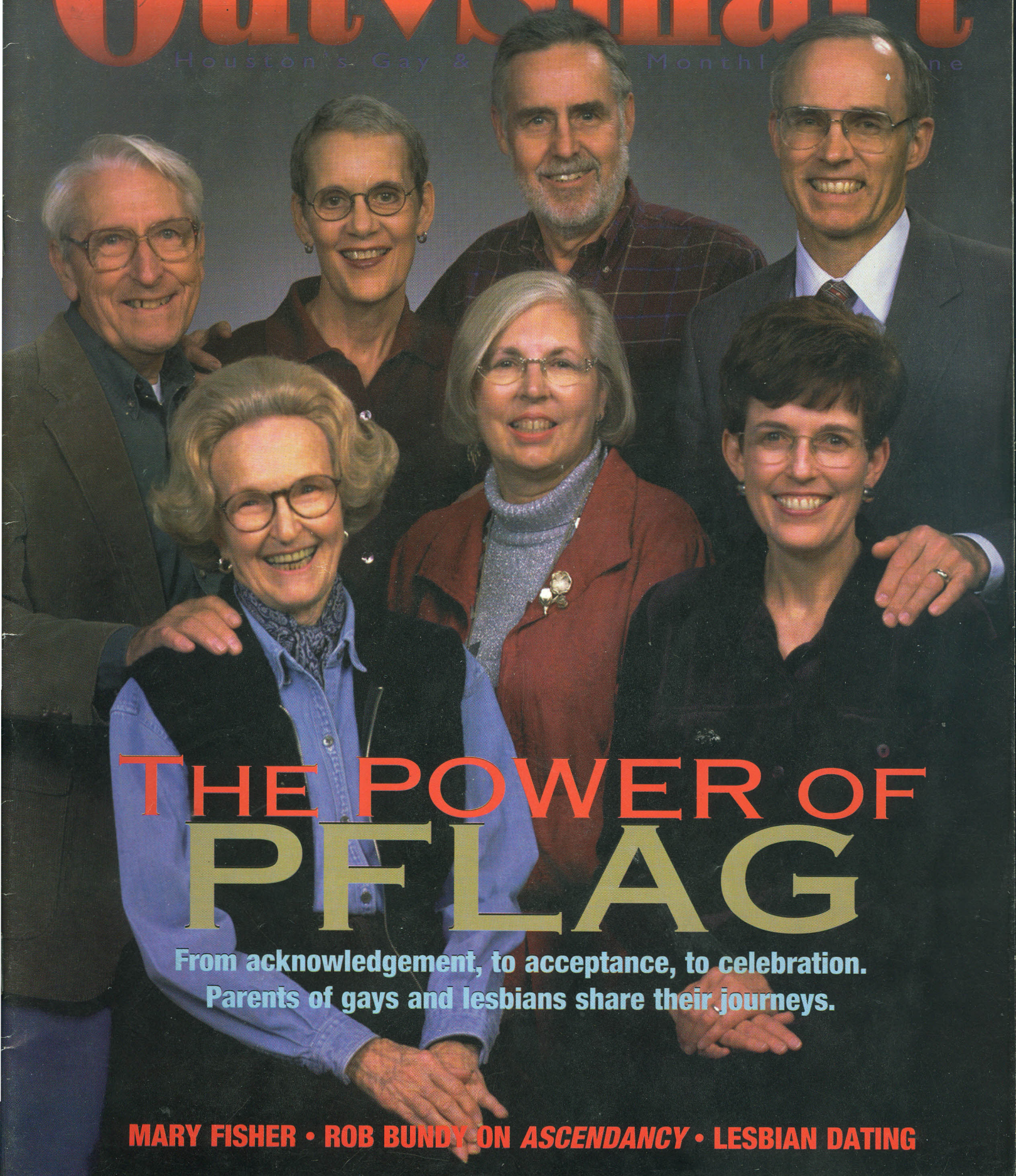


# OutSmart

Complimentary • February 1998  
Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine



## THE POWER OF PFLAG

From acknowledgement, to acceptance, to celebration.  
Parents of gays and lesbians share their journeys.

**MARY FISHER • ROB BUNDY ON ASCENDANCY • LESBIAN DATING**

VOL. 5, NO. 2

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FEBRUARY 1998

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## Letters

### THE 'L' WORD

When I entered the "gay world" a few years ago, I imagined I'd be accepted with open, loving arms by both gays and lesbians and transsexuals and bisexuals, butches and dykes and everything else nice. Unfortunately, I feel like I'm in the same continuous struggle of trying to figure out what exactly is right in this community as I did as a confused heterosexual.

The January issue of *OutSmart* featured the big "L" word issue. I have hated that issue since I was corrected by an older "sister" that I am a lesbian, not a gay woman. Embarrassed by my "lack of knowledge," I did some research on the term lesbian. A lesbian, according to Webster, is a homosexual woman; from the homosexuality attributed to Sappho and her followers in Lesbos. We all know this. However, many of us do not know that in the early 19th century, the British used the term to describe a mental illness—all homosexual women, just like homosexual men, were labeled crazy or insane.

It amazes me that so many lesbians have this rigid and often bitter attitude toward other gay women (I am not alone) who choose not to be called something that referred to a mental disorder. Maybe if we, lesbians and gay women, did not focus on the significance of a label so much, we would be able to tackle some of the more important issues in our lives.

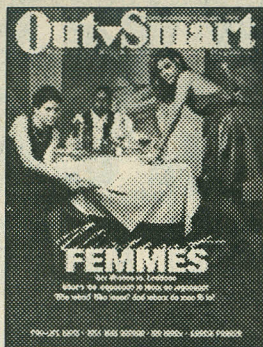
I have always enjoyed reading *OutSmart*. It is the only magazine in Houston that I read from beginning to end. The other gay newspapers and magazines do not amount to much, while *OutSmart* has high journalism standards. However, I would have appreciated the January cover story more if it had addressed gender issues we can change. The lesbian versus gay woman struggle is a never-ending battle.

I also want to say thank you to Tom Sena for his guest editorial on pro-life gays. I have repeatedly had to defend my pro-life position to "lesbians" and often felt I was getting nowhere. His editorial was informative and rewarding.

—Melissa Valenzuela  
Houston

### WHAT WORD?

Accolades to *OutSmart* for providing a forum for discussion about what word or words are appropriate to describe homosexual women [The "L" Word, January 1998]. Many of us are unsure how to collectively refer to the community. Should we say "the gay community" or "gay women and men" or "gay and lesbian



community" or what? The published discussion was helpful and educational and pointed out the diversity of opinions on this issue.

—Clarence Bagby  
President, HGLPC  
Houston

### THE RICE WORD

As a lesbian I found "The 'L' Word" article interesting at times. It reaffirms what should be obvious, namely that no one—not Suzanne Anderson, Dale Carpenter or any one of the women in the "lesbian" discussion—can speak for the whole homosexual community. Fine.

As a faculty member at Rice University, however, I was angered that the *OutSmart* editorial staff did not insert a corrective statement to Lisa Lavelle's erroneous and potentially slanderous claim that "... some putz at Rice University said the Holocaust never happened. ..." The recent events at Rice involve a national anti-Holocaust propaganda group that managed to get an ad published in the *Rice Thresher*, the school's student newspaper. While these events have caused great concern in the Rice community at large, no Rice "putz" has claimed that the Holocaust never happened. That Lavelle would make such a claim is not too surprising; people skim the news, misread and misinterpret all the time. The *OutSmart* staff members, however, are held to a higher standard of factuality. To not have corrected this error by an editor's note or some such insert was blatantly irresponsible.

—Jill Carroll  
Lecturer in Humanities, Rice University  
Houston

*Editor's Note: You're absolutely correct—some putz at the Rice Thresher accepted an ad which alleged the Holocaust never happened. Thanks for the clarification.*

### THE PRESSING WORD

Compliments on another wonderful issue. I always keep *OutSmart* on my coffee table, with the exception of the famous "naked Cary Russell" edition.

For starters I am a 31-year-old gay male. I was reading your issue while having my hair cut by a lesbian hairstylist and discussing my season tickets to the WNBA basketball season (always a welcome subject with a lesbian). Then I noticed the cover story. As a gay male who is often told, "You are such a lesbian," I took an interest. I must admit that I had to read the conversation twice to understand exactly what they were trying to say. I didn't get it. This is proof in itself that I, indeed, am a gay male.

I have many lesbian friends. I refer to them as "lesbian" simply as clarification as to gender. We all fall under the category of gay. Even though we

are a family of gay people, we all have different interests, opinions, political parties, etc.... We are allowed to be pro-life, Republican, pro-choice, Democrat, racist, inclusive, nice, mean, or whatever we may choose. Yes, we have openly gay politicians, partner benefits, media representation, and we can't forget the slew of gay weather-casters.

Who is to be credited with these latest advancements? Lesbians, gays, fags, dykes, queers, transgenders, bisexuals? NO. It was a collective effort we should all be proud of.

Are people still dying of AIDS? Yes. Are teens still being kicked out of the house because of sexual orientation? Yes. Are innocent people still being gay-bashed and, even worse, killed while walking the streets? Yes. So it appears the battle is not over.

But the folks at *OutSmart* believe the subject of whether to refer to a female person who has a relation with another female should be called "lesbian" or "gay" is pressing enough to take on a cover story. Either things have improved immensely while I was not looking or I am just a dumb gay male who doesn't understand the needs of the "lesbian/gay/homosexual."

Let's win some more battles before we start creating others.

—R. Donaghey  
Via the Net

*Editor's Note: You're just a dumb gay male who doesn't understand the needs of the "lesbian/gay/homosexual." Hey—you handed us that one.*

### THE PREFERRED WORD

Dale Carpenter did it again! In his "Home for the Holidays" article last month, not only did he use the forbidden term "gay woman" a couple of times, but he wrote about "gay voters," "gay pride," "gay-friendly," "gay political influence," "gay caucus," "gay power," "gay elected official," and "gay support." He could have easily interjected the word "lesbian" in the phrases—"gay and lesbian voters," "gay and lesbian power," etc.

In the interviews with five—what words should I use? homosexual women? (is that better?)—by Steven Foster in his article "The 'L' Word," the women were divided on the use of the "L" word, but the consensus of all was to be included in the Gay Umbrella...

It's "perfectly clear" to Mr. Carpenter what words the majority prefers, and I applaud him for his choices that reflect the views of most of us.

—Charles Bracewell  
Twin Lakes, Colorado

**Send letters and comments to Outsmart, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006. Fax: 713/522-3275, or you can e-mail us at Letters@OutSmartMagazine.com. Please include a phone number for verification.**

## Michael Wilson Moves On

Alley associate director named artistic director of Hartford Stage Company

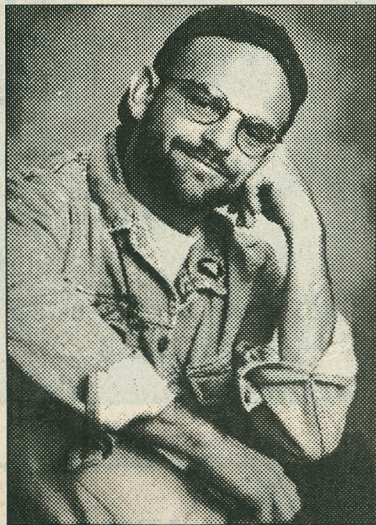
Michael Wilson, Alley Theatre associate director, has been named artistic director of Hartford Stage Company in Hartford, Conn.

"I am thrilled at the news of Michael's appointment to the artistic directorship of Hartford Stage," said Gregory Boyd, Alley artistic director. Boyd has watched Michael develop from his undergraduate days at North Carolina through his work as an associate director at the Alley. "I am pleased that the rest of the theater world recognizes what Alley audiences already know, that he is a director of real insight and theatricality and a writer.

who evidences both gracefulness and depth.

"I am pleased that Michael is taking the reins of one of the most prestigious theaters in the country and look forward not only to his work there, but to rearticulating his relationship with the Alley company in the future."

Wilson, who was featured on the cover of *OutSmart* in April of 1995, began working at the Alley in 1989 when Boyd invited him to join the staff as artistic associate. His career in Houston quickly skyrocketed, leading him



through various positions at the theater. He was promptly named associate director in 1990. He took a brief leave of absence from

the Alley to pursue writing and directing opportunities outside of Houston, including work as the assistant director of *Tommy*, the Who's rock opera on Broadway. He returned to the Alley in July of 1993 as staff director, a resident position that allowed him to direct a number of Alley productions in that season. In July of 1994, he resumed the role of associate director. Until May of 1996, Wilson directed many productions at the Alley as part of his annual contract with the

theater, including the critically acclaimed two-part epic by Tony Kushner, *Angels in America*, which was subsequently presented at the Venice Biennale.

This season Wilson will direct the Alley Theatre production of Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, starring Ellen Burstyn, and the premiere of Tony Kushner's *Hydriotaphia, or the Death of Dr. Browne*. He will also direct a new production of his own adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* for the 1998-1999 season.

### GAY CABLE PROGRAM STARTS NEXT MONTH

A local video production firm has announced plans for a new cable television series directed at Houston's gay community. Steve Baker with Triangle Video Production says *Montrose TV* will premiere on Warner Cable Channel 54 on Monday, March 2 at 8:30 p.m. The same program will re-air the following two nights in the same time slot. A new program will air every week.

"To our knowledge, this is the first time that a broadcaster has agreed to sell air time for a

program that will feature the gay and lesbian community consistently on the same day and time," said Baker. "There are 286,000 subscribers who can tune in."

Baker is banking on advertising support from gay-owned businesses. Each show will feature 16 commercials.

In 1995 Baker produced the video *Always My Kid*, "a family guide to homosexuality." Last year, he edited *Claiming America's Promise*, a video chronicling PFLAG Houston's lobbying trip to Washington, D.C.

### NEW ORGANIZATION FIGHTS LESBIAN BREAST CANCER

The Montrose Counseling Center and the Montrose Clinic have announced a joint project designed to conduct outreach efforts to lesbians over 40. The Lesbian Health Outreach Project (LHOP) is funded by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the Hollyfield Foundation.

Outreach workers will educate gay women about self-care, risk factors and warning signs of breast cancer.

"Well-woman" exams which include a pap smear, manual breast exam, labwork and referral for mammogram are performed by female physicians and nurse practitioners on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer.

### HLI PREPARES FOR LESBIAN HEALTH FAIR

Houston's Lesbian Health Initiative will be holding its annual Health Fair on Saturday, March 7 at the Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fair will offer HIV testing, \$10 mammogram to women over 39, pap smears, informative health sessions and a vendor area.

### HRC GALA FEATURES RED WING

Several months ago, The Human Right's Campaign announced that its Winter Gala on Feb. 14 will feature special guests Mitchell Anderson (of television's *Party of Five*) and AIDS activist Mary Fisher.

Now, HRC has added Donna Red Wing to the list of national figures speaking at the Houston fund-raiser.

Red Wing was recently named the national field director for the Human Rights Campaign. Before joining HRC, she was a senior consultant to the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. From 1989 to 1993, she was the executive director of the Lesbian Community Project in Portland, OR. During that time, she helped lead the fight against Measure 9, a virulently anti-gay ballot measure that would have amended Oregon's constitution to declare homosexuality "abnormal and perverse" behavior. *The Advocate* named Red Wing its 1992 Woman of the Year.

The HRC Winter Gala will be held at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14. For tickets, call 800-494-TIXS.

## Houston Briefs

### PFLAG TO HOST PHOTO EXHIBIT FEATURING GAY PARENTS

PFLAG is sponsoring the Houston premiere of *Love Makes A Family*, a photo exhibit featuring gay and lesbian parents with their children. The exhibit will be displayed in several Houston-area locations during March and April.

"We are very excited about bringing this exhibit to Houston," said PFLAG Houston co-president Susan Upchurch.

PFLAG will make a formal announcement about the exhibit in mid-February.

### GAY REPUBLICANS TO HIRE LOBBYIST

The Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, a group of gay Republicans, will hire a lobbyist to reach out to Republican lawmakers during the 1999 legislative session.

"We are excited about the prospect of having a lobbyist working on behalf of gay Texans who are moderate and conservative in their politics," said Dale Carpenter, a Houston attorney and Log Cabin state president. "Log Cabin's lobbyist in Austin will try to work with the emerging Republican majority in the state legislature."

Carpenter said the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas has not effectively reached Republican lawmakers.

### AFH AWARDED \$25,000 GRANT

AIDS Foundation Houston has been awarded a \$25,000 grant to support an innovative approach to addressing the critical issue of patient adherence to highly effective but difficult-to-take HIV drug combinations. The grant was one of nine awarded through a special funding program by Glaxo Wellcome Inc.

"We're delighted to have received this grant," said Sara Speer Selber, AFH executive director. "The grant will allow us to target our services toward helping people with HIV disease understand the importance of taking their medications as prescribed and to offer the support and reinforcement they need to practice what they've learned."

The award of the nine grants recognizes the fact that adherence to HIV antiviral medications and combination therapies is becoming increasingly visible as an important aspect of successful HIV treatment, according to Neil Graham, M.D., principal clinical research physician.

"Overcoming the dosing complexities of new combinations of drugs known to have a potent effect in suppressing HIV is one of the biggest challenges today in the management of patients with HIV infection," Graham said.



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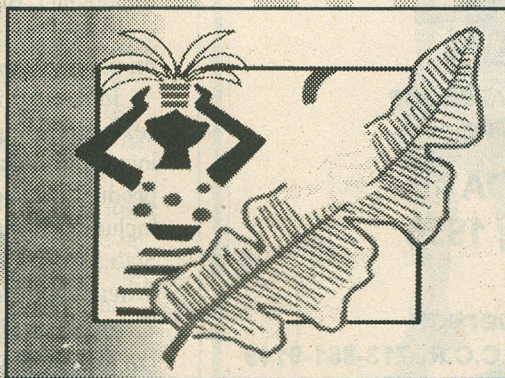
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# ASCENDANCY

## Beauty Amidst Chaos

by Rob Bundy

**Kate:** Where are you? What are you doing?

**Robert:** These questions you can answer yourself. Look around you. Stop being lazy.

**Kate:** How?

**Robert:** Go inside and listen to your heart. Nobody listens to their heart anymore. Find love, and you live forever. That's the deal. Love is life.

These passionate lines were in their infancy three years ago, when playwright Gary Bonasorte invited me to a reading of his newest play at the Manhattan Theatre Club. He said that writing *Ascendancy* had taken over his life; it was something very near to his heart.

I was intrigued and eagerly anticipated hearing the new piece. Still, I was completely unprepared for the impact that this beautiful play would have on me and, ultimately, Stages Repertory Theatre. Even in its earliest form, *Ascendancy* was an eloquent and inspiring cry for hope in this unending war against AIDS.

At first, I was worried Gary had written something that would be dismissed as just another AIDS play. However, the message of hope and encouragement make this work universal and a very special addition to our country's dramatic literature.

The subject of AIDS, and its role in our literary or artistic works, was widely discussed by notable writers and publishing figures last year at the Key West Literary Seminar entitled

"Literature in the Age of AIDS." During the four-day session, there was much debate over whether or not any

today with the advent of protease inhibitors and sparks of hope for an eventual cure.

Certainly such theatrical works have changed over the years to reflect the AIDS issues of the times—be it Larry Kramer's *Normal Heart*, which introduced AIDS to a wider audience in 1984, or Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, which tied the crisis to political and cosmic issues in 1992, or Gary Bonasorte's *Ascendancy*, which coincides today with the advent of protease inhibitors and sparks of hope for an eventual cure.

significant body of literature existed on the epidemic, since its beginnings in 1981.

"However, there was general agreement that drama is a literary form that is well suited to the subject of AIDS, and that the theatre—because of its immediacy, its public forum quality and its dialectical nature—is the place where AIDS writing has most richly flowered," reported *American Theatre* magazine on the seminar.

Certainly such theatrical works have changed over the years to reflect the AIDS issues of the times—be it Larry Kramer's *Normal Heart*, which introduced AIDS to a wider audience in 1984, or Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, which tied the crisis to political and cosmic issues in 1992, or Gary Bonasorte's *Ascendancy*, which coincides

Gary wrote *Ascendancy* as a cry for hope during very troubled times. And he knows from which he speaks as a veteran in the fight against AIDS. Gary co-founded the Community Research Initiative on AIDS in New York City, a research clinic very much like the one in the play. Still, he wrote lovingly of characters as they struggle with not only the effect of AIDS in their lives, but also the other issues which make us human—love, understanding and self-knowledge.

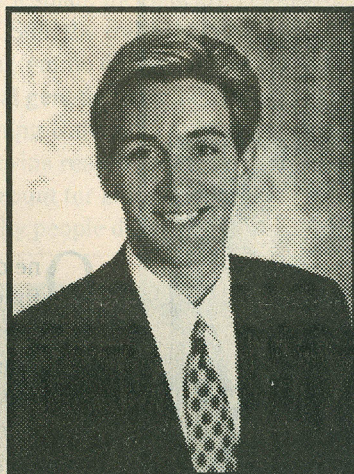
The Hopi, a spiritually advanced Native American tribe, have a term, *Koyaanisquatsi*, meaning "life out of balance." It seems like an appropriate term not only in this context, but to describe how many of us feel as we near the millennium.

The times we live in certainly have their trouble, but every day we all see wonderful developments, discoveries and miracles. Advancements in science, medicine and technology are often mind-boggling in their speed. As our global society shrinks, we've even begun to understand and dismantle the barriers against different cultures and our society's minorities.

Yet, when an unknown disease decimates segments of our population, we still respond with fear and ignorance much like we did in the Dark Ages with the Black Plague. *Koyaanisquatsi*. Despite our advancements, we still live out of balance with ourselves.

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*Ascendancy* explores how, as individuals, we struggle against great odds and that, right within ourselves, is the answer. It's about folks like you and me, thrust out of balance, into a struggle we never expected to encounter that has completely taken siege of our lives. And just when the odds seem impossibly stacked against us, that is when the miracles occur. Like life, the miracles tiptoe in and tap us on the shoulder, whispering they were there all along, but we just didn't know how to look for them.

*Ascendancy* feels like a lesson in recognizing Koyaanisquatsi.

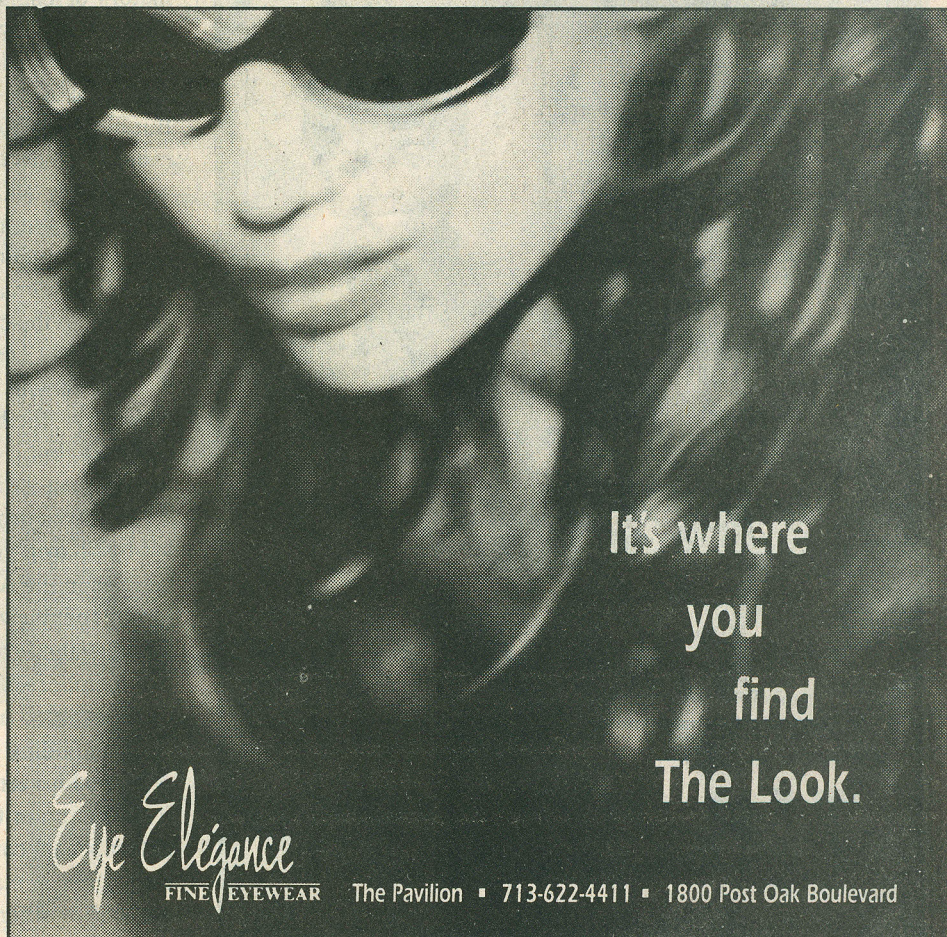
I was moved to produce and premier this inspiring new play because of the message of hope that Gary Bonasorte conveys. It is a simple message: Calm down and look within for strength. Then, good will flow your way. The heroism in *Ascendancy* is not about vanquishing some horrible enemy. Rather it is learning how to simply and quietly find within ourselves the balance to realize the greatest panacea we have or need—love.

From that first introduction in October 1995, *Ascendancy* has developed and made its world premier at Stages Repertory Theatre this month. The company and its board have been so roused by the play's message that we are hosting a series of seminars and activities to share topical AIDS information during the run of the play. We also want to thank and support local organizations which have long dedicated themselves to the AIDS cause.

One of the earliest images of enlightenment in Buddhism is the water lily. Its pure white blossom floats on the surface, flawless and unsullied by the stagnant muddy water from which it sprouted. Such a compelling image of pristine beauty, arising out of rubble and chaos, truly captures the essence of *Ascendancy*.



Rob Bundy, artistic director for Stages Repertory Theatre, directs *Ascendancy* in both Houston and New York. For more information on *Ascendancy*, call 713/52-STAGE.



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# Dream On.

PFLAG parents create new dreams for their children.

by Richard King

**T**hey say even the longest of journeys begins with a single step. Maybe some of the hardest journeys are born from a single admission. An admission, from a child to a parent, of being gay. For many parents, a child's coming out can be undeniably devastating. And, ironically, often causes many parents to charge "into the closet." Yet others choose a different path. A path that leads them from first acknowledgment to acceptance, and finally toward celebration. Paved with tears and guilt, confusion, feelings of failure, fears, and lost dreams, it is a choice that tests even the most enduring parents. But with it comes a precious

healing effect. Divisive barriers are finally identified, family relationships are repaired and strengthened, and prejudices are shed—it is truly a new beginning.

I recently sat down at the dinner table of Norma and Dick Graves to discuss the various factors that push some parents into the closet in shame and others to the microphone in celebration. Around me sat a group of eight active PFLAG (Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) members. As I looked around the room, I asked myself, "What allowed these parents to step out of their closets and crusade?"

To my left sat Jane and Irv Smith,

whose son Paul had come out by way of an abrupt letter mailed from Austin. Next sat Blake and Gordon Weiser. Blake's daughter Valerie was 40, married, and a mother of three when she came out unexpectedly over the phone. Dick and Norma Graves, and her mother, have taken a double dose, with children Rick and Julie both coming out in their 20s. And finally Barbara Winston, whose son Philip, one of 11 children, came out only after denial was no longer an option.

We gathered on a Sunday afternoon, a day reserved for celebration, to talk about their lives since their children first came out.

**OutSmart:** Before your children came out, what were your impressions of the "gay lifestyle"?

**Jane:** I thought it was caused by problems in the family.

**Blake:** I hadn't given it much thought. I accepted those I knew, but dismissed it beyond that.

**Norma:** I was indifferent. I didn't really think about it much. It was over there, and we're over here. So that's it. But now I'm offended by the word "lifestyle" since there is no one gay lifestyle.

**Irv:** I didn't know one gay person.

**Barbara:** I can go way back, to high school, and remember there was a gay club downtown, and the thing to do was drive around the block and look at those strange people. And I'm not even sure what gay meant. I just knew it meant weird.

**OutSmart:** Did any of you suspect your child was gay?

**Jane:** Never, no, just shy.

**Irv:** Yes, well, two reasons. Our son came out at 29. He had been a head lifeguard at Water World, with all these cute girls who chased him. But he never had a girlfriend.

**Jane:** I assumed he was just shy.

**Irv:** Boys overcome shyness when they like girls. And what cemented it for me, one time I was cleaning out his old car, we were going to sell it, and I found a gay newspaper under the seat. I can't remember the name of it now. I never told Jane about that. And this was several years before he came out. So for me it was not a big surprise.

**Barbara:** I think that I did, or that I suspected. I actually asked him a year before he came out. He chose not to say yes. I only asked when the elephant was

so clearly in the middle of the room and one of my daughters voiced to me, "Do you think Philip is gay?" At that point I thought, *This has got to be talked about.* I'm there, and she's there, no telling how many other family members are there. But I was still afraid to ask, afraid to insult him in some way or do damage by asking him.

**When your child came out, what were the first words out of your mouth?**

**Blake:** I ended the call by saying, "I love you no less, but don't ever expect me to carry a banner or march in a parade."

**Barbara:** Famous last words.

**Dick:** In Rick's case, he was always very creative. He never did the things I did. He was always different.

**Barbara:** That word "different" is one most of us have felt. For me it came in the form of a child who was lonely in some way. I kept looking for an explanation of his loneliness. He even said, "Mom, I'm different from the others."

**Jane:** I used to lie awake because I thought Paul was suicidal and I couldn't figure out why. Now, looking back, I think he *was* suicidal.

**Blake:** Not only did I not know, neither did my daughter, who is lesbian. She was a popular teenager, lots of boyfriends, lots of heartache. She was married with three children, and was 40 before she came out.

**OutSmart:** What caused her to come out at 40?

**Blake:** She met a lesbian at work, the chemistry was there. She felt those feelings for the first time.

**OutSmart:** When your child came out, what were the first words out of your mouth?

**Blake:** I ended the call by saying, "I love you no less, but don't ever [Blake's voice rises] expect me to carry a banner or march in a parade."

**Barbara:** Famous last words.

**Norma:** We've all said those words.

**Jane:** Our son wrote us a letter from Austin to tell us he was gay. It was our anniversary, and my husband Irv read the letter, and didn't show me until after we had celebrated. Later, we came home from dinner and there was the letter waiting for me. And I cried and cried and cried.

**Irv:** He wrote it abruptly, "I'm moving into my one-bedroom apartment with a friend, Gary. You can like him or not."

**Jane:** I cried and cried and cried.

**Norma:** Jane, did you cry after you found PFLAG?

**Jane:** Oh yes, I cried through all the meetings for six months. It took me so long. I have come tremendously far.

**Irv:** It took us six months to find PFLAG.

**Blake:** It took me 11 years.

**Irv:** That's why, as PFLAG speakers, our standard advice to different groups is before you come out, find out where the nearest PFLAG chapter is and give your parents the number. Tell your parents this is an organization that can help them.

**Jane:** Paula came out to us the very week Paul Broussard was murdered. I was so afraid our son was going to be gay-bashed.

**Blake:** Each story is unique. There is simply no pattern, how it all unfolds.

Sometimes we hear parents say, "We wish they'd tell us." Sometimes the gay child says, "I wish they would ask." At some point they reach an impasse.

**Jane:** People ask, "Is it harder on the mother or the father?" You can't say, because each person is so different.

**Barbara:** Philip had three factors help him come out. I had already asked him the question a year earlier, and he had had two frightening illnesses that forced him to face his life and how he was living it. He was living a lie. The elephant had grown immensely. I called him and said, "Philip, come home. I think you have something to tell us." And at that point he gave in. He walked in the door and poured out his heart and soul. A major transformation for him, for me, for our family. I consider it the beginning of a new life.

**Jane:** Paul and I are so close, now that he has come out. It helped our family. We had been growing apart, now we are closer than ever. And it helped us all to be better people. I had to examine every facet of my life and my beliefs. I had to examine all of my prejudices, my religion, and God, and the Bible. We used to be Methodist, now we're Unitarian. A big change.

**Dick:** When Rick came out at 27, he called a family counsel. It was one of those dreaded things you don't want to hear. Like a big cloud was coming. You knew something was going to happen. I didn't want to hear it, I didn't believe it. It was like a bad dream, or a fantasy. Like a chasm opened up. I asked myself, "How could this happen?" All of these years he'd been hiding who he really was. Of course, I guess I didn't want to know who he was. I think we had some suspicions before. It's hard not to notice that he was different ever since he was a little tyke. We had always told him he was special, different, and that was fine. It was implied, "You're okay, but you are not

gay." I was homophobic. I still struggle as a recovering homophobic. At first we thought we could take him to a psychiatrist. Later, we said, "It's okay, but we aren't sure we want your friends coming here." He replied, "But Dad, they've been coming over here all along."

**I still struggle as a recovering homophobic. At first we thought we could take him to a psychiatrist. Later, we said, "It's okay, but we aren't sure we want your friends coming here." He replied, "But Dad, they've been coming over here all along."**  
**Dick**

**Everyone:** Laughter.

**Dick:** It was a pretty silent night. I still loved him, but it was hard to fathom. It was a hard struggle for five years.

**Norma:** We have suffered over our response to Rick. We were sitting in the living room in stunned silence. We didn't cry, or scream, or tell him to get out. But there were some loving things we wished we would have done. It was almost like we were outside, observing the proceedings. Rick had books, and telephone numbers of neighborhood parents we knew, but didn't know they had gay children. In some respects, I think we moved quickly with Rick. He told us in November of '87, and we had Easter dinner with he and his partner a few months later. In other ways it moved slowly. I had bought into the word "lifestyle." He knew it would take a long time, it had taken him a long time. Dick really didn't want to deal with it.

**Barbara:** My reaction was different. I was prepared for it. Our journey has been his internalized homophobia, his healing. In fact, before he came out, I knew Philip was depressed, I could feel it in a room. When

he came out it was a relief. I thought, "Aha! At least we've got the problem now." It was such a mixture of feelings. I can remember Philip crying and sobbing and rocking. He kept sobbing, "I always wanted to be a dad." It's seared on my brain. His sisters were saying, "We love you. We love you." Everyone was crying. You never forget the moment.

**OutSmart:** What sets all of you apart from other parents who cannot accept their children, or even disown their children?

**Blake:** It's important to mention that everyone at this table has very loving relationships with their children. There are parents who deny their children exist, tear their name out of the Bible, tear up every snapshot of their kids.

**Irv:** One word—PFLAG.

**Norma:** In our family, telling the truth is valued.

**Barbara:** Intimacy in my family.

**OutSmart:** How did each of you discover PFLAG?

**Norma:** Eventually Rick brought PFLAG letterhead to me with the national phone number on it.

**Jane:** A friend saw PFLAG on TV and called me. So I called.

**Barbara:** I think a lesbian friend told me about it.

**Blake:** I heard about it from a group who came to our church. I was very eager to call.

**OutSmart:** What advice do you have for parents who suspect their children are gay, but don't know how to approach the issue?

**Blake:** Create the opportunity for the child to feel comfortable with who they are.

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**Dick:** Let the children know you love and accept them no matter what.

**Jane:** Give them the right atmosphere.

**Irv:** In the right atmosphere, the obvious thing is to quit saying homophobic remarks around the house.

**Dick:** It seems the greatest fear of children we've spoken to is rejection by their parents.

**Everyone:** Yes.

**OutSmart:** What are some of the specific things PFLAG does to help parents overcome homophobia?

**Blake:** Speak its name.

**Barbara:** Many parents fear what they'll find at a PFLAG meeting. Many are afraid to come. They are surprised to find people just like themselves.

**Norma:** PFLAG responds to parents with love and affirmation. But every parent finds their own way. We never tell them where they should be on their journey.

**Jane:** We have a helpline that is always answered by a mother, and who will send literature out immediately.

**Norma:** PFLAG has a wonderful lending library, and some parents prefer to sit quietly with written word.

**Blake:** We have mentors who will follow up with parents by phone after their first meeting.

**Jane:** Our small groups help people talk.

**Gordon:** A loving environment that accepts people.

**Blake:** Acceptance. And our small groups allow parents to converse with gay and lesbian PFLAG members. That really seems to help.

**It is so important for someone to be with someone else with similar experiences. You can tell your best friend, but she'll never totally understand, not like the other PFLAG parents will.**

**jane**

**Jane:** It is so important for someone to be with someone else with similar experiences. You can tell your best friend, but she'll never totally understand, not like the other PFLAG parents will.

**Dick:** I had a tremendous anxiety when I went to my first meeting. But when you sit in a small group and you talk and you listen to other parents, it's reaffirming. I thought, "They're a lot like us. Someone else is on their journey."

**OutSmart:** What books would you recommend for a child to give his or her parents when they come out?

**Norma:** *The Family Heart*. It is wonderful.

**Barbara:** For African Americans, there's *All God's Children*.

**Norma:** *But Lord, They're Gay* is a good book. It's about a woman who went to San Francisco to convert the heathen homosexuals; instead she fell in love with them. Also, for religious purposes, I think *Stranger at the Gate* is very good.

**OutSmart:** One thing that seems to be consistent with all of you is your acceptance, the ability to accept the curve ball you've been thrown, and simply move on.

**Barbara:** Giving up your original dreams and creating new ones.

**Norma:** One of the things that helped me was a friend, in an entirely different setting, who had been to a workshop about the "Death of Dreams." And creating new ones. And I thought, "Ah, that's what's happened in my life. I've had dreams die and now I can make new ones." It was like a window opened up and light came in.

Though every journey is walked alone, there are definite, almost tangible commonalities between these eight parents who have sent them on the path toward celebration. A steadfast refusal to allow society to spoon-feed them, a preference to think liberally no matter how conservative their background, and an inherent strength drawn from their PFLAG membership. Above all, however, the common thread is an unconditional love for their children. A love stronger than generation gaps, stronger than society's conditionings and pressures, stronger than the dreams they nurtured for decades. And though each journey never truly ends, new dreams are born along the way. These parents are living proof.

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PFLAG meets the first Sunday of every month at Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas Ave., from 2 to 4:30 p.m. For more information call the PFLAG Helpline at 713/867-9020. Find out more about PFLAG Houston at [www.pflaghtx.org](http://www.pflaghtx.org).

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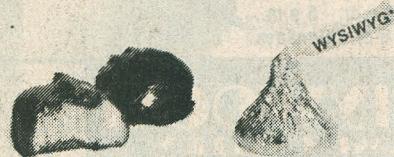
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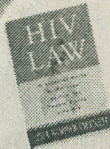
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## GrooveOut

by Chris Sill

### PURE CATIE CURTIS

Critically acclaimed singer/songwriter Catie Curtis is making waves in the folk music arena. With her self-titled second release she deservedly stands on the brink of major stardom, which is no news to her lesbian and gay fans. The album has been nominated for Album of the Year by the Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards, to be held March 9 in New York.

Born and raised in the small town of Saco, Maine, Curtis purchased her first drum set with a \$50 loan from her father. She later picked up the acoustic guitar and began performing in local clubs.

After graduating from Brown University she played the grassroots folk circuit for five years before her big break came. In 1996, Guardian Records released her debut album, *Truth From Lies*. The album received widespread acclaim from both gay and straight press.

Curtis is often called a story collector. Her new material intimately recounts stories about people and places from her past. "I Don't Cry Anymore" recalls youthful memories of first love at 16, while "River Winding" is a tour through a dying New England mill town. The album's first single, "Soulfully," describes that all-too-familiar and awkward phase of early romance: "I woke up at 5 o'clock and I couldn't get back to sleep. I kept myself from calling you by watching the TV, but all the faces that I saw, they just turned into this, the gentle of your hands and the tender of your kiss." Her vocal delivery is pure and honest, like her songwriting.

Curtis was joined by a number of musicians on the new album, most notably Roy Bittan, the piano player for Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band. Bittan produced the album as well as providing keyboards.

## REVIEWS

**ARIA** *Aria* (Astor Place Recordings)—Opera meets Enigma? Well not quite, but you may think so upon first listen. Paul Schwartz and Mario Grigorov have beautifully fused two drastically different genres of music into one. They have taken the works of Verdi, Puccini and Mozart (among others) and set them to contemporary downtempo beats. What's really refreshing here, and what makes this interpretation work, is the minimal

use of electronic instrumentation. Live orchestral arrangements accompany two flawless vocalists, Rebecca Luker and Michelle Ivey. Some of opera's greats are represented here; *Otello*, *The Magic Flute*, *Carmen*, *L'Elisir D'Amore*. So you never knew the words to "Un Bel Di" from *Madame Butterfly*? Not to worry, now you can sing along in four different languages. *Aria* is a must. Perfect for that stuffy dinner party.



## ROBERT MILES

*23am* (Arista) —In the complex world of dance music where more and more DJs are producing their own music, it's rare to see a major label back the efforts of a DJ/artist through two albums. America gets a second chance to visit Robert Miles'



world of "dream music" with his latest vision *23am*. Penned the father of the dream music movement due to the worldwide success of *Children* in 1996, Miles delves deeper into his dream on this outing, creating a conceptual album that can hardly be categorized as dance. "Full Moon" is the strongest contender for club play and fortunately will be the first single released in America in early spring. Other highlights include guest vocalist Kathy Sledge (Sister Sledge) on two songs and some amazing saxophone solos by Michel Gaucher. *23am* won't have you dancing all night, but it will chill you out when you come home. Sweet dreams.

while the first single "Don't Go Lose It Baby," a remake by Hugh Masekela, is starting to receive club play around the country. *Coming Home* is a solid mix of pop ballads and high energy dance anthems which should put Rozalla back on top.

**VARIOUS ARTISTS**—*Jackie Brown* (Maverick) Regardless if you've seen the film, you must listen to this savvy collection of '70s soul from the soundtrack. Mixed between some graphic dialogue (it is a Quentin Tarantino film) are classics like Brothers Johnson's "Strawberry Letter 23," Bill Withers' "Who Is He (And What Is He to You)," and Minnie Riperton's



"Inside My Love." Of course it's not all a soul story here—rounding out the bill is the big bad "Tennessee Stud" by Johnny Cash and the silky smooth Randy Crawford gem "Streetlife." Good music is timeless; take a trip back to when soul was cool. What are you waiting for?

**ROZALLA** *Coming Home* (Popular)—A fitting title for the former Queen of Rave's new album. It marks her return to the U.S. on a new label (Popular Records) and her second creative collaboration with the songwriting/production team Band of Gypsies, the duo responsible for her early hits "Everybody's Free" and "Are You Ready to Fly." The album is full of pop/dance material sure to please fans anticipating new songs from the Zambian-born singer. A spring release date means you may have to wait for the full CD,

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*Chris Sill spins tunes at Rich's and pushes dance records on club kids at Atomic Music.*

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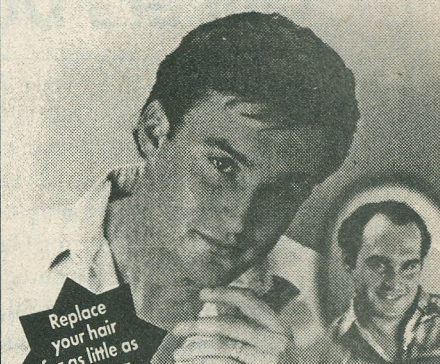


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# Calendar of Events

Please note the Calendar deadline for *OutSmart's* March issue is 5 p.m., Friday, February 13.

## February

**4 The Politics of AIDS.** A discussion of current political issues surrounding the HIV/AIDS crisis featuring John Michael Gonzalez (trustee, AIDS Action Foundation, Washington, D.C.), Harry Livesay (director, Bering Advocacy Project), and facilitated by Gary Eixera (The Houston Black-Tie Dinner). 6:15 pm @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh. A performance of the play *Ascendancy* will follow at 8 pm; a percentage of the ticket sales will benefit a designated beneficiary of The Houston Black-Tie Dinner, Inc. More info: 713/52-STAGE.

**4 Car Wash** to benefit the charities of Out-gate, Inc. 10 am-3 pm @ Gentry, 2303 Richmond. Rain date is Feb. 21.

**7 The Strange Demise of Jim Crow.** This film is the remarkable story of the civil rights movement in Houston, home to the South's largest African-American community. Seen through the eyes of the participants, the documentary reveals the secret agreements and controversial news blackouts that facilitated the desegregation of lunch counters, hotels, restaurants, and theaters in the 1960s. The film is emblematic of the quiet, almost stealthy way many southern cities un-

timately desegregated. Directed by David Berman (USA, 1997, 57 min.). \$5 general admission. 7:30 pm @ The Museum of Fine Arts' Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7515.

**7 Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents (HGLP)** get together for a family activity—Valentine's Dance/Party! Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Dr. Call for time: 713/284-4939.

**7&8 "Tales from a Bitch Girl" & "Peeling the Onion."** "Tales" is a new solo performance work by Los Angeles-based performer Danielle Brazelle. This piece is filled with adult perversions, shattered illusions of purity & twisted journeys of childhood memories. It is a hard-hitting portrait of what it really means to grow up as a queer little girl in America. In addition to her performance, Brazelle will also lead "Peeling the Onion," a performance & writing workshop for lesbian, bisexual & questioning women. "Tales" is Saturday @ 8 pm. Tickets are \$12, \$10 (members), \$7 (students & seniors). "Onion" is Sunday @ 1 pm. Admission is \$10. Both will be @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. For 24-hour reservations, call 713/228-0914.

**7-9 Barber and Bell.** Young violinist Joshua Bell came to national attention at age 14, when he won the Seventeen Magazine/General Motors Competition.

Today, at age 29, Bell has earned a reputation as a dynamic performer as well as a dedicated and thoughtful musician who has successfully bridged the gap from child prodigy to mature artist. In these concerts, he will perform the Barber Violin Concerto; also on the program are Weber's rousing Overture to *Oberon* and the popular Dvorak Symphony No. 7. Sat. and Mon. at 8 pm, Sun. at 2:30 pm @ Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets range from \$13-\$59 and may be purchased at the Houston Ticket Center in Jones Hall, at all Ticketmaster outlets, or charged by phone at 713/227-ARTS.

**11 Interfaith Tu B'shvat Seder.** Spirituality, Ethics, & the Environment with Rabbi Arthur Waskow, author of *Wrestling With God I and II* and director of the Shalom Center. \$5 and bring raw fruits or nuts. 7 pm @ the Jewish Community Center Auditorium, 5601 South Braeswood. For reservations/information, call Gary at 713/729-8786.

**11 Adolescents and AIDS.** A discussion of changing attitudes and the increase of infection among adolescents. Basic HIV-transmission information will also be provided. Led by Amy Dolph and Mike Mizwa (AIDS Foundation Houston). 6:15 pm @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh. A performance of the play *Ascendancy* will follow at 8 pm; a percentage of the ticket sales will benefit AIDS Foundation Houston. More info: 713/52-STAGE.

**14 Valentine's Day Bash.** It's an evening with Girls With Guitars, Brian, and Kat Drake. So join 'em for a music-filled night starting at 7 pm, with only a \$5 cover, at Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama. Need more information? Call 713/52-AROMA.

**14 Winter Gala.** The 1998 Human Rights Campaign Winter Gala will feature special guests Mitchell Anderson (TV's *Party of Five*), Mary Fisher (may best be remembered for her appearance before the delegation of the Republican National Convention in August of 1992) and Donna Red Wing (national field director for the Human Rights Campaign). (See *interview with Mary Fisher* on page 35.) The gala evening kicks off at 6:30 pm with a VIP cocktail reception & silent auction. Dinner seating will begin at 7:30 pm followed by the program featuring the special guests. The evening, which concludes with dancing to live music, will take place at the elegant Wyndham Warwick Hotel. Tickets are \$150 and include the pre-dinner cocktail reception, silent auction & dinner. Tickets for the VIP cocktail party with Fisher, Anderson and Red Wing, plus dinner are \$200. Tickets can be ordered through Box Office Tickets at 1-800-494-TIXS. To purchase a table for 10, call 713/520-5153.

**22 Judy Nelson** (Martina Navratilova's ex and Rita Mae Brown's ex) will be the featured speaker for LiB, a women's empowerment group. Women only. 7 pm. Call 713/529-0077 for location/more info.

## Queers Do It on Video!

**Q**uAC, Houston's Queer Artist Collective, is currently seeking submissions of queer experimental video for "Mix-up Video," an evening of new video works, part of the 1998 Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Artists are encouraged to submit queer videos from every imaginable genre. (But keep those "home movies" to yourselves!) The only rules: **1. Keep it short!** Preferred video length: 20 minutes or less. **2. Keep it VHS!** QuAC is unable to screen any other format. **3. Keep it Queer!** This is part of a gay and lesbian film festival, after all. • Entries must be postmarked by April 1, 1998. Selected videos will screen on Saturday, May 30, 1998, as part of the 1998 Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Submissions can be sent to QuAC Mix-up Video, P.O. Box 66333, Houston, TX 77266. For entry forms, visit QuAC on the Web at [www.ncosoft.com/~travism/quac.htm](http://www.ncosoft.com/~travism/quac.htm) or e-mail to [dwl@diverseworks.org](mailto:dwl@diverseworks.org) to have one sent to you. For more info: 713/527-0304.



Members of QuAC.

**21 ComedySportz-Houston** and celebrities improvise to benefit Gilda's Club, a cancer wellness support center named for Gilda Radner. Gilda's Club is the official national charity of ComedySportz, and similar benefits are happening nationwide in February. ComedySportz believes in the healing power of humor, having performed more than 1,000 benefits nationwide. It was this common bond and the inspiration of Radner's comedic work that brought ComedySportz to Gilda's Club. 8 pm @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, I-10 at North Main. Tickets \$10, and all ticket proceeds benefit Gilda's Club. For tickets or for more information, call 713/521-2226.

**22 Between Travesty and Transfiguration** is a new work by photographer Joel-Peter Witkin, who will speak about his work at the first annual Christopher Kalil Memorial Lecture Series. Witkin has achieved notoriety for photographing mutilated bodies, corpses, skeletons and stuffed animals, as well as dwarves, hunchbacks, freaks and hermaphrodites in tableaux filled with references to religious icons and images from art history. His images alternately attract and repulse. 2 pm @ The Museum of Fine Arts' Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet. A reception follows the lecture at the Glassell School of Art, 5101 Montrose. The lecture and reception are free and open to the public, on a first-come, first-served basis. Some material may not be suited for younger audiences. For more information, call 713/639-7500.

**25-Mar. 1 Ski Weekend** presented by IGLOO (International Gay and Lesbian Outdoor Organizations). For \$55 plus your airfare and accommodations, you can enjoy a welcome wine and cheese party, a T-shirt, two evenings of entertainment (comedy acts, live music, dancing), a pajama party, ski races, ski pass discounts and activities for all levels of skiers. Accommodations for four nights range from \$100-\$260 based on double occupancy. If this sounds like fun, you can call your local organization, Houston Outdoor Group (HOG), at 713/KAMP-OUT, or direct your e-mail to IGLOO@tiac.net for more info.

**28 Deadline** to submit applications to be a '98 financial beneficiary of Outrage. (See page 59 for details.)

## Planning Ahead Mar/Apr

**Mar. 3-15 Rent**, the play that has singlehandedly reinvigorated Broadway, makes its Houston debut. It is a joyous, heartbreaking and often breathtaking musical that celebrates a community of artists as they struggle with the soaring hopes and tough realities of today's world. The success of *Rent* is tempered by the death of its creator, Jonathan Larson, who died unexpectedly of an aortic aneurysm on the morning of January 25, 1996, just hours after *Rent*'s final dress rehearsal Off-Broadway and 10 days before his 36th birthday. *Rent* has become the most honored musical since *A Chorus Line* in 1976, winning the 1996 Tony Award for Best Musical and Best Musical citations from the New York Drama Critics Circle, the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle. *Rent* is only the seventh musical to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Tickets \$35.50 to \$55. More info: 713/629-3700.

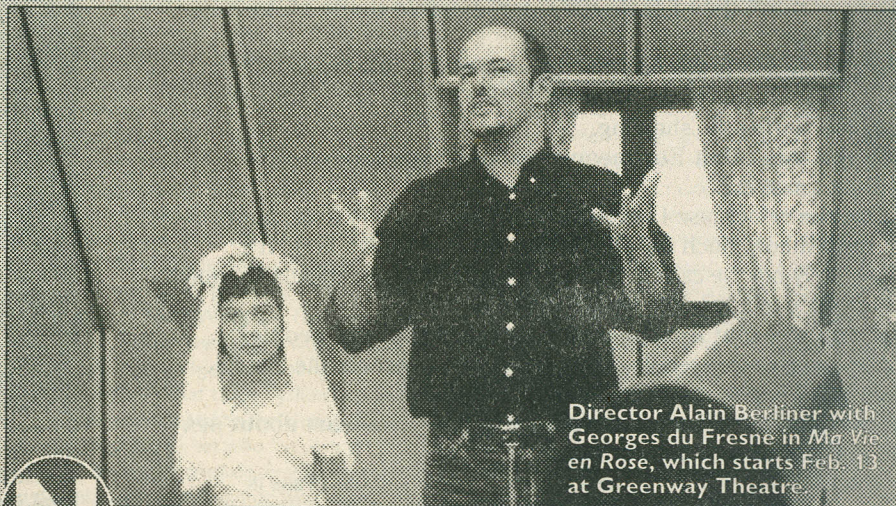
**Mar. 6 Getting to Know You.** Outrage, a non-profit fund-raising organization for HIV/AIDS, will be hosting a "Getting to Know You" party for prospective members & sponsors. 7-9 pm @ Cafe Artiste, 1601 West Main. Free light buffet. To RSVP: 713/706-2508.

**Mar. 13&15 Little Women.** Adapted many times for stage and screen, Louisa May Alcott's classic novel now comes to the opera house, where it will be sung

*Continued on page 55*

# The Boy Who Knew He Was a Girl

*Ma Vie en Rose (My Life in Pink)* recounts the story of a child who understands that what is normal for him is not for other people.



Director Alain Berliner with Georges du Fresne in *Ma Vie en Rose*, which starts Feb. 13 at Greenway Theatre.

**N**

ear the beginning of the film *Ma Vie en Rose*, seven-year-old Ludovic has made a friend at school. When Ludovic is picked up from school by his grandmother, she asks, "Isn't he your dad's boss' son?" Ludovic nods. "Are you pals?" He answers yes, then adds, "We're going to marry when I'm not a boy." Somewhat confused, Granny asks, "Not a boy?" To Ludovic's affirmative reply, Granny says, "You have a lot to teach me." • And teach he does. Only problem is that, though Granny is willing to learn, Ludovic's parents are not. His mother does try at first but becomes overwhelmed with Ludovic's dressing in women's clothing; the father is an ignorant jerk—they reverse sentiments later in the film. • Ludovic tries to please his parents by playing sports, but he is simply way out of his league. He even tries to commit suicide by laying in the garage freezer with the lid closed. When he's found, the entire family is eager to please him. His father gives him one wish, anything he wants. Ludovic wants to wear a skirt to a neighbor's party. You'll have to see the film to see the results. • Though Ludovic often dresses up in women's clothing during the film, he is not a transvestite. Through it all, it is made very clear that he *knows* he's supposed to be a girl. Doesn't matter if you're transgendered, gay, bisexual, straight, or anywhere in between—if you've ever felt different, outside the norm, you'll be able to identify with Ludovic's struggle to be who he is. • Golden Globe winner of this year's Best Foreign Film, *Ma Vie en Rose* is beautifully acted and written, intricately laced with humor, and sensitively directed by Alain Berliner.

### INTERVIEW WITH ALAIN BERLINER, DIRECTOR OF MA VIE EN ROSE

**OutSmart:** Where did the idea for the movie come from?

Alain Berliner: The screenwriter, Chris Vander Stappen, brought me the idea because she's a woman who thought from a very early age that she was a man. She wrote it but reversing it.

**Was it difficult working with a child with such a role?**

No, not really. I was very lucky to find him because he's so mature, and he's older than he is in the movie. When we were shooting, he was 11 years old. It's an age when you're able to understand a lot of things. He comes from

Continued from previous page

an actor's family, his mother being an actress; he has a twin sister, so he knows what happens with girls; and he knows what it's like to be an actor—he was on stage for the first time when he was five.

**Did you have any problems because of the subject matter of the movie?**

We had a lot of problems during the shooting in France. The administration has to give you authorization to shoot with young kids, and they didn't want to give it to us. We asked them, "What's the problem with the script?" And they said, "It's not with the script, it's the subject."

**Do you think they felt that it's not possible that a child can think that?**

Absolutely not. It was just that the subject was disturbing to them. But when the movie was finished, it didn't create any controversy. It was just during the shooting.

**Do you think that Europeans are more open about this subject matter?**

I don't know because I haven't been in the U.S. very long. But I am surprised how much the gay community is accepted here. It's absolutely not the case in Europe. It seems that Americans are much more open-minded than we are in Europe.

**Do you feel that Europeans are accepting of gay people?**

I think maybe gay people are more accepted here [in the States], maybe it's just the big city [L.A.].

**I assumed that Europeans are more open, at least about sex in general or at least nudity.**

France is a very conservative country. People say the grass is greener on the other side—it's very green in the U.S.

—Blase DiStefano



Former lesbian Norma McCorvey—she was the "Jane Roe" in the 1973 Roe vs. Wade case—is now a born-again Christian. Though that landmark case made abortion legal, McCorvey never had an abortion and is now an anti-abortion activist! See it all in *Roe vs. Roe: Baptism by Fire* on Cinemax, February 10 and 19.

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in English. *Little Women* is a charming chronicle of the coming of age of the four March sisters—Jo, Beth, Meg and Amy—in 19th-century England. This is Houston Opera Studio's world premiere presented by Houston Grand Opera @ Wortham Theater Center's Cullen Theater, Texas Ave. at Smith St. Tickets range from \$15-\$25; by phone at 713/227-ARTS or in person at both Houston Ticket Center locations (Wortham Theater Center & Jones Hall) & all Ticketmaster outlets.

**Mar. 28 The Diana Awards.** The Diana Foundation, founded in 1952, has been active in the community supporting many organizations through their fund-raising efforts. This annual awards show will benefit The Assistance Fund; a community service award will be given; and there will be the traditional roast of members and friends of the foundation. It will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel. Ticket prices begin at \$95. For more information, call 713/639-2000.

**Apr. 24-26 Enchanted Rock.** The Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) has already booked three sites at Enchanted Rock, and since this is always a popular trip, it's important to reserve your space early. Call the Hogleline at 713/KAMP-OUT.

## Theater

• **Ascendancy.** Thrust together by deperate circumstances, a group of strangers in a New York AIDS clinic first become friends, then family. When on the brink of despair, a glimmer of hope from the most unlikely of sources rekindles their commitment to continue their struggle. Through February 15 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway @ Waugh. Tickets range from \$10-\$28 and may be purchased by calling Advantix at 1-800-776-6048.

• **Bang the Drum Slowly** is a new adaptation of the novel and the 1973 film that has been called the greatest baseball movie of all time. It's an unlikely story of two very different teammates, Henry "Author" Wiggins and Bruce Pearson, whose journey to the World Series becomes a test of human dignity. More than the game is at stake as Author learns that Bruce is hiding a fatal disease. Their friendship allows Bruce the dignity he deserves and leaves the audience exalted. February 25-March 29 @ Theater LaB, 1706 Alamo. For tickets/more info: 713/868-7516.

• **Distasteful Voices,** a work in progress by Houston playwright Celeste Bedford-Walker, is a play with music based on the memories of the lives of the people buried in College Memorial Park, a long-forgotten cemetery in Fourth Ward, Houston, Texas. February 19-March 1 @ The Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main Street, 713/520-0055.

• **Four Dogs and a Bone** is an adult comedy by John Patrick Shanley that mixes a middle-aged movie producer, a seemingly guileless actress in need of that one big part, a scheming ingenue and a naive young writer

with a hit, then turns them loose on each other. The beautiful people are at it with enough lies and backbiting for a cast of thousands as these four dogs go after their bone. Through February 15 @ Theater LaB, 1706 Alamo. For tickets/more info: 713/868-7516.

• **Long Day's Journey Into Night.** In a new production featuring Oscar-winning actress Ellen Burstyn, this play by Eugene O'Neill strips away layers of secrets and half-truths to arrive at the core of one family's dysfunction. Considered to be O'Neill's masterpiece—and one of the greatest works of the American theater—*Long Day's Journey Into Night* explores the American landscape in 1912, centering on issues of drug addiction, illness, and alcoholism and their effect on the Tyrone family. February 20-March 15 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets (\$31-\$46) are available at the Alley box office or by calling 713/228-8421.

• **Madame Butterfly.** Houston Grand Opera begins its winter repertory with acclaimed director Francesca Zambello's new production of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. This elegant and richly symbolic presentation of the classic stars Russian sensation Ljuba Kazamovskaya as the naive young geisha. It will be sung in Italian with English surtitles. Tickets (\$21-\$176) are available at both Houston Ticket Center locations and at all Ticketmaster locations, or by phone at 713/227-ARTS. Through February 15 @ Wortham Theater Center's Brown Theater, Texas Avenue @ Smith Street.

• **Pterodactyls** offers a hysterical though sometimes dark look at a family that takes dysfunction to new lows. The play is populated by the Duncan family, an upper-crust, East-Coast set who live in a protected, false world of their own creation. Emma, the Duncans' young daughter, is a hypochondriac who forgets things. Tommy, her fiancé, wears a dress and works as a maid. The family matron, Grace, drinks, shops, drinks, plans parties, drinks, ignores her daughter and drinks a lot.

Arthur, the man of the house, lives in a world of abstractions and loves his daughter a bit too much. When the prodigal son Todd returns and announces he has AIDS, their illusionary pretenses are slowly destroyed, leaving them exposed to and unprepared for reality. Tickets are \$15 (adults) and \$12 (seniors & students). The play is not appropriate for children. 8 pm, Fridays & Saturdays, through February 28 @ Masquerade Theatre, 720 West 11th, 713/861-7045.

• **Seven Guitars** centers around Floyd "Schoolboy" Barton, a blues guitarist from Pittsburgh with a chance at a recording contract in 1948 Chicago. Agents beckon Floyd to Chicago to keep on turning out the vinyl but Floyd's priority is to reassemble his life in the Steel City. He has to win his sweetheart back, get his band together and settle the score with a white pawnshop owner. Audiences should be riveted by this man's quest for a dream that seems just within reach. February 13-March 14 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue. Tickets (\$31-\$46) are available at the Alley box office or by calling 713/228-8421.

• **The Sisters Rosensweig** is a captivating portrait of

three very different sisters reuniting after a lengthy separation. We see them coming to terms with their differences while finding respect and love for one another. This Pulitzer Prize-winning author—Wendy Wasserstein—has given us a play that is both funny and observant. In this gem of a comedy, the laughter is all but continuous. Tickets \$5-\$10. Through March 7 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219.

• **That's the Spirit** is billed as escapist fun, a spooky puzzle and an entertaining whodunit. This cockeyed mystery spoof runs from February 27-March 28 @ Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd, 713/682-3525.

• **The Wifings.** When Frances Burney's first novel, *Evelina* (1778), was such a popular success, her admirers urged her to turn her genius for comedy into a work for the theater. She obliged with *The Wifings*. Perhaps Burney was a little too successful, however, with this hilarious send-up of the "Bluestocking" society, the women of high social position who saw themselves as literary arbiters. Her advisors (her own father) felt that the comedy's raucous tone was unsuitable for a woman's pen. More important, they worried that the play would make powerful enemies among the influential women who had supported Frances' (and Dr. Burney's) career. Although a theater was ready to produce the work, Burney bowed to the wishes of her father and withdrew the comedy. The play languished in manuscript until it was published in the early 1990s in an anthology of 17th and 18th century plays by women. This world premiere will play February 5-March 15 @ Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. For tickets (\$12-\$17) or more info, call 713/524-6706.

• **Young and Fertile,** an all-new comedy about the adventures of The Singing Fertle Family from Dumpster, Texas, flashes back to the 1970s when a class reunion has everybody reliving favorite moments from their senior year. Admission is \$14. reservations are required, and tickets must be purchased in advance. Through May 9 @ Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt, 713/522-7722.

## Theater Young People

• **African Delight** originated in the 1993-94 season, and it has been delighting audiences ever since. More than 100,00 children (and a few adults) have clapped their hands and stomped their feet to the singing, drumming, dancing, and storytelling of Africa. Now in its fifth incarnation, this year the show celebrates the stories and rhythms of Egypt, Botswana, Kenya, and South Africa with new songs, dances and more. Through February 22 @ The Children's Museum, 1500 Binz. Tickets \$5 (\$4 for Children's Museum members). Ticket info or reservations: 713/529-1314.

• **Cinderella in Spain ~ Cinderella en España** is a bilingual one-act opera of the Cinderella story set in 18th-century Spain to be performed for children. This production is a collaboration between Houston Grand Opera and Opera to Go!, a local professional touring company which presents fully staged portable operas for children in grades K-7. Tickets \$7.50 for adults, \$5 for students. 11 am, February 28 & March 7 @ Heinen Theater, Houston Community College campus, 3517 Austin. Tickets: 713/227-ARTS. For more information, call 713/546-0230.

• **The Crowning Glory, The Story of Esther** is the tale of a young girl's courage and sacrifice for her people. It recounts the story of Queen Esther during the Jewish exile in Persia. When Esther's uncle, Mor-



Tommy dusts the T-Rex in *Pterodactyls* through February at Masquerade Theatre.

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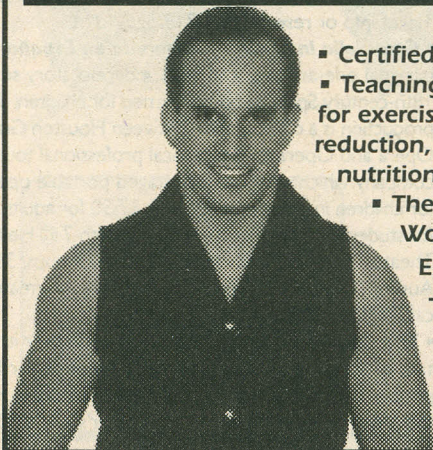
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decai, receives word that Haman, the king's advisor, is plotting a mass slaughter of the Jews, Esther must risk her life to foil his plans. The A.D. Players children's theater brings this story to life through February 21 @ the Nancy Calhoun Paulson Children's Theater located at St. Luke's United Methodist Church Rotunda Theater, 3471 Westheimer. Tickets \$5 children, \$7 adults. Call 713/526-2721 for more information.

• **A Midsummer Night's Dream** has been adapted for elementary-aged kids! Shakespeare's *Dream* comes to life with splashes of action that help clarify the text. Through February 20, Tuesday-Friday (9 am & 11 am)/Saturdays (11 am), @ Inter-Active Theater Company, Lambert Hall Performing Arts Center, 17th & Heights Blvd. For cost/more information, call 713/682-1397.

• **The Mischief Makers.** Myth & magic combine in this multi-cultural story of three mischief makers—Raven from North America, Anansi the Spider from Africa, and Reynard the Fox from Europe. These tricksters meet for the first time after causing mischief for centuries in their different parts of the world. Amazed to discover they share common pursuits, each insists he is the master mischief-maker. The three use storytelling, totem poles, masks, and disguises to compete for the title of The World's Greatest Trickster. Through February 28 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh Dr. Tuesday-Friday 9:30 am & 11:30 am, Saturday & Sunday 2 pm. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased by calling 713/527-8243.

• **The Sorcerer's Other Apprentice.** Chip wants to be a real wizard . . . not just an apprentice! Merwyn, the sorcerer, sends him on a quest where he meets a captive prince, a one-of-a-kind princess, and a hungry dragon, then finally discovers that he is a real wizard after all. Full of laughs and songs, this play helps us to discover the child in all of us. Tickets \$5. Saturdays, 11 am & 1:30 pm, through February 14 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219.

• **Tuck Everlasting.** Winnie Foster had no idea who was living in the woods next to her grandmother's house until the day she stumbled on the Tuck family and heard the amazing tale of the enchanted spring water that made them immortal. Learn what Winnie discovered at this Main Street Theater's Young People's Theater production, which is most suitable for children in grades 4 thru 8. Tickets \$5. Saturdays at 2 pm, through February 14 @ Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose. Tickets: 713/524-6706.

## Radio/TV

• **After Hours** (Radio) Saturdays, midnight to 3 am. Featuring the QMZ (Queer Music Zone) with Jimmy Carper. KPFT 90.1 FM.

• **Lesbian & Gay Voices** (Radio) Thursdays, 7-8 pm. Features, news, music, interviews, reviews, and commentary. KPFT 90.1 FM.

• **AIDS Talk Houston** (TV) Access Houston Community Television (AHCT); showtimes are listed in local television guides under AHCT channels (Wamer—Ch. 17; TCI—Ch. 41; Phonoscope—Ch. 72; Optel—Ch. 07).

• **Montrose 77006** (TV) is a fresh mix of gay & lesbian comedy, politics, and on-the-scene reports of activities in the Montrose area. For further information or to advertise your group activity, organization, or business: 902-2231 (24-hr. voice mail). Access Houston Community Television (AHCT); showtimes are listed in local television guides under AHCT channels (Wamer: Ch. 17, TCI: Ch. 41, Phonoscope: Ch. 72, Optel: Ch. 07).

## Art/Photography

• **Art Classes for People With HIV: The Art League of Houston** is offering free art classes for people with HIV. The ongoing course meets every Thursday & Friday from 1-4 pm at the Art League, 1953 Montrose. Mixed media projects for the artist and non-artist. Constructive art-making in a relaxed atmosphere. Focus is on the healing power of art. For information, call 713/523-9530. **The Museum of Fine Arts Houston** is offering free art classes for HIV-positive individuals at the Glassell School of Art every Friday from 1-4 pm, 5101 Montrose Blvd. Lunch is provided. For information, call Patrick Palmer at 713/526-1118.

• **Auschwitz Eyewitness: The Artwork of Jan Komski.** More than 50 pen and ink drawings and 18 paintings, seen now for the first time, comprise only a portion of Komski's substantial body of work. As a Polish Catholic political prisoner twice incarcerated in Auschwitz-Birkenau, Komski awakens the memories of inhumane conditions of camp life and resurrects them in these vibrant watercolor and oil paintings, as well as in contrasting dark pen and ink drawings. Through March 31 @ the Holocaust Museum, 5401 Caroline. The museum is open to the public seven days a week, free of charge. For more information, call 713/942-8000.

# The Source

## Community

- **Adoption.** The Great Wall China Adoption, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) agency dedicated to finding a loving home for the thousands of orphans living in China, will sponsor free monthly workshops on how you can help through adoption. Single men/women and couples from 25-60 years of age can adopt. Please call Barbara at 713/249-5941 (24-hour phone line) for the next free workshop.
- **AIDS Equity League.** a nonprofit organization dedicated to insuring equitable treatment of the gay and lesbian community in local HIV/AIDS decision-making. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 12 noon, Charlie's Restaurant, 1100 Westheimer, 713/524-9966.
- **An Uncommon Legacy Foundation** is a nonprofit lesbian foundation established in 1990 to promote lesbian visibility and enhance the well-being of lesbians today and in future generations. Legacy supports the lesbian community by making grants to projects that help meet the social, cultural, health and educational needs of lesbians. For more information: 713/520-1142.
- **AWARE** is a Southwestern Bell Corporation employee organization comprised of current and retired management & nonmanagement employees of SBC Communications who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual & their nongay supporters. AWARE is dedicated to creating a workplace free of harassment & discrimination. It offers support & visibility to its members and serves as the official point of contact between its membership & SBC Communications. Partners are encouraged to attend & participate. 3rd Sunday of every month at 6 pm. Call 713/235-7929 for location/other info or to be added to the mailing list.
- **The Center for AIDS (CFA)** is a storefront information center that provides the latest treatment information on HIV & AIDS. CFA produces the treatment information newsletter *Research Initiative/Treatment Action/ or RITA*; the *RITA Fax Newsletter* that goes weekly to doctors & researchers; & community forums that focus on treatment issues. CFA acts as a voice for Houston's HIV community in the national dialogue about research & clinical trials. For info: 713/527-8219. Web site: <http://www.neosoft.com/~hailrita>.
- **Dignity Houston** is dedicated to the welfare of gay/lesbian Catholics and their friends, and meets Saturdays at 7:30 pm, 1307 Yale, Suite H, 880-2872.
- **EXXON Gay & Lesbian Employees (EGLE)** meets monthly at the Montrose Library to discuss workplace issues, empowerment, social events, etc. For more information, call 713/522-6212.
- **Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston (GLSH)** is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization offering the community information & referrals to businesses, legal and medical professionals, and a variety of organizations. It also provides information on HIV/AIDS, coming out, etc. P.O. Box 66496, Houston, TX 77266-6496, 529-3211. GLSH also operates the Hate Crimes Hotline, 713/529-9615.
- **Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Educators Network (GLSEN).** The goal of GLSEN is to make schools safe for everyone—straight and gay. All interested persons are invited to attend the meetings every 3rd Wednesday @ 7:30 pm, First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin @ Southmore. For updates or more information: write to GLSEN-Houston, P.O. Box 541871, Houston, Texas 77254. Call 713/529-4571 or e-mail: [GLSTNHou@aol.com](mailto:GLSTNHou@aol.com).
- **Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (GHGLCC)** fosters & promotes the economic development & vitality of gay, lesbian, & supportive businesses and professional organizations in the greater Houston area. The chamber facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information, & networking opportunities for its members. Promoting a positive change of the diversity of gay & lesbian citizens, and to further strengthen our position in society, the chamber provides opportunities for the personal, professional, & social growth of its members. Membership in this organization in no way infers sexual orientation, preference, or gender identity. Meets the first Monday of each month. For more info: 713/523-7576.
- **The Homeless Pet Placement League** is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that rescues and rehabilitates stray and abandoned cats and dogs. Volunteering, foster care, or adopting: 862-PETS.
- **HOPE Project (HIV Outreach, Prevention, and Education)** provides HIV/AIDS information to the African-American community. Board meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month. Contact the HOPE line at 713/587-6914 for more info.
- **Houston Area NOW** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month @ 3217 Montrose Blvd. (near Westheimer, in the Interfaith Min-

istries Bldg.). Free parking accessible from Lovett Blvd. Social time @ 6:30 pm & program/business @ 7 pm. For more info: 713/665-8669 or P.O. Box 540548, Houston 772254-0548.

- **Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.** The first-ever festival in 1997 was a great success—over 6,000 people attended, and over \$13,000 in advertising from many sources was donated to the cause. Volunteers are now being sought to help make the 1998 festival even bigger and better. For more information or to volunteer: Sarah Gish at Landmark Theatres 713/850-0217 or Liz Jenkins at Southwest Alternate Media Project 713/522-8592.

- **Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus.** 1st Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm, Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd. For more info: 713/521-1000.

- **Houston Pride Band** provides musical entertainment for the lesbian and gay community. They are seeking musicians of all skill levels and instrumentation. Rehearsals are held at Dignity Houston, 1307 Yale on Wednesdays from 7-9 pm. Contact Russell at 713/524-0218 or e-mail [HousTxBand@aol.com](mailto:HousTxBand@aol.com).

- **Houston Reconstructionist Havurah (HRH)** is an inclusive Jewish community. Core tenets of Reconstructionism are maintaining a supportive community & taking social action to repair an imperfect world. Newcomers describe the remarkable level of acceptance & warmth they encounter, regardless of background or initial level of Jewish education or observance. Info: 713/728-0478.

- **Kolbe Project** is an ecumenical outreach to gays, lesbians, & other sexual minorities modeled after the ministry of St. Francis of Assisi. Potluck & community-concern programs, first Thursdays, 7 pm. Healing Service, second Thursdays, 7 pm. Spiritual Direction by appointment; HIV/AIDS hospital chaplaincy. Info: 713/861-1800.

- **Log Cabin Republicans.** 4th Monday of each month, 6:30 pm (social), 7 pm (meeting), Renata's, 2006 Lexington, 713/529-9100.

- **OutVote.** a nonprofit organization dedicated to registering, educating, and motivating our community to vote. For more info: 713/520-VOTE or 522-9837.

- **People With AIDS Coalition-Houston (PWAC)** is a non-

profit 501(c)(3) organization of, by & for people with HIV/AIDS that promotes independence & self-reliance so that they may live with dignity, self-esteem & acceptance. This is achieved by providing short-term crisis intervention & long-term referrals; creating opportunities for active participation as a member of the PWA community; & providing public advocacy for the needs of PWAs. While committed to ending the epidemic, PWAC endeavors to respond with love, caring & compassion to the unmet & changing needs that arise with PWAs. 3400 Montrose Blvd, Ste. 106, 713/522-5428, fax 713/522-2674.

- **Pride Committee of Houston** is an energetic group of people who meet year-round to develop & orga-

nize 10 days of Pride Week activities for our community. Meets 7 pm, 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month @ the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. The board of directors meets 7 pm, the 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 811 Westheimer. Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride Week 1998 is June 19-28; the parade is Sat., June 27 @ 9 pm. For more info/to get involved: 713/529-6979 or fax 713/529-6929.

- **Q-Patrol** is dedicated to the prevention of hate crimes against gays & lesbians, patrols the bar areas in Montrose, & is always looking for volunteers. If you have at least one Friday or Saturday night per month, please call 713/528-SAFE (7233).

- **Rice GALA** (Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association) seeks gay and lesbian alumni of Rice University. Contact Neal Tannahill at 713/526-6718 for more information.

- **Roundtable—The Houston Philosophy Forum** is open to anyone interested in civilized & open discussion on topics of the day. 6:30-7 social time, meeting 7 pm, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month @ Café Express, 1422 W. Gray. Info: Jackie @ 779-8620.

- **Second Chance Pets** is a nonprofit organization that helps

stray, abandoned, & unwanted animals find permanent homes. We provide medical care & an adoption site for the animals. The animals live in foster homes during the week. We need foster homes (especially for cats), volunteers for adoption days, publicity & fund-raising, and adoptive homes. For more info: 286-3535.

- **Texas Human Rights Foundation**, a statewide, not-for-profit legal agency, advocates on behalf of the lesbian, gay, and HIV community and publishes the booklet *AIDS and the Law: Know Your Rights*. If you feel you have been discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation or HIV status and need legal advice or attorney referral, call their toll-free number, 1-800-828-6417.

## Counseling/Support

- **AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area.** support group for those infected and affected. Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm, 17511 El Camino Real, #159. For more info: 488-4492.

- **AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. (AFH)** relies on volunteers to help meet the needs of its more than 3,500 clients. Choose from over 14 direct and indirect client volunteer programs. You'll join a pool of more than 450 talented volunteers in Hotline, Information & Referral, Buddy, Helper, Art Therapy, Stone Soup & many other programs. Whether you can commit to 4 hours a month or 40 hours a week, AFH needs your time and talent. Volunteer department: 713/623-6796. Website: <http://www.aidshelp.org>.

- **Astro Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf.** general meeting every 2nd Friday of the month, 7:30 pm, Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer, 869-2287 via Texas Relay 1-800-735-2988.

- **Centergy** — Rediscover the joy, the joy of releasing the energy at your center. Reclaim your emotions. Identify & verbalize your feelings & desires. Face & release your blocks to living freely. Create the life you want. Centergy offers weekly programs for anyone willing to face addictions: individuals, pairs, families, groups, organizations, business relations. Groups meet weekly: Women —

Tuesdays or Thursdays, 6-8:30 pm; Mixed — Wednesdays, 7-9:30 pm. Southwest Recovery Place, 4726 Yoakum. Call Jackalyn Rainosek, Ph.D., @ 942-7181.

- **Chase Bank of Texas' P.R.I.D.E. Team** welcomes you to be a part of equality. P.R.I.D.E. stands for People Recognizing Individual Differences Equally and is the bank's gay & lesbian employee networking group. Our mission is to support the inclusion of all Chase bankers—regardless of sexual orientation and gender identification—as valued employees of the bank & to encourage an environment of equality that celebrates the individuality & diversity of everyone. The Team typically meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6 pm. Contact

Richard Bielec at 713/655-5423 or Paula Andries at 713/216-6961 for more information.

- **Child Advocates** needs volunteers to help serve the nearly 3,800 children in Harris County who are in foster care because of severe, life-threatening, soul-threatening abuse. To help get these children into homes that are safe, loving, & permanent, please call 713/529-1396.

- **Crisis Intervention of Houston** needs volunteers for 24-hour crisis-intervention & suicide-prevention hotline that requires 53 hours of training & a commitment of 4 hours a week; cash contributions for hotline & counseling programs. P.O. Box 130866, Houston 77219, 713/527-9864.

- **Crossroads** is a support group for gays & lesbians who are currently in full-time church work, have been in the past, or are pursuing their calling. Not exclusively for pastors—is open to chaplains, administrators, musicians, or music-, youth-, and educational-directors. 3rd Saturday of each month & socials throughout the month. Call 681-9082 for dates, time, and place.

- **Empowerment for Living**, a weekly HIV-positive and -



Dr. Joyce Gayles  
Author: The Dating Dance

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negative support program and potluck supper, Tuesdays, 6 pm, MCCR, 1919 Decatur. For more information, call 861-9149.

• **Gay & Lesbian National Hotline (GLNH)** is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, providing information, referrals and peer-counseling to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities. Information is also available for those concerned with gay-related issues. The services are free and anonymous. The hours are 5-9 pm (M-F) and 11 am-4 pm (Saturdays). The toll-free number is 1-888-THE-GLNH (1-888-843-4564).

• **Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston (GLSH)** is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization offering the community information & referrals to businesses, legal and medical professionals, and a variety of organizations. It also provides information on HIV/AIDS, coming out, etc. P.O. Box 66496, Houston, TX 77266-6469, 529-3211. GLSH also operates the Hate Crimes Hotline, 713/529-9615.

• **Gay Fathers of Houston** is a support group of gay men who meet every Monday, 8-9:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh, to discuss problems gay fathers share. More info or directions: 861-6181.

• **Gay Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse.** Montrose Counseling Center is offering a therapy group designed to provide a safe environment for men who share this type of experience to work together to resolve the impacts of the trauma on everyday life. Services are provided on a sliding scale basis, and insurance is accepted. Certain restrictions apply. For further information, call Shane Hennessey at 713/529-0037.

• **Gulf Coast Transgender Community** meets 2nd Saturday of each month (cross dressing required). Open discussion 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month (cross dressing not required). P.O. Box 66643, Houston, TX 77266-6643, 780-4282.

• **HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer.** open forum for sharing info. Men's mixer: 3rd Tuesday of the month 7-9 pm. Women's mixer: 4th Wednesday of the month, 6-8 pm. 1407 Hawthorne, 527-8219.

• **Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH)** is open to gays and lesbians, age 13-20. Fridays, 7:30-10 pm & Sundays, 6:30-9 pm. Call 942-7002 for location and information.

• **Houston Area Women's Center** offers two programs, among others. *The Rape Crisis Program* offers support groups to girls (ages 7-12), female teens (ages 13-18) & family/friends of teen survivors of sexual assault. Groups meet weekly & are free. More info/meeting times: 713/528-6798, ext. 256. *The Family Violence Program* offers a support group to female teens involved in violent dating relationships. 6 pm, Tuesdays at Houston Area Women's Center, 1010 Waugh, & is free. More info: 713/528-6798, ext. 247.

• **Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents (HGLP)** support group meets to discuss issues pertaining to today's gay families. If you have children or plan to have children, this support group can help with issues like coming out, ex-spouse problems, step relationships, etc. Child-care provided. Meets at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Dr., 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7-9 pm. 713/284-4939.

• **Jewish Family Service** offers individual, couple & family counseling to individuals of all ages regardless of sexual orientation. Our professional counseling staff have received training in working with gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender issues and can help individuals deal with interpersonal problems, relationship conflicts, dealing with families, HIV/AIDS-related concerns & other issues frequently facing sexual minorities. Services are offered on a sliding-fee-scale basis. To make an appointment or for more info: 713/667-9336.

• **Just For Us (JFU)** is a social and support group for youth in the 6th through 12th grades who have gay or lesbian parents. Sponsored by Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents. 284-4939.

• **Lambda Center A.A.**, 1201 W. Clay, Houston, TX 77019. For meeting times, call 521-1243.

• **Living in Process Groups.** Ongoing mixed group for men & women 3 Wednesday evenings per month. Ongoing gay men's group 3 Thursday evenings per month. Call Eric Mayo at Living in Process Southwest for more info: 622-7250.

• **Living With HIV Support Group.** For anyone whose life is touched by HIV. Meetings include: a relaxing meditation, information about community resources, & occasional speakers. The group meets Thursdays, 7-9 pm in room 117, Unity Church of Christianity, 2929 Unity Dr. For more info: 782-4050.

• **Male Survivors of Sexual Assault** is a support group designed to provide a safe, confidential environment for men to talk about their experience and their struggles in society around the issues of male sexual assault. Call Diane Williams at the Houston Area Women's Center, 713/528-6798, ext. 246, for more info. All services are free of charge and confidential.

• **The Men's Network** is for gay & bisexual men to come together in a safe & supportive environment to learn & share about issues that affect them. A donation of \$3-\$5 is requested; however, all men are welcome, regardless of their ability to pay. The 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of every month, 7:15-9 pm @ Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

• **Montrose Counseling Center** offers numerous counseling groups, including groups for men & women living with HIV, people

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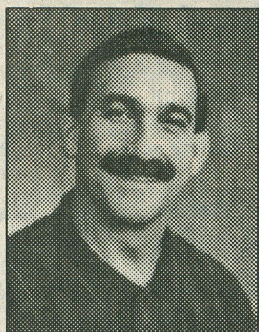
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- **Next Step** is a free confidential program of information and medical testing for persons who are HIV positive. Provided by Montrose Clinic. Call 713/520-2000 for schedule and to register.
- **Omega House** provides a homelike environment for persons with AIDS needing hospice care. We do not charge a fee for our services, thus we serve persons primarily who do not have traditional medical resources. Omega House is always in need of volunteers in all areas of our program. Also: donations of soda, bleach, laundry detergent, baking pans, bed pillows (new), basic cleaning supplies, office supplies, a new bicycle, an extension ladder able to reach 2nd story, outdoor furniture & a new umbrella for table, a chest of drawers, small desk & chair, 2 comfortable reading chairs, lamps (table & floor), VCR, cable-ready TV for resident room, bedside tables, steam cleaning service for rugs & furniture, 2 large room rugs, wall hangings, apartment in Montrose area for office/resident's family lodging; volunteers for tasks & services. For more information, call 713/522-5757.
- **Steven's House** provides intermediate care in a homelike environment for people living with HIV/AIDS. Needed: soft drinks, laundry detergent, baking pans, bed pillows (new), basic cleaning supplies, office supplies, a new bicycle, an extension ladder able to reach 2nd story, outdoor furniture & a new umbrella for table, a chest of drawers, small desk & chair, 2 comfortable reading chairs, lamps (table & floor), VCR, cable-ready TV for resident room, bedside tables, steam cleaning service for rugs & furniture, 2 large room rugs, wall hangings, apartment in Montrose area for office/resident's family lodging; volunteers for tasks & services. For more information, call 713/522-5757.
- **Tobacco-Free Greater Houston** provides a list of smoke-free restaurants in the Houston area and works to promote health through the reduction of youth access to tobacco & promotion of a smoke-free environment. For free guide, send SASE to Tobacco-Free Greater Houston, POB 890769, Houston, TX 77289-0769.
- **Thomas Street Health Center Council** is an elected advocacy group that advise the hospital district on matters concerning Thomas Street AIDS Clinic. Meetings open to public comment & participation, 2nd Wednesday each month, 2 pm, 3rd floor conference room, 2015 Thomas St. @ Paschall, 793-4000.
- **Women's Clinic.** Montrose Clinic offers a women's health clinic. Visits include complete examination by gynecologist, lab work, medication, & referral if needed. Fee \$40; but no one turned away. Wednesdays, 5-8 pm, by appointment only, 713/520-2000.
- **Yoga.** Free yoga classes. Yoga benefits the individual by providing stress relief, better health & a clear mind. This is achieved by a combination of physical postures, mental exercises, breathing techniques & improved diet. Free yoga classes are Mondays & Wednesdays at 7 pm and Fridays at 6 pm @ Devanand Yoga Center, 3115 West Loop South, Ste. 21, 713/965-9642.



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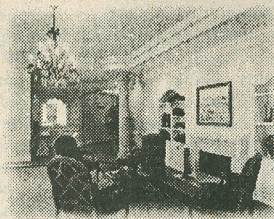
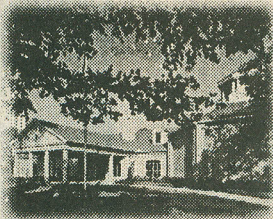
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## Social

- **20 Something** is a caring, informative, social community for lesbian/gay persons & their friends coming together in a safe & positive atmosphere to share, learn, & build friendships. For more information, call 315-6786.
- **BiNet Houston** is a social/support/educational group which is open to bisexuals & bi-friendly individuals. More info: 467-4380. It is best to call 6-10 pm most evenings; otherwise, leave a message, & a representative will return your call utilizing utmost discretion.
- **Bluebonnet Young Democrats.** As a member of this lesbian/gay/gay-friendly group of young Democrats in Texas, you will have a chance to make a great impact. Possible projects in the future include trips to Austin, community forums, and other fun activities. Voice mail is 632-9974 and pager is 786-0493.
- **The Chain Gang Cycling Club** provides friendly cycling opportunities for members & friends of the gay & lesbian communities in metropolitan Houston. To join/more info: 863-1860.
- **Classic Chassis Car Club (CCCC)** is a group of gay men and lesbians who enjoy having, talking or being around people who have old classic cars and exchanging ideas about them. We have one eat-out and one happy-hour gathering each month, as well as some impromptu get-togethers. For locations and dates: 713/960-9613 or write P.O. Box 981102, Houston 77098.
- **Garden And Yard Society (G.A.Y.S.)** is a gay gardening club for women & men. Bring your gardening friends and supporting partners. Meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 7 pm. More info: 713/661-6378, 713/520-1066, or 713/869-8245.
- **Gay Alumni Noon Group (G.A.N.G.)** Gay men & women who are 40 or older and their friends and other persons who might be interested in addressing the concerns and exploring the interests of older gays @ the Montrose Library, 4100 Montrose. For more info: Jim @ 713/622-6918 or Robert @ 713/665-6446.
- **Gay & Lesbian Health Professionals** meets monthly, providing socials, speakers, networking, and practitioner referral line. For information or a referral, call 713/523-4700.

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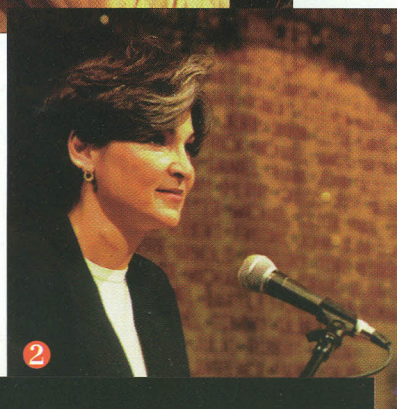
# OUT IN HOUSTON



At the Alley Theatre, luminaries from Houston's arts community joined together for the World AIDS Day Ceremony of Remembrance. Artists and administrators memorialized Houstonians from artistic disciplines who have been lost to AIDS:

**1** Ensemble Theatre artistic director **Eileen J. Morris** remembers Houston actor **Michael Ballard**.

**2** AIDS Foundation Houston executive director **Sara Selber**.



**3** Houston Ballet principal dancer **Lauren Anderson** and **Andrew Edmonson**.

**4** Houston Symphony conductor-in-residence **Stephen Stein**.

**5** (From left) **Clifton Hazelwood** of Artists Management, state representative **Debra Danburg**, and Alley Theatre associate artist **Michael Wilson**.

*LiB, a women's empowerment group, welcomed 1998 with their annual New Year's party. 725 people celebrated into the wee hours of 1998. Highlights of the night included a gourmet buffet, two ballrooms for dancing, and a champagne toast and balloon drop at midnight:*

**6** New Year's Kiss: **Beth Johnson** (l) and **Judy Moon**.

**7** **Lee Bennett** (l) and **Lynette Ross**.

**8** **Tenille Duncan** (l) and **Leslie Daniel**.

**9** Dancing into the night at Houston's Renaissance Hotel.

