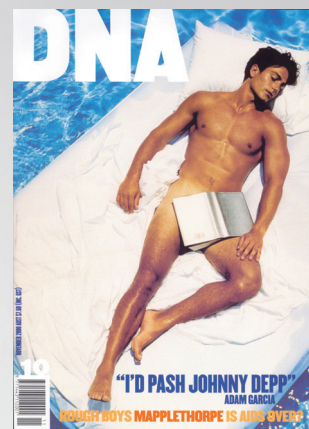


STRAIGHT MATE / *with Matthew Myers*



"I'd pash Johnny Depp," Adam told DNA back in #10 (although that's not him on the cover!)

"I WAS SOLD AS A PIECE OF MEAT!"

He's been man-candy on a bar top, Drew Barrymore's son, a Tap Dog, and played gay on stage and at high school. Yes, it's flirtatious musical theatre star, **Adam Garcia**. Matthew Myers catches him in "the splash zone"!

DNA: Paying Don Lockwood in *Singin' In The Rain*, the obvious comparison is Gene Kelly. Is he an inspiration?

Adam Garcia: Completely! My wife showed me his roller-skating routine from *It's Always Fair Weather*, saying how extremely graceful he was. I was like, "Yeah, it's Gene Kelly!" There are four people I always admired as a kid growing up dancing: Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Sammy Davis and Danny Kaye. I thought Danny Kaye was hilarious and brilliant and his physical performances were amazing. You don't become an icon without being very, very, very good!

The iconic singing and dancing in the rain scene uses up to 12,000 litres of recycled water on stage! Unfortunately, there is no way of rehearsing it "in the rain" until we get into tech [technical rehearsal with all stage effects]. But it's going to be a really magic moment for me personally. I'll be in rain! It's pretty spectacular and very clever that it can happen in a theatrical setting. And the audience gets wet too! There is a splash zone, just like with Shamu the killer whale at Sea World. But in this case, it won't be a vicious disgruntled seven-tonne orca. Not unless I get reviewed as such!

Speaking of iconic scenes, the bar-stripping scene in *Coyote Ugly* [2000] brought you to the attention of the world. Looking back, how do you feel about that? Well, it was a scene about being sold as a piece of meat [laughs]! I was being objectified, literally, in the film. People certainly remember that scene, which is cool. To make such an impact is what an actor wants to do, and my body was so beautiful then! I had done a lot of gym work. *Coyote Ugly* has become a bit of a cult film now and there's nothing wrong with that! As far as most people are concerned, I'm the guy in the *Coyote Ugly* bar dancing to INXS.

You're also associated with tap dancing from the troupe Tap Dogs and the film *Bootmen* [2000]. Are you still involved with them? Dein

Perry [*Tap Dogs* choreographer] is one of my dear friends and we've worked together a lot. There are also two guys from *Tap Dogs* working on *Singin' In The Rain*, which is awesome. I'm also in touch with [lead dancer] Doug Mills and we work a lot together in London. But since 2011 I haven't done any work with the Dogs, mainly due to being in London, but I'll always want to be affiliated. It was such a watershed in terms of what it did for tap shows. It's a brilliant show to dance. It's also really hard and challenging, but that's what you want a great show to be.

Riding In Cars With Boys [2001] had you playing Drew Barrymore's son, but you're in fact a year older than her! Actually, a year-and-a-half! It's the brilliance of make-up! Drew has an ageless face. She had to play 15 all the way up to her mid-forties, and it was utterly convincing. I loved working with her, not to mention the great director Penny Marshall. I think she only cast me because she loves tap dancing! She was literally born underneath Yankee Stadium in the Bronx and is a true New York lady.

She is also Laverne from *Laverne And Shirley*. And she is Laverne!

Have you ever played a gay role? Opposite Daniel Evans at the Royal Court in a play called *Where Do We Live?* by New York playwright Chris Shinn. And my friend Tom MacRae wrote a Comedy Central TV show, *Threesome*, where I played the boyfriend.

In the early days, were you ever mistaken as gay? Constantly! I guess I was young looking and I went to lots of gay bars and clubs, because my friends were gay. And I danced! So that's all sorts of the obvious things that people saw. I guess I also looked kind of pretty too [laughs].

Did you ever witness homophobia? Absolutely. My best friend Brendon and I went to an all-boys school, where there's always tacit homophobia, even though there were gay teachers. Every now and again people would have real issues with something that was gay or the idea of homosexuality. So my friend and I used to walk around hand-in-hand at school, just to piss people off. I've always wondered what it is that people find so confronting. What is the actual risk to them? My question to them is how does it actually affect you? How?

If you were gay, who would float your boat? Matt Bomer. He's a terribly attractive man. He's a great actor and he's scintillatingly handsome.

Who is Adam Garcia's diva? Perhaps LeAnn Rimes? LeAnn Rimes is amazing. She was on the *Coyote Ugly* set for the last two weeks of filming

and I love *Can't Fight The Moonlight*. For my diva, I'd say Taylor Swift. She's really cool and super-cute, and I love the way she writes. In fact, I think she's *the* new diva! But if I had to choose old school, it'd be Whitney Houston.

Saturday Night Fever pretty much launched your career. What is your favourite disco song? I love disco, but I have to go a step further and say *Canned Heat* by Jamiroquai, because he's nu-funk disco, and I love myself some Jamiroquai!

In the industry, do you ever get confused with the actor Andy Garcia? Yes! Once someone even sent me a picture of Andy Garcia to sign. They must have assumed Andy Garcia was in this play at the Royal Court and wanted an autograph. So I signed it Adam Garcia!

Is there a dream role you're yet to play? Frank-N-Furter from *The Rocky Horror Show*.

You'd have to steal that from Craig McLachlan! Yes, but I don't think he'll release that! Not from his "cold dead hands" in the words of Charlton Heston!

Have you ever had a wardrobe malfunction on stage? Worse! I've had one off-stage, which led to one on-stage. I was playing Fiyero in *Wicked*. I wore white jodhpurs and, well, I decided to have a drink – which poured straight down my front. I thought *I can't be the super-hot new prince with a wet patch!* So I started drying it in a hurried effort, while the music was playing and my scene was coming up. I was drying and drying, when suddenly I couldn't hear any music at all and realised... that's my cue! So I ran! I should add that London's Apollo Theatre has the most circuitous labyrinthine route from your dressing room to the stage. I was a minute-and-a-half late, which in theatre time is a lifetime. It literally stopped the show. The orchestra couldn't play any more and it was so obvious that something had gone terribly wrong – and all I'd done was wet myself!

Like many actors on stage, do you find a dance belt to be traumatic, followed by pure relief when removed? Yes! You do get used to it, but it's always a pleasure taking those bastards off!

In your career so far, who have you met that's been a pinch yourself moment? I guess when I got to hang out with David Attenborough. We had a chat about hermits! For about ten minutes we chatted about what it would be like to be a hermit, and then we made some jokes about gorillas. He's my absolute hero.

MORE: The *Singin' In The Rain* Australian tour is currently playing Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne. For more visit www.Singin.com.au.