

# Stripper weeps as she’s cleared of role in wife’s £33k bank fraud

AN exotic dancer burst into tears as she was cleared of teaming up with her lesbian partner to swindle a global banking firm out of £33,000.

Camilla Forrest, a stripper at the For Your Eyes Only gentleman’s club in east London, was accused of setting up a bogus headhunting company with her wife Amy Olding.

The company, called City Search Partners, apparently specialised in recruiting senior executives for banks, a court heard.

Olding, 33, pocketed £33,400 in fees for headhunting four top financiers to work at banking giant Investec.

Another five invoices were ready to be submitted to Investec, where Olding worked in the human resources department.

She also had two other candidates “in the pipeline,” London’s Southwark Crown

By John Twomey

Court heard. But Olding’s fraud was uncovered by the bank and it emerged none of the six executives allegedly recruited by City Search Partners had ever heard of her firm.

Olding, of Bromley, south London, admitted fraud by abuse of position and fraud by false representation. She faces jail when she is sentenced in April. She and Miss Forrest, 32, married in June 2013 at the Old Marylebone Town Hall, central London – the venue for two of Sir Paul McCartney’s weddings.

The couple have since faced difficulties and their relationship is now in a “flux,” said Cameron Scott, defending Miss Forrest. He claimed the case had not been properly investigated.

Roger Daniells-Smith, prosecuting, told the

Camilla Forrest at court



Camilla Forrest and Amy Olding celebrate their wedding day in London in 2013

court: “The two lived together as a couple. Ms Olding was the insider at the bank, in a privileged position, working for the human resources department in recruitment.”

A bogus recruitment company was set up in a false name, Mr Daniells-Smith told the court. “They had no work, they had no client base, they had nothing,” he added. “It was just a company by name.”

Lawyers acting for Investec had been left to probe the allegations and

## First-time buyers on decrease

By Vicky Shaw

SCOTLAND is missing out on a boom in first-time buyers, according to the latest figures.

Across the UK, new owners now account for the majority of house purchases with a mortgage, the Halifax First-Time Buyer Review found.

Halifax said this is the first time since 1995 that first-time buyers have accounted for more than half of home purchases with a mortgage.

However, in Scotland, the numbers have fallen over the past year.

North of the Border, there were 35,100 first-time buyers in 2017 but 34,300 in 2018.

This is despite the most affordable homes in Britain being found in Scotland and the North-west of England.

East Ayrshire was identified as the most affordable area in Scotland, with homes at three times local gross earnings.

Inverclyde, South Ayrshire, West Dunbartonshire, and South Lanarkshire also made the UK’s top ten most affordable list.

# Doc Showbiz

BY SCOTLAND’S No1 SHOWBUSINESS WRITER, GAVIN DOCHERTY

# Opera boys putting the musical accent on fun

THIS is a story about four music graduates in tuxes using a mixture of opera, classical, West End and pop to romance their mostly female audience. Meet The Opera Boys. Eat your hearts out, The Three Tenors.

Po-faced musicologists may be horrified by this quartet who exude not gravitas but frivolitas. For their rendition of O Sole Mio, they invite an audience member on stage while they serenade her.

Richard Colvin, 40, from Glasgow, sometimes pretends to trip and fall over the filmsies that are often chucked at them on stage.

Further classical pieces like Luigi Denza’s Neapolitan composition, Funiculi Funicula, blend with Verdi’s The Drinking Song, Bring Him Home from Les Miserables and even a rendition of the James Bond theme Thunderball originally performed by Tom Jones.

And, in among the merchandising somewhere, there’s the industrial strength Y-fronts embossed with the boys’ logo and a love heart (don’t ask).

But make no mistake, these guys are earnest and sincere about what they do as entertainers.

Fellow Scot Colin Bryce, 30, raised in Lochgelly, Fife, says: “We take the music seriously but we don’t take ourselves seriously.”

The band’s business captain, Rob Cherry, 37, has set up these hardworking performers as a perfect vehicle for popularising the classical repertoire, making great works accessible to a wide audience without demeaning either the music or the audience. It’s a sentiment shared by fellow Englishman and fourth member Michael Storrs, 31.

Bryce earned his stripes as Elton John’s backing singer on both a UK tour and the Concert for Diana. “Elton was a bit of a surprise,” Bryce recalls. “I had this perception of him from the documentary Tantrums and Tiaras. But, for a 60-year-old guy, he had some energy.”

Meanwhile, Colvin credits his Jordanhill School music teacher,



Ian Anderson, as being “absolutely prolific” in unleashing his talent.

“From him I got the bug,” he says. “He also gave me some great career advice.”

With a punishing 30-date tour of the UK, the boys will hit the road in a bog-standard mini-bus, having previously lived the easy life as resident entertainment on board the Queen Mary 2.

Bryce offers: “We pride ourselves on making opera and classical music accessible. It’s about getting out there in front of live audiences and opening their eyes to it that way. There is a lot of humour throughout the show.”

Onstage, the blend of genres, the

humour and the talent lands every punch.

Colvin adds: “We’ll get away with it for a while yet. We’re in our fourth year of touring.

“Every year it gets bigger and better. The audiences are getting much more in tune of what we are trying to do.”

Final word from Bryce: “We have a bright future ahead. But how long are we going to get away with calling ourselves The Opera ‘Boys’?”

*!The Opera Boys will be at Cottiers Theatre, Glasgow 14th March; 15th Elgin Town Hall, Inverness; 16th Carnegie Hall, Fife; 17th Eden Court, Inverness*



HUMOUR: Top Michael, Colin, Rob, Richard... and those underpants

■ Baptiste (BBC1) the French gumshoe lamer than a mallard with bunions, drags his weary carcass through Amsterdam’s rancid red light district, tracking down a girl feared kidnapped by sex-traffickers. Ugly theme and ugly people (it’s Romania’s turn to supply the stereotypical bogeymen) all combine to produce this altogether ugly waste of airtime.

■ And so Ryan Sidebottom has taken his final bone-rattling ride in Dancing on Ice (ITV). There was something perversely Keith Harris and Orville about this odd-couple partnership of former international cricketer and skating pro Carlotta Edwards. No dubiety as to who the dummy is, though. In terms of mugging for the camera, Ryan was born in a trunk... pity he didn’t stay locked in it.

■ Cold Feet (ITV) ended the way it had begun with exchanges of clunky dialogue between winking/flirting middle-class bores that would scrub the crud off bedpans.

So, 100 Vaginas (C4) was a fascinating yet squeamish look into the most exclusive of all women’s clubs... I look forward to the sequel laying bare secrets of the male private members charter – wonder what they’ll call that?

There is genuine hope Chez Nous that this series will be its swan song, a telltale sign, perhaps, in the way that it didn’t end, just trailed away into welcome nothingness.

■ A pimpmobile edition of Top Gear (BBC2), with one of them in a new Ferrari Testosterone, pooh-poohing the wisdom of the other one driving a minted Porsche Gran Todgerissimo. Homilies: You’ve got to run your own race, rev your own wheels and hum your own hum. Most important of all, you’ve got to have faith, dear reader, that you are likely never to be the proud owner of either motor: may the Ford be with you.

■ Call the Cleaners (ITV) is a 15-minutes-of-fame shot for jolly spit-and-polish warhorses, up to their armpits in damp, mould, vomit and poop – nothing is too degrading for these super troupers. Though the scariest thing about this pointless human Polyfilla in the early-evening schedule is that it got made in the first place. A treatise on how a voyeuristic insight into somebody else’s squalor can wither the soul.

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