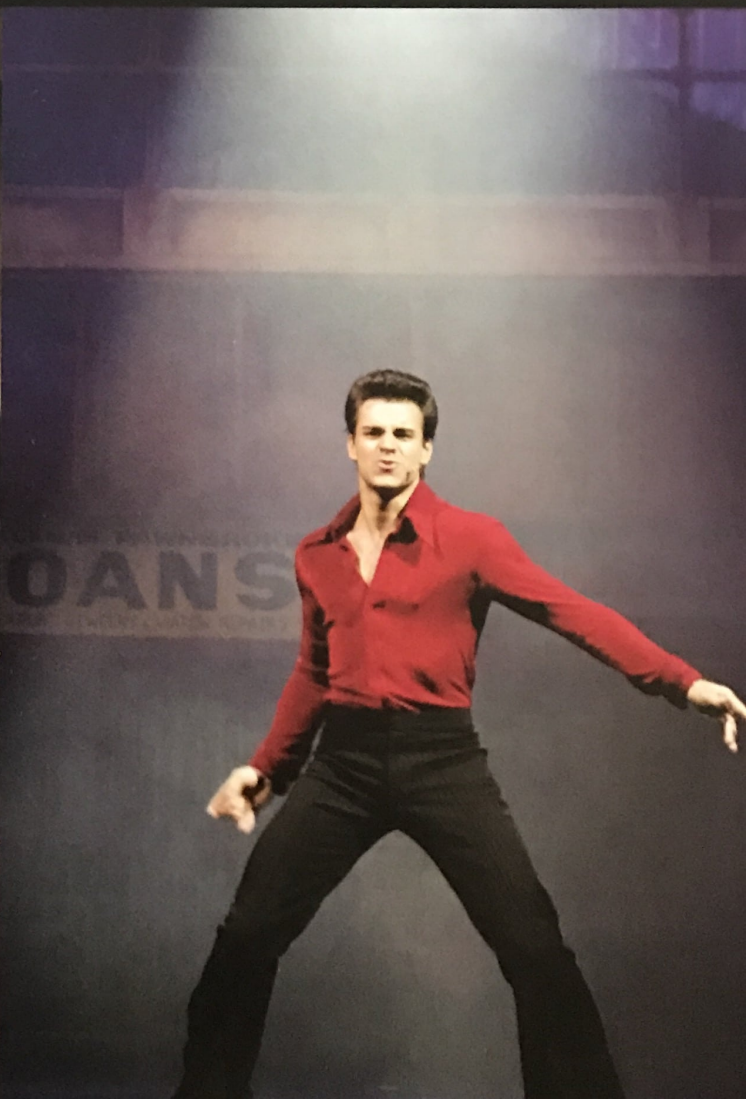
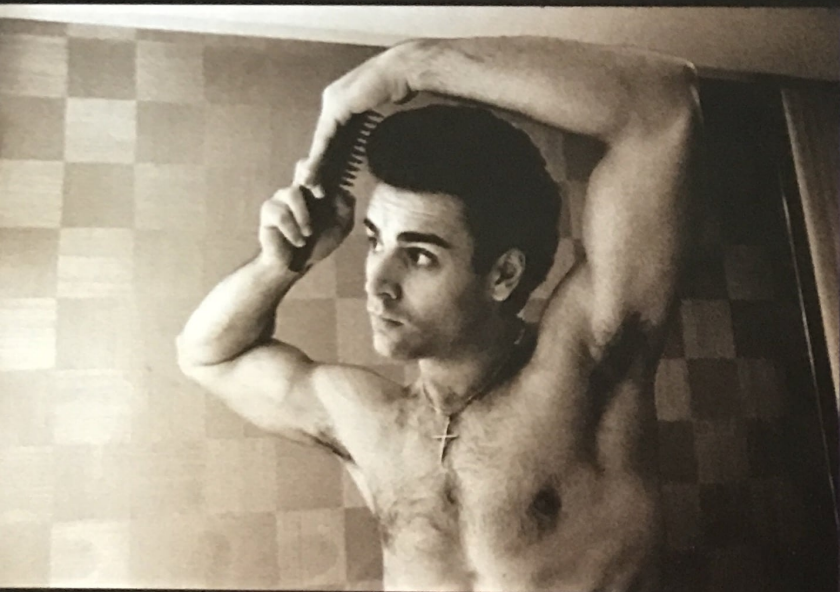


Adam-Jon in the famous dressing scene from *Saturday Night Fever*; and working those stretch pants on stage.





# BOOGIE MAN

He gives us fever! Adam-Jon Fiorentino, star of the stage production of *Saturday Night Fever*, talks about musicals, his gay mates and, er, his bottom!

INTERVIEW BY MATTHEW MYERS

**DNA:** Have you always had a passion for musical theatre?

**Adam-Jon:** Yeah, I started dancing when I was three years old and have always wanted to do musicals. It comes from watching old Gene Kelly movies on television. They had them on every Sunday afternoon and I used to watch them with my mum.

**As well as *Saturday Night Fever*, you've been in *Grease*, *Mamma Mia!* and *The Boy From Oz*. For someone born in the '80s, you've lived a lot in the '70s.**

It really feels like that. For a while I also lived in the '80s with *Footloose*. I just need to do a modern musical now and I'll be sorted.

**What's your favourite ABBA song?**

I quite like *SOS* and *Voulez Vous* is good.

**You're in great shape. What is the secret to maintaining a good body?**

[Laughs] Plenty of gym, and the show keeps me in good shape too. It provides me with the cardio that I need, so now I only need to run once a week, but then there is weight training three times a week – to stop me from disappearing!

**The audience love it when you take your shirt off in *Saturday Night Fever*.**

Yeah, the shirt comes off in act one. It's that famous getting-dressed scene.

**It must feel pretty satisfying getting that kind of reaction from the audience.**

Oh, it's great! But we don't always get that reaction every night. Those are the nights that kind of hurt and I think, "Ooh, did I eat something wrong today? Am I showing it?"

But most of the time it gets a good reaction and that puts a smile on my face.

**Quite a few people have commented on your great bum!**

[Laughs] That's one thing I pride myself on! But it's beginning to disappear a little, so I've got to start working on it. Too much of doing the show has flattened it out. I guess it's what you'd call a European butt.

**With all that dancing and jumping, do you**

**worry that your pants will split?**

No, the pants are pretty good. Any of the ones that I do the split-jumps in are all made of stretch. We had that problem right in the very beginning. We tried out different types and I actually wrecked a few pairs of white suit-pants. So we had to change the choreography for that, but the costumes are all very well made.

**Do lots of girls hit on you?**

Yeah, I guess so. Every now and again – at opening nights more than anything else – once people have had a few drinks and they get a bit of confidence. But I don't get it at the stage door or anything like that.

**How about guys?**

Oh yeah, I get a few every now and again, but that's always a compliment.

**Do you have a gay mate?**

Several, especially in the show. Darren Tyler who plays Bobby is a good friend of mine. Then there's also David Harris... I'd say that at least 50 per cent of my friends are gay.

**Do they take you out to gay clubs?**

In the past, yes, absolutely! I think gay bars are actually safer venues because you haven't got a lot of people getting drunk and showing off how macho they are and starting fights. I've found that a gay club is the last place that a fight will start, so I almost prefer

to be there.

But I don't really go out

at the

moment because of the show. I wish I could go out and have a drink, but it's a rare occasion where I venture out after work. I usually don't go out to any kind of club because the music is too loud and I'd lose my voice by having to talk over it.

**How's your gaydar?**

It's not too bad, actually. I have been mistaken on the odd occasion, but usually I'm not bad. Like I said, half my friends are

gay, and I guess with them pointing out other gay men, I kind of get the gist.

**Do you have a favourite all-time Hollywood musical?**

*Singing In The Rain*.

**Apart from Tony in *SNF*, is there a dream role you'd love to play?**

My ultimate dream would be to play Peter Allen in *The Boy From Oz*. That would be fantastic, but I think I'm a bit too European looking to pull that one off! [Laughs]. I'd also love to play Roger in *Rent*.

**If any young guys reading this interview were thinking of becoming a dancer, what advice would you give them?**

Classes! Classes! Classes! Get out there and do as many of the professional classes available. If you're in Sydney, there are some great ones held at Brent Street, which are usually run at night and taught by great professionals too. In Melbourne the Dance Factory and Danceworld 301 still hold professional classes. That's the best way to go and to also get an agent. Work as hard as you can because it's the only way you're going to get there. It's pure dedication.

**Boxers or briefs?**

For years I was a boxers man but now I've converted to briefs. I wore boxers when I was around 18, 19 and then I didn't wear

**"My bum is one thing I pride myself on, but too much of this show has flattened it out!"**

anything at all when I was about 20, 21.

Then I started to wear briefs. I got my first pair of Calvin's about three weeks ago.

**Do you think it has anything to do with playing Tony on stage?**

Well, I wear a support in the show, which is like a G-string. From the front it looks like a proper support, but from the back you don't get the visible panty line with the tight pants! [Laughs]. 🍑