Heart Strings makes $70,000 in Memphis
by JEFF ELLIS
Editor
Close to $70,000 in gross ticket receipts were reported by organizers of the Memphis performance of Heart Strings: The National Tour, during a Monday night's show at Vincent deFrank Hall of Ellis Auditorium.
Some 1,200 people attended the performance which Memphis steering committee co-chair Allen Cook termed "excellent."
"It was a wonderful show," he told Dare in a telephone interview Tuesday morning. "It was far better than I expected. We're talking ten costume changes here."
"I'm still filled with the energy of last night's show. I didn't get to bed until past 2 a.m., but I was up at 8 a.m., with the music still running through my head. There was so much energy in the theatre, it was unbelievable."
The Broadway-style musical revue was performed last night in Nashville's Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Polk Theatre. The Memphis and Nashville legs of the tour were the third and fourth stops, respectively, on the six-month itinerary which will take the cast on a 25,000-mile journey throughout the United States.
Larry Riley, a native Memphian now seen regularly on CBS-TV's KNOTS LANDING, participated in the show, providing the narrative thread which connects the musical numbers. Riley originated the role of Memphis in a Soldier's Play on Broadway and later recreated that role in the film version, a Soldier's Story.
Among local groups participating in the Memphis production were the Memphis Symphony Chamber Singers, a 30-member choral group augmented by ten additional male voices, and the Angelic Voices, a black gospel group, who sang the stirring "His Eye Is On The Sparrow."
The show's most moving moment came, Cook said, when a portion of the NAMES Project Memorial AIDS Quilt was lowered from the theatre's fly-space above the stage during the performance of one song.
"At the end of the song, there was complete silence. It was as if you could feel people trying to read every panel of the Quilt," Cook said.
Monday night's performance was preceded by a Sunday brunch held at the historic Galloway Mansion. The brunch, Cook explained, was one of the few gala events to be enjoyed by cast members, since most social engagements accompanying the performance usually are scheduled for the day of the show.
"It was a beautiful day. It had rained the day before...\ continued on page 4

Havin' a baby?
Seminar presents alternative insemination
by MARK LAWRENCE
Staff Writer
More than 40 people, mostly women, gathered at the Vanderbilt Law School in Nashville last Thursday to find out about the benefits and risks of having children through artificial insemination.
In a seminar sponsored by the Vanderbilt Gay and Lesbian Students Association, four specialists discussed various aspects of artificial insemination, including psychosocial, medical and legal aspects.
Deane Oliva, a clinical psychologist and a parent, discussed the "psychosocial aspects of parenthood." She said the most important thing in choosing to have a child was to think about it thoroughly before making any decisions.
"The thing that you've got to do is talk, talk," said Oliva. "We have at first a tendency to give superficial answers, the answers we think we should give."
Discussion is especially important for lesbians and gay men, because choosing to have children is an even more important decision in their lives than it is for heterosexual couples.
"Choosing parenthood is for gay men and lesbians a truly active choice," she said.
Before choosing to have a child, potential parents should think about the impact of a child on their lives. "That child is going to be totally dependent on you for care," Oliva said.
"Many new parents tend to romanticize about staying home with the child and being the perfect parent," Oliva said, but a child can greatly restrict parents' social and personal lives. "Children are constant. I mean they don't go home. They are always there, when you want them and when you don't want them."
Couples who want to raise a child together should be especially careful to think about how they will divide responsibilities, including legal ones, and what will happen to the child if they break up or if one of them dies. "Before you inseminate, make these plans," she said.
Issues to discuss include religion, discipline, education, and seemingly less important matters, such as how to name or dress a child. Yet another issue is what to tell people, including the child, when they ask who the child's parents are.
"If you are a lesbian, what do you tell the child when he asks who his father is?" asked Oliva. "Some women choose to make up a cover story" to tell to friends and relatives who ask how they got pregnant.
Gay parents must also consider...\ continued on page 4

Gore and Sasser vote for "no promo homo"
Meanwhile, Tennessee House delegation splits on arts funding bill
by JEFF ELLIS
Editor
Both Tennessee senators, Al Gore and Jim Sasser, last Thursday voted in favor of the so-called "no promo homo" amendment of the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill, introduced by noted anti-gay Senator Gordon Humphrey (R-N.H.), and which passed the Senate by an 85-13 vote.
The amendment calls for no allocation of Federal funds for any educational materials directed at school children which identifies homosexuality as a natural, healthy, normal lifestyle.
Tacie Dejanikus, national field manager for the Washington-based Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation's largest lesbian and gay political action committee, asked "What happened to Senator Gore?"
"Senator Gore usually is fairly decent on these issues. But this time he didn't vote with us," Dejanikus told Dare Monday. "What happened?"
Dejanikus said that phone calls from Gore and Sasser's Tennessee constituents could help change their votes on the appropriations bill. She said efforts would continue to kill the bill while it is still being considered in committee.
Efforts to contact both Gore and Sasser were unsuccessful. Press representatives for both senators were "in a meeting" according to office receptionists at the Washington offices of both Gore and Sasser.
Gore press aide Laura Travers did return one phone call but apparently had not been briefed on the Humphrey amendment vote.
"I'll see what I can find out and call you back," she said.
Unfortunately, Travers failed to call with more information or with any comments from Gore.
Meanwhile, in the House of Representatives, four members of Tennessee's congressional delegation voted against an amendment introduced in the senate by Senator...\ continued on page 4

I N S I D E
Dare this week

Suicide is killing our children.
Centerpiece, page 6.

Two uneven new anthologies of lesbian fiction.
Pages, page 9.

Yes, fans, even more pearls of wisdom from (drumroll) Zsa Zsa! Quotes, page 12.
Feminist poet to read her work

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Judith Ortiz Cofer, poet and author of the novel *The Line of Control* and *The Sun, will read from her works at Western Kentucky University's Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies.

Ortiz Cofer, a native of Puerto Rico, teaches English at Macon College in Georgia and has a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. She has written several collections of poetry, including *Terms of Survival* and *Reaching for the Mainland.*

Christina church gay group formed

INDIANAPOLIS — Lesbians and gay men who are affirming members or clergy of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada created a formal organization which officially participated in the church's biennial General Assembly this summer.

The group, known as the Gay, Lesbian and Affirming Disciples Alliance (GLAD Alliance), is the outgrowth of clandestine meetings which began at the 1979 General Assembly and continued through 1987.

The Alliance operated a booth at the assembly, where they passed out literature and buttons with the church's symbol superimposed over a pink triangle. The booth was next to one operated by the Open and Affirming Congregations of the denomination, which have accepted lesbians and gay men as full members of the church.

The group hosted a hospitality suite at a nearby hotel and carried two banners in an Assembly parade through downtown Indianapolis. One banner was a pink triangle and the other said "The body of Christ is living with AIDS."* •

Justice appeals free speech ruling

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has appealed a federal district court ruling that struck down an anti-pornography law giving the federal government the right to censor erotica and seize the assets of stores, publishers and libraries, according to the *Guide to the Gay Northeast.*

Judge George Revercomb's decision last May voided provisions of the Child Protection and Enforcement Act of 1988 that required extensive record-keeping by producers of erotica and allowed officials to seize assets of suspected violators before the material was determined to be illegal.

According to the act, producers of graphic erotica must keep records to prove that none of the individuals involved in the production are minors, and those selling or advertising the materials must verify that the records are being kept.

The law is extremely dangerous," said Wayne Curtis, production editor at Alyson Publications, a Boston-based gay publishing company. "Because of the racketeering provisions, anyone convicted could lose their entire business because they're missing proof of age for one photo."* •
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**raise by the musical revue will go to local**

**AIDS services organizations.**

**Originally staged in Atlanta, the national**

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**Foundation for AIDS (DIFPA) and is the only**

**national fund-raising effort of its kind.**

**...alternative insemination**

The last two speakers, Abby Rubenfeld and Ellen Clayton, spoke on the legal issues surrounding alternative insemination.

Rubenfeld, an attorney with a family law practice in Nashville, said the primary legal decisions were whether or not to use a physician and whether or not to know the donor.

In Tennessee, there is no legal difference whether a physician is involved or not, Rubenfeld said, but added, "In some states it makes a big difference." Clayton, a Vanderbilt law professor, also emphasized that laws vary greatly from state to state. For example, she noted that it is illegal in Georgia to inseminate oneself without the aid of a physician.

Rubenfeld said that it does make a great deal of difference whether or not a parent knows who the donor is.

"There's a tremendous difference," she said. "The more contact a donor has with a child, the greater the bond between the donor and the child." In Tennessee, if an unmarried woman is inseminated, "The law doesn't make any presumptions to protect your rights," said Rubenfeld. "You have to take affirmative steps to protect your rights."

She emphasized the importance of having written agreements among all the parties involved.

"You need to really trust this man that is going to be involved in your child's life, and you need to protect your rights," she said. "If you don't have an agreement, you're really going to be out of luck."

Rubenfeld said any agreement should include provisions for the mediation of disputes. "You don't want to go to court with these disputes if you can help it," she said.

Clayton also recommended mediation, and said the courts were generally unfavorable toward agreements involving alternative insemination or surrogate parenting. Although an agreement is needed in order to have a child, it «wouldn't be a nickel on getting it enforced in Tennessee," said Clayton.

Finally, Clayton said that if a woman applies for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), she must prove that she has sought to find the father and make him pay child support, even if she has made an agreement not to do so.

"Any agreement you make is simply irrelevant" in such a situation, she said.

**...Senate: "No promo homo"**

**cooper and harold ford voted against the**

**helms amendment — which was defeated in the**

**House — while democrats marilyn lloyd and john tanner voted for helms' measure.**

**Republicans Don Sundquist, jimmy quillen and John duncan all voted for the measure.**
Nashville Church plans gay prom

by MARK LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

A "Gay Prom" to benefit Metropolitan Community Church / Nashville (MCC) and Nashville CARES has been set for Friday, Oct. 13.

Besides benefiting charity, the event will also give lesbians and gay men who did not attend the prom in high school a chance to experience the occasion, according to Dwayne Bratton, one of the co-ordinators of the event.

"A lot of people just didn't go the prom (in high school) because they just didn't have a date or they didn't want to be hypocritical about their preferences," said Bratton.

However, the prom is not just for those who didn't go in high school. "It's for everybody," Bratton said.

Tim Musiol, who is organizing the event with Bratton, said American Tuxedo Rental on Nolensville Road is offering discount tuxedo rentals for those who want to go in formal prom attire. In keeping with the organizers' desire to make the event open to the entire community, however, formal dress is not required.

"We want both the guys and the girls to feel comfortable. If you like to wear leather, and you want to wear leather with a bow tie, that's fine," said Bratton. "If you want to show up in drag, that's fine."

Musiol added, though, that if most people dress formally, "It would be more fun, in keeping with the prom idea."

Entertainment for the evening will be provided by a band and a deejay. Bratton said the music will consist of "oldies, but goodies" to appeal to people from a variety of age groups.

Bratton said he and Musiol hope the prom will become an annual event, possibly even with "prom queens and the court and the whole nine yards," but said that such possibilities were "off in the future."

The prom will be held at Warehouse 28, 7279 Franklin Road, Nashville, starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 per person or $15 per couple at the door.

T-GALA sets Town Meeting

from STAFF REPORTS

Nashville's lesbian and gay community will hold a Town Meeting Monday night, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. at the East Park Community Center's Club Room One at 700 Woodland Street.

Peri Jude Radecic, legislative director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will discuss legislative strategies for the 90s with community leaders. Others taking part in the meeting will be female impersonator Diana Hutton, representatives of the T-GALA Women's Alliance, and the lesbian/gay recovery and black lesbian/gay communities.

The purpose of the meeting, sponsored by the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA), is to transfer together diverse elements of our community to strengthen coalitions among groups, organizations and businesses, according to T-GALA's Ann Taylor. The event, free and open to the public, will be followed by an informal social gathering. For information, call (615) 386-9211.

Full Quilt shown for last time

from STAFF REPORTS

Thousands of people will gather in Washington, D.C., next Friday, October 6, to witness the unfolding of the NAMES Project Quilt, the internationally-known memorial to the thousands who have died of AIDS.

The three-day display of the Quilt will serve as a focal point for a full weekend of AIDS awareness, education and fundraising events designed to focus national and international attention on the urgent need for a compassionate response to the AIDS epidemic.

Although sections of the Quilt will continue to tour and be displayed, this will be the last display of the Quilt in its entirety.

All Quilt panels received by the NAMES Project by August 1 will be included in the Washington display.

Events scheduled during the weekend:

* Friday, October 6
10 a.m. Unfolding ceremony (reading on the NAMES 10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
6 p.m. Refolding
7:30 p.m. "AIDS & Politics: Transformations of Our Movements." A Town Meeting on the impact of AIDS on the lesbian and gay civil rights movement. Sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

8 p.m. "Life of the Party," a play by Theatre Rhinoceros, benefiting the NAMES Project and local AIDS organizations. Kennedy Center. Tickets $7.

* Saturday, October 7
10 a.m. Unfolding of the Quilt (Reading of the NAMES continues 10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
10 a.m. National March for Housing Now.
Contact: Housing Now! (202) 347-2405.

6 p.m. Refolding
3:30 p.m. Candlelight March Against AIDS from the Ellipse to the Lincoln Memorial.
8 p.m. Candlelight Program at the Lincoln Memorial.

* Sunday, October 8
10 a.m. Refolding.
2 p.m. Quilt reunions.
Gather at individual panels to remember loved ones.
6 p.m. Refolding
7 p.m. Dancing for Freedom. Community dance, sponsored by the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) and the NAMES Project Pension Building. Tickets $25 in advance; $35 at the door. Contact: NGRA: (212) 650-6200.


Please contact Housing Now! for a complete listing of all AIDS-related events scheduled in Washington, D.C., during the weekend.
The time has come.
Candy Jo Productions presents
The First Annual
Miss Gay Nashville USA
Pageant
1989-1990

Sunday, October 1, 1989, 9:00 p.m.
at Warehouse 28, 2529 Franklin Road, Nashville

Over $1000 in cash & prizes, including:
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Winner and 1st runner-up will qualify for
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For applications and/or information,
contact: Wayne Prince at Warehouse 28
(615) 385-9689 or Harry Harrington
(615) 255-0966.

IN AUGUST, a four volume report was released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Task Force on Youth Suicide that acknowledged that gay and lesbian youth are at an increased risk for suicide.

The report presented evidence that suicide is the leading cause of death among gay, lesbian and transgender youth and that these youth may comprise close to 30 percent of the completed suicides annually.

In a move called bold by gay and lesbian activists, the report called for "an end to discrimination against youths on the basis of such characteristics as disability, sexual orientation and financial status."

It also identified risk factors for youth suicide, reviewed prevention and intervention activities, and defined strategies for the future.

According to this research the increased risk of suicide facing these youth is linked to growing up in a society that teaches them to hide and hate themselves," said Kevin Berrill, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Anti-violence Project. "We welcome this report and hope it will lead to action that will save lives."

The report also mentioned prevention stating that "mental health and youth service agencies can provide acceptance and support for young homosexuals, train their personnel on gay issues and provide appropriate gay adult role models; schools can protect gay youth from abuse from their peers and provide accurate information about homosexuality in health curricula; families should accept their child and work toward educating themselves about the development and nature of homosexuality."

Jim Siebold is a clinical psychologist in Nashville. He has read about this problem, heard the statistics and, having encountered quite a number of gay adolescents throughout the years, discusses the difficulties that gay adolescents and adolescents in general face today.

There is no transition like adolescence. And today in our culture, adolescence is getting longer ranging from age 13 to 21. In that eight year segment you're faced with the major task of becoming autonomous," Siebold said. "You want to become free standing to make your own choices and to become your own person. You're coming out of childhood where all of your choices were made for you.

"In an effort to accomplish this, many adolescents become rebellious. They dress in wild ways and do funny things. These are all efforts to define themselves as free of adult control."

Siebold says in order to attain the main goal, becoming an adult, one must first reach two sub-goals, both of which are very relevant to being gay.

"The first sub-goal is identity formation. The adolescent years are the time in which you need to define who you are, both for yourself and for other people," Siebold said. "You'll have to make many choices, for example, what friends you will make, what occupational goals you have, etc. "Choices" is a big theme.

"We all have to make these kinds of choices in order to form an identity. It's then a collection of those choices that will define who you are. There are some people who don't or can't do this. They're caught in role confusion. They just don't know who they are. You must reach this sub-goal first before you can reach the second sub-goal.

"The second sub-goal is intimacy. Up until adolescence, children are not in relationships as one person or another. They're very dependent and they cling to and lean on but they're not responsibly giving and taking in relationships the way that many adults do. Learning how to get close to people, being able to be real to another person, exposing yourself and allowing someone to lean on you. You lean on them, in a balanced kind of...
Our children are dying

way, is intimacy. This is a great task for adolescents. Physical sex is a big part of this also, a process that is aided by the hormonal changes in adolescents. But sex is only one part of getting intimate with people.

"For gay and lesbian adolescents, because of their minority status, getting these two sub-goals is a lot harder and more challenging that it is for their heterosexual counterparts."

Siebold likens the difficult transitions of adolescence to a giant board game.

"You have childhood at one end and adulthood at the other. In between are all these twists and turns and choice points," Siebold suggested. "If you make a wrong choice, you're in a hole for a while. We're all on this board game. We all try to figure out which way to go. Some people can do it easier, some cannot."

And this board game has been complicated by the fact that adolescence today, and society in general, is much more difficult that it was in the past.

"Back 50 years ago," Siebold said. "It was easier to be an adolescent. It was a far simpler board game because it had fewer routes. Things were more clearly understood, like how and what you were supposed to be, particularly if you were in a rural environment. If you were male, you had your father as a role model. Females had their mothers. Back then it was harder to be an individual, but in terms of getting from one end of the board to the other, it was less difficult.

"Today, it's immensely complex to be an adolescent. For example, today, children aren't being parented as much as they were. Just the physical presence of the parent, the time a child spends with their parents during their childhood years is less now that it was before. And there are many reasons for this. People used to work more at home than they do now. Today parents are just generally less present than they were, so children today have less structure than they did, less direction from the parents on where to go and what to do."

Siebold notes that many psychological complications result from this.

"One complication is that it affects the adolescent's self-esteem. It makes it harder for them to feel secure about themselves and harder for them to trust. The world today, in general, is less trustable so all people, not just adolescents, are feeling more isolated," Siebold said.

"Another complication is one mentioned earlier, that adolescence being extended. More and more people are going into the school system and colleges. What are you supposed to be, but just an extended adolescent because you're not out until you're 22. Others remain at home. In the past, when you reached 18, you got married and your childhood was over. Or you were working, or both, and you didn't go to college," Siebold continued. "You probably only finished high school. But you had crossed the line, you reached the other side of the game board, it was pretty clear, you were now an adult. Today, it's much more blurry where that line is and as a consequence you remain longer in adolescence."

Drugs, career choices and sex are other major hurdles which must be overcome by adolescents on that rocky road to adulthood.

"Sex, a major complication, is an activity that is occurring today at a much earlier age than it did before," Siebold said.

Siebold says there are three major holes on the board game through which the adolescent can fall:

"Number one is the adolescent's inability to cope. He's got too many choices and too little support. This group is the most likely to attempt suicide. However, I believe there are very few kids who do things with the idea of being dead. I don't believe that's their motive. I think they just want to make a loud statement of 'I can't do this.'"

"Number two is regression, adolescents who remain children. They don't even want to go out on the board. They're a baby in an adolescent's body. They're very needy. They don't know the correct way to get the things they want so they throw tantrums. These are the delinquent kids. That can't delay gratification, they want these things right away, so they won't follow the rules. These are the ones most likely to attempt suicide for the effect."

"And number three is isolation, the kids who hand out by themselves and are very lonely. Or kids who do, physically, hang out with others but rely only on themselves. They do go to school and somewhat succeed, and because of this they're harder to pick out. But they won't be able to form relationships. They're shallow, hostile, on guard and they can't or won't reveal themselves to other people."

"So to be a gay adolescent, or for any adolescent who is not white, male, middle class, straight and able-bodied, these traps are much bigger. The choices are more complex and proportionately more difficult."

Siebold points out that one of the advantages that straight teenagers have over gay and lesbian teenagers is the availability of role models.

"There's too few gay and lesbian people pointing to them saying this is the way to go. Gay adolescents look around and see the gay culture, and being what it is, especially in the south, that there just aren't people for them to look up to," Siebold said.

"There's no one to help them figure out who they are and how they're supposed to be. So as a result, homophobia will reign and reside in these kids as they begin to discover and then fear their different sexual orientation."

"So gay adolescents feel more shame than straight adolescents. And this in turn makes their achievement of intimacy much harder because it'll be harder for them to find somebody else like themselves to get close to. This is already a big problem for heterosexuals, so you can imagine what it would be like for gay adolescents, as well as for all gays and lesbians because their choices are simply fewer."

"And, of course, everything that they've ever known about intimacy has all been heterosexual. So how do they do it, and who they're supposed to do it with, is unclear."

Siebold said that, in general, it should be acknowledged that we — society, both gay and straight — are behind in helping all adolescents — both gay and straight.

"In Nashville, within the last five years, there have been three different adolescent psychiatric facilities set up. This is a very dramatic turn. There are very good programs. However, there are very extreme programs. There should be more in-between the problem-occurring and getting-sent-to-a-psychiatric facility. We're not doing that," Siebold said.

In fact, studies released earlier this week indicate that Tennessee parents are more likely to institutionalize their problem teenagers than are parents in 46 other states. Only parents in Wyoming are more likely to react in that manner than Tennesseans.

What is Siebold's prescription for the plight of gay and lesbian teenagers?

"Education," he says succinctly. "I think that if there were some magical way to identify in childhood the kids who were highly likely to become gay, and I think that is true that among many there are very early indications that their sexual choices are going to be different, and inform the parents that, 'hey, you have a special kid, get ready for your special adolescent,' that would be ideal.

"I know that won't come to pass anytime soon, but that's the kind of model that we should have in our minds."
MID-SOUTH THEATRES will continue the 1989-90 season with a number of productions set to open during the coming weeks.

Nashville Public Theatre premièred its production of the Molly Newman-Barbara Damashek musical QUILTERS last night at the Z. Alexander Looby Theatre.

QUILTERS is based on oral histories of Colorado women and their quilts. It began as a monologue by actress-writer Molly Newman for the Denver Center Theatre. The play focuses on a mother figure who is stitching a legacy quilt for her six daughters. Throughout the show, the themes contained in each block of the quilt are transformed into words and action through song, dance and stories expressing the joy and sorrow, crisis and celebration of frontier life.

QUILTERS will run through October 15 and tickets are $10, which may be purchased at the door or at Centratik locations. More information is available by calling (615) 383-8861.

The Looby Theatre is located at 2901 Metro Center Boulevard.

Opening at Memphis' Circuit Playhouse last night was Terrence McNally's PRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE.

The off-Broadway hit was called "a very sweet, extraordinarily funny romantic comedy" by The New York Post. In this modern love story, Johnny is a short-order cook who longs to turn a one-night-stand into something more permanent. Frankie, a waitress, is more wary, having been bruised by past disappointments.

PRANKIE AND JOHNNY runs through October 28. Tickets are $7 for adults, $6 for students and senior citizens and may be reserved by calling (901) 726-4656.

Circuit Playhouse is located at 1705 Poplar Avenue in Memphis.

Actors' Playhouse of Nashville, Inc., winner of four Dare First Night Theatre Awards for the 1988-89 season, continues the current season with the première tonight of Christopher Durang's THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE.

The setting is the final dress rehearsal of an evening that can go wrong does go wrong. The result? An evening of hilarious comedy and great music, according to Michael Bouson and Katie Gladfelter, artistic directors of Rave Revues.

The show runs through November 5. Reservations and information are available by calling (615) 646-9977. Playhouse on the Square is located at 51 South Cooper in Overton Square.

Opening October 6 at Chaffin's Barn second stage, Backstage at the Barn, is the Rave Revues production of LULLABY OF BROADWAY, a musical revue of recent Broadway songs.

The setting is the final dress rehearsal of a Broadway revue during which everything that can go wrong does go wrong. The result? An evening of hilarious comedy and great music, according to Michael Bouson and Katie Gladfelter, artistic directors of Rave Revues.

The show runs Friday and Saturday nights through November 4. Tickets are $10. For reservations, call (615) 646-9977.

Tickets went on sale Monday for Tennessee Repertory Theatre's production of ROMEO AND JULIET, the once-in-a-lifetime story which has captivated and enthralled audiences for the last 400 years.

TRT's production of the Shakespeare classic, which follows the professional troupe's very successful season-opening production of ANY MISSBEHAVIN', will open on October 26 in the 1000-seat Polk Theatre of Nashville's Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC), and run for 11 performances through November 12.

Winner of the first First Night Theatre Awards for the 1988-89 season, TRT's production of ROMEO AND JULIET follows the TRT tradition of presenting Shakespeare for contemporary audiences.

Ticket prices for ROMEO AND JULIET range from $8-$16.50 and are on sale at all Centratik and Ticketmaster outlets. Tickets can also be reserved over the telephone by calling (615) 320-7171.
Uneven collections


THE PROBLEM WITH anthologies is unevenness.

Even when all writers touching on all subjects are considered for inclusion, some selections are bound to be better written than others, more daring than others, more to one or another reader’s taste than others. When the pool of writers and subjects is narrowed by the restriction of the word lesbian, the problem of unevenness is exacerbated.

LESBIAN LOVE STORIES includes selections by many of the big names in lesbian fiction — Becky Birtha, Te Corinne, Lesléa Newman, Jane Rule, Ann Allen Shokley, Barbara Wilson — as well as work by less prominent writers and women more well known for their non-fiction — Gloria Anzaldua, Kim Chernin, Sally Miller Gearhart, Wanda Honn and Shelly Rafferty. As diverse as these women are — only lesbianism and close ties to feminist/alternative presses seem to connect the biographies that conclude the volume — several strains repeat, with varied effectiveness, throughout the collection.

This repetition detracts from even the best of the stories, particularly if the author has the misfortune of being in the second half of the alphabet or a reader who plunges through from Anzaldua to Wilson.

Most obvious is the authors’ insistence on using straightforward, chronological narrative, either in present tense or as the reminiscences of a present narrator, to tell a story. The prevalence of this style may be a reflection of one of Jan Clausen’s characteristics of feminist writing: that it be accessible. There will be little doubt in any reader’s mind what takes place in these stories. Language is plain and direct. There is little need for explanation or exploration. Two women meet, fall in love or don’t fall in love; make a life together or don’t, die knowing that another’s love or drift apart or live on. It is puzzling (and amusing) that characters and events are as disparate as Joan Nestle’s blandly explicit butch/femme couple (“Sometimes she lies in bed wearing her cock under the covers.”) in “My Woman Poppa” and Lesléa Newman’s giggly romanticatisms Chelsea and Jessie in “The Dating Game” are presented with such similarity.

Also repeated throughout LESBIAN LOVE STORIES are annoying frequency are references to lesbian gender roles, with a particular preoccupation with “butchness.” Antoinette Azolakov’s Dandy is a butch who gives herself crew cuts and wears jockey shorts but cannot admit her (femme) need for physical contact. Becky Birtha’s Jinx wears tailored suits and Stetson hats; her lover Gracie sews the white silk dress she wears with pearls and long gloves. Even Lesléa Newman’s Chelsea thinks “I just love it when a tough butch blushes like that.” Perhaps “butch” is just shorthand, a convenient term for conveying immediately a certain type or a certain look to an informed audience. But the type is a stereotype and this use of stereotypes in place of character development is a flaw that runs throughout these stories and seems indicative of a larger problem with lesbian fiction in general.

The stories that avoid these problems are the best, and most memorable; stories like Jess Wells’ “Two Willow Chairs” and “Tommy,” an excerpt from Elsa Gidlow’s autobiography, ELSE I CAME WITH MY SONGS. Gloria Anzaldua’s brief “Life Line” is beautifully written, erotic and sad. Jane Rule’s “A Perfectly Nice Man” is at least different, slightly mysterious, but unfortunately Rule does not quite bring it off.

THE WRITERS included in IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT are slightly less conventional, less tied to traditional narrative and consequently often more interesting than the writers included in LESBIAN LOVE STORIES. They are also on the whole considerably less “famous” and the rough edges of work by new writers gives in a DIFFERENT LIGHT the expectant feel of a collection of works in progress.

Sometimes the willingness of these writers to take risks results in particularly good work, like Jess Wells’ strange “Aqua” and Louise Moore’s “Mrs. McKinnis Thinks It’s Spring” and “Mrs. McKinnis In Her Garden.” Other times, though, the result is silliness like Nancy Tyler Glenn’s story “The Book People,” a pseudo-fantasy based on the premise that portraying characters in works of fiction is the occupation of tiny, human-like Book People. The fantasy element is actually only a cover for another standard story of girl meets girl, though thankfully minus the butch/femme preoccupation.

The good thing about anthologies — particularly those published by feminist/alternative presses — is that readers can easily sample the work of new of these well-known writers.

Either of these collections would be a good choice for an introduction to contemporary lesbian writers — but IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT are slightly less conventional, less tied to a slight edge for including more unconventional selections. •
VIEWS

No promo Dems?

WHEN NEWS CAME late last week that both Tennessee's senators, Al Gore and Jim Sasser, had actually voted in favor of New Hampshire Senator Gordon Humphrey's "no promo homo" amendment, we were dismayed and upset by the actions of the two men we helped to elect.

Both Gore and Sasser, sometimes seen by lesbians and gay men in the Volunteer State as progressive representatives, appeared all too eager to turn their backs on a large number of their constituents. By voting with their Republican colleagues — and quite a few Democrats, too, considering the 85-13 vote — Gore and Sasser indicated that they consider people of homosexual orientation to be second-class citizens.

Under the Humphrey amendment to the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Act, no federal funds can be allocated for the production or distribution of materials directed at school children which identifies homosexuality as a normal, healthy, alternative lifestyle. The senators' vote proves both of them to be much more repressive than they would have had us believe while on the campaign trail.

When we attempted to contact Gore and Sasser, we discovered they weren't in Washington. Instead, they had been in Nashville, attending with Governor McWherter an event in honor of labor leader Jim Neeley. The senators, what with their busy schedules on Capitol Hill, just wouldn't have time to talk to their interested, and somewhat miffed, constituents.

Failing that, we asked for comments from their press secretaries. Sasser's staff "was in a meeting" and "will get back to you later." At press time, two days later, there's still no word from Sasser's press office.

Marla Romash of Gore's staff, who was "in a meeting" every time we called, did call back — during lunch, about 12:30 p.m. CDT Monday afternoon. Subsequent phone calls proved fruitless: "She's in a meeting," we were told, "call back later." Finally, Gore press aide Laura Travers took our call. She knew nothing about the Humphrey amendment, had never heard of Dare, and even seemed a bit surprised that the caller was from Nashville.

"I'll get back to you," she promised. Forty-eight hours later, she still hasn't called back.

So, what does this mean? It could mean the senators' staffs are so bogged down by work they just don't have time to respond to constituent or press questions. Or it could mean that phone lines between Washington and Tennessee just aren't what they used to be.

BUT WHAT WE THINK it means is that they simply don't want to be faced with difficult questions, the answers to which probably wouldn't wash with an informed constituency.

Our advice to the Tennessee constituents of Senators Gore and Sasser? Let them know that "no promo homo" is an offensive, shortsighted piece of government tripe. If they don't listen to you now, they will when election time rolls around.

And the votes are counted. *
Sometimes I feel like a slice of Wonder bread in a world of French pastry.

Oliver North is more hip than I am. Compared to me, Bob Newhart is a party animal. And Jane Curtin's wardrobe on Kate and Allie would be considered trendsetting next to mine.

My mother has a more active social life. And she's 71 years old.

On the few occasions when I drop by the local bar, I could hear ears people whispering something about Donna Reed.

My idea of a big night is renting a video of Martin Mull, Live in Lansburg, Ohio.

If I'm feeling particularly raucous, I follow up the Martin Mull video with Dick Cavett: The Man Behind the Legend. I once stayed up until almost three in the morning when PBS was running a This Old House marathon. But that kind of excessive behavior usually results in my having to take a valium.

Every so often I offered "coke" by some of my sister's friends. My usual answer is that I would prefer Pepsi, if it isn't too much trouble.

And when my cousin told me about a new restaurant, Riot, I thought he was referring to the 1966 Democratic convention.

Hope and Michael, in the ABC series That's Something, are my idea of a modern day Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. And I think Peter Jennings would be a much better news anchor if he weren't so emotional.

Jane Pauley and Bryant Gumbel embody my conception of bos uncles.

But then, Woody Allen personifies a latter day Beau Brummel to me. I don't care for Tom Brokaw especially. Don't you agree that he'd probably be better as the host of Soul Train, where his hyperactive, colorful personality would be more in tune with the program? Did I mention that I don't watch Koppel and Brokaw especially. Don't you agree that he'd be more Pastoral than Asian.

Poppers is the name of the board-school roommate called her father.

And I've been known to admonish gay men about their excessive use of Crisco; after all, any number of cooking oils now on the market are much lower in saturated fat. The resulting laughter usually embarrasses me.

But then, my idea of an erotic conversation is discussing PMS with my physician. Oh, and I almost never use the word "fabulous" (as in, "Dahling, you look simply fabulous in chartreuse")

Actually, I don't even know what color chartreuse is.

I sometimes wonder if I would have been different, more Mae West and less Jane Cleaver, the kind of woman who dances at a party with a lampshade on her head, if I had been born in a warmer climate. The south of France, for instance. Or Spain. Someplace exotic, mysterious, hotblooded.

And I can't imagine tattooing my, ah, derriere. If I want to see a butterfly, I'd prefer the setting to be a little more pastoral than pastoral.

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MARKET

Announcements

- New lesbian and gay community meeting space needs interior decoration: chairs, lamps, tables, artwork, mirrors, bookshelves, rugs, ceiling fans. New or used. Nashville. Call GALLIP 615 297-0008.

- RELATIONSHIP STRUGGLES? New audiotape gives support and steps to resolve conflict. Based on bestselling LESBIAN COUPLES. $11.95 postpaid to Seal Press, 3131 Western, #410, Seattle, WA 98121.

- FOR SALE: General Electric Spacemaker II micro-wave oven, used only 2 months. $95. Beautiful walnut around Tennessee. Learn community-oriented journalism and accept applications from writers in Chattanooga.

- WANTED: Reliable, hardworking self-starters in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis for commissioned ads. Great part-time, high-pay work for students, etc. 615 327-Dare.

- WANTED: Reliable and energetic people to help deliver Dare in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville. Write Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615 327-Dare.

- LONG HOURS, HARD WORK, LOW PAY, Dare is accepting applications from writers in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville, the Tri-cities and around Tennessee. Learn community-oriented journalism, and be one of the best. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615 327-Dare.

- Happy belated birthday, Mark. Many happy returns. We know how excited you are about driving all night.

- Bev: Hi, honey, how are you? I miss you. Let’s get together and gossip. Your favorite former decorator.

- Young lesbian at UT/Martin wishes to write and meet friends across Tennessee. DARE DRAWER 99.

- Happy Birthday, Tek! 1 more year closer to GAY-ATTY.

Homes


- GWM seeks M roommate for quiet 2-bdrm townhouse near West End. $225 mo + 1/2 utilities. Nashville, 615 893-2963.

Personal

- Friends - together and gossip. Your favorite former decorator.

- Happy Birthday, Mark. Many happy returns. We know how excited you are about driving all night.

- Bev: Hi, honey, how are you? I miss you. Let’s get together and gossip. Your favorite former decorator.

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- Happy Birthday, Tek! 1 more year closer to GAY-ATTY.

Classified Ads and Subscriptions

Name ___________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________
Phone (Day) ____________________ (Evening) ________
I certify that I am the person named above. No ad will be accepted without signature.
Signed ___________________________________________

OFFICE USE ONLY
I. L. D. ____________________ V. R. ____________________
A. M. ____________________

- All ad prices are for two consecutive weeks: $90 for up to 100 characters, $20 for up to 200 characters and on.
- Please print one character per box. A character is any letter, number, space or punctuation mark.
- We reserve the right to edit ads, and to reject any ad. Sexually explicit or suggestive ads will not be accepted. No ad will be accepted without signature and advance payment in full. We assume no responsibility for advertised claims.
- Responses are available. Responses will be mailed two weeks after the last appearance of the ad. To answer a drawn ad, write to: Dare Drawer # _______

- All ads run for 2 weeks: $10 for up to 100 characters, $20 for up to 200 characters and on.
- Ads must be received by noon Tuesday and will run the following Friday. Please enclose check or money order for total amount, payable to: Classified

- Ads prices are for two consecutive weeks: $90 for up to 100 characters, $20 for up to 200 characters and on.
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- Ad run for: 2 weeks 4 weeks weeks
- Ad cost per 2-week period $ ______
- 2 + response draft charge $ 5.00
- 3 + BOLD CAPS charge $ 5.00
- x number of two-week periods $ ______
- Classified AD TOTAL $ ______
- 3 months $16 1 year $32 subscription $_______
- Questions? Phone (812) 337-CARE

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Quotes

Don’t flatter yourself, Zsa Zsa

“I have nothing against gays or lesbians. I have lots of gay boys working for me. How do I know who’s in jail? Imagine a woman’s jail. There must be lesbians...Maybe I should become a lesbian. Do I know who I like men.”

— Zsa Zsa Gabor responding to criticism of her statements about being fearful of a jail term because she’s “afraid of lesbians” who she believes inhabit California jails.

“Don’t let some guy or girl...Men should look like men.”

— Zsa Zsa again, very the next day, taking a jab at a witness who contradicted her story about being attacked by a Beverly Hills traffic cop.

“There they were, frolicking about, taking a jab at a witness who contradicted her story about being attacked by a Beverly Hills traffic cop. There they were, frolicking about, taking a jab at a witness who contradicted her story about being attacked by a Beverly Hills traffic cop.

“The most ridiculous thing is to see a woman in a bathing suit telling the world she wants to be a doctor. I cannot imagine a man in that humiliating position.”

— Anne Simonton, former Miss Teen Covina, Calif., cover girl of SPORTS ILLUSTRATED’s 1974 swimsuit issue and editor of media watch.

“America has the prettiest girls in the world, but they must hide when the Miss America beauty pageant starts. What I saw last Saturday night might have been a search for ‘Miss Jimmy Durrante’ of 1990. Surely there must be prettier girls than this year’s sorry lot.”

— Bill Bingle, of Franklin, N.C., in a letter to USA TODAY.

“Mr. Bingle makes me tingle when he comes to town, ’cause when he comes to town Christmas-time’s around.”

— Miss Holly, singing the theme song from the Mr. BINGLE show, an old Memphis holiday tradition sponsored by Loewenstein’s Department Store. Otho Boggs has a Mr. Bingle doll.

“You can’t even walk! What kind of drugs are you on today? You should never have tried to coordinate your hair with your clothes.”

— An anonymous diner in Susan Catherine’s book EAT ME AT AMERICA’S LUNCH COUNTER.

“I’m sorry, I just think the sisters are funnier. Outsiders develop humor as a defense, but they also think funnier. If you’re on the inside, you can afford to be more shallow. Why do you think most of the comedians and also the composers are gay or Jewish? It’s a defense, a refuge — laughter and music.”

— The late, great comedian Paul Lynde in an interview in the forthcoming book, CELEBRITY GAZE, by Buzzy Hadeligh.