Winter Showcase Dazzles Gay and Lesbian San Jose

by Ron Schmidt

Chill winds and drenching rains dampened clothing but not the December 2 Winter Showcase sponsored by the Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose. From the moment the first guests stepped across the threshold of the Los Gatos Academy of Dance on the stroke of noon, the atmosphere became charged with a warm and conviviality that swept participants, council members and guests, continuing to mount through the afternoon as the crowd swelled to four-fifths capacity.

"The remarkable thing," according to Rick Rudy, who co-emceed the event with Claire Mix, "was that most people didn't just come, look and leave; they came and stayed." Nine performers and performing groups held captive an audience otherwise intent upon exhibits by nineteen visual artists—an integration achieved by artists Steve Storz and Raymond Avalos, respectively.

"First rate" and "top quality" leveled out as routine evaluations by guests at the five-hour production. Liz Burkehouse, president of Billy DeFrank Community Center, regretted not having submitted work of her own, noting with delight, however, that the date for the Spring Showcase has been set for May 5.

Applause from both the main and small galleries remained enthusiastic throughout the afternoon. Two hundred and forty people were admitted to the showcase and I think the success of this first event will encourage even more people to get involved in the community," said Gay activist Ron Schmidt. 

"This is the fairest event that's ever taken place in the Gay community here," observed Juanita Bloch during the Polynesian dances of Amelia King. "This is the finest event of any sort that all of the Gay and Lesbian community, was voted at a recent Arts Council meeting into the status of Honorary Gay. Diversity, however, figured as the key factor in this integration of the community's artistic resources: sensitive pen-and-ink drawings by Raymond Avalos and Susanne Swanson; stunning bronze sculpture by Shawn Stuart, terra cotta by Deimy McLemore; spectacular cartoons by Shawn Stuart; stunning sets by David Hitchcock; abstract lithographs by Frances Perea; mixed media by Birgit Sandoval; fantasy watercolors by Steve Storz; abstract paintings by Tony Rick; exquisite renderings of opera sets by David Hitchock; abstract lithographs by Frances Perez; mixed media by Birgili Sandoval; fantasy drawings by Steve Storz; Latin Words, an anthology of poetry edited by Irene Redi and Sue McCabe; a slide presentation by the Rainbow Ensemble's Gilbert Moreno and Gail Thornton of one-act plays by Randy Clark, David Feinberg, and Ben Murphy.

"People wanted to be here, to be part of it. We're going to make it happen," said photographer Dave Noonan of his Winter Showcase involvement, "One meeting (of the Arts Council) I was there observing. The next thing I knew I was right in the middle of the whole thing. It took me a couple of days to come down."

Standing ovation pressed Liedermann Gay Men's Chorus into an encore late in a schedule of performances that enthralled the audience throughout the afternoon. "This is the finest event that's ever taken place in the Gay community here," observed Juanita Bloch during the Polynesian dances of Amelia King.

Patricia O'Gara, Kathy Tapp and Barbara Sigler had established the standard for performances at 1:30 p.m., blinding their brass in a repertoire from classical to jazz.

The intimacy of the small gallery served as reading space for poet Madison Wright to a standing-room-only crowd.

Houston gears up for referendum campaign

Houston, Texas—Vote YES for a United Houston is the message Citizens for a United Houston hopes will carry them to victory Jan 19 in the nation's fourth largest city.

Houston voters will decide if sexual orientation will be added to the classes already protected from job discrimination in City of Houston jobs.

Citizens for a United Houston (United Houston for short) is the umbrella organization that is urging voters to vote YES to prohibit job discrimination against anyone in any city job for which they are qualified.

"The issue on the ballot is job discrimination,"explained United Houston Campaign Manager Bill Oliver. "And we strongly believe people should be hired and fired solely on their job performance."

The two ordinances providing protection against job discrimination based on sexual orientation were passed 8-7 and 9-6 by the Houston City Council on June 19. The issue was forced to a vote when about 60,000 signatures were turned in requesting a citywide referendum.

The Committee for Public Awareness, the group opposing the ordinances, is trying to persuade voters the issue is gay rights. An opposition leader has charged that gays have a "gross" lifestyle. The committee has also distributed literature saying the ordinances include quotas.

In fact, Oliver pointed out, the ordinances—do not include quotas,—do not specify recruitment for any city job, including the police and fire departments, based on sexual orientation,—do not change the way city contracts are awarded. There is no percentage of contracts that must be awarded on the basis of sexual orientation.

Supporters of United Houston believe the campaign can be won, but not without strong financial support.

"The committee will have no trouble raising the big money for media," Oliver stressed.

Contributions can be sent to: Citizens for a United Houston, One Allen Center, Suite 1000, Houston, Tx. 77002.
City Council Member at Gay Center

By Ted Sahl

San Jose City Councilmember Susan Hammer was the guest speaker at the Billy De Frank Gay/Lesbian Community Center recently. She was invited by the Center, located in her downtown District 3, to speak under a new program entitled "Community Forum." The councilmember arrived early and was quick to make friends, introducing herself to all. San Jose was not her usual and she quickly assured everyone that, despite the $60 million loss recently, the city government has not only recovered, but is healthy financially — and to prove it, she described the procedure for approving scripts or photographs. Subscription by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Opinions expressed in any article or advertising content in any form requires permission of the Gay Press Association and are not necessarily those of the Gay Press Association. Our projects, Inc., 973 Park Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112 (408)866-0224. Membership subscription shall not be construed as a waiver of any rights reserved in the paper shall be sold and transferred only to those persons who will not use this publication for the purpose of soliciting funds, goods, or services from private donors. The Editor is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts. The Gay Press Association neither assumes nor shall be liable for any damage to persons or property caused by the use of this material. The Gay Press Association hereby disclaims any responsibility for any statements or claims made in any article or advertisement appearing in this publication. Our Paper Entertainment Editor Ron Schmidt (left) speaks with San Jose City Councilmember Susan Hammer (right) at a recent Community Center forum.

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Are the Gay Community's Political Leaders in Danger of Becoming Uncle Toms?

By Joseph Dl Sabato, president of Market Research Company and the founder and first president of the Gay/Lesbian Press Association, has a degree in political science from Harvard University.

In light of the crisis, our rights as gay people are not in question. Many gay people are being arrested on fabricated misdemeanor sex charges. Our existence is being threatened by a new group of gay-haters who are attacking us. This is a crisis and we must act now.

Gay/Lesbian Press Association

Letters to the Editor

ADIS Foundation staff

Dear Editor:
The Santa Clara County AIDS Foundation is currently in the process of organizing a board of directors and the office on North First Street had to be closed due to financial difficulties. We are very grateful to all of our anonymous donors who have given money to help us continue our work.

We are currently preparing a new set of financial statements and we hope to have these available in the near future.

Thank you,
Richard Calmbach

ADIS Foundation President

The Feminist Lesbian Social Group

Feminist Lesbian Social Group meets on the last Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at 123 Main Street, Santa Clara. Call 247-8841 for information.

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December 19, 1984 / OBSERVER PAGE 4
Man refused college degree because of "homosexuality"

San Francisco - A private Christian college in northern Illinois has refused to make the bachelor's degree it awarded to a man in May 1981. When a degree he earned, based on unmet academic requirements for graduation in May 1981.

Greg Johnson, now a resident of Chicago, completed all the requirements for graduation and, of course, he should be granted his degree regardless of his sexual orientation. Johnson was gay, the college的动作 also refused to give him the degree.

Johnson was gay, the college refused college degree because he was gay, the college refused to give him the degree. Johnson's case has been stalled because of the college's refusal to issue him his degree.

National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), the San Francisco-based public interest law firm, has sued the college to compel it to issue Johnson his degree.

The basis of my suit is Rev. Falwell's actions. These actions are violative of basic constitutionally guaranteed rights would have an enormous psychological impact on the gay community.

Rev. Jerry Falwell, the president of the Moral Majority, has made numerous speeches and statements which are homophobic and of­ensive to gay people. To have the courts strike them down as violation of basic constitutionally guaranteed rights would have an enormous psychological impact on the gay community.

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Gay Activist Needs Funds for Funeral Expenses

By Rosalie Nkhob

Eladio Guerrero has opened his home to meetings of Gay organizations many, many times. Now, in a time of need, "Lucky" (as he is known in the Gay community) hopes that Gay people who have enjoyed his hospitality will open their hearts and respond to his call for help.

Lucky's father, Alfonso L. Guerrero, passed away on December 9 at the age of 80, and the family needs to raise money to pay $3,000 in funeral and other expenses.

Those of us who have been to Lucky's home remember his father fondly, always smiling and ready to put on another pot of coffee for visitors.

"My Dad was very supportive of Gay people and Gay rights," Lucky says, "and he always welcomed my Gay friends. He would get very mad when Gay people were attacked."

Having worked for various causes most of his life, Lucky was one of the first political activists to bring the Gay rights issue to the attention of elected officials in Santa Clara County. Active in Lambda Association from its inception, Lucky was instrumental in organizing a Gay Task Force to work with the Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission — long before the first Gay Commissioner was appointed.

Lucky also served as a vital link between the Gay community and Chicano activists and organizations. His assistance was crucial in resettling Gay Cubans in the San Jose area in 1980.

In recent years, Lucky has been semi-retired from the political scene, but his bedroom in the Eastside home which he shared with his father is decorated with photographs of city and county officials personally autographed by them. Lucky has packed away his father's personal belongings for the time being — "I can't stand to get rid of anything right now," he says — but a white cat with one blue eye and one green eye remains as a reminder of his father's presence in the house.

"That cat — Ivory is her name — followed my Dad everywhere he went, and she would sit at the window and wait for him to come home," Lucky confides. "I think she misses him."

Those of us who knew him will miss Lucky's father, too. And it is only right that we should help to pay his final expenses.

Donations can be sent to: Eladio Guerrero, c/o Our Paper, 515A So. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128.

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WINTER SHOWCASE

Hanging the banner for the Winter Showcase.

Larry Janssen and Tommy Newby perform a dance medley.

A Historical Perspective

There's No Business Like Gay Show Business!

By Ted Sahl

It's exciting, new, and it happened in Los Gatos, CA. The Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose presented its first Winter Showcase of local talent.

Painters, poets, sculptors, photographers, dancers, musicians — you name it — all performing under the same roof, otherwise known as the Los Gatos Academy of Dance.

Paul Curtis, owner-director, and Shawn Stuart are partners in business as well as life. Curtis graciously offered the Academy to the Arts Council. Both men have spent their lives in the arts and have filled the needs of children and adults of all ages in Los Gatos for eighteen years at the Academy of Dance.

And it's an open secret that many great artists and performers throughout history have been Gay. The "straight" community is aware of Finocchio's in San Francisco, to name only one of many where men perform as female impersonators.

The Gay communities are aware that Gay men act out female roles and Lesbians perform as male impersonators to raise funds for community causes, as well as straight charities.

Some boast that while "drag is more than drag" provide a fun and guffaws, the deeper truth is that gay (trans) and the mothers of the little freedom experienced by Gay men and Lesbians today.

I'm talking about when it was a crime for Gay men and Lesbians to meet and "congregate," and those who did so risked their lives and careers every time they ventured to a Gay bar or nightclub.

The drag show will always be special in the hearts and history of the Gay/Lesbian world, a new beginning is clearly here in the Winter Showcase.

There's a sampling of four to five hundred men, women and children who watched, listened and applauded the more than thirty artists who acted, danced, sang or exhibited visual art — with pride.

According to a fact sheet available at the door, the credit for the Winter Showcase goes to a few good (happen to be) men who came up with an idea followed by a lot of love — and womyn dedicated to pride, dignity, and a new way to present their lives with Gay and Lesbians of San Jose.

While the drag show will always be special in the hearts and history of the Gay/Lesbian world, a new beginning is clearly here in the Winter Showcase.

I can still hear the applause — you should have been there! New show in May 1985!
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Happy New Year

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In the Offing...

By Ron Schmidt

Broadway has at Bay's End has responded to three customer needs. Expanded the menu, lowered the prices, and relaxed the atmosphere of the Chop House (85-9874), 32nd and Mission. Michael and Amanda have been churning out the no-half-hearted, poignant, funny, intimate message. Every show is a sell-out, as, who is in awe of your sense (415) 861-3079 or 415-732-4300.

The Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose has been negotiating with Theatre Rhinoceros to bring the important, dramatic statement to San Jose. Details as they break.

Meanwhile, the main stage at Theatre Rhinoceros has Paul August Castelli's Counselor at the Far in residence through January 27: So, a humorous, painful reunion of middle-aged siblings following their estranged father's funeral, complicated by the revelation that the father's entire estate has been willed to his gay son (415) 861-5292. Reserve seats now. Remember this holiday season to shine in a difference that matters.

Open Mic San Jose has announced a holiday presentation of musical selections from Nichols; Carol Finnan and Michael to benefit the Ethiopians Relief Fund. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church at 1770 Saratoga Avenue (at Cord) will host the event. December 12 at 10:00 p.m. (408) 226-7378 or 226-7360.

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve will be celebrated by Bishop/See Joe at the Campus Christian Center, 10th & San Carlos, San Jose. Ron at (408) 226-0643 or Jim at (408) 338-3032 last details.

Les Delate and Jeannie Strobel play the Cabaret at Valencia Plaza December 10-22 and 27-30. Last detail for their show then the 26th, (408) 226-1991. The New Year's Eve show features Tom Ammiano and Debbie Sanders.

Happy Four Four One is by Santa Cruz playwrights Randy Clark and David Ross open with another one-act, Out of Bounds by Minneapolis playwright Martin Buhler, and the Art of Living by David Ross. Curtain on Fridays and Sundays at 8:00 p.m. December 11th as San Jose Rep's second production this season. Montgomady Avenue in Los Gatos. Meetings are open. (408) 737-0214.


The Offing...

By Ron Schmidt

Slightly Older Lesbians

South Bay Slightly Older Les­ bians meets every Thurs­ day from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Del Prado Community Center, 885 Krey St., San Jose for a support/discussion group. Everyone is welcome. Call (408) 287-5732 by December 3.

Planned Parenthood

Volunteer training for Planned Parenthood of Santa Clara County will be held January 8 and 10 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at 46 North Saratoga Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95050.

Counseling volunteers who are able to help during daytime hours can be trained on the following dates:

Thursday, January 4th, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 18th, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 8th, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 22nd, 6:30 p.m.

All training will include information about community resources, human sexuality, contraception, reproductive health, pregnancy, and Planned Parenthood. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and be able to commit to at least 10 hours of work per month.

Slight older Lesbians presents their 2nd Annual Christmas Show on Thursday, December 20th, at 8:00 p.m. at the Billy De Frank Community Center, 86th & Taylor in San Jose.

**Volunteer training will be held on February 2nd.**

For more information or to register, call Donna Barahall or Mary Cook at (408) 287-5732 by December 3.
Out of the Shadows... Steve Storz: Artist with a View from the Floor
By Ron Schumltid
"Ron Wright loves me a great deal, but he doesn’t agree with my being gay. I pray for him. The people who are closest to me are in their 70’s or 80’s, are firmly set in the WASP tradition. They talk about my coming and going, and nothing else."

Wright, 24, is a senior communications major at Oregon State University. His dream is to become a screenwriter and to tell stories that are meaningful to him. He is currently working on a novel about a gay detective, and he is also writing a screenplay about a gay cop who is investigating a murder.

Wright is a member of the local gay community and is active in several organizations. He is also involved in a local theater group and has written and directed several plays. He is passionate about his craft and hopes to make a living doing what he loves.

Wright is an avid reader and enjoys spending his free time with a good book. He is also an active volunteer and is involved in several community service projects. He is a caring and compassionate person who is dedicated to helping others.

Wright is a role model for the gay community and is an inspiration to many. He is an example of what can be achieved with hard work and dedication.

Wright’s story is one of resilience and hope. He is a shining example of how one can overcome adversity and live a fulfilling life. He is a testament to the power of love and the importance of diversity and acceptance.

Wright’s story is a story of triumph and survival. He is a story of hope and inspiration. He is a story of strength and courage. He is a story of love and resilience. He is a story of the human spirit. And, above all, he is a story of possibility. His story is a reminder that anything is possible if we believe in ourselves and our dreams.

Wright’s story is a story that needs to be told. It is a story that needs to be heard. It is a story that needs to be remembered. And it is a story that needs to be shared. His story is a story of hope. His story is a story of inspiration. And his story is a story of the human spirit.
Dance

In San Interlude, Krone's modern inspiration from the same score by Berlioz, the lighting and special effects created the mood for an experimental display of dance, Sunday Morning, Moonlight, and Storm. For me, this piece had more substance, more to hold on to, more by which to be carried away in its emotional journey. The mood was more misty and mystical; a Sun-drenched day morning stroll of dancing in the Moonlight; and innocence, nymphs and fairies, one in its fury. It is one of the troupe's outstanding. The members of the troupe are: Stewart, Krisy Logan, Donna MacFarland, Elise Monroe, Rick Sermon, Carolyn Silberman, Clair Wooten, Wendy Taylor. They performed a small group support effort, with all, as just one of them, outstanding.

Costume design by Ariel (Clare) Zib, and Jennifer Wensel (Debree). Lighting design by Barbara Edmunds were evocative of our own American ballet (while maintaining its roots). The mood was more misty and mystical; a Sun-drenched day morning stroll of dancing in the Moonlight; and innocence, nymphs and fairies, one in its fury. It is one of the troupe's outstanding.

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