



# TOMMY GET YOUR SHIRT OFF!

From stand-up comedy to hosting chat shows to naked bungee jumps and polyamorous cuddle parties (!!!) no wonder we think Tommy Little is adorable. Matthew Myers reports.

**DNA: Do you agree with the theory that comedy is an emotional crutch for inner issues?**

**Tommy Little:** I think it's a vent rather than a crutch. If you want it to be, it's a release, but some people have a brand of comedy that's nothing to do with their private life or their issues. It can definitely be an outpouring, but you have to be careful, because if you want to be funny with a message that's fine, but if it's not funny – no one is going to give a shit about your message.

**Congratulations on the success of *This Week Live*. Who has been your favourite guest?**

Matt Preston [*MasterChef*] is a lovely guy and we got to see him in a different light. It was a bit later at night and he came off the leash a bit and had amazing stories. Like he'd been to Glastonbury. I just don't think of Matt Preston

“My ego likes to think that I'll get my arse pinched, whether it's a gay or straight bar. Though it probably happens a bit more when I'm at gay bars!”

in his cravat camping and roughing it. It's nice to get to know people a bit more.

**What can we expect with your new show *A League Of Their Own*?**

It's a big dumb comedy sports show, which is fun for the whole family. If people like fun, they'll enjoy the show.

**You've come a long way from Chanel 31 to Channel Ten. What advice would you give to those wanting a career in media?**

Don't do it. Do something else! I only do comedy because I'm bad at everything else. It was more like a last resort than a first choice. But if you do have to do it, just make sure that you love it. It's all still work.

**Is comedy a natural gift, or can somebody learn the skill?**

You can definitely learn it. Some people are probably un-teachable and some people are

inheritably unfunny, but if you're a little funny you can learn to be very funny.

**You've hung out at gay bars with Tom Ballard and Josh Thomas. There must be some funny stories there?**

Most times that I'm out, I'm so drunk that I'm unaware of my surroundings and my ego likes to think that I'll get my arse pinched, whether it's a gay or straight bar. Though it probably happens a bit more when I'm at gay bars! There's also a strange thing that when you tour regionally, the gay bars are often the best places to go out.

**You have success there?**

I'd have to say the success I've had at a gay bar is no more than what I've had at any other bar, which is... none. Success and bars don't go well with me!

**Is there anything about gay culture you identify with?**

Just that it's generally more accepting. It's full of people who have faced hardships and exclusion in their lives, and they understand the importance of tolerance. I think it's a great attitude. Whenever I've been in a gay bar I've always felt welcomed and it really saddens me that there are bars in Australia where the acceptance doesn't go both ways. In red-necked bars, a flamboyantly gay man might not feel comfortable. But you would never feel like that in a gay bar.

**Do you still stir your dad by making out that you're gay?**

I wouldn't say I'm camp, but I'm not your typical bloke guy, and for people of my dad's generation it's often a point of wonder. I remember the first time I told him I had a girl stay over he was like, "A girl? Oh, interesting." But my dad's a beautiful guy. If I were gay, he wouldn't have a problem with it. He'd be happier that I had a partner rather than be single. He'd care more about me being lonely.

**Who would you turn gay for?**

I'm sure everyone would say Ryan Gosling, but I'll say Clive Owen. Remember that speech of his in *Closer*? He's tough but also eloquent. He's the type of man I could never be.

**On that note, would you be a top or a bottom?**

[Laughing] I don't know. That's like asking a virgin what their favourite sex position is. It is a hard question because I don't even know myself!

**You bungee jumped naked in New Zealand. What was scarier, the jump or being naked?**

Jumping naked was the scary thing. I've bungee jumped before and been naked before, and both are slightly

scary, but together it was terrifying. It was the vulnerability. I'd never been so exposed. I was several stories high over paddocks with the wind rustling. I think it was a double adrenaline rush coupled with fear.

**Beat Magazine labeled you the future of funny. DNA is labeling you Tommy Get Your Shirt Off! Are you aware of your sex appeal?**

[Laughing] I love that. I think they could both be the same thing. I'll take my shirt off and people will laugh. You're being very nice and I'm happy for you to spread the word, but I don't think I have sex appeal.

**In New York you had gangsta rappers help you toughen up by getting a tattoo. Is it real?**

It is; it hasn't washed off. It says me *voy a arrepentir*, which in Spanish means "I will regret this!" I also went to a cuddle party in New York, which was largely gay, bi and poly. It was the largest cuddle party they'd ever held.

**You went from gangsta toughness to cuddle party. Where do you go after that?**

Maybe now I'll get some style, like a makeover. I could get Carson Kressley to zhuzh me! Is zhuzhing still a thing?

**Er, no. This month is our entertainment issue. Who is your diva?**

Rihanna. My favourite song of hers is *Rehab* with Justin Timberlake. And even though she's getting more and more trashy, I still love her. If anything, it makes me think she's getting attainable. It's like the moment Britney shaved her head. For any men with egos, they thought Britney's lost her mind. But for any realistic self-deprecating people, they thought maybe we've got a chance now!

**Is Tommy Little into jocks, fitted boxers or freeballing?**

Fitted boxers. I'm not a 60-year-old man, so I don't want jocks, and I don't need to freeball because I have a job – I can afford underwear!

more: *A League Of Their Own* airs Mondays 7:30pm on TEN.

