souls can jump on a plane and go to conferences like SCC and they do.

Someone at SCC said to me cynically, but honestly. "You know, what these folk are doing, is stepping out of the closet that is their home, to live in a much bigger closet for a week with hundreds of like minded folk". They say "folk" a lot in America (smile). In truth this person was right. Apart from the hotel staff, there were very few "outsiders" to see what was going on within the walls of that hotel.

Anything they can do we can do

This year the UK is about to set a new international standard for transgender events with SPARKLE

With my experience in Atlanta in mind, I am very proud of the development here in the UK that has spawned SPARKLE. In Manchester on the 25th June 2005

Many groups, internet networks, dressing services, clubs, support groups are joining together to promote and host a day of transgender celebration in and around Manchester's Canal Street. This day will have many of the elements of the SCC event.

SPARKLE will turn the pedestrian area and the many bars restaurants and clubs in Manchester's Canal Street area into one big event (that could hardly be called a closet). An after lunch promenade is expected to take place through Canal Street to the LGBTG memorial, and onto Piccadilly Gardens to form a hand held circle around the fountain in corner ration of departed sisters or those who may be suffering followed by a group photo.



Organisers Kim Angel of UK Angels, and Bella Jay of Repartee, has drawn a formidable team around them to stage this ambitious event which stands a very good chance, with your support, to become a world-wide, first of its kind, which I hope will become regular feature in our diaries. Much more detail at Sparkle web site www.sparkle.org.uk

Banners and light projections will leave no one in any doubt what the day is about and who and what we are. This is a truly an OUT event and will be promoted openly for respectful others to join TG people in the streets and bars. During the day and into the night various TG clubs and networks will be hosting various bars with TG DJs, TG bands and TG Exhibitions.

Once again I look forward, (somewhat nervously), to addressing a forum as one of the speakers along side leading UK specialists, consultant psychiatrist and clinical expert in the field of transsexuality Dr Russell Reid and Bernard and Terry Reed of the Gender Identity Research and Education Society. I also look forward to hosting Miss Sparkle one of the two pageant style contests to be held on the day (the other being Miss English Rose).

I feel very proud of my community. I hope the work I have done through my books and The WayOut Club. over the last 12 years has helped to build the awareness and confidence that has spawn such evolution and I urge you all to take part in SPARKLE

My book and web site Transgender AtoZ.com has details and dates for many more events and opportunities worldwide.

My Book He or She has much more of this style of reading with my thoughts, experiences and advice, alongside those of many other trans peoples, their partners and friends.

Together we explore EVERY aspect of the transgender phenomena.

I hope to meet you from time to time at The WayOut Club. and hope that you will buy my new books and interact with Transgender AtoZ.com

I hope that my work helps YOU (your partne, family and friends) to come to terms with, and enjoy, the world-wide opportunities that transgender offers.

Vicky Lee



Sparkle 25th June 05
Full details @ www.sparkle.org.uk

Sparkle is our time to celebrate Transgender in all it's wonderful forms, so come along and Sparkle for a day at the First National Transgender Celebration or get involved with your local group.

The main event is on Canal Street, Manchester and the party is FREE

11.30am - 1.00pm	TG art exhibition @ The NWU Business School, next to Canal Street
11.30am - 1.00pm	Lectures from Dr Russell Reid, Vicky Lee and GRES @ the NWU Business School
12.00pm - 2.30pm	Miss English Rose - launch @ Via Fossa and competition on Canal Street.
2.30pm	Memorial Walk, starts on Canal Street
4.30pm and 7.00pm	Fall on Show @ The Manhattan bar on Princess Street
9.30pm	Miss Sparkle @ The Thompson Arms
10.30pm	Elephant Shell, TG Band LIVE @ The Thompson Arms
All night till 2am	The best TG clubs - Transmission (Prague V), Club Asgolic (Via Fossa), DWF (Taurus) and ONE (A094) - all on Canal Street (ALL FREE)

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