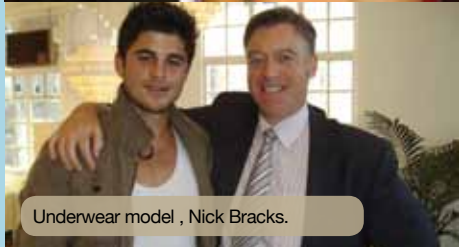




...a flirty Craig McLachlan.



Underwear model, Nick Bracks.



Actor, Cameron Daddo.



The Bill star, Scott Maslen.



Singer and TV host, David Campbell.



Singer with Oh Mercy, Alexander Gow.

MATT'S MATES

HE'S GRILLED ACTORS AND FOOTY PLAYERS, MEDIA STARS AND STUNT MEN, NOW IT'S OUR STRAIGHT MATE QUIZ MASTER'S TURN TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS. MATTHEW MYERS LOOKS BACK AT 100 STRAIGHT MATE INTERVIEWS.

DNA: Where did the idea for the Straight Mates interviews come from?

Matthew Myers: When I was growing up in the '70s and '80s, there wasn't much support for gay people. TV and movies often portrayed gay characters as confused, sick, psychotic or they were just the comic relief. There was homophobia in schools, in religion and family life. I wanted young guys to see that straight celebrities who they often look up to are okay with them being gay. Knowing that support is out there makes a difference.

Who's been your favourite interview?

Osher Gunsberg (formerly Andrew G, *Australian Idol*) and I have had the best time yakking. He's very candid and passionate about gay rights. Ian Stenlake (actor, *Sea Patrol*) is super sweet, as are David Campbell and Craig McLachlan, who even sang *Happy Birthday* to me. I enjoyed bantering with Karl Stefanovic, cracking up with our schoolboy humour!

Do you stay in touch with any of them?

I've become great friends with Stuart Reardon (UK rugby player) and I also see Wil Anderson (comedian) and Nick Bracks (model) from time to time. I'm now friends with a few of the footballers, too. I keep in touch with Richie Branco and Dan Ewing. It's nice to know I have two former Power Rangers on call!

Who, in the media industry, do you admire?

Andrew Denton has a wonderful way of bringing out the best in people. When I interviewed him he turned the tables on me, as I knew he would. Graham Norton also puts his guests at ease effortlessly.

You often ask the Straight Mates who their diva is? Who's yours?

As a teenager I fell in love with Agnetha Fälkskog from ABBA. Barbra Streisand has the most wonderful voice. But my all-time favourite is the beautiful and esoteric Kate Bush.

Who would you turn straight for?

I've always found Halle Berry quite hot, especially in the film *Swordfish*. But then Hugh Jackman turns up shirtless and, well...

Who would be your Sexiest Man Alive from the Straight Mates?

It's hard to go past Stuart Reardon with his ripped body, and Osher Gunsberg with those beautiful eyes. I've also had a bit of a thing for Jason Hughes since he played gay Warren in *This Life*. He's absolutely charming and has the most gorgeous Welsh accent. We made a deal that if they do *This Life + 20* we'll do the interview again.

Some of the Straight Mates have come a long way since you spoke to them.

I didn't realise how much young talent I'd be interviewing, and how grateful they'd be for the exposure. I discovered I was actually helping them move on in the industry. Guys like Dan Ewing, Richie Branco, Nick Bracks, Alexander Gow, Ben Barber and Blake Worrell Thompson have all been moving onwards and upwards. I'm very proud of them.

Have many people declined the Straight Mate interview request?

Only a couple, which makes me wonder why. Maybe they aren't our mates, or maybe they aren't straight!

Or maybe the idea of being in a gay magazine is too full-on for them?

Yes, that's why I really admire the footballers who haven't been afraid to appear in DNA.

Who has surprised you the most with his answers?

Lawrence Mooney (*Dirty Laundry Live*) when he said he'd had a gay experience. He'd been to "gay world" and had a thoroughly enjoyable time! *Bondi Vet*, Dr Chris Brown, pointed out that there's gay behaviour in animals and he believes it's a case of nature over nurture. And then there was Eddie McGuire when he said he knew of gay AFL players. That stirred the pot made the front page of *The Age*.

Is there an ultimate Straight Mate you'd love to interview?

Many! George Clooney, James Franco, John Hamm from *Mad Men*, David Beckham, Prince Harry. But my ultimate would be Daniel Craig.