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DECEMBER 1972



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THE CHRISTMAS SCENE

By JEAN HARVEY

Christmas is traditionally a time when everything seems to be done from two foot off the ground. We are all in a constant rush and tear - Christmas shopping - cooking - buying in the booze for the festivities - writing endless cards, most of them as their counterparts arrive on the mat and we haven't sent them one. For most gay folk decorating their pad gives the most pleasure. Not for us the paper chains and lanterns dangling from picture rail and centre light. Oh no - something much more adventurous for those who might also be artistically involved in display departments all over the country. Here talent can turn a few witch balls and fairy lights into a coloured paradise, which would gladden the heart of any visiting Santa.

But eventually the shops close - Christmas Eve arrives and it becomes the time to enjoy yourself. Perhaps this is when for many people life gets complicated. Do they stay at home or do they juggle the in-laws into Christmas Day and Boxing Day. For the gay set it is the same with added complications - for those of us with families how do we fit Mum and Dad in with the rave up we have been invited to in town. If the family lives miles away from where we now have our home - how can we equate the two. Do we give up our friends and take a train home for a few days or do we go home the weekend before and make that the family time. Not very easy - particularly if it is impossible to take a special friend with you. Not everyone's folks are able to 'get it together' or understand in any way. For some people I know this is a very sad time, trying to juggle everyone and make them all happy. Not least themselves.

Christmas is a time to be with the people you love most. There is something very special about Christmas Day. It is a very loving time when people let go and really want to enjoy themselves. Who wants to be separated from the person or persons they love the most or try to capture that special feeling down the telephone. It just isn't the same queuing up outside a box to get through to someone special with lots of music and shouting going on in the background and you're just not there. A number of people do go away to hotels and package holidays abroad these days. Perhaps again, if you are with loved ones this is acceptable. It sounds wonderful to be waited on for a few days with no clearing up and washing up to do but I wonder if commercialised jollity really fits the bill.

Anyway from myself and all here at GAYSCENE magazine may I wish you all the very best of Christmasses and a Properous and gay New Year. Perhaps we could all be a little braver in 1973 about being Gay - perhaps the next time the big oaf at the office or factory makes a dig about poofs and queens you could summon up enough courage to have a go. But most of all for 1973 don't put up with second best, from bars restaurants clubs or wherever. By the end of 1973 I would like to see the Scottish Reform Bill through, I would like to see a lot more bars and coffee clubs opening in other parts of the U. K. I would like to see the various groups fighting together and not at each others throats. I would like to see many more show business personalities who are making money and a lot of it, come out into the open and admit to being gay themselves. Instead of hedging about or worse still deliberately denying it. More than anything I want to see Gay people enjoying life as they wish to enjoy it, without fear or forethought.

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JEAN HARVEY PROMOTIONS

**Appledore House
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THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A DAME

By JEAN HARVEY

The Roar of the crowd and the smell of the grease paint, perhaps more applicable to the circus and pantomime than any other art form. When the curtain goes up at the Hippodrome, Birmingham on December 23rd - that old favourite 'Cinderella' will once more delight the eyes and ears of young and old. Perhaps pure panto as we knew it years ago is long since past - but undoubtedly there is still that magic, hissing the villain, cheering cheeky Buttons and gasping with sheer delight at the magic coach and the transformed Cinders.

Allan Haynes, cockney born and master of the 'dame' portrayal will be sharing the bill with Dickie Henderson, Arthur Askey and his other sister Tommy Osborne, at Birmingham. Here he will again bring his particular expertise to bear as he grapples with the audience making them laugh and hate as he taunts poor Cinderella.

Allan has been one of the leading 'dames' in this country for many years. It started, once again in Cinderella, in the Air Force and has gone on from there. He has played just about every major city in the U.K. and made unnumerous appearances in the West End, with such names as Bob Monkhous, Dave King, Roy Hudd, Danny la Rue (with whom he has appeared for twelve years) and a host of others. Allan of course does cabaret and has a successful West End club. He is exceptionally well organised and always is right on the button whatever time of day.

Allan is a perfectionist and a professional. Make-up (see Beau Ego column) and costume is the immediate impact maker. Allan reckons you have two minutes to really get to your audience. At the end of that two minutes you have to have them in the palm of your hand. Intend on your every word. With the fashion for 'drag' I asked Allan if this had made a great deal of difference to the way one would play dame. He feels that provincial audiences have not altered so much, but

West End audiences can be played to the hilt with high camp. Panto is of course, a vehicle for camp generally with plenty of audience participation right along the line.

Allan Haynes is a dream to watch on stage. I saw him and Danny do the ugly sisters at Golders Green Hippodrome and the show seemed to revolve around them and their fantastic changes of costume. Allan has this ability to really take the audience by storm and I'm certain this year will be no exception. The pantomime dame is a character larger than life, exaggerated to the nth degree. The audience must laugh and hate, and when the ugly sisters step on stage the whole atmosphere lights up.

It is always a pleasure to talk to a professional and Allan Haynes is a delightful character to be with. It is a rare art and he has this magic ability to step out on to that stage and live that part. His only ambition left is to play Mother Goose - another gold to add to his collection.



Allen Haynes

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DYMOND'S CHRISTMAS DOLLYBOX

Well, Snowflake time, glass of 'Chateau Blotto' and a mincer, and Dymond's in season, and this is just the right time to tell you about my New Year revolutions.

I'm going to be very bold and make a prediction for the top five, and it happens to be a record called 'BREAK' by Aphrodites Child (Vertigo). Beautiful sound, weird but with a touch of sadness and I personally would be sad to see it disappear into the mists of obscurity. 'HELP ME MAKE IT THROUGH THE NIGHT' Gladys Knight & the Pips (Tamla) Make what, I ask myself, perhaps she always

does her baking in bed, but seriously, excellent recording, very sexy? As a sequel to 'BACKSTABBERS', the O'Jays are back with an equally dance-able disc titled '99s ARGUMENTS' (CBS) which should prove as popular if not more so than their first. On the same label, the SeaShells bounce back with the old Ronettes thing called, if you remember, 'THE BEST PART OF BREAKING UP' which doesn't sound any better for it's dusting but nevertheless, good disco music. If reggae's your bag, there's yet another oldie re-vitalised titled 'THEN HE KISSED ME', which I always

make a point of playing at gay venues for obvious reasons.

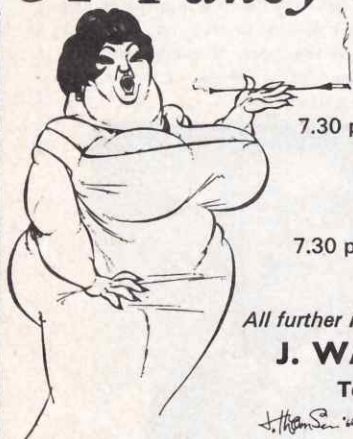
CHRISTMAS ALBUM. . . and there are many as per usual at this festive season, but personally only one shines bright. Remember the famed Phil Spector sound, well, Tamla Motown have gone absolutely potty and re-released the best, most Christmassy L.P. ever made, featuring the Ronettes 'FROSTY THE SNOWMAN' and 'SLEIGH RIDE' Crystals 'Santa Claus is coming to town' and 'Rudolph the red-nosed Reindeer' and lots of other pertinent decorations. The Albums called 'A CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM PHIL SPECTOR'.

Might I just be permitted to point out that our LARRY GRAYSON has finally got together an album titled 'WHAT A GAY DAY' (What else) and is mostly recorded live at the London Palladium. Tracks featured include the famed 'APRICOT LIL' and 'EVERARDS' BIRTHDAY PARTY'. On the sleeve, underneath the price tag of £1.60 it says 'such a gay price', which is true. With that thought in mind, may I wish you all that you wish yourselves, and may you be with whoever turns you on the most on Christmas Day.

P.S. Did you hear about the gay snowflake?

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I have had several letters from fellers who are putting on amateur Pantomimes this Christmas mainly asking about Dame Make-ups and costume, this is an ideal opportunity to voice my opinions and also ask our personality of the month. Allen Haynes to give us his own professional technique.

Pantomime is of course an entertainment for children, but how many of us are big kids at heart especially at Christmas, and the world of Panto provides unlimited scope for camp. The original explanation for the turn about of the sexes in Pantomime was probably to lighten the comic effect of the leading characters.

Dame make-up is an art in its own right, fortunately there are many books written on the subject of stage make-up which will help, and practise will give exactly the effect you want, it will definitely not be considered vain to sit in front of a well lighted mirror for a hour or so from time to time and practise the art. In this way you would become well acquainted with your own face and the character you wish to project. If the young player wishes to look older he should screw up his face the lines that then appear can be painted in, if the character is sad or happy pull your face into these expressions by extending the lines that appear this will help to give the general effect.

Your character of Stage - must be larger than

life whether you be, Dame, Demon King (who always appears with a flash) a Good Fairy or a wicked Queen.

Allan said that most important before all the drag and slap is a Personality, self confidence and an attack to make an immediate impact.

A dame should be a caricature of a woman, who must be able to get on good terms with the audience from the beginning, cajoling them if they are a bit 'sticky' at the start of the performance, jollying them into joining in a song or catchphrase, and drawing them into his confidence. Allan makes-up quite early in the day as during the season he is doing two shows a day and carefully applied Base will stay on all day and help to hide the 6'oclock shadow.

But first he has to loose his eye-brows and to do this he uses soap and spit and insists not water as this will not work, moisten the cake of soap and rub over the eyebrows its surprising how soon they are lost, he then applies a Leichener base, quite generously and blends over ears and neck (very important). This is followed by a Max Factor Cromatic foundation, which gives the more natural skin colour. He then applies a Leichener darker shading around under his chin fading out down the neck, this is to give more depth under the lights, next he places carmin No. 2 (or rouge) on the cheeks the amount varies with the type of part you are playing. And

over the entire face and neck he then very heavily powders, first pressing the powder into the base and when covered lightly brushing off the surplus powder this gives a good mat effect.

Next is the eye shadow colour here is a matter of dress, and should cover from the eyeleshes working upwards and outwards fading to past the hidden eyebrow. Allan uses eyebrow pencil for lines around the eyes and for the new higher eyebrows although you can use a liquid liner and a brush if found easier, and now comes a very important part of stage camp - the eyelashes which should be as big as you can possibly wear and still see, all leading stores seem to have a very good variety of sizes these days. Now a good rich lip stick. Allan himself does not outline the lips with black although for many this is very effective. He now stands well back from the mirror and looks carefully for any necessary character lines. After the drag is donned it is the turn of the crowning glory - an elaborate wig.

This entire make-up can be removed with a cleansing cream but Allans last very useful tip was that he removes all this make-up after the show with Cooking Oil and Tissues and is ready to relax, till tomorrows 'Curtain-up'.

These hints will also I am sure be useful to anyone who may be in any show or perhaps going to a fancy dress party, but for any gent who is just going out and wants a complexion without looking made-up I can recommend Braggi Cover-tone in three colours (light, medium, or deep) for the desired effect.

And now may I wish you a very entertaining Christmas and New Year.



Allen Haynes in full Stage make-up

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**A Gay Christmas to all
Gayscene Readers**

GAYSCENE PREDICTIONS BY JAMARA



It cannot be denied that the general interest in what the stars foretell has grown tremendously in the last few years. In fact several staid newspapers with fixed political views - dealing mainly with the financial and intellectual scene - have allowed a wee prediction column to creep into their somewhat austere pages.

Albeit, the Managing Director editor would seem to have given strict instructions that its intrusion should not be too obvious. So that the seeker after the future will have to turn the pages of the newspaper over many times, before he, or she, finds it - tucked away between an advertisement for rubber corsets, and an obscure financial feature on the position of shares in Besarabian Swampwood.

So when Jean Harvey stopped me as I was hedgeshopping on my broomstick past Appledore House, and said "Hey Jamara! What about doing a horoscope column for the readers of Gayscene?" ... I parked my broomstick immediately in her garage - polished up my crystal ball - gave my black cat, 'Vinegar Tom', a saucer of milk, and said "YES! I will!"

But before I get out my charts and really begin any GAY HOROSCOPING - let me get a few things straight about our stars and their personal effect upon us.

As everybody knows, we all come under different signs of the Zodiac, and our characters as a general rule are easily recognisable from these signs. So that an Aquarian (for instance) will have a similarity of character to fellow Aquarians, though they may differ in personality, tastes, and achievements.

Therefore a horoscope should be individual, based upon date and year of birth - and if possible the actual time of birth if known. But for the purpose of newspapers and magazines it has to be elastic, although based upon the position of the planets in the sun sign for that particular period.

... SO... with Vinegar Tom on my lap - my broomstick parked in the corner - and my steeple hat on the back of my head ... here we go with predictions for Gaysceners for JANUARY 1973. CAPRICORN. (December 22nd - January 19th).

Don't be lonely! That is a Capricorn trait. For there is no need to be. Your stars shine in the early hours of the morning - so - parties should be just great for you, and should your birthday fall upon January 5th, well - just break out, meet people - and you will find yourself unusually witty. AND should your birthday fall upon January 13th look out for something very special, even though you may feel a little despondent and wonder why.

AQUARIUS. (January 20th - February 19th).

Poor old Water Carriers. After a good start your month may sag a little in the middle - though - if you were born around 8 or 9 am on either the 21st, the 25th, or the 29th of January, then they

could turn out to be heydays, holidays, or bonfire nights. You will find an urge for freedom and change; but make your changes in gay group and social activities rather than job-wise. Specially on the later date when you can be an early bird like the Capricorns, and get new ideas in trim for the coming year.

PISCES. (February 20th - March 20th).

After January 9th, the latter end of the month could be best for you, and if you have a stupid silly row with your mate - try to make it up. It will all come right in the end. After all Liz Taylor is a Piscean, and it has all come right in the end for her. But don't expect diamonds! Settle for a nice simple present when you have made it up, there's a dear - then you will find that you will swim quite easily and lazily through the rest of the month.

ARIES. (March 21st - April 19th).

This month may not come up to expectations for you; but don't get too bad tempered about it or I'll come round with my broomstick and set about you with the 'brusy' end. Put plenty of energy into your personal and professional life. Clown about a bit like Charlie Chaplin did! He's Aries too! You'll find that it will pay off, for when things are not going too well you Arians tend to be intolerant and bad tempered - so watch it! Or you may lose someone you are fond of, and that is very very bad for Gaysceners.

TAURUS. (April 20th - May 20th).

The early part of the month, and the back end should be best for you. January 1st until the 9th - followed by a bleak bit - but picking up nicely from January 13th, with the 21st and 29th being especially good for personal relationships, friendships - partnerships - and general harmony with anybody of whom you are specially fond. Should this person be either Capricorn, Virgo, or Cancer - then - Yippee!! But don't be stubborn with them - let the Bull be tempered by your ruling planet Venus eh?

GEMINI. (May 21st - June 20th).

Should be the start of a good, gay, year for all Gems - starting off with this month. The numerology of the year 1973 is '2', and two is the Gemini sign! Be a proper Gem of a Gemini, and bring your two selves out into the open; but don't be too restless, and expect things to happen all of a heap. They will - eventually - and to your benefit; but give them time to mature, for you are well aspected all through the month though your best time will be in the afternoon or early evening, with some special attention to the 15th of January, which will be what you care to make it.

CANCER. (June 21st - July 22nd).

Should be a fairly good month for you don't keep changing your mind in mid-air, and try to walk

sideways like the Crab in your sign, to gat around something you are not too keen on. Walk straight and look out for good things on the 17th of January, for the Moon is your ruling planet, and on that day it will be in Cancer. So that day could have some significance - either from a monetary or emotional point of view.

LEO. (July 23rd - August 22nd).

Have a little satisfied growl to yourselves all you Leo the Lions, for you should have a good month. Your best times being in the late afternoons or early evenings - right through the month without exception. You are ruled by the Sun, and even if the January clouds obscure it - don't worry - it will still be there, giving you vitality, creativity in all you do. SO! Do it well, be it love or job - for you will love both, specially around the 13th of the month. But be careful slow, and deliberate, like the Lion (or Lioness?) you are. VIRGO (August 23rd - September 22nd).

January 17th - up until, and including January 23rd - should be excellent for you. In fact your romantic partnership should show some great benefits on that later date. There could be some pre-occupation over your health; but don't worry the common cold can be coped with. Some worry about your job or professional career will have abated before the 17th, having started to pick up around the first day of the New Year - and you will find yourself able to express yourself rather well, specially if serving others either by word or deed.

LIBRA. (September 23rd - October 22nd).

The well balanced Libran will find January - er - 'well balanced'. Though your best times will be in the early evenings, and you may find a new affair growing - or perhaps an old one getting stronger around the 25th of January. All of which revolves around your natural House which is the 7th House and governs your personal affections and partnerships. You dislike being alone - so DON'T BE! Let everybody know about your feelings.

SCORPIO. (October 23rd - November 21st).

Not a particularly brilliant month; but there are better things in store. So don't be the secretive Scorp you tend to be. Mars gives you energy (and I don't mean the chocolate bar variety either!) - but don't calculate on his assistance too much. Your personal life may intensify somewhat; but don't become over possessive with your partner or mate. You will tend to be an early bird in what ever you do right through the month. My cat 'Vinegar Tom' is a Scorpio, and he tends to get well on the tiles all through January, and you know what that means! Like all Scorpions he tends to be a bit of a 'life force'.

SAGITTARIUS. (November 22nd - December 21st).

Like your immediate neighbour Scorpio, you are not very well aspected. Though the 1st, 3rd, and 29th of January could be very excellent days emotionally, with love coming unexpectedly into your life. And if it is there already then these could be Bonanza days for you when everything will be right with your world, and you have a great advantage, for most Saggis are dishy. Sagittarius Frank Sinatra is dishy to me; but then I am an old witch (WITCH! I said!) and have been around for some while, so I am attracted to dishy Saggitarians.

... as I remarked at the begining, horoscopes should be individual, based upon date of birth. ... So ... if you would like a personal Gay Horoscope - write me giving the date of your birth, and the name you are most known by - I will send you a detailed forecast, and also your birth and name numbers.

Write, enclosing cheque or P. O. for £2 to: JAMARA GAYSCENE, JEAN HARVEY PROMOTIONS, APPLIEDORE HOUSE, SWANMORE, Nr. SOUTHAMPTON.

HOMOSEXUALITY. TO-DAY AND IN THE FUTURE

I am a practicing active male homosexual. That sentence in the eyes of most adults who are not Sexual Deviationists, and those people who have reached a status in 'British Society' where they can pass judgement on humanity at large, is likely to condemn me out of hand. It renders me 'queer', 'incapable', 'a third rate citizen'.

I now propose to give a homosexual's view of Homosexuality in 1972, in the hope that those who live a similar life will realise how greatly the weights are levelled against us in 'an adult society'. I also hope to prick the conscience of some self-righteous non-homosexuals.

I am 30 years old and single. I live in a modest bachelor flat on the South Coast. I work in an office 5 days a week for about 7 hours a day. I work in a bar at nights to earn a better living. I have three weeks holiday each year. I like music, cinema and theatre, and watch T.V. quite a lot. I smoke 20 cigarettes a day and drink a few beers each week, mostly at the weekend. I'm hoping to be in a position to buy a flat or small house soon. I can then devote myself to furnishing it and making it into a real home. I've lived in this town for a number of years and am reasonably well-known, although it is a large community. I know a lot of people on 'nodding' acquaintance, many whom I regard as acquaintances - people I drink with, pass the time of day in the street etc., and a small nucleus of friends. I count my closest friends on one hand. I read a lot, keep up a large correspondence, am something of a sun-lover and adore the opportunity of sun-bathing in warm weather. I'm a sauna addict, not for slimming, but purely from a health aspect. I lead quite a full life, have a prolific sex life, and am reasonably happy.

I have a married sister and brother with children, and we meet up quite frequently. I drink in all sorts of bars, including 'Gay' bars (bars where Homosexuals and aspirants go) I visit the Clubs here and in London - mixed clubs and gay clubs. I go to a soccer match occasionally.

I hope the reader hasn't fallen asleep yet? After all, the normality of my life has nothing in it likely to startle him awake. It's a pretty dull sort of existence, very routine, nothing glamorous or unusual really. Is it?

This is somewhat typical of the majority of lives led by Homosexuals. They lead ordinary lives, have ordinary chores to do like washing-up, ironing, Hoovering. They have ordinary pleasures like visiting the cinema, enjoying a drink with friends, a game of billiards, watching football. They have families, friends and relations with whom they are absolutely natural. They have ordinary illnesses like colds, flu, arthritis.

I sense that my life is not too much different from millions of lives led by fellers who live alone, of whatever age; possibly similar to millions of single women, except perhaps the drinking and football.

I guess you could say I lead a fairly normal life eh? I think so!

Yet because of my sexual preference I am branded. No homosexual likes the brand of that word 'queer', because in 8 out of every 10 cases, it is not true. Is there anything queer about the life I have described? I am not the sort of person who abducts very young children, and who commits sexual offences against them. I am not the sort of person who behaves indecently to females, or pinches undies from washing lines. I am not a peeping tom. I do not parade around town in ladies underwear. I keep my sadistic

tendencies to the bedroom - I don't parade around town in full leather kit brandishing a whip or riding crop. I believe that 'Drag' or Female Impersonation is an entertainment media, and I don't act as an exhibitionist. Even my appearance is quite sober - oh yes, I wear pretty shirts, tight trousers and colourful clothes - but so do 75% of the total male population nowadays, whatever their particular classification - so that's nothing out of the ordinary. I don't dress with my cock displayed halfway down to my knees, as an increasing number of so called 'normal' fellers do - so I'm not a cock-teaser either. No long hair for me - it wouldn't suit my appearance, though if it's clean and well-kept I do not condemn long hair. I am also clean-shaven. So tell me why I'm 'queer'?

Sorry I forgot. I go to bed with fellers, of indeterminate age (18 upwards) rather than with women or girls. That makes me queer? To follow the sex instinct is queer? It's supposed to be one of God's gifts isn't it?

Working out a normal existence I see plenty of females. Occasionally I see a nicely proportioned bird, and wonder what she'd be like in her natural state? Bright fresh face, not too much make-up, shoulder length flowing hair, green eyes. Nice figure too, firm breasts, slim waist, neat little bottom, and attractive legs. But I also look at her boy-friend. I notice his hair is well groomed, his clothes are good, bright and well fitted. He's muscular, and the shirt fits just about over large chest, strong shoulders and arms. His tight trousers accentuate the lines of his backside, and he has a definite bulge in the front too. He's an attractive lad. They make a good-looking pair. There is no doubt which I fancy, if it were a question of going to bed with one of them.

Many people believe that homosexuals have never had any sexual relationship with a female. They could be right, many never had. But just as many have, probably more. I have. I used to regard myself as principally bi-sexual. Many men have had their normal sex and produced children. In time they have reverted to homosexuality.

Surely it is not a question of abnormality, of lacking moral fibre, of mental defectiveness, of genes, but one of naturality. Instinct is extremely hard to define. A mother's instinct that her baby is suffocating upstairs in his cot. A policeman's instinct that a housebreaker is still somewhere on the premises. A queer's instinct that the person behind him is a mugger. They're all different instinct, but they're all instances that 'come to us' naturally. Whilst it is possible to create a sexual urge, it is usually a natural process. With you it's that bird over there with her legs open. With me it's that lad over there with his legs open.

Does it matter so much? Provided a basic moral sensitivity is achieved, who should be offended? Providing neither of us solicits for a sexual experience in public, this should be inoffensive to humanity. But it isn't, is it?

Society - whatever that is - the Church - which has misled countless centuries of people and the rich - holding their noses to the clouds and ignoring other people's sensitivity, have decreed that the only normal sexual relationship is one of productivity, between man and woman, and that everything else is abnormal, deviationist or queer. In any age, primitive or civilized that is rubbish and everyone knows it. Especially in times where over-population is a social problem of mounting importance. (Please forgive the pun) humans who contribute in whatever way should be applauded, not ostracised.

What non-homosexuals must understand is that because of this preference they are not persecuted. Even though there is 50% more deviationism in 'normal' sexual relationships than in either Male or Female Homosex. That this can be the case in 1972 and that homosexuals are persecuted is a moral sin, and one which the church could do well to crusade upon. What non-homosexuals must understand is that Homosexuals are numerous enough to present a real threat to these outdated and overworn ideas and ideals. As humanity becomes more civilized; as time progresses I believe that the homosexual populations of the world will manifest themselves. I believe that the calibre of the masses of the homosexuals - men and women - will make itself known to all peoples and that these people will become premier citizens. What non-homosexuals must understand above all is what homosexuality is. It is not a disease, or a personality disorder, it is a way of life. A way of life which, as I have described, is very little different from the daily life of millions of other single people world-wide. A man or woman's sex life is supposed to be a private and personal thing. Heterosexuals sex life manages this privacy and yet they are the very people who wish to, and do publicise the sexual lives of homosexuals. Hypocrites all!

I could in this expose mention a feeling in some quarters about the single life of Jesus Christ, and the absence of any women in his young life. Enough has been conjectured already. I could go into the theory that Homosexuality is hereditary, but I am not au fait with medical information. I could mention the excellent men and women throughout history who have been homosexuals. Like Leonardo da Vinci, Tchaikovsky, Florence Nightingale etc. I could question the fact that people who show most kindness and compassion in times of stress, or disaster or illness are not mothers, doctors or parents, but homosexuals.

I won't explore any of these theories, for they will upset the balance in favour of the sanity and plight of the homosexual. I believe that 'neighbourliness' in 1972 is not merely assisting the old-age pensioners, or doing the Boy Scout good deed every day, but trying to understand your neighbour, sympathizing with his problems, and help him to live a happy and contented life - whether he's an ex-con, a priest, an ex-P.O.W. a midwife, or a homosexual. Believe me, woman's Lib is only a mere drop in the ocean. Total social equality should be everyone's aim. But it isn't. There are too many people in this world who want to be one better than the next person. Like the heterosexuals who decree that they are one better than homosexuals, purely because they are hetero's. How queer that is!

I am a practising active homosexual. I am pleased to be one. I am quite content to go on being a homosexual, and anyone of whatever sexual preference must prove their complete worth as a citizen before I'll accede that they are better people than I am. I am a 30 years old citizen of Great Britain and will not be dismissed as queer, incapable or a third-rate citizen by my equals - heterosexuals.



SEX OF ONE AND HALF A DOZEN OF THE OTHER

by BOBBIE KIMBER

Just Julian

Since my article SEX OF ONE AND HALF A DOZEN OF THE OTHER appeared in the November issue of Gayscene, I have had shoals of letters from people who feel themselves lost just as I once was.

Frankly, it is impossible to answer them all personally. Nor is it possible for me to meet them all - much as I would like to do, though I have made a point of meeting one or two for a chat about their problems.

All I can say is that most doctors worth their degree are quite prepared to listen to the transsexuals problems.

But you must be prepared to approach your doctor openly - and this is difficult for most transsexuals. You MUST GO AND PUT YOUR CARDS on the table, openly and straightforwardly. This is the only way a doctor can handle your problem.

It takes a lot of courage to do.

Transsexuality is a self-centered thing. One is prepared to hurt loved ones who do not understand the problem, and yet expect those same loved ones to fully understand, to the extreme point of accepting your new status after hospitalization - completely.

The completion of the operation does not put you up into a cloudless Never-Never-Land! Oh yes! You have achieved your ideal, your ambition - and you feel free. But it does not end at that.

Life does not provide abundancies just because you have at last become what you always wanted to be.

Only yesterday your future began, and you have no past. Among company who do not know what you once were - you have to create a feminine past. You cannot just talk in feminine company as if you have suddenly arrived from a strange planet.

You will find that woman have a completely different trend of conversation to the male, and you are now one of them; but they are biological and you are not! You will never know pregnancy, nor menstruation - your new-found femininity stops short of these essentially female problems, and without disclosing your transsexuality you will have to come to terms with this.

You will also have to come to terms with the job you once did as a man, and now intend to do as a woman. IT PAYS FAR LESS. (In most cases that is).

These are just a few of the problems, and where I have received letters with stamped addressed envelopes I will try to reply in rotation.

To the others I must say - please do put in an S.A.E. Gayscene is not rolling in wealth, and paper, envelopes and stamps cost money these days.

We are here to help. That's what Gayscene is all about. But Help us to Help you.

As I said earlier I cannot possibly meet you all (though this would be a great thing for all if I could!) - and duplicated problems I will endeavour to reply to through the columns of Gayscene ... and in the meantime I would say ... Do NOT despair. ... You are not alone!



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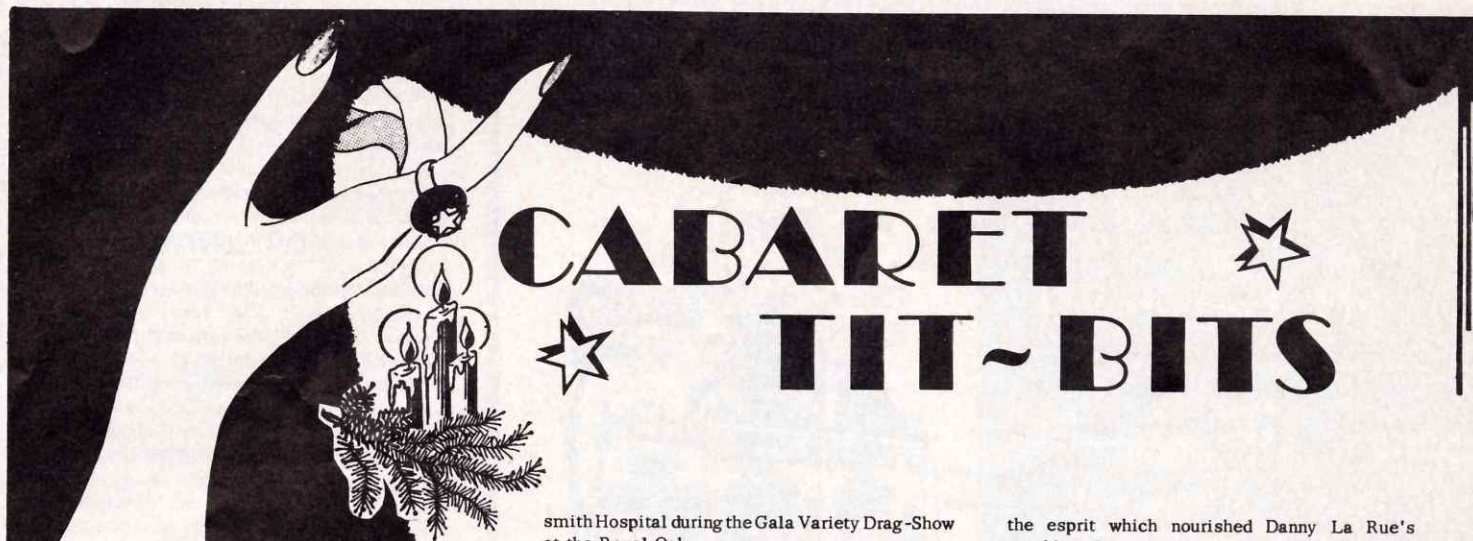
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Freddie Davenport.



What a month it has been, I feel as though I have completed a world tour in thirty days. To start off I was invited to see the new revue at the Casino de Paris starring Zizi Jeanmaire, and what a fabulous show it was. There was Zizi singing, dancing, and forever smiling her warm personality embracing the whole audience.

There were enough feathers and sequins to keep this old soul happy for the rest of my life. The show even includes a very funny drag sequence performed by Edwidge and Bertha, two of Paris's most popular drag artistes. It was a most enjoyable evening.

The next day I dashed down to Lyon, which is becoming a very gay city. After dinner at the MINI-BAR, a rather nice little restaurant run by Micheal and John-Yves, and where everybody goes for an aperitif and gossip before the clubs open, I went across the river to the MYLORD nightclub. They feature a drag show every night at midnight, and like the rest of France the show, and the artistes are changed every month.

When the show finished I walked very slowly up the hill (I'm not as young as I used to be) to the LA BOHEME where PAMELA the resident drag artist holds court, and introduces the Guest artistes of the month, who happened to be, DIENAL and OLIVIA two very funny comedy drag acts from Madame Arturs in Paris.

The club has a lovely big stage, which is also used for dancing when the show is over. I asked if anyone spoke English, for the benefit of GAY-SCENE Readers, and Pamela replied with, GOD SAVE THE QUEEN, so if you happen to be a queen you will be assured of a royal welcome, otherwise don't forget to take your copy of GAY-SCENE.

Straight back from Paris the next day, to pack my dolly bags, dash to the station, and catch the Trans-European Express for Geneva. So in the next issue I'll be bringing you all the gossip from Switzerland.

First and most important is the news from the Royal - Oak, Glenthorne Road, Hammersmith. This is a pub, where the top-line drag acts can be seen every night of the week except Wednesdays. The acts are backed by an excellent duo consisting of George Logan on piano and Vic Allen on Drums. The highlight of the year at the Royal Oak is their Charity night, when Mr. & Mrs. Knowles (Mine Hosts) give the money which has been collected by their artistes in the past year to some worthy cause. In the last few years these have included the Hammersmith Orphans, and the Old Age Pensioners. Twenty months ago they decided to aim very high for a Kidney machine costing £2,500. On Wednesday Nov. 8th, a cheque for this amount was presented by Professor Loftus (from T. V. 's Doctor in Charge') to the Hammer-

smith Hospital during the Gala Variety Drag-Show at the Royal Oak.

The Comperes for the evening was Mr. KEITH MILLS, who first called upon the GAY-BIRDS, (AL BAKER & JOHNNIE JAKS) to do their well known mime act. They were followed by the LOGAN*BERRIES (TONY MONROE & LESLIE WARREN) who performed a very slick version of 'Big Spender'. Mr. SMITHS unrehearsed 'New Fangled Tango' with a gentleman from the audience caused much hilarity and was a suitable contrast to Mr. NIKKI YOUNG who was next on the bill. NIKKI was as always in good voice and rendered some powerful soprano numbers with thrilling top notes.

Mr. KEITH MILLS and TONY MONROE gave a very funny patter and song act which had some hilarious moments as they back-chatted each other and the audience. The first half of the show was closed by DERRICK REECE & JAMES WHITE who did a spectacular fire eating act.

'STARTIME' was the theme of the second half of the show each of the artistes impersonating well known figures from the world of entertainment. DORTHY SQUIRES (JOHN LORD), ESTHER & ABI OFARIM (DERRICK REECE & JAMES WHITE), HYLDA BAKER & CYNTHIA (TONY MONROE & MR. SMITH), EDITH PIAF (BARRY SCOTT), MAE WEST (KEITH MILLS), JEANETTE McDONALD (NIKKI YOUNG), GYPSY ROSE LEE (MR. SMITH), SHIRLEY BASSEY (JOHN LORD), and AL JOLSON (AL BAKER) were the artistes who were presented, and it was definitely a star-studded bill.

JEAN FREDERICKS then played the trombone and sang in his own inimitable way, building the atmosphere to a pitch suitable for the star of the evening, Mr. RON KNOWLES (The Landlord of the Royal Oak), who appearing in FULL DRAG gave us his version of 'The Show is Over', and was joined for the last verse by all the other artistes who had appeared during the evening.

Mr. & Mrs. Knowles then presented each of the drag artistes with a pair of beautiful Diamante earrings.

Finally, here are a few pubs that rarely get mentioned but are well worth a visit as they have long been a part of the London 'scene'; The Wheatsheaf - Fulham Road - Drag on Tuesdays.

The Cock - Kilburn High Road - Drag on Thursdays.

The Eagle - Clifton Road - Maida Vale - Drag Fri. Sat. Sun.

The Duke of Fife - Katherine Road, Upton Park, Drag Fri. Sat. Sun.

These are basically normal pubs but the gay crowd is always welcome.

Dublin is a spreading city eager for good cabaret and fun. Irish smiles are predominant despite political problems --- but the esprit of Eire --

the esprit which nourished Danny La Rue's sparkling humour, personality and delivery --- a highly developed blarney exists. The Baggot Inn was a must for cabaret --- and here we saw Mr. Freddie Davenport --- a beautifully dressed female impersonator of Dublin origins -- giving us a delightful evening of intimate laughs. They combine female strip (in the Irish tradition) along with the drag act and the upstairs room is one of intrigue where many different parts of society meet to get their first glimpses of the art of drag. Freddie Davenport reminded me a bit of the late Trevor Morton -- with his snappy, almost sexy delivery -- not sparing them of the full-blown patter necessary for a live -- and I mean, live act. Freddie took over resident artist from Mr. Pussy who came to Dublin over two years ago and has been a top "saleslady" for his modern in-vogue art that has been made "legit" by Eire's own La Rue.

Should one prefer a bar -- have a drink at Bartley-Dunns -- and be sure to stand at the bar itself. Endure a short walk to Rice's bar near St. Stephen's Green. The gay life is here -- but you have to look a little harder for it as it is not accepted as yet -- as it is in say London or the southern part of England. After Mr. Pussy's cabaret run, Dublin has had a brief glimpse of Lee Stevens and Mr. Jean Fredericks -- due to return in February and who opened despite a minor bomb threat to the club where he scored a triumphant reception.

It looks as though there may be an exclusive circuit of cabaret that is yet to come to Dubliners in this circle are in great hope that Lee Sutton will be the next to come. Mr. Sutton's two L.P.'s "A Near Miss" and "Drag for Camp Followers" are very popular over here. There is a call for drag entertainment also in Belfast but artistes will wait until the trouble there comes to a halt. Mr. Pussy has a road show (small band, two girls and a male comperes) which goes out to the country and provinces -- so things are beginning to "turn on" in Eire -- which will become a very important country in the new Common Market.

The Forty-Two Club Revue never ceases to amaze me. Year after year the shows seem to become more adventurous and I think that they can't possibly surpass last year's effort -- but they do. This year's *That Guy* Whittington and *His Dolls* was no exception. Devised written choreographed and produced by Tony Stuart (I don't know where he finds the time), music by the Brighton beaux and production designed by Syd Lewis. It isn't usual these days to go to the West End and come out of a comedy dismally unlaughing but the Co-Op Hall, Brighton resounded with the chorles of a very happy and amused audience. Syd Lewis gave the cat quite a dif-

continued on Page 16

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LIBERATION OR EXHIBITIONISM

In Birmingham a couple of weeks ago I attended the G. L. P. Gay Fawkes and Birthday event. I arrived after the All-coloured group had finished but, I understand that their performance was first class. Following this came the very popular disco 'Orange Bicycle'. The only sad part of the evening being that there were more wall flowers than dancers. However in typically G. L. F. (Gay Liberation Front) style the word was passed round that there would be a Sparkler Parade through parts of the city. (I did not stay to see the result). Upon hearing this two ardent? G. L. F. members came over to me and stated their disapproval. ATTENTION G. L. P. MEMBERS I've got news for you. Most gay people agree with a large number of your aims but completely denounce your action (this in my opinion could be a reason why a large number of gay people want to stop underground - not wanting to be associated with a group that are no more than exhibitionist). Get your heads out of those suffocating clouds and look at the situation logically.

What is it that you want? LIBERATION?

Well folks the season of goodwill is upon us (for the uninitiated-Christmas). There are three things that I wish to ask of you.

1) It would be a big step on behalf of the gay community in this country to be able to present to a hospital somewhere - a Kidney machine or something similar for next Christmas or even earlier. To do this I suggest that we send all our cigarette coupons to 'Gay-scene' where they can be exchanged for cash then put in a fund for one of those machines. Ed Note: Yes I think a big GAY appeal fund would be a super idea. Can we have more of your comments before settling on a definite decision.

2) No matter how many friends you have fallen out with over the past year this is the time to forgive and forget. Radiate love not aggression. G. L. F. for the digs I have made at you - I love you all. Thank you Jean and Jo Harvey and your associates for 'Gayscene'. We love you all.

3) From me to all of you have a fabulous time - I will.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Gay New Year. Love from CHRISTIAN.

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Bonsai is the name given to dwarf trees which are a unique and alive Japanese object of art and have become one of the wonders of the world. Potted trees can be found anywhere in the world but none like the Japanese Bonsai for the Bonsai is the achievement of human creative talent. The first mention of Bonsai appears in the Kamakure period (1192-1333) an illustration of Bonsai is seen in the famous picture scroll of the priest Honen of the same period. This merely indicates that Bonsai were being cultured for the purpose of appreciation at this time. Bonsai was once considered a leisurely hobby for the rich only. Now, however, it is accepted by the general public as an art, as well as a hobby, and has become particularly popular with people living in the crowded city areas who otherwise have few direct contacts with nature. This therefore makes them ideal for the batchelor apartment where a great deal of flower arranging is perhaps more difficult, and of course costly as fresh flowers to be purchased weekly can become a very expensive operation. Bonsai's come in as great a variety as trees themselves. You can have the exotic red maple, red plum, wild plum, dwarf azalea, winter jasmine: all of which are very colourful, or indeed needlepine, spruce, beech, and countless other varieties. Some have exotic twisting barks, others have been curved into shapes but all are particularly interesting and quite often change with the season as indeed do full size trees.

For the owner of a single Bonsai there is no problem of display. It is when your collection grows into many varied types and shapes that room must be found in special spots if your Bonsai's are to be seen to the best advantage. Bonsai by their very nature are on display all the time and demand your attention. Silently the tree demands this traditional treatment received in Japan if simplicity of preservation is to answer. Bonsai containers must conform to certain standards if the tree is to remain healthy.

Obviously one will require a point of drainage and there are very many traditional style Japanese containers which if you become a Bonsai fanatic you will find yourself searching for in junk shops, antique rooms and the like. The cost of a Bonsai of a fabulous growing pattern and perhaps with a colour formation can be anything up to £100 with some general prices being around the 25 gns mark, but to start with you can purchase small evergreens from 3 gns and once you find yourself becoming interested in the Bonsai you will suddenly decide that if you add the cost of flowers over the year, purchasing one or two beautiful Bonsai's is going to be a worthwhile outlay. There are a number of books on the market which will tell you in depth about the Bonsai and of course your local library will be able to obtain any of these for you.



REFLECTIONS By MICK SANDWELL

This Wicked Queen (in the story of Snow White and The Seven Little Old Men, fool!) asked her Magic Mirror:

'Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?' and the magic mirror, failing to oblige, showed her - instead of her own reflection that she'd hoped for - a glimpse of the beautiful Snow White. It's a long time ago now, but the soap powder people haven't forgotten it yet.

It's a long time ago, too, that the pagan winter-festivals took on new meaning as the Jesus story spread. Festivals are a time of loving anyway, and here was the love story to beat all records. THIS love-child turned the accepted norms upside down; there was ample room for the poor in the 'kingdom' of which he spoke, but for the rich it was a tight fit. He condemned hypocrisy, but rejected no-one who sought him. Living at a time when belief in all kinds of gods was terrifyingly real, he wanted to take the terror out of the Jews' special belief in their One-God (you'll know from the brilliant Russell film 'The Devils' that 'Christians' have often mistakenly put the terror back in).

The ancient Roman historian Josephus confirms for certain that 'Jesus' existed in history: to this day, millions of 'Christians' not only believe 'He' existed in a very special kind of way, but say 'He' still uniquely exists and will always exist for those who need Him. They point out that whether you love Christ or not (however much or little you may know about him), He can't stop loving you.

I hope this year's winter festival will be full of fun and joy for you; but if you should happen to be among those unlucky ones full of lonely and bitter reflections, the middle-east's most priceless love story may indicate for you too, Who is the fairest one of all. If you need Him, don't be shy to join up with the Christians anywhere for an hour or two: take this magazine column with you if it's any help.

I know that He needs You.



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GETTING THE BIRD

If you are to cook a traditional Christmas Day meal here are a few tips which I hope will help you to produce a very good bird.

A Turkey 8 to 10 lbs is suitable for 4 to 6 people, make sure the size of the bird you choose will go into the oven, most modern stoves easily take up to 15 to 16 lb. birds.

It is advisable if buying a frozen Turkey to buy at least 48 hours before cooking. Remove plastic bag and allow to thaw at normal room temperature. While defrosting a slight darkening of the meat, particularly the legs may take place, this is quite normal. Once thawed do remember to remove the giblets and neck which are usually found inside the bird. These will make a rich stock for gravy or soup and should be cooked on removal. Rinse Turkey under tap dry thoroughly and powder off with flour. Stuffings can be made on Christmas Eve if kept in a cool place and Turkey can also be stuffed on Christmas Eve to save a little time. Mixed Herb stuffings can be bought in packets and should be placed in the main body of the bird, sausage meat stuffing is simply 1 lb. of pork sausage meat (more if large bird) mixed with about 2 tablespoons of fine white breadcrumbs. 1 tablespoon of dried or fresh herbs finely chopped and 1 tablespoon of the stock from the giblets. This is stuffed into breast of bird.

On Christmas Day pre-heat oven keeping oven at appropriate setting throughout cooking. Normal roasting Temp. 375F gas mark 5. Allow 15 minutes for every pound up to 14 lbs. and 10 minutes for every pound over this. This will make a 13 lb. bird 3½ hours and a 17 lb. 4 hours.

Place Turkey in roasting tin with strips of Bacon over breast and baste with melted fat thickly over the rest of bird, and cover with foil or similar and place in oven. Half an hour before Turkey has finished cooking remove the covering to allow bird to brown.

Chestnut stuffing can be used in bird and may be served with Turkey, and bread sauce is a usual accompaniment. Cranberry sauce is also excellent with the bird. After your meal, we wish you some bona volunteers for washing up.



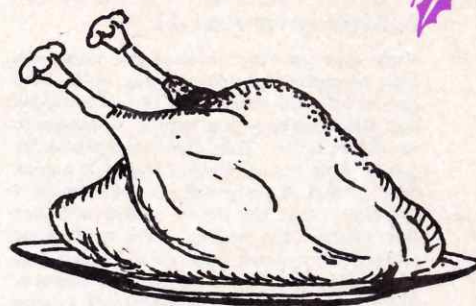
If you wish to entertain in a more simple way, here are a few simple snacks for your guests.

SCOTCH EGGS

Hard boiled eggs. Sausage meat.
Egg and breadcrumbs. Frying fat.
Shell the eggs and cover each egg with sausage meat. Coat carefully with beaten egg and breadcrumbs and fry in hot fat until nicely browned, best served cut in half, cold.

STUFFED POTATOES

Medium potatoes. Butter.
2 firm Tomatoes skinned and chopped.
About 2 teaspoons of chopped parsley.
Can of cooked Kipper fillets.
Salt and pepper.
Scrub the potatoes, pearce and bake at 375F (mark 5) for about 1 hour. Cut the potatoes in half, lengthwise, and scoop out the soft centre and mix with all the ingredients listed, place back in potato cases. Just before you are ready to serve place under grill for a few minutes, and garnish with Tomato and parsley.



SAVOURY SANDWICH LOAF

1 day old white loaf. Salt and pepper.
Butter or margarine. 6 tablespoons crushed sardines.

Cooked ham in thin slices.
1 small tomato and olives for decorations.
½ lb. cream cheese.
2 hard boiled eggs.

Remove crust from loaf and cut lengthwise five equal slices. Butter each slice and spread first slice with ham. Next slice with about 2 oz. of the cheese, next slice with crushed egg mixed with a little Mayonaise into a paste, and the fourth slice spread with the crushed sardines. Pat the fifth slice on top so that it forms the original loaf. Soften the remaining cheese with a little milk or cream and coat the top and sides of the loaf (rather like icing a cake) decorate with slices of tomato and the olives, and slice the first couple of slices just before the guests begin to feast.

And heres wishing you all an absolutely bona Jary this Christmas.

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CABARET TIT-BITS

continued from Page 11

ferent look and I'm convinced this must have been the randies Pushins for miles. Eddie Reid gave a splendid rendering of Dick Whittingdon and introduced some fine singing. A pleasure to see Eddie again. Tony Stuart took his double part of King Rat and Horatio Bligh with a great deal of thigh slapping and general camping. I especially liked the 'dance' routine with Dick Whittingdon.. But for sheer scene stealing and campy the bouquet must go to Tommy Kent doubling as Spirit of the Bells and Rosie Sunbeam. Facial expressions were out of this world as were the audience asides which brought the house down. The chorus were something to be seen to be believed. From sailor to sun kissed peaches they managed to cope with incredible changes of costume in the minutest space. How some of the head dresses didn't fall off is a miracle. No Brighton show would be complete without Joyce Golding - always a pleasure to watch and holds the audience right in the palm of her hand until she no longer needs them. I think I liked her Lorelie best of the two parts. Proceeds this year went to the PDSA and I bet there are quite some smiling faces on a few cats and dogs this Christmas.



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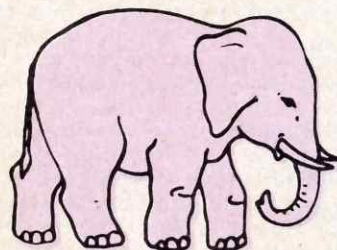
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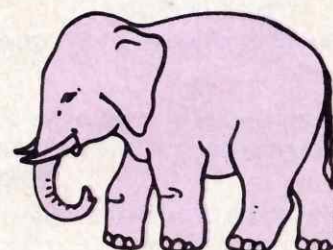
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