

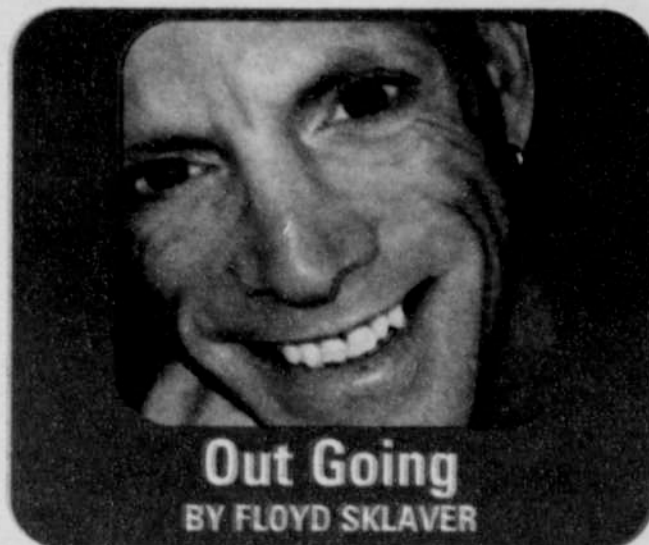
Separated at Birth

In the mix with Brian Johnson

I have a doppelgänger. One day a friend said: "I saw you jogging at 6 a.m. outside the post office. I waved, but you didn't see me."

No, I certainly didn't because it wasn't me. I'm often up at 6 a.m. but never jogging. However, I know who does, and I've been mistaken for him before.

Brian Charles Johnson, guiding force behind the ultra-successful Salon Q (which celebrates its third anniversary this fall), also guides the new lifestyle magazine Mix, published by *The Oregonian*. I took the opportunity of the magazine's launch to sit down with the handsome 6-foot ("and shrinking," he says) ex-dancer with the gleaming bald head, bright blue eyes and big smile. My Maxi-Me.



Out Going
BY FLOYD SKLAVER

driving through Copenhagen and stumbled onto Mus. That was all it took. We fell in love.

Floyd Sklaver: What's the new magazine about?

Brian Johnson: It's Portland's hottest new food and drink publication. It's designed to focus on the 25- to 49-year-olds...who dine out in the city, drink fine wine, beer, cocktails. People we love, those near and dear to our hearts.

FS: Are you implying that I'm a drunk?

BJ: I'm not insinuating anything other than the fact that you have good taste.

FS: Flatterer. You're publishing a lifestyle magazine. How would you describe your lifestyle?

BJ: Oh my gosh, right now, my lifestyle is all work.



Floyd (left) meets his doppelgänger, Brian Johnson.

FS: What's it like to be gay at *The Oregonian*?

BJ: Well, in 1999 I left *The Oregonian*, and in my exit interview I told the general manager that we didn't have a domestic partnership policy and I didn't feel the paper supported our community, my community.... Within a year, and I'm not saying I had anything to do with this, but within a year the company adopted a domestic partnership policy and it's very, very robust.

FS: You still dating Mus?

BJ: Mus the man, as he calls himself.

FS: Where's he from?

BJ: Denmark.

FS: But he's Pakistani.

BJ: His parents are from Pakistan, but he was born and raised in Copenhagen.

FS: Why'd you go halfway around the world to get a boyfriend?

BJ: I went on this wonderful trip to Europe to buy a car, and after I bought it in Sweden, I was

FS: You went to Europe to buy a car?

BJ: I bought a Volvo and did the European delivery package, which means you order your car, pick it up in Sweden, then they let you drive around Europe, ship it back to the U.S. and deliver it to your house.... You actually save about 8 percent, and you get a free trip to Europe.

FS: Do other manufacturers do that as well?

BJ: I think BMW and Mercedes do.

FS: You started as a dancer. What happened to that?

BJ: Well, aging.... I went to the University of Oregon on a track scholarship. I was a high jumper. This was during the glory track years there. I wasn't talented enough really, and so as a P.E. elective, I decided to take a ballet class.... During that time, in the late '70s and early '80s, there weren't a lot of male dancers in the Northwest, so I worked a lot.... I ended up dancing at Disneyland, which was so demoralizing for someone at my skill level.

FS: Were you in costume?

BJ: I was a chimney sweep in the Mary Poppins float for a summer.... I also did the opening of the L.A. Olympics. I was a pioneer in a covered wagon, then a Fred Astaire look-alike.

FS: What's your theme song?

BJ: This is a total homosexual response, but I would say my theme song is "Listen" from *Dreamgirls*.

FS: How come?

BJ: I think one of the challenges, especially in my new role, is for me to really listen, to understand what motivates people, what creates change—and also I want to be heard.... The intention behind Salon Q, for instance, is to provide an environment for people to come together and create their own experiences. I'm a person who's really motivated by—I know this sounds trite—but by love, just love, understanding, compassion, really asking others, "What makes you tick?" That's where I get my energy, and that's what makes my life so fun.

FS: And what makes you so Out Going. 10

SALON Q, a monthly mixer for men and women to socialize in a smoke-free environment, starts 7 p.m. Sept. 11 at Vendetta, 4306 N. Williams Ave.

FLOYD SKLAVER wants to know about your event. E-mail him at floydsklaver@comcast.net.

SIZE MATTERS

Let me help you find the perfect space!

Randall Smith
REAL ESTATE BROKER

(503) 471-3573
DIRECT

randallsmith@chseal.com
randallselfhomes.com

COLDWELL BANKER
SEAL PROPERTIES
(503) 643-7325

Auto, Home, Life, Health & Business

epb&b insurance

"Your Independent Insurance Agency"

Elliott, Powell, Baden & Baker, Inc.

MARC BAKER
Downtown Portland
(503) 227-1771 • www.epbb.com

synergystaging

creating inspired spaces

Synergy Staging provides designer quality Staging to highlight the appeal of your property so it will sell faster and for more money. Call us for a free proposal so we can make your property irresistible to buyers.

For more information please visit our website at www.synergystaging.com

503-557-2244

Nik Murrow, ASP, IAHP
nik@synergystaging.com

Accredited Staging Professional™

Laser Hair Therapy Treats Men and Women

THINNING? BALDING?
STOP YOUR HAIR LOSS!!

* NO PAIN
* NO SURGERY
* NO SIDE EFFECTS

Revolutionary
Laser Technology

CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

ACTUAL CLIENTS • 6 MONTHS RESULTS

100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

503-241-3579

www.thriveaesthetics.com

832 NW NINETEENTH AVE • PORTLAND, OR 97209