

seriously...

It's hard to believe that BUTT magazine has been around five years. Bringing together artists from the more underground world of Planet Homo, it manages to show cocks galore while somehow making it seem like art. Clever people.

Among the pink pages of the second (!) most iconic gay magazine in the world, you will find a silhouette of Jake Shears' rather impressive cock, an interview with director supreme John Waters and articles on everything from Madonna's hairdresser to naked Parisian prostitutes; male of course. Set up in 2001 by Jop van Bennekom and Gert Jonkers, BUTT has seen its subscribers rise while still remaining

underground and cutting edge.

Contributing Editor Wolfgang Tillmans has taken some of the most iconic photographs of the last fifteen years, picking up the Turner Prize in 2000. So prestigious is he that he's just been given a retrospective in America and he's not even dead. boyz recently had the honour of meeting both Jop and Wolfgang.

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So, what's the idea behind BUTT?

Wolfgang: Well, the good thing about the gay community is that it's become so acceptable over the last ten years. But now it's become a bit too mainstream, a bit too normal. There's more to it than spending money and getting drunk.

Jop: It's a very real sort of gay magazine. I just like it when you open a magazine and you can be sure that you're looking at or reading about a guy who is at least bisexual. It's almost like a club magazine of a group of gays, and we just interview people we are fascinated by.

Who is the typical BUTT reader?

W: There is no typical BUTT reader. That is the beauty of the magazine. BUTT came out of a mood that different people shared in different countries around the world, that there should be a more adventurous voice for the gay community.

It's not often you get adverts from Gucci and cock gracing the pages of the same magazine.

J: I know! We never went out to get such great advertising, they just came to us. We don't have a PR or anything like that. We just put the magazine out, and got such a huge reaction to it.

on cocks but take off the parental warning on the show. It's better to have 250,000 people go through with a few less cocks than only 50,000 with two.

Do you often tone yourself down in order to attract a wider audience?

W: No, in Chicago, I had the horniest show ever. I had a three-metre tall man pissing on a chair. It was wild. I had very few complaints.

Who have been your favourite celebrities you've shot?

W: I don't even like the word 'celebrity', because I think the word, by very definition, means people who are famous for not doing very much. That said, I did meet Madonna at the Turner Prize. She pretended to know who I was.

What did she say?

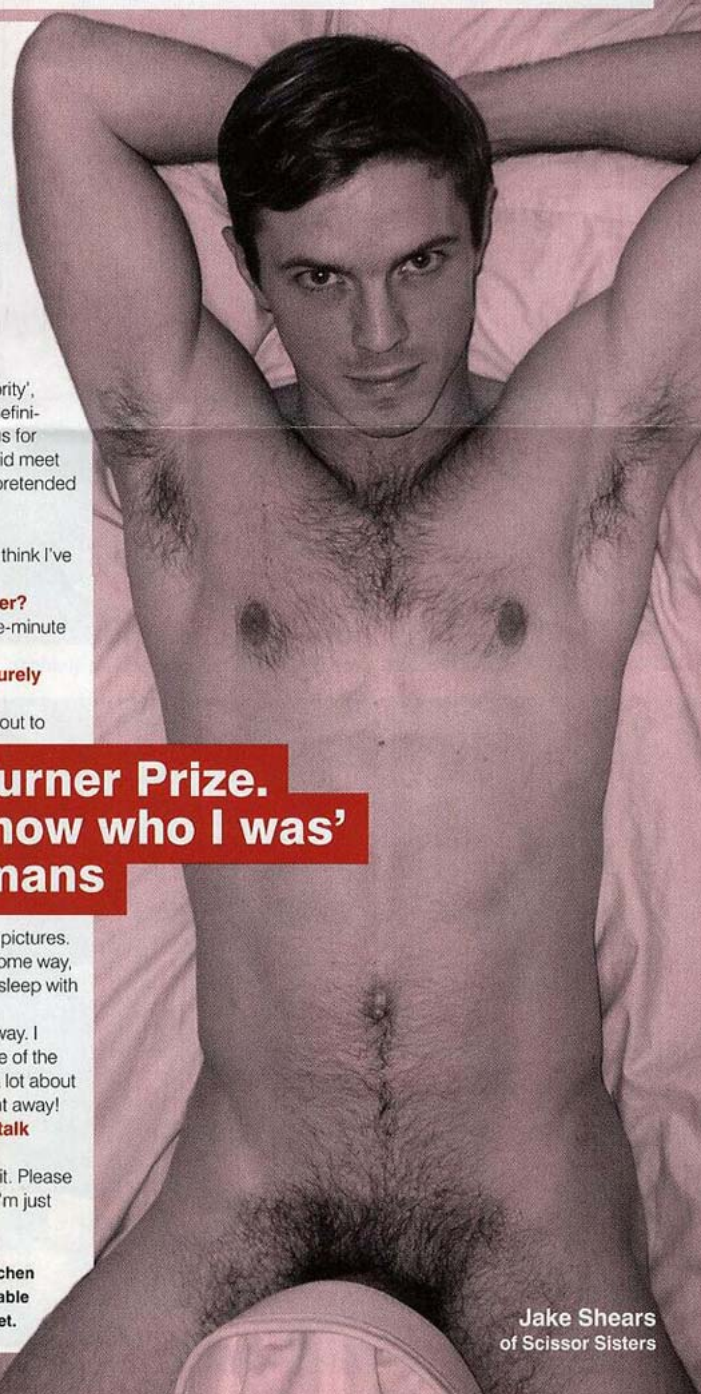
W: She asked, 'Are you an artist?' I think I've heard a lot about you.'

Did you say the same back to her?

W: [Laughs] No, it was only a three-minute encounter.

Do you ever interview people purely because you fancy them?

W: Yes, sometimes. But I'm not about to



'I did meet Madonna at the Turner Prize. She pretended to know who I was' - Wolfgang Tillmans

You've managed to bag some really great interviews - Michael Stipe, Jake of Scissor Sisters... was bribery involved?

J: It's just down to people liking the magazine. We don't have a strategy, we just make something we like, and other people like it, and so they want to get involved. We also know a lot of people, which helps!

Wolfgang, what else are you up to?

W: I've just come back from LA, where my exhibition is on display. It's very exciting that suddenly this year America is on to me. I've already had shows in Chicago and New York this year, and in 2007 I have a show in Washington DC, rounding off and arriving at the centre of power. [Laughs].

Do you think you will have middle-aged housewives picketing the museum?

W: Well, I might take out a couple of hard-

say who. I think you can see in my pictures. Everybody I photograph I love in some way, although obviously I don't want to sleep with the women, but I still love them.

J: A lot of our writers get carried away. I think because they know the nature of the magazine, and know that we talk a lot about sex, some of them go there straight away!

Are you sure you don't want to talk celebrities, Wolfgang?

W: I really don't want to talk about it. Please don't see it as anything personal, I'm just not interested in them.

The BUTT book is published by Taschen and is out now, priced £16.99. Available at the Prowler Store on Brewer Street.

Jake Shears of Scissor Sisters