

Accent

Newsletter of The AIDS Council of South Australia

New Directions for ACSA; equity health and human rights

ACSA has a new strategic plan to meet the challenges of the coming years. Our new plan reframes our work within the context of promoting health and wellbeing, not just responding to disease. We have made an explicit commitment to incorporating Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender health (GLBT) into our work. The challenges of sustaining the community response to HIV after 25 years are many and varied. From a health promotion perspective, our strategic goals include; decreasing the number of people becoming infected with HIV; reducing HIV related stigma and discrimination; increasing HIV and sexual health testing rates; sex work law reform and improved access to injecting equipment for all populations. Copies of the plan can be downloaded from the website. www.acsa.org.au/stratplan.html



winter 2010

Included in this issue:

President's Introduction	2
From the CEO	3
Staff Contact page	4
Gay Men's Health	5
Sex Industry Network	6
SAVIVE	7
Client Support Services	8
Library and Information	9
Wear It With Pride	10
AIDS Awareness Week	12
HIV Statistics	14
Gay Men's Health Program Committee	15
Drama Down Under	16



president's introduction

A message from the President of ACSA

'Everything Old is New again.' Boy do I wish that was true, however, Accent is back in its new format, so "Welcome to Accent". A few years ago it was decided that resources could be saved by changing from a hard copy version of Accent to an electronic one. The current Board felt that there are enough of you, our readers, who do not have access to the Internet to justify bringing back a hard copy.

Accent will be coming out quarterly and aims to inform its readers about the activities conducted by ACSA and what will be coming up in the next three months. Personally I would like to see it grow into a forum where items of interest to our communities can be discussed and debated, with this in mind I will be investigating the possibility of linking the hard copy with an electronic chat room, stay tuned for developments. If you are interested and want to get involved with the production of Accent please get in touch.

Since the last edition of Accent, there have been far too many changes at ACSA to mention here, so I will just concentrate on the recent work done by the Board. The directors have been involved for the past twelve months on developing the Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015. There will be a public of the launch on the 27th of June 2010, to coincide with the beginning of ACSA's 25th year. If you come to the launch please come over and say hello, I'd love to meet as many of you as possible. Personally I am very excited by the new Plan (quite an achievement as I do not easily become excited by strategic plans). I am confident that the new plan will become an extremely important working document for everyone involved with ACSA.

The Directors of the Board are working on streamlining the way we go about our business and to this end we have changed our meeting format and divided the monthly meetings into two parts 'Business' and 'Policy'. It is hoped that this change will ensure that our meetings will run to time (basically 2 hours) and be more efficient. Apart from reviewing our Board policies, the Directors have reviewed the ACSA constitution and we will be distributing a Draft copy to you in the near future. Once everyone has had a chance to review the proposed changes, a General Meeting will be called to debate the changes.

Currently there is a vacancy on the Board for the position of Treasurer. So if you have an interest in finance, or would like to learn, please consider volunteering. The AGM is still a few months away, but it is not too early to consider whether or not you would be interested in standing for the Board. If you think you might be interested or just want to find out more please contact me on 0438 809636. I'll be happy to talk to you and answer any of your questions. As a peer-based community organisation it is vital that members from our community serve as Directors on the Board.

Please let us know what you think of the 'new' Accent.

"Stay Safe"

Erik Michielsen
President

From the CEO



What's been happening at ACSA and in the HIV Sector...

Welcome to the first edition of a new and revised Accent, ACSA's quarterly newsletter. Despite the digital age, a good old fashioned newsletter has been reintroduced in order to maintain contact and enhance engagement with our members and supporters. I hope you enjoy reading about our work. We will supplement Accent with an electronic update in between editions.

A major activity for ACSA over the last year has been our new Strategic Plan. As mentioned earlier in this edition of Accent, the new plan reframes ACSA's work within the context of equity, health and human rights and it provides the broad strategic framework and direction to the councils work for the next five years, together with an overview of the history of ACSA and the contexts within which we work. Describing why, how and what we do is important for understanding the sort of organisation that ACSA is, and aspires to be. The new plan makes our commitment to GLBT community health more explicit, and highlights important areas of community engagement and ageing as priority activities over the life of the plan.

2010 marks the beginning of the 25th year of ACSA. Our early response to HIV/AIDS was marked by community mobilisation and is very different from the type of work we do today. The one enduring feature of our organisation is that we remain firmly grounded in the communities we serve and represent. Central to ACSA's longevity is the meaningful involvement of, and engagement with, communities: as staff members, volunteers, stakeholders and program participants.

Program Committees and Reference Groups perform a key function as a source of ideas, advice, community trends and support for ACSA in responding to the challenges of meeting wider population health goals whilst maintaining HIV and STI prevention efforts. The legitimacy of ACSA's role as an independent community governed and directed organisation rests on our ability to engage community members in the development and monitoring of our programs. At present our SIN, SAVIVE and Gay Men's Health programs operate Program Committees, and we have recently convened a Positive Gay Men's Reference Group. If you are interested in joining a Program Committee, please contact one of our Managers.

In closing I do hope that you can spare some time to become involved in ACSA's work in some way. The best way to keep in touch with us is to become a member. Membership is free and enhances the voice of ACSA as a strong, community directed organisation.

Shane Dinnison
Chief Executive Officer



staff page

ACSA Staff June 2010

Chief Executive Officer	Shane Dinnison	8334 1600	shane.dinnison@acsa.org.au
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Volunteers	Terry, Keith, Amanda, Ron, lan		

SAVIVE

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Volunteers	Jan, John, Kosta, Mel, Mary, Georgia, Curtis, Penni, Craig		

SA SIN

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Volunteers	Kerry, Stephen, Kym, Tracey		

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Gay men's health

Bowling over Homophobia on the International Day Against Homophobia

On the 17th of May, the LGBT community gathered at the Prospect Broadview Bowling Club to celebrate the International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO) 2010, themed around homophobia in the sports world.

Shane Dinnison, CEO of ACSA introduced the day, its history and what it means for IDAHO to be formally recognised as a symbol of the fight against homophobia. In her "Welcome to Country" local Aboriginal Elder, Aunty Josie Agius, said "It is a pleasure to be here and know that these things are happening around the place... we take people as we find them, and I think that is the best way we can do things, and get to know people".

Gavin Wanganeen, retired Port Adelaide Football Club Captain and Ambassador for Youth Opportunity, read the 'Declaration against any form of Discrimination in the Sports World'. He emphasised the values of sport, centred on justice, equality, team unity, respect and dignity: "It's about fighting any form of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation".

Acting Equal Opportunities Commissioner and Director of Youth Justice Reform, Dr Kylie O'Connell, highlighted that "sport is meant to be an equaliser, it's meant to be one area of life where you are judged not by who you are, but by what you can do". She called upon sports clubs to stamp out the unspoken culture of homophobia in the sporting world.

Will Sergeant, local gay activist, entertainer and winner of two bronze medals in the International Gay Games, added a more personal touch, reminiscing on his early childhood experiences of homophobia in sport. Will questioned why, after over 40 years of gay rights activism, only three elite team sportsmen have had the courage to come out. He urged other LGBT sports players, from amateur through to elite level, to "come out, come out, whoever or wherever you are".



Sex industry network



International Whores Day and SIN's 21st birthday

SIN recently celebrated International Whores Day AND our 21st birthday. We held a week of events, including a rally on the steps of Parliament, a public exhibition and a private Burlesque-themed party to celebrate both of these very important events.

June the 2nd marked international whores day, the birth of the sex worker rights movement. This year the 'South Australian Sex Industry Network' (SIN) and a newly formed lobby group 'Sex Workers Gaining Empowerment, Rights and Recognition' (SWAGGERR) joined with the Working Women's Centre of SA, Scarlet Alliance, and ACSA to call for the decriminalisation of sex work in South Australia.

A rally was held on the steps of parliament house with more than 50 sex workers and their supporters in attendance. The Hon Gail Gago MLC, the Minister for the Status of Women spoke at the rally in support of the cause, and Hon Steph Key, member for Ashford announced she was planning on drafting a bill for the decriminalisation of sex work. Other MP's supporting the call included Michelle Lensink, MLC and Tammy Jennings, MLC.

Sex workers and our workplaces are still criminalised in South Australia, and we are the only state in Australia to have had no law reform on this for more than 55 years. SIN commends Steph Key and other supportive politicians and looks forward to working closely with her and other supporters to ensure any new legislation is going to promote the health, safety and wellbeing of South Australian sex workers.

There is currently a petition calling for the decriminalisation of sex workers in South Australia, and interested people are encouraged to contact SIN to see how they can support this important human rights issue.

Following the rally, SIN opened an exhibition at The Dog and Duck Ale House on Hindley Street. Over two days, for a gold coin donation, the public was welcome to visit our exhibition. The exhibition comprised information and photos from SIN's past and present, educational displays regarding STI's, a brothel room and massage parlour room installation, posters, t-shirts, PASA and SIN mag covers and various 'tools of the trade'. We received a lot of interest from different media outlets and experienced positive feedback from patrons.



Our final event to celebrate International Whores Day and SIN's 21st was a Burlesque-themed private party for the sex industry and their supporters in the function room at The Directors Hotel. The room was decorated with a multitude of red and black feathers, and many guests also chose to dress-up and everyone looked amazing! The evening was very relaxed and allowed everyone to socialise and mingle. We also held a raffle and our annual games – all of which were a great success. This was topped off with a delicious mudcake decorated with large feathers and a "21" candle. It was definitely a fantastic event to end a busy but exciting week of events for SIN and the SA sex industry.



Community based health promotion for people who inject drugs

Hepatitis C Peer Educator

A peer educator from the Hepatitis C Council is now available at Norwood and Noarlunga Clean Needle Program (CNP) to provide peer education on Hepatitis C. If you have any questions about Hep C, especially if you would like more information on accessing Hep C treatment, come and chat with the peer educator, Mark.

Mark will be at:

Norwood

Friday mornings fortnightly from 2nd July

Noarlunga

the 3rd Friday afternoon of the month

Mark will also be hosting Liver Friendly Lunches every 3 months at both sites. More information on the dates of the lunches is available from SAVIVE on 83341699.

What's new at SAVIVE

SAVIVE Norwood CNP has a computer with internet access for client use. There's no need to book at time to use it – as long as there is a SAVIVE staff member or volunteer in the CNP. A printer is also available for printing up information, resumes etc.

DVD resources – SAVIVE has a number of information resources in DVD format that you can watch at all SAVIVE CNPs. We have short DVDs on overdose, safer injecting and hepatitis. If you're interested in watching any just ask the SAVIVE worker at your nearest CNP.

Venoscope Vein finder

Frequently, long term injectors have scarring, vein blockage and vein collapse from repeated injecting into the same site. Difficulty accessing veins can result in users injecting in feet, hands and femoral veins – all of which are dangerous and potentially life threatening veins to use, potentially causing infection and nerve damage. SAVIVE now has a tool that long term injectors can use to reduce these risks. With the Venoscope Veinfinder, long term injectors will be able to identify safer alternative injecting sites and reduce vein damage.

Dates to Remember

June 30th is the deadline for community contributions to the 21st anniversary edition of Pure S magazine! All contributions from users are welcome but you need to get in quick. If you have a story or experience about using or being on treatment, a movie or book review, a drawing, or a safer injecting tip etc, drop it into SAVIVE Norwood or email it to savive@savive.org.au.

August 31st is International Overdose Awareness Day, a day of remembrance of those who have lost their lives to overdose. Overdose Awareness Day is also a day to raise awareness of overdose and throughout the week commencing 30th August SAVIVE will be focussing on educating users about overdose prevention and response. The symbol of Overdose Awareness is a silver ribbon - pins will be available through SAVIVE CNPs.

Client support Services

Mahamati, ACSA's Client Support Worker



Twenty years ago in 1990 I started work at ACSA, as project officer for the Women Partners of Bisexual Men program funded by AFAO. Now in 2010 I find myself back at ACSA in a building which feels like home. (I had come here for meditations when the Rajneesh commune leased the building, and when I was Coordinator of Adelaide Rape Crisis Centre who were in the building before ACSA). My current role is Client Support Worker, for HIV + people, the GLBT community, SIN and SAVIVE clients. I am assisting HIV + people on low incomes access the Bobby Goldsmith Red Ribbon Fund, will be administering the Emergency Relief fund when the money becomes available and assisting clients in a range of matters. Housing – or lack of it – is a key issue for many people and I have been assisting people gather support letters and applications for Housing SA. Sadly it is not unusual for people to be on Category 1 lists for several years, often in very stressful circumstances. Other issues I have been assisting with have been coming out issues, family pressures and financial problems. Often people don't quite know where to start sorting out some problems and I can help people prioritize, find suitable referrals for them, help with Centrelink issues, basic budgeting, find avenues for immigration and legal problems. People new to South Australia have found it helpful to know how services for HIV + people function and I can link new people up with what services they need.

But it doesn't have to be all about problems! Sometimes it is just useful to have a supportive chat with someone, or share some good news. So, if you are a HIV + person, a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender person, a client of SIN or SAVIVE feel free to contact me if you feel I could be useful to you. I have had 30 years' experience working in community services in three States, and while I won't have the answers for everything, I can probably find you someone who can. We are also looking at ways ACSA can provide supportive activities for the communities it serves and welcome suggestions. My email is mahamati@acsa.org.au and direct phone line with voice mail is 8334 1638

Mahamati
Client Support Worker

PEP

Act Fast!

72 hours is what you've got

PEP is a medical treatment that may prevent you from becoming HIV positive after a risk exposure



PEP Hotline

1800 022 226

Library

ACSA's Library & Information services....



Library & Information Services at ACSA has undergone some staff changes over the last year. I would like to introduce myself as the new Coordinator of Library & Information Services. Some of you may know me from my work at ACSA in the past. I am pleased to be back at ACSA, taking on new and fresh challenges.

The ACSA Current Awareness Service is being revamped to better ensure the currency and relevancy of the information. Subscription is now by email. You can subscribe to as many or few as you like of 21 topics. Subscribers will receive a fortnightly e-bulletin, as long as something relevant to the topic has come up in that fortnight. Emails will include links to news stories, journal articles & abstracts, reports, websites; anything which may be of relevance to the topic.

The topics are as follows:

1. HIV Science & medicine (clinical)
2. HIV Australia
3. HIV Global
4. HIV & STIs ATSI
5. HIV Women & children
6. HIV Psychological & social
7. HIV Treatments
8. HIV Epidemiology
9. HIV Migration & Mobility
10. HIV Legal
11. HIV Custodial settings
12. HIV Art, literature & media
13. HIV Policy
14. HIV & Ageing
15. HIV Public health campaigns
16. HIV Criminalisation
17. HIV Transmission
18. GLBTI health
19. PWID/Harm reduction
20. Sex work
21. HIV/HCV Co-infection

If you would like to subscribe to any of the above lists, please drop me a line at information@acsa.org.au

Subscribers can join, leave or change any lists at any time.

If you have any suggestions for topics which are not covered, please contact me at the email address above.

Also, if at any time you are looking for information on a particular topic and don't know where to start, or if you are chasing an obscure reference, don't hesitate to contact me and I'll do my best to help. My email is janiece.pope@acsa.org.au and direct phone line with voice mail is 8334 1624

Best wishes,

Janiece Pope



South Australia launches: Wear it with Pride campaign

The South Australian launch of a six month education and community awareness campaign, highlighting changes in 85 Federal laws that effect same sex couples, kicked off at the Orangutan enclosure at the Adelaide Zoo on 19th March 2010. The "Wear it with Pride campaign" highlights the recent changes in law to superannuation, parenting rights, immigration, health and aging, financial, social security, the workplace and public office. The campaign is being run by the National LGBT Health Alliance in collaboration with state partners. ACSA is a founding member of the Alliance

Two of South Australia's brightest gay icons, Ian Purcell and Doctor Gertrude Gossip, exchanged a range of witty banter as they co-hosted the launch. The zoo provided a perfect backdrop for an insightful and amusing discussion of the natural sexual diversity abundant in the animal kingdom, of which same sex attraction amongst humans is only a small part of a much larger tapestry.

Shane Dinnison, ACSA CEO, acknowledged the work of the Alliance and the benefits of the legal changes which came into effect in July 2009. Shane emphasised the importance of same sex couples knowing the benefits and responsibilities these changes entail and announced a local South Australian T-shirt design competition and a series of community forums to be held in August, September and October this year to continue promoting awareness of these changes. The first forum will be held at the Box Factory, 59 Regent St, Adelaide, on Tuesday 24th August 2010.

South Australia has eight 'Wear it with Pride Ambassadors', five of whom attended the launch; Hon. Ian Hunter MLC, Ian Purcell (AM), Libby O'Donovan, Greg Mackie (OAM) and Mahamati. The ambassadors have all played leading roles within the local LGBT community either through politics, arts and the community and were chosen to honour the role they have played in enhancing the lives of the LGBT community here in South Australia and to help spread awareness of these new changes.

Mahamati spoke of the 'changes and protection' that same sex couples now experience and her hopes that all within the community will engage with this campaign. Mahamati recognised that we have come a long way in terms in terms of the stigma and prejudice we face and that these new law changes were important but that this isn't the end of the journey.

Greg Mackie challenged the LGBT community to think about how these laws have brought our relationships under the banner of legal protection and have ensured us access to a whole range of legal entitlements that were previously unjustly denied to same sex couples. Greg spoke about the incremental steps the Federal and State Governments have taken to advance our rights and together with Mahamati acknowledged that more still needs to be done.

The Wear it With Pride campaign will continue to be rolled out across Australia, with all states and territories engaging with their LGBT community about our new found rights and responsibilities. Further information can be found at www.wearitwithpride.com.au.





It's huge. 85 Federal laws that discriminated against same-sex couples in social security, taxation, family law, the workplace, health, ageing and more have been reformed. To celebrate, 85 artists have created 85 T-shirts inspired by the changes. Find out which ones fit you.

 wearitwithpride.com.au



[We are always on the lookout for volunteers to help out during this important week. For more information, contact Janiece Pope on 83341624; e-mail janiece.pope@acsa.org.au]

AIDS Awareness week

AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day

The cornerstone of our HIV/AIDS public awareness campaign continues to be AIDS Awareness Week, held each year in the lead up to World AIDS day on December 1. The theme for 2009 was "Take action. No Discrimination": confronting the prejudices that exist within the gay and broader communities about HIV. HIV-related stigma and discrimination remain key barriers to dealing effectively with the HIV epidemic in Australia and around the world. The impact of these is not only felt by individuals living with HIV but also has direct consequences on Australia's public health response to the epidemic by undermining prevention, care and treatment efforts. HIV stigma can deter people at risk from being tested for HIV, postponing or rejecting care, and non-adherence to HIV treatment and medicines. It also remains the key obstacle for HIV-positive people disclosing their status to friends and family, employers and work colleagues, health care providers, insurance companies, landlords, and sexual partners for fear of being treated less favourably, or being outrightly rejected or abused. A whole range of factors have led to an increase in stigma and discrimination: social and legal acceptance has resulted in many gay men no longer identifying the need for 'gay community', so there has been a subsequent decline in direct social exposure and personal experience between HIV positive and HIV negative gay men. This is occurring the same time as the number of people living with HIV/AIDS is increasing each year. In the broader community, the little public exposure HIV obtains is through stories concentrating on those the media irresponsibly brands as "HIV predators". So it's no wonder that HIV positive people are reluctant to disclose their status.

In 2009, the Hon Gail Gago, MLC, launched AIDS Awareness Week at the inaugural Walk for AIDS in Botanic Park, which was also attended by His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, Governor of South Australia, and Mrs. Scarce; the Hon Ian Hunter, MLC and Dr Duncan McFetridge MP. Poh Ling Yiew also supported the event, which we hope will grow in the coming years. We also continued on with our street appeal, selling ribbons and merchandise in the CBD. We increased our reach to the general community this year with the generous assistance of Bob Parr from Wallis Cinemas. Bob arranged for the AIDS Trust of Australia's Community Service Announcements, by Marcia Hines, to be played at all Wallis Cinema Sessions during AIDS Awareness Week.

In 2010, AIDS Awareness Week runs from the 25th of November to the 1st of December (World AIDS Day).



ACSA supporters





HIV/AIDS statistics

South Australian HIV/AIDS statistics 2009

- In 2009 52 South Australians were diagnosed with HIV infection. This represents an increase of 5 infections from 2008, but a 15% decrease on the 2006 figure.
- For the 10 females diagnosed with HIV infection in SA in 2009, six originated from, or reported sexual contact with, partners from countries where there is a high prevalence of HIV infection.
- For the 16 heterosexual men diagnosed, 11 reported heterosexual sexual contact with a partner from a country where HIV is transmitted predominately by heterosexual contact.
- The transmission rate from injecting drug use continues to be low, accounting for around 7% of cases in 2009.
- Gay men and men who have sex with men accounted for half of the infections in 2009. Three quarters of those men had not had a HIV test in the previous 12 months.
- Half of the gay men diagnosed with HIV in 2009 were aged between 30 and 39 years.
- There has been no reported transmission of HIV from a sex worker to a client in SA.
- There were 1205 HIV diagnoses in SA between 1984 and 2009.
- An estimated 1000 South Australians are living with HIV/AIDS out of an estimated 18,500 people living with HIV in Australia at the end of 2009.



Reports recently released by ACSA

ACSA 5 Year Surveillance Report : a summary of the data from Clinic 275

ACSA Health Inequalities :

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex health policy in South Australia: An exploration and jurisdictional analysis

Annual reports of Trends in Behaviour (February 2010)

HIV Seroconversion study: A Summary of the data

Fact Sheets

Same Sex Domestic Violence

Anal Warts and Anal Cancers

All are available at www.acsa.org.au/publications.html

GMH_Program committe

Gay Men: your community based health service needs you!

Do you have a few hours to spare to help direct gay men's health and education programs? We need your thoughts; ideas and your support in helping us design and deliver services. The Program Committee performs a key function as a source of ideas, advice, community trends and support for the program to meet our health challenges.

The work we are undertaking over the next 12 months includes:

- A major SA-based campaign encouraging people to know their HIV status, test regularly for HIV and STIs and to re-enforce the use of condoms.
- An extensive outreach program to encourage general practitioners to engage more with gay men in relation to their sexual well-being and to develop gay friendly and affirmative GP practices
- Arranging for HIV and STI testing to be made available at Pulteney 431 sauna
- Ongoing education and outreach to gay beats and sex on premises venues.
- Increasing awareness in the gay community of post exposure prophylaxis and of non-condom based HIV harm reduction strategies men use, such as sero-sorting
- A HIV and STI awareness campaign targeting same sex attracted men from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- A campaign targeting gay men who acquire HIV whilst travelling overseas or interstate
- A condom needs assessment investigating what the barriers to condom use are and how we may be able to assist men increase the frequency with which they use condoms
- Promoting awareness of recent laws reform as they impact on same sex couples
- Deliver the 2010 Adelaide Gay Men's periodic survey
- Develop a project to support, explore and make recommendations on the service needs of people recently diagnosed with HIV
- Producing a guide for HIV negative men about how they can act to stay HIV negative
- Establish a major presence on the internet using new social media technologies to deliver interactive and participatory health promotion services

If you are interested, please contact David Vermeeren, Manager, Gay Men's Health on 83341626 or david.vermeeren@gmhealth.org.au

Man2Man InfoLine

Sexuality, Health, Info & Support

Health
Support
Confidential
Caring
Men
City
Country
Wellbeing
Sexuality

City Callers: (08) 8334 1617 Country Callers: 1800 671 582

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER!

SIGN UP FOR AN SMS OR EMAIL
REMINDER FOR A
SEXUAL HEALTH CHECK ONLINE

NO DRAMA!

SEXUAL
HEALTH
CHECK

DRINKS
THUR 8PM

PAYMENT
THURS!

CALL
MUM!
SUNDAY

YOGA
TUE 7PM

HOUSE
WARMING
SAT 10PM

HARDCUT
SAT TUE

DRINKS
WITH
DEAN
9PM

ALL
DINNER
8PM

DANCE
PARTY
2 DEAN
MIDNITE

GYM
6:30PM

SOCCER
FESTIVAL
NEW YORK

PAUL'S
PARTY
TUE 7PM

SHOPPING
-BREAD
-EGGS
-MILK

DANCE
CLASS
SAT 2PM

CAST
TOOD!

WWW.THEDRAMADOWNUNDER.INFO

