An abstract graphic design featuring several thick, flowing ribbons in the colors of the rainbow (yellow, orange, red, purple, blue, green) set against a dark blue background. The ribbons are layered and curved, creating a sense of movement and depth.

LESBIAN & GAY

# PRIDE '95

FREE OFFICIAL  
SOUVENIR MAGAZINE

**GAY**  
*times*

**DIVA**

in association with

*the* **PRIDE**  
*trust*



## Chill out at Pride '95

# PRIDE '95

THE OFFICIAL SOUVENIR MAGAZINE • IN ASSOCIATION WITH GAY TIMES & DIVA



*Extra Sensory Perfection*

*Extra Smooth,  
Strong Lager*

*From The Heart of Prague*



Comptons  
of  
SOHO



HALFWAY TO  
HEAVEN



all the above venues have beer tents at Pride '95

**W**elcome to Lesbian and Gay Pride 1995. In last year's magazine I said I felt that the lesbian and gay community was at a turning point, and this year, as if to symbolise this, the Pride Trust has made a series of innovations to Pride, our community's central celebration.

Most impressive of all is the change of festival venue. We are

we are calling for as many women as possible to come out and "Be Visibly Lesbian at Pride 1995" as a way of asserting their visibility and joining in our community's collective demand for equality and freedom under the law.

Finally, the Pride Trust has founded the Pride Arts Festival (PAFI), which runs in London from May 27 up to Pride Day itself, June 24. This will be the



saying *au revoir* to the London Borough of Lambeth and moving north to Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets. With 160,000 attending the festival last year, Brockwell Park was no longer large enough. Victoria Park, on the other hand, is an exceptional venue which offers a chance to expand the event in size and content.

Secondly, the Pride Trust has inaugurated a lesbian focus within the march and festival to highlight the issues of homophobia and prejudice faced by women throughout our community. So

most extensive lesbian and gay arts event ever staged in the capital. There will be something for everyone and I hope you will be able to check some of it out.

On behalf of the Pride Trust directors I would like to thank all our hard-working volunteers who work throughout the year, and especially our stewards, who make the event possible on the day. May I wish you, your families, partners and friends a stunningly good time on June 24.

ADAM JEANES Chair of the Pride Trust



Photos: Bill Short

## Contents

4

### Holding Pride in trust

A message from Adam Jeanes, Chair of The Pride Trust

6-7

### The Pride March

Map and transport details

8

### PAFI

Dylan Calder introduces the Pride Arts Festival

12-21

### Visibly Lesbian

Frances Williams reports on the lesbian highlights of the Pride Festival

24

### Pride 2000

David Hawkes and Tom Brooks discuss the financing of Pride

26-29

### The Pride Volunteers

Who are the people who make Pride work?

29

### Pride Worldwide

30-31

### Victoria Park

Piers Ford looks at the history of this year's Festival venue

33-44

### The Pride Festival

The map of the Victoria Park Festival site and full details of the events of the day

48

### March on London 1996

52-60

### PAFI

Highlights of the Pride Arts Festival

64

### Pride noticeboard

66

### Pride and the media

Nigel Wrench wonders why the media aren't interested



# HOLDING PRIDE IN TRUST



Adam Jeanes. Photo: Bill Short

## A message from Adam Jeanes, Chair of the Pride Trust

Lesbian and Gay Pride is a remarkable creation of a community often stereotyped as "creative". Endangered yet enduring throughout its chequered history, it remains the one tradition that lesbians, gays and bisexuals can truly claim entirely as their own invention. A succession of organising bodies have contributed to that tradition, of which the Pride Trust is merely the most recent.

After the demise of LAG-POC Ltd (The Lesbian and Gay Pride Organising Committee) in the aftermath of Europride, the Pride Trust was formed in October 1992 to carry on the Pride event and extend it. It is a voluntary organisation, incorporated as a limited company by guarantee of its membership, each of whom is personally liable to the tune of £1 should it go

into liquidation. Anybody over the age of eighteen can join and we have so far refused no one.

The Pride Trust's name is indicative of the approach we, the Pride organisers, have to the task we've taken on: we are holding Pride "in trust" for the lesbian and gay community of Britain. We don't own the event — no one should be allowed to claim that. We provide the resources, the staff and the time to ensure it happens.

The "Pride Committee" is in fact ten or so interlocking working groups, each dedicated to a particular aspect of the event: there are working groups for the march itself, human resources, fundraising, and so forth. All the groups report directly to the Management Committee.

The main function of the "Pride Committee" is to

finance the event and put it on. The other major role is listening. From its inception the Pride Trust wanted to see that no participant felt alienated or misrepresented by Pride. Consultation before and after Pride coupled with an outreach strategy informs the thinking of the Management Committee in planning the event: new people coming into the organisation, because of its small size, often find that they can effect considerable change.

For example, in 1993 the Pride Trust was criticised over its provision for people with disabilities; a new Access Working Group was set up to address these concerns. In 1994, a range of facilities were provided, ranging from mobility buses on the march to the installation of a minicom in the Pride office. After Pride 1994, there was again criticism of our access provision, but many acknowledged that there had been a significant change of attitude within the organisation concerning the involvement of people with disabilities. The change continues, and the lessons learnt are being taken up and applied to 1995.

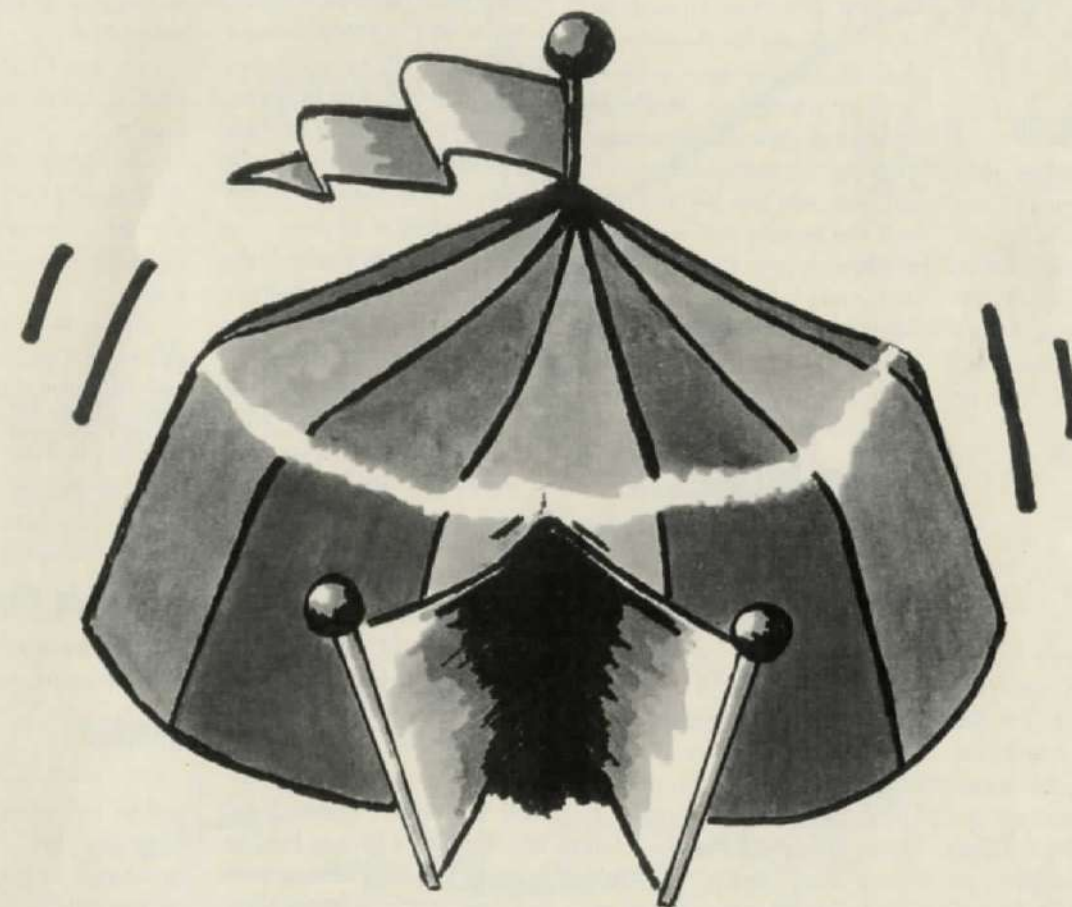
Similarly, the decision to focus on lesbian visibility in 1995 was borne out of a post-Pride open forum meeting in July 1994. That meeting agreed that we should seek to increase the appeal of Pride to lesbians and bisexual women. Visibility is essential to lesbians since so much in British law and society simply refuses

to accept that they exist. And now there is the new "post-separatist lesbian" activism grabbing headlines everywhere and politely telling the men to move over and make room on the frontline. As a result the relationship between lesbians and gay men has become a vibrant topic of debate. Whether you believe that there is a new collaboration pending between gay men and lesbians or that the gulf is yawning wider than ever, the fact is that something new is happening, and Pride, which embraces the ideal of diversity, is the best place to investigate the possibilities.

The other significant feature of the Pride Trust is that there are not an awful lot of us. Apart from the stewards on the day, who are really what makes the whole thing work, the Pride Trust consists of about fifty people for most of the year. That's fifty people organising an event for over 150,000 others. All of them, bar one, do it without remuneration and at considerable detriment to their personal lives. So why do it? I can only speak for myself in this — there are as many reasons as we have volunteers. I believe in individual and collective action against discrimination, prejudice and assumptions about "normality". I suppose I want to change the world, and looking out at a crowd of nearly a quarter of a million lesbians and gays makes you feel that it's not quite as absurd an idea as it seems. ☺



## PUMPIN CURLS



JOIN FORCES TO BRING YOU  
THE OFFICIAL PRIDE DISCO TENT  
AT VICTORIA PARK

FEATURING THE TALENTS OF ALL YOUR FAVOURITE D.J.'S  
UNDER ONE ROOF ALL DAY LONG  
TRADE COMPILATION CD RECORDED LIVE AT PRIDE

MIXED BY TONY DE VIT & MALCOLM (DISS-CUSS)

SEE PRESS FOR DETAILS

B-ART







# A COLLECTIVE CELEBRATION



Dylan Calder (left), Director of the Pride Arts Festival, with Stephen Daldry, Artistic Director of the Royal Court Theatre. Photo: Robert Taylor

## Dylan Calder, Director of the Pride Arts Festival, explains why he took on the job

In 1992, while a student at the University of Kent, I took a year out to co-ordinate EXPOSURE '92, a four-day festival of lesbian and gay arts. In Canterbury — despite an active Queer presence on campus — that was no mean feat. Working our butts off without an office, phone, fax, computer, etc., myself and a group of like-minded friends pulled off 100 hours of arts events on £6,000... and managed to create controversy along the way!

Since EXPOSURE we have had It's Queer Up North and Glasgay, both of which have endured hardships — and enjoyed phenomenal success. All three festivals have proved that there is great art out there,

and that people want to see it.

It was a dream of mine to see a similar festival in London, but it had to be different. There were and are regional reasons in Canterbury, Manchester and Glasgow, for being out and proud and being an artist. But in London, Queers are always on the scene and, if not on the stage, then stage-managing, producing, administering and directing Queer work. And there's no hiding them. There was not — at first glance — a need for a lesbian and gay arts festival. It was already there, but not under one name.

But because of the Pride March and Festival, there was a space in the Queer Calendar just waiting to be filled. Why

should we just have one day of celebration, when we could have an entire month? The Pride Arts Festival expands Pride in the most exciting way possible. And just for your consumption.

PAFI is about investigating and demonstrating the visibility, viability and credibility of lesbian and gay artists, and lesbian and gay audiences. More than that, it is attempting to dis-assemble all the institutionalised bullshit which claims that certain identities, and certain ways of practising and presenting art, are just not going to pack them in the aisles. PAFI wants to make it widely known that lesbians do make films and form dance companies; that black gay men do make theatre and photographic exhibitions; and that — more importantly — people do want to see their work. We operate on the assumption that there is always an audience out there — gay and straight — for a diverse range of arts, and ways of creating and presenting arts.

In order to survive in London, PAFI, we decided, would also have to make contact and associations with spheres of influence in the contemporary arts world. It would have to be seen to be breaking new ground, and trying out new things. It would have to produce events, as well as bringing other events under its umbrella. It must have dialogues with government funding-bodies and big business;

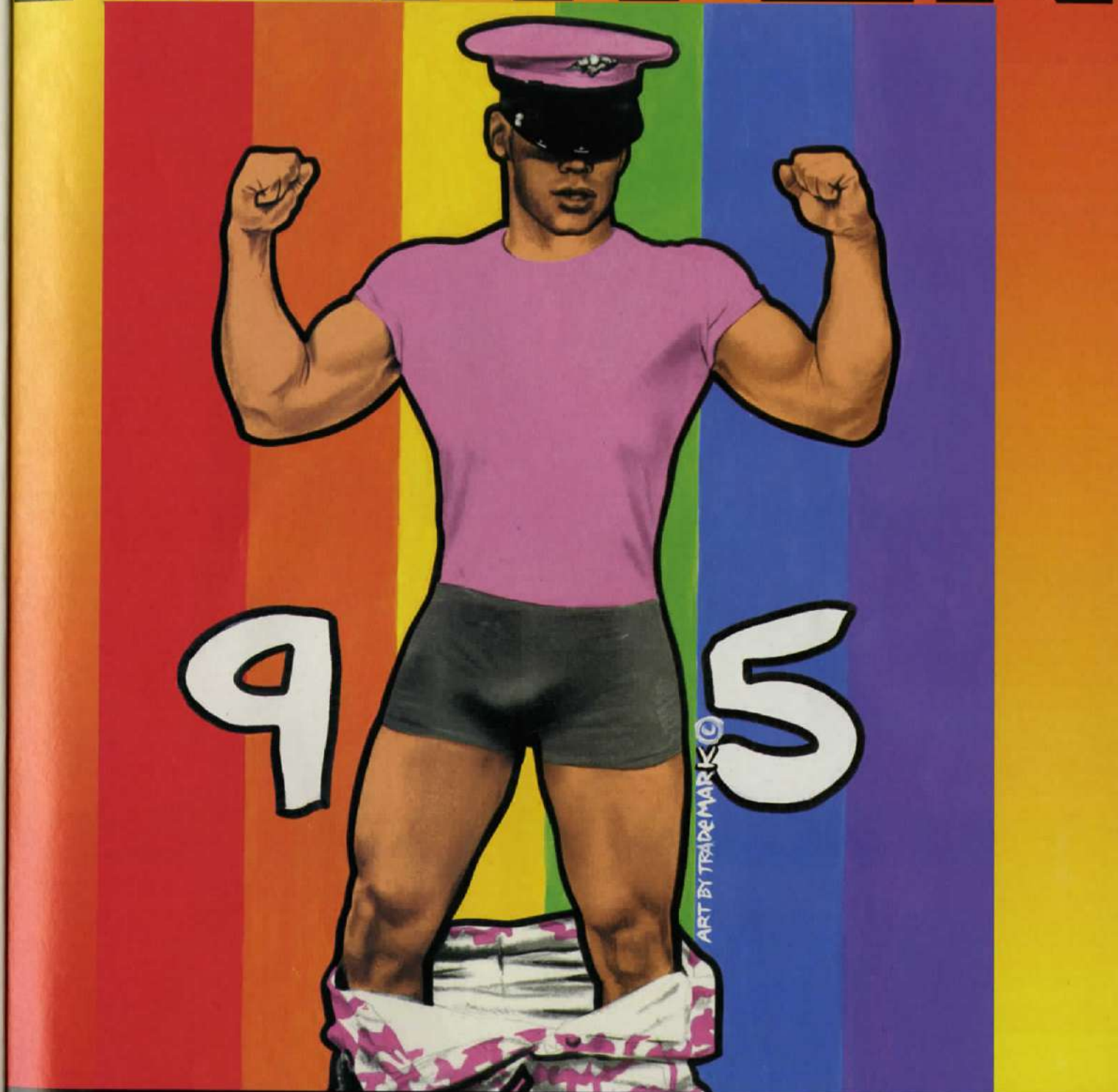
arts institutions and intellectuals; other festivals, cultural organisations, and production companies; and with the widest possible range of arts spaces — from the Royal National Theatre to the Vauxhall Tavern.

The festival — to be everything it could be — would have to bridge the gap between what have been historically known as the 'Fringe' and the 'Mainstream'. PAFI must intend to blur distinctions between the two categories. That may seem to be an improbable objective, but it has been apparent, in making this festival happen, that everyone — almost without exception — has wanted to work with us — from the Royal National Theatre to the Vauxhall Tavern. And this is just a starting-point. With the growth-plans we at PAFI have in mind, this festival will demonstrate that we are active in the whole industry that is making art... and we are doing spectacular stuff.

This is not the first London-wide multi-media festival of lesbian and gay contemporary arts. But it is certainly the largest, and it cannot, and will not, go unnoticed. It has been created in a mood of 'collective celebration', and in the spirit of Pride and, ultimately, beyond our wildest aspirations.

PAFI previews, page 21 & 52-60.

# HEAVEN



**PRIDE - THE PARTY**  
**SATURDAY 24TH JUNE**  
**10.00 TIL 7.00AM\***

**ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE £10 CLONE ZONE, MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, LONDON**  
**HEAVEN, UNDER THE ARCHES, OFF VILLIERS ST, LONDON WC2**

\*SUBJECT TO LICENSE









# ON THE MARCH

## Floats & Dressing-Up

For the first time this year, marchers have been allowed by the Metropolitan police to be accompanied by a procession of floats. Heading the march will be the Visibly Lesbian float which women's co-ordinator Alex Cole says "will bear fruits of the most exotic kind". She says she wants the floats to have a "Mardi Gras feel" and is urging all dykes to "camp it up". Other floats representing various venues include Sue Wade's Wow Bar (who might be putting on some show girls for the occasion) and Suzi Krueger's Fist (who no doubt will make a leathery appearance). There'll also be a contingent of roaring dykes on bikes who will be doing fly-pasts on the other side of the road from the marchers at regular intervals. Deputy Director of the Pride Arts festival, Barbara Egervary, believes that the floats and march will be hugely varied.

"With all the mainstream media interest in lesbians this year, it will give us the chance to show ourselves as we really are in all our diversity, not just the usual caricatures of bull dykes and lipstick lesbians."

If you want to be part of the whole shebang, Alex Cole has written some checkpoints for the visible lesbian...

- ✱ Make a banner with the name of a famous, infamous or forgotten dyke.
- ✱ Proclaim your profession and confound the stereotypes. Dress for the job.
- ✱ Go glam, drag or just plain over-the-top in your attire. Lurex and body glitter are in!
- ✱ Make a noise: bang a drum or bring a blaster — leave the whistles to your admirers.
- ✱ March en masse with your friends, your family or an organisation waving a banner.



Blooming and booming: Sheboom. Photo: Bill Short

## Sheboom

Making a bit of a din is what Sheboom specialise in doing. Hailing from Glasgow, the gang of lesbian drummers first made their mark at Pride last year when over 50 lesbians with large drums banged and bashed their way through central London making quite a few heads turn in the process.

Since then they've also made an appearance at Stonewall's Equality Show, filling the venue, the Albert Hall, with voluminous rhythms. This year they are set to front the march as part of the lesbian visibility focus and, blooming as well as booming, are intent on enrolling more drummers than ever before.



Lesbian Avengers: "We are not amused." Photo: Richard Maude

the little mini Avenger groups from places like Liverpool and Southampton will be together," says group member Lynn Sutcliffe. "We're hoping for

## Lesbian Avengers

Since the formation last summer of the direct action group the Lesbian Avengers, the London chapter has notched up hundreds of new recruits to the lesbian cause.

To date, they've conducted over 25 zaps and actions, as various as visiting homophobic Tory MP Emma Nicholson in her garden in Devon to

storming the news offices of the *Sunday Times* and protesting against Channel Four's decision to censor the lesbian kiss from an edition of *Brookside*.

They intend to make a big splash at Pride this year and are hoping that Avengers from all over the country can get together.

"It will be the first time all

around 400 women to create an Avenger section on the march."

Donning T-shirts emblazoned with their ticking bomb logos, women will also be fire-eating and recruiting as they move along the central London route.



JEREMY JOSEPH PRESENTS

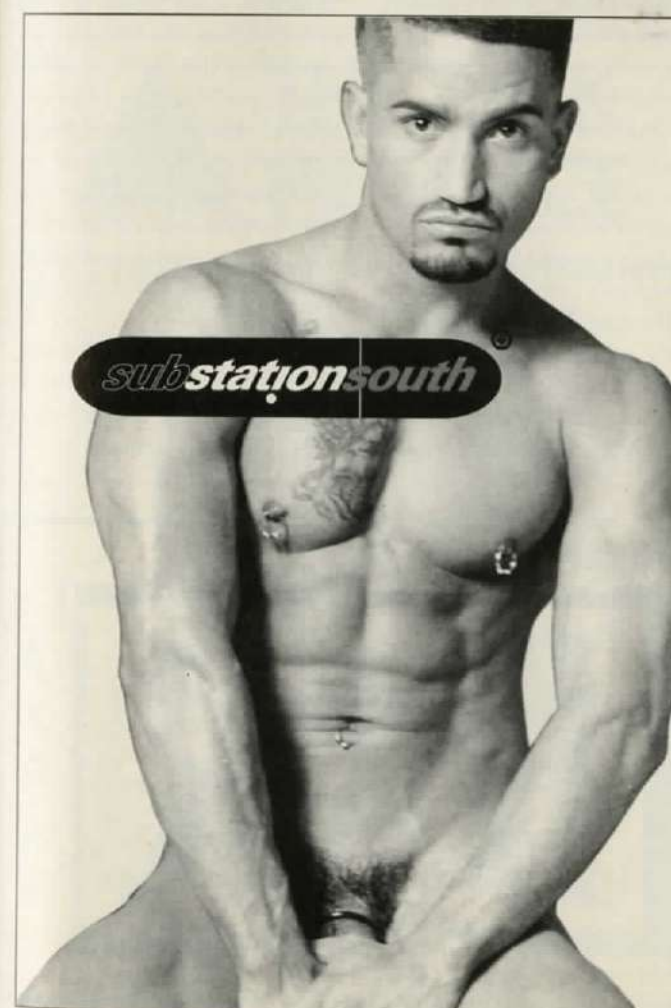
THE CLUB  
**'L.A. 2'**  
3 NIGHTS A WEEK  
157 Charing Cross Road,  
London WC2  
Monday, Thursday &  
Saturday  
10.30pm-4am

**G·A·Y**

THE RADIO  
**SPECTRUM**  
558 AM  
5 nights a week  
MONDAY-FRIDAY NIGHT  
1-3am

TO END PRIDE ON A HIGH,  
WE'LL SEE YOU AT  
**G·A·Y**

(I WONDER WHO IS APPEARING THIS YEAR?)



Open	Free B4 10.30pm	Cover Charge
Mon - Thurs	9.30pm - 2am	£2.00 after 10.30pm
Friday	9.30pm - 4am	£3.00 after 10.30pm
Saturday	9.30pm - 6am	£4.00 after 10.30pm
Sunday	7pm - late	Women Only

DJ's

MARTIN CONFUSION • MALCOM • KARLTON  
ANTOINE • ROBERTO • ALAN X • RICKARDO

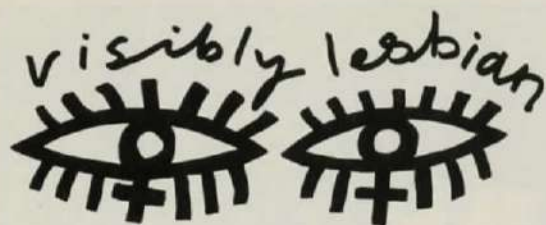
How to find us

9 Brighton Terrace,  
Brixton South SW9  
Tel: 0171 737 2095  
Nearest Underground  
Station: **Brixton**



Free entrance before 12 with this ad





## BEHIND THE SCENES



Alex Cole: bringing dyke delights to Pride.  
Photo: Edward Hirst

*Pride's women's co-ordinator, Alex Cole, talks here about why she took up the task and about the meaning of this year's focus on lesbian visibility*

When I came out to my mum, she looked at me in utter disbelief. She refused to believe I could possibly be a lesbian because — and I quote — “they all ride around on motorbikes, naked”. Wrexham being curiously short of such spectacles, this was not really the reaction I was expecting. It took a while to work out exactly how such a preconception could have taken

hold, but on seeing footage of dykes on bikes at Sydney's Mardi Gras, I realised Aussie dykes had been my mother's only contact with Sapphic tendencies. We British dykes were obviously doing something wrong.

The year to put this to rights is 1995. With Lesbian Visibility adopted as the focus of this year's Pride, it is time to step forward and make up for lost media coverage. Visibility

is crucial to lesbians. We have been frequently ignored, dismissed or just plain forgotten. We have been on the Close and in the Square and even down on the Farm, but positive and diverse images of lesbians — I mean real lesbians — are in short supply.

This year's focus was adopted by the Pride Trust members in a move to reaffirm the commitment to representing women by and at Pride. Lesbians and gay men are coming together more and more, both politically and socially, and now is the time to demonstrate our ability to work together for mutual advantage. Just as lesbians campaigned for equality before the law for gay men, so too the boys are supporting our call for visibility.

Not that the adoption of a single-sex focus didn't cause a few raised eyebrows. People were concerned that the lesbians were taking over, and some gay men felt a little pushed aside. Reality belied such misgivings; the lesbian focus is there to draw attention to a specific aspect of lesbian and gay politics, not to

crowd anyone else out.

Pride continues to progress as a lesbian and gay event; the focus acts as a spur to lesbians which can be built on in years to come. There's been an influx of very visible and very audible dykes into the organisation, as the focus encourages women to commit themselves to the many different parts that make up Pride — working to raise the money that makes the day possible, helping to organise the march, and volunteering as stewards and office support. Pride is better for it.

On the day itself, the call to be “visibly lesbian” will bring dyke delights into the vanguard of the event. We are spearheading the march, raising the lesbian profile of issues such as education, health, racism, disability, parenting, partnership and law. And we are dressing up to express our secret selves, waving banners, flags and placards in a dizzy carnival of colourful diversity and strength.

So tell your mums that yes, there will be dykes on bikes at Pride this year — but that breast baring is optional. ✂



## KITTY LIPS

EVERY FRIDAY  
10.30pm - 5am.  
5 Pounds Entrance

DJs Vikki Red &  
Queen Maxine playing  
hard house & pumpin'  
NRG for gals & their  
gay guys as guests.

@ MARS

12 SUTTON ROW  
LONDON W1.

NEAREST TUBE TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

HAVE A PUMPIN' PRIDE



## THE PINK PRACTICE

A Counselling Service for Lesbians and Gay Men

- Individual Counselling
- Couple Counselling
- Family Therapy
- Mediation Work
- Counselling Supervision
- Team Consultation

Fees on Sliding Scale, B. A. C. Ethics  
counsellors and psychotherapists  
Qualified/accredited (B.A.C./U.K.C.P.)

For information ring 0181-809 7218  
BCM Pink Practice, London, WC1N 3XX

## SILVER MOON Women's Bookshop

- Come and visit the largest LESBIAN DEPARTMENT in the UK

- MAIL ORDER welcomed by post, telephone (0171 836 7906), or fax (0171 379 1018)

- SILVER MOON BOOKS are PROUD to announce two new books for the Summer

- **CONFESSIONS OF A FAILED SOUTHERN LADY** (Florence King, £6.99). 'The only way you can fail to enjoy this book is if you have contracted bubonic plague' Rita Mae Brown

- **DESERT OF THE HEART** (Jane Rule, £6.99). The classic lesbian love story

- Available at all good bookshops

64-68 Charing Cross Road  
London WC2H 0BB

SILVER MOON  
women's bookshop

Saturdays Women-only

# WOW BAR

Michel's, 122/126 Wardour Street, Soho, London, W1. 8pm - 1am

Hotline 0956 514574

£1.50 / £1 b4 9pm



**EXPECTATIONS**

London's Leading  
Leather and Rubber  
store wishes all our  
customers a  
great Pride.

Our staff have decided that they  
would rather party this year,  
therefore we are not having a stall.

But remember, our store which is  
located between Victoria Park and  
the West End, is open all weekend.

75 GREAT EASTERN ST, LONDON EC2A 3HU  
TEL 0171-739 0292

MONDAY-THURSDAY 11-7, FRIDAY 11-8, SATURDAY 11-9, SUNDAY 12-5

EARTH  
TRAVEL



0171-734 3426

# Freedom Cars 0171 734 1313 TOGETHER WITH PRIDE

24 HOURS A DAY  
THE OFFICIAL PRIDE CAB COMPANY

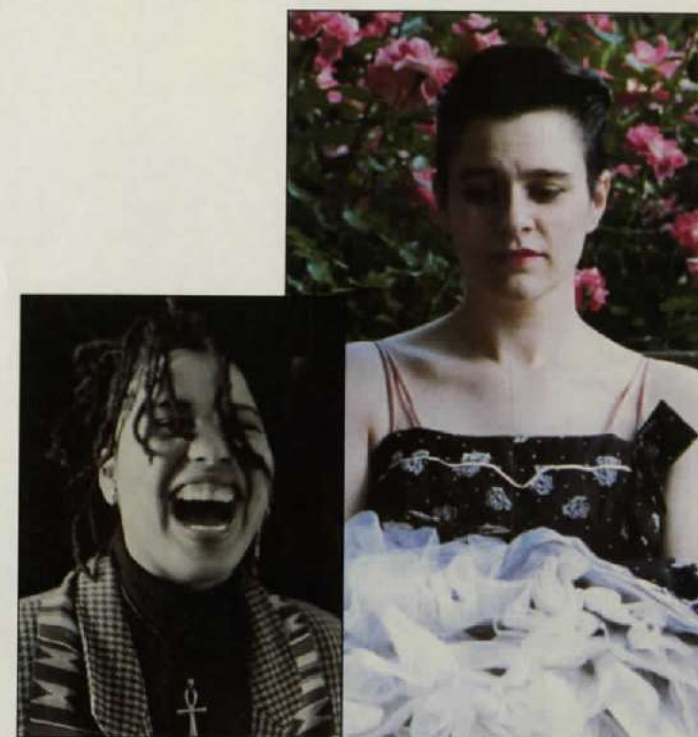


## AT THE FESTIVAL

### Women's Stage

Victoria Park's bandstand will be the venue for a new feature of the festival this year, an open-air women's stage. It will provide a more intimate showcase for women performers, set in a quieter part of the park where conversation and cruising reign for those taking a breather from the disco tents. Sue Wade, promoter of the chi-chi Wow Bar in Covent Garden, has enrolled a number of female artists to play to the crowds seated in deck-chairs around the stage. She hopes this will provide a space where women can "chill-out".

Hosting the stage will be cabaret impresario Amy Lamé, while the line-up confirmed as we went to press included indie dyke band The Bendas, singer/songwriters Adeola and Rita Lynch, and the in-her-face 19-year-old rapper Lippy Lou, recently signed by Boy George's More Protein label. Also promised is an appearance by the Queer Choir. Prior to the day itself, the Wow Bar will be staging a Pride benefit on June 3rd, when the actresses who play Binnie and Della in *EastEnders* will hopefully be making a guest appearance.



(Left) Singer/songwriter Adeola (photo: Richard Dixon & Paloma Etienne) and indie-dyke fave Jane Alston of the Bendas.



In-her-face: Lippy Lou. Photo: Phil Nicholls

### Planet Venus

Promoter Terry Murray of the long-established women's club Venus Rising will be organising events inside the women's tent this year. Over a dozen DJs are due to play the decks in what is sure to be a jumping jumble

of dykes. In addition to a bigger and better space and sound system, there will also be some performance art inside and outside the tent, but what exactly, Ms Murray would not reveal — so be prepared for strange occurrences!

### Sandi Toksvig

Popular TV personality, actress and comedienne Sandi Toksvig was thrust into the media spotlight last year when she came out in the pages of the *Sunday Times* — not only did she talk about being gay, but she was also open about being a gay mum to three children with her partner of 12 years, Petaline Stewart. Braving some of the worst excesses of tabloid skull-duggery, she later appeared at Stonewall's Equality Show in her first stand-up gig before a lesbian and gay audience. Afterwards she explained, "I feel very strongly that I want to be part of the community and I haven't been to date. Peta

goes to Pride every year, but I haven't." This year will be different as Sandi intends to take part in the day's festivities, not only as compere on the main stage in Victoria Park on June 24th, but also performing live as part of the Pride Arts Festival. Catch her at the Pride Festival of Comedy at Jongleurs in Camden on June 18th & 19th. She'll be performing there alongside the likes of Maria Esposito, Simon Fanshawe and Graham Norton, as well as several big "guest stars", the names of which are being kept strictly secret until the night.

Jongleurs box office: 0171-267 1999 or PAF on 0171-501 9994



Earls

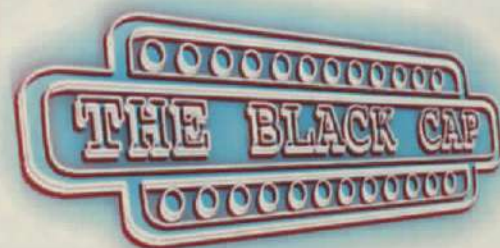


BRIEF  
ENCOUNTER

# Charrington Taverns Support Lesbian & Gay Pride '95 Spreading Color Across London

THE BLACKCAP, 171 CAMDEN HIGH STREET NW1. 0171 485 1742. BRIDGE, 452 NEW KINGS RD SW6. 01471 736 2324.  
BRIEF ENCOUNTER, 43 ST MARTINS LANE WC2. 0171 240 2221. THE CHAMPION, 1 WELLINGTON TER W2. 0171 229 5056.  
CLUB 180 & EARLS, 180 EARLS COURT RD SW5. 0171 835 1826. THE COLEHERNE, 261 OLD BROMPTON RD, EARLS

COURT SW5. 0171 373 9859. COMPTONS OF SOHO, 53 OLD COMPTON ST W1. 0171 637 4445. THE GLOUCESTER,  
1 KING WILLIAM WALK, GREENWICH, SE10. 0181 858 266. HALFWAY TO HEAVEN, 7 DUNCANNON ST WC2. 0171 930  
8312. THE PENNY FARTHING, 133 KING ST W6. 0181 748 7045. TWO BREWERS, 114 CLAPHAM HIGH ST SW4. 0171 622 3621.





# Love on the rocks...

## MYKONOS

Summer 1995  
Flights and holidays  
Tuesdays from Gatwick

## ONLY FLIGHT FROM THE UK

Phone for details and  
brochure.

GREECE IS THE WORD



ABTA  
A5344



ATOL  
2183



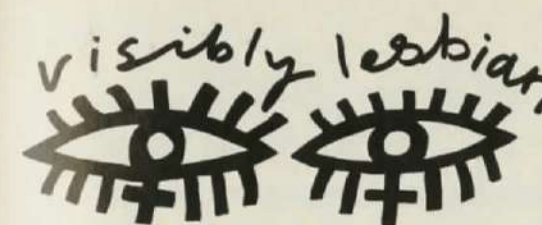
# SHADES

HOLIDAYS

TEL: 0171 258 3035  
VILLMAR TRAVEL LIMITED  
37 IVOR PLACE LONDON NW1 6EA

THE GAY HOLIDAY SPECIALISTS

ALSO Gran Canaria  
Ibiza  
Sitges



# PRIDE ARTS FESTIVAL

## Queer Circus

Sexy and ambidextrous, combining performance art with circus skills, The Queer Circus at the Ministry of Sound nightclub on June 12th and 13th is set to cross lots of boundaries. According to organiser Barbara Egervary, the circus will be a "cross-over event which will put live performance art into a club, presenting the work to a new and dif-

ferent audience". "The performers will use all of the club's various areas," she says, "not just taking place on the main stage, but including the gallery and bar. You'll be able to walk through the club and see all sorts of live performances happening all around." Hosted by club impresarios Tutu, Marisa Carr and Miss Daisy, the show will include Disco Sister, Exponential



Tutu, one of the hosts of Queer Circus.

Aerial Theatre Company's UV Club Swinging routine, Delores, the Egyptian belly dancer, the Chaos Clowns, Helena Goldwater and Jean Paul Zaccarini. "Most of the performers are women, predominantly lesbians and they all do work around concepts of identity," Barbra Egervary points out.

The club opens at 8pm, and the first performances start at 9pm.

From Vanilla to full on penetration we explore every area of lesbian sexuality with our tongues firmly in our cheeks and sometimes in other places!

## M.U.F.F. Match

A LESBIAN SEX COMEDY

Somewhere in Middle England a school is being run by dominatrix Ms X. Her school house's a saucy mixture of characters; the games teacher, Mrs Smart is a corseted bundle of perverse fun, who seizes her chance to give a good spanking to anyone who dares not wear her regulation school blue knickers.



Available from June 26th on the DTK stand at Pride '95

Nursie, a seething pyre of starched lust has a hidden selection of vibrating toys in her first aid cabinet and snatches her chance with Maxine who hides a secret under her skirt...

...they all better watch out, for the M.U.F.F.S. are coming to play...

**DA**  
TO KNOW

PO Box 1701,  
London SW9 0XD

M.U.F.F. Match	£15.99	Feed Them To The Cannibals!	£10.99
Only The Brave	£12.99	GirlFish	£10.99
Satin Spider	£15.99	Orlando	£15.99
Lesbian Leather Shorts	£15.99	Sandra Bernhard:	
Lesbian Lykra Shorts	£12.99	Without You I'm Nothing	£15.99
Go Fish	£15.99	Postage & Packing	
Seduction: The Cruel Woman	£15.99	Total	

Name:.....  
Address:.....

Postcode:.....

Make cheques / POs payable to Dangerous To Know.  
P&P £1.50 first tape £1.00 each other tape.

Also Available From HMV, Virgin, Silver Moon, Clone Zone, Millivers, Gays The Word, Adrians Video, Zipper



"This is social surrealism," says Joelle Taylor.  
Photo: Dixie Thomas

## Spiderwomen

Spin/Stir Women's Physical Theatre Collective was formed in 1993 by joint artistic directors Vanessa Lee and Joelle Taylor. Taylor says "the partnership arose out of a diverse background in performance poetry, contemporary dance, theatre direction and movement choreography and aligns with a strong

research commitment into feminist aesthetics". Their work focuses on the bitter edge of sexual politics and they will be using a new production in June, Whorror Stories, to explore the monstrous and the feminine, fear and misogyny. Using women's real and symbolic relationship to spiders, the piece will take

the form of the horror genre, and will look at women's attempts to own their own desires after sexual atrocities. "Spiders are strange things," says Joelle, "they can get in anywhere. They wait and they watch. And they can only be seen by those who are most afraid of them." The four central characters in the piece take the form of spiders, the Tarantula, raised on four angular stilts, the Black Widow, lazing forward on her orb web, the Wolf Spider, concealed in a labyrinth, and the House Spider, hanging from

the rig by her apron strings. Other characters include a serial killer, a women who lives in a basement brought up for fourteen years as a dog, and an arachnophobic stone butch drag queen who is inseminated by one of the spiders. "This is social surrealism - these are our unspoken sentences," says Taylor. "You can't put a cup on something this big."

Whorror Stories is at the Oval House Theatre from May 30th to June 11th. Call the box office on 0171-582 7680.

For more details on the Pride Arts Festival see pages 52 - 60.



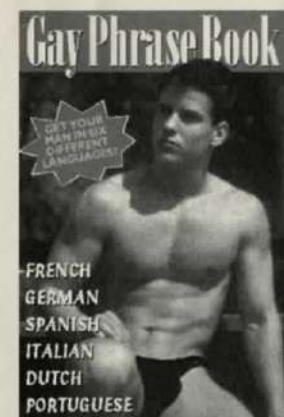
# Help Fund Pride

When you order titles from this special Pride '95 promotion, Cassell will donate 30% of the value of your order directly to the Pride Trust. Just fill out the coupon below.



## Safer Sexy

The most **explicit** and comprehensive gay sex guide ever published. **Lavishly** illustrated with 96 **hot** colour photos. "No horny bugger should be without one" Jimmy Somerville. Endorsed by the THT and GMFA.



## Gay Phrase Book

Get your **man** in six different languages! – French/German/Italian/Spanish/Dutch/Portuguese. The **ideal** travel companion with all the words and phrases you need for establishing successful **contact** with the natives. Sections include: In the Bar/Club; Cruising; At his place; On the telephone; Contact ads; Safer sex... 25 **saucy** photographs courtesy of **EUROBOY**.

## Get The Rubber Habit!

32 tear-out postcards from Denis Doran's **humorous** photo portraits of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and St Derek of Dungeness. **Stunning** and original greetings cards for every queer occasion.

## GET THE RUBBER HABIT!

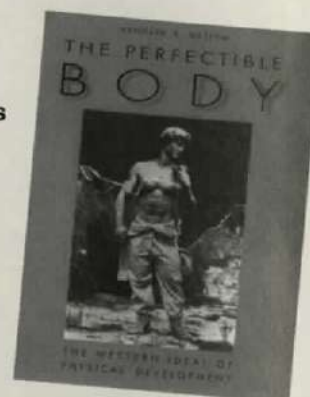
THE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DENIS DORAN • FOREWORD BY SAINT DEREK OF DUNGENESS

## The Perfectible Body

210 muscle-bound photographs trace the history of **male physique** from the Ancient Greeks to hunk calendars and male strippers. Ken Dutton's impeccably researched text provides a fascinating and rich history of the cult of the male body in Western culture.



## Cassell's Pink Directory

The only comprehensive reference to gay and lesbian businesses, organizations and services throughout the UK and Ireland. **Up-to-date** and **easy-to-use**.

Fill out this order form and return to Sexual Politics Pride Offer, Cassell Plc, Wellington House, 125 Strand, London WC2R 0BB

We will send your order under plain paper cover, usually within 28 days.

Only by ordering with this form will your purchase qualify for our special **Help Fund Pride** promotion.

PLEASE PRINT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *Safer Sexy* (1-86047-000-9) @ £14.99

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of *Get The Rubber Habit!* (0-9523229-0-0) @ £7.99

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of *Gay Phrase Book* (0-304-33201-1) @ £9.99

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of *Cassell's Pink Directory* (0-304-33085-X) @ £11.99

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of *The Perfectible Body* (0-304-33230-5) @ £17.99

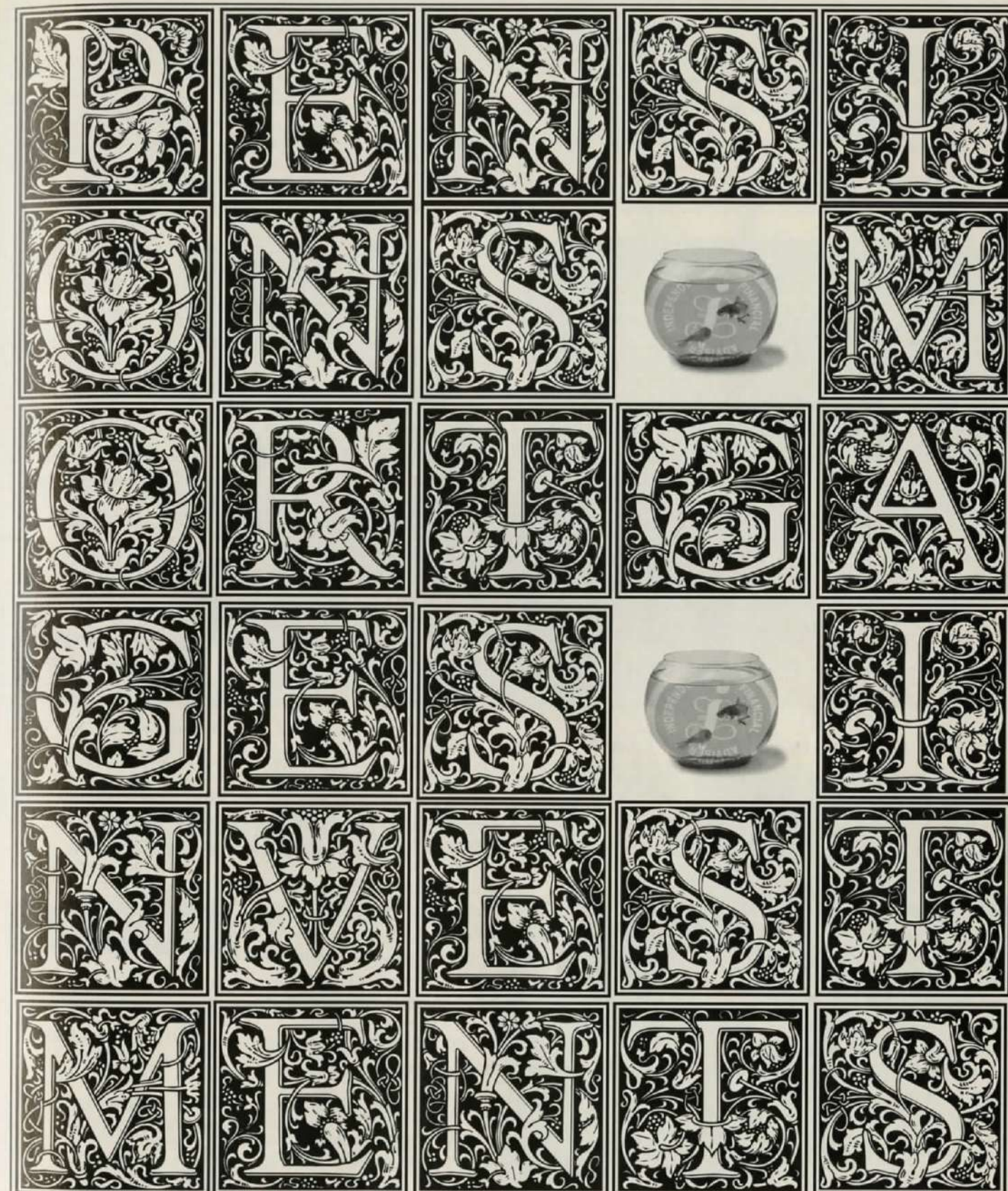
Add £2.50 for postage and packaging for all orders below £25, £5 for those above.

I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_ /Please invoice me for £\_\_\_\_

Please debit my credit card (specify type) \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**FREE ADVICE ON ALL PENSIONS INVESTMENTS AND MORTGAGES ON THE MARKET** (including all fixed, variable, discounted and "cash back" schemes). Life Assurance not usually required which means no HIV tests.

Please note: Your home is at risk if you do not keep up the repayments on a mortgage or any other loan secured on it. The PIA does not regulate mortgages. Written quotes available. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

**Ivan Massow Associates**  
INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS

Pensions • Investments • Life Assurance

London 0171 494 1848  
Edinburgh 0131 226 2001

A MEMBER OF  
**DBS**  
Financial  
Management  
PLC



# PRIDE 2000...



David Hawkes (left) and Tom Brooks. Photo: Edward Hirst

*What is Pride 2000 going to be like? The Pride Trust's Finance Director, Tom Brooks, and Fundraising Director, David Hawkes, have a fantasy...*

Tom arrives in his official Pride eco-friendly electric car and is saluted by the receptionist as he sweeps through the palm-filled atrium of Pride Towers. Alighting from the executive lift on the ninth floor, accompanied by piped Haydn, he glides silently over the lushly carpeted floor of the Finance Suite, where phones chirrup sedately and a dozen happy staff look up from their voice-activated computers as he passes. It is the morning before Pride 2000 and Tom has an important meeting with David, to go through the Ethical Investment Plan for the Pride Benevolent Fund for Retired Activists.

The reality: in the dead of night, Tom stumbles off a hot,

stuffy tube, and heads for the office after a six-hour meeting in town. In the Pride office nobody has washed a cup for a month, there is no milk and David is slumped at the computer trying to make the printer work, smoking like a chimney. Yes, it's the night before Pride 1995...

DAVID: I'd say most of the Pride Trust's work is raising money. The bit that everyone sees, the festival and march, probably takes up about a quarter of our time. The rest is identifying sponsors and meeting with them, running benefits, holding bucket rattles, bookkeeping, and simply counting the cash.

TOM: Yes, and in the week before Pride you will spend every evening in a pub running a benefit and I will spend all day in a taxi schlepp-

ping round London collecting cheques.

DAVID: Benefits and bucket rattles are hard work but often good fun. It's probably fair to say you have the least glamorous task in Pride keeping the accounts.

TOM: It is a team effort. We have a Gay Business Association accountant, our business adviser Mike McCann, and of course our bank manager, Mr Pike. I look at it like this — finance is everything. It's my duty to ensure that the company trades solvently, that every penny is accounted for and that a clean set of books are presented to the membership. This company survives on gay people's money and we have a duty to see it is spent effectively. It's in our Mission Statement — alongside all that stuff about providing the community with a day of visibility and celebration — we aim to secure this event for the lesbian and gay community as a whole. Not only that — as a free event as well.

DAVID: I suppose there are three crucial areas of income: the sale of concessions like drink and food at the festival, then sponsorship, which is 75% up on last year so far, and thirdly, it's the day collection. A £2 donation per head makes all the difference. I think it worked out at 29p per head last year. Finding the human resources to achieve that is my major concern.

TOM: Don't forget the members — 350 and rising. Their contribution alone helps maintain the organisation all year round. If you can't pay the phone bill how can you put on the largest free annual

music festival in Europe? Even our bank manager can't believe we do all this with just one paid member of staff.

DAVID: Ideally I would like us to make enough surplus to be able to reinvest it the community. We are starting to do this — the Pride Arts Festival (PAF) is our most ambitious initiative so far to give something back to the community.

TOM: I think the future looks hopeful. PAF is set to become a major arts festival, and we are budgeting to take on another paid member of staff, as well as reinvesting in community resources — a new Lesbian and Gay Centre, perhaps?

DAVID: Pride Towers...

TOM: A bright stripy van with PRIDE on the side.

DAVID: Roll on Pride 2000.

## YOUR £2 DONATION

Sum	What it pays for
£0.45	Toilets
£0.30	Marquees
£0.25	Light and Sound
£0.15	Electric Power
£0.15	Clean Up
£0.15	Security
£0.08	Insurance
£0.05	Floodlighting
£0.04	Sign Language Interpretation
£0.20	Stages
£0.04	Fencing
£0.05	Safety Equipment
£0.09	Everything else
£2.00	TOTAL

OPEN TILL 1am  
MON-SAT

ATTITUDE-FREE  
ZONE

*absolutely  
fabulous*

79 CHARING CROSS ROAD,  
LONDON, WC2

HSE  
DOUBLE  
+ MIXER £2\*

\* PRICES UP TILL 11PM

PINT  
LAGER  
FROM £1.50\*

## Sexual Health Services for Gay Men in East London

**Where to go for:** Confidential testing, check-ups and medical treatment for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Advice on safer sex and sexual health. Vaccinations against Hepatitis B. Free condoms and lubricant. Confidential HIV counselling and testing.

Clinics have different appointment systems and opening hours. Phone to check if an appointment is necessary

**NEWHAM GUM Clinic,** Newham General Hospital, Glen Road, Plaistow, London E13 8RU  
☎ 0171 363 8146

**TOWER HAMLETS** The Ambrose King Centre, Royal London Hospital, Turner Street, London E1 1BB  
☎ 0171 377 7307

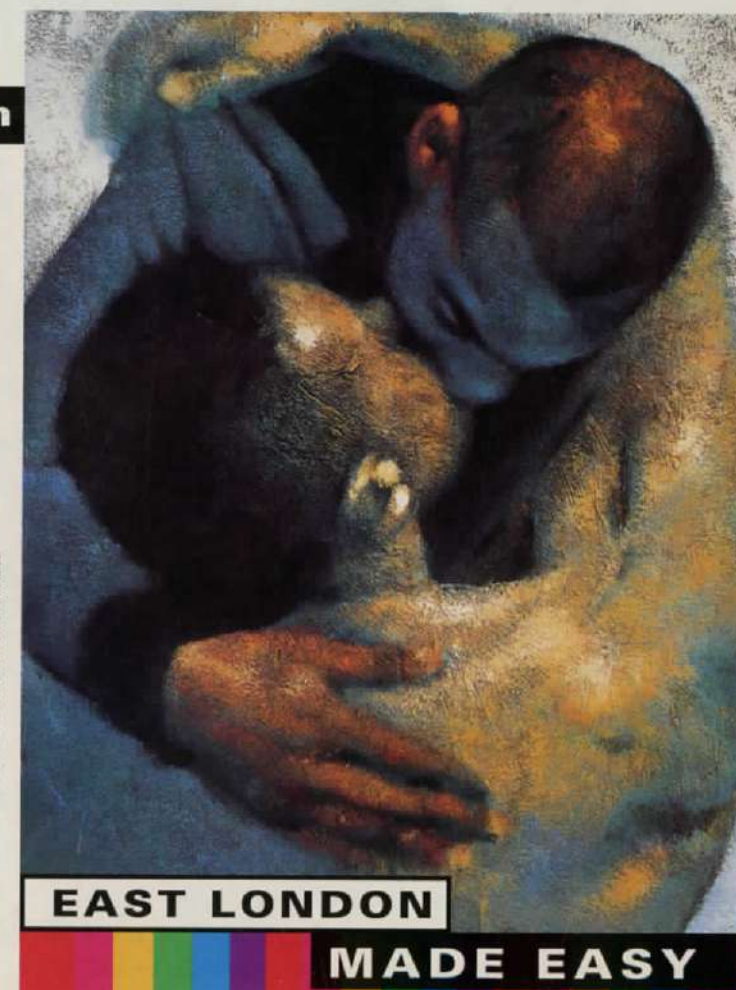
East One Clinic @ The Ambrose King Centre, for gay men & men who have sex with men.  
☎ 0171 377 7312

**HACKNEY** Department of GU Medicine, Homerton Hospital, Homerton Row, London E9 6BY  
☎ 0181 985 7575

**THE CITY OF LONDON** Department of GU Medicine, St Bartholomews Hospital, Giltspur Street, London EC1A 7BE  
☎ 0171 601 8090



You don't have to live or work in these boroughs to use these services.





# THE PRIDE PEOPLE



Left to right (standing): Dylan Calder, David Hawkes, Teddy Witherington, Ged Collins, Steve Byron, Tom Brooks, David Kerry, Adam Jeanes, David Millar and Nick Venedi. Left to right (kneeling): Nina Cohen and Alex Cole. Photo: Edward Hirst

## The Managing Committee

### David Hawkes Fundraising Director

David ran the Information Point at Europride in 1992, joined the Pride Trust in 1992 as Events Director, and took over fundraising in September 1993. He works full time as an advice worker and administrator with the Citizens' Advice Bureaux. He loves cooking, adores Elizabeth David and likes getting his hands in other people's pockets.

### Tom Brooks financial Director

Tom was a steward in 1991 and 1992, became Director of Human Resources in 1992 and

has been Financial Director since 1993. He is a volunteer with London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard and edited *Bimonthly*, a magazine for bisexuals. He works full time as an accountant with a video production company.

### Adam Jeanes Chair & March Organiser

Adam joined the Pride Trust as Financial Director in 1992 and became Chair in 1993. He works full time with a graphic design consultancy. He is a veteran of OutRage!, ACT-UP and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, with whom he canonised Derek Jaman, Sharley MacLean and Derek Cohen.

### Teddy Witherington Secretary & Festival Director

Teddy joined in 1990, was Secretary from April 1991, and became Festival Director in 1992. Formerly a lawyer, he

is a director of the International Association of Lesbian and Gay Pride Coordinators (IALGPC) and President of the European Pride Organisers' Association (EPOA). He is able to drink 37 shots of vodka and still stand on one leg. He hates crowds.

## The PAF! Management Team

### Barbra Egervary Arts Festival Coordinator

Barbra joined Pride in November 1994 as Arts Festival Coordinator and since January 1995 has had responsibility for finance and administration. She was previously the Artistic Director of ObScene Women's Theatre Company. Peculiar weakness - Hungarian Dobos Torta.

### Dylan Calder Arts Festival Director

Dylan joined the Pride Trust in 1994 and coordinated the Events Calendar and Literary Festival. He is a freelance writer and staged the lesbian and gay arts festival Exposure 1992 at the University of Kent at Canterbury. He has a birthmark in the exact same place as Richard Gere!

©REACT GayPride™  
**REACT™**

# REACT

THE REACT™ BOYZ & GIRLZ AND THEIR DELICIOUS ARTISTES:  
**BLU PETER GTO SEB MRS WOOD**  
WISH EVERYONE AN EXSTATIC PRIDE '95

IMPRESS YOUR TRADE WITH OUR LATEST RELEASES: IS HE/SHE THE YOUNG RAVEY TYPE?



### Reactivate 10 Snappy Cracklepop Techno

The latest in the ultimate Nu-NRG Trance series containing tracks by Li Kwan, Jones & Stephenson, DJ Muzik & DJ Tim and Blue Aphelion. Available on Double LP, CD and 18-Track Cassette & CD mixed to perfection by DJ Blu Peter.



### Carl Cox F.A.C.T.

The three-disk wizard's legendary Techno set is available on Triple LP, Double CD & Cassette containing tracks by Jody Beltram, DJ Hell, Thomas Heckman, Cygnus X & many more leading Techno artists.

IS HE/SHE A FASHION CONSCIOUS QUEEN/DYKE? TURNED ON BY NEW YORK HOUSE & GARAGE?



### Sherbet

Kiss FM DJ Pete Wardman's essential handbag selection of club cuts including Poppers, Elevatorman, Tony De Vill, Ichy & Scratchy and Artemisia.



### Strictly Rhythm The Fourth Album

The fourth album contains queer rhythms for Soma Factory fanatics from Caucasian Boy, Loop 7, Ammond Van Helden and Mure's Grooves. Available on Double LP, CD & the cassette is mixed by New York's finest, George Mardel.

IS HE/SHE STRAIGHT ACTING & STREETWISE?



### Artcore

The first Ambient Jungle album including tracks by Aladdin, Omni Trio, DJ Crystal & Sounds Of Life. For those who like their bottom end in East London & their head in Cape Canaveral.



### Dope On Plastic

Is the first official Trip Hop album containing luvvy dubby jazzy grooves by Red Snapper, Man With Sticks, The Woodshed & A.P.E. Ideal for cruising West London with the soft top down. Phat & Phunky!

OUT SOON: FRESKA 2 - RACHEL AUBURN'S LATEAT SLINKY CLUB SOUND TRACK. AND IT'S A GOODY!  
CAFE DEL MAR IBIZA 2 - THE CHILL-OUT ALBUM OF THE SUMMER & BLU PETER'S NEW SINGLE - 'MAGIC'.

INCREASE YOUR PULLING POWER WITH REACT!

WRITE TO US TELLING YOUR (FILTHY?) STORY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WHILST PLAYING YOUR FAVOURITE REACT ALBUM: BEST LETTER WINS 3 CD'S OF YOUR CHOICE. SEND TO: PRIDE '95 COMP, 138B WEST HILL, PUTNEY, LONDON SW15 2UE. PHOTO GUARANTEES BONUS CD. PHONE NUMBER GUARANTEES 2 BONUS CD'S (AND MORE!)

REACT IN IBIZA: DON'T MISS THE WILDEST PARTIES THIS SUMMER!  
17.05.95 REACT AT KU\* WITH PETE WARDMAN, RACHEL AUBURN & TONY DE VIT.  
19.05.95 REACT IN SPACE™ WITH BLU PETER & CARL COX ON THE MAIN FLOOR.  
PETE WARDMAN, RACHEL AUBURN & STEVEN REACT ON THE TERRACE.

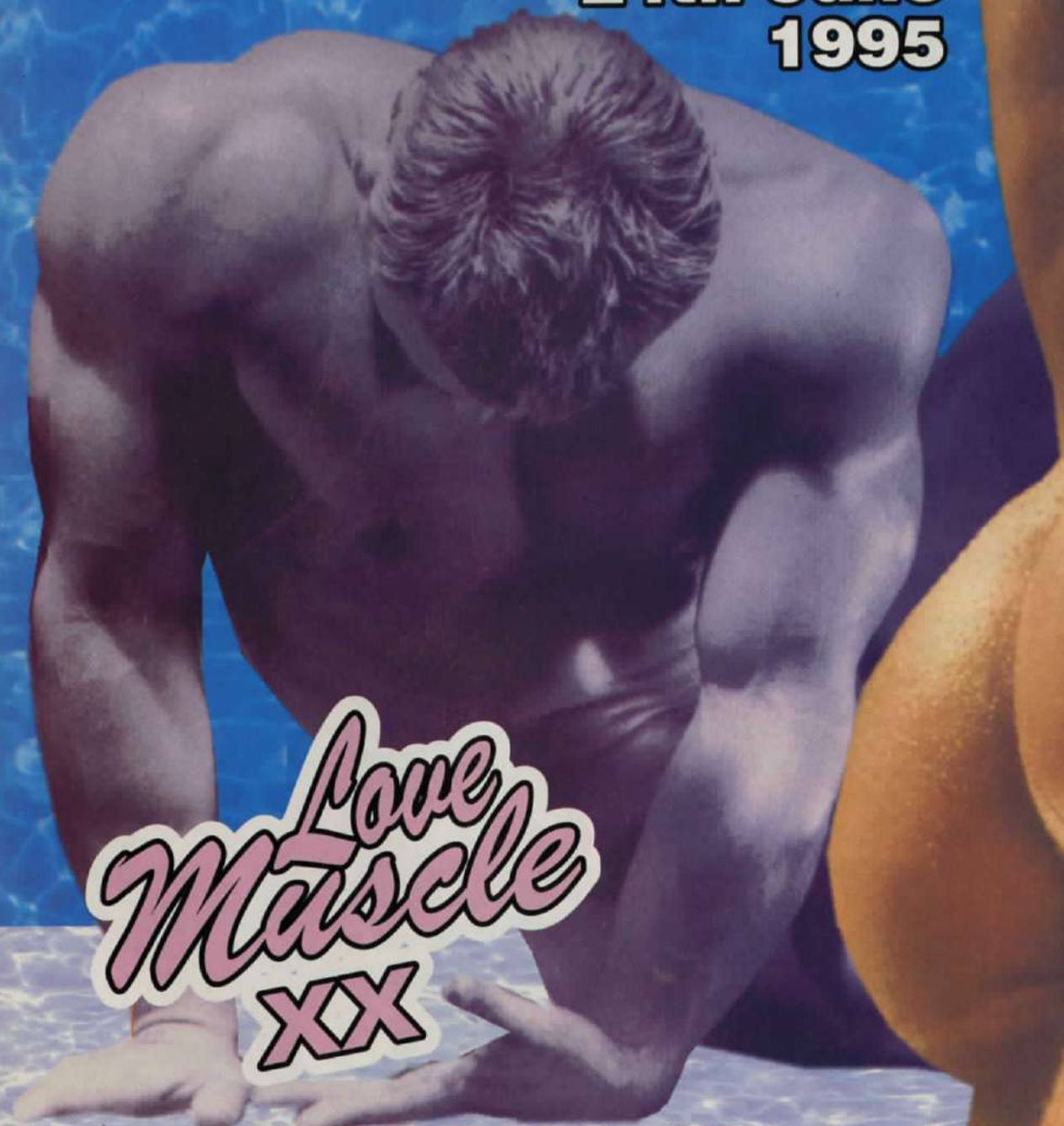


ANDREW CZEZOWSKI PRESENTS AT THE

# FRIDGE

★BRIXTON★LONDON★

**Pride Saturday  
24th June  
1995**



*Love  
Muscle  
XX*

**IS PROUD TO  
PARTY ALL NIGHT**

**DJ's: MARC ANDREWS,  
GARETH & IAN D**

**9pm-9am(tbc) • Tickets Available in Advance £12  
On the Door £15, After 3am £10**

**0171-326 5100. Town Hall Parade, Brixton Hill, SW2 1RJ**

PRIDE PEOPLE continued from page 26

**Tony Barlow  
PR & Marketing**

Tony joined the team in late 1994 and has a long experience of working in the Arts World, most notably for Rudolf Nureyev.

### Deputies & Coordinators

**Ged Collins  
Deputy to the Fundraising Director**

Ged rose through the ranks as a Steward in 1991, became Senior Steward 1992 and Deputy Chief Steward and Benefits Coordinator in 1994.

**Rachel Smith  
Deputy to the March Organiser**

Another promotion from the ranks, Rachel served as a Steward in 1993 and 1994 and became Deputy to the March Organiser in September 1994.

**Alex Cole  
Women's Coordinator**

Alex joined the Pride Trust in January 1995 fresh from an MA. She is coordinator of the Visibly Lesbian Focus.

**Nina Cohen  
Fundraising Manager**

Nina was a director of the Pride Trust in 1993. This year she has taken on the responsibility for recruiting for the day collection at the Festival and Bucket Rattles across London.

**Kevin Hunter  
Chief Steward**

Former Chair of the previous Pride organisation, and still

with us. He is Fundraising Coordinator of Lesbian and Gay Switchboard.

**Bob Graham  
Safety Officer**

A licensing officer with the Borough of Ealing, Bob joined the team in February 1994 as Safety Officer.

**Nick Venedi  
Membership Coordinator**

Nick works full time for the London Borough of Lambeth and has worked with UNISON as Membership Secretary and Assistant Branch Secretary.

**Kim Lucas  
Deputy to the Festival Director**

Involved since 1988, Kim has served in many capacities and became Deputy Festival Director in March 1992.

### Advisors

**James Stewart  
(Winter Stewart Accountants)**

James has worked for The Pride Trust since its foundation. Without him we'd be lost.

**Mike McCann  
Business Advisor**

Mike is chair of the Gay Business Association and one of the proprietors of Clone Zone. His catch phrase is "Where's the brass?"

the **PRIDE** trust

## PRIDE WORLDWIDE

Pride celebrations are a worldwide phenomenon with events throughout the summer — from May to November. Courtesy of the European Pride Organisers Association and the International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators Inc we have compiled the following list of highlights in Europe and the USA.

### European Pride 1995

#### May

27.5-28.5 ..... Kiev, Ukraine

#### June

09.6-24.6 ..... Oldenburg, Germany  
10.6 ..... Sylt, Germany  
11.6-17.6 ..... Hamburg, Germany  
11.6-18.6 ..... Stockholm, Sweden  
15.6-18.6 ..... Munich, Germany  
16.6-18.6 ..... Jyväskylä, Finland  
18.6-25.6 ..... Oslo, Norway  
24.6 ..... Hilversum, the Netherlands  
24.6 ..... Paris, France  
24.6 ..... Potsdam, Germany  
24.6 ..... Berlin, Germany (lesbian demo)  
28.6 ..... Barcelona, Spain  
28.6 ..... Madrid, Spain

#### July

01.7 ..... Berlin, Germany (parade)  
01.7 ..... Bologna, Italy  
06.7-09.7 ..... Leipzig, Germany  
07.7-09.7 ..... Cologne, Germany  
15.7-16.7 ..... Frankfurt, Germany

#### November

04.11-05.11 ..... Copenhagen, Denmark

### American Pride 1995

#### May

20.5-21.5 ..... Long Beach, CA  
28.5 ..... Washington, DC  
(National Black Pride)

#### June

10.6 ..... Boston  
10.6-11.6 ..... San Jose, CA  
10.6-18.6 ..... Nashville  
11.6 ..... Baltimore  
11.6 ..... Salt Lake City  
11.6 ..... Santa Barbara, CA  
11.6 ..... Santa Cruz  
18.6 ..... Atlanta  
18.6 ..... Colorado Springs  
18.6 ..... San Francisco  
18.6 ..... Washington, DC  
18.6-25.6 ..... Houston  
24.6 ..... Indianapolis  
24.6-25.6 ..... Los Angeles  
24.6-25.6 ..... New York City  
25.6 ..... Chicago  
25.6 ..... Denver  
25.6 ..... Seattle

#### July

14.7-16.7 ..... San Diego

#### August

31.8 ..... Waco, TX

#### September

17.9 ..... Redondo Beach, CA

#### October

07.10-08.10 ..... Palm Springs, CA

### Europride

Although there is no Europride this year, the venues for the next two years have already been established, namely Copenhagen in 1996 and Paris in 1997.

For further information  
please contact:

**The International Association of  
Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators  
Inc: 79 West Archer Place,  
Denver, CO 80223, USA.**

**The European Pride Organisers  
Association: Harmut Schonknecht,  
Secretary/ Treasurer, c/o ISGITH,  
Elberfelder Str. 23, D-10555  
Berlin, Germany. Tel: +49-30-  
392-5311, fax: +49-30-392-4319.**



Putting the heart back into

# VICTORIA PARK

Local resident Piers Ford takes a look at the long history of the venue for Pride '95

What would the Old Queen say if she knew that Victoria Park had been chosen as the venue of this year's Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival? Given what we know of her attitudes to homosexuality, it's a fair bet that she wouldn't have been particularly amused. Nevertheless, the history of the 218-acre Royal Park, which separates Bow from Hackney, makes it a perfectly logical choice for a political festival which is, above all, about people celebrating and having a great day out.

In 1840, 30,000 Eastenders desperate for a recreational green space signed a petition to Queen Victoria asking for a park of their own. Their plea didn't fall on deaf ears. Five years later, in the philanthropic spirit of the age, the park, laid out by architect James Pennethorne, was opened to the public. During its formative years and indeed well into the twentieth century, the park was cultivated and refined. A complex pattern of flower beds was devised, keepers' lodges erected, splendid gates and arcades designed. The lakes were excavated in 1846, and in 1861 the local benefactress, Angela Burdett-Coutts, disturbed that there was no drinking water in the park, paid for a splendid Gothic drinking fountain to be built. 1936 saw the opening of

the open-air lido, which provided Montague Glover with so much material for his photography. In 1940 the refreshment pavilion (which makes an occasional appearance when BBC1's *EastEnders* splash out on some location shooting) set up for business. Victoria Park was the lung of the East End, an emerald jewel in one of London's most densely populated and deprived areas. Caged-bird owners would bring their pets to the park to practice their trilling in preparation for singing competitions; the park's bathing facilities were much used by local residents without running water, and it even boasted its own speakers' corner, with George Bernard Shaw among those who occasionally took the platform.

Despite its popularity, the park never really recovered from the supreme war effort between 1939 and 1945, when its lawns were dug for victory (fruit and veg) or turned over for livestock grazing, and it played host to a prisoner-of-war camp. Years of decline followed until, by the 1970s, it was a shadow of its former self, hemmed in by encroaching developments.

The last decade, however, has seen a further change in the fortunes of Vicky Park. In 1988, Tower Hamlets finally embarked on a long-term restoration project. Cosmetic improvements arrived in the

form of endless blue- and gold-painted wrought iron lamp posts, benches and railings — all in "Victorian style". The Bonner Gates at the west end of the park have been restored. Today the flower beds and the tree-lined avenues are swept and beautifully maintained. There are sports, boating and fishing facilities and a wildlife enclosure complete with deer.

While the majestic Victorian grandeur of its first century is but a noble memory, the restoration has brought back much of the park's dignity and air of peaceful recreation; it is once again in a condition worthy of a Royal Park. But in spite of the £2 million spent by the council on refurbishment, it has yet to come alive as the people's park. What it lacks is soul. And that, clearly, is what Pride '95 can bring to Victoria Park.

Political activity is no stranger to the park. As early as 1848 it was the scene of a lively demonstration by the

Chartists, the People's Charter movement, which comprised largely working-class members. Over a thousand constables and 80 mounted police were present, but it was a thunderstorm which persuaded the demonstrators to disperse peacefully. More recently, in the late 1970s it was the scene of a major Anti-Nazi League demo, headlined by Tom Robinson.

Inevitably, the choice of Victoria Park as the venue for Pride '95 was the source of some controversy. Most of this resulted from accusations by Liberal Democrat councillors that the ruling Labour body had pushed the approval for the use of the park for the festival through without consultation. The local press made a half-hearted attempt to stir up some anti-gay feeling, but with very little effect. Phil Maxwell, the Labour chair of Tower Hamlets' Housing Committee, says that as far as he can tell, local opposition to Pride has all but disappeared.



In spite of some very real stories of hostile behaviour and queer bashing, Eastenders are not generally intolerant — after all, wasn't the late lamented Ronnie one of our own? But they do appreciate discretion. You won't, for example, find any public admission that much untoward happens at the famous Turkish bath in Bethnal Green's nearby York Hall, although regular habitués will tell you a different story.

Victoria Park's heyday as a gay meeting place is long gone. Montague Glover's photographs, compiled by James Gardiner in *A Class Apart* and *Monty's Private Pictures*, hark back to a hazily nostalgic time in the pre-war years when the lido was a noted cruising ground. Among Tower Hamlets' improvements was the closing of the park cottages. Nowadays, the park is locked at dusk, and only the foolhardy wander alone in the area after dark. A straw poll among friends and acquaintances throws up little con-

temporary anecdotal evidence to dispute this. One person said, "The park is so overlooked by houses and residential buildings, it's difficult to imagine anything going on now."

Today, the emphasis is back on celebration. Pride '95 can put the heart back into Victoria Park once and for all. As Councillor Maxwell says, "Victoria Park was always thought of as an asset to the whole of London. The previous council thought of the park as an extension to the back gardens of people living in Bow, and opposed the idea of it as a resource for the whole community. It's a people's park for everyone who lives in London. So rightfully, Gay Pride should be held there. It's an event the borough should be proud of, and I am certain and confident that it will be a tremendous occasion."

Above all, it's a great park for a party. Let's show the Old Queen what having fun in a Royal Park is really all about.

## THE BACKSTREET

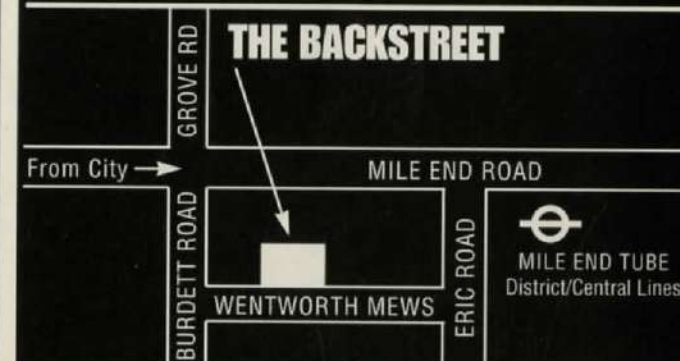


**OPEN:**

Thurs + Fri + Sat 10pm-3am. Sun 9pm-1am  
DRESS CODE: STRICTLY BLACK LEATHER/RUBBER

**WENTWORTH MEWS, LONDON E3**

Mile End Tube • 10 mins walk from Victoria Park  
0181-980 8557 (club hours) • 0181-980 7880 (other times)





friendly



exquisite



intimate



indulgent

**Roy's**  
West End

Monday – Saturday  
6pm – Midnight

Roy's West End Restaurant  
11 Upper St Martin's Lane  
London WC2H 9DL

For Reservations  
Telephone: 0171 836 5121  
or 0171 379 7429

OLD  
COMPTON  
CAFÉ

OPEN  
WIDE  
WITH  
PRIDE  
24/7

34 OLD COMPTON STREET SOHO LONDON W1V 5PD

Open night & day to celebrate  
Pride weekend

B A L A N S  
P R I D E

60 Old Compton St • Soho • London W1V 5DP

LICK



THAT!

ALL MAIN MEALS NOW ONLY £2.95

52 ST GILES HIGH ST LONDON WC2  
071 - 240 8042 TOTTENHAM COURT RD ☺

# THE PRIDE FESTIVAL

TEXT: TEDDY WITHERINGTON. PHOTOS: BILL SHORT



For the first time in its history, the Festival this year is being held north of the River Thames and outside the London Borough of Lambeth. Victoria Park in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets is the venue and what's on offer is all the usual fun but on a much bigger scale. There are also some new features and one or two sur-

prises I am keeping until the day! We start at 3pm and go on until 10.15pm. The tents this year are easily recognisable as the Main ones will be identified by balloons overhead of a particular colour. So hold onto your hats and begin reading the Festival guide.

TEDDY WITHERINGTON  
Festival Director

## Disabled Access & Signing

There is a viewing platform to the side of the Open Stage. This platform is designed for the use of the disabled, their friends and personal assistants. Pride aims to be accessible to all parts of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community, so please respect this space — don't use it as a thoroughfare or better vantage point — and help us ensure that this facility is accessible to those for whom it is designed.

I know how it can get if you want a pee, especially after a few drinks, but if you are not disabled, resist the urge to use disabled access toilets. There

are over 500 portaloos and about 10 disabled accessible units. Those 10 units are for use by disabled people. Anyone caught abusing this rule will have their head stuck down the pan by me to teach them respect.

The viewing platform will be beneath a cluster of yellow and blue balloons. There will be simultaneous sign language interpretation on all performance stages, provided by qualified interpreters.



## The Open Stage & Fireworks

The stage this year is half as big again as the one we had last year — so you should be able to see more. For those at the back, for the first time we have a video wall relaying all the Open Stage action. The lighting rig has been improved as well with a state-of-the-art Varilite system.

Hosting the acts are a team of scene and household names including Amy Lamé, Lily Savage, Yvette and Jeremy Joseph. There will be an official reception from The Mayor and local residents, and a message from the GLF veterans. Acts? You want to know who

is going to be on the stage? Well...

We've got Sybil, Two Thirds, Jocelyn Brown, D-Ream, McAlmont, Deuce, Dannii Minogue, Adeola, Kelly, Toyah, Jimmy Somerville, Boy George and, of course, Sonia — to name just a...phew! There will also be special surprises which cannot be announced prior to the event. We are also planning a special appearance of pub cabaret acts who are putting a number together.

We will be ending with a very special surprise, plus the Shell Shock Fireworks which will burst over the stage — so no cricked necks this year.







# LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE FESTIVAL

VICTORIA PARK JUNE 24TH 1995



- Toilets
- Food
- Tents
- Bar Tents (x 9) A-I
- First Aid (x 4)
- Water Points
- Women's Info Stand & Parents' Gathering Point
- Disabled Access Viewing Platform
- London Lesbian & Gay Switchboard & Information Point
- WOW Bar Stage & Bandstand
- Memorial/Meeting Point & Elton John AIDS Foundation Message Centre
- Entrance
- Skips
- Red Admiral Project Balloon Release
- Disabled Persons' Car Park & Mobility Bus Pick-Up Point

## TENTS

1. Cabaret Tent
2. People of Colour Focus
3. Women's Tent
4. Red Ribbon/Ministry of Sound Tent
5. Equipment
6. Stewards
7. Main Disco Tent
8. Health Tent
9. Rest Tent
10. MCC Tent
11. Stonewall Tent
12. Coat-Check
13. Samaritans
14. Evian

## BAR TENTS

- A. The Champion
- B. The Two Brewers
- C. Women's Bar
- D. The Gloucester
- E. Halfway To Heaven
- F. The Black Cap
- G. Brief Encounter
- H. The Coleherne
- I. Comptons



Map illustration: Denovo



PLEASE  
REMEMBER  
TO MAKE YOUR  
£2 MINIMUM  
DONATION

PRIDE '95 IS SPONSORED BY





## THE PRIDE FESTIVAL

### Stonewall Variety Tent

Ladies and Gentlemen, at this year's palatial, panoramic, passionate, peccable, pedigree Pride, we give you your own, your very own, Cabaret Artistes. This year's glamorous line-up of familiar faces from our pubs and clubs is in the capable hands of Stonewall in the Stonewall Variety Tent. For the first time, Stonewall will be sponsoring a main tent and have enlisted the help of the scene's greatest stars and cabaret artistes to recreate the world of Music Hall. The tent has been specially designed to give an authentic whiff of an

original Music Hall setting. For five whole hours there will be a wealth of talent and glitter, feathers and hairspray! Her Imperial Highness Regina Fong will be descending from the turrets of Fong Towers to make sure that the proceedings are kept well under control. We are also looking forward to the delights of Millie, David Dale, Katrina and the Boy, Susan Black, Kelly, Sandra and Lucia, and many, many other familiar faces. For the first time all the cabaret artistes will grace the Main Stage to enjoy full recognition for the hard work they do throughout



the year on the gay scene. Pride's biggest and most glamorous walkdown is planned for 8.55pm in true Hollywood style — elegant, stunning, unmissable!

MIG KIMPTON  
Event Producer

### Cabaret Tent

What with the Stonewall Variety Tent and the Wow Bar Stage, it's easy to get confused. So what makes the Cabaret Tent unique? It's the emphasis on performers who use their own material, and up-front lesbian and gay material at that. This is boys singing about "boys" and girls singing about "girls", not just singing "you" — queer lyrics for an audience which likes to know the score. Far from sedate, the tent rocks, particularly when Atomic Kandy take the stage around 7pm. Most of the acts are Visibly Lesbian, reflecting the fact that the majority of performers ploughing this particular furrow are women. The line-up is not confined to music though. There will be stand-up comedy, poetry, dance — the usual panoply of gob-smacking talent. All the favourites will be there, including poet/singer/songwriter Labi Siffre. Add Alice and Clare and the comperes Viv Acious and Eric Presland and you have the beginnings of Pride's most exotic performance pot pourri.

### Main Disco

OK, I'm sorry. Last year this tent was so popular it became too full and we had to close it for safety reasons, which meant that the Trade section didn't happen. So this year what you're getting is a megadose of the most cutting edge music on the planet. At the controls, international beat guru Laurence Malice with first officers Lee Freeman and Maxine; underneath the circus big top, Trade, DTPM and Pumpin' Curles are going to whip up a storm. DJs Paul Newman, Tony de Vit, Queen Maxine

and Vicky Redd will be the core of a DJ posse second to none, and their efforts will be recorded for posterity on a special Trade compilation CD put together by Tony de Vit and Malcolm (Diss-Cuss). There will be an open side to the tent this year, so no need to dive under the walls, and there will be a handy softs bar inside. So saddle up and don't forget the Evian water!

The disco tent is unmistakable, it's the biggest in the park and is purple and yellow

### Planet Venus Women's Tent

For the second year running, top women's club Venus Rising brings you the very best women DJs, not just from their own club but from across the nation. The line-up includes Venus residents Vicky and Evil O, plus favourites Rachel Auburn, Princess Julia and more. The Women's Tent is as old a feature as the Festival itself and has been a success in attracting greater numbers of women year on year to the Festival.



Queen Maxine: Pumpin music alongside DTPM and Trade DJs at the Main Disco Tent. Photo: Lucy Dugate

This year it has been expanded by an extra 1200 square feet, and will be identified by a cluster of black balloons.



Some of the local services available in West London are listed below. Pick up one of our information leaflets available on the day or call West London Health Promotion Agency for further information on health matters.

**WEST LONDON HEALTH PROMOTION AGENCY**  
Providing training, consultancy and resources for better health in West London. 0181-893 0100

**HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM**  
Advice on Council Services. 0181-749 3331 (North)  
0181-576 5243 (South)

**COMMUNITY COUNSELLING SERVICES**  
Counselling for people affected by HIV in West London.  
Contact Alan Pope: 0181-846 2127

**RIVER HOUSE**  
Drop in centre for people affected by HIV. 0181-741 4772

**HOUNSLOW SOCIAL SERVICES HIV TEAM** 0181-862 6709

**I-IDENTITY**  
Social Group for young Gay Men up to age 25. 0181-742 2381

**EALING HOSPITAL GUM AND HIV SERVICES**  
0181-967 5555. 0181-967 5469 (Wilmot Ward)  
HIV testing (appointment only). Family/Women HIV clinics.

**CHARING CROSS GUM DEPARTMENT** 0181-846 3112  
Bernhard Clinic (Lesbians only). HIV Day Care Centre.

**WEST MIDDLESEX SEXUAL HEALTH/GUM DEPARTMENT**  
0181-565 5718

**EALING**  
Social Services - Acton 0181-992 5566  
Greenford/Northolt/Perivale/Southall 0181-578 0108  
Ealing/Hanwell 0181-579 2424 Housing Advice 0181-758 8016

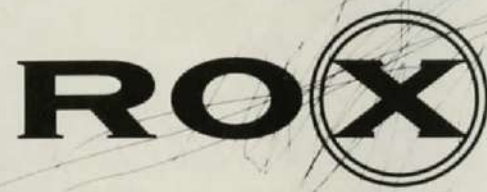
**SPECTRUM**  
Self help group for people affected by HIV/AIDS. 0850-172375





## TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR APPEARANCE

Change your hair if you dare.  
Look your best this summer,  
pop in to get your hair cut & receive  
£9:00 worth of high intensity  
sun capsule time FREE at:



10am to 10pm Mon-Sat (12am to 8pm Sunday)  
49 Old Compton St Soho London W1V 5PN  
0171 287 0666

## THE PRIDE FESTIVAL

### Red Ribbon & Ministry of Sound

**A**fter a spectacular debut at the Festival last year, this feature is back with a vengeance. Offering a chance to experience one of the world's most famous clubs out in the open and helping the Red Ribbon cause at the same time, the Ministry are bringing their tour rig into the park and flying in the God of House Music Frankie Knuckles from the Big Apple. Submerge yourself in the music and enjoy the surprise PAS.

Music has always been a uniting force and Ministry was born of a need to break down

barriers. Overcoming enforced ideas with music allows people to mix and melt and it is this philosophy which led to the Red Ribbon/Ministry of Sound collaboration at Pride. This year the tent is 50 per cent bigger with a special black-out roof; those entering can leave their inhibitions and insecurities at the door and revel in the experience. The MOS is proud to be at the Festival and we are proud to have them back, transmitting a confident and positive message.

The tent will be identified by a cluster of red balloons.

### People of Colour Tent

**C**ontrary to rumour, this space is open to everyone regardless of race, colour or creed. The only people who should exclude themselves are racists and bigots. The tent is all about celebrating our diversity and respecting one another. So what goes on inside the tent? Probably the most wicked disco in the park, the music, brought to you by DJs Stalwarts Supadon, Neville

and The Rude Boys, is a mean cocktail of the sort of sounds you wouldn't normally hear at the mainstream clubs. The tent will be bigger this year with an extra 1,500 square feet, identified by a cluster of yellow balloons. What goes on inside is complemented by a mini information market outside, with stalls staffed by organisations active in black and Asian communities, plus a special safer sex promotion.

### Wow Bar Stage

**N**estling under the Bandstand, we're proud to offer you a new feature this year. In association with the Wow Bar we are presenting from 3pm-8pm a whole range of entertainment, featuring performances by

The Brendas, Lippy Lou, Rita Lynch, Susan Black, Lady Jay and many others. Backed by promoter Sue Wade, this promises to be a fabulous new aspect to the Festival, promoting the best dyke talent, hosted by Amy Lamé.

## rubberstuffers

2 strong condoms + 2 sachets of  
water-based lubricant = 50p  
available in over  
80 Gay venues London-wide

**rubberstuffers**

a non-profit-making company limited by guarantee  
333 Grays Inn Road • London WC1X 8PX

Tel: 0171-278 0508

PORTSMOUTH'S NO 1 GAY VENUE  
**MARTHA'S & ORVILLES**

**MARTHA'S THE BAR**

**DJ STEVE'S '80S EVENING**

Every Thursday - From 8pm

**FREAKY LEE'S KARAOKE**

Every Sunday - From 8pm

**ORVILLE'S THE CLUB**

Open

Tuesdays 10pm - 1am • Free Admission  
Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays 10pm - 2am

STRIPPER EVERY THURSDAY  
CABARET FRIDAY ONCE A MONTH

CALL IN FOR DETAILS

227 COMMERCIAL ROAD • PORTSMOUTH • TEL: (01705) 820962

SPONSORS OF VICTORY FM

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT PETE • MARTHA'S & ORVILLE'S ARE DRUG-FREE ZONES

**SOHO**  
ATHLETIC CLUB

London's latest  
New York style  
weights gym

- 8,000 ft<sup>2</sup> on one floor
- Latest cardio-vascular machines
- State of the art resistance machines
- Extensive free weights
- Complimentary exercise prescription by qualified instructors
- Flexible membership schemes

YOUR INVITATION TO VIEW  
**SOHO ATHLETIC CLUB**

10-14 Macklin Street Covent Garden London WC2B 5NF Tel: 0171 242 1290

## Detainer



**SPECIALISTS IN TOTAL ENCLOSURE  
RUBBER & LEATHER BONDAGE EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING**

LARGE RANGE OF ORIGINAL DESIGNS  
PRIVATE & UNCOMPLICATED • MADE-TO-MEASURE SERVICE  
**OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 10.30AM - 6.30PM**  
MAIL ORDER SERVICE • CREDIT CARDS WELCOME

**2 HOXTON ST, LONDON N1 6NG. TEL: 0171-739 2199**



**"Drop your bad habits instantly and catch these instead"**

VILLAGE VOICE



THE DRILL HALL presents  
THE BRITISH PREMIERE OF

# Blair Fell's Burning Habits

16th May - 17th June

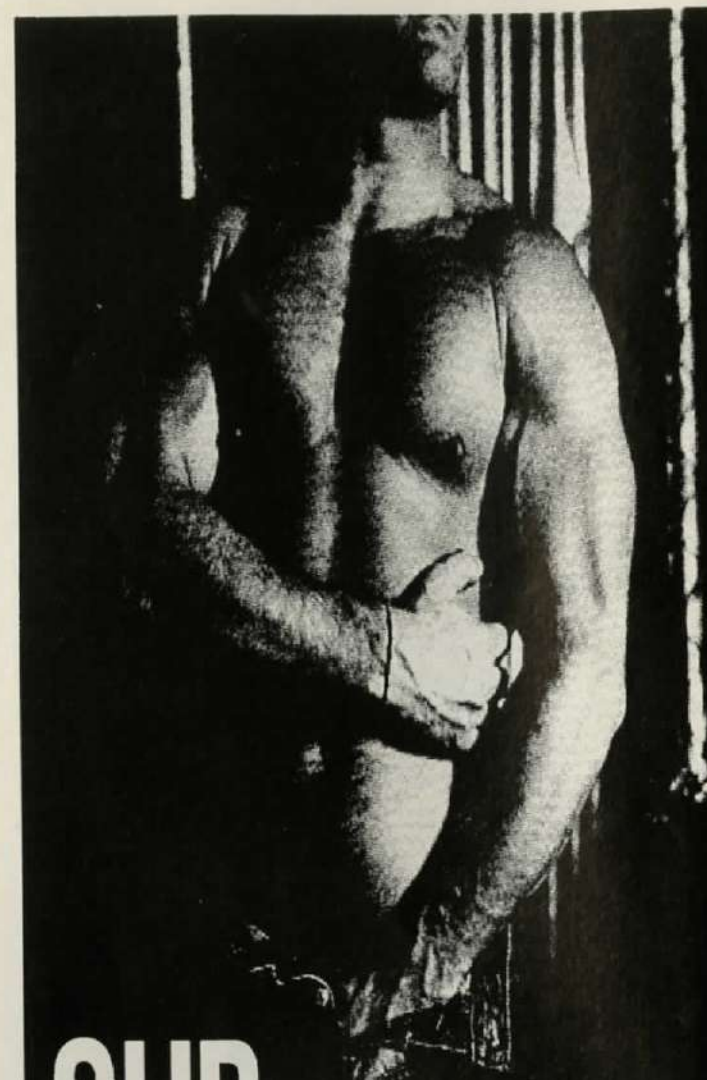
A SERIALISED EPIC IN  
EIGHT EPISODES

- Will Tommy be brainwashed into heterosexuality by the sinister Mr. Big?
- Will La Butch Nikita aka Clarice Sparrow manage to rescue him in time?
- Can Vonda ever win back her former bisexual-lapsed-catholic-vampire-now-a gay vegetarian Buddhist lover?

THESE QUESTIONS AND MANY OTHERS WILL  
BE ANSWERED IN PROBABLY THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS NEW YORK  
EXPERIENCE YOU WILL HAVE OUTSIDE MANHATTAN.

THE DRILL HALL, WC1  
BOX OFFICE: 0171 637 8270

Registered Charity No: 2904465



# SUB STATION

SOHO'S LATE NIGHT CRUISE BAR

**DJs -** MARTIN CONFUSION, SQUEAKY, ANTOINE,  
ROB WILLIAMS, BREEZE, TALLULAH, ROBERTO

## OPENING TIMES -

MON - THURS 9.30pm - 3am  
FRIDAY 9.30pm - 4am  
SATURDAY 10.30pm - 6am  
SUNDAY 7pm - 1am

Free Entrance before 12 with this advert.

SUBSTATION - FALCONBERG COURT SOHO W1 0171-287 9608

## THE PRIDE FESTIVAL

### Coatcheck

**T**here is a coatcheck just inside the main Crown Gate entrance to the park where you can leave coats and bags for only 50p an item. Banners can also be deposited for £5. The coatcheck, like other Pride sites such as the information points and stewards' tent, will be located beneath silver balloon clusters.

### Crèche

**A** fully-staffed crèche located in the centre of the park will operate throughout the day, and children of any age may be left with professionally qualified staff. The crèche will be beneath a cluster of blue balloons.

### Funfair

**S**ince we added the Funfair in 1992, it has rapidly become one of the most popular features at the Festival. It's back this year with even bigger, crazier rides, courtesy of Heaven, London's most established big night out gay venue, now in its 16th year. Get in, strap down and enjoy!

### Rest Tent

**A** feature since 1993, the Rest Tent is for those living with HIV/AIDS and the disabled who need somewhere to recharge their energy, take medication or just sit down and chat in an empathy group. There are tables, chairs, cots, scatter cushions, soft drinks and ambient surroundings for maximum comfort.

The Rest Tent will be marked by pink balloons.

### Bars & Food

**N**ine bars, run by some of London's most established and friendly venues, will serve both alcoholic and soft drinks all day. As part of our deal with the bars, 50p out of every £1 taken over the expected minimum will be paid to Pride, so you can drink in the knowledge that the more you drink the more you contribute to Pride.

A wide selection of food is also on offer at the park with over 70 units covering not just burgers and chips but also vegetarian, vegan, Chinese, Japanese, Mexican, Caribbean, pizza — you name it.

So please spend your money responsibly and support the vendors and bars who have paid for the privilege to serve you, and avoid those who are not contributing to the success of your day.

### Health Tent

**I**f you've never visited this tent before then shame on you. Make a point this year because it promises to be quite special. Once again, CRUSAID are programming what happens, and they are joined this year by two major health service providers, Health First and East London & City Health Promotion, to take the Health Tent into a new dimension.

Designed as a horseshoe, the three huge tents will focus more than ever upon HIV/AIDS issues. They will also include major initiatives around a broader range of health issues, such as coronary heart disease, cancers and women's general health, including screening, contraception, STDs and HRT. A major media campaign will build up to the day itself. Over 100 different organisations

will be exhibiting and there will be therapy and counselling areas as well.

Entertainment has traditionally been a feature of the Health Tent and will remain so, but on a reduced level. The primary purpose of the tent is information and the entertainment on offer will be scheduled in a way which does not interfere with that goal. It will be audience participatory with a strong Country & Western flavour, provided by line-dancing clubs, A Truly Western Experience, Rawhide & Ranch, along with quizzes, aerobics and other fun.

As has been the case for the past three years the Health Education Authority are providing the funds. This year the costs are much higher — because we're doing so much more — and the foresight and commitment of the HEA in this area is magnificent.

The Health Tent will be identified by a cluster of purple balloons.

### Help & Stewards

**A**ll stewards will carry a site plan and day programme and will be able to deal with general enquiries. Please, however, remember that our stewards can get very busy and may not always have time to deal with your enquiry if they are *en route* to a situation. The central information point will be at the stewards' tent where volunteers from London Lesbian & Gay Switchboard will be able to deal with more complicated matters. A Sign Language Interpreter will be at the stewards' tent at all times. All Pride sites, including the stewards' base will be located under silver balloon clusters.

### Stalls

**E**very year there is a market area at Pride. This is very important to the success of the event and the charities involved, and featured over 300 stalls last year. Around half the stalls are taken by voluntary organisations who use their space to fundraise, inform and recruit. For them the day is valuable in all these respects. Then there are the businesses, selling everything from "novelty items" to books, records, cards, hammocks, paintings, sportswear, jewellery etc. — you name it, it's there. Many of the businesses who exhibit, like Clone Zone, are major benefactors of the voluntary sector. Also in the market area you will come across some small tents, including Stonewall, the national lobby group, UNISON, Britain's largest union, and even a chance to get your hair cut.

We expect close to 500 stalls this year, having dropped prices considerably, and have placed the market area in the centre of the site, recognising the vital role played by both the voluntary and business sectors at the heart of our community. Support them, pay a visit and do some early Christmas shopping.

### Metropolitan Community Church

**B**ack for a second year, the MCC will be conducting services of blessing for couples throughout the day for a small charge to cover the cost of the tent. In love? Then why not take the plunge? You can pre-register by telephoning the MCC on 01273- 561266. The MCC tent will be under the green balloon cluster.





Sponsors of the  
Official Pride  
Magazine 1995

# GAY times & DIVA

the lesbian lifestyle magazine

THE UK'S LEADING GAY AND LESBIAN MAGAZINES WISH  
EVERYONE A HAPPY PRIDE 1995.

Gay Times is available every month at newsagents,  
priced £2.20 or £2.85 by post from:  
Millivres Ltd, Dept. PM95 Worldwide House,  
116-134, Bayham Street, London, NW1 0BA.

DIVA is published every other month, priced £2.00 from  
newsagents or £2.50 by post from the same address.

283 Camden High Street  
Camden Town  
London NW1 7BX

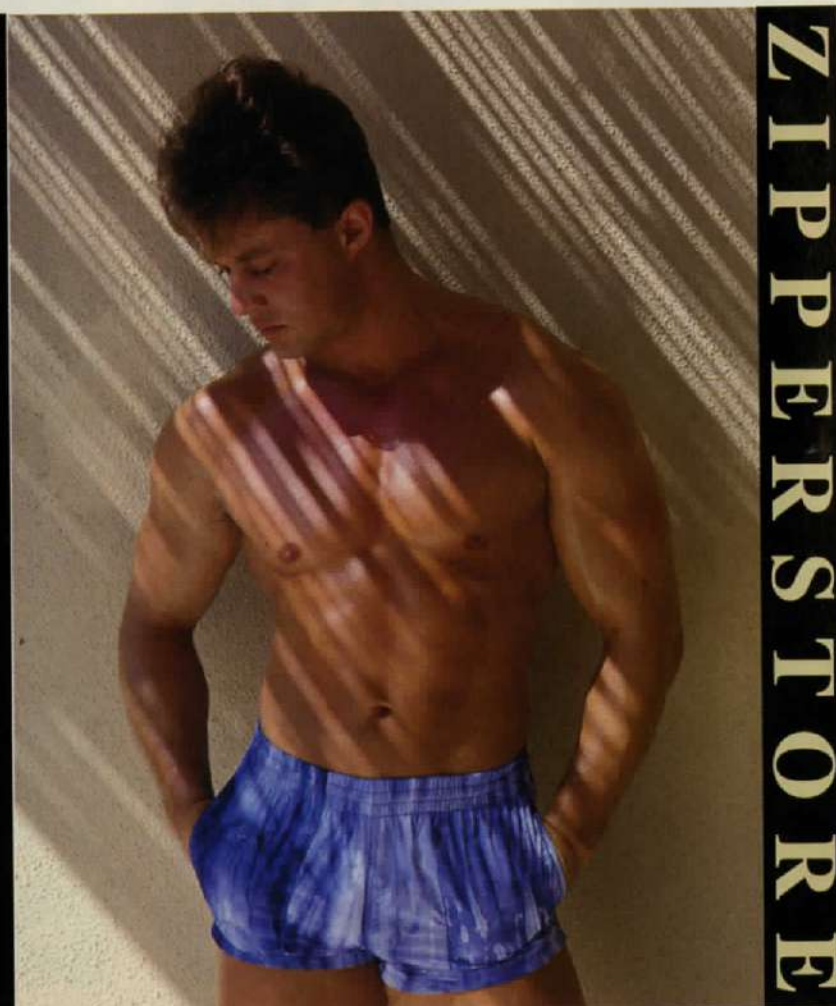
Camden Town  
0171-284 0537

Monday-Saturday  
10.30am-6.30pm

Sunday  
12 noon-5.00pm

VISA • Access • Mastercard •  
American Express • Switch  
accepted

## ZIPPER STORE



ZIPPERSTORE

London Borough of  
**Hackney**

Many  
differences  
one thing in  
common  
**SAFER SEX**

Below are some of the services  
we have provided or  
commissioned for 1995

### In the market place

**Project LSD**  
Information and advice on  
drugs and safe sex  
0181 806 7353

**The Staying Out Project**  
Support for gay, lesbian bisexual  
young people aged 11-25  
0181 533 2174

**Rubberstuffers**  
Free mega safe sex packs  
for Hackney residents.  
See elsewhere in this magazine  
for details.

**Positively Irish  
action on AIDS**  
Advice, information and support  
to Irish people affected by  
HIV/AIDS  
0181 983 4293

### Services and support

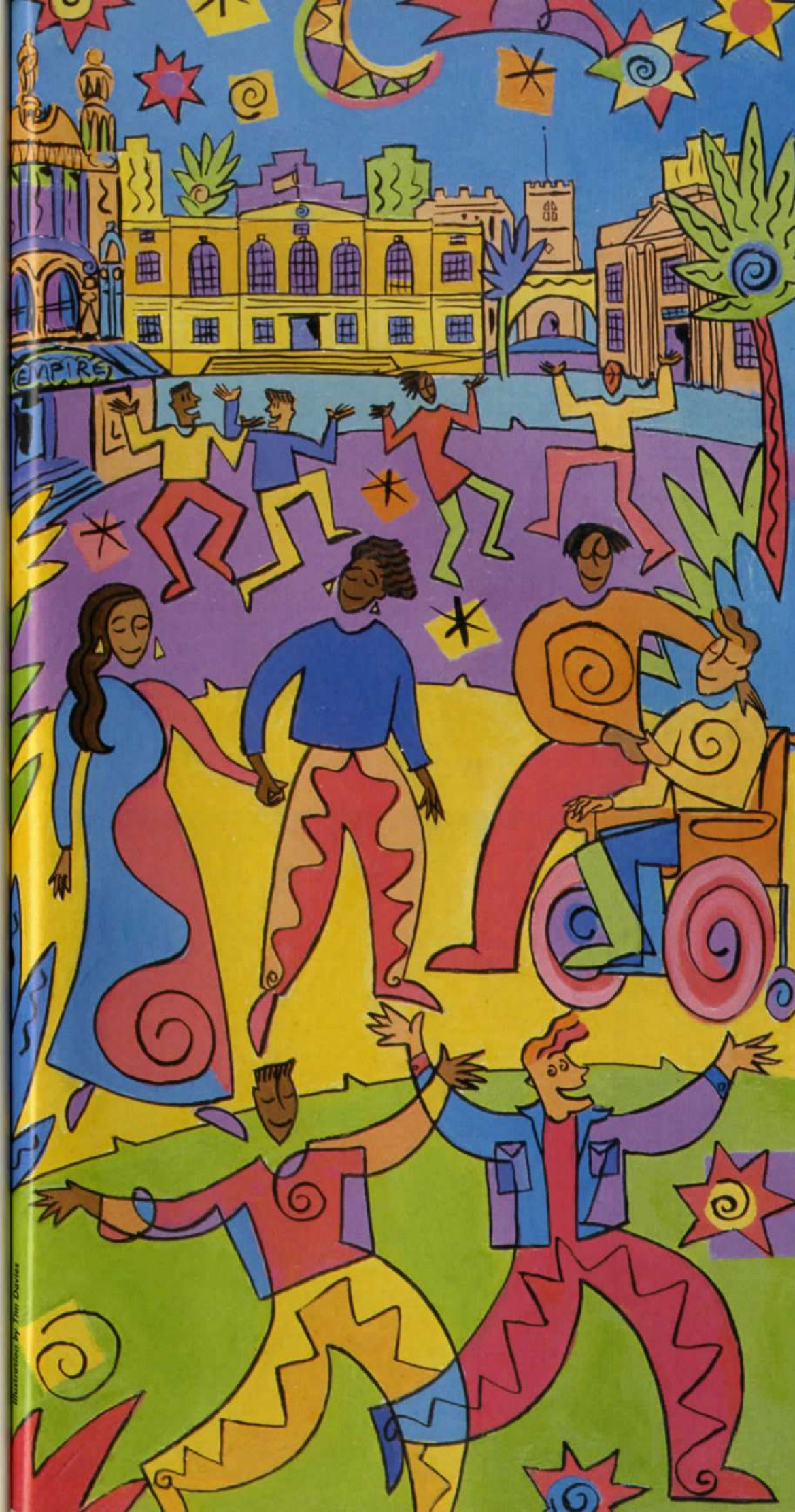
**SHEPHERDESS WALK**  
100 Shepherdess Walk N1  
Drop-in centre for people  
affected by HIV/AIDS.  
Help to access most  
Council services. **FACETS** Cafe  
open Tues/Wed/Thurs  
0171 700 1323

**PACE**  
34 Hartham Road N7  
Free counselling, safe sex  
workshops and support for  
Hackney residents  
0171 739 2331

**MILDMAY**  
Hackney Road E2  
Free relationship counselling and  
therapy for Hackney residents.  
0171 7392331

**THE HEALTH POLICY &  
PROMOTION UNIT**  
205 Morning Lane E9 6JX  
Service Unit  
dealing with Prevention  
0181 533 0297

In partnership with





## THE PRIDE FESTIVAL

### Red Admiral

To fill and release 23,140 balloons — one for each person in the UK diagnosed HIV-positive — is a Herculean task, but one which the Red Admiral Project has undertaken at this year's Festival. The balloon release site will be between the Main Disco Tent and the Open Stage. Each balloon may be sponsored for a minimum of £1 each, either on the day or in advance. You can contact the Red Admiral Project about sponsorship on 0171-835 1495. The balloons will be released in the presence of RAP patrons and celebrities throughout the day, with the major release taking place at 5.00pm, when over a hundred drag artistes will take part in 'Dragnet'.

### Safety

We recommend that you stick to the designated routes to Underground stations as shown on the festival map. These are straight down Grove Road to Mile End Tube for the Central, District and Metropolitan lines, and down Grove Road and right into Roman Road for Bethnal Green on the Central Line. These routes will be patrolled and monitored between the hours of 8pm and midnight by our security company — Securitron — who provide security at many gay venues. If you find yourself in difficulty on a designated route, help will be there speedily. A taxi service run by Freedom Cars will operate from just outside the Crown

Gate West for those who feel more comfortable with a door-to-door service.

Please make sure that your valuables and effects are secured — make use of the coatcheck if you have items which you might need to put down — as any large event will draw a criminal element looking for an unwatched bag or wallet.

If a steward asks you to move away from an area or gives instructions, please comply with minimum fuss. It's your safety we are concerned about, so please cooperate with stewards when asked. Safety is also about personal responsibility and responsibilities to others, so report anything suspicious

### Litter

Please use the litter bins and skips — the positions of which are shown on the festival map — or take your litter away with you. It is vital from the point of view of our continued presence at the Festival site that local people have to put up with the minimum inconvenience. So respect other users of the park and the environment by doing the sensible thing. Last year it cost the Pride Trust £12,000 to clean up Brockwell Park. That money, if saved, could provide two new tents. We pay for staff involved in the clean-up by the hour, so the less time they spend the more we save. Help us to help you, and save us money — it makes everyone's life easier.



## REGULATION THE ART OF CONTROL

Superb catalogue now available, offering you the finest in kinky clothing - both off the peg and made to measure.

Specialists in rubberwear, leatherwear, pvc and plastic, toys, equipment and bondage gear.

Also available: military wear, industrial wear, waders and gas masks.

Send £5 to:

Regulation, 17a St Albans Place,  
Islington Green, London N1 0NX.  
(Money refundable on orders over £50)  
0171-226 0665

Credit Cards accepted

Store open

Monday through Saturday 10.30am to 6.30pm

Now open Sunday 12-5pm

Photo: Jay Eff

rubberstuffers rubberstuffers rubberstuffers

## fabulously free!!!

Are you a Gay Man living on a low income in the Borough of Hackney?

Having difficulty getting all the things you need for safer sex?

Well here's something you can't refuse...

rubberstuffers are offering safer sex packs containing:

**10 strong condoms • a tube of water-based lubricant • heaps of safer sex info**

This offer is absolutely free, and is open to residents of the London Borough of Hackney.

To get your pack, please fill out the coupon below and send it to: LBH, rubberstuffers, 333 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8PX.

It's that simple!!!



Name: ..... Address: .....

Postcode ..... I am over 18. Signed .....

All names and addresses will be held confidentially by rubberstuffers, and will not be released to external organisations.  
Sponsored by the London Borough of Hackney & Supported by East London & City Health Promotion

rubberstuffers rubberstuffers rubberstuffers

Looking for experienced,  
effective solicitors?

You'll find us in Soho!

Business or personal,  
call in for a free no-obligation chat.

**SIMON WOODS & Co.**  
s o l i c i t o r s



18 Broadwick St. London, W1V 1FG  
⊕ Tottenham Court Road



0171 434 3996



\*\*\*\*\*

THE **NEW YORK**  
HOTEL  
LONDON

\*\*\*\*\*

32 Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, London, SW5 9EB

LONDON'S VERY BEST AND MOST  
LUXURIUS GAY HOTEL

**JUST TWO MINUTES FROM TUBE AND BARS.**  
**LICENSED BAR WITH FABULOUS GARENS**

- ROOMS INCLUDE -

En-suite Bath/Shower Room with High Pressure Shower • Direct Dialing  
Phone • Tea/Coffee making Facilities • Laundry Service • Hair Dryer, Iron  
and ironing Board • Fridge, Colour Television (with Cable), Trouser Press  
and our brand new

**JACUZZI and SAUNA**  
with showers also available

**La Liberté**

GARDEN RESTAURANT  
For the best French Cuisine and finest wines  
at affordable prices

Tel: 0171 244 6884 • Fax: 0171 370 4961

(Access, Visa and American Express All Welcome)



# LOUD & PROUD IN '95



@t  
**Lesbian & Gay Pride**

The Ministry of Sound is situated at 103 Gaunt Street, London SE1 6DP.  
For further information telephone : 0171 378 6528 facsimile : 0171 403 5348

COMPANY • COMMERCIAL

WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR COMMITMENT  
TO PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY LEGAL SERVICES  
FOR THE LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY  
AND HELPING OUR MEMBERS TO SUCCEED.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT  
**MAITLAND KALTON**

**KALTONS**  
SOLICITORS

9 WHITE LION STREET • ISLINGTON • LONDON N1 9JP  
TEL: 0171-278 1817 • FAX: 0171-278 1835

OFFICIAL PRIDE SPONSORS



CONVEYANCING • WILLS

SPECIAL PRIDE ISSUE OUT NOW WITH FREE PRIDE SUPPLEMENT

# attitude

THE MAGAZINE FOR REAL MEN

BOYBANDS SPECIAL TAKE THAT TALK DIRTY  
TOM WATKINS MOUTHS OFF  
BOYBAND CLOSET CONFESSES

TONY BLAIR PRETTY IN PINK. AIDS: A NICE LITTLE EARNER? RUPERT GRAVES. CAMILLE PAGLIA. LADY PENELOPE



# MARCH ON LONDON 1996



Standing up for love rights. Photo: Bill Short

## Last year's Age of Consent campaign has sparked calls for nationwide action in favour of equality

The Age of Consent campaign marked a new awareness of the human rights of the lesbian and gay community, both outside and within it. Although the campaign's outcome was disappointing, lesbian and gay rights were at last being taken seriously by politicians and by the public. Strengthened by the lessons of that campaign, many lesbian and gay commentators and activists are now calling for similar high-profile action on a host of other laws and policies which discriminate against us: from partnership rights to parenting rights, from access to HIV and AIDS information and health-

care to rights at work — as well as an equal age of consent. However, social reform and progressive legislation cannot be achieved without clout. The great social statutes of the Seventies, the Race Relations Act and the Sex Discrimination Act, followed decades of political pressure from broad-based mass movements: movements which also wrought far-reaching cultural changes in society as a whole and made the need for legal reform irrefutable.

As a first step, the Pride Trust has designated 1996 as the year of the March On London, following the mould set in America by the lesbians

and gays who marched on Washington to demonstrate their unity and determination in the face of prejudicial laws and politicians. The March On London is designed to make as many lesbians and gays as possible as visible as possible in every region of the UK.

The aims of the March On London project are threefold: to unite our community in a stand against homophobia in the media, parliament and local government; to forge a tight-knit national network of lesbian and gay organisations to campaign for change; and to raise the profile of lesbian and gay people throughout society.

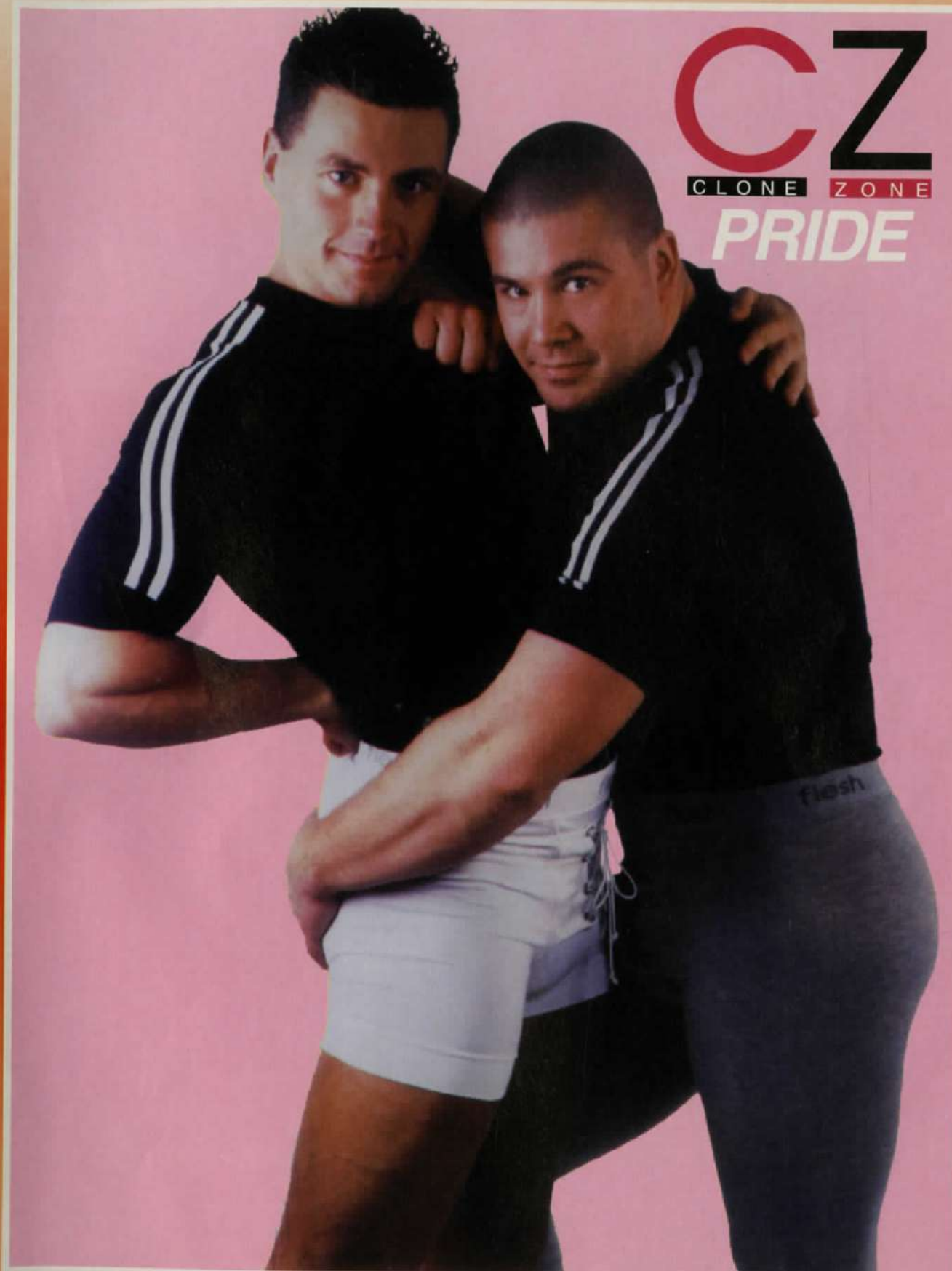
In early 1996, local groups and individuals will be encouraged to organise events under the March On London title — perhaps lobbying their local councillors or MPs, gaining access to their local media, staging demonstrations or

holding local Pride-style festivals and marches. Then in the month before Pride, teams of people will march (or cycle or catch trains or hire buses à la Priscilla) from their areas, link up en route with other groups, take part in their events, and continue on to the national Pride celebration in the capital, scheduled for June 29th. The Pride Trust will, in partnership with a number of other lesbian and gay rights organisations, support the local groups with an Accommodation Bureau which will help to house the marchers in London. We will also set up an Information Exchange to provide a line of contact between groups around the country, as well as coordinating the national media coverage and organising a rally to greet the intrepid trekkers.

The project aims to empower all participants, encouraging them to organise in their communities and to form links with other lesbian and gay organisations which will be maintained after the event as a base for future campaigns. But above all, it is an opportunity to prove that the lesbian and gay community has a voice and an impressive presence which cannot be ignored.

If you would like to join The Pride Trust in organising this huge event or you are a local group or individual who wishes to participate, then please contact The Pride Trust now for information on the first of the March On London National Strategy Meetings.

**The Pride Trust:**  
0171-737 6903



**MAGS, VIDEOS, LEATHER, RUBBER, TOYS, 'flesh' CLOTHING, BOOKS, CARDS, & MORE**

SHOP  
64 OLD  
COMPTON ST,  
SOHO.  
0171 287 3530  
LONDON.

SHOP  
266 OLD  
BROMPTON RD,  
EARLS COURT.  
0171 373 0598  
LONDON.

SHOP  
42  
BRISTOL  
STREET.  
0121 666 6640  
BIRMINGHAM

SHOP  
39  
BLOOM  
STREET.  
0161 236 1398  
MANCHESTER.

SHOP  
3  
THE  
STRAND.  
01253 294850  
BLACKPOOL.

MAIL ORDER  
FREE CATALOGUE!  
WELLINGTON HSE,  
POLLARD ST EAST,  
MANCHESTER.  
M40 7FS  
0161 236 1398

HOLIDAY  
APARTMENTS  
LONDON'S SOHO  
0171 287 3530  
& MANCHESTER'S  
BLOOM ST.  
0161 236 1398





evian the pride of the French Alps supports Gay Pride 1995 at their venue, Victoria Park.

evian will be available at Gay Pride from all bars, catering outlets and the evian water tent situated behind the Ministry of Sound in the centre of the park.

Look out for the pocket size 33cl evian bottles at the following London clubs:

Bagley's  
Bar Rumba  
Circa  
Mars  
Ministry of Sound  
Raw  
Sub Station  
Sub Station South  
Turnmills  
Velvet Underground

Kings Cross Freight Depot, N1  
36 Shaftesbury Avenue WC1  
59 Berkeley Square W1  
12 Sutton Row W1  
103 Gaunt Street SE1  
112a Great Russell Street WC1  
Falconberg Court W1  
9 Brighton Terrace SW9  
63b Clerkenwell Road EC1  
143 Charing Cross Road WC2

# Regular.



REGULAR FIT 505.

evian



# PRIDE ARTS FESTIVAL



## Neil Bartlett

A highlight of the Pride Arts Festival will undoubtedly be the staging of Jean Genet's "lost" play, *Splendid's*, translated and directed by Neil Bartlett and starring, in his first "straight" acting role, Julian Clary. For many months Bartlett has been crouched over his word processor in Brighton trying to get the translation just right, terrified and exhilarated by what he describes as the "daunting honour" of being trusted to work on the text by Genet's estate in what will be the play's English-speaking premiere, at the Lyric theatre, Hammersmith.



Julian Clary. Photo: Mike Laye

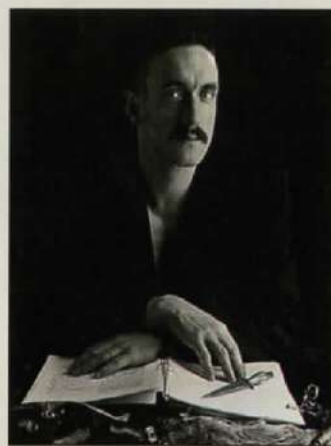
Genet completed the play, a film noir-style gangster thriller, in 1949. His admirers, including Jean-Paul Sartre, loved it, but Genet was unconvinced. From then until his death in 1986, he tended

to announce it, then abandon it, once even shocking a close friend by tearing up the manuscript. It was believed to be lost forever until another copy was found languishing in his publisher's safe by Genet's biographer, Edmund White.

The play is set on the seventh floor of a luxury hotel, *Splendid's*, where seven gangsters and one bent policeman

are holed up, trying to bargain for their freedom after kidnapping an American heiress. The trouble is that they have already accidentally killed her, so a sense of impending doom pervades the action. For two

hours, with the police closing in on them floor by floor, they dance, indulge in melodramatic speech-making and low-camp bickering. One of the characters drags up, in an effort to persuade the world's



Neil Bartlett. Photo: Mike Laye

press, just beyond the balcony, that the heiress is still alive. Another bleeds to death on stage. It all sounds like an up-market Reservoir Dogs.

Genet has always been a god-like figure to Bartlett. Many reviewers said that Bartlett's novel, *Ready To Catch Him Should He Fall*, reminded them of Genet. He seems embarrassed by the praise, but will admit to a shared "devotion to beauty". He says: "One of my characters says, 'I think it's beauty that gets us through all this,' and I was very shocked to find in *Splendid's* that one of the characters says, 'It is beauty that enables

us to get through all of this,' — almost exactly the same line as from my novel. It's that very gay thing that when the chips are down, somewhere there is this boy that I will die for; that they can throw anything they like at us because we have moments when none of this shit matters, and we carry these moments around with us and they're not trivial."

Clary is playing Bravo, described as the poet of the gang, bitchy but calm and elegant. Also in the cast are Gary Indiana, John Cameron Mitchell, Everett Quinton, Malcolm Sinclair, Gary Carter, Davis Fosse, Richard Hawley and Christopher James.

TILLY MCAULEY

*Splendid's* is at the Lyric Hammersmith from June 15th. Bookings, phone: 0181-741 2311

Tilly McAuley talks to Neil Bartlett in more depth in the June issue of *Gay Times*, while Megan Radcliffe talks to Julian Clary

## Barclays New Stages At The Royal Court

This year the Barclays New Stages Festival focuses strongly on issues around personal identity. Innovative artists coming from a variety of cultural and political backgrounds make strong statements about what it is to be working from a marginalised perspective. All of the

artists involved in the New Stages link-up with PAF! bring, in very different ways, a Queer sensibility to their work. Doo Cot redefine puppetry with *Odd If You Dare*, emphasising lesbian relationships in a look at women outside the mainstream. Robert Pacitti and Company present *Geek*, which

premiered successfully at the ICA in 1994, and is inspired by the Coney Island freak-shows. Keith Khan's company — Moti Roti — premiere *Maa*: an exuberant and colourful examination of the conflict between tradition, family, and modern British Asian youth.

Continued on page 55



Doo Cot redefine puppetry in *Odd If You Dare* Photo: Ann McGuinness

## PRIDE ARTS FESTIVAL

## Visions

The Black Lesbian and Gay Arts Forum springs into action in 1995 with a presentation of work at the Brixton Shaw Theatre for PAF!

The BLGAF was an initiative aimed at establishing a collective of arts workers — both grass-roots and high profile — supported by PAF! and developed by the Black Lesbian and Gay Centre. Currently there are very few organised platforms which give public access to a wide variety of arts for and by the black lesbian and gay community. The Forum encourages creativity by devising workshops involving emerging artists who are seeking to realise the aspirations of our community. One such group who will be performing at the Brixton Shaw Theatre are the Sisters of Sensimilia — a drumming workshop — who represent the revolutionary and unique working principle of the Forum, that being the opportunity for artists to share their expertise and talent with one another and the opportunity for those who show a desire and a commitment to learn and teach. This project will attract new audiences who

previously would not have had the opportunity to see representations of themselves in the theatre, in an open and accessible way.

The work of the Forum will enable insights into how the community creates an identity for itself in this culture. This is not an intellectual exercise; it is an exercise in visions. By challenging homophobia, racism, heterosexism and sexism, we demand our right to be who we are. Our efforts are rewards when we celebrate one another individually as well as collectively. This is an exciting opportunity, and we share a serious responsibility.

The black lesbian and gay community worldwide have always influenced trends of the future, but we do not always receive recognition for the influence we have effected. This is our chance.

ELEANOR HOPE

The Black Lesbian and Gay Arts Forum will be performing at the Brixton Shaw Theatre from May 29th to June 3rd. For further information on the programme contact the Black Lesbian and Gay Centre on 0171-732 3885.

## The White Swan

On June 18th, the Drill Hall presents a platform premiere performance of *The White Swan*, a new opera by David Charles Martin with a libretto by David Ashurst. The opera focuses on the open and thriving gay subculture which existed in London in the very early years of the

nineteenth century only to be shattered by the violent suppression which took place in 1810. Omar Ebrahim and Niall Morris take the parts of two young lovers caught up in these events. The music is performed by Piano Circus.

Drill Hall box office 0171-637 8270.

## Positive Lives

*Positive Lives*, the widely-acclaimed photo-documentary, containing the work of thirteen leading British photographers explor-

ing the social impact of HIV/AIDS is on show at Westminster Central Hall from June 15th-17th as part of the Liberty Human Rights Convention.

## Lesbian Cheek

Linking in with the Visibly Lesbian theme of this year's Pride, there'll be an exhibition entitled *Lesbian Cheek* which will go on show at the Freedom Café in Soho in the first two weeks of June. Featuring the work of photog-

raphers who have contributed to the lesbian magazine *Diva* in the past year, the show will comprise of fashion photographs by Louisa Parry and Lucy Dugate and will celebrate all things dykey with a mix of words and wall-sized prints.

Lesbian chic: Louisa Parry's fashion photography for *Diva* goes on show at Freedom Café





coming in  
autumn 95



Gay Sweatshop  
presents:

Directed by  
Lois Weaver and  
Emilyn Claid

Written by  
celebrated  
crime author  
Stella Duffy

with additional  
contributions  
from some of the  
country's most  
inventive lesbian  
authors

# The Hand

a lesbian  
horror ballet

For information  
contact us  
c/o Holborn Centre  
Three Cups Yard  
Sandland Street  
London WC1R 4PZ  
0171 242 1168

## Marching with Pride!



**Lesbian and Gay  
Police  
Association**

BM LAGPA, London WC1N 3XX  
Tel: 01426-943011

- ▼ Keep cameras and valuables hidden when not in use
- ▼ Keep together in well lit areas when leaving Pride
- ▼ Let someone know where you will be staying
- ▼ If you're drinking at Pride, don't drive home
- ▼ Report any incidents immediately to the Police

## CHELSEA & WESTMINSTER Healthcare

### HIV & GUM SERVICES

**A pioneering sexual health service for  
care, treatment and research for  
people affected by HIV & AIDS**

- ❖ Sexual health screening for sexually transmitted infections
- ❖ HIV/AIDS specialists services within outpatient, day care and inpatient facilities
- ❖ HIV antibody testing and counselling
- ❖ Hepatitis B Vaccination
- ❖ Specialist services for maintaining safer sex
- ❖ Psychosexual counselling
- ❖ Free condoms, lube, dental dams



*Chelsea & Westminster Healthcare HIV/GUM is made up  
of 3 main centres, plus 2 inpatient dedicated HIV wards.*

*All clinics offer walk in and appointment services*

#### ST STEPHENS CENTRE

369 Fulham Road London SW10 9TH  
(next to Chelsea & Westminster Hospital)

KOBLER CLINIC:

HIV/AIDS care, treatment, research and day care

JOHN HUNTER CLINIC:

Sexually transmitted infections, HIV testing,  
and **Women Only Clinic**

MARY SEACOLE CLINIC:

including Young Persons Clinic, European Clinic,  
Same Day HIV testing

TELEPHONE 0181 - 846 6161/6171/6181



#### VICTORIA CLINIC FOR SEXUAL HEALTH

6 Osbert Street (off Vauxhall Bridge Rd)  
London SW1

including **Men Only Clinic** and Same Day HIV testing  
TELEPHONE: 0181 - 746 8066



#### CHARING CROSS GUM DEPARTMENT

Charing Cross Hospital,  
Fulham Palace Road London W6  
including **Bernhard Clinic** for Lesbians,  
HIV/AIDS day care

TELEPHONE: 0181 - 846 1567

## PRIDE ARTS FESTIVAL

Continued from page 52

All events have talks alongside them, on special nights. PAFI contributes to the programme of talks in the Festival with a panel discussion at the Royal National Theatre entitled *Compromising Identities?* Including a line up of writers, theatre practitioners, producers, directors and academics (Neil Bartlett, Robert Pacitti, Storme Webber, Larry Kramer, Sue Golding, and Stella Hall), the panel will discuss whether

increasing Queer visibility in 'the mainstream' involves a compromise in the way we present ourselves.

STELLA HALL

Director of Barclays New Stages

*Geek* plays on June 1st, 2nd and 3rd; *Odd If You Dare* on June 5th, 6th and 7th; and *Maa* on June 13th to 17th — all at the Royal Court Theatre. Call box office on 0171-730 1745. *Compromising Identities?* (one of two Royal National Theatre Platforms) is on June 16th at the Lyttelton Theatre. Call box office on 0171-928 2252.

## The Holy Body Tattoo

We are proud to welcome the Holy Body Tattoo to PAFI, all the way from Vancouver, Canada. Part of an on-going commitment to cultural exchanges between British and Canadian artists, the Holy Body Tattoo make up the only dance element to the festival.

But the Holy Body Tattoo are not a 'gay' dance company: they are two people, one man/one woman, and one of whom is gay. Their work, however, is in the broadest sense about sexuality and the tensions/harmonies between human bodies, and they bring with them a wonderful sense that Queer sensibilities are informing the work of practitioners who do not identify themselves as Queer. The inclusion of The Holy Body Tattoo is a demonstration of how inclusive we intend to be — in this festival and in the future — of work that stands up to our standards.

More importantly, however, *Poetry and Apocalypse* is one



The Holy Body Tattoo. Photo: Perry Zavits

of the most exciting pieces of live performance (dance or otherwise) to hit London this Summer. It is also Holy Body Tattoo's first ever performance in England, after enthralling audiences at Glasgow's New Moves festival in March, and a year of touring Canada and America. *Poetry and Apocalypse* is a furious work of art, performed by two bodies — Dana Gingras and Noam

## Burning Habits

Where would you find a former bisexual lapsed Catholic vampire now a gay vegetarian Buddhist, a lesbian top pornstar, a Liverpoolian gingham diva, an 18th century operatic fop, a plucky but lame lesbian teen and a Jodie Foster/Clarice Starling wannabee? And where could they be except in naff funeral parlours, LA parties, St. Dymphna's Queer Bar and the Wirral peninsular?

But for your particular viewing pleasure all can be seen at the Drill Hall. The Drill Hall contribution to PAFI encompasses death, Conservatism, socialist transvestism, poetry, grande passion, obsession and lust. And if that doesn't fit any of your predilections you can always catch a few episodes of our serialised epic *Burning Habits*.

Had enough of *Brookie* and *EastEnders*? Come to the re-runs on Sunday with a beigel brunch.

Always encouraging new work, always welcoming, the Drill Hall has presented you with the very best of gay, les-



Burning Habits. Illustration: Nicola Jennings

bian and Queer theatre for nearly two decades. We have brought you work from all communities, from all over the world.

Whilst participating in PAFI, producing large cast shows and running 40 classes and workshops a week, we are also trying to raise £65,000 to keep the Drill Hall open and to continue our existing programme.

We look forward to seeing you at the Drill Hall soon and hope you will fling something that rustles into the hat!

DAVID BENEDICT

Burning Habits: May 16th — June 17th at the Drill Hall. Tickets: 0171-637 8270

Gagnon — and two musicians.

Set against a cold, industrial set, Dana and Noam work themselves into what can only be described as an intricately timed series of apocalyptic moments. The show leaves you amazed, that a body is capable of so many contortions! Certainly a show not to be missed, and the premiere of a company that are going to be very, very big in the near future.

"Physical dance at its most anguished and angular... the sheer dynamic thrust of their work is so totally compelling, that they rightly deserved a tumultuous reception" *Scotland On Sunday*.

DYLAN CALDER

The Holy Body Tattoo will be performing *Poetry and Apocalypse* at the Chisenhale Dance Space on June 14th, 15th and 16th. Call box office on 0181-981 6617.



## PRIDE ARTS FESTIVAL

### Pride Festival Of Comedy

Well, if it all gets too serious, come and spend two nights in the build-up to Pride Day at Jongleurs, for the Pride Festival of Comedy. This is a bit of a coup for PAFI, being the first ever Queer comedy festival on the mainstream comedy circuit, and shouldn't be missed for the world... that is, if you appreciate a night of titillating, rib-tickling Queer humour!

With Sandi Toksvig — who was a smash at 1994's

Stonewall Equality Show — heading the line-up of over ten of the best (and available!) comedians, the Festival of Comedy promises to be nothing less than a great night out. Simon Fanshaw, Maria Esposito, Graham Norton, and Bert Tyler-Moore will also be appearing... and the big, big names will be kept secret till the night. Come and see for yourselves.

The Pride Festival of Comedy is at Jongleurs in Camden, NW1 on June 18th and 19th. Call box office on 0171-267 1999.



Sandi Toksvig. Photo: Richard Maude

### Queer Visions

On Pride Eve, the London Film Makers Co-op proudly presents a programme of film, video and performance that explores sexual diversity. This is a rare opportunity to see the recent work of cutting-edge filmmakers, video-artists and multi-media performers, with in a festival atmosphere. There will also be a party afterwards, attended by some of the artists.

Queer Visions takes place on June 23rd at 8pm. Call 0171-586 8516 for further details.

### ICA Live Arts At PAF!



Mario Gardner & Marcus Kuiland-Nazario as Carmen & Melana. Photo: Ted Zepeder

The ICA Live Arts programme of work included in the Pride Arts Festival embraces artists appearing in two distinct seasons this Spring/Summer. Carmelita Tropicana, Sarbjit Samara, Mario Gardner and Marcus Kuiland-Nazario are just some of the artists being presented in *Mirage: Enigmas of Race, Difference and Desire*, whilst William Yang comes to us as part of our LIFT '95 programme. *Mirage* is a cross-dis-

ciplinary, building-wide project inspired by the writings of influential black theorist Frantz Fanon. The particular focus of the Live Arts programme is a look at the body, clothed and costumed, as a site and symbol of cultural resistance. From Sarbjit Samara's cultural transvestism, through Carmelita's hats, to Mario and Marcus's full-blown drag acts, these are artists who are getting to grips with notions of representation in radical new ways.

William Yang's *Sadness* forms part of a body of performances by Chinese artists in this year's LIFT programme at the ICA. These events are the

starting point for discussions and dialogues around notions of the Chinese diaspora and will lead towards a programme of events for late 1996/early 1997.

What links all of this work, is that they are developing new performance languages to articulate new ideas and new agendas for the world we actually live in, rather than the world that the dominant culture would like us to live in.

LOIS KEIDAN  
ICA Live Arts

Carmelita Tropicana appears in *Milk of Amnesia* on May 30th and 31st; Sarbjit Samara appears in *Hysterical Asians and Breastfeeding* on June 3rd; Mario Gardner and Marcus Kuiland-Nazario on June 5th and 6th. William Yang appears in *Sadness* from June 27th to July 1st. Phone ICA box office on 0171-930 3647 for further information.

The Pride Arts Festival is directed and produced by Dylan Calder and Barbra Egervary. The Literary Festival is co-ordinated by Liz Gibbs and The Publishing Triangle. PR by Tony Barlow and Detonator. Publicity design by Eureka! Graphic Design. Marketing by Robert Teiman O'Neill.

PAFI INFOLINE:  
0171-501 9994

The Pride Trust and PAFI wish to thank the following:

Liz Gibbs, Eleanor Hope and the BLGAF, Storme Webber, Mel Steel, Joelle Taylor, Alison Russell, Martin Ireland, Tutu, Arthur Peters, Subodh Rathod, Emma Wilson, Steve Cook, everyone at the Publishing Triangle, Sabrina George, Sunil Gupta, Mark Allen, Steve Winney, Ian and Scott (at Eureka!), Lois Keidan, Catherine Ugwu, Helena Rackett, Stella Hall, Stephen Daldry, Jess Cleverly, Julie Parker and Isabelle, Neil Bartlett and Paula Hammond, Amanda Saunders, Ruth Harrison, Siobhan O'Neill, Henrietta, Julie Poskitt, Todd Marciniak, Keith Cox, Jonathan Hardy, Duncan Hayes, David Johnson, Simon Fanshaw, Kate Ashcroft, John Dyke, Andy Gant, Sue Golding, Janice Lopatkin, Debbie Vannozzi, Terry Harding, David Wynne, Robert Pacitti, Robert Taylor, Gavin Barlow and Tanya Farnham, Val Bourne, Maria Esposito, Mike McCann, Simon Thomsett, David Hopper, Robert O'Neill, Andrew Mitchell, Emma Slack, Liz North, Andrew McKenzie, Brian Hagen, Mark Oakley, Pierce Skinner, Unison, Melita and Terry at Pride FM, Tim at Freedom FM, Sion Kelling-Dean, Ian Lees, Paul Hallam... for all the support, advice, hard work, enthusiasm and all-round positive attitude! (Excuses for any absent names that have gone amiss.) PAFI also wishes to thank every artist, academic, director, producer, technician, administrator, fundraiser connected with the Festival Programme, without whom PAFI would have been nothing at all.

Your personal safety is very important. Here are some practical steps you can take to reduce risks without restricting your sense of freedom too much:

- Think ahead and plan your journey, avoid short cuts
- Walk confidently and purposefully
- Stay alert: be aware of what's going on around you
- Avoid accepting lifts from strangers
- Vary your route and times if possible
- Keep a phone card or change handy for a phone call
- If you think you're being followed:

- Walk quickly across the road, cross it again if necessary
- Head for a busier area where there will be other people, a shop, garage, well-lit house, pub, cab office, police station or hospital
- Call the police as soon as you get somewhere safe

Further personal safety advice is available from your local police station



METROPOLITAN  
POLICE

The Metropolitan Police Service  
wishes those attending Pride '95 a  
safe and enjoyable time

## John Addy and Liquid Gold

Wishes everyone a  
happy and successful  
Pride 1995

Liquid Gold  
"When you know you  
deserve the best"  
Sales: 01484 662429



# Out & Proud

and on the march for  
equal rights

come and  
visit us in the  
**UNISON**  
marquee

For more information about lesbian and gay rights in UNISON contact:  
UNISON, Kursad Karamanoglu, 1 Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9AJ.

**UNISON**



CAMDEN & ISLINGTON  
Community Health Services NHS Trust

*Your Partner for Health*

## SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES IN CAMDEN & ISLINGTON

Friendly, free & confidential service on all matters relating to HIV & sexual health

- Screening for sexually transmitted infections
- HIV counselling and testing
- Information and advice on sexual health
- Hepatitis B testing and vaccination
- Safer Sex Advice
- Cervical smears and colposcopy
- Psychosexual Counselling
- Support & information following sexual assault
- Total HIV in-patient & out-patient care
- Free condoms & lubricant
- Contraceptive service

### The Mortimer Market Centre

(Off Capper Street)

Tottenham Court Road

London WC1 6AU

Appointments: 0171 380 9707

Health Advisers: 0171 380 9650/388 3420

Men's/Women's Advice: 0171 380 9946/45

Minicom: 0171 383 5836

### The Archway Sexual Health Clinic

(A5) Archway Wing

Whittington Hospital, Highgate Hill

London N19 5NF

Appointments: 0171 288 5205/288 3077

Advice: 0171 288 3095

**axis**

every thursday  
evening  
7.00 - 9.00

the sexual health clinic in the west end for all gay and bisexual men 26 and under  
at MORTIMER MARKET CENTRE  
DROP-IN OR APPOINTMENTS  
0171 380 9707/9650  
THURS EVE 0171 380 9946

A full sexual health service  
HIV testing & counselling  
Sex & relationship counselling  
Large selection of condoms & lube  
Where to get help on benefits, housing & drugs



# PRIDE LITERARY FESTIVAL

This year's second Pride Literary Festival brings you an extraordinary line-up of literary talent not often seen in London. Co-programmed with the Publishing Triangle, the festival is proud to be associated with the visit to the UK by Larry Kramer (see below).

The festival also includes — at the National Film Theatre (June 2nd, 8.30pm) — *Writing on the Screen*, a debate about the transition from Queer books to Queer films by John Lyttle, Andy Medhurst and Rose Collis.

On June 19th (6.30pm) on stage at the Royal National Theatre, *Invisible Heroines* sees Phyllis Nagy, Maureen Duffy and Bryony Lavery discuss lesbian heroines in literature and drama.

Then at the ICA (June 12th, 7.30pm), *Transatlantic Rhythms* is a night of rhythm and rhyme with David Trinidad, Sapphire and Greg Woods. The ICA also hosts Scott Thompson — a senior US politician from the Reagan administration whose autobiography exposes the homophobia behind the closed doors of the White House.

For the first time in years, and possibly his last appearance in Britain, Larry Kramer — one of the 'founding fathers' of Queer activism — performs at PAFI on no less than four separate occasions.

One of the most important activists of our time — if not the most important — Larry Kramer is uncompromisingly

## The Human Rights Convention

This is the United Nations Year for Tolerance. Have you heard? To demonstrate the sheer amount of intolerance rife in today's world, Liberty are putting together the first Human Rights Convention: a three-day cultural festival that celebrates human rights (June 15th to 17th). Liberty are proud to be working with PAFI and the Publishing Triangle to bring together an exciting panel of writers, activists and historians to talk about *Sexuality, Creativity and Censorship* during the festival. On the panel will be Larry Kramer (American writer, activist and founder of ACT-UP), Sarah Schulman (American writer and founding member of Lesbian Avengers), Pat

Califia (American writer, polemicist and co-founder of Samoia, the lesbian SM network), Patrick Gale (writer), Emma Donoghue (writer and historian), Janine Fuller (Canadian bookseller, writer and activist) and, as chair, Mandy Merck (cultural commentator and author of *Perversions*). Broadly on themes of censorship, with reference to lesbian and gay literature, the panel will focus on a number of specific issues, including the recent Little Sister's court case in Vancouver. The case became a massive international media focus in 1994 when Janine Fuller, manager of the Little Sister's lesbian and gay bookstore, challenged the Canadian laws on censorship.

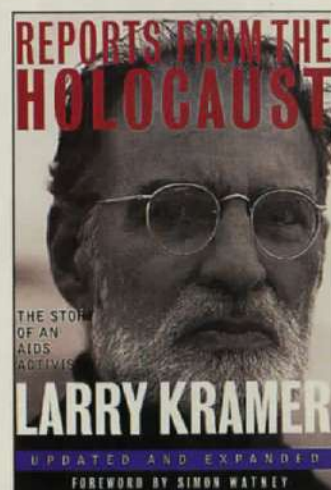
The bookstore suffered years of prejudice from customs officials, banning pornography and literature from crossing the border from America. The case fast became significant in many ways, instigating media and legal debate on what is pornography, and who is pornographic. This constitutionally significant case was due to get its verdict in May 1995. Our panel includes two witnesses at the case: Sarah Schulman and Pat Califia.

JONATHAN HARDY

Human Rights Convention Co-ordinator

*Sexuality, Creativity and Censorship* is at Church House Conference Centre, Baldwin Street, EC1 on June 17th. Call 0171-403 3888 for further information.

## Larry Kramer



Raging against the machine: Larry Kramer's personal account of the AIDS epidemic

outspoken, and has great cause to be. One of the co-founders of the New York Gay Men's Health Crisis (as is Larry Mass, who is also appearing at PAFI), and a

founding member of ACT-UP, Kramer has been fighting ignorance and misinformation ever since HIV/AIDS first became apparent.

Also known as a novelist (*Faggots*), playwright (*The Normal Heart*) and screenplay writer (Ken Russell's *Women In Love*), as well as a major international speaker — Larry Kramer comes to us to mark

the publication of the new edition of his collected non-fiction writings: *Reports From The Holocaust* (Cassell).

Larry Kramer will be appearing at the Conway Hall on June 14th, in conversation with Simon Watney (call PAFI on 0171-501 9994); at the ICA on June 15th, in conversation with Larry Mass (call box office on 0171-930 3647); at the Royal National Theatre on June 16th (call box office on 0171-928 2252); and at the Church House Conference Centre on June 17th (call 0171-403 3888).



# KEEP IN TOUCH

## The UK's Most Advanced Interactive Dating Line

- \*Rapid access—press the star button to skip prompts or messages
- \*A caller block facility
- \*Replay / re-record messages received and sent
- \*Hear complete descriptions of guys, get and send replies immediately.

Don't Miss Out....

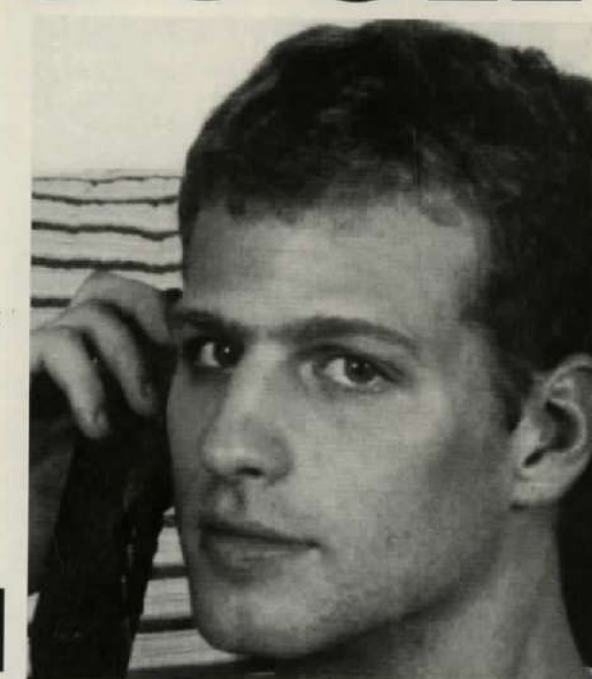


# DIAL 0839 299 911 NOW!

LESBIANS DIAL 0891 299 965

# MANTALK

When making a date be safe and sensible. Tell a friend and meet in a public place.  
VTL Box 7568 London WC1N 3XX. Calls cost 39p min cheap rate, 49p min all other times.





▼ MANCHESTER SOLICITORS ▼

**WALDRON & SCHOFIELD**

All legal work undertaken  
Strict Confidentiality  
Legal Aid clients welcome.

Taking pride in our assistance to the lesbian and gay community

1080 Chester Road,  
Manchester, M32 0HF.  
Also at Heywood, Lancashire  
Tel: 01706 624 029.

**0161 - 864 1961**

SELF-EMPLOYED  
WITHOUT A PENSION?

RING: 0181-444 1818





**SULTMAN FINANCE**

*Somerset Gay Men's Health Project*

PROUDLY SUPPORTING  
PRIDE '95  
AND WORKING  
THROUGHOUT SOMERSET  
FOR ALL GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN

Somerset Gay Men's Health Project - if you require information on the project, advice, help, or are interested in helping, contact Mike Veale on 01823-327078, or come down to  
CREETOWN HOUSE, ALBERMARLE ROAD, TAUNTON, SOMERSET

**FANTASY EROTIQUE**

Leather, rubber, toys, wetlook, etc....

FREE CATALOGUE  
Send SAE

Personal callers welcome by appointment.

PO Box 6412,  
London, E7 9SB  
0181 555 2996  
Credit Cards accepted

 **ORIENTAL CLEANERS**

Professional Domestic Cleaners  
Covering All Of London.  
No Job Too Small  
£29.50 (inc VAT) minimum  
Zones 3, 4, 5, & 6 - £5 extra  
Seven days a week  
Washing, Ironing, Carpet Cleaning.  
You name it. We probably clean it.

**FREE MOBILE PHONE FOR ALL NEW CLIENTS.**  
Subject to status.

 **0181 673 7117** 

PURE INDULGENCE  
RIVERSIDE, REEDHAM  
TWIXT NORWICH & YARMOUTH

**Briars**

Superb en-suite accommodation over traditional tea room & hair studio. Picturesque views of river and marshes from first floor lounge & conservatory. Close to BR station.

Phone or Fax:  
**Call Alan or Alan!**  
**01493 700054**  
Credit Cards )

*The Claremont Hotel*



89 St Michael's Road  
West Cliff  
Bournemouth  
Dorset, BH2 5DR  
Tel: 01202-316668

Proprietor  
Marc Powis

**THE HUMANIST CHALLENGE**


"Humanist organisations agree with the principle that lesbian and gay rights are human rights. The basic opportunity to fulfil one's potential and to seek love and security should be available to everyone" —  
British Humanist Association Briefing for Teachers.

The humanist movement, of which the Gay and Lesbian Humanist Association (GLHA) is a part, promotes an enlightened, liberating and rational approach to sexuality. It challenges the repressive Judeo-Christian teaching on sexual morality which gives rise to much of the prejudice and discrimination suffered by lesbians and gays.

You can help promote humanist principles as well as gay and lesbian rights by joining GLHA. GLHA has members all over the UK and abroad. It keeps them in touch via a lively, high quality magazine and gives them the opportunity to get involved in campaigns via its Postal Action Scheme.

It arranges meetings, socials, weekend events, and secular humanist ceremonies (wedding, naming and funeral).

Leaflet and membership form from: GLHA (GT), 34, Spring Lane, Kenilworth, Warks, CV8 2HB. Tel/fax: 01926 58450.

 **PARENTS' FRIEND**

Affiliated to Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (FFLAG)

**WE CARE**


For our lesbian, gay and bisexual offspring (and their parents' too!)

We are here to help parents cope with the trauma of your 'coming out'. We can also discuss 'coming out' or other problems with you from a parent's point of view before you go ahead.

Backup is essential, and we can provide it in the form of our parents' handbook @ £3.50, newsletter, leaflets, copy articles and newsletter review.

Don't forget our beautiful blank cards and postcards with a design based on black and pink triangles.

Parents' Friend - c/o Voluntary Action Leeds, 34 Lupton Street, Leeds LS10 2QW.  
Telephone 01132-674627 Registered Charity No. 1002640



**Gay's The Word**

If it's out, we've got it in!

Proud  
to have the widest selection of lesbian, gay and feminist books in the UK

66 Marchmont Street, London, WC1N 1AB  
(0171) 278 7654

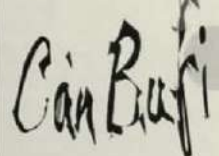
*For the independent traveller*

*Enjoy a glorious holiday at the unique Can Bufi, on Ibiza*

Can Bufi offers a unique base from which you can sample the delights of Ibiza, a high quality family style holiday with an a la carte restaurant, swimming pool, outdoor barbeque under an expanse of bougainvillea and two bars. Each charming double room having its own en suite bathroom. Perfectly located in the countryside - minutes from the beaches and Santa Eulalia. It has access to a wide variety of outdoor activities which include boat hire, fishing trips, para sailing, scuba diving, swimming, mobilette and car rental, ferries to Formentera, Ibiza town and the mainland.

All profits from the project support the local AIDS charity which provides HIV awareness and prevention information and care for people living with AIDS.

Direct bookings to Can Bufi on 00 34 71 330016, or call Janaway Travel on 0171 485 4471, Fax 0171 267 3334



**GAY/BI/TV 'GOSSIP'**

EXCHANGE PRIVATE MESSAGES AND  
MAKE DATES WITH UP TO 30 MEN NOW

**0891 44 5672**

Calls cost 39p/min cheap rate; 49p/min other times. CI, PO Box 168, EX1 1YD

*Significant Others*

Introduction Agency  
The intelligent choice  
for gay men

Seeking a long term relationship?

"A significant step forward"  
The Independent

**0171 938 4400**



Open till 8pm weekdays and 4pm Saturdays



**Twenty Trinity Gardens**  
LONDON SW9 8DP

Twenty Trinity Gardens invites you to celebrate Gay Pride Day with us

with a special menu and extended opening hours - last orders at 12.30am. Booking ESSENTIAL!!!

Phone: 0171-733 8838



2 minutes from the Fridge and SubStation

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

**Cheviot View**

Newcastle's first and finest gay & lesbian guest house

EN-SUITE & STANDARD BEDROOMS • IDEAL LOCATION  
FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST • BARGAIN BREAKS

"The best gay guest house I've ever stayed in." APN Magazine

PLEASE TELEPHONE FOR YOUR BROCHURE.

Tel: 0191-2620125 • Mobile: 0378-863469

**GAY talk**



NEW fast EASY fun



**0891 44 56 21**

**BOODLES RESTAURANT**

FRIENDLY STAFF,  
COSMOPOLITAN,  
CANDLELIT INEXPENSIVE DINING

Recommended by every major newspaper and magazine in the North West

34 Canal Street, Manchester, M1 3WD L 0161 237 9117





# PRIDE NOTICEBOARD

## Brighton Pride

Brighton Pride takes place from May 26th-29th. On Saturday 27th, from midday at the Hove peace statue, there will be a march and carnival procession through the town, ending at a rally and festival on the Level, featuring a range of speakers and entertainment, and other events throughout the weekend.

## Pride West

Last year's Pride West festival in Bristol was so popular that it has been extended to run over two days, Saturday and Sunday, June 3rd and 4th. From noon on Saturday there will be an "Equality at Work" march from Castle Green to College Green. Then at the nearby Watershed arts centre, throughout Saturday and Sunday, there will be a programme of events including stalls, speakers, films, bands and DJs. Details from the Aled Richards Trust on 01179-551000 or the Watershed on 01179-276444.

## Pride Scotland

Edinburgh is hosting Scotland's first Pride march and festival on Saturday June 17th. Organisers are confident that the march, starting at 12.45, will attract around 2,000 people, with many more joining the festival at 2pm at the Meadows. There will also be a host of lesbian and gay events taking place during the preceding week at theatres, art galleries and cinemas. The festival will include a gala at the Lyceum Theatre on Saturday June 17th, followed by a Pride Club for late-night revellers. For more information ring Pride Scotland on 0131-556 8822.

## Pride Belfast

Belfast's Pride Dander takes place on June 17th. Contact Northern Ireland Lesbian and Gay Pride, c/o the Rainbow

Project, 24 Mount Charles, Belfast BT7 1NZ for further information.

## Coaches

Day coach tickets to the London march and festival from the Humberside area can be bought for £16 from Cactus, 21 Beverley Road, Hull (10am-6pm Mon-Sat), or telephone Paul on 01482-588483.

Priscilla — Queen of the M1 leaves Glasgow on June 23rd bound for Pride. The bus has been organised by PHACE West, Strathclyde Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, GLC Project and Gay Scotland magazine. To reserve your seat call 0141-332 3838 or 0141-221 8372.

## Arts Festival

*Summer Loving* is the title of a new show by the Slip of the Tongue Lesbian Theatre Company. They will be staging a camp lesbian musical in the style of *Grease*, except this Sandy hooks up with a bike girl from Lesbos. They play at the Wheel in London from June 20th to 23rd and June 28th and July 1st. Box office: 0171-831 6946.

*The White Swan*, a new opera by David Charles Martin and David Ashurst (libretto) about the crushing of London's gay subculture in the early 19th century, is given a workshop presentation at the Drill Hall on June 18th. Tickets cost £10, or £6 with concessions, from the Drill Hall box office, 0171-637 8270.

## Meetings

On Friday June 9th at 7.30pm at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1, the Gay and Lesbian Humanist Association hosts a special Pride '95 forum discussion on the theme of "Achieving Legal and Social Equality". Speakers include Peter Tatchell and Antony Grey.

On Thursday June 29th from 7pm-9.30pm at 230A Kentish Town Road, London NW5, *Wages Due Lesbians* and the *English Collective of Prostitutes* celebrate their 20th anniversary with a Lesbian and Gay Pride Forum on the subject of "Sex Work, Sexual Violence and Sexual Choices".

## Worship

On Sunday June 25th — the day after Pride — at 3pm at the Hinde Street Methodist Church, the *Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement* hosts an ecumenical "Service for Pride" on the theme of "Light and Liberation".

The *Metropolitan Community Church* is holding a special Sunday service on the same day. Commencing at 7.30pm, it will be at the Institute Room, 4th Floor, Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftsbury Avenue, London WC2. Nearest Tube station: Tottenham Court Road.

## Fundraising

Sunday June 4th is the date for the latest *Walk for Life* — in 17 cities across the country. Organised in London by CRUSAID, proceeds are pledged to the CRUSAID Individual Hardship Fund offering immediate relief to people in dire financial distress as a result of HIV and AIDS. From Aberdeen to Bath, Cardiff to Luton, you can do your bit for those in need. To register please call free on 0800-374437.

A *Lighthouse Bike Ride* on Sunday June 11th will raise funds for three HIV/AIDS charities, from London to Marlow (36 miles) or London to Oxford (58 miles). Entertainment, refreshments, maps, mechanics and medics are all provided to smooth your journey, as well as that essential transport home. For further information please contact Open Air Bike Rides, PO Box 8, Bristol BS99 5BS, telephone 0117-922 7768.

A Royal Charity Gala Perform-

ance of *Fame, The Musical*, in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, will be held at the Cambridge Theatre on Monday June 19th at 7.30pm, continuing afterwards at the Regent. In aid of the London Lighthouse and Barnardo's, tickets for the evening cost between £20 and £90, and are available from Fame Royal Charity Gala, Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barking, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG. Barnardo's has developed several HIV/AIDS initiatives, including a 'Positive Options' project to work with families and young people living with HIV/AIDS.

## Pride Warm-Up

The *Kitty Lips* girls are staging a Pride warm-up on June 23rd at the Mars club — with a free cassette for the first 100 through the door. For further information please call 0171-267 1059.

## THANK YOU

The Pride Trust thanks everyone involved in this year's event, especially all the volunteers, sponsors, Gay Times and Diva (for putting this magazine together) and all others whose input has made the event possible.

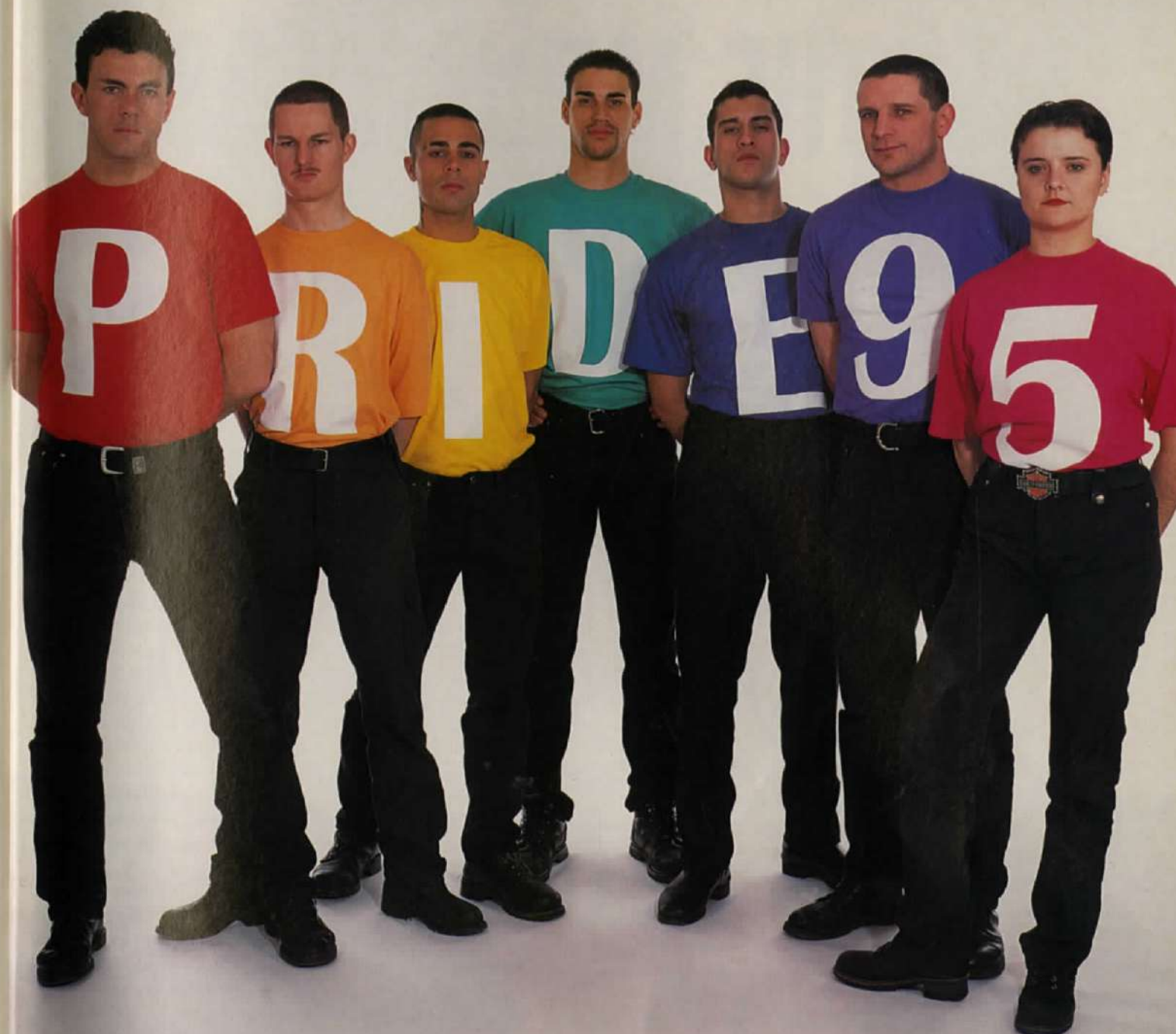
The Official Souvenir Magazine for Pride '95 is Published (In Association With The Pride Trust) by Millivres Ltd, Gay Times and Diva magazines.

Consultant Editors: David Smith & Frances Williams • Editorial Assistant: Martin Barden • Design & Production: CJ Field Design • Pride '95

Logo designed by: Denovo • Advertising Sales: Simon Patrick, Jonathan Cash & Terry Deal • Advertising & Production Co-Ordinator: Kim

Watson • Pride Trust Liaison: Teddy Witherington • Origination by: Screaming Colour • Printed by: Southern Print (Web Offset) Ltd.

The mention or appearance or likeness of any person or organisation in articles or advertising in this programme is not to be taken as any indication of the sexual, social or political orientation of such persons or organisations. No responsibility can be assumed for any unsolicited materials and submission is construed as permission to publish without further correspondence and the fee payable (if any) at our usual rates. Advertisers are advised that all copy is their sole responsibility under the Trades Protection Act and must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the publishers. © 1995 Millivres Ltd. All rights reserved.



# SECURE WITH PRIDE

SECURITRON

140 GRAYS INN ROAD, LONDON WC1X 8AZ

TEL: 0171 833 8225 FAX: 0171 278 2679



# TYRANNY OF THE MEDIA CLOSET



*Who's to blame for the media's failure to report Pride?, asks Nigel Wrench*

When I walked up to the platform with David Cook, *Out This Week's* producer, to accept our Sony Award for Best Magazine Programme, there was, for me, a very stark choice.

Here was a gathering, in the Grosvenor House Hotel, of radio's great and good, overfed and a little tipsy. And here was an opportunity to make a difference.

In one sense *Out This Week* had already made that difference. We'd demonstrated that a gay magazine programme, far from being shunted away as a tokenistic gesture to minority issues, could provide the BBC with a sizeable audience. Gay and lesbian issues interest people; queer journalism can be both meaningful and entertaining. We had, we were always being told, widened the agenda.

My choice was to widen it a little further. I dedicated our award to everyone, who, like me, lives with HIV. I've always

been out at work, I hadn't told my colleagues that I'd been diagnosed HIV-positive two years ago. Maybe I should have. What I hoped to do with this small but public gesture was to pull HIV out of its closet and wave it in the face of this post-prandial establishment media crowd. To say: Here we are, not just gay men and lesbians, but people with HIV too — and we're among you!

Liberation has always been about visibility. For too many news editors — a breed that's still largely white, straight and male — gay issues aren't important precisely because gay men and lesbians are invisible to them.

Newsrooms are beginning, just beginning, to take us seriously. But it's still true that most of the people who run them don't know quite where to put Pride on their news agenda. What the hell is it, you'll be asked. And what do you say about 30,000 men and women blowing whistles? It's

not exactly the 'twilight world of the homosexual' so beloved of tabloid lore. And it's rather a long way from the everyday life of those at the top in most of our newspapers.

For as long as newsrooms are staffed either by straights, or by gay men and lesbians who are still closeted, our issues will be reported as 'other', as a little beyond what serious people should be concerned with. The issues that do gain coverage now are those that have already been taken up by the establishment — whether that's by choice or, more likely, through protest. Our task is to put all of our issues on the agenda, not just at Pride, but all of the time.

And that means there is a responsibility on those of us who are gay and working in the media both to come out and to campaign for fairness of coverage. This isn't a matter of propaganda, but a matter of journalistic ethics. Challenging assumptions on the newsroom floor is a small beginning to righting what's wrong, as is asserting our issues as part of the mainstream news agenda rather than a cause for a nudge, a wink and a snigger.

You won't remove homophobia, latent or blatant, overnight. You don't remove the occasionally recurring fear of coming out either. Sitting in a bar in Zagreb one night, with a bunch of hacks just back from Sarajevo and on their fourth or fifth Jack Daniels, the talk turned to where the women were in town. I wondered where the

gay men were. But I didn't say so. I remained a closeted eunuch. I missed the chance to make the point: you can be gay and cover this story too.

Did I redeem myself by coming out to my translator in Belgrade a month later when he threatened to take me to a straight strip bar? Only partly. And not because I declined to take up his kind offer of an escorted trip to the local cruising ground — he'd have to shadow me, he said, because another correspondent had been mugged there the week before — but because I'd missed the earlier chance when drinking with my colleagues.

I'm not wanting to blame the media's remaining homophobia on ourselves. But if those of us who are in any position of power in a newsroom fail to attempt to influence events, and so submit to the tyranny of the closet, we can hardly complain that the media fail to treat our issues seriously.

And so that day of the Sony Awards the issue had become simple for me. I was healthy, I was as comfortable as you can get with HIV, so why not let my colleagues know. Maybe it'll change, just a little, their views on HIV, and how it's reported in the future. It's not much, but it's a start.

Nigel Wrench presents *Out This Week*, Radio 5 Live's award-winning lesbian and gay news programme. He is also a long-time producer and presenter for Radio 4's PM Programme.

*Out This Week* is broadcast every Sunday at 10pm on Radio 5 Live on 909 and 693MW.

William

22

dancer

INTERESTS

film

fitness

clubs

food

SPECIAL INTERESTS 0891 226800

looking for guys to share fun days and nights, long or short term

0891 330440

**GAY X CHANGE**

Calls charged at 39p per min. cheap, 49p other times. Other services promoted. XChange, FREEPOST, P.O. Box 192, Guildford GU1 4BR.





**we're  
proud  
to come out  
on the side  
of  
choice...**

**MEGASTORES**

**mega means more** **music+video+games**