

PINK Lace
 Saturday 13th September 1-6pm
 Nottingham's First Pink Lace Street Party
Bands, Cabaret, Street Entertainers, Films, Street Market, Food, Drink, Community Stalls and much much more!
 Then Party on across the city throughout the evening & night
 Broad Street, Nottingham

Yes folks it's nearly here ...Pink Lace ... Nottingham's first ever gay street party! The organisers have rounded up an impressive list of sponsors - Coldseal Windows, Barrie Ward & Julian Griffiths Solicitors, Mushroom Bookshop, Unison, GMB, The OutHouse, Gatsby's, GAI Project, Candyland at Deluxe Club 22, Admiral Duncan, Cellos at the Meadow club, The Lord Roberts and Lesbian & Gay Switchboard.

The Street Party features everything from boy bands to opera - with a special Pink Lace Anthem by a local composer and performed by one of the Glynbourne Opera Company. There'll be lots of other artists and performers appearing on the main stage too - boy band Rogue and girl band Frenzy, Kelly Wilson, the Shod Collective, the Sleaze Sisters and the ever popular Really Good rock & Roll Band.

There'll be a variety of food stalls providing sustaining snacks to keep you going, community information stalls - another place you can pick up your Operation Shield information leaflets - and market stalls of all descriptions. Broad Street will be closed for the duration but when it's all over you can check out some special screenings at Broadway Cinema right on Broad Street.

Communicado Theatre Company:

The Suicide • Fri 19 Sep 8.00pm (signed performance)

A death defying fast moving comedy with scintillating dialogue.

NewWorksFestival

Fuzzy Logic 2 • Tue 23 Sep 6.15pm & 8.30pm

Digital multi media combines ambient sound-scapes with abstract film.

NewWorksFestival

Dance Platform • Wed 24 Sep 8.00pm

Features amusing Leikin Loppu Dance Theatre, multi media by Rose's Thoughts, Kantikoy Co. with dance to take your granny to and Leicester's own Agatha Balek.

NewWorksFestival

Festival Folks

Sat 27 Sep 8.00pm

Features dance outdoors by Misnomer, hi-tech dance with lightbeams by Open House and lively improvised jazz from Paul Rogers & Paul Dunmall.



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Saturday 13th September 1-6pm
 Nottingham's First Pink Lace Street Party

There are evening parties and events all over town too - with a Friday night pre-pink party at House on Huntingdon Street and on Saturday you're really spoilt for choice. The Lord Roberts on Broad Street is staging a special event from 6 - 9pm and later you can mosey round the corner to the Admiral Duncan's Pink Lace Party. If you fancy wandering further afield - there's a special edition Cellos at the Meadow Club and Deluxe Club 22 hosts the Official Pink Lace Dance Party.

Roadshow with info about the party are going out to local venues - giving you a chance to get your **Pink Lace Supporters Card**. On sale now at £2 it gives you £1 off all party entrance fees AND between 5% & 10% discount at Hiziki, Ice Nine, Jugglers, Stuff & Co, Shoe Factory, AJ Black, Coyote, Real Art Café, Wild Clothing, Butler & Bones, Elegant Nails and other local stores throughout Pink Lace and into the Autumn.

To find out more about the programme, where to get your Pink Lace Supporter's Card or to volunteer to help out on the day ring **Tim at the GAI Project 0115 947 6868**

The Admiral Duncan

74 Lower Parliament Street
 Nottingham
 0115 950 2727

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Out right!

for gays lesbians & bisexuals
 issue 88 september 1997 **free**

Police Launch Gay Project

Notts Police announce major initiative to combat homophobic crime.

Launched Aug 24, **Operation Shield** is a scheme aiming to protect the victims of violent crime and encourage the gay community to report homophobic crime.

Assistant Chief Constable, Tom Williamson, explains why the initiative is so important. "We aim to reduce all forms of violent crime, particularly those motivated by hatred against a particular section of the community. Homophobic crime brings an added difficulty in that some victims don't report it to the police because they don't want anyone to know that they are gay. It therefore means there is under-reporting of this type of crime. I am pleased Nottinghamshire Constabulary is able to offer a service tailored to the needs of gay and lesbian victims of violent crime." **Report It**

Operation Shield aims to raise awareness about homophobic incidents and encourage

their reporting to the police.

Backed by Research

Stonewall research shows that 70% of homophobic crime goes unreported - findings supported by recent local community surveys. Obviously, if crime is unreported, the police don't know the true scale of the problem and are hampered in tackling the perpetrators.

Two Way Process

The project has been developed in close collaboration with the community. A spokesperson for Nottingham LGB Forum says, "Lesbians and gay men are not asking for special treatment, sexual orientation should not be an issue when dealing with the police. We are determined to do something about it. We have been working with the local police, raising awareness and training their staff. We need people to have the confidence to report this type of crime and know they will be dealt with by someone who is sympathetic & understanding."

Video Link

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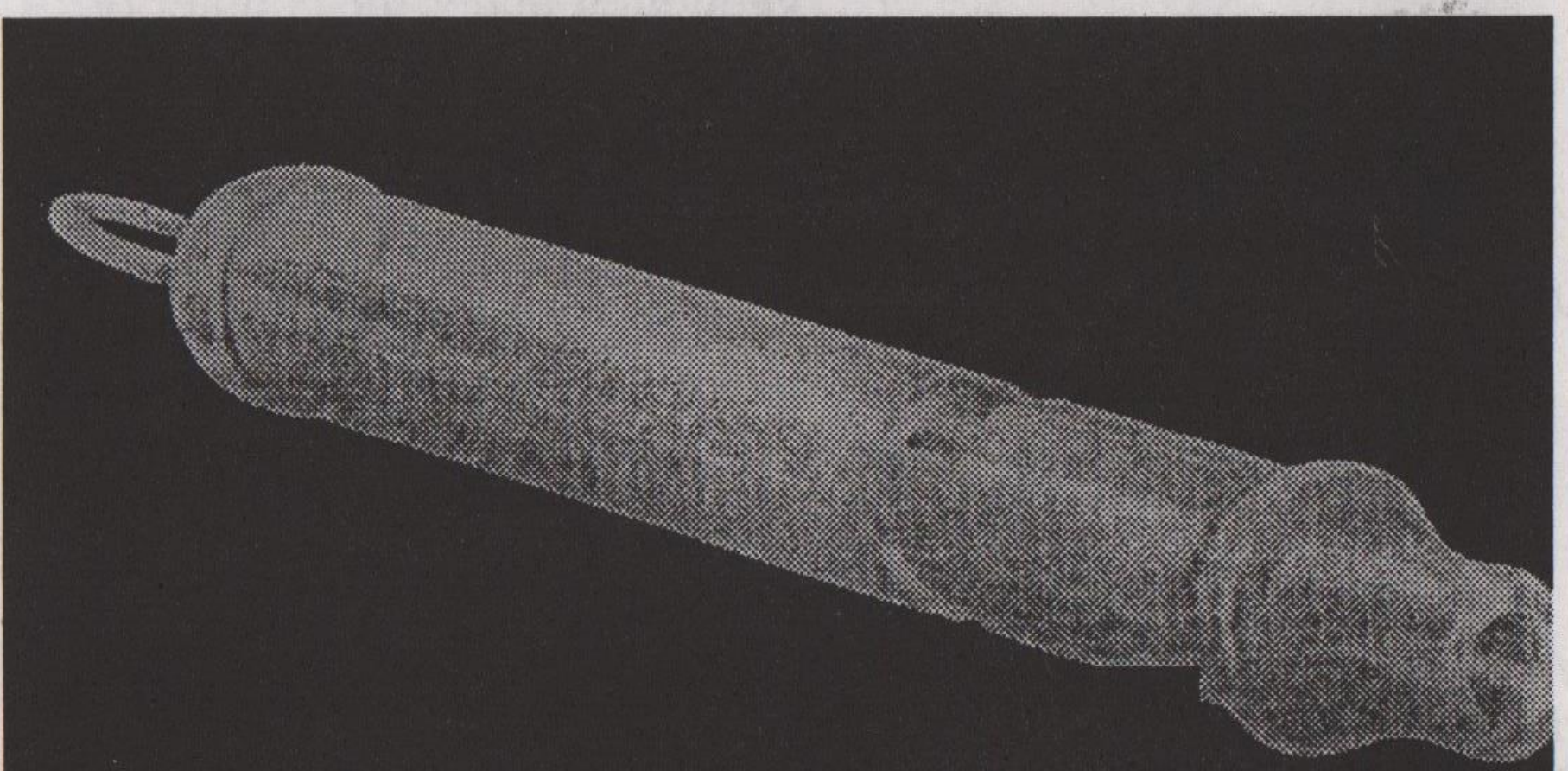
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...inside!

- policing the community
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- pink lace
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- edinburgh festival
- mind & body
- jobs
- classifieds

& more!



Blow the whistle on homophobic crime

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 crime off the streets of
 Nottinghamshire

...and stay safe.

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outright!

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...welcome!

to the September *outright!*
Brickbat of the Month...

...goes to Nottingham Tourist Information Centre - who despite official instructions to display *outright!* because 'LGB people have the same right to know what's going on in Nottingham as everyone else' - insist on keeping it under the counter or possibly in the bin.

Bouquet of the Month...

...goes to anyone who'd like to make a point of picking up their *outright!* from Nottingham Tourist Information Centre - they've got plenty of copies - somewhere!

Nominations for next month's brickbat & bouquet are now open...

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Free condoms lube and
Hep B vaccination



The Health Shop
Broad Street
Nottingham
0115 947 5414

...big nights out in warwick

Warwick Arts Centre launches one of it's biggest and best ever Autumn seasons with plenty of great nights out.

Julian Clary - Rising Camp His usual dangerous mixture of humour and party frocks with one of the deadliest one-liner deliveries in the country. The new show reveals at last the closely guarded secrets of his daringly masculine lifestyle. **Oct 29**

Donna McPhail "British Comedy's Top Bird" Hmmm - well persistently funny anyway bring her own uniquely acerbic observations to everything from politics to perversion. And when's *The Sunday Show* coming back? The public must be told! **Oct 12**

Matt Lucas - Sir Bernard Chumley's Grand Tour Better known as George Dawes from *Shooting Stars* Matt Lucas is a very distinctive new comic. For this tour he slips blushing into the role of Sir Bernard Chumley - actor, ractonteur and confirmed bachelor. Well worth a watch. **9 Nov**

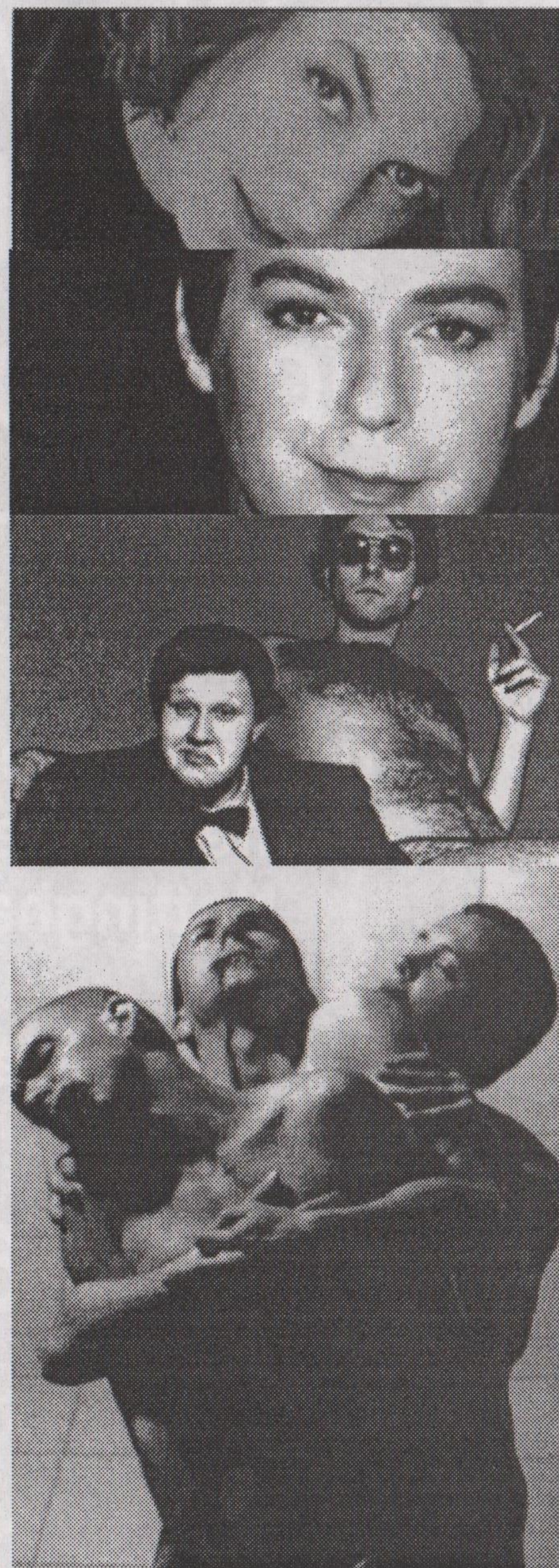
Javier De Frutos - Grass A big hit at the recent **NottDance'97** Venezuelan born dancer/choreographer Javier de Frutos follows up his sell-out **Transatlantic** tour with **Grass** a new work performed by an all-male trio. A sensuous evocative piece to the music of Puccini's **Madame Butterfly**. Once again creating uncompromising & eccentric impressions of sexuality, friendship & flesh. De Frutos says "In my solo work I have experienced nudity on its own so this piece gives the dancers & myself the opportunity to further this knowledge and explore the multiple possibilities of flesh as costume. **21 Oct**

Warwick Arts - 01203 524 524

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above

Donna McPhail
Julian Clary
Sir Bernard Chumley (& friend)
Javier de Frutos

Pics courtesy Warwick Arts Centre

..Surf's Up!

As a so called 'informed' gay man I crave information about gay related issues. I read all the usual newsletters and mags available but there is still something missing. This gap in my life is filled by the Internet.

What is the Internet?

The Internet links computers all over the world into a single rather loose network. There is no Superuser or big brother organisation in charge of, or regulating the Internet so it is very difficult to censor. This is why it forms such a good platform for gay related issues. Basically 'anything goes' on the Internet and this forms some of it's unique style and appeal.

What can Internet do for me?

Just about anything really. It is like having a panel of gay experts at your disposal. You can find answers to every question you've ever had, send messages across the world instantly, transfer documents, shop, sample music, visit art galleries, read books, play games, chat, meet people (both virtually and in real life!), obtain software, or just surf mindlessly through mountains of gay stuff.

I intend to cover some of the above in more detail in the future so don't worry if your completely bamboozled already! I have been using the Internet for about 10 years, long before it became fashionable or cheap! so I have amassed a huge amount of information. One of the usual criticisms about the Internet is that it is has only got American stuff on it. Whilst this used to be the case things have changed within the last few years. Most countries including obviously the U.K. have a very strong gay presence on the Internet

How much does it cost?

This depends on how you access the Internet. If you work for a large Company or are at an academic institution you may find they have a link to the Internet. This may enable you to access the Internet for absolutely nothing! If you have a home computer and telephone you can access the Internet from the comfort of your arm chair provided you have a modem. A

modem is the black box that connect your computer to the net. If you have neither of these you can still access the Internet on an ad-hoc basis by using the services of your local cybercafe or library.

Café Society

A cybercafe as well as serving coffee and snacks will provide casual Internet access from £1.00 per hour. If you do not know where your local cybercafe is contact me at *outright!* and I will send you further details.

For home users there are two main elements to Internet charges. The first is the charge made by your Internet service provider for connection to the Internet.

This is typically around £10.00 per month. The second charge domestic users have to pay is the cost of the telephone connection. This is usually the cost of a local call which is cheaper than you think. You may be tying up your home phone line for quite sometime and of course you cannot receive incoming calls whilst you are online. This may not be popular with other members of your household so be warned!

Cyberjunkie!

In my particular case, I live alone but use the Internet very frequently and for long periods too, so I have the additional expense of having multiple phone lines installed. This will not be necessary for most people, after all, I'm an Internet junkie.

This is hopefully the first in a series of Internet and computing related articles for *outright!* I would like to know what you think. If you have any questions or suggestions you can write to me c/o *outright!* or e-mail me

Andrew_Woodman@compuserve.com



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Switchboard will be running training sessions for new volunteers in November and anyone who is interested should contact us in the near future. Switchboard is especially seeking women and people of colour as new volunteers.

0115 9411454

...competition!

outright! top 10 hype chart

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Te Amo
Nicki French | 6 I Believe In Dreams
Jackie Raw |
| 2 Day by Day
Regina | 7 Wonderboy
Whoosh Whoosh |
| 3 Tell Me Is It True
UB40 | 8 Carry On '97
Martha Wash |
| 4 Sex On The Beach
TSpoon | 9 House Of Joy
Vicki Sue Robinson |
| 5 Free Gay & Happy
Kym Mazelle | 10 Dirty Cash '97
Stevie V |

To win this entire top ten on 12" Promo just send your name & address to **Siraker at PO Box 161**

Peterborough, Cambs PE3 8HN.

The 1st name out of the hat after 30-9-97 will win the lot. Prizes generously donated by **The Spinning Disc - Music by Mail Order.** (Spindisc reserve the right to alter titles if necessary).

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We offer information & support about all aspects of HIV/AIDS, safer sex, HIV testing & general sexual health. We also provide care & support, befriending, practical & financial help and drop-in facilities for anyone in Leicestershire affected by HIV/AIDS. Training around HIV/AIDS is also available for individuals, groups and organisations in Leicestershire.

Ring 0116 255 9995 in confidence

LASS is a Registered Charity No 1023914

...stars!

Scried by Madame Polari

Aquarius
21 Jan - 19 Feb
The stars foretell a wild & exotic sexual encounter. Be prepared!

Lucky Sport - Skating

Pisces
20 Feb - 20 Mar
You need more space to fulfil your literary potential.

Lucky Snack - Pizza

Aries
21 Mar - 20 Apr
Moisturiser is The Key!

Lucky Shoe - Scholls Sandals

Taurus
21 Apr - 21 May
Wax that bikini line you Slattern!

Lucky Word - Windowsill

Gemini
22 May - 21 Jun
Must you wear those bloody culottes everywhere?

Lucky Plant - Belladonna

Cancer
22 Jun - 23 Jul
Sperm Donation? Why not try it?

Lucky Tool - Bradawl

Leo
24 Jul - 23 Aug
Hairy legs do not necessarily show solidarity with the sisters.

Lucky Sandwich - BLT

Virgo
24 Aug - 23 Sep
Oh grow up and stop being such a Drama Queen.

Lucky Game - Rounders

Libra
24 Sep - 23 Oct
Cross-dressing - the most fun you can have with your clothes on? Discuss with reference to 3 texts from your reading list.

Lucky Book - The Story of O

Scorpio
24 Oct - 22 Nov
No-one ever looks their best in mustard or lime green - especially you.

Lucky Utensil - Deep Fat Fryer

Sagittarius
23 Nov - 21 Dec
Behind every successful woman - there's a huge pile of dirty laundry waiting to be done.

Lucky Drink - Mateus Rosé

Capricorn
22 Dec - 20 Jan
The Riddle of the Sphinx has a particular & personal significance for you this month.

Lucky Pet - Tamagotchi

Madame Polari would like to thank all her fans for their kind wishes & gifts during her recent 'crise'

...outings!

A new system - look up short code at start of listing in **contacts!** for contact details (yet another ploy in our desperate attempts to fit a quart into a pint pot!)

CAMBRIDGE
DC Dot Cotton Club at The Junction Clifton Rd Last Saturday every month

COVENTRY
GN Think Pink every Thursday at the Gallery Nightclub Careys Hertford Place 9.30 - 2.00
RB Rainbows Late licence from July
CMM GL youth group Monday night/Sat afternoon open to LGB people under 23

DERBY
UNI Friend social/support drop-in group meets weds 7 - 10
UNI Uni LGB Soc meet every Thurs 7.30-9.30 - discussions, games, videos, coffee, chat, lots of outings
UNI Choices Every Thurs 5.30 - 7.30 social group for 13-19 year olds

HUNTINGTON
HGG L & G Social group - lots of local events coming up Inc Town & Gown pub night

LEICESTER
15W Line dancing every Weds 7.30-9.00pm 15 Wellington St
15W Women's Coffee Bar every weds afternoon 12-2 at 45 King Street
15W Gemz - LGB group for people from minority ethnic communities

...hey! hey! usa!

Look out for our special Stateside feature next month **Postcard from Philadelphia** - an undercover destination with a huge gay scene where City Hall is having a big publicity drive to attract gay tourists.

Read all about it in the October edition of **outright!**

ME & mine...

A new support group/network is forming in Nottingham for ME sufferers and their partners and friends. Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people are all welcome.

The group is currently looking for a venue and hopefully some funding too.

If you'd like more information you can contact them at **ME & mine c/o outright!**
PO Box 612 Nottingham NG35TE

LINCOLN
LNx Lesbian social group 8pm 2nd Fridays
LNx Gainsboro L & G Group Freindly group meets 4th Thurs

LOUGHBOROUGH
Women's bar social group meets 8.30 at Labour Club Fennel St 4th Monday of the month

MANSFIELD
PG Gay men's social group at Portland Arms Mansfield Woodhouse
LU Lust - weekly LGB club in the Cavern in the Village Midworth St Mansfield 10-2

NOTTINGHAM

LL Lesbian Breakfast 27 Sep food drink papers music children welcome
LL Young lesbian group meets Base 51 weds 6.30-8.30 open to bi and lesbian women under 25
LL Women's Football Sparta Nottm WFC looking for new members Training every Thursday on tForest 7-8.30 Friendly team all ages/abilities welcome

NSB Line dancing for LGB beginners & intermediates (!) Tuesdays 7.15-9.30 All Saints Community Centre Raleigh St £2.50
Womens music night Nottm Women's Centre 17 Sep & every 3rd Wed - come along & sing, play, jam or just listen - all styles/standards. All women welcome. Wheelchair access. Details 0115 985 6981

...walkies!

East Mid GOC All welcome Alan 0115 923 5421
Sheffield Hiking Dykes 0114 236 6531
Women Out Walking (Leics) Sian 0145 844 307
Nottingham Hiking Dykes 0115 941 0625 Mon/Wed 7-9pm
Pink Pathfinders Bob/Brian 0115 967 7081
Cambridge GOC Cambridge Alan 893419
Kings Lynn GOC John 01603 611141

IT'S THE LAW! Groundless Gossip, Unsubstantiated Rumours and Idle Speculation are always welcome for the LAW column!

...vox pop!

We asked 100 people at random in Leicester City Centre

Should Gay People be allowed to get married?

Yes 36% No 64%

SHEFFIELD
WCC B's Pop Intro & Lyric Quiz £1 per team of 4
WCC Coming soon - talent night at the Women's Cultural Club

contacts!
WCC 0114 272 1866
DC 01223 511511
GN 01203 224 707
PL 01203 221167
RB 01203 551738
PC 0115 9266133
LNx 01522 533 553 Sun/Tue 7-10

15W 0116 254 1747
NSB 0115 9411454
BI 0115 916 1532
LGG 01509 415 272
CMM 01203 224 090
LU 01623 23004
HGG 01223 502 915
UNI 01332 349333 (call same time as group you're interested in is listed e.g. Friend Wed 7-10)

LIES and

Rumour has it that a certain well known Tory ex-MP has been seen drowning his sorrows and boogying on down with a succession of very attractive young friends at some of Ibiza's hottest gay clubs.

And without the slightest connection to the above paragraph - **Private Eye** are selling some very nice **I stayed up for Michael Portillo** T-Shirts.

Liz Armstrong

B/Ed(Hons), Dip in Couns. Using the Person-Centred Approach

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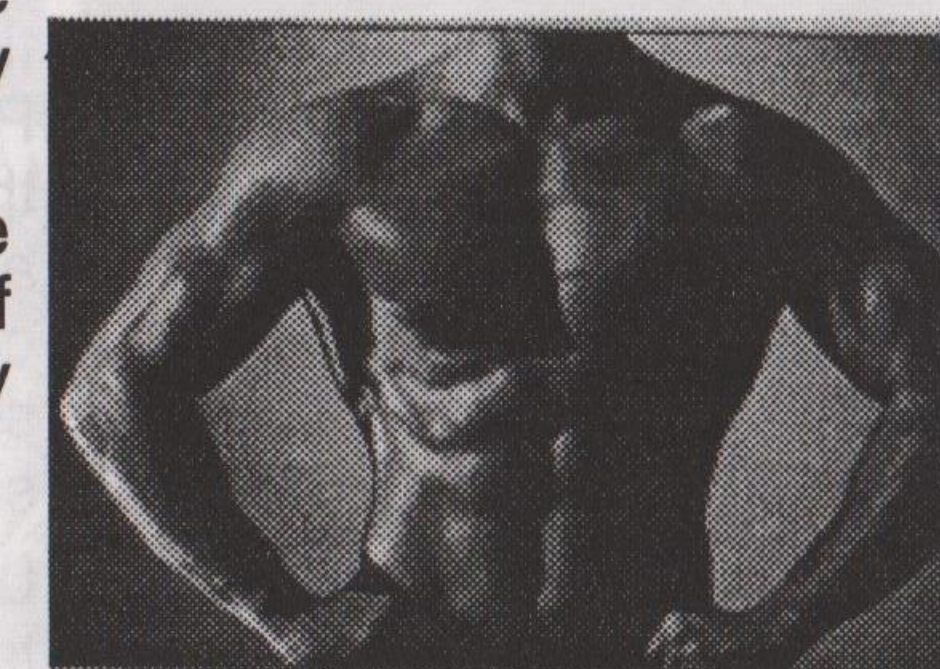
Helen Williamson
Post Grad Dip Couns
RMN BAC Member

for appointment/information contact
c/o Derby Women's Centre
4 Leopold Street Derby
01332 341633

mind & body...

Still no sign of our promised article on person-centred counselling - sorry - but not our fault - we can't actually FORCE people to write for us. Hopefully next month.

In the meantime here is a nice picture of something healthy looking →



mushroom

B.O.O.K.S.H.O.P

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SAT 13th SEPT 1 - 6pm
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DYLAN PARRIS - Project Worker
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DAVID PEET - Project Worker
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Switchboard's Role in Operation Shield ...

Recent local research has produced statistics that show that 58.4% of lesbians, gay men & bisexuals responding to the survey have experienced harassment, violence and/or abuse which is linked to their sexuality.

During the 22 years of Switchboard's existence we have taken over 50,000 calls, some of which have centred on homophobic attacks like this. So, we were keen to participate in the Community Safety Initiative inaugurated by the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Forum. This Initiative also involves making the local Police aware of the frequency and nature of the harassment, violence & abuse so that they may take action to reduce its incidence.

Meetings have recently been

held where members of several local LGB organisations have heard from the Police about their policy on these issues and from lesbians and gay men from other cities where established liaisons with the police have shown some success.

Local representatives still retained some caution when it came to involving the police directly in matters related to their sexuality. Of particular concern were:-

Being exposed to prejudice. Being "outed" during legal proceedings. Being charged oneself of activities incidental to one's report to the police.

We realise that many people in the community will also feel worried about these points. And these fears may

prevent them from making complaints directly to the Police. However, anonymous reporting to local Lesbian and Gay Helplines is still useful.

It can bring to light patterns showing that incidents are happening in particular areas, at particular times of day, for example. Information like this can help back decisions to put more police resources into the area at specific times - improving community safety by the provision of an appropriate police presence which may be a deterrent to those causing the offences.

Descriptions of offenders can be given - just a few details provided by you can help fill in gaps in information the police already have - maybe helping them to identify the criminals.

Even if reporting anonymously, you will still be taking some measure of control and refusing to play the role of a victim.

Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Switchboard sees its role particularly in:-

- Talking through the pros and cons of contacting the police
- Gathering anonymous information which may bring out patterns in the offences against us



Who yer gonna call?

Right On Course ...

In the run up to launching Operation Shield, **outright!** was invited to attend one of the LGB Policing Initiative training sessions at Nottingham's Central Police Station.

A friendly copper in jeans & t-shirt, on his way to the seminar, took pity on me in reception and kindly escorted me to Conference Room 2.

Here I met the course facilitators, Tim Franks from the GAI Project, Susie Daniel, a freelance consultant and Inspector Adey Hansock - who was celebrating the first anniversary of his promotion.

Soon the other course members began to arrive and the circle of chairs had to be widened to accommodate a few extra volunteers. While I lurked at the back - conveniently close to the biscuits!

I don't know what I'd expected really - I certainly felt a bit over-dressed. Nearly everyone was in jeans and I'd made a bit of an effort for my brush with Authority.

The 13 officers attending all seemed fairly relaxed and good humoured - and the ice-breaking name exercise that kicked off the session soon raised a few

laughs.

One guy - an ex-submariner - bravely revealed that his navy nickname had been Stinky - due to his world record for wearing the same underpants for 109 days at sea. "Still wearing them aren't you?" quipped one of his mates.

It was an all-male group & these can sometimes be harder to work with than mixed groups. Obviously, homosexuality can be a very challenging issue for many heterosexual men but this was very far from being the most uptight group I've ever come across.

Working through the session raised some interesting discussions and about half the group volunteered the information that they socialised with gay friends. That in itself told me a lot about how much attitudes have changed. 10 years ago similar admissions would almost certainly have branded them through 'guilt by association' by their fellow officers.

About half way through the morning I was invited to join in the exercises - possibly to protect the biscuit supply from further depredations! Anyway

my 'team' both seemed like nice chaps.

What really impressed me was the professional pride that all the officers involved obviously took in providing a responsive and appropriate service to all sections of the community. Feedback from a previous session was certainly very positive too with all participants saying that they'd learnt a lot that they would be able to use in their work, with lots of comments like;

"Thank you - great course, great content, great outside speakers - what more can I say?"

"I admit I had reservations about the aims of the course. It was one of the best courses I've ever attended. I will be taking a lot away with me and would like to see updates & further inputs."

"Very worthwhile. Positive. Interesting course. Gained a lot of knowledge and awareness."

"Thanks - great fun & enlightening."

I think it was an eye-opener for all the participants - and that includes me.

CW

Editorial

Operation Shield is an important initiative for Nottingham's gay community. This isn't something that the police have pulled out of fresh air - they've been working on it since March - with the support and co-operation of many community organisations - the LGB Forum, Gay Switchboard, Lesbian Line and other groups and individuals from the community.

OK - there is a lot of mistrust towards the police in the community - people don't think reports of homophobic incidents will be taken seriously. There's also a lot of fear - if you report you've been attacked while cottaging - will you be the one that ends up being investigated?

Well the police are taking these issues on board and taking them seriously - there will be a trained officer on every shift at Nottm Central top deal with reports from the gay community and there's a direct phone line you can ring to get in touch with them.

We're also assured that the crime reported will be what's investigated - you won't be confronted by PC Plod saying "Hello, hello, hello...and just what were you doing in this public lavatory?"

Nothing startling's going to happen overnight - but the police are investing considerable time and resources into making **Operation Shield** work. Homophobic incidents are going to be recorded and monitored in the same way that racial incidents are currently monitored. This should help them to realise the scale of attacks on our community.

But of course - it will only work if we play our part. It's got to be a two-way street. And of course - they won't get their side of it right straight away - there may well be some cases that aren't handled as well as they could be - but there are now mechanisms in place to complain if you feel the police haven't dealt with you appropriately because of your sexuality.

This could prove to be a big first step in improving the safety of the community and in obtaining the service we need from the police.

So think about it - attitudes have changed in the Force - are we too hidebound to start changing ours?

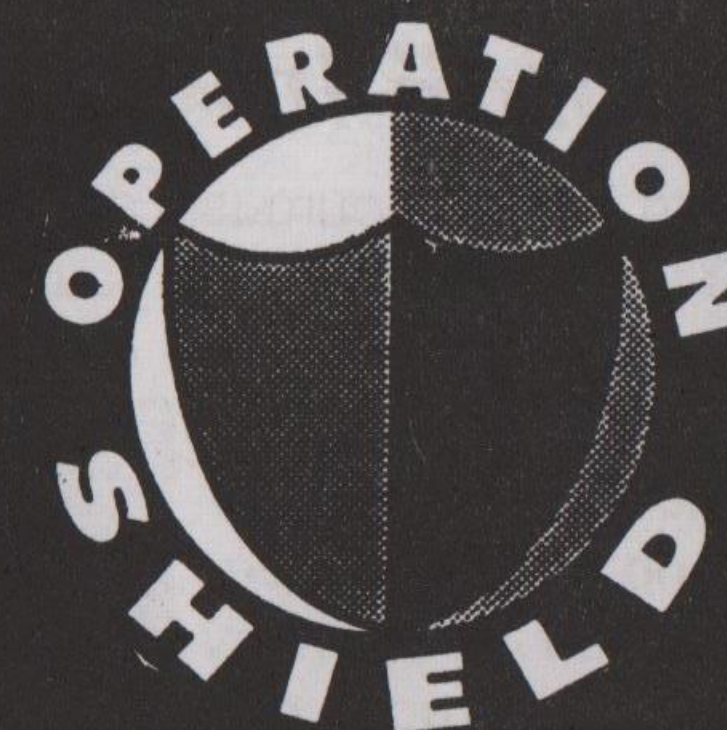
Cathy White

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JUST Out?

The GAI Project in Nottingham is running another of its JUSTout courses in October this year.

The course is aimed at gay and bisexual men of any age who are coming out for the first time and involves a series of 5 workshops looking at different aspects of coming out - including; safer sex, relationships and the gay community.

The group will be relaxed and friendly - allowing everyone to take part and move at their own pace - and - of course it will also be completely confidential.

It's a chance to meet men in the same situation and share experiences.

The course will run on Wednesday evenings starting 1 October.

To keep the group a reasonable size places are limited - so places must be booked in advance by ringing the **GAI Project** on 0115 947 6868 - or calling to the Health Shop on Broad Street in Nottingham.

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outright!

...goes to the movies!

This year we have to pay £155 in Corporation Tax...yes it is iniquitous isn't it...anyway...we thought if we're going to have to pay a similar amount next year...we might as well do something else with it. And what we've come up with is sponsoring a seat in the newly refurbished Broadway Media Centre.

So there will be a little plaque with the dedication of our choice on the back of the seat. Naturally we've had a hard time deciding who to dedicate it to - one thought was **The outright! Tallulah Bankhead Memorial Seat** but obviously there are many contenders - Cary Grant, Charles Laughton, Greta Garbo, Dorathy Parker - the list is endless.

So - we've decided to throw it over to you - send your nominations to **Film Star c/o outright! P O Box 612 Nottingham NG35TE**. We'll announce the winner in due course and to encourage you to write in we'll enter all participants in a prize draw for a night out for 2 at the movies - at Broadway naturally!



Dykes on Film ...

If Mavis was to gaze amorously at Rita over the Cabin confectionary counter for just one second, you can guarantee that this fan of Sapphic desire would have it on tape.

'Bloody media student', I hear you say. Well no actually, more like 'sad old lesbian'. Like every self-respecting dyke I drop everything to see myself represented on screen - *Oh Ellen, Ellen* - we "bought the book" in the first episode, babe. Check shirts & comfy shoes - they get you every time." Oh sisters - will we ever learn?

Endless treks to the local movie palace, hoping, this time, justice will be done. Endless treks home discovering more realistic lesbian action going on at the Cabin.

I confess, I'm a crap lesbian. Only ever fancied 3 women - only ever kissed one. So I didn't get excited by the Diva cover featuring Gershon in that - mmm - very tight vest. Unlike my friends - who would never objectify women - right! - Who slavered over it for months before seeing the movie. Who insisted I go and see it - "A tenner you'll fancy her". Hmm - you lose.

I'm tired of trying to get hot under the collar over lesbian love scenes. Always having to ask my girlfriend whose thigh that was and whose hand was where. "Why is she screaming? - rewind, honey, I think I missed something".

Go Fish aside, why are we always shown as; killers, repressed heterosexuals, emotionally unstable obsessives or would-be suicides? I mean you never see us choosing organic produce at Ada, do you? No ya don't and if you did we'd be reciting poetry about it and then doing something unspeakable with courgettes - in soft focus, naturally.

Clambering down from my soap box I headed for the cinema. I had to gag myself in order to sit through *Bound*. Story: 2 dykes steal wads of cash from the mob. Sorry - I find the plots of James Bond movies quite taxing.

It began badly - I threw many disparaging glances at my girlfriend - "It's film noir, darling - it's supposed to be this bad". "Uh-huh - pass me the Malteasers."

The sex scene, advised by dyke writer Suzie Bright (who also appears in the compulsory lesbian-bar scene), was relatively easy to follow - your basic finger & thumbs keep moving job. But those false nails - ouch!

I admit, Corky (Gina Gershon), did make me want to swagger out of the Phoenix with a bottle of Bud. But fancy her? No - be her maybe. There she was, Toni n' Guy haircut, tight white vest, leathers, Labrys tatoo. There was me - scoffing Malteasers in my M&S jeans and Next jumper ...sigh.

My girlfriend 'the student' would tell you *Bound* subverted traditional patriarchal film noir conventions and the thriller genre in general - as the women weren't punished for their sexuality.

Me. I'd say it was a bit naff, a tad clichéd, gloriously stupid and with an ending the Spice Girls would be proud of.

Her, me and the entire dyke population of Leicester swaggered out of the cinema tingling with that elusive 'feel-good-factor' we so rarely find on the silver screen.

Go on - it's a cool, sexy movie - get it out on video, get a few beers in and watch it with a bunch of dykes - you'll be in for a good night.

Julie Taylor

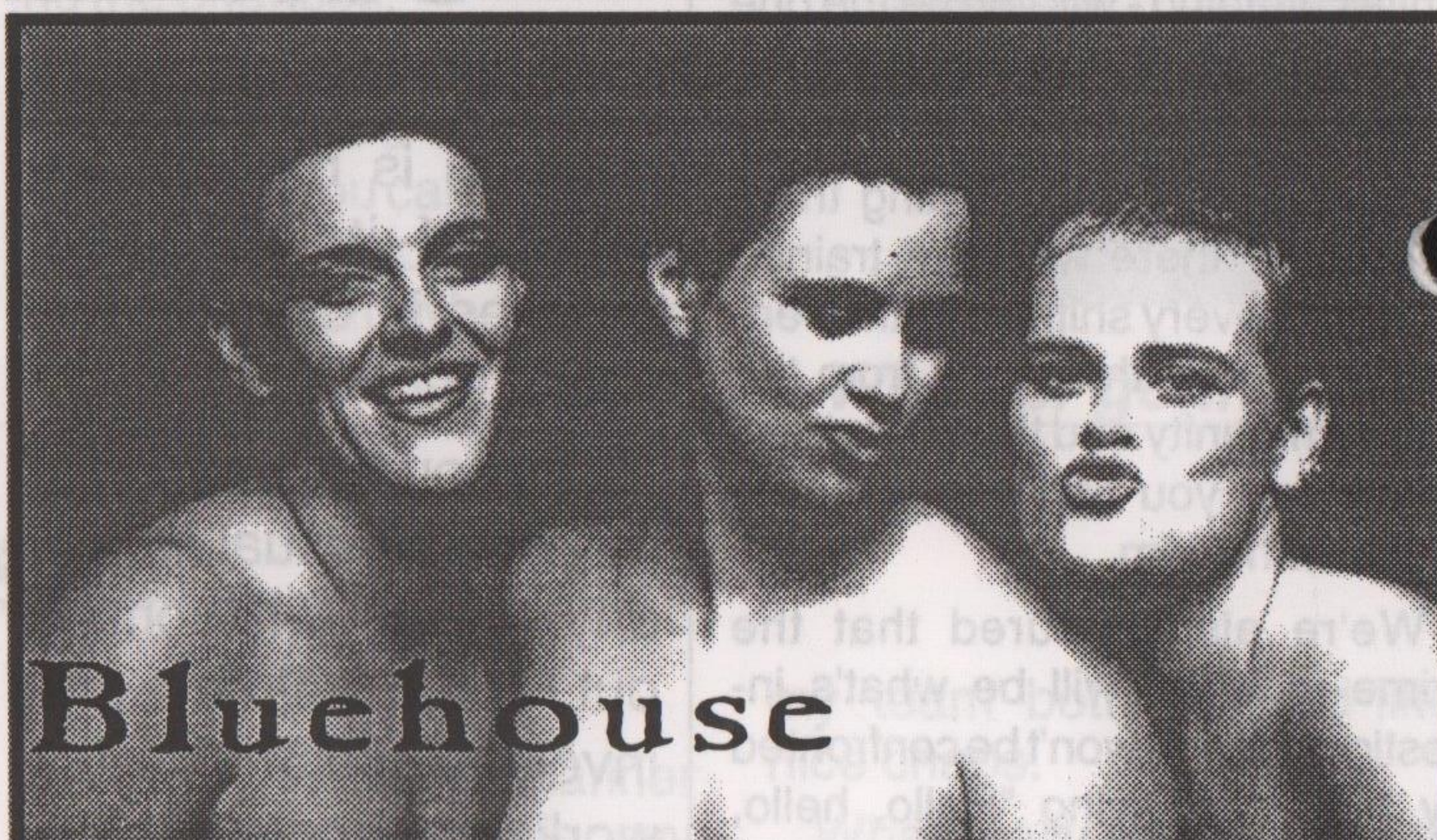


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...sounds!

from DJ Siraker

Some big big movers on the club scene are getting ready to rock your floors for September.

First up are the Chemical Brothers who follow up their number one smash with another awesome slice of breakbeat techno in the form of **Electrobank / Drugstore**. Remixes courtesy of The Dust Brothers and The Chemical Bros themselves.

Just such an awesome tune, you have to hear to believe. Fluke have released a triple pack promo of their new track **Squirt**, featuring two discs of remixes plus an album sampler. Well worth looking out for if all things techno rock your boat.

German rocker Westbam finally unleashes his big european hit **Sonic Empire** upon these shores. With over half a million copies already having sold and a No.1. in Germany, this slice of upfront techno is sure to be big things over here. check out the manic '3 in 1' remix.

Finally on the subject of all things Techno/Hardhouse, Mrs. Wood gets Sash to do a wicked remix of her club hit from '96 **Joanna** and reissues it with the pumping **Feels so Good** on the React label.

Long time collaborator with and admirer of Mr. George Benson, Ms. Randy Crawford finally gets to release her version of the Benson hit **Give Me The Night**. A brilliant vocal performance with strong and instantly accessible mixes on the R'n'B and House tip from Mousse. T.

If Ragga/Drum'n'Bass are your thing then check the brilliant new track by Goofy that's doing the rounds at the moment. **Fudgie** is released through the Main Street/ Northwestside label and is very keky.

Currently massive with Kiss FM and a former no.1. soul hit. DJ. Quicksilver follows up his massive **Belissima** hit with another similar but slightly harder track entitled **Free**, currently doing some wicked things on the floor and set to be another massive hit.

And finally check out Sarah.B. as she delivers a damn fine cover of the Queen classic **Who Wants To Live Forever** Coalition label. Reworked into a kinda trancey affair with brilliant vocal performance - a real spine tingler. Fresh from remixing the PetShop Boys, check out the Trouser Enthusiasts mixes of this track, just right.

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It's always nice to spend two weeks in an architecturally stunning city like Edinburgh but during the world famous festival, when artists and performers from around the globe beat a path to Scotland...it's a privilege. And for once the sun shone...fortunately I can use my programme as a fan.

Ist night in town I checked out **Improverts** - no nothing like that - a gang of Cambridge students improvising roles & games picked by the audience. But at one stage 2 guys were being a vicar and his neighbour and when asked to pick a location the audience shouted "Sauna!" - Phew! Full marks for stamina.

The gay venues are mainly around The Playhouse - Route 66, CC Blooms, Café Kudos, The Blue Moon and the café in the LGB Centre in Broughton St. But there's 2 new places to go on Regent St - Solas Café and the Stag & Turret. The last is based on a steep corner and at night looks like something from The Rocky Horror Show - but inside it's very warm & friendly.

Even by midnight most venues were still hot & sticky - We went to check out Tina C - **The Rhinestone Cowgirl** - billed as a one-woman show sending satirical barbs hurtling towards country music, line dancing and American 'family values' - so it was a bit disappointing to discover a 6'4" drag queen - with more intelligent comments than some - but many of the jokes were older than me!

It seems like the whole world is here. The best thing I've seen so far is **Tainted Dawn** a play around Indian Partition & Independence. Tamasha - a company of Indian actors devised the play from a collection of short stories.

What would we do today to a peer who had gay affairs, abandoned his wife after impregnating his sister, had a taste for heterosexual bugery, opposed all immigration laws and supported the IRA? Perhaps the fact his nurse interfered with him when he

Out & about at the Edinburgh Festival...

was 9 might win some public sympathy. Well that about sums up **Trust Byron** a dynamic 2 hour show by George Costigan. A witty and challenging presentation of Lord Byron.

George Costigan is currently producing **Macbeth** starring Peter Postlethwaite due to tour Nottingham in December - one to watch out for. Fringe

Sunday in Holyrood Park was middling dull this year - so we went to the Multi-cultural Mela AT Meadowbank stadium. Drumming, martial arts and a new composition called **Melange** involving Scottish pipes with Afro-Brazilian and Indian musicians all on the same stage. The use of the drone in both Celtic & Indian music was used as the link between traditions and accompanied by something I'd never seen before - an Afro-Caribbean performing classical Indian dance. Excellent!

Unidentified Human Remains & The True Nature of Loss - quite a mouthful - a film. The experiences of a bunch of Canadians who had real problems (including sensing that one of their number was a serial killer!). Great acting.

Weepie was about 2 young men who killed a pimp in 1994 'on principle' and who are obsessed by one another. The 2 are a product of a school hot-house environment and their relationship is dominated by Edzel who has to ritualise everything. It got a 5 star rating from 'The Scotsman' - their highest accolade.

At the same venue and by the same writer - Chris Goode - is **Puckerlips** - showing us a civil servant concerned with millennium planning as January 1st 2001 approaches. Events become increasingly apocalyptic. And why does the angel keep writing the time on the man's arm? A writer to watch out for as his theme & purpose develops.

Who edited that book **Anti-Gay**? Perhaps he deserves to be forgotten. He obviously only looked at the Rhinestone Cowgirl end of the gay cultural

spectrum. If he could see the varied ways in which experiences & problems are being addressed through art by gay people here in Edinburgh maybe he'd have more self respect and a greater regard for gay culture.

There's lots more to come - check out October's **outright!** For **Shadowboxing**, **East Palace**, **West Palace**, **Labi Siffre** - **A Day in the Knife**, **Colin Tobin** & More!

Tony Challis



above - **Unidentified Human Remains & The True Nature of Loss**
Labi Siffre - **A Day in the Knife**
Weepie

Pics courtesy Gilded Balloon

