



attitude

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Negativity. There's a lot of it around at the moment. And a lot of it seems to be coming out of the US — or being directed back at it. But in this issue of *Attitude*, we want to tell a different story: we want to highlight the positive.

OK, so Trump won the election and lots of what he's said so far is terrifying. But, by nature, I'm an optimist and I still think there's reason to be positive. If you look at the breakdown of voting patterns across the US, only 37 per cent of 18-29 year olds voted for Trump, compared with 53 per cent of those over the age of 45. And it's the former age group that I believe offers us hope for the future.

That's why, in this issue, we've decided to lead with three young American cover stars who we think provide a counterpoint to the isolationist, inward-looking mentality we're often told defines the modern US.

Tyler Oakley, Todrick Hall and Joanne the Scammer have all built their careers on digital platforms, looking out to the rest of the world, actively engaging with the very people Trump is encouraging America to fear. I hope you enjoy hearing about what they're doing and that they excite you as much as they excite me.

And there's plenty more to offer hope in this issue. I was fascinated to travel to China to see how much acceptance of gay people has grown since I last visited the country and how much their lives are improving. Much of this is down to the popularity of Blued, a dating app that's on its way to the UK, and the story of its success is both fascinating and inspiring.

Actor Amin El Gamal shows us it is possible to defeat prejudice around race and sexuality in

Hollywood — again, his story is inspirational. And if our pictures of the smoking-hot Patrick Beach don't give you hope for the future, I don't know what will.

Elsewhere, this issue sees the launch of Buddy Brilliant (see p139), a new strand designed to celebrate LGBT+ friendships. When I started at *Attitude*, I wrote that I wanted to warm up the magazine and make you think of it as a much-loved friend. Friendship has played a major part in my life, as it has for many gay people I know. Maybe it's because we often have to distance ourselves from our families to explore our sexuality. Maybe it's because many of us have relied on friends to help us through the challenges thrown our way by a society that still isn't always wholly welcoming. Whatever the reason, I hope you enjoy it.

If you like the changes and improvements we've been making to *Attitude*, please consider subscribing. Amazingly, our sales figures are climbing, reversing the trend affecting most titles across the magazine industry. Once again, it isn't all doom and gloom. But *Attitude* is stronger with a more sustained support base. And this in turn gives a more powerful voice to do good in the world, something we all take very seriously. So please become our friend; please join our squad!

And if you haven't got my message of hope already, I'm confident you will over the course of this issue.

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