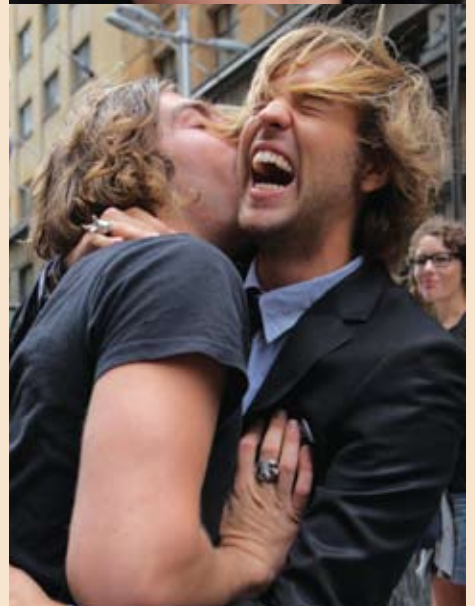
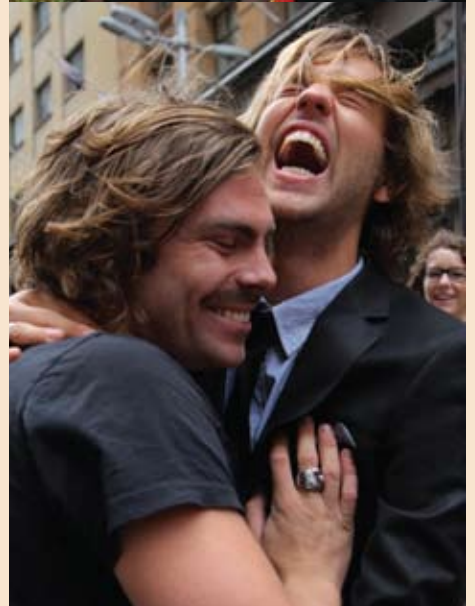




Let's pash!

He's a VJ, DJ and Cleo Bachelor Of The Year finalist. Now Danny Clayton's same-sex snogfest has made him one of our best Straight Mates yet.



DNA: You organised the One Love Love-In heterosexual same-sex songfest, as a rebuttal to Peter Madden's anti-Mardi Gras campaign. Not many straight guys would have the balls to do that. What propelled you?

Danny: I went to an all-boys' school and homophobia wasn't common, but if anyone was different it wasn't really supported. I came into my job being quite young and I remember it was quite a culture shock. As you know, everyone in the entertainment industry is gay! I started meeting so many great people and making friends, and suddenly my best friends were gay. I was really concerned when I first saw this dude's [Madden's] video. I was so angered and it was just a really impulsive move for me to make a reply video. I felt so passionate about it.

Have you heard any feedback from Madden?

Yes, he actually wrote a copy-and-paste reply to me on my YouTube Channel, something he had written to like 100 people. It wasn't very genuine and quite heartless. The only thing it did was make me angrier and more determined to stick it up him!

Did you receive any negative feedback from the gay community?

A lesbian group said they thought my protest was patronising and that the gay and lesbian community can stand up for itself. To them I would say, there are many people who aren't part of that community yet and I want them to know that there is love and support waiting for them when they decide to come out.

The guys who participated in the snogfest were real lads!

It's really funny because my flatmate, who's a rugby-playing, girl-tuning guy, came down with a lot of his blokey mates, plus there were my blokey mates as well. In fact, the guy I ended up kissing was a dude called Kimber, a real ladies' man! Girls love him and he's so blokey. So here he was saying, "I care about this, too, and really want to support your event and I'll kiss you in front of everybody."

Was this the first time you ever kissed a guy?

[Laughing] Well... it's my first official kiss. It was fine, it was very hairy. Kimber grew this massive moustache that I am not used to experiencing. I'm not saying it's something I'd do everyday, but it was all right.

Will the Snogfest be on again next year?

I wasn't too sure, but the other night I was DJing at Q Bar and an 18-year-old kid held his phone up to me with a huge message he wrote. He'd come out to his parents after he saw my mates pashing. It gave me goose bumps and, needless to say, I will be doing the event again next year. If Peter Madden wants to hold his protest, or anyone else wants to protest against the Gay And Lesbian Mardi Gras, I know that my friends and even strangers will jump in again to support the gay community.

What do you find great about Mardi Gras?

I think it's really positive. It's not only a celebration for the gay and lesbian community but it's also a way for straight people to show their love for one another, like for mums and dads who are proud of their lesbian daughter or gay son. It's also really important for people who aren't in a comfortable place, so they can walk down the street with glitter on their faces and feel proud. There are a lot of people out there who haven't come out yet and it must be hell to feel like that. It's a celebration of diversity and it's now a part of Australian culture. Anyone who tries to squash that can leave the country!

Do you think there will be legal gay marriage in Australia in your lifetime?

Definitely. It's only a matter of time. I think it's silly that it hasn't happened yet. As my generation grows older and begins to have more influence over the big decisions we'll start to see a much more tolerant view on gay marriage. It's funny how some of these archaic institutions still have such a strong hold on the way Australia is run. But when they grow old and die off, I think these dark-age views on sexuality will die along with them. I reckon in years to come, when gay marriage is legalised, we'll look back on it as ridiculous.

So you have a lot of close gay mates?

I do, and a lot of really close lesbian friends. I can tell them anything. One of my gay mates from school was always quite out there and proud, but another of my lesbian girlfriends has parents who have problems with her, due to their faith. It's still such a sensitive topic and when people talk about being gay as 'a choice' it makes me angry.

Do you ever get mistaken as gay?

[Laughing] Are you kidding? All the time! I seem to have all the signs and when people are with me, they say their gaydar always goes off. But generally, I'm pretty friendly to everybody and people might misconstrue that. I flirt with everybody, but quite innocently. It's not really something that worries me.

Do guys come onto you?

Oh yeah! I go to a lot of gay bars and I DJ at Snatch And Grab, the lesbian club. I slowly realised that I was having more fun at gay bars than straight bars. They listen to better music and the crowds are nicer.

Who's your diva?

I'd say Keisha. Rihanna comes close, but I'll say Keisha because I'm trashier.

On the note of divas, what do you think of the Duck Sauce song Barbra Streisand? Do Gen Y'ers even know who she is?

It is a song that will be played constantly for a year then no one will play it until it becomes ironic again. As for Mrs Focker, she is one of the few people on earth to have won all three of the big awards, an Academy Award, an

Emmy and a Grammy. I certainly hope Gen Ys know about her.

Who's your favourite blokey singer?

Dave Grohl from The Foo Fighters. He's so charismatic. I feel like he's one of the last real frontmen of rock. He's been playing for years, he's got the songs and he loves performing.

If you were gay, who would you sleep with?

I'd like to say Dave Grohl, but he's too hairy for me. Hmm... Noel Fielding from The Mighty Boosh or, better still, Mick Jagger. No one's got a swagger like Mick Jagger! He starts me up! I'm a massive Stones fan.

What is your porn name? (Your first pet and the street you grew up in).

My porn name is so amazing people think I'm making it up. It's Bimbo New Beach. But I'd probably call myself Bimbo New Bitch.

Have you ever waxed or shaved your pubes?

I do the man-scaping. I've never waxed, but I use the buzzer.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

I'm really into Graham Kennedy and I've always admired Michael Parkinson. He's always well-researched in his interviews and he almost acts as though he isn't. Everything just comes out naturally and he's really just all over it.

Where do you want your career to head?

I'd like to present my own shows. I'd love a gig on *Getaway*. Isn't that the ultimate presenter gig? I'd like to continue to work with music, but also travel the world.

How did it feel to be one of Cleo's 50 Most Eligible Bachelors in 2009?

It was fun, but when you look at the people in that competition you can't take it too seriously. When you're alongside dudes that have eight-packs and look like they're out of the movie *300*. I was next to them and the photographer wanted me to take my shirt off and I'm like, "Nah, I think I'll keep it on, thanks!"

Jocks, boxers or freeballs?

Hipsters. It's about support and length!

Ever had an on-stage wardrobe malfunction?

One year at Big Day Out I got up on stage with Pnau to dance, in front of thousands of people. They gave me a suit to wear, which was tights and this "sunshine suit" thing, which on any normal person would go up around their waist. But on me, it went up around my belly button because I'm six-foot-five. I wondered why everyone was pointing at me. I thought it was because I was dancing really well, but when I looked down at my tights, you could see the outline of my willy perfectly! You could see my mushrooms! It was completely in view. At first there was a moment of panic, but then I realised no-one knew who was underneath the costume, so I milked it.

Catch Danny on The Riff, Saturday mornings 10.30am on Channel V