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AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1972



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"ALL TOGETHER NOW"

By JEAN HARVEY

I'm beginning to know what it feels like to be a Buffalo!! Figuratively speaking that is. Membership to a secret society is always surrounded by a measure of pomp and jealousy. Even the local Rotary club smacks of respectability and good works. I've oft longed for a society of gay ladies who are recognised by a quick finger breaking handshake on meeting as their secret sign; puffing cigars and downing port in smoke filled oak panelled rooms at the back of the local tea shoppe, and deciding which charity to place this years profits from the all women version of "The Damn Busters". There would of course be the male section who are known only by the discreet sign of the hip pocket — a copy of GAYSCENE protruding just exactly 2" and with one sharp crease down the centre. This little band meet weekly above Carefree Coiffure's (the chairman's local hairdressers). Such earth shattering decision as the finalists for this year's Carnival Queen are made amongst the merry tinkle of gin and tonic glasses.

But really life in the gay world is a bit like belonging to an exclusive club. I seem to be constantly proving the theory that fairies do fly by being seen in Scotland, Birmingham, Weston Super Mare, Brighton and Cleethorpes all within three days — and meet hundreds of new friends every week. Each time we appear (unheralded may I add) in a new town we only have to make one contact with someone on the local scene and they go out of their way to introduce us to the right folk — take us around the clubs and bars, make out lists of shops and business we should see.

Nothing is too much trouble and there are always dozens of people who will find us a bed for the night or cook us dinner or whatever they feel they can do to be most helpful. This is a wonderfully warm feeling and like any other group or organisation it is super to know that wherever you go in this country or even the world you just have to have that one contract and all doors will open.

Somehow this transcends even the class barrier — outside clubs you find Bentley's rubbing shoulders with Mini's and inside at the bar you will find a banker sharing a joke with the chap from the local factory. Membership to a gay club relies on whether you are a nice guy to know not at all the state of your bank account. Credit cards have little sway at the local disco, and your ability to speak with the correct accent or wear the right colour socks will not get you in at the door if you look like being a nuisance.

I would dearly love to run "lilac tours" from South to North and East to West. Thirty people from one club visiting another rather further away than one would usually travel on a Saturday night. I'm sure this would be a great eye opener to a number of people who just don't realise how many super clubs there are in the North and Midlands or perhaps are a little apprehensive about visiting another area.

So if you see me clutching a Canadian Club and Soda, with my trousers rolled up to my knees, a copy of GAYSCENE nonchalantly peeping from my jacket pocket and several fingers bandaged you know I'm trying to tell you something! !

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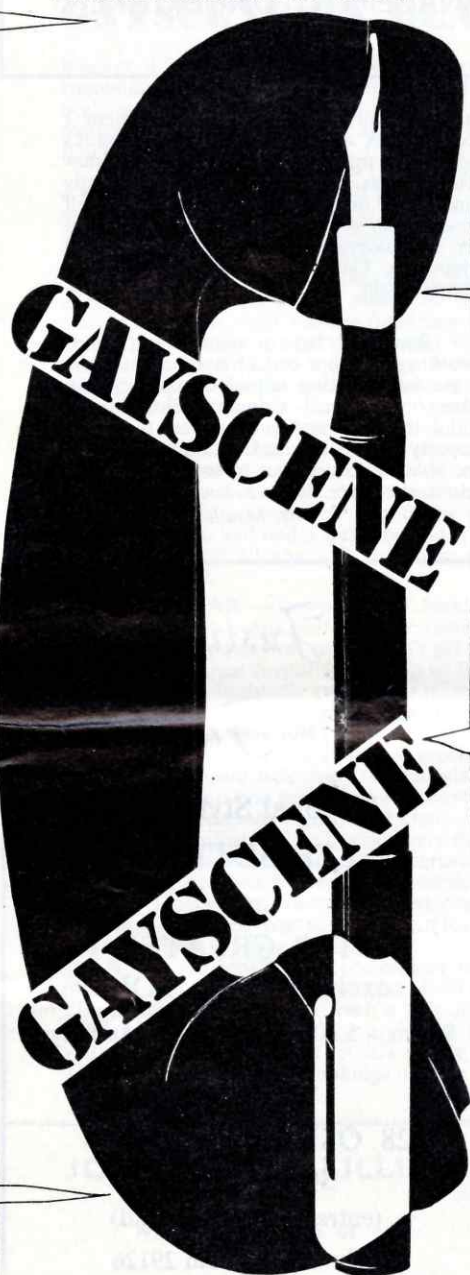
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IT'S AN ILLUSION

BY JEAN HARVEY

Anyone who has seen Burden and Moran will know that theirs is a very special "drag act" — they are the world's only drag illusionists. They have worked all over this country in clubs, touring shows, pantomime, circuses and on spectaculars like the Morecambe and Wise show. They are always in terrific demand for ugly sisters at Christmas and have an enormous talent for the unusual approach.

Maurice Burden (who continually camps up the act with private asides and quips to the audience) was born in Lowestoft, worked in reportary as stage director, did concert parties and shows and has considerable experience in producing summer shows and pantomimes. His partner of twelve years association is Charles Moran (known as Roger to his friends — the reason for which quite escapes me) — son of a Methodist Minister from Bungay — first found himself in the grocery business before going to a college of Dramatic Art and then meeting Maurice, who was about to produce *A Taste of Honey*. Roger got the part of Geoff in the play — rehearsals went on and the leading lady went off — so did the play and Burden and Moran became a double act.

First it was patter only playing such venues as the Gargoyle dressed as bunny girls (and I've seen the photos). The illusion act was decided on when these two realised that something better and more malleable was needed to suit many differing audiences. Money was saved to buy illusions — very expensive items and very much a closed shop — bit by bit they rehearsed their act with the magic becoming slicker all the time. Tremendous work went into getting the act together, split timing is needed. The act is well balanced and has a certain something which is quite their very own. While Roger is being bound and hustled into boxes and trunks, Maurice is having his own private ribaldry with the audience. His on stage personality has to be seen to be really appreciated and lines like "Dorothy Ward in her heyday" says it all in a sentence. Roger has the facial

expressions to make you read between the lines and looks very attractive indeed. What he can do with paper flowers is nobody's business.

They have produced six summer shows and are in terrific demand every year to play dames. Burden and Moran have had to turn down two opportunities lately for TV Shows because of previous engagements. However Harlech have approached them for a programme later in the year. They are currently rehearsing a new piece for the act with coloured doves — quite where the doves will appear from is anyone's guess just at the moment.

Being a double drag act with illusions, poodles and boxes of tricks does have its drawbacks. In their dressing room at the Kings Southsea you couldn't see Roger or Maurice for 32 costumes, 32 wigs and 32 pairs of shoes to cope with sixteen changes throughout the show.

I've seen people go up to the props and inspect them with great care but remain baffled. I'm sure this act can do very well for themselves and I wouldn't be at all surprised to see them more to the front in TV shows in 1973.

With all their luggage, props and costumes its not surprising that they travel in a caravan. Even illusionists cannot always magic up suitable digs. Any day now I expect to see their caravan parked on the wayside and "The Maids of Mystery" — inviting passing strangers inside for a little crystal ball gazing!



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Many thanks for Gayscene I find it both entertaining and informative, what the gay world has needed for a long time.

As you see I am from Basingstoke, a town which has a terrific input from London of new people, with them comes a sprinkling of the gay crowd. I think some of the new people are finding this are difficult, as the gay crowd have their own friends and most of us go into Southampton for entertainment. I am most anxious to break the barrier between the locals and the Londoners — I have found them a nice crowd. There is no need for a mass exit from Basingstoke on a Saturday night, Londoners going back to London and the locals off to Southampton. Why

can't we all get together here in Basingstoke. Hope to see a local pub advertising soon.

K. F. Hilson (Basingstoke.)

What a difference your GAYSCENE has made to my life. A friend who had been on holiday in Brighton brought a copy home with him. Do you know we didn't know about the Don-Jon which is only a few miles away, let alone all the other places which we are now listing in order to visit. Thank you very much — the articles are first class and we shall make sure of our copy every month.

Tony R. (Goole.)

As you see I am a member of the Armed Forces and because of this I have to be discreet, consequently I rarely visit

gay bars or have found places where I could relax and feel "at home". Thanks to your magazine "Gayscene" a new chapter has opened in my life. Not only are there interesting articles by yourself and others but I see there are clubs right on my doorstep in Bournemouth. So now thanks to Gayscene, I never need feel so lonely again.

M. B. Bournemouth.

Because I have a number of friends working on ships out of Southampton we have been getting copies of your broadsheet "Gayscene". Congratulations — we think it is great and as once every two years a party of us comes to London we will now be able to go way out to some of the gay clubs elsewhere. Keep in touch.

D. Mealham (New York)

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EDITORIAL LINK-MEN

required in North, Midlands, West and Wales to liaise with Gayscene editorial team each month, sending in local news and details of forthcoming events, etc. Any out-of-pocket expenses will be met monthly. Please contact Gayscene address on page 3.

LUCY'S GAY BAR

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GAYSCENE ON BLACKPOOL SEEN

Blackpool has always been a name associated with wise-cracking comedians and cynical overseas tourists who consider the tourists beaches of Spain to be like "going on holiday in Blackpool". Well readers I am here to dispel all you have read or heard about Blackpool.

First and foremost, this is a swinging town — I have never seen a holiday resort so packed with people — the whole place has an atmosphere of fun and welcomes you with the general idea that you will have a good time. There are fun fairs, boat trips, massed bands, spectaculars, shows, clubs, pubs, everything to suit anyone.

Here in the North, Blackpool has the reputation for good wholesome food and plenty of it. Large guest houses, and small hotels right on the front are offering Bed, breakfast, lunch, high tea and a snack at supper with a room overlooking the sea, for a mere £2.30 a day. That is the normal not the extraordinary either. In the guest houses off the front you can get board and three meals a day for £1.50, unbelievable to us Southerners who are used to phenomenal prices for something similar.

But for the moment let us talk about the local gay crowd of which there are many. Like all northerners they are friendly, helpful and fun to be with. In the summer they are busy in their guest houses, shops, boutiques etc. Below we list a few of the local spots where you will find a welcome and from most of these places you can find out all you want to know about what is going on around town.

LUCY'S BAR — downstairs of Jenkinson a Top Rank complex. This bar is really worth many visits. Unfortunately on our visit it was Lucy's day off so we didn't get to meet her but I understand she is a great favourite and lots of fun. However the feature of this bar is undoubtedly IVOR who reigns supreme on the organ. Not only is he a superb musician and almost a permanent cabaret turn but he is a very nice guy. The patter goes on all the time, regulars coming down the stairs are greeted with a camp remark, visiting couples are welcomed to "Fairyland" — nothing escapes his notice and no-one gets away with anything. He changes exotic waistcoats three times nightly and chats and chats all night long. The bar is comfortable and very nicely decorated, has a bar and a separate dispense bar to ease the crush — the place is always packed and deserves to be. I met people who go weekends just to sit in Lucy's and listen to the wisecracks. Well worth a visit and we recommend you to drive over for a drink one evening if you live within an easy distance.

If you are looking for somewhere to stay there are several places one of which is the Sandhurst Hotel right on the Promenade. This is a comfortable hotel with a private bar and coloured T.V. for those who like to view. Joy and Don Killip run the Sandhurst and give fabulous value. They are nearly always booked up well in advance so next years bookings need to be thought about soon.

They also have special rates for illuminations weeks. They welcome the gay crowd on the understanding that this is a very mixed hotel with Mums and Dads as well so you need to like a family atmosphere. There are a number of boys who have been staying here year after year so that speaks for itself and what Joy doesn't know isn't worth knowing.

Also there is The Regent, which Arthur Richardson owns in Central Drive. This is a small but very comfortable guest house with a lounge and a bar which seems to be the centre of the local scene. At sometime during the evening most people drop in here for a drink with friends. Modern pleasant dining room — The Regent is close to the Tower and very central for clubs etc. Arthur has an ILLUMINATIONS SPECIAL through September and October — Monday to Friday Bed, Breakfast and Evening Meal £6.25.

If you are looking for shirts and ties for presents or for yourself you should take a look at FRITH'S in Adelaide Street. A small shop but with a very good selection and not exorbitantly priced. Here Peter Marshall will be found to help you in your choice. Not in Blackpool but not too distant PRESTON is The Grove a pub run by two guys we last saw fifteen years ago in the old Windsor Castle in the Harrow Road. They have been at the Grove for about a year and get a few local boys plus visitors in most evenings. Preston Guild week they are open from 9 am-11 pm so if you are about, drop in and make yourselves known.

So there you are, Blackpool is definitely a must, we are coming back for the illuminations so beware IVOR.



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'GAYSCENE' Readers Welcome

YOUR VALUABLES AND INSURANCE

Burglary can happen to all of us, no matter how many so called precautions we may take. If a potential burglar wants to get in to your home or office because he knows that there is something worth taking there, he will find a way. What then is the answer?

One will never prevent things from being taken but thorough cover through insurance and a photographic record are both essential, the latter particularly so with very valuable articles. Your insured articles should always be valued by a reputable firm of assessors each year or so in order to keep them covered for the current market value. This way you cannot lose out.

The photographic record is done to help both the police and insurance companies in the recovery of stolen goods. The methods used depend largely upon the article in question. Most of us own a camera of some sort and usually it is fitted or has provision for a flash unit. This is fine, all we require now is some colour slide film, which gives better colour rendering than print film, and a suitable place in which to do the work. Always select a plain and neutral background for the subject. I use a large sheet of pale grey card for the base and a similar coloured backcloth. This can be a section of old curtain material or if one lacks such a luxury a plain wall will do. For subjects which need contrast one can use various pieces of coloured card or paint a piece of board. Remember that too light a surface will result in the flash burning out the subject due to reflection, so be careful. At distances down to four or five feet flash is fine, below this it is advisable to cover the flashgun or cube with a handkerchief to diffuse the light and so prevent glare. As far as paintings and glass ware go, most other items with a high glaze and jewellery we need a different approach. Paintings and other large, but moveable items, can always be photographed out of doors, not in strong sunlight please but in what we call hazy bright, i.e. sun obscured by thin cloud. This gives a more even light and better colour balance. For smaller objects like china figures, these can also be done outside but unless your camera has the ability to focus down to below three feet without accessories we must purchase a close up lens. A No. 1 lens will do which will fit over the camera's master lens and bring the nearest distance down to about 18". I always use a reflex type of camera where the subject you see is exactly what will be recorded by the film. Even if you possess only an instamatic type of camera you will find immense pleasure out of taking photographs of this nature and at the same time fulfilling a most useful application.

For those of you who have access to a studio so much the better for here we can play around with the lighting to suit the subject. This brings us to the question of jewellery and here one does need special equipment and techniques. I suggest that most people should consult a professional well known in your area, for this kind of work but for those who do want to try their hand the following list of items is essential for a perfect rendering.

A reflex camera, either 35mm. or 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " sq.,

A lens with the ability to focus very close or a standard lens with bellows or extension tubes.

A reliable exposure meter or preferably one built into your camera which measures through the camera lens.

A copying stand fitted with at least

Just JULIAN



"My Sister takes size 11"

two lights and a camera platform or holder or alternatively an enlarger column and baseboard with separate lights and camera stand (a tripod).

Some form of special clamp for holding the piece to be photographed. I use the type of clamp and arms found in laboratories which can however be purchased from educational supply firms. These are essential for positioning the article to show its form and colour to the best advantage.

We shall also need a lens hood to prevent stray light from reaching the film and a polarising filter. This latter rather expensive filter is most useful for cutting out annoying reflections one is bound to get from gem stones, no matter how well we position the lighting and subject.

Finally, experience! Quite a formidable list but the equipment does have many other uses like copying documents etc. etc.

One final word. If you are going away or are having someone in to decorate your house, please put your valuable items out of sight and re-arrange the shelves so as to give the impression that nothing has been removed and certainly take the most valuable jewellery and silver to a bank. One other small but important point. Never lock cupboards and drawers. A locked drawer or cupboard usually means to a burglar that something of value must be inside. Not only will he steal whatever there is of value in there but your furniture will suffer damage too. An open drawer gets a quick look through and sometimes an article of value is passed by with a cursory glance.

Lastly but not least. Never talk about your possessions in the company of strangers. I know this is old hat but gay

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people due tend to have too much trust sometimes in others and this can create a chance for the erstwhile burglar. Remember the old saying — Prevention is better than cure — how true that is.

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(continued from page 15)

company — I shudder every time I think of that disaster.

It is impossible to pick anyone and hand out a bouquet — I wish I could have the space to tell you something about every single one of the cast they all deserve a mention. But undoubtedly a warm and sincere accolade to a superb direction by Peter Harris — perfect visual and spoken interpretation, and to Audrey Styler for the choreography.

The Show ran for 5 performances with a special midnight show to help seat some of the disappointed people who were unable to get tickets.

John Walters of Grosvenor House is a superb host and takes everything calmly making sure every single thing is perfect without rustling the undergrowth at all. But a special thank you to John from Josephine and I for a very pleasant weekend which we enjoyed very much.

Southampton Isn't All Docks

I said in last month's issue that I would give you some information about Southampton.

There are two gay pubs in Southampton, one's The Lord Roberts, run by Mike and June Sexton. This is a long standing pub with a completely gay clientele — one bigish bar and not only is this internationally known because of being a shipping town with boys from the liners all over the world, but very well liked locally. It is a meeting place for everyone and is always busy.

The Robert Burns is a smaller bar but with a very big welcome here you will find a number of the locals swapping the latest gossip over the bar with the boys or with Doris and Dennis — mine hosts. There is always a cheerful atmosphere here and well worth a visit.

Out of town is the New Forest Hotel, not a gay pub by any means. Very much a family pub, large with cabaret and music most evenings. Lots of fun here, they have drag shows quite regularly and a lot of boys drop in for a drink.

Out of town towards Winchester is Bishops Waltham Country Club, here most of the staff are gay with a mixed and fun clientele. Drag ball the first Monday of the month, gay disco third Tuesday. Next month we shall be running a special feature on this club so more then.

Again the Magnum Club in the centre of town is not gay but has a number of local boys as members. You get an extremely good meal here and the Ross family Alan, Sheila and daughter Jan are great fun and make you welcome, ably assisted by David.

Next month we'll give you a run down on Portsmouth.

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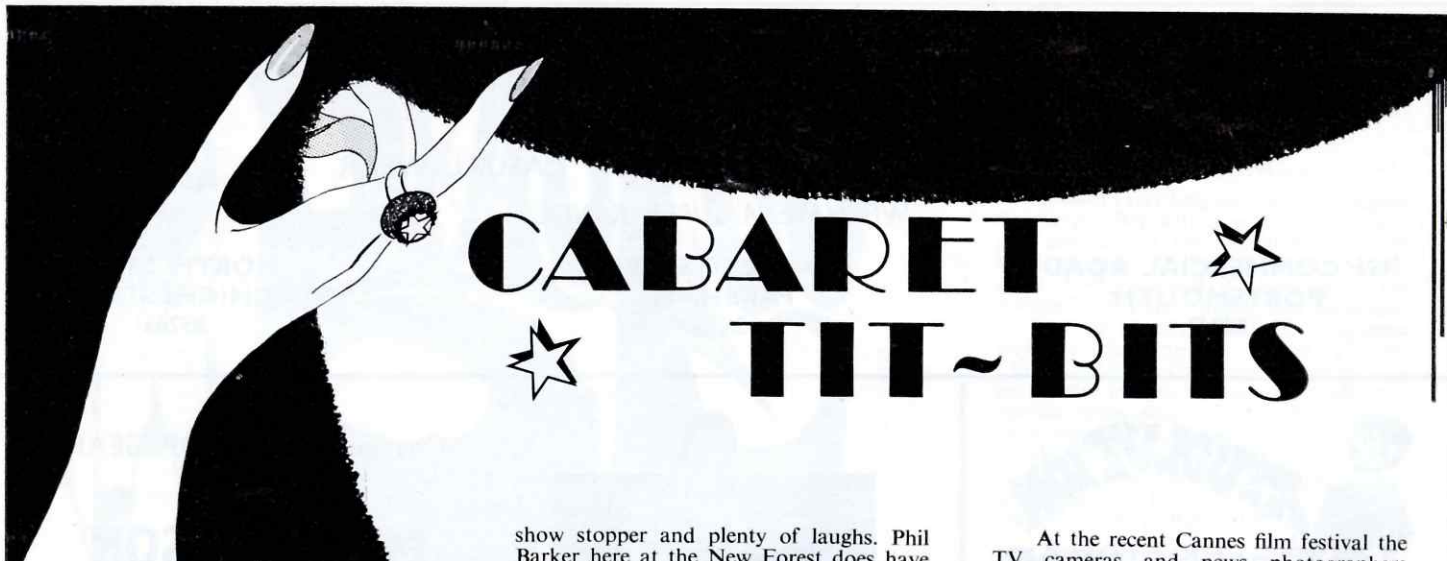
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CABARET TIT~BITS

LEE SUTTON entered the Pub Entertainer of the Year Contest, "just for fun" but that brought him a well deserved win in the finals at the Winning Post Whitton last month. With the title came a £250 prize for the comedy section plus a further £100 for overall winner and title. Time was tight with only eight minutes for each performer — Lee told his audience right from the start not to clap or laugh, time was too precious. Needless to say they took no notice. Competition was stiff and Alvis and Odell were in the speciality section representing the Northover — Bromley.

Lee wore his stunning black and silver outfit under a black coat with matching ostrich feathers, he represented the Crown— Shirley Southampton where he appeared in the first heat. The award is for the St. Georges Tavern group and Lee is offered a contract with this group he also has a silver trophy and another award which he keeps for a year and then either hands back in 1973 or enters again.

There is lots of news to tell about Lee which will be appearing under this section in next months magazine, but meanwhile special congrats to Lee from Gayscene.

Bishops Waltham Country Club recently featured AL DORNAY in cabaret to the delight of audiences all week. Al has a very polished act with some extremely good and fresh material. How nice to see a drag act with original patter and songs. A versatile performer with a really good appearance on stage, he moves well and the gowns were stunning.

On the Saturday he did two very long spots and held the audience right to the last moment. We don't see enough of Al Dornay here in the South and I do hope it won't be too long before we have a return visit at Bishops Waltham.

While talking about the South let me tell you something about the summer show at the New Forest Hotel, Ashurst, Southampton. BURDEN and MORAN (see page 3) together with STEVE FRANCES and supporting cast have been packing the audience in with their fun show. Lots of music hall stuff, a Hollywood Stars spot, the illusion act which is always a

show stopper and plenty of laughs. Phil Barker here at the New Forest does have some good shows throughout the year but this particular season BURDEN and MORAN have really pulled out all stops and the Theatre Room is doing record business.

London now and I recently visited the GREEN MAN, Euston Road. Upstairs there is a cabaret room with a splendid atmosphere. The decor is on the medieval style with plenty of dangerous looking implements about. The excellent group play behind a grille — don't know whether to keep them from the customers or vice versa. This particular night and I think most nights SHANE reigned supreme, good parody numbers and lots of quick fire material with the audience, obviously a great favourite here with the regulars. On the bill was that Scottish act NIKKI YOUNG who has had a very successful year. Nikki has a most powerful voice and a personality to match. These two finished with a very good double act which the audience really went wild about.

This seems to be a gathering place for acts and personalities who drop in on a rare night off or in between shows. The night we were there we saw the NEW DUMBELLES and JEAN FREDERICKS. GAYSCENE can recommend readers to spend an evening at the GREEN MAN — stays open later than the bar because they have a special supper licence.



NOTES FROM CANNES—1972

* The chic and popular night rendezvous in Cannes is The Charleston Club (5 Rue Lafontaine). Open from late evening until dawn, it has a bar, soft lights and dancing—and nightly at 1 a.m. a gay and amusing cabaret.

Its alternative name is Chez LES LEE—and it is this talented and charming drag artist who welcomes you. He is the focal point of all that is sophisticated in Cote d'Azur night life. LES LEE—a lovely and warm-hearted Canadian—appears in a succession of spectacular dresses and wigs, enchanting the cosmopolitan audiences with his songs and his quick-fire patter. He is equally devastating and to the point whether ad-libbing in French or in English.

At the recent Cannes film festival the TV cameras and news photographers nightly awaited his sensational arrival in a different dress and make-up every evening for a fortnight, and the resulting pictures were flashed along the Mediterranean coast and put out by French, Italian and Monte Carlo TV.

* Also performing at the Charleston Club in Cannes is PETER LINDEN, a London artist and well-known to Portsmouth audiences. It is his second full season in the South of France supporting Les Lee and he also has two solo spots in the cabaret. Apart from his usual piano entertaining, the current show is enlivened by his amusing impersonation of Ginger Rogers which ends with an exhilarating and elaborate 1930s tap-dance.

* Guest artists due to appear at the Charleston Club later this season are JEAN FREDERICKS followed by LEE STEVENS.

* Our correspondent recommends the small and discreet HOTEL SWEET-HOME, 56 Boulevard d'Alsace (Tel: 38.62.00) situated only three or four minutes from la Croisette in Cannes, where Roger Willard makes his guests very welcome. Single rooms from 20 francs per day—with breakfast 25 frs.



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Gentlemen: This is the first of our regular features on grooming, fashion and general tips and news on new products on the market for men. We hope you will find this column interesting and useful. Please drop me a line if I can be of further help.

Josephine Frances-Harvey.

SKIN CARE

Before taking steps to care for your skin it is imperative to find out what type of skin you have. A perfect skin is rare and most of us have problems of one kind or another. The perfect skin has no blemishes; remains perfect regardless of climate or health changes. The lucky owner would find it needed little attention as the texture would always be fine and the appearance healthy. To maintain this condition do not use over perfumed shaving creams or experiment too often with strange soaps.

A DRY SKIN is usually rather tight looking and often has a polished look. It is sometimes a little flaky and has on occasion rough patches. If this is your problem avoid using ordinary soap on the face, with perhaps the occasional use of a cleansing cream or oatmeal soap. In preference do try the special dry skin shaving creams now available in most chemists. If you find this dry skin problem is accompanied by small broken veins over the cheek bones try to avoid extremes in water temperature when washing as very hot or very cold water will only aggravate this condition.

For those with GREASY SKIN the problems are obvious—cheer up because one advantage of this skin texture is that it doesn't line as easily and will usually settle down to a smoother texture around the age of 40. If you find you have a moist skin to touch, open pores accompanied sometimes with spots, you have a greasy skin. In extreme cases you may also find you have greasy hair and this will cause spots. One can now purchase from a wide range of shampoos for greasy hair. Wash frequently giving your scalp a really good massage. Severe cases such as acne, generally only occur during adolescence and with care this will soon improve. With this skin one can continually wash with even harsher soaps such as Lifebuoy. Finally you must rinse in very cold water which will help

to close the pores. Again chemists stock a wide range of preparations to help acne and difficult skins so ask for a solution or astringent to help this condition—but do remember it is important to avoid all fried foods.

BATH TIME can now be the most relaxing time of the day with all the gorgeous refreshing products now on the market to cleanse and soften while at the same time not drying out the skin. Beau Ego recommends Badedas which can be used in bath or shower. The advertisement tells us "Things happen after a Badedas bath" and one can find out for the sum of 12p—£1.75 per bottle.

To retain your hard earned sun tan use Monitor which helps the tan by preventing the skin from de-hydrating, flaking or finally peeling, priced at £1.49 for a giant container.

Don't forget the 'Lally-Tappers' as Johnny Dymond calls them. Many cool sprays are available to refresh and most important of all deodorise. Scholls do a range or Cool Feet is available at 39p.

For those of you anxious about premature balding, unfortunately there are no products about that will start the regrowth of hair. There is now no reason to worry as one can purchase hair pieces and wigs which are remarkably good. EARL BARRY out at Poole has a speciality division of his salon specifically to deal with fashion wigs, hair pieces and the like. He has a separate private salon upstairs, where styles can be shown and discussed and where in confidence you can take the first steps in acquiring a new you. After all not only will this alter your appearance but give you added confidence and boost your ego. Earl has been in business for ten years at Poole and is finding more and more men take advantage of a regular weekly shampoo and set, in a style that can be managed in between visits. He has excellent hairdressers who are versed in the art of colouring and tinting as well. Most interesting is that they sell longer wigs to servicemen so that their shortish back and sides don't give them away. Here they also have wigs suitable for drag and will give your own drag wig a special set or style for any party or show. They also have a number of their own

products — conditioner — after shave for sensitive skins — medicated shampoo — and an extremely effective 24 hour deodorant, all under their own "Taverne" label.

FASHION TAILORING

It wasn't very long ago that one coupled the word tailor with a picture of a dark grey formal suit you would expect your bank manager to be wearing. Not any more, to-day's tailor is right up to the minute with styles, trends and materials. To find out exactly how fashion in mens wear is changing we visited PETER CONWAY in Southampton—a young very up to the minute young man with very definite ideas about clothes. Not only is he a respected and established tailor but he takes enormous care to follow the fashion and constantly has an eye on the scene in Rome and Florence — he has great respect for the Italian fashions for men.

The main thing in tailoring is Personality of the client. To get to know your client—the things he is interested in—what type of person he is all these things are evidently of paramount importance. Peter reckons that after a while he can pick out the cloths a regular patron will choose. He has the most amazing collection of cloths to show. They range from the conservative blues and greys to the most stunning checks and patterns but all in first class materials. If he hasn't got exactly what you have in mind (and I find this unlikely) he will do his best to get it for you. He has his own work room where the making up is done and specific care is taken with detail.

It is the detail in the first place that is all important. The main advantage with your own tailor is the styling details. This is what sets you apart from even the best of the ready to wears. Individual taste is very much part of the suit, attention to the minutest detail in the slant of the pocket, width of lapel, cut of the trousers and the million and one things which can change and alter a style.

Anything goes in fashion tailoring today; where once one held a stock of blues and greys one now needs multi-coloured checks, stripes and coloured velvets. Peter has just finished a brick red dinner jacket. He quite confidently says that Oxford bags are coming back, the real Oxford bags with four pleats not just the near-one seen in boutiques at the moment.

The average price of a suit is £45-£50. When you think that the best of the ready to wear speciality range can be between £60 and £80 this doesn't seem high. A tailor is like a good bank manager, accountant or solicitor, they are of prime importance to you and so is the man who is going to project your image to the world.

Changing also is the fact that Peter Conway, and probably other modern tailors, has a visiting service. He will come along and bring a huge range of patterns and take measurements in your own home. For a number of people this may be extremely advantageous.

It is very likely that this young man, married with two young children and from the Midlands, will go a long way. He has the most modern outlook on life, is an excellent tailor, keeps the most fantastic range of cloths and is a nice guy to boot.

We hope that this up and coming young fashion tailor will keep GAYSCENE readers constantly informed on the latest trends.

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EDITOR'S CHATTERBOX

You will see that this month we have a sixteen page issue again. There has been a terrific amount of post this month reflecting your enjoyment of GAYSCENE and once again we thank you all for your interest and it is always helpful to hear from you. Opinions are most important and new ideas welcomed.

We seem to have had hundreds of requests from guys mainly out of the main towns enquiring about a subscription to Gayscene. We do not have subscriptions as such — the magazine is given away through clubs and venues all over the country and we hope to continue to give it away for a long time to come. However if you don't get into the towns too regularly and are worried about getting a regular copy of the magazine we will send you one monthly. We obviously have to pay for the postage and packing so if you send £1 this will cover twelve monthly issues. Obviously we are happy if you can get your copy of GAYSCENE free but if there is a problem we can offer this service. Please send cheque or postal order made out to Jean Harvey Promotions and give us your full name and address.

This month sees the addition of our new column BEAU EGO, this will be a regular monthly feature with hints on beauty treatments, fashion trends, new products on the market which will appeal to men of all ages. My partner Josephine Frances-Harvey will be writing this page monthly and as a trained professional Bond Street beautician she will know all the wrinkles (and how to get rid of them!) If you have a skin or beauty problem drop Beau Ego a line and Jo will try to help.

This month also sees the first of our JUST JULIAN cartoons. We hope this will give a chuckle every month, reminding you of yourself or a friend or a situation. Julian reflects all our personalities in some way or another, he is very much our own sitting on typewriters — paste up pages and is constantly in all our thoughts.

We would very much like to hold GAYSCENE coffee parties all over the country in the next few months. These mainly are for our readers to get to know us and to let us know the things they feel about the magazine. If you are in a position to hold a small informal coffee party, have a number of friends with ideas and are willing to expound on them please let us know as we are anxious to get to know each area as quickly as possible.

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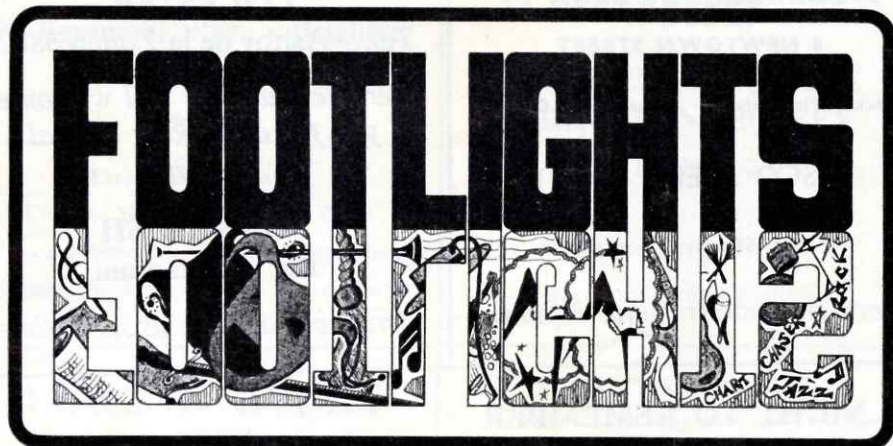
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DYMOND'S DOLLYBOX

... Well, as I was saying, don't these monthly polari's come round fast, I mean, they do, ever so quickly. It was only the other day that Harvey 'phoned shouting "Where is it?" so I thought I'll rinse me hair, send my friend home and get on my bijou typewriter.

All the Young Dudes—Mott the Hoople (C.B.S.)

David Bowie wrote, produced and arranged

this one, so if you like David Bowie...

You wear it Well—Rod Stewart (Mercury)
"Maggie May" all over again, same mixture as before, and can't go wrong.

Today's a Tomorrow—Giorgio (Philips)
This is the guy who wrote "Son of my Father" not that it's any recommendation.

Sweet Inspiration/Where you Lead—Barbra Streisand (C.B.S.)

Not the usual inspiring Barbra, then this

one's recorded before a live expectorant audience, which I think tends to spoil one's listening enjoyment. "Tother side is Jim Webb's "Didn't We".

L.P. of the Month. "ENVIRONMENTS"—(Atlantic/stereo)

Wherever possible, I like to turn you on to something really different, and this one certainly is.

The 'A' side, titled TINTINNABULATION, represents a very interesting psychological effect, obtained by repeatedly tapping five large bells, each at a different pitch. It's hard to explain but ones mood can be changed to a totally relaxed state, which can be a good thing depending on what you're doing at the time. "DAWN AT NEW HOPE", the 'B' side is exactly what it purports to be.

LALLYTAPPERS

Mad About You—B. Ruffin. still climbing.

Walkin' the night/Right on, Brothers & Sisters—Jr. Walker.

Double 'A' side record, strongly tipped, to coin a phrase.

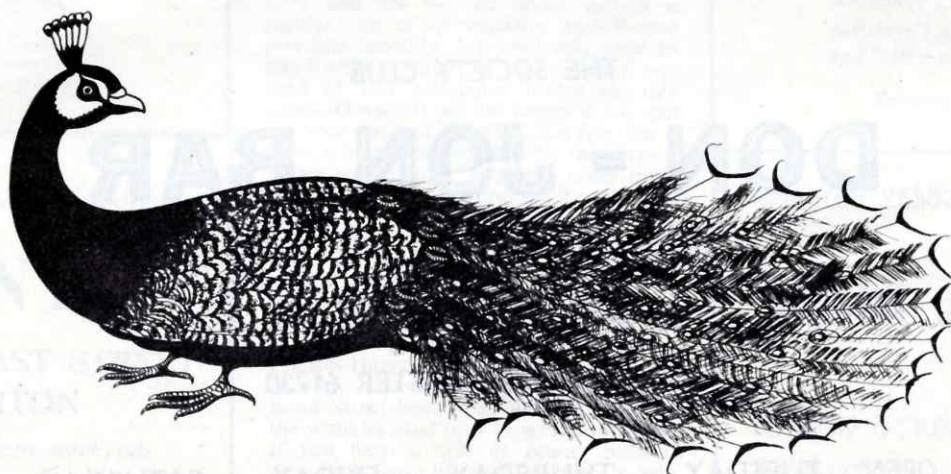
Standing in the Road—Blackfoot Sue.

Very "Sladye", very commercial, very draughty round 'ere, shut that door!

Time of the Season—Madrigal.

New version of the old Zombies hit.

(continued on page 15)



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FOOTLIGHTS (continued)

'THE BOY FRIEND'—

Grosvenor House Style

Rarely does a reviewer see a play show or film that holds their complete attention. Journalists become blasé about mammoth productions and high priced budgets and nothing less than the full Busby Berkeley will do even out of the West End.

However the Grosvenor House — Birmingham, club members have managed to put on quite the most delightful piece of pure camp that I have ever had the pleasure to applause. This production was achieved in the dining room of the Club with some of the area taken up for dressing room, another portion as the stage and then seating for 60, and those sixty people sat sometime spellbound sometime screaming and falling about while this talented hard working cast gave Sandy Wilson's over exposed musical a rare lift.

Bijou Productions (my name not their's) set about taking the tiniest stage area and performing amazing routines. The Choreographer Audury Styler managed to take this cast, who have no particular dancing experience other than the latest disco craze, and make Fred and Ginger come alive again. Incredibly inventive feats to such numbers as Perfect Young Ladies and The Riviera were performed with talent and timing. The chorus burlesqued their way through number and scene one after the other — wide eyed to the extent that I don't think they'll be able to close them for weeks. Exaggerated send up of the usual twenties poses had the audience on their feet clapping and cheering.

Two pianos fed the music through with the aid of Peter Harris and David Henson, first class sets with great imagination by Ken and helpers. The costumes deserve a special mention with perfectly matched colour ensembles as boy met girl in tiny cameo scenes. Oxford bags that really were Oxford bags — and some really

authentic pieces of design. Someone's sewing machine must have been smoking for a few weeks.

Barbara playing Polly Brown gave a good contrasting performance which gave this show that special something and the duets and interplay with Tony were charming and beautifully portrayed. Ross and Trevor as Madame Dubonnet and Percival Brown gave one or two show stoppers. I was very apprehensive about how Poor Little Pierrette would be put over but just the right approach was taken for this particular production and much rehearsal must have gone into the timing and facial expressions.

Lines like "I came in the back way" were given a new look and at times Percival just looked like Groucho Marx at his very best. Hortense the French maid played by Chris worked like a troupier and went from Russian dancing to speciality apache tango like a duck to water. Barbara Windsor would have been hard put to make a better performance than this and again the facial expressions were superb. The chorus boys looked good and didn't make the mistake that most amateurs in the musical field do, of the boys looking camper than the girls', viz a viz "There is nothing like a Dame" by the Green Room

(continued on page 8)



Ross and Trevor as Madame Dubonnet and Percival Brown

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NEWS ON THE JEAN FREDERICKS FRONT

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Tickets £1 in advance £1.20 at the door

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Jean Fredericks has had tremendous response for the forthcoming Ball at the Hilton, tickets are going fast and we ask you to get yours quickly if you haven't already.

Entry forms for the contest in last month's GAYSCENE or direct from Bloemfontein Road. Here again the entries are coming in daily and as this has a first prize of £100 plus many other prizes and awards we feel you should make sure your entry is in soon.

Jean has had another T.V. offer and we are waiting to hear whether our Canadian friend will take up the offer. Don't forget the mobile drag disco that Jean runs. Especially good for parties and saves someone worrying about changing the records all the time.

October 28th is the next Porchester Hall venue, "Halloween KNICKERS BALL" theme you will see gives lots of scope. Tickets in advance £1.

Jean is currently appearing in Cannes at the Charleston Club (reviewed in Cabaret Tit-Bits). We hope to have a first hand report from Jean in the September issue.

Are you on the special Fredericks mailing list for news about the 1973 balls?

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