

Leicester • Derby • Nottingham
Mansfield • Loughborough

EAST MIDLANDS

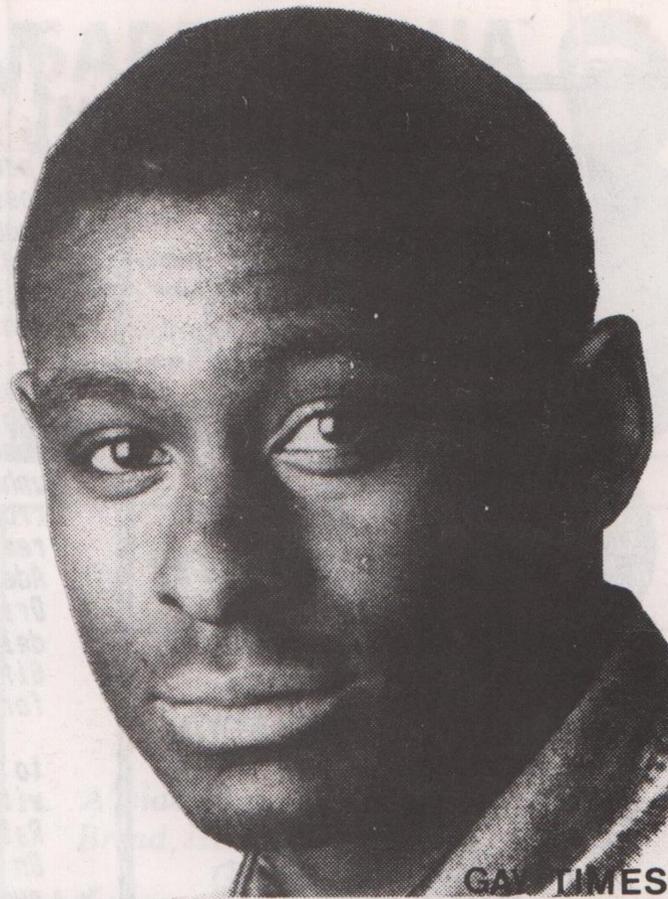
METRO
GAY

• THE FREE ONE •

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WEST P.D.O. NOTTINGHAM, NG7 2DL

Mr Sloane visits Derby

David Harewood stars as the eponymous anti-hero in Joe Orton's 'Entertaining Mr. Sloane' at the Derby Playhouse until the 11th March. With a black actor playing Sloane this new production of a play about the underside of the Swinging Sixties is certain to have relevance to late 80's Britain, says Terry Stevenson of the Playhouse, "A year after Section 28", he says, "Orton is as pertinent as ever, as 'Entertaining Mr. Sloane' highlights the hypocrisies of the Great British Public during one of its sporadic fits of morality".



GAY TIMES

Leicester Promenaid raises £10,000

A star-studded charity gala held at the Haymarket Theatre in Leicester last month raised nearly £10,000 for local Aids work.

The event known as 'Promenaid', was the brainchild of local actor Michael Brogan who stars in 'EastEnders' as Vic, and the charity event featured several of the EastEnders cast including Colin, Michelle, and Dot. Also taking part were actor Ian McKellen; Simon Schatzberger (the original Adrian Mole); the cast of Guys and Dolls; and the legendary singer Adelaide Hall. The show was compered by Ned Sherrin.

Promenaid, though put together at very short notice, turned out to be a brilliant mixture of music, comedy, and theatre, and the 750 capacity Haymarket was sold out. There were several highspots over the evening including four songs by 87-year-old Adelaide



GAY TIMES

Hall who received a standing ovation.

All participants gave their services free and the money raised included box office receipts; profits from a sponsored bar and money raised by selling autographs. Hundreds of people unable to buy tickets queued outside just to buy autographs and this alone amounted to nearly one-tenth of the total raised.

EastEnders actor Michael Brogan, abused and insulted in the street because he plays the part of Vic, a heterosexual prisoner with HIV, in the soap opera, decided to organise the benefit. The money raised by Promenaid goes to the David Manley Fund, set up in memory of a much-loved Leicestershire man with Aids who died in 1988. The money will be used to give direct financial help to people with HIV and Aids in Leicestershire.

'OUT ON TUESDAY'
Weekly Series
C4 14th Feb
11.15pm

Tom in town

Tom Robinson appears in cabaret at Phoenix Arts, Leicester on 18th February. Best known for his "Glad To



Tom Robinson:

Be Gay" anthem, and tireless support for lesbian/gay rights over the years, Tom has recently returned to this country from East Germany. He has recently composed music for a new play, called 'Just Frank', the story of Frank Gilchrist, a 26 year old ex-Falklands veteran, who ends up on drugs and gets AIDS.

Night OUT to EXCALIBUR CLUB

HANLEY, STOKE-ON-TRENT

SATURDAY

25

February

COACH LEAVES ADMIRAL DUNCAN
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(includes admission) FROM:
ADMIRAL DUNCAN & MUSHROOM
BOOKSHOP HEATHCOAT ST

BECAUSE WE'RE QUEERS

SIMON SHEPHERD

Who's this happy man holding the baby? The baby in question is Gareth Brown and the man is Simon Shepherd, Beeston-based author of "Because We're Queers", The Life and Crimes of Kenneth Halliwell and Joe Orton. The cover of Simon's book was deemed too provocative by the "Sunday Times",



which showed Orton with his tongue hanging out, and they refused to take any adverts for the publication. (The title is a quotation from Orton's explanation of the severity of the prison sentences imposed on the two for defacing library books at the time).

Simon was snapped while he was on duty in the creche at a recent conference of the Labour Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Nottingham.

MIKE'S corner

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As regular readers of this column will know, no "Mike's Corner" could possibly be complete without me raving about at least one female rap record - and so it is that the spotlight falls this month on Monie Love's superb "I Can Do This". Admittedly, the track is a blatant steal from the Whispers' classic "And The Beat Goes On", but who cares - it's a powerful and highly commercial dance track. Monie Love, unheard of even two months ago, also crops up delivering guest raps on remixes of two current chart hits: Adeva's "Respect" and FYC's "She Drives Me Crazy", on the latter track delivering a sharp reply to Roland Gift's lovesick whining. Watch out for this woman!

Stock Aitken Waterman look likely to set the cat amongst the pigeons with their latest production, "I'd Rather Jack" by the Reynolds Sisters. On this typically perky Mel & Kim-ish number, radio producers come in for a hammering for concentrating on the "yuppie CD" market and ignoring the true "beat of the street" in their output (i.e. they reckon Radio One

The Nottingham Aids Project is about to appoint a full-time, paid, development worker.

Currently funded by the Nottingham Health Authority and, a £10,000 boost from the National Aids Trust, the sixty-strong organisation is expanding and looking for larger premises.

Several new developments have emerged over the last year.

The Buddying group, for people with Aids who need one-to-one befriending and home support, is shortly to be launched.

There is also a self-organising Body Positive Group for people who have the HIV virus. This is primarily a support group and is a lifeline when someone is first diagnosed with the virus.

Gordon Todd, Project Pressperson said they were always looking for new volunteers to cover the range of jobs, necessary to keep the organisation afloat. Monthly induction sessions enabled potential volunteers "to look us over" and see who we are. If people have skills on offer that we can use, we will. After all, you don't have to spend 13 weeks training, to rattle a tin", he added.

So if you have a skill on offer why not get in touch with: Nottingham Aids Project, c/o CVS, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FF or phone the helpline on (0602) 585526 (Mon-Thur).

AIDS WARNING



Young heterosexual men are most at risk from Aids, a national conference in Nottingham heard. The number seeking help has doubled in 1988, said Margaret Jay, Director of the National Aids Trust. Ms. Jay (pictured) was addressing the 200-delegate conference - organised by the National Organisation of Voluntary Organisation on Aids/HIV (Novoah) at the Victoria Stakis Hotel. "Young heterosexual men have not changed their behaviour, whereas gay men have taken notice", she said.

The delegates from all over Britain and Eire, exchanged information and their experiences. Ms. Jay stressed the importance of the voluntary sector; "They led the way in the early years when the Government pretended AIDS wasn't a problem in this country", she said.

Brighton social worker, Graham Wilkinson, (pictured) who is a person with Aids, and chairperson of NOVDAH also addressed the conference. He has been a driving force in the setting up of the Sussex Aidsline, which has recently moved into its own premises.

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PAUL WELLER



MIKE ATKINSON

aren't playing enough SAW records!!) With groups like Dire Straits getting a sneering mention, and a chorus of "I'd rather jack, than Fleetwood Mac", it's sure to get up plenty of noses!

Those who appreciate real soul music should seek out Bonnie Byrd's excellent single, coupling the smoky "Good Girl" with the thundering "We Can Make It". Both showcase a superb voice in the Anita Baker mould, but with a greater range (she gets to hold some pretty high notes!) Out on import only, it should get a British release in the next month or so.

Several established acts have interesting new releases out this month. New Order's "Technique" album is well worth seeking out; they seem to be getting more cheerful and less angst-ridden with every successive release, which is no bad thing! S'Express are back with "Hey Music Lover", which is okay-ish, but they are going to have to try harder with the next single if they want to keep up. The Style Council have gone "Deep House" on their newie, "Promised Land", and make less of a hash of it than you might imagine. Could it be Paul Weller's biggest hit in a long time, but it would be nice to see the original Joe Smooth version getting some recognition as well.

THE WILD ONE, Sun, 26th
February/USA/1953/79 mins.
Banned in this country for many
years, on the premise that it
would incite riots and teenage
rebellion, this early 'biker'
movie now seems rather tame,
but the leather-clad Brando
became an icon for a whole
generation of alienated
adolescents. When nice girl
Murphy asks him what he's
rebellious against, bike-boy
Brando replies "What have you
got?" A cult classic, and an
early example of Marlon's
mumbling Method style of
acting.



**SATURDAY NIGHT AND SUNDAY
MORNING**, Sun, 12th
March/UK/1960/89 mins.
One of the first British
'realist' films, its depiction
of working class life north of
Watford caused quite a stir,
not least from the people it
attempted to depict. Paving
the way for a whole spate of
gritty, Northern melodramas
(and 'soaps' like Coronation
Street), Alan Sillitoe's story
of factory life, beer and back-
street abortion is seen through
the eyes of Albert Finney's
rebellious, 'tough as a pit-
prop' youth. Shot on location
in Nottingham, (Radford
mainly), much of the industrial
landscape has now disappeared,
but the film remains a harsh
indictment of the working-life.



LA BOHEME, Sat/Sun 18/19th
Feb/Italy/1988/94mins
"When I say that Comencini's
film of Puccini's La Boheme is
one of the most successful
screen transfers of an opera I
have seen, it is meant as
serious praise. This is a
beautifully directed, subtle,
intelligent and visually
appealing version of the
classic that explores far more
sub-text than most productions
in the theatre. See it. Enjoy
it. I wept, and I'm a hardened
opera critic." Tom Sutcliffe;
THE GUARDIAN.

METRO CINEMA

Ved 15	Feb	Bigfoot & the Hendersons	6.00
Ved 15	Feb	Bird	8.30
Thu 16	Feb	Bigfoot & the Hendersons	6.00
Thu 16	Feb	Bird	8.30
Fri 17	Feb	Bigfoot & the Hendersons	6.00
Fri 17	Feb	Frantic	8.30
Fri 17	Feb	U2 - Rattle And Hum	LATE 11.00
Sat 18	Feb	Bigfoot & the Hendersons	2.00
Sat 18	Feb	Frantic	6.00/9.00
Sun 19	Feb	Rosa Luxemburg	6.00
Sun 19	Feb	Frantic	9.00
Tue 21	Feb	Stand And Deliver	6.30
Tue 21	Feb	A Taxing Woman	9.00
Ved 22	Feb	Stand And Deliver	6.30
Ved 22	Feb	A Taxing Woman	9.00
Thu 23	Feb	Stand And Deliver	6.30
Thu 23	Feb	A Taxing Woman	9.00
Fri 24	Feb	Stand And Deliver	6.00
Fri 24	Feb	Imagine	8.30
Fri 24	Feb	Dream Demon	LATE 11.00
Sat 25	Feb	Charlotte's Web	2.00
Sat 25	Feb	Stand And Deliver	6.30
Sat 25	Feb	Imagine	9.00
Sun 26	Feb	Yeelen	6.30
Sun 26	Feb	Imagine	9.00
Tue 28	Feb	DCHB Guest Lecture	7.00
Tue 28	Feb	Lenny	9.00
Ved 1	Mar	Testimony	7.30
Thu 2	Mar	Testimony	7.30
Fri 3	Mar	Au Revoir Les Enfants	6.00
Fri 3	Mar	Tucker	8.30
Fri 3	Mar	Withnail And I	LATE 11.00
Sat 4	Mar	Vay Out Vest	2.00
Sat 4	Mar	Au Revoir Les Enfants	6.00
Sat 4	Mar	Tucker	9.00
Sun 5	Mar	Sarraounia	6.00
Sun 5	Mar	Au Revoir Les Enfants	9.00
Tue 7	Mar	DCHB Guest Lecture	7.00
Tue 7	Mar	Tucker	9.00
Ved 8	Mar	Alice	6.30
Ved 8	Mar	Tucker	9.00
Thu 9	Mar	Alice	6.30
Thu 9	Mar	Tucker	9.00
Fri 10	Mar	Pathfinder	6.30
Fri 10	Mar	Mapantsula	9.00
Fri 10	Mar	Day Of The Dead + Dawn Of The Dead (18)	11.00
Sat 11	Mar	Pathfinder	6.30
Sat 11	Mar	Mapantsula	9.00
Sun 12	Mar	Pathfinder	6.30

GREEN LANE, DERBY.
RESERVATIONS 40170

PHOENIX

Ved 15	Sisters Bon Bon	7.30
Thu 16	Dance Duo	7.30
Fri 17	Desert Hearts	6.15
Fri 17	Blonde Venus (Dietrich)	8.15
Fri 17	Bat The Rich	LATE 11.15
Sat 18	Robinson Crusoe - A singular evening with Tom Robinson	LATE 11.00
Mon 20	Aguirre, Wrath of God	3.00
Mon 20	Stand And Deliver	6.15
Mon 20	The Films of Maya Deren (Prog 3)	8.15
Tue 21	Mapantsula	6.15
Tue 21	Stand And Deliver	8.15
Ved 22	Nostalgia	6.15
Ved 22	Mapantsula	8.30
Fri 24	Saigon	LATE 11.15
Sat 25	Contemporary Russian Cinema & Glasnost	MORNING 9.30
Sat 25	My Friend Ivan Lapshin	3.00
Mon 27	The Cheviot, The Stag & The Black, Black Oil	3.00
Mon 27	School Daze	6.15
Mon 27	Sugar Baby	6.30
Tue 28	Sport, Sport, Sport	6.15
Tue 28	School Daze	8.15
Ved 1	Betty Blue	6.15
Ved 1	French Film Classics The Seashell & The Clergyman Blood Of A Poet	8.30
Thu 2	Compagnie Cre-ange	7.30
Fri 3	Films of Steve Martin - Glasshouses	7.30
Fri 3	Three Amigos!	11.15
Sat 4	Beppi Blankert	7.30
Mon 6	Koya Anisqatsi	MATINEE 3.00
Mon 6	War Requiem	6.15
Mon 6	The Long Farewells	8.30
Tue 7	Angelika Del	7.30
Ved 8	The Sacrifice	6.15
Ved 8	Perfect Image - Celebration of International Women's Week Black & Asian short films	9.00
Thu 9	Bleak Moments	6.15
Thu 9	The Runner	8.30

A R T S

11 Newarke Street Leicester LE1 5SS
Box Office 0533 554854

CITY LIGHTS CINEMA

Thu 16	It Came From Outer Space	7.30
Fri 17	It Came From Outer Space	7.30
Sat 18	La Boheme	5.00
Sat 18	La Boheme	8.00
Sun 19	La Boheme	5.00
Sun 19	La Boheme	8.00
Tue 21	The Colour of Money	7.30
Ved 22	Imitation of Life	5.00
Ved 22	Imitation of Life	7.30
Thu 23	Veronico Cruz	7.30
Fri 24	Veronico Cruz	7.30
Sat 25	Stand And Deliver	5.00
Sat 25	Stand And Deliver	8.00
Sun 26	Stand And Deliver	8.00
Sun 26	The Wild One	5.00
Tue 28	Sebastiane	7.30
Ved 1	Night Moves	5.00
Ved 1	Night Moves	7.30
Thu 2	Taxi Driver	7.30
Fri 3	A Taxing Woman	7.30
Sat 4	A Taxing Woman	5.00
Sat 4	A Taxing Woman	8.00
Sun 5	A Taxing Woman	8.00
Sun 5	King of Comedy	5.00
Tue 7	Les Enfants Terribles	7.30
Ved 8	The Last Emperor	5.00
Fri 10	Pathfinder	7.30
Sat 11	Pathfinder	5.00
Sat 11	Pathfinder	8.00
Sun 12	Pathfinder	8.00
Sun 12	Saturday Night & Sunday Morning	5.00
Tue 14	The Texas Chainsaw Massacre	7.30

City Lights Cinema, Broad Street, Hockley, Nottingham.
Tel (0602) 583184



WITHNAIL AND I 3rd Mar /UK/1986/90
 This witheringly funny film of late sixties swagger shows life with two aspirant thespians in bedsitland, on cold comfort farm and several astral planes dreaming of stardom on a diet of booze and pills. Time out at a cottage owned by Withnail's elephantine gay uncle, Monty persuades them that rural living is equally hazardous. On their return to London 'I' receives his big call. Almost two hours of highly pleasurable deja-vu.



Marlene

BLONDE VENUS 17th Feb/US/1932/97 min.
 The story of a German cafe singer marries an English research chemist, but their marriage doesn't run smoothly. She becomes a kept woman for the sake of her husband, and a prostitute for the sake of her child.



SPORT SPORT SPORT Tue 28
 Feb/USSR/1970/85 mins.
 An outrageous collage of stunning archive footage (Olympic athletes, body-builders and a wonderful burlesque boxing match in the style of Ivan the Terrible!), and Fellini-esque fantasy. Definitely the most bizarre Soviet movie yet to make the journey West.

Metro Gay carries adverts from the three regional film theatres but our increasing coverage of cinema, includes films both with and without lesbian/gay relevance. Over the years all three film theatres have put on lesbian/gay film seasons, often showing films that deserve to be seen, whether or not they are potential money-spinners. With the presence of multiscreens in the region we want to do our bit to ensure that the independent film theatres survive. They support us, it makes sense to support them, doesn't it?

MAPANTSULA

"A TERRIFIC MOVIE...
 EVEN MORE
 REMARKABLE THAN
 CRY FREEDOM AND
 A WORLD APART."
 Derek Macorm, The Guardian

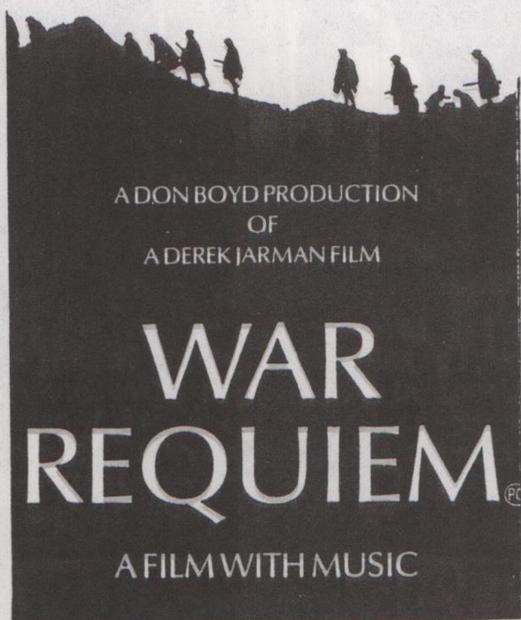
"A GRIPPING,
 MOVING FILM
 OF SOWETO LIFE"
 Ian Porter, BIZ

"A HARDER THEY
 COME FOR THE 80s"
 Tony Roys, Time Out

A FILM BY OLIVER SCHREIBER AND THOMAS MOGOLARE
 STARRING THOMAS MOGOLARE MUSIC BY THE QUIES



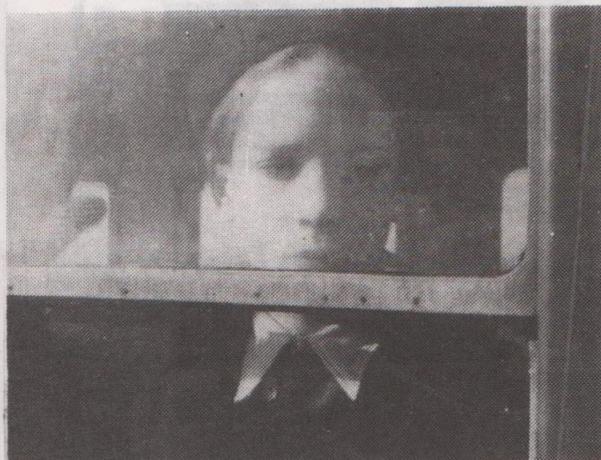
DESERT HEARTS Fri 17th
 Feb/USA/1985/93 mins.
 Reno, Nevada, 1959. The sounds of Patsy Cline and Elvis Presley, Vivian, an East Coast English professor arrives at an eccentric motel to await her divorce decree, there she meets Cay, a beautiful devil-may-care lesbian, and despite wagging tongues and Cay's over-protective mother, love grows.



WAR REQUIEM 6th Mar/UK/1988/86 mins.
 Jarman's remarkable music film tells the story of war-poet Wilfred Owen in startling imagery, using Owen's poetry against a beautiful and evocative soundtrack. The music is an original recording of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem oratorio, and Jarman's 'visualisation' reconstructs the life of Owen from childhood in Wales, to his death by sniper one week before the end of WWI, intercut with archive film of the many wars the 20th century has witnessed.



SEBASTIANE 28 Feb/UK/1976/85 mins.
 Until 'Sebastiane' most films dealing with homosexual themes had been made for 'ghetto' audiences. Jarman's film, described as an overground underground movie, excited great attention on its cinema release, and howls of protest when shown on Channel 4. With humour, wit (and some pretension - the dialogue is in Latin!) and beautifully shot, it tells the story of the martyrdom of the 4th Century saint of the title, with a raw power and honesty that's the absolute opposite of camp.



AU REVOIR LES ENFANTS 3-5th
 Mar/France/1987/107 mins.
 A reprise for Louis Malle's acclaimed account of the Occupation. The setting is a convent school in Fontainebleau, 1944, where the arrival of a new boy arouses the suspicions of classmates and more sinisterly, the Gestapo. As a largely unsentimentalised account of the war, it's a fine companion piece to Boorman's more celebratory 'Hope And Glory'.

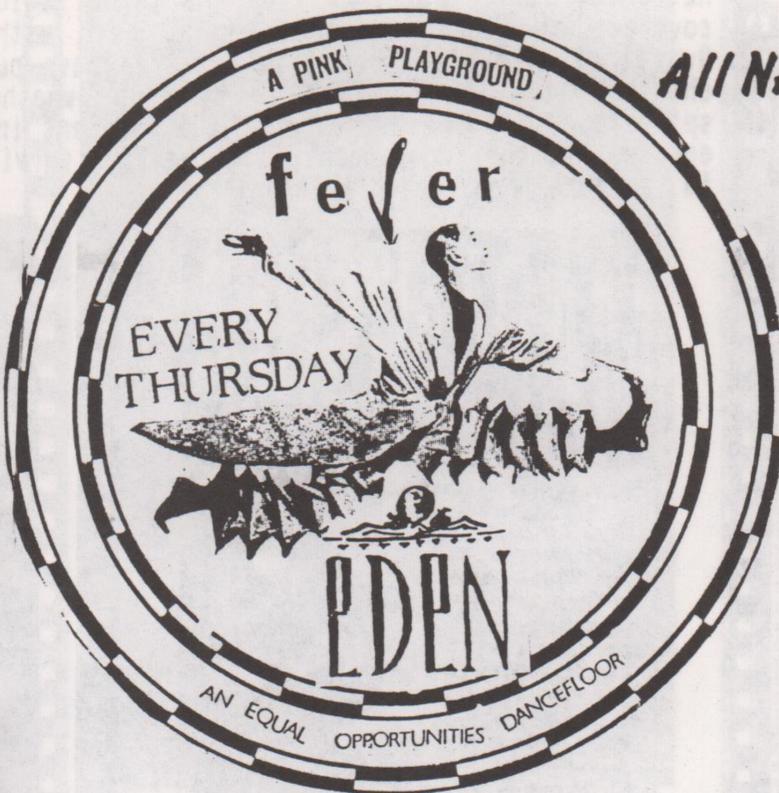
Manchester collective chasing names and cash

The Manchester-based monthly, *Gay Life* folded last month after its parent-company, Medlock Publishing Ltd, which produced *'City Life'*, went into voluntary liquidation. Bad financial management caused the parent magazine to run at a loss although *'Gay Life'* regularly made a modest profit. (*'Gay Life'* - formerly known as *'Mancunian Gay'* has been run for over ten years by an editorial collective).

Millivres - who publish *'Gay Times'* and *'HIM'* pulled out of its £5,000 purchase of the *'Gay Life'* title when they could not persuade members of the *'Gay Life'* collective to work for them instead.



Paul Fairweather (pictured) a long-standing member of the editorial collective said that there was now a good chance that the collective could bid for the title. They had already received promise of council funding of £12,500 which would help pay for rent of premises and a worker. Said Paul, "we hope to be back in print by April and would like to thank all those readers who have sent us messages of support".



Would you like to write and be part of a lesbian/gay writers group? Any lesbians or gay men interested in forming a group please contact, Tony on Nottingham 474071 or write to Box 34, Metro Gay, West PDD, Nottingham, NG7 2DL.

All NALGO Members Welcome

NALGO is holding a consultative meeting on 'Positive Action & Self Organisation' on 18th February in Chesterfield, on behalf of the East Midland District's Disabilities, Gay/Lesbian, Race and Women's Groups. The aim of the 2-hour afternoon meeting is to discuss ways of participation by members of these groups. (Wheelchair/disabled access, creche, and signers). For further information contact NALGO, Pearl Assurance House, Firar Lane, Nottingham, (0602) 475756. All NALGO members welcome.

Self Defence

Are there any gay men out there interested in forming a self-defence group? It only needs five more people to form a group and then we can hire an instructor who's ready to teach us. Further info, from Box 34, METRO GAY, West PDD, Nottingham, NG7 2DL.

Manchester Centre welcomes visitors



The new Manchester Gay Centre in Sidney Street has now been open for several months and is proving very popular as a daytime meeting place. Visitors to the centre have been amazed at the bright and airy premises which were purpose-built by the City Council at a cost of £169,000. The main social attraction is the coffee and snack bar which operates each



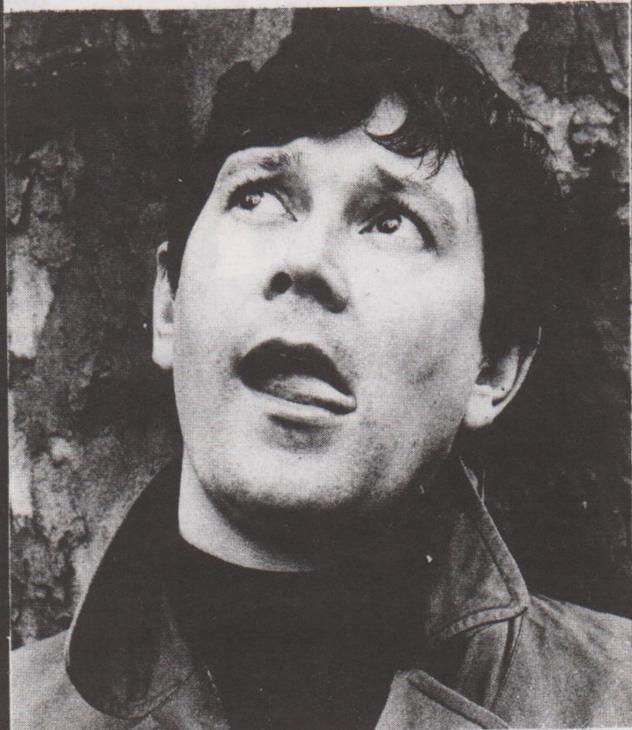
weekday from 12 noon. There is also an information desk which is staffed until 7pm. Terry Waller (pictured) is the full-time paid worker, who has been with the Centre for a number of years and has seen the transition from the old cramped premises in Bloom Street to its present location.

mushroom

B · O · O · K · S · H · O · P

BECAUSE

WE'RE QUEERS



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Kenneth Halliwell and Joe Orton

SIMON SHEPHERD

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IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE (3D)

THURSDAY-FRIDAY 16-17 FEBRUARY

Dir: JACK ARNOLD

Scr: HARRY ESSEX

With: RICHARD CARLSON, BARBARA

RUSH, CHARLES DRAKE.

USA 1953 80mins PG

Following the enormous success of CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON (City Lights November '88), we are pleased to present another Sci-Fi classic in terrifying 3D! Based on a story by Ray Bradbury, IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE is a crisp combination of shocker and sociological comment. It tells of a Martian space ship that lands in the Arizona desert. While their intentions are peaceful, their frightening appearance causes chaos and terror among the humans, prompting the comment "What men don't understand, they destroy."! A must for all fans of the bizarre! Special 3D viewing glasses will be provided on payment of a £1 deposit.

DO! REI! ME!

The East Midlands could have its own lesbian and gay men's choir in a couple of months. This was one of several new ideas to emerge from the Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Co-op at its January meeting, and within hours of news leaking out a conductor had been found.

So whether or not you think you can sing (most people are too modest to think so), if you're interested in any way write to NLGCCCS at Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3HL, marking your envelope 'Choir' or phone Dave Pitt on 602783 (evenings) and leave your name and address. You'll be contacted again just as soon as there are enough members to get the Choir on the road.

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Nottingham Aids Information Project
 C/o C.V.S. 35 Mansfield Road Nottingham NG1 3FF

ORTON - THE PLAY

'Entertaining Mr. Sloane/Joe Orton/Derby Playhouse/until 11th March.

So much has been written about Orton in the wake of Lahr's 'biography' that you have to make a leap of sorts into Orton himself. Here is a play. Written 1964. Performed 1989. A quarter of a century... and what?

Well, write at the way Orton treats Kath for a start. This woman, designated by this man as a nympho, is the butt of an unrelieved barrage of misogynism. Here she is directed by Sue Todd and played by Penelope Nice, who walks around Fiona McLeish's monochrome set (a graphic designers dream) as if she's straddled over a hot saveloy, in a constant dionysiac hop and skip. The performance is exaggerated and almost cocks a snoot at naturalism; fair enough. So does James Tomlinson as her brother Ed, who is equally gone on the stud who stays to dinner - and supper - land... there, Ed is a white male authority figure, flashing a cheque book at the Scouts

(CONTINUED BACK PAGE)

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ORTON - THE BOOK

By far the most important, incisive and indispensable work on Orton to date, Simon Shepherd's book reclaims Orton and Halliwell for the gay movement from the exploitative, homophobic and prurient clutches of the likes of John Lahr.

Shepherd's main premise - and he asserts many - is that straight society, bolstered by risible psycho-sexual, (mis)analysis, closet theatre queens, establishment notions of 'love' and state control of sexual feeling, was - and still is - responsible for the pair's fractious last months together and their deaths.

"Orton as a writer was told Halliwell was an embarrassment; Orton as queer was told, by straight society, that effeminacy was a mark of social inadequacy... Halliwell as writer's partner saw Orton taken away from him; Halliwell as queer was told that promiscuity is a homosexual weakness which disrupts relationships," Shepherd argues - and argues with tremendous vigour, anger, intellectual stamina and a lot of humour, mostly nice and rude.

Orton as a 60's working-class man is examined, along with the whole homosexual ethic of the time, set forth in novels, medical and legal opinion, and the general sexual rebel stance dating from the 50's. Orton is seen as victim as well as celebrity, a colluder in a misogynist, homophobic society as well as a gay anarchist who hated the phoney la-di-da sets (the diaries are well-handled by Shepherd) but whose concept of revolt was invariably a few minutes in a cottage - 'personal revolution' rather than a more radical 'politics of the personal'.

The plays are referred to kaleidoscopically - brilliant insights which defy the notion of them as swingin' 60's turn-ons. This is a funny book, the result of many years of consideration; it is also enraged - not least at those who claimed to care for Kenneth and Joe's interests (some surprises here!), and at the fact that society has two corpses on its hands; the society that gaoled them ("because we're queers" as Joe remarked), that set them against one another (we're reminded they were quite happy for sixteen years; so what happened?), blamed Kenneth, and then reaped the happy reward of scandalous death and an exploitable legend.

Terry Stevenson

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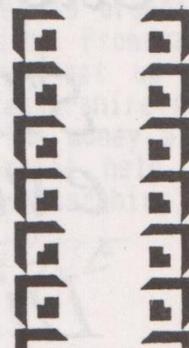
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