Issue Number 13
1991

OUTRIGHT

Gay Freesheet for the East Midlands

FREE!



NOTTINGHAM'S DROP-IN HEALTH SHOP

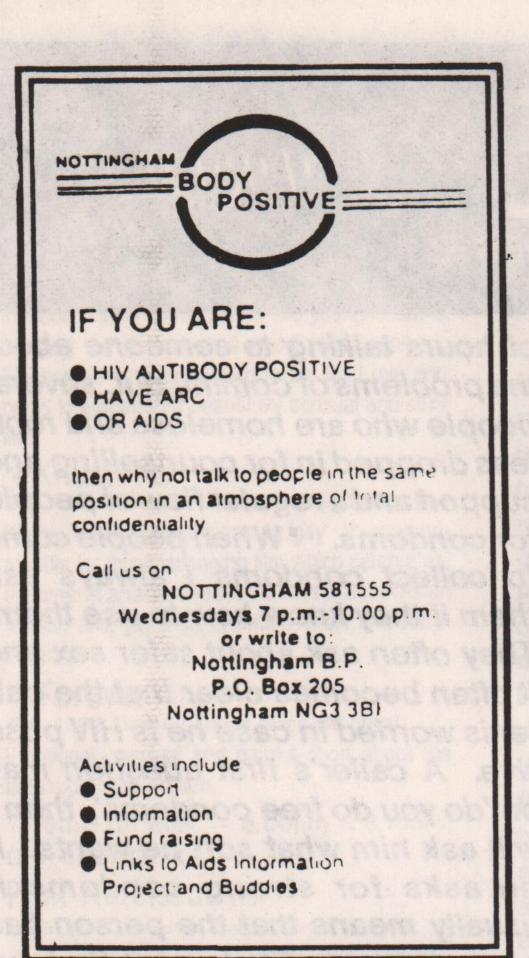
The idea of a health shop conjures up all sorts of ideas from handmade soap to organic, and cruelty free perfumes but this is a health shop with a difference. A drop in centre specialising in all aspects of sexual health under one roof has been operating for several months now in comfortable and relaxing premises in Hockley.

What's more all its services are completely free and confidential, making it possible to air previously taboo health topics for those who most need to. The centre works with customers of all ages and offers free condoms, KY and Dental Dams, a needle and syringe exchange scheme and family planning services. Ashley Fletcher (pictured), is one of three project workers and works with men who have sex with men. Often people feel that their problem is too trivial to bother a doctor about, or dont want to go to 'The Clinic' - yet they

still worry; We're here to listen to whatever bothers them. I work with men who have sex with men. We use the term men who have sex with men consciously because not all men who have sex with other men define themselves as gay. That includes bisexuals and those who really dont define themselves in any fixed way, We see men who are married, those in sensitive jobs and men who would not feel at ease not feel at ease taking on a gay identity. The work we do in pubs and clubs will be different so we hope to use these venues as a base for information leaflets about our services. One of the things I want to do are video shows on safe sex, so the gay scene would be one way to reach a lot of people. I found out that many men who cruise and cottage just dont go on the club and pub scene and are the most difficult to get information to as are homeless and rootless people. "Many of our customers have to cope with police harrassment, violence and the resultant effects of this on families and jobs. We want to encourage people to feel free to drop in informally anytime, but we also make appointments if required," said Ashley. I asked Ashley to describe a typical day but soon realised that each day is different. *Today for instance I spent a couple

of hours talking to someone about the problems of coming out, several people who are homeless and rootless dropped in for counselling and support and a regular flow of people for condoms. "When people come to collect condoms I always ask them if they know how to use them. They often ask about safer sex and it often becomes clear that the caller is worried in case he is HIV positive. A caller's first question may be 'do you do free condoms', then I will ask him what sort he wants. If he asks for strong condoms it usually means that the person has sex with men. That way I find out quickly who I'm working with and waste no time in identifying myself as a gay man. As I prepared to leave Ashley reminded me that everything on offer was absolutely free and that there was meeting space available for groups. "Already we have several lesbian and gay groups using the premises regularly," he said. Good health obviously increases self-esteem and confidence and with up-to-date and accurate information can go a long way to taking off some of the pressure. The Health shop is open 10am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am-7.30pm Weds, 10am-2pm on Saturdays. and is on Broad Street, next to Broadway Film Theatre.





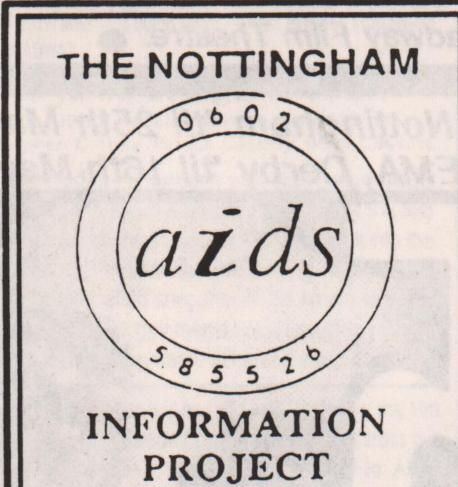
OUTRIGHT

Call Edward on (0602) 780124 for advertising

OUTRIGHT

Outright is published monthly by

Naff Co-operative Ltd, PO Box 4, West PDO, **Nottingham NG7 2DJ**

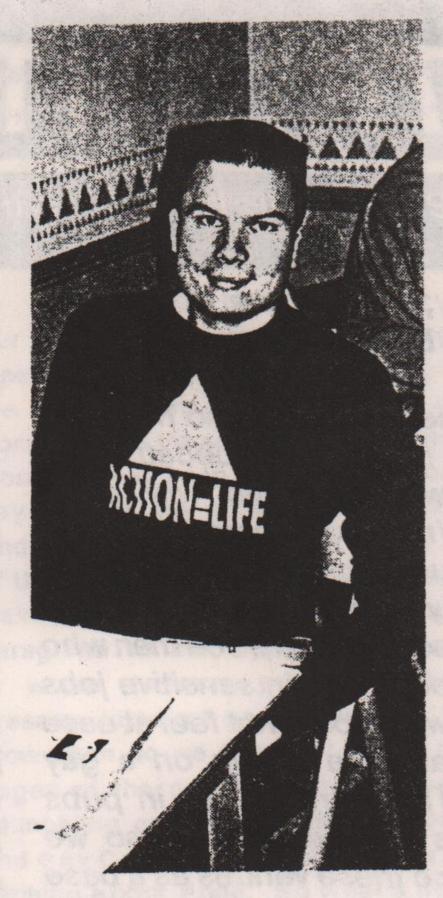


SCARED, WORRIED OR JUST CONFUSED ABOUT AIDS?

The AIDS Helpline is now open 4 nights a week (Mon-Thurs 7-10pm) for accurate, confidential advice and information and referal for support within the community.

New volunteers always welcome.

For further Information, write to PO Box 208, Nottingham NG1 1NZ



I bumped into computer programmer, Paul Selous a former Leicester resident in the Gay Centre a few weeks back and wanted to know how he was adjusting to life in London after four years at Leicester Polytechnic.

Paul originates from Hertfordshire so how had Leicester been for him as a student?

*Having a gay centre makes all the difference. The scene in Leicester is quite small, with only three places to go, compared to London. But you can always find at least one person you know to talk to . In London its so unfriendly and lonely.

But whatever you do in Leicester, be sure that everyone will know about it. Gossip spreads like wildfire. But the further north you go the more friendly people seem to be." Paul usually comes back every few months.

Before I moved down to London I talked to someone who lived there, to find out what it was like," he added. Fortunately, I only work two minutes walk from the London Lesbian & Gay Centre.

A NEW SERVICE FOR GAY MEN

IN NOTTINGHAM

...................

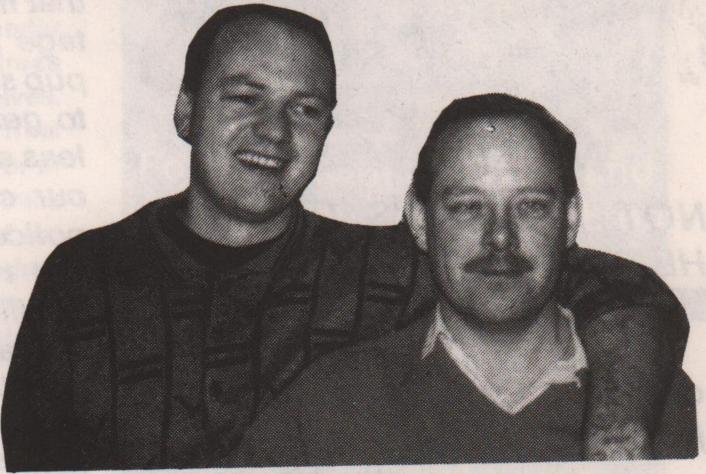
- informal and confidential sellling on a range of issues around HIV testing, safer sex and sexual well-being in general.
 - free condoms
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 - meeting place for groups
 - videos
 - no appointment necessary

All in comfortable informal surroundings

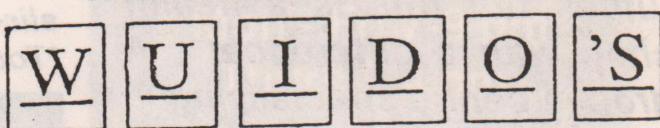
NOTTINGHAM HEALTH SHOP BROAD STREET HOCKLEY **NOTTINGHAM**

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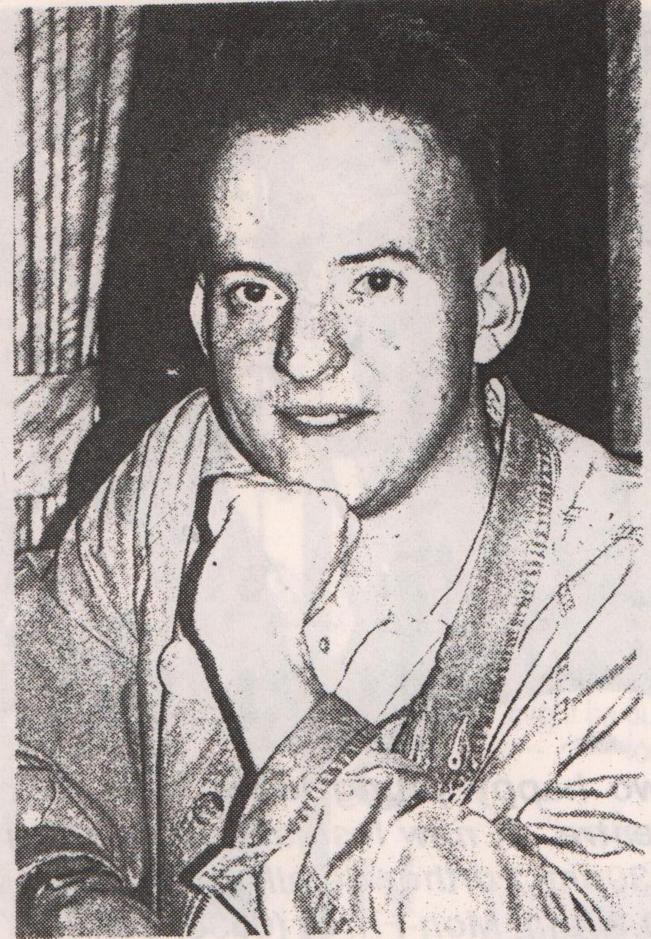
No admission fees

25 OURZONSTREET DEPBY XX





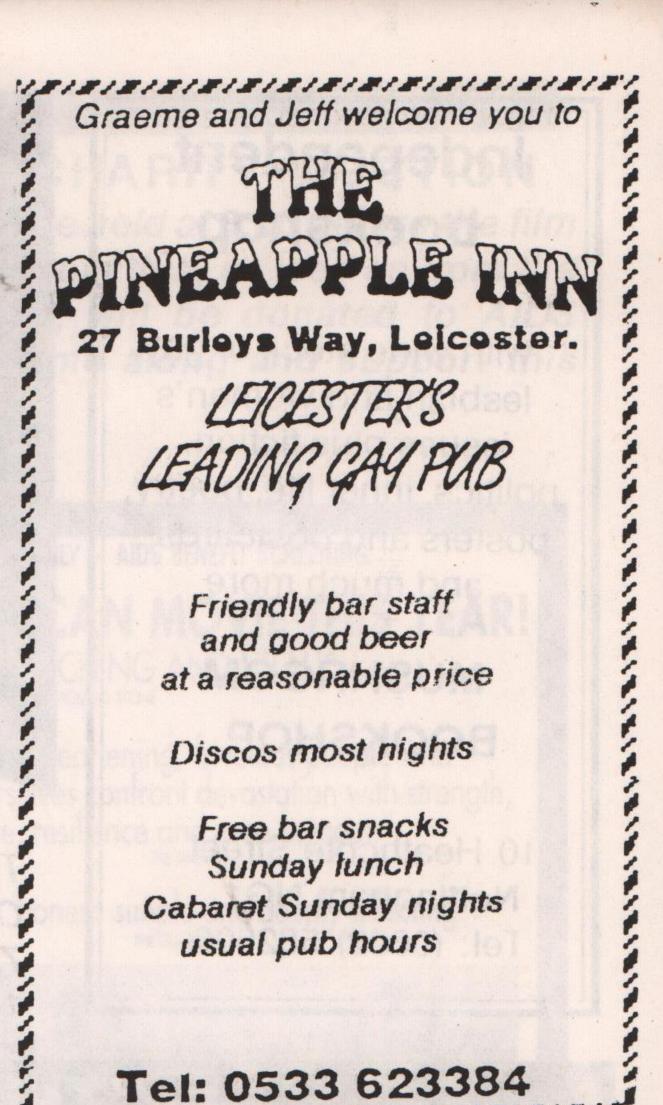
Rod Marshall is a political animal, but unlike some of his species he believes that principles are part of politics. Last year he stood for election as President of the Students Union as a socialist and lost. Nottingham University is still a chauvinistic bastion of right-wing privilege where public school traditions flourish unhindered and the pressures to conform are particularly strong. So add to that your out-gay credentials and that should ensure you fall off the ballot paper. But it was not quite like that. In the event, he garnered a respectable one-third of the votes. Rod carries on the story: "Although I didn't expect to win, it is vitally important to run the race, and in the event provide an alternative voice. I stood really, to raise the profile of lesbian/gay politics and challenge the heterosexual straitjacket. His election address stated that: "... I am a socialist and gay, but only the first matters". I wasn't sure what he meant by this. Was he not glad to be gay? "I am bisexual, as I believe most people are, if the pressures to conform are removed, but politicaly I identified as gay". l've never wanted to close off my options." The 'hang em and



flog em' brigade were out in force, led by the president of the Conservative Association who said he should be strung up. Very conservative I thought. However, his remarks cost him his presidency as he was thrown out soon after. But you really have to ignore headbangers. "As a socialist I want to change the world, for if you want a better place you have to challenge ideas". His family are no stranger to politics, but still have a problem with Rod's gay identity. Soon after the election, I challenged some of the machos to a drinking contest, as I knew I could down a pint in four seconds flat. I won it and they seemed to see me differently after that. Amazing what it takes to win an argument!



A new name in green cuisine arrived on the scene on 8th April. In the gallery above Hiziki Wholefoods on Goosegate, Nottingham, OUT TO MUNCH opened its doors with a range of vegan and vegetarian snacks and meals. Following in the footsteps of the much loved Rita's Cafe and occupying the same premises, one might be forgiven for asking if any-





thing munch had changed. The photo answers that one: five new faces with a new approach to catering, offering healthy foods that don't harm animals or the environment.

OUT TO MUNCH was registered as a workers co-operative two years ago and since then has been carefully researching the market. They believe they have come up with something that will extend the choice for vegans and vegetarians, while providing an attractive and healthy place to eat for anyone interested in good food.

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with wide stock of gay,
lesbian and women's
issues plus fiction,
politics, inner life, poetry,
posters and postcards
and much more

MUSHROOM BOOKSHOP

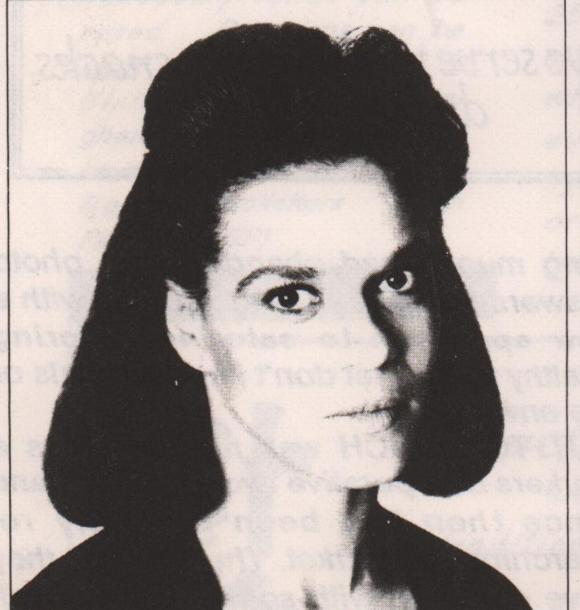
10 Heathcote Street Nottingham NG1 Tel: (0602) 582506



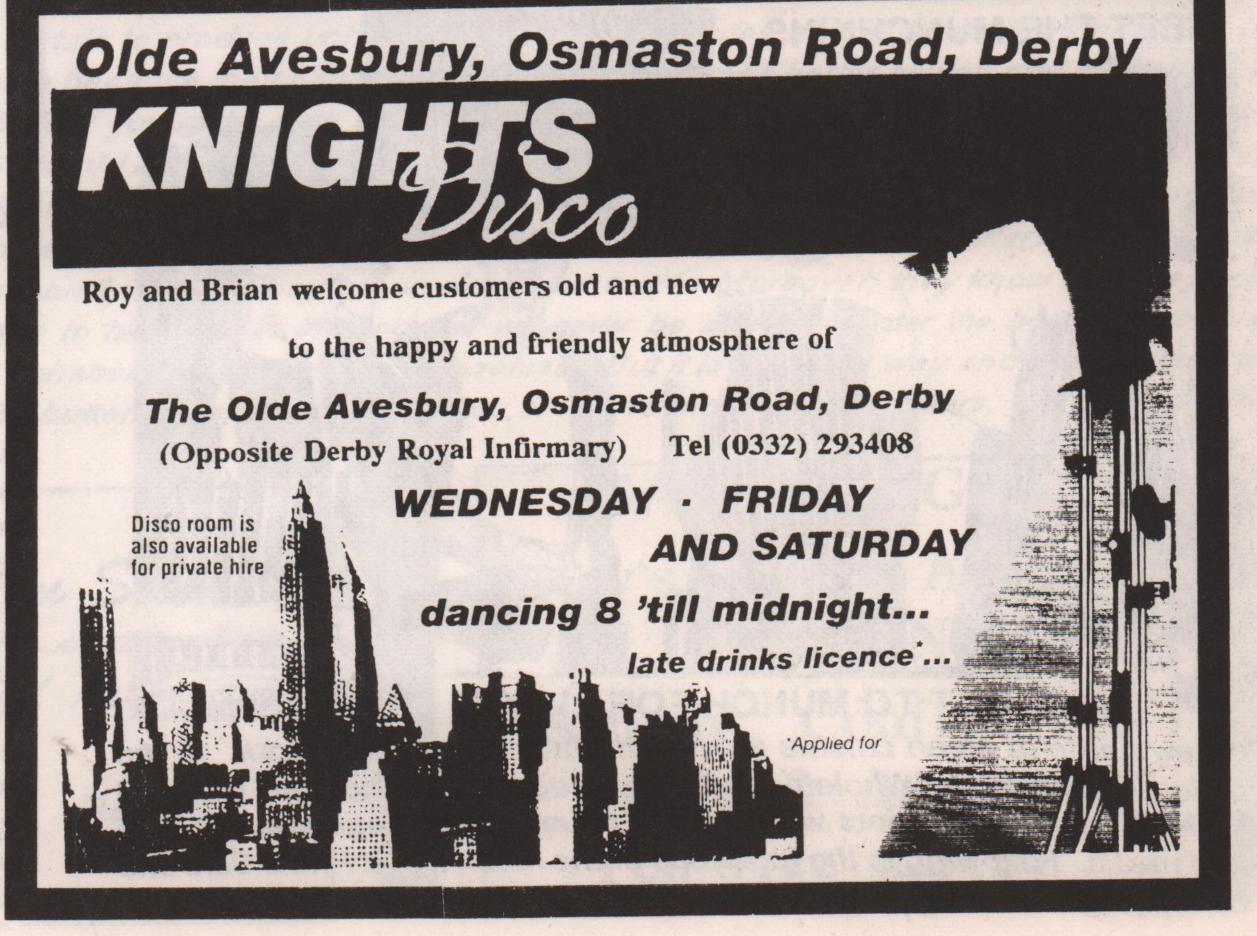
Two happy young lesbians in Leicester's Lesbian & Gay Centre. A new lesbian group now meets every Tuesday at 7.30pm. Further details from Karen via (0533) 550667, 7.30-10.30pm, Mon-Fri. or (0533) 547412 (10am-5pm).

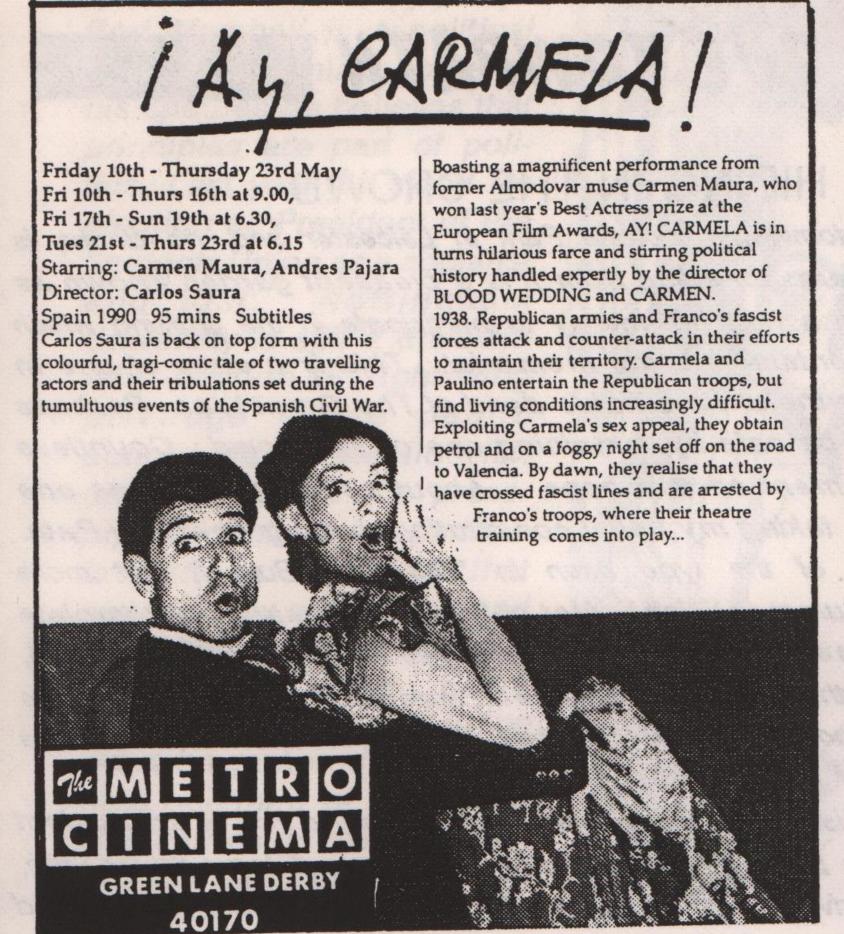


Gloria presents the Nottingham Festival
Production of Let Them Call It Jazz
A story by Jean Rhys
Staged by Neil Bartlett and Annie Castledine

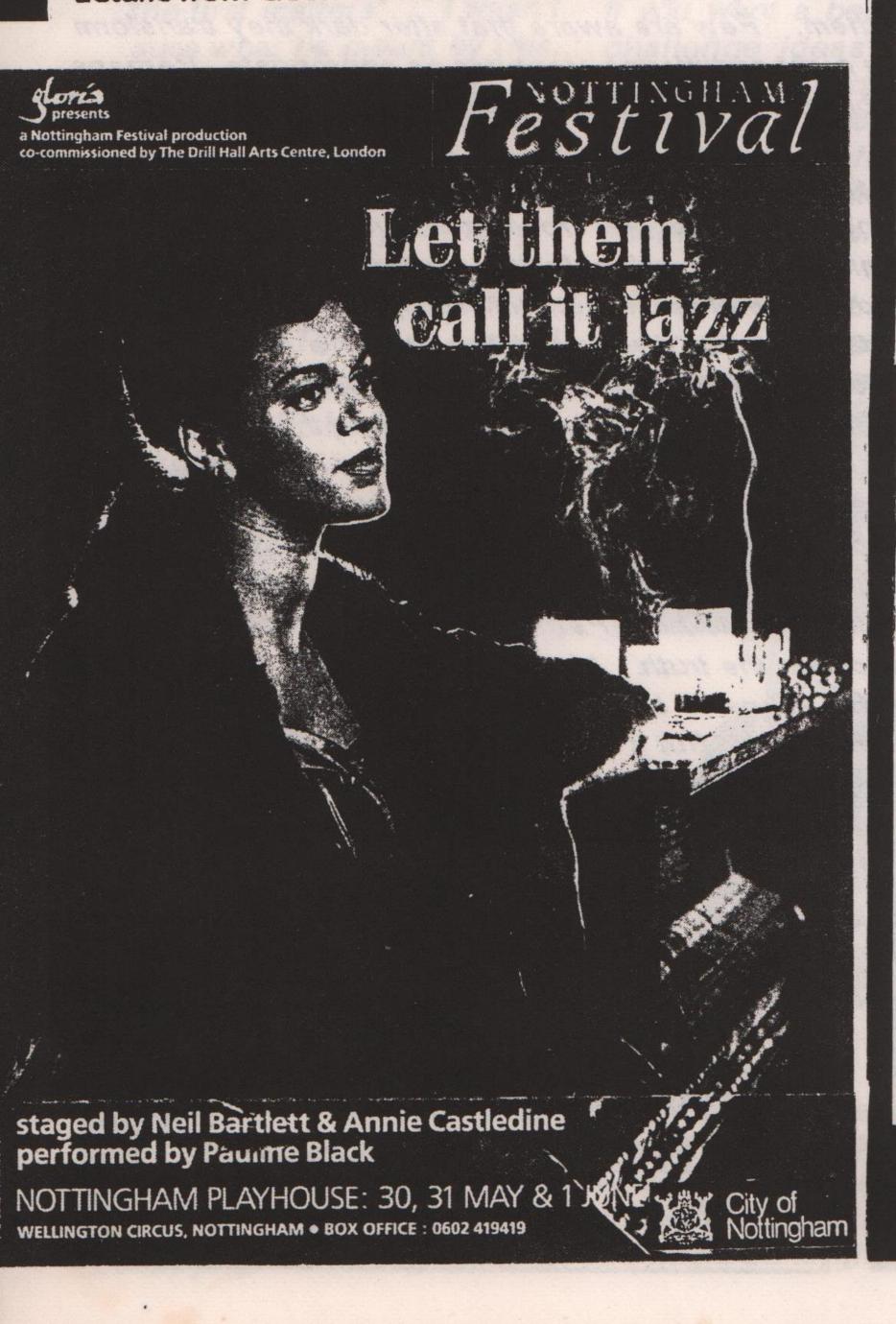


Performed by Pauline Black
Thursday 30th May to Saturday 1st June 7.30pm
(except Thursday 8.00 pm)
Nottingham Playhouse





Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Young People now meet regularly at the Health Shop in Broad Street. Nottingham. They meet every two weeks on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Meetings in May are on the 8th and 22nd and the first meeting in June is on the 5th. The group is open to lesbians and gay men and bisexuals under 26 and offers friendship and support. Further details from Geoff on Nott'm 475412.



BROADWAY CHARITY AUCTION

A charity auction will be held at 8.00 before the film starts and proceeds from this, as well as from the film box office itself, will be donated to AIDS charities. Please come along and support this screening.

20TH MAY - 8.00PM ONLY - AIDS BENEFIT SCREENING.

"THE BEST AMERICAN MOVIE THIS YEAR!

FUNNY, TOUCHING AND VITAL!"

ROLLING STOP

"Positively heartening, frivolous people who might be ourselves confront devastation with strength, love, resilience and even humour."

"Excellent, honest, simple and deeply affecting."



"Remarkable, refreshing, extremely moving."

G

M

"Wonderfully funny and heartbreaking."

Throughout history, seemingly insurmountable challenges have appeared in our lives, circumstances or afflictions which have threatened our existence. Each time, people have come to the forefront and met those challenges.

LONGTIME COMPANION deals with one of those challenges.

The film is the story of a small circle of friends and the changes in their world beginning from that fateful day in 1981 when the first New York Times article noted the outbreak of a 'rare cancer' in the gay community, known today as aids.

Written and directed by American Playhouse team, Craig Lucas and Norman Rene, LONGTIME COMPANION is not a film without hope. In a totally unsentimental manner, the film deals with pain and sadness but also manages to be uplifting and even funny.

Winner of the 1990 Audience award at the United States Film Festival (Sex, Lies and Videotape won in 1989), LONGTIME COMPANION has been heralded as an important and entertaining film.

"LONGTIME COMPANION would need to be outstanding to draw an across-the-board audience to theatres, and this picture most certainly is. In the hands of writer Craig Lucas and director Norman Rene, it is simply an excellent film with a graceful, often humourous script and detailed, affecting performances."

broadway cinema

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An appeal for £5,000 to pay for a lesbian custody case is being made by Amanda and Sharon from Nottingham. Four and a half years ago, the two women left their husbands to set up home together with their five children. Neither husband complained about the children living in a lesbian household. However, last year Sharon's husband moved in with another woman, and demanded his daughter, Teresa back. He has insisted in following a court custody case to the bitter end, despite the fact that last month a court welfare report recommended that Teresa stay with her mother. "I don't know what to do. Legal aid was refused because Sharon earns more than £8,000. We have five chidren to feed and a mortgage to pay. We can't afford £5,000 for the legal fees," said Amanda. She believes they have a chance of winning the custody battle if the necessary funds can be raised. Donations can be sent to Tamsin Morris, 2 Clarendon Street, Nottingham and Cheques should be made payable to Hawley & Rodgers, Solicitors (From PINK PAPER)

A VIEW FROM THE TOWPATH

ANONYMITY, OR HIDING IN THE CROWD

A large War Memorial dominates Victoria Park in Leicester and, no doubt, is a familiar sight to some readers. Leading from it is a pleasant garden known as Peace walk which is well worth a visit, not merely to participate in the cruising which takes place nearby, but to contemplate the memorial. This is a copy of one in Belgium which is dedicated to the unidentifiable dead of The Great War. Perhaps they thought that they would be safe by remaining one of the crowd. Countless memorials are sufficient comment on that hope. About as anonymous as one character seen recently while taking my usual constitutional along The Tow Path. This was a motorcyclist, not of the type seen in "The Wild Bunch", but more appropriate to "Last Of The Summer Wine". Not only was he wearing a complete suit of plastic but a crash helmet as well. I assume it was a 'he' because, in truth, it was impossible to tell. Now this may well have been some sort of fetish but, more likely, the desire for total anonymity. Unfortunately the effect upon this witness produced a prolonged burst of laughter.

Should anyone think this event implausible, let me remind you of an incident that occurred not too far from Leicester one snowy morning. A lorry driver (yes, another macho image) was driving past an isolated road junction when he noticed a motorcyclist standing by the roadside, staring disconsolately at a silent machine. Our Hero quickly realised the problem was a frozen carburettor and applied the time-honoured remedy. he peed on it Suitably warmed, the machine started and after due thanks the motor cyclist rode away. Several days later the driver's employer received a letter of thanks from a local resident which informed them that his daughter had arrived home safely. Attempting to hide in the crowd may not be as effective as we imagine. This would appear to be particularly apt for those who seem to be Gay only on a Saturday night. "The Man In The Iron Mask" is insufficiently anonymous for them. Few are aware that after dark they transform themselves into hunters of the night or glittering creatures as appropriate. Perhaps a comparison with some inhabitants of Transylvania is closer and more apt than it at first appears.

The same applies with spades to those of us you hear saying 'I'm 25 and I'm past it'. The problem with hiding in this particular crowd is that you must accept their attitudes, no matter how harmful they are. Hopefully, now that the 60's Revival is well underway, we will rediscover one of the lessons of that optimistic era. Placing all your hopes on youth is a false solution because this is merely a transitory state. Feeling that your life is past its 'sell by' date when it is less than one-third through is certain to produce unhappiness. Such attitudes also illustrate the limitations of youth because they cannot know that life becomes better as you age. or rather, it will do if you make sure this happens rather than adopt the view that everyone over 25 should be tucked-up in bed with a cup of cocoa. If they are, just think of who might be with them. The solution to their dilemma is to be themselves and not whatever they think others want them to be. Perhaps these different people will eventually realise they are avoiding the truth. Moreover, they know that they are trying to hide and in the end this will never be able to counter the hostility of others or enhance their image of themselves. But it is the easy way and it takes guts to be a butterfly, especially when you are surrounded by caterpillars. PETER SMITH



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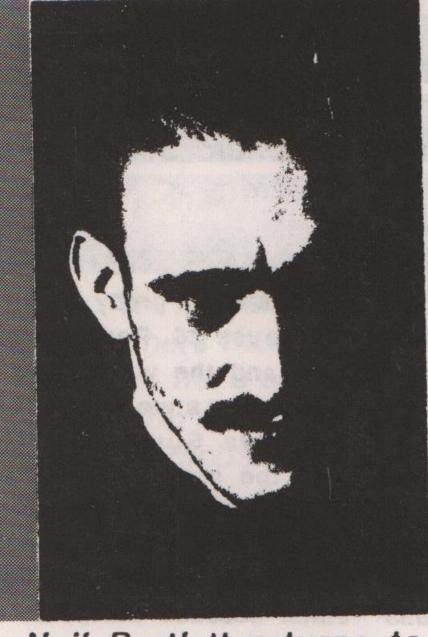
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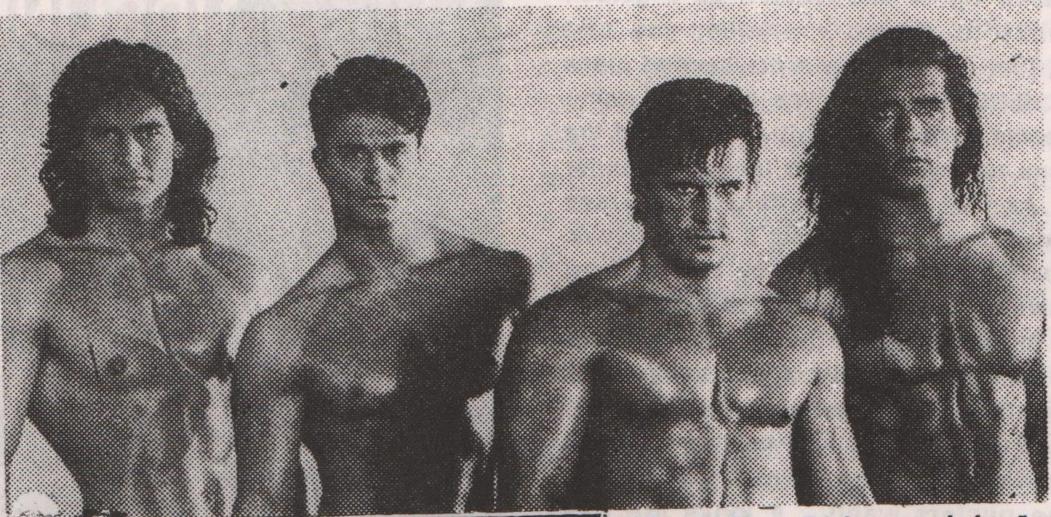
reclaimed materials where possible

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Free estimates



Neil Bartlett returns to Nottingham to direct the Nottingham Festival Production of "LET THEM CALL IT JAZZ, a story by Jean Rhys. Former Derby Playhouse Director, Annie Castledine, co-directs with Bartlett (see advert)



Meet "The Chippendales", four porcelain hunks making a return visit to Nottingham's Concert Hall sometime in May. Some would say they look mean, moody and ridiculous. but then who cares?

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or write to A.B.S. 53 Loscoe Road

Carrington

Nottingham NG5 2AW

off broadway

OFF BROADWAY

Nocturne (18)

G.B. 1990, Director Joy Chamberlain (58 mins). With Lisa Eichhorn, Maureen O'Brien.

Written by Tash Fairbanks this a highly recommended, darkly comic tale of two young lesbians bringing out a repressed middle-aged woman. Eichhorn is very impressive in the lead role and helps to embellish a beautifully sensual and sexy film.

+Khush (18)

G.B. 1991, Director Pratibha Parmar (24 mins). Khush is a Hindi word meaning 'gay' an appropriate title for this challenging film which celebrates, documents and dramatises the lives of South Asian lesbian and gay men in Britain, India and North America.

+Forever (18)

G.B. 1990, Director Emma Black (10 mins).

Emotional, sensual and painful short about the breakup of two women.

7 16th-17th May — 6.00pm & 8.15pm. OFF BROADWAY

Pink Narcissus (18)

U.S.A. 1971, Director Anonymous (70 mins).

Kitsch, camp, cult classic about a Walter Mitty like young homosexual who escapes his sordid street life through a series of incredible fantasies. Outrageously inventive, stuffed with over the top opulence its a wholly enjoyable rollercoaster ride made more intriguing by the mystery still surrounding its creator.

24-32 carlton st

18th May - 6.00pm & 8.15pm. OFF BROADWAY

Coming Attractions; Homo Promo Hollywood Style (PG)

Unmissable compilation of rare ads and cinema trailers about gay themed films. Highly entertaining and almost constantly hillarious this selection includes promos for movies such as VICTIM, THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE, CRUISING and MAKING LOVE together with many more.

broad street nottingham

BROADWAY - 8.00PM ONLY - AIDS BENEFIT SCREENING.

Longtime Companion (15)

U.S.A. 1990, Director Norman Rene (99 mins). Stephen Caffrey, Patrick Cassidy, Brian Cousins.

Organised in conjunction with Nottingham AIDS Project we present a special screening of the first gay movie on the subject of AIDS to break into the commercial mainstream. A moving, affectionate and finely crafted snapshot of the havoc wrought upon New York gay men's lives, Longtime Companion is a remarkable achievement.

A charity auction will be held at 8.00 before the film starts and proceeds from this, as well as from the film box office itself, will be donated to AIDS charities. Please come along and support this screening.

OFF BROADWAY - 6.00pm & 8.15pm

Coming Out (15)

East Ger 1989, Director Heiner Carow (109 mins With Mathias Friehof, Dagmar Manzel.

This is a revelatory movie about the East German gay scene from the point of view of a young teacher, which was repressed until the breaching of the Berlin Wall. Filmed in real gay pubs and bars around East Berlin this is a story in the words of the director "about love and about honesty, about feelings and about the importance of love"

This letter appeared in a recent edition of The Pink Paper, written by Nottingham born Richard Scholey, now living in Manchester:

WHILE ROME BURNS

So far 1991 has been pretty rough on our community. Clause 25, Paragraph 16, Operation Spanner and the witch-hunts on the Isle of Man. It seems we're under fire from all sides these days. Surely the last four months have been the most viciously antigay months any of us can ever remember. And yet what do I see when I open the pages of the gay press? I see exhortations not to make a fuss - either because Clause 25 and Paragraph 16 are, apparently, 'dead issues' or worse, because protesting gives those tiresome 'discreet homosexuals' a bad name (how often do we hear that one in the letters pages of the gay press?). I see a lot of squabbling coming from the London Lesbian and Gay Centre. And I see too many people bitching about Pride. So what's new? The unprecedented onslaught on our already patchy civil rights has handed us a golden opportunity to remind everyone, gay and straight, just how much we are second class citizens of this country. We could be using these recent attacks to get the media and the politicians talking about our inequality under the law. And we could be getting off our arses and making some noise about it all ourselves. But apparently not, judging by the far from Impressive turnout for the protest called for in London in February and the general 'lie back and do nothing' mentality of too many of us. It seems the cavortings of a few hundred queens in a Butlin's holiday camp merit more consideration and more coverage. So this is It looks like gay what the punters want! liberation can still wait a while longer....campers.

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HELPLINES

NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD, Mon-Fri, 7-10pm, 411454

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN LINE, Confidential help/advice for lesbians, Mon & Wed, 7.30-9pm, 410652

NOTTM AIDS HELPLINE, Worried about AIDS? Call us, Mon-Fri, 7-10pm, 585526, Accurate info, reduces anxiety

LEICESTER LESBIAN/GAYLINE, Mon-Fri, 7.30-10.30pm, 550667

DERBY FRIEND, Weds, 7-9.45pm, 49333 or write c/o Derby CVS, Kings Chambers, Queens Street, Derby

DERBY AIDSLINE for help and confidential advice, tel free on 0800-622738, Mon-Fri 7-9pm, Thurs 2-4pm

DERBY LESBIAN LINE, Wednesdays 7-9pm,
414111 or write c/o PO Box 140, Derby
LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT
(LGCM) Details: Paul (0602) 255514.
NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY LESBIAN & GAY
PHONELINE, Termtime Mondays 8pm-midnight, on campus call internal x3474