

YOUR LGBT GUIDE TO COMICS

# PRISM

COMICS

2007  
EDITION  
\$5.95



**2007 PREVIEW**  
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**ON THE COVER:** Through the magic of comic books, Average Joe finds his superhero side (and vice versa). Through Prism, we hope you do, too. Art by **JOE PHILLIPS**.

EDITOR **JONATHAN RIGGS** DESIGNER **ERIK BAXTER**

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**Prism Comics: Your LGBT Guide to Comics #5, February 2007.** Published annually by PRISM COMICS, a nonprofit organization promoting the work of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered creators in comics, as well as LGBT issues in comics in general. Single issues: \$5.95 U.S. All contents are © 2007 PRISM COMICS except where noted within. All artwork and covers have been presented and utilized for historical and review purposes only, and no infringement is intended or should be inferred. Permission to reprint portions of this publication, as well as advertising rates for future editions, may be requested through PRISM COMICS, 47 Lenox Pointe, NE, Atlanta, GA 30324, [www.prismcomics.org](http://www.prismcomics.org). First printing. PRINTED IN USA. ISBN 0-9759164-2-4

# QUEER YEAR IN REVIEW



FIGHTING A DUDE IN A SKIRT. MY ADVANTAGE. HMM... GODLY ENDOWMENTS. HIS ADVANTAGE.

WHAT MANNER OF COWARDICE IS THIS?



## CABLE & DEADPOOL

**"Completely insane, but we loved it!!"**

As president of his own country (and pretty much knowing the future), Cable is totally against the Superhuman Registration Act, while Deadpool wants to become a government-paid bounty hunter and track down unregistered rogues.

Not wasting any time, Deadpool targets the Great Lakes Avengers. Thing is, they've already registered. This obviously causes an amusing scuffle between the GLA and the "merc with a mouth." We don't see much of our team member Flatman, although he does have a few lines.

Deadpool's sexuality may very well be up in the air, especially after some comments he makes about Hulking and Wiccan in issues #30 and #31. He also ends up checking out Hercules's package during a fight with Captain America and some of the lesser-seen Avengers.

▼▲▼▲▼ 1.0

## ANNIHILATION

**"Intergalactic mayhem out the wahzoo!"**

We got every single issue and still couldn't possibly tell you what the hell was going on. To make a very long story short, this title features two lesbian characters, Phyla-Vell and Moondragon. Unfortunately, the story wasn't in any way centered on their relationship.

▼▲▼▲▼ 1.0

## CAPTAIN ATOM: ARMAGEDDON

**"A kick-ass 'fish out of water' story. Right on!"**

This nine-part epic is centered on an unsung hero of the DCU, Captain Atom. Like a *Twilight Zone* episode, he is sucked into an alternate universe (Wildstorm to be exact), where he battles for his life against The Authority's Midnighter and Apollo, who are quite possibly the first married gay couple in comics. They are also quite possibly the most dysfunctional gay couple in comics.

All that aside, the gay content is really sub-par, despite how good the story is.

▼▲▼▲▼ 1.0

## CATWOMAN

**"Purrrrfect!"** (Sorry, we had to go there)

After *One Year Later*, there was a lot of attention drawn to out Batwoman Kathy Kane, but what about Catwoman? She's gay, too, but we didn't hear anything about that other than what we read in the comics.

Catwoman gets pregnant and goes on Catwoman Maternity Leave. Since Gotham can't be without a feline femme fatale, she passes the whip to Holly, who barely has any time left for her girlfriend Karon, so we only get a glimpse of her this year.

Regardless, we're just happy to see an interesting comic take its gay characters seriously. Even though there has never been any heavy gay content, Holly and Karon have always been right alongside Selina through the series.

▼▲▼▲▼



## EX MACHINA

**"Political drama sure to please everyone... except us."**

After last year's gay marriage storyline, many readers suspected that this title would have more gay content again, and to some extent it did.

Not only was Mayor Hundred's sexuality questioned once more (this time by his mother) but Deputy Mayor Wylie's brother Todd also made an appearance. We were glad to see that the character hadn't been introduced merely for the sake of the marriage storyline. We were, however, disappointed to see that Todd and his husband have become clichéd gay characters.

Despite their marriage, the two have an agreement that they can still see other men. The mayor criticizes Todd by saying, "You two had a responsibility! You represent fidelity and commitment to millions of people who think that's something your kind is totally incapable of!"

Needless to say, we're pretty put off by that. Not to mention all the gay slurs that seem to appear occasionally—something we noticed last year. This acclaimed comic series may very well deserve every bit of praise it receives, but as far as gay content, it's lacking.

▼▲▼▲▼ 1.0

## GOTHAM CENTRAL

**"Why did this one have to end?!"**

Sadly, this series ended this past spring, but we were glad to see that Renee Montoya remained a strong lead character. She attempts to off Jim Corrigan, the man responsible for killing her partner, but instead leaves him begging for his life. She soon turns in her badge to Police Captain Maggie Sawyer and sets off on a broken path towards the future.

▼▲▼▲▼ 4.5



## GREEN ARROW

**"We'd vote for him!"**

It was awesome seeing a real superhero take over the position of mayor. Oliver Queen tells the press that he will hold weekly mass weddings on the steps of City Hall that will allow gays to marry.

We really liked how he didn't back down on this position, or any other position for that matter. He's got a passion and determination that you don't see very often from politicians in comics or otherwise. The subject of gay marriage is also later debated in the comic on what looks like a news program.

Now what would have absolutely made this comic was if Obsidian and his boyfriend visited Star City and became the first gay couple to be married by Mayor Queen.

The comic impressed us very much this year. We would have loved to give the title a higher rating, but there just wasn't enough content. What content was there, though, was wonderful.

▼▲▼▲▼ 3.0

## MANHUNTER

**"Save MANHUNTER! Everyone must go out and buy these comics and we mean, like, right now! If not for Manhunter do it for Obsidian!"**

We really missed out on this series over the last two years. There were numerous lines dropped about Kate Spencer's co-counsel Damon's sexuality, as well as an appearance from none other than Josiah Power himself.

MANHUNTER really is an exceptional series. It's one of the few mainstream comics where you'll find two men in bed together. What's also really nice, too, is how close the characters are.

We really hope that the series continues for many more years to come.

▼▲▼▲▼ 4.0



## MARVEL TEAM-UP

**"Yikes!"**

Up until issue #20, this series actually had our attention. We loved the team-ups, like Moon Knight with Spider-Man or Punisher with Blade.

After issue #20, though, something happened that really started to put us off. What was it? Oh, yeah! They introduce an underdeveloped gay character named Freedom Ring who is later killed off in a way that's sure to leave many readers traumatized, regardless of their sexuality.

We find him in a diner that he frequents with his friends. The waiter asks him out on a date, which leaves him looking dumbfounded. You almost expect him to say, "Oh, sorry, I forgot I was gay!"

Anyway, it is on this date that we see Freedom Ring in action for the first time, against Abomination. The fight lands him in the hospital, paralyzed from the waist down. After recovering, he's killed during a second fight.

One of the most irritating things about the issues with Freedom Ring is that he is featured very prominently on two of the covers. He looks very tough, but when you read the actual comic, he is anything but.

Regardless of how unlikable this character is, you still feel very bad for him. After all, it's not his fault he got stuck in a failed storyline.

▼▲▼▲▼ 0.5



# QUIZZES

## QUIZ #1

### How Supervillain-y Are You?

By Chris Sims

On the off-chance that you're a talking gorilla, congratulations! You're already well on your way to becoming a supervillain! The rest of you, however, may need a little bit more work, so test yourself with our handy Supervillain Aptitude Quiz and find out how likely you are to rule the criminal underworld!

#### DIRECTIONS



1. Use a #2 pencil.
2. Completely fill in the circle next to your answer.
3. Add the total for each letter used.
4. Flip page upside down to view answer key.



## QUIZ #2

### Are YOU a Mutant?..... page 51

## QUIZ #3

### Are You A Hero... Or A Sidekick?..... page 63

#### 1. My friends would most often describe me as...

- A Anti-social
- B Malevolent
- C "The Overlord"
- D Effervescent

#### 2. My highest goal in life is to obtain...

- A A pile of money so big that I can swim around in it.
- B World domination.
- C World domination involving a futuristic death-ray satellite that can turn people into snakes.
- D A headache cure that can be applied directly to the forehead.

#### 3. My favorite color is...

- A Brown, like the largest and most fearsome of all rodents, the dreaded Capybara!
- B Black, like the hearts of the horrible and nameless powers which I serve. Also, it goes with everything.
- C Green. But seriously, if you know where I can get one of those snake-ray satellites...
- D Plaid. Preferably in tweed.

#### 4. When shopping for a new house, I look for...

- A Escape routes, preferably through an underground tunnel.
- B A distinct lack of costumed vigilantes in the neighborhood.
- C Trap doors and/or wall-mounted buzzsaw blades.
- D An extra room, either for a pair of hyenas or a truly ridiculous amount of various birds.

#### 5. I don't feel dressed without...

- A A jetpack "liberated" from my former employers.
- B Wrist-mounted missile launchers and a leather-clad associate.
- C Oppressing at least six of my cowering subjects.
- D A porkpie hat and a uniform with my name written on it.

#### 6. Guests to my home are often impressed by...

- A The fact that I found a warehouse abandoned by a company with thematic ties to my own name.
- B My ability to cover every available surface with a snake-head logo.
- C The dungeons. Maybe "guests" is the wrong word here.
- D The surprisingly spacious kitchenette.

#### 7. In order to get revenge on my high school or college rival, I...

- A Devote every waking hour to destroying all they hold dear—with occasional breaks for stretching. I'm no maniac.
- B Invite them to my private island, where I shall hunt them down, one by one, in a deadly game of cat and mouse.
- C Shoot their building into space. Twice.
- D Wait for the reunion, get drunk, paste them one in the parking lot and then flee as quickly as possible.

#### 8. When my evil schemes are inevitably thwarted, I often place the blame on...

- A The fact that I was trying to rob a museum while dressed like a marmot. Seriously, what was I thinking?
- B Treacherous underlings.
- C The robot duplicates of myself who actually came up with that scheme. I had no part of it.
- D A poor upbringing.

#### 9. My most devious accomplishment to date has been...

- A Using 3.6 million dollars worth of Atomic Age technology including jetpacks and a devastating hypno-laser to knock over a jewelry store, netting four grand in class rings.
- B A thematic crime spree that held the city in a grip of terror, right up until a sudden, violent end that could be directly attributed to clues I left at the scenes of the crimes.
- C Conquering the laws of time itself, and subsequently using this godlike ability to obtain a chest full of pirate treasure.
- D A veritable epidemic of unchecked Internet music piracy.

#### 10. Having finally outsmarted my arch-nemesis and lured him into a deathtrap of my own making, I...

- A Leave the room, trusting that the crushing walls or chain that lowers him agonizingly slowly into a piranha tank will not malfunction at all.
- B Explain, in excruciating detail, how we arrived at this juncture, and what could still be done to ruin my sinister master plan.
- C Cackle maniacally, secure in the knowledge that vengeance is mine! MINE!
- D Succumb to the overwhelming desire to doze off while leaning against a switch marked "ESCAPE LEVER."

If you answered...

**Mostly A:** We hate to say it—because you've spent a lot of money on a costume, secret lair and band of henchmen by this point—but odds are you're never getting punished out and sent to prison by your local costumed do-gooder. But don't worry! If there's anything the past has taught us, it's only a matter of time before someone comes along and gives you a threatening new revamp. So enjoy the 15 minutes you'll get out of that.

**Mostly B:** Well, the good news is that you're well on your way to a successful career as a supervillain! The bad news, however, is that you're not there yet, most likely due to your ties to a certain snake-themed organization and its blanket ban on using its laser rifles to actually shoot the enemy. Might we suggest some kind of disfiguring industrial accident to really set you on the path to greatness?

**Mostly C:** Congratulations! With your combination of drive, ambition and utter insanity, you're definitely a perfect fit for the supervillain lifestyle! Strap on a pair of boot-jets, grab a couple robot replicas of yourself to confound your nemeses and try not to laugh too hard when you blast their buildings into space.

**Mostly D:** Sorry, pal, but you're clearly not cut out for supervillainy. You are, however, extremely well-suited to being an underling and/or lackey! Get started practicing saying things like "Here's your stick, Mistah Loo-thor!" and try not to lean into the punch when the heroes inevitably show up.

# ARE YOU POSITIVE?

"Since I cannot speak alone to the 30-year history of a virus that has left 28 million dead, nor to its coverage in an industry we all hold dear, I recruited those with louder and clearer voices to speak with me."

Sean McGrath

## A (VERY) BRIEF HISTORY OF HIV/AIDS IN COMICS



### SEPTEMBER 1980 GAY COMIX/COMICS

published by Kitchen Sink Press with Howard Cruse as editor. In its 25-issue run, it showcased many HIV-related strips including Jerry Mills's **AIDS PARANOIA**, **GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING AND SHADOW OF AIDS** and Andy Mangels's **PEACE OF MIND**.

*In 1983, in issue 4 of GAY COMIX, Howard Cruse published a comic called SAFE SEX. It astutely captured the craziness of the times. I remember a panel showing Howard holding his pen, biting his finger and thinking "Not Funny! Not Funny!" It was perfect.*

Jennifer Camper

**1981** GRID (Gay-Related Immuno-Deficiency), or "gay cancer" claims its 121st victim.

*In the early eighties, I had a friend, John, who was constantly ill with a variety of odd symptoms. The doctors couldn't figure out what was wrong with him. In retrospect, this was probably my first friend with HIV.*

JC

**1982** GRID renamed AIDS (Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome).

*In my freshman year of high school, my history teacher was a priest who looked like Roddy McDowell but had the acerbic personality of Jonathan Harris's Dr. Smith. He tried to stop me from talking to my friend (another boy) in class by asking, "Do you have AIDS?" I had no idea what he meant, so I asked, "Do you mean visual aids? Were we supposed to bring some today?" I got a demerit for my smart answer. It wasn't until much later that I realized what an ugly thing he said.*

Sean McGrath



*My last year at college, my sexuality came pouring out of me. Herpes was the big monster back then, but then I started hearing whispers about some new gay cancer. Only a few years later, my mentors, my co-workers and my best friend died, and my brother became infected. Fear about HIV begins to color my every move.*

Ivan Velez

**1983** **DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR** by Alison Bechdel begins running in queer newspapers. Addresses issues of HIV/AIDS during its run.

**SEPTEMBER 1985** Then-President Ronald Reagan says "AIDS" for the first time in public.

*I remember that this was a huge event. How pathetic that the mention of the word was all we could get, rather than funding for research and better health care.*

JC

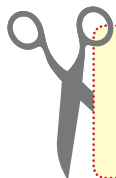
# INSULAR FEMALE

## The Official Catalog of Amazonian Ambassadorwear\*

by **TERRANCE GRIEP**

You've outrun a deer on a racetrack. You've mastered the delicate art of kanga-jousting. And you've spattered the Themysciran Arena's sands with your best friend's hemoglobin. The invisible plane is fueled with a tankful o' good intentions and loaded with its stupefied U. S. army officer cargo. So you're ready to bring Paradise Island's message of love and wisdom to Man's World—right? **WRONG!**

With the possible exception of Quentin Crisp, envoys don't work in the nude, especially when they've got killer tits. So, in Hera's name, please take a few drips of the clepsydra to decide what to wear.



### CUT OUT!

**WARNING:** NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR INJURIES RESULTING FROM THE MISUSE OF SHARP OBJECTS.



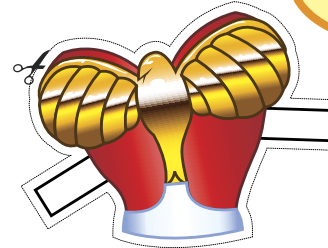
**PLEASE NOTE:** When spun three times, all featured items will release a blinding flash of light, then transform into corresponding parts of a military secretary's uniform. Battling cyclones in the southern hemisphere, therefore, is highly discouraged.

### STRAPLESS HALTER 1

Short of wearing NASCAR stickers on your nipples, this raiment is the best way to let your adopted country know where your true loyalties lie. The basic garment is red, symbolizing passion and strength, both absolute requirements in defending what Her Pretty Holiness Aphrodite calls "the last citadel of democracy and equal rights for women." Standalone design and feminine underwire bra gives excellent support in order to prevent unfortunate flashes of, uh, exposure which might demonstrate the Amazon lesson of love a little too well. Pin-tucked front and finished hem displays one of three symbols: the **EAGLE**, the **DOUBLE-DUBYA** (benefiting the Wonder Woman Foundation) and the **AMALGAM**.

available in sizes: **DIANA**, **ARTEMIS**, **GIGANTA** and **ETTA**  
180 drachma each

**HECATE SPECIAL**  
Buy all three for just  
500 drachma!



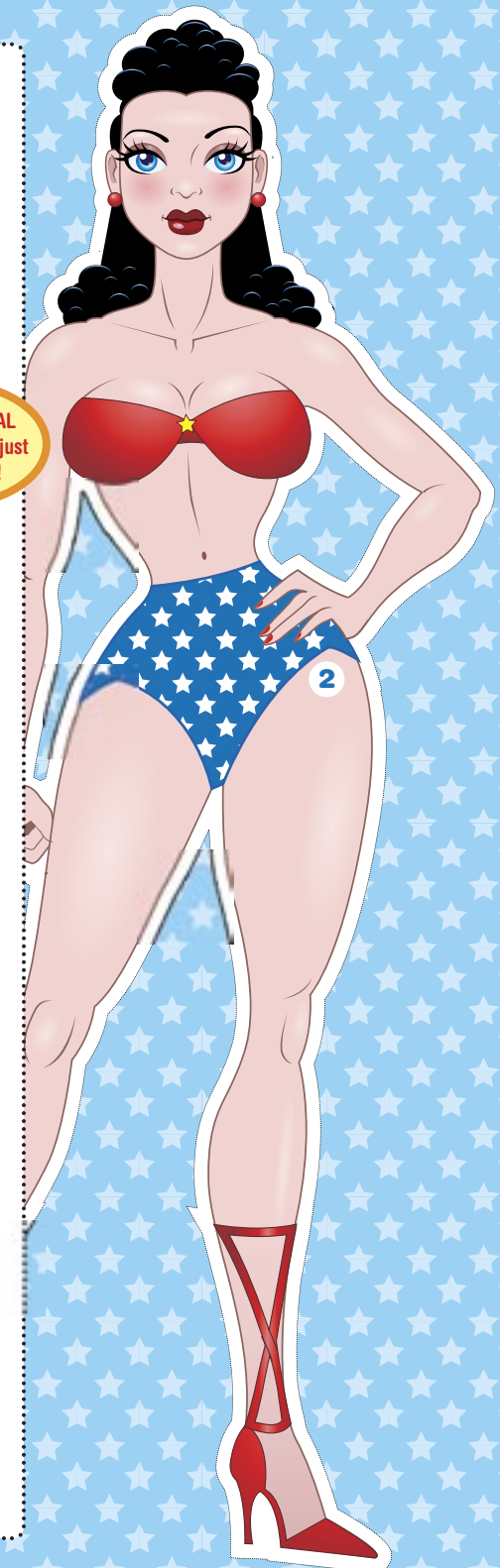
### GREEK BRIEF 2

Fight for your rights in these satin tights. This classic panty features gam-lengthening leg height, a must if the precisely prejudiced asses of your hateful opponents are to be properly kicked. The design sports white stars on a blue base, showing the enemies of America that each of her individual states is close to your heart...or someplace rather heart-like. Full rear coverage ensures a slimming, tug-free fit.

available in sizes:  
**LOLLIPOP**, **HAIRBRUSH** and **AX-HANDLE**  
40 drachma

**JUST ADDED!** Flattering overskirt in the same starry pattern for the Amazon who wants Man's World to know that you're a warrior...but you're also a princess! One size fits most.

55 drachma





lil'one bi-dyke in **YOU CAN'T MAKE ME!!**

A TAR-BABY TALE © 2007 Leanne-i-dont-exist Franson





# PROFILES

## MY FIRST TIME

We all had one, and so did you. This year's guide contributors spill the secrets of what we all have in common: a love affair with comic books.

**What's the first comic book that got you hooked?** The first one that I ever bought—and subsequently loved all the more because of it—was the **X-MEN** issue where Kitty Pryde was left alone in the mansion to fight the alien on Christmas. I read through it so many times that it eventually fell apart. Oh, and I had a huge crush on Wolverine. \*snikt!\*

**What's your favorite comic book-related memory?** My ex-boyfriend introducing me to comics that I had never read before but immediately loved—**DAREDEVIL** and especially **SANDMAN**. I remember spending a Thanksgiving with him in Austin and then, in the crowded airport coming home, sitting down in front of the huge glass window and reading "A Dream of a Thousand Cats" and looking out into the night sky and just feeling so incredibly sad and emotionally moved.

**Why do you love comics?** They have a magic to them that no other art form does.

**What does Prism mean to you?** The future of this industry, I hope, and a collection of people who are well on their way to even greater successes. Thank you to everyone who keeps this worthy cause going, and for the privilege of being the editor of this year's guide.

**JONATHAN RIGGS**

Editor

## BRIAN DOUGLAS AHERN

www.brizycomics.com  
www.pigboysbook.com

Jeepers! Where to start? Among my fun projects is a gay-friendly humor/adventure/romance comic called **HAYSEED**, a work-in-progress with fellow Prism creator Randall Kirby. I had my first full-color photo book published by Author House Books, entitled **PIGBOYS: CLEAN-CUT BOYS PLAYING DIRTY**, which features handsome models in slickers goofing around in the mud like German pig farmers, or "pigboys."

Oh, and I brought my long-absent satirical series **BUMPKIN BUZZ** back to the monthly pages of **THE COMICS BUYERS GUIDE**, too. And that's about all I can think of for now! Be well. Be yourself. Ta.

## AKNATON

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Hi, I'm a Chilean artist who was born in 1975. Now, I live in Santiago where I studied graphic and web design. I'm working with Chuck McKinney on his webcomic **FROM THE CELLAR**, and I've published some of my work in Spain. I love the movies, playing piano, writing songs, meeting new friends and, obviously, drawing, painting and everything about comics.

## CITIZEN RAHNE ALEXANDER

www.xantippe.com/tranzilla.shtml

Citizen Rahne Alexander is a member of Baltimore's revolutionary queer cabaret, the Charm City Kitty Club, and her garage rock band The Degenerettes has been thundering through the basements and bowling alleys of the mid-Atlantic.

Her first video collage, **Let's Get Out Of Here**, was awarded the Way Cool Film Geek Jury Prize at the 2006 Microcinifest. Her video collaboration with Kristen Anchor, **Pez Porno**, screened at festivals including Cinekink and Flaming Film Fest. In the summer of 2006, **Pez Porno** became the #1 comedy video on IFILM.com for two weeks with over 130,000 views.

Apparently bent on becoming the Queen of All Media, she launched her underground comic zine **TRANZILLA** in 2003. **TRANZILLA** will make her video short debut in 2007. What are folks saying about **TRANZILLA**?

"**TRANZILLA** may not be the perfect Christmas gift for your Great Aunt Louise, but the appeal of this tale of a tranny who turns into a fire-breathing beast after mad scientists mess with her hormone supply has considerably broader appeal than you'd think." - **XEROGRAPHY DEBT**

## VON ALLAN

www.vonallan.com  
vonandmoggy.livejournal.com

Von Allan was born red-headed and freckled in Arnprior, Ontario, just in time for **Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope**. The single child of two loving-but-troubled parents, Von split most of his childhood between their two homes and, consequently, spent a lot of time in the worlds of

comics and pop culture (wrestling, **Star Trek**, you name it). What comics and piledrivers didn't teach him, science fiction did. He worked at a small independent bookstore in Ottawa for many years, volunteered at LGBT organizations and developed his art skills—all the while working on story ideas in his spare time. Eventually, he made the leap to a creative life and **THE ROAD TO GOD KNOWS**, his first graphic novel, was the result.

## JEREMY ALVA

www.jalva.net  
www.myspace.com/germbot

I'm a 22-year-old aspiring writer and artist in the L.A. area. My main focus is writing, but I'm constantly working on my art. I'm working on my inking skills (as they're lacking) and it will be a fun challenge. I am in school for video production with an emphasis on editing and screenwriting. In the future, I'd like to shoot a documentary on queer comic creators and their fans. I'm an active member of the Comic Art Guild West and will have one of my illustrations printed in its upcoming anthology, **PSYCHOSIS!** I like punk rock and dancing while wearing a giant cardboard box.

## ISMAEL ALVAREZ

www.ismaelalvarez.com

I was born May 12, 1978 (a Taurus) in Ayamonte, a little village in Huelva, Andalucia, Spain. Today, I live in Madrid and would not change this city for any other in the world.

Even though a pencil has never been far from my hand since I was very small, it was only here in Madrid that I developed my work as a comic illustrator, designer and artist. I adore the world of comics in general, the world of eroticism and—why not say it—the world of pornography.

At my website, you will see that when it comes to illustrating, I do what I want when I want. If you don't like it, don't look at it. Sex is beautiful, dear people. Let's look at it the way it is. . .

## MARC ANDREYKO

NO WEBSITE

Marc writes all sorts of stuff. Here are some highlights:

**THE LOST**, a Harvey-nominated and legendarily unfinished revisionist sequel to **PETER PAN** w/co-creators Jay Goldhof and Galen Showman; an Eisner- and Harvey-award-winning **DR. STRANGE** one-shot with pal P. Craig Russell; translating the opera **PAGLIACCI** (also with PCR) for Dark Horse; various issues of **WOLVERINE, BLADE, SHADOWS AND LIGHT** and the **SUPERNATURALS** (with Ivan Reis) for Marvel Comics; **MASKS** w/Richard Corben, **BLACK SUN** for Wildstorm and a sadly unpublished revamp of **THUNDER AGENTS** for DC Comics. Recently, Marc has done **CASTLEVANIA** for IDW, **CASEFILES: SAM AND TWITCH** for TMP/Image and his personal pride and joy: **MANHUNTER**, co-created with the amazing Jesus Saiz, currently published by DC Comics.

Oh, yeah, he's also written some screenplays, pilots and has had director David Fincher (**Seven**) and Paramount Pictures sign on to do the film version of **TORSO**, which he co-authored with Brian Michael Bendis.

Marc lives in the Hollywood Hills with his DVDs.

**What's the first comic book that got you hooked?** **ACTION COMICS #1**. Yes, we're that old. . .okay, not really! It was probably something like an issue of **X-MEN UNLIMITED** or **X-FACTOR**. We were into comic books before we could even read!

**What's your favorite comic book-related memory?** We haven't really made one yet, although finding the perfect comic shop was pretty nice. Every time we find one that we like they seem to go out of business.

**Why do you love comics?** Explaining our love of comics isn't as simple as describing our feelings because they're such a huge part of our lives and who we are. Comics are something that have been with us for as long as we can remember. To us, comics are the best medium of expression because not only can you tell your story through words, but through art as well. And let's face it, who hasn't wanted to leap over tall buildings in a single bound or use some other inherent ability to save the day.

**What does Prism mean to you?** Opportunity. Prism is an amazing resource for the aspiring, the up-and-coming and the established alike. We are so very fortunate to have found Prism, and we try to express our gratitude every chance we get. Prism has helped us find a spot in the grand scheme of things where we may not have found one on our own.

**Anything else?** Well, besides giving thanks to everyone who has kept up with our ramblings we'd like to give a bit of encouragement to anyone out there who is interested in comics—don't give up. Keep writing, keep drawing, keep doing whatever you need to do because there is nothing like seeing your hard work being brought to life in the form of a comic. Working independently in comics has a ton of struggles but it has just as many rewards.

**PAIGE AND KEVIN ALEXIS (PKA)** pg. 8, 86

www.fairyfabulous.com

When not out fighting crime and protecting the good people of Gotham, this dynamic duo can be found in the Batcave, hard at work trying to turn out as much of their LGBT comic material as possible!

Their website will eventually host hundreds of character profiles, as well as eight superhero comics that follow the old school tradition of costumed do-gooders stopping the bad guys, but with a modern twist. Most of the themes will follow aspects of everyday life, such as politics and queer culture, along with original storylines. Eventually, most of the characters and titles will interact. The creators have gone to great lengths to create complex, diverse characters and meaningful, rich storylines.

Although the creators have worked on their comics for nearly five years, August 2006 marked the second official anniversary since their work debuted online. The two have set an impossible goal: finish all first issues by this time next year. Let's see if they make it!

**SCOTT ANDERSON**

"Love, Comic Book Style"

(pg. 38)

**What's the first comic book, ever, that got you hooked?** I don't remember a time when I didn't want to read comics. In fact, I'm certain that my parents gave me comics years before I could actually read them. The earliest comic I remember getting was a Flash comic and because I couldn't read it, I thought his after-images were duplicates of himself.

**What's your favorite comic book-related memory?** My favorite moments with comics come when I find out that someone else likes comics too. Being a comic reader is sort of like being gay. I believe that people think they are supposed to dislike gays more than they actually dislike gays. And people often feel as if they are supposed to have outgrown comics more than they actually have. I like to see people "come out" as comic readers.

**Why do you love comics?** Comics have a sense of style that is unmatched in any other medium and I love that. Movies don't have the drama of a Kirby drawing. When film tries to capture what comics are, film has to tone it down to make it seem realistic, but comics can go wild. The characters, settings and plots can be more abstract, more bizarre and more surreal than virtually any other medium while appearing perfectly ordinary and accessible to readers.

**What does Prism mean to you?** To me, Prism means there is a counterbalance. There are all sorts of people out there who selfishly want to keep comics for reactionary straight people, who want to keep gays from ever appearing heroic and who want homosexuals to feel ashamed and fearful. And they are vocal. The other side needs a voice. Prism is that voice.

**Anything else you'd like to say?** I love that Prism has a sense of whimsy and is willing to kid around. There was a possibility that Prism could have been governed by anger, but Prism is governed by pragmatism, creativity and altruism. At its core, Prism is giving, kind and friendly...so I don't know why they asked me to be a part of it!

**MARK ANDREWS**

pg. 96

[www.myspace.com/\\_lonewolf\\_](http://www.myspace.com/_lonewolf_)

Born and raised in Connecticut, Mark has been an avid comic book reader for the majority of his life. He lives in Brooklyn with his boyfriend of seven years. Until he discovered Prism Comics, he was having a hard time getting anyone interested in his autobiographical story, **LOVE, DEATH, & UFO'S**. Fortunately, that has changed, and his work can now be seen in the webcomics feature section of the Prism Comics website. He is currently working on a new title, **URBAN VELVET**. Its debut story is in this guide.

**JAMES ASAL**[www.adamandandy.com](http://www.adamandandy.com)[groups.yahoo.com/group/AdamAndAndy/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AdamAndAndy/)

James lives in Connecticut with his spouse Timothy and their beagle, Baxter. His comic strip **ADAM & ANDY** debuted on the web on May 15, 1999 and now appears in several publications in the US and Europe. The feature is translated into German, Turkish, Swedish, Norwegian and Polish.

The first **ADAM & ANDY** trade paperback collection was published by Studio 64 in 2003 and is available from James's website or any bookstore. Readers can also sign up for free email subscription to the strip.

**THEO BAIN**[www.theobain.com](http://www.theobain.com)[www.britdoodz.com](http://www.britdoodz.com)

I'm from the UK and have been a freelance artist since July of 2003. It's safe to say that Glen Keane is responsible for my desire to work as an artist and illustrator. Ariel took my breath away in **The Little Mermaid** back in 1989 and I knew from that moment on, I wanted to draw for a living.

In 2002, while employed at a bookstore, I worked on character designs and story development for an animated project called **Kukani** for Massive Entertainment. In 2003, I decided to take the leap from full-time bookseller to full-time freelance artist.

Being comic artists and fans of the likes of Tom of Finland and Harry Bush, my partner Jack and I saw a big, gaping hole in the UK market for homegrown sexy 'toon guys, so we started **BRITDOODZ.COM**. Through my work on the site, I was given the opportunity to work on an online comic strip for Gaydar. I have also now done several episodes for Chuck McKinney's site **FROM THE CELLAR**. I was working on a comic called **GIMOLE** last year, though this has been put on hold for the moment.

**What's the first comic book that got you hooked?**

**RICHE RICH.** How gay is that? I remember my life changing after I read it—I was instantly obsessed with this art form.

**What's your favorite comic book-related memory?**

Being home from school sick, and my dad bringing me a few Marvel titles—my first venture into the world of superheroes. Again, life-changing! I think I was 10.

**Why do you love comics?** I love comics (still) because they are one constant in my life. They're something that never disappoints, something to look forward to on Wednesdays, something that keeps me feeling young. (Lord knows I need that!)

**What does Prism mean to you?** Prism, ahhh, Prism. Words cannot describe how thankful and grateful I am for acknowledging my comic and including it on their site. Incredibly friendly, helpful, warm, professional people all!!

**CLIVE BARKER**[www.clivebarker.info](http://www.clivebarker.info)

Born in Liverpool in 1952, Clive Barker has enjoyed spectacular successes in comics, theater, film, fiction and other fields, all too numerous to include here. Barker also recently completed a highly successful run at the Bess Cutler Gallery in New York, where he had his first one-man art exhibition. Over the last year, he's released a second book of plays, an animated film and is hard at work on many more projects.

**DONNA BARR**[www.moderntales.com](http://www.moderntales.com)[www.lulu.com/desertpeach](http://www.lulu.com/desertpeach)

Donna Barr is the artist, writer and often publisher of critically-acclaimed, award-winning books and series, including **THE DESERT PEACH**, **STINZ, HADER AND THE COLONEL** and **BOSOM ENEMIES**. She writes about how guys hate and love each other. She does Good Boy Art.

Awards include: The Xeric Grant, The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation Grant, The San Diego Comicon International Inkpot, The London Comic Creator's Guild's Best Ongoing Humor, Seattle's Cartoonists' Northwest's Toonie and the Washington Press Association's Communicator of Excellence in Fiction.

Donna is a member of The Graphic Artists Guild and The National Writers Union, and is a consultant for the media curriculum in the arts department at Olympic College in Bremerton, Washington. Her life's work has been donated to the San Diego State University Special Collections.

**ALISON BECHDEL**[www.dykestowatchoutfor.com](http://www.dykestowatchoutfor.com)

Alison Bechdel's comic strip **DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR** reproduces the texture of 21st century life, queer and otherwise, in exactly high resolution. From foreign policy to domestic routine, breastfeeding to chemotherapy, postmodern theory to parenting practice, her characters fuse high and low culture in a narrative for humanists of all persuasions.

Bechdel grew up in rural Pennsylvania. After graduating from Oberlin College, she moved to New York City, where she began drawing **DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR** as a feature in the feminist monthly **WomanNews** in 1983. Eleven book-length **DTWOF** collections have since appeared. Bechdel's other books include **WHAT DO CATS DREAM**, **WHAT DO DOGS DREAM** and **FUN HOME: A FAMILY TRAGICOMIC**. Her bi-weekly strip is syndicated in over 50 periodicals.

Bechdel's work appeared alongside Aaron McGruder's **BOONDOCKS** and David Rees's **GET YOUR WAR ON** in **ATTITUDE 2: THE NEW SUBVERSIVE ALTERNATIVE CARTOONISTS** (NBM, 2004). Three of her books have won Lambda Literary Awards for Humor, and **THE INDELIBLE ALISON BECHDEL** won a Lambda Literary Award in the biography/autobiography category. The **UTNE Reader** has listed **DTWOF** as "one of the greatest hits of the twentieth century."

Bechdel has also done exclusive work for a slew of publications including **Ms.**, **Slate**, **The Village Voice**, **The Advocate**, **Out** and many other newspapers, web sites, comic books and zines.

**EDWARD BEEKMAN-MYERS**[CometSweat84@gmail.com](mailto:CometSweat84@gmail.com)

I'm a writer who's been plying the trade in some form or another ever since winning a Young Author's contest in second grade. It only took me 25 years to try to actually do something with it!

My literary repertoire consists of several short stories (a few of which have been published and a couple of which have won awards), some stage plays (a couple of which have been locally produced) and a series of dark-humored science-fiction novels (which I'm trying to get a publisher to take a chance on!). I'm always writing in some form or another, whether it's essays or reviews or just random rambblings.

I work as a college English professor, and I'm gearing up to move to Wales to work on my creative writing PhD. I'm looking forward to all the new inspirations that await me on my UK adventure!

I do have a few comic book scripts under my belt, and I have a plethora of ideas for many more, but like most newbies, I'm finding it difficult to break into the biz, especially since I can't draw or paint. I'm constantly seeking an artist to team up with to help me bring my visions to life, so if anyone is looking for a partner in four-color crime, give me a holler!

**PAUL BERGE**[www.geocities.com/pwberge](http://www.geocities.com/pwberge), [www.qsyndicate.com/EditorialCartoons.htm](http://www.qsyndicate.com/EditorialCartoons.htm)

Every week, Paul Berge draws cartoons on topics such as same-sex marriage, gays in the military or homophobia in Congress. Paul has drawn topical and editorial cartoons for the LGBT press since 1993. His weekly cartoons are now distributed by Q Syndicate and appear across the United States, Canada and South Africa. His syndicated cartoons have been reprinted in **Out**, **THE BEST EDITORIAL CARTOONS OF THE YEAR** series and many other books and periodicals you've never heard of.

He lives near Racine, Wisconsin with his partner, Chris, and their two parakeets. When Paul's not cartooning, they enjoy making wine, vacationing in Puerto Vallarta and taking long walks on the beach.

**MAX BOOKS**[livejournal.com/users/sexualcabinetry](http://livejournal.com/users/sexualcabinetry)

Max Books used to be known as Max Brooks, but there was a better, more popular Max Brooks, so he altered the letters a bit and started life anew as a more interesting, more dynamic Max Books.

Max is a mystery wrapped in a riddle wrapped in a tender, flaky crust. This oddball creature from Olympia has been doodling up his obscure little mini-comics for a few years now, starting with the woefully underachieving **REVELATIONS JR.**, the painfully unpopular **HOUSE OF USHER** and the upcoming, probably just as bad **THE STRAIGHT AND THE NARROW**. Written by Bill Wrigley, it promises to do for Marxist supervillains what **The Incredibles** did for fascist, right-wing superheroes.

Max enjoys playing video games, drinking tea, annoying people and patterning his existence off Edward Gorey's. He holds a negligible degree in graphic design from Central Washington University and maintains that his sexuality is also negligible.

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