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POETRY BY CHRISTOPHER BARNES

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Chart-Topping

We're riding a BA jetstream,
It's a first class discipline.
To the gay kinship and moist girls
We're blanket studies,
Mimers of ditties on stage.

To his Royal Highness we're a vertigo
Of riches, or plastic flowers
Grinning amongst swathes of Armani,
Gucci shades, Versace strides.

A rent boy band whose sugar daddy
Is a rough and tumble of one night stands
Where incident lags behind episode.
This is the meat rack, returning groins
And half-clad routines.

For the hatchet hacks
We're gnawed product,
Each storyline of our copy
Goes from rise to rise.
We know nothing of music
But the beat goes on.

The English slate a name in lights
- we're runway babes,
Paparazzi cheekbones, flashbulb smiles
Or shoulder-shrugging subordinates
To our management.

We're a deception, plastic poseurs
On a pretty boy assembly line,
Aphrodisiac on rubber.

But really
All we ever were
Dazzles behind the silver-white mirror
Of a cheap CD.

Christopher Barnes has been published in more than 1000 magazines and Web sites including: *Inclement* (UK), *New Welsh Review* (Wales), *Wasafiri* (UK), *Kafla* (India), *Kalimat* (Australia), *Runes* (USA), and *Valley Micropress* (New Zealand). His first collection of poems *Lovebites* is available from Chanticleer 1/6 Jamaica Mews, Edingburg, Scotland.

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