

GAY TIMES

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AMSTERDAM *A Taste of Freedom*

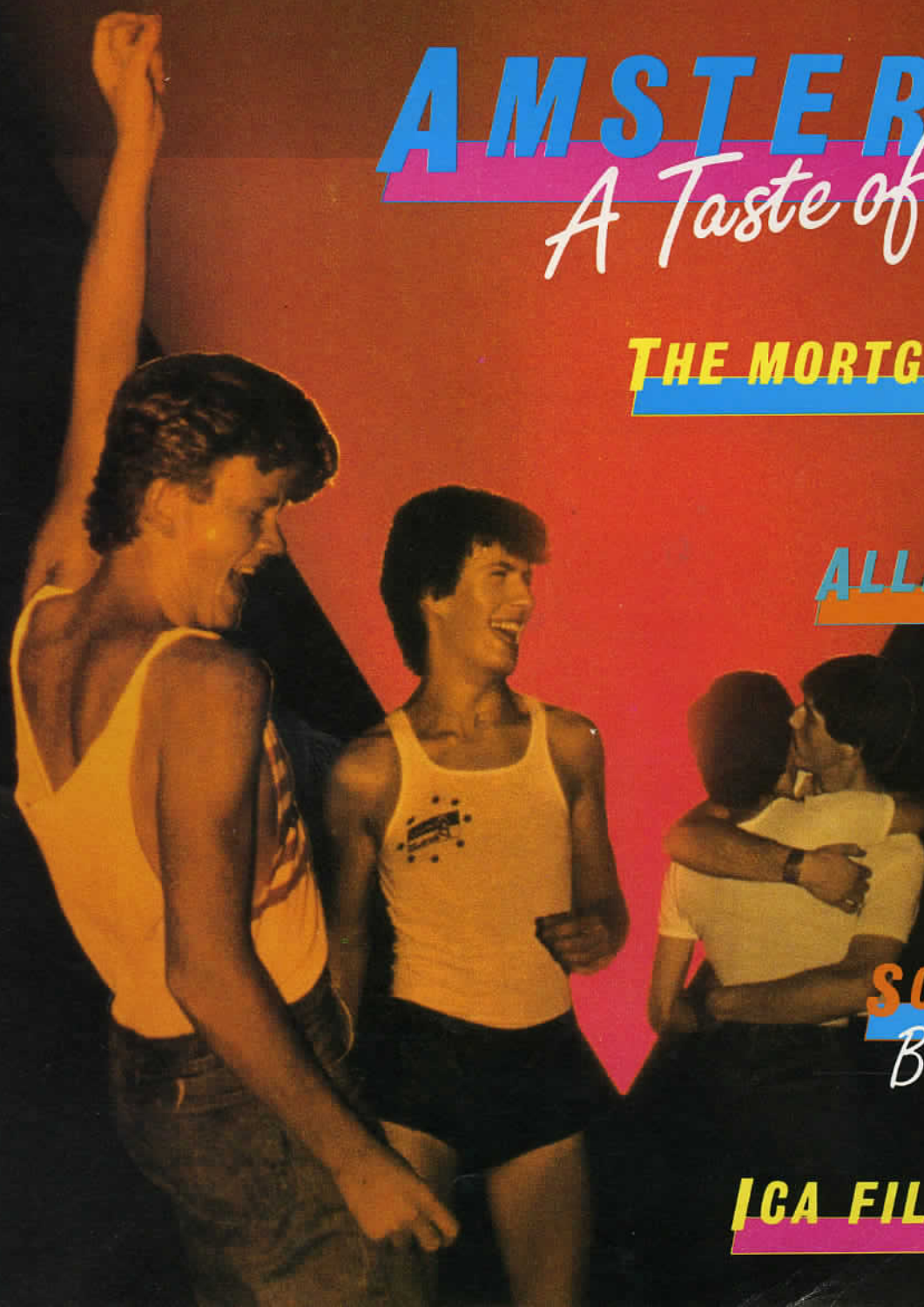
THE MORTGAGE MARKET
in focus

ALLEN GINSBERG
interview

BRIGHTON
Town & Around

SOUTH AFRICA
Books & Apartheid

ICA FILM FESTIVAL
Preview



Words: John Marshall
Photographs: Nigel Hutton



Ken Livingstone



Stunning success for Pride '85

THE annual Gay Pride Carnival in London on June 29th was a stunning success, with an estimated crowd of 11,000 people attending.

It was probably the most exciting and spectacular Gay Pride Festival ever staged—with over 8,000 people on the Carnival Parade and a further 3,000 people joining the action at a unique five-hour concert at Jubilee Gardens, on the south bank of the Thames.

Streets in central London were brought to a halt as thousands of gay men and lesbians from all over the country joined together for a massive celebration. And one of the most colourful features of the Grand Parade was the special *Gay Times* bus, which carried hundreds of pink balloons and a rousing jazz band from Stallions.

The Parade, which started at Hyde Park, drew cheers and applause from onlookers as it made its way through West End streets before reaching its destination in Jubilee Gardens, alongside County Hall. And the general consensus of marchers was that this year's Parade was the most exciting ever.

"I've never experienced anything like it before," said one delighted marcher, and another said: "It's been wonderful and I can't imagine a better way to spend a day. I wouldn't have missed it for anything!"

Marchers hit new heights of pleasure at Jubilee

Gardens, where non-stop entertainment was provided by groups and individuals such as Jimi Somerville, Tom Robinson, The Guest Stars, Divine and the Beverley Sisters.

In a real carnival atmosphere—reminiscent of pop festivals in the early 70s—there were picnics, food stalls, a cabaret tent, books stalls and a beer tent.

And there were speeches, too, from GLC leader Ken Livingstone and the wife of a South Wales miner, who promised support from the mining community for all gay men and lesbians.

It was a truly stunning day, which carried on during the evening with special events at various London venues—including Heaven, the Market Tavern, the Fallen Angel and the Laurel Tree.

Our pictures show just a few scenes from Gay Pride '85!



Tom Robinson



Jimi Somerville

