

STRAIGHT MAN STANDING

Rodger Corser plays Adam, the Carrie Bradshaw of Last Man Standing. Interview by Matthew Myers.

DNA: In *Last Man Standing* you've had a few nude scenes. Are they a challenge?

Rodger Corser: Yes, but we were all warned about that from the start. You have to make light of it otherwise you give yourself a complex!

Is *Last Man Standing* the straight guy's *Sex And The City*?

I've heard it described as *Sex And The City* for blokes. It looks at life from the male perspective. There are issues about career, relationships and questions like "I'm turning 30, how much do I still party?"

"Do I have gay mates? I started my career in musical theatre!"

You narrate the show, which makes you the Sarah Jessica Parker.

[Laughs] I suppose you can liken it to [Carrie Bradshaw]. I guess the viewers get more insight into my character because they can hear what's going on in my head.

For five years, the gay community's drama show has been *Queer As Folk*.

Have you seen it?

I've actually seen both versions. It's funny how the Yanks can't take the English version and have to remake the whole thing. Every thing is a little bit heightened on television but I think *Queer As Folk* is quite truthful. Though it's the type of show that has to be on SBS, because you just can't get away with some of that stuff on commercial TV.

Do you have many gay mates?

Ha! I started my career in musical theatre.

Do you go consult your gay mates for relationship advice?

Absolutely. If there are things going on in your life and you need a good friend as a sounding board, then that's who you go to.

Can you see yourself playing a gay character?

If the part was right and it was a good piece of work I could play an axe-murderer or a gay male or whatever. I played a vet

on *McLeod's Daughters*, which is totally not what I am. It's all about characters and getting inside them.

Playing Roger in *RENT* was a major achievement. You beat 6,000 other hopefuls to the sought-after role.

It was amazing, but at the time I don't think I actually knew what I was doing. It was my first audition ever and I rolled up and got the job on my first attempt. I had to really work to get it, but I didn't realise how special that role was until afterwards.

And you played a character with AIDS.

Yeah. I got some hate mail at the time for the way I explained it in an interview.

What happened?

I said that my character became a recluse because he thought he was going to die, due to having AIDS. Someone said that I had taken the cause back x-amount of years, but all I was doing was reflecting on my character's thoughts, not my own personal thoughts. But at least it sparked some debate and got people thinking and talking.

Back in those theatre days, did anyone ever mistake you as being gay?

Not in the cast because I was a bit rough around the edges and a bit of a bogan. Then again, there were people who met me and thought that because I was in musical theatre and had blond spiky hair...!

Do guys ever hit on you?

I suppose it's happened a bit in gay clubs, where it's pretty easy to make that assumption. But generally, no.

Do you have good gaydar?

You know what? I don't think I do. I'll think I have it and then I always get surprised, so I probably don't! As soon as you start assuming, you set yourself up to be wrong.

Boxers or briefs?

Both. One for day-to-day, the other for sport. You work out which is which! 🍌

Rodger Corser stars as Adam in Channel 7's *Last Man Standing*.

