Mother Tongue Returns In "Old And Bald"

The feminist theater collective Mother Tongue will return to the Lavender Seniors on June 10th. Their razor sharp satires and reflections have stirred up audiences since 1976 when the ladies first experimented with their vision at San Francisco State University. Both students and teachers were participants. Corey Wick, speech instructor, is the only pioneering member of the collective still left.

Mother Tongue uses poetry, short stories, songs, and monologues to get their point across. More than 20 different scripts explore a range of liberation issues—"Speaking of Aging," "Women And Peace," and "Body Talk."

Mother Tongue has appeared at Folsom State Prison, political rallies, nursing homes and groups such as Ol Lesbians Organizing For Change.

Leather Folk Show Off Their Lifestyles

Karl Schuck and Marilyn Dickman, president and vice-president of the Alameda County Leather Corps, emphasized that they are not a "sex club." The Corps are a social organization dedicated to having fun and raising money for various gay and lesbian groups. The leather society evolved from the Imperial Star Empire, a group of drag devotees, in 1993. The corps has managed to raise over $100,000 since the founding year. All funds raised are targeted for Alameda County. Some of the money has gone for scholarships for gay students and for AIDS patients.

The Corps have 33 members and those interested must be 21 years of age. The membership is evenly divided between men and women. The ages range from the twenties to the seventies. Those affiliated like to fantasize about people who dress up in leather, uniforms, levis, and rubber.

The leather corps is a recognized charitable organization.

Karl explained that fascination with leather emerged from World War II and the fetishism surrounding military regalia. The sexual underground and the motorcycle clubs arose following the war.

Marilyn revealed that women have finally taken their place in the leather community during the past ten years. The AIDS epidemic has brought formerly hostile men and women together.

The Leather Corps will hold a benefit auction on June 4th. For further information call John Ellefson at 583-9638.

Mass Commitment Ceremony Planned

Attention Lesbian And Gay Couples!

Several Lavender Senior Couples are talking about having a "Mass Commitment Ceremony" as a fund raiser for the Lavender Seniors of the East Bay.

If you and your partner would like to take part in the historic event, we would welcome you.

Please call the Lavender Senior office at 510-667-9655 or e-mail Marvin Burrows at marbilca@webtv.net.

We will be having a meeting soon for those who want to take part. We need to decide what kind of ceremony we want. It will be a group decision. No date has been set, so join us now and help the Lavenders raise money.
Jerry Hayman is done another of his great trips to New York and saw several great plays including Waiting in the Wings by Noel Coward. Other plays included Taller Than a Dwarf, Waverly Gallery, Naked Boy Singing, Ride Down Mt. Morgan, and The Wild Party.

Doris Fischer broke her hip and just had surgery. Get well soon Doris. Marvin has a saying about fat free. It means full of fat and free.

Donna Montgomery sailed off to the Caribbean with Stella and Ina Mae. She was instructed not to return a virgin. She did meet someone promising but you will need to get the details from her!

Just saw a beautiful picture of Natalie taken during World War 11. What a good looker she was. She still has it.

Ina Mae wears a shirt that proclaims that, “Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History”. She met a woman in high school who wrote the book with that title. She is historian Laurel Thatcher Ulrich.

Girl to Boy: “Want to play doctor? Boy says, “Take the gum out of your mouth. I want to be president.”

Jim Joslin is having a GREAT TIME IN Palm Springs. He attended a mixed gathering of 300 folks. He has been enjoying gardening, swimming, hiking.

Ina Mae says that their cruise to the West Indies included a flock of dolphins and 700 women.

Time Magazine reports there is now a new product on the market called Gaydar. This electronic device that will tell you if the person next to you is gay. Of course the other individual must also have the devise for everything to work. It sells for $69.00. You must be within 20 feet of the other person.

Dr. Dean Edel says that lesbians seem to have a more healthy lifestyle compared to other people. The studies also found that both gay and straight men prefer younger partners.
From The Editors Desk
Gay Marriage vs. Civil Unions

There is much rejoicing over the recent decision of the Vermont legislature and governor to approve of civil unions. This series of events is amazing considering the staggering amount of conservative political pressure that was brought to bear. But the purists among us are never satisfied. They view the new law as second class citizenship, a form of separate but equal. This position is most cunningly expressed in a recent article in the New Republic by the articulate pose of Andrew Sullivan under the title “Why Civil Union Isn’t Marriage.” He pleads “To endorse one but not the other...is to engage in an act of pure stigmatization. It risks not only perpetuating public discrimination against a group of citizens but adding to the cultural balkanization that already plagues American public life.”

Ultimately we can all agree with him, but we must consider our tactics. We can’t have it all in one sitting. As we learned to our sorrow in the Proposition 22 battle the American public can be led to the waters of compassion but they will not always drink. Mentioning the word marriage along with gay rights will bring us down in flames every time without fail. Even the most liberal of politicians, including Clinton and Gore will not support us when the law is fashioned around the word marriage. Domestic partnership legislation is the key that unlocks the door. Here the gay movement has found resounding success, especially in the private sector. The right wing slips and slides each time they try to stop domestic partnerships. Someday we will probably achieve the worthy goal of marriage, but let us all remember that Rome can’t be refashioned in one day. We must take our freedoms step by step. The black movement learned this hard lesson in the days of Martin Luther King. Let us apply it to the present situation.

BOOK REVIEW
by Frank Howell

Pictures and Passions: A History of Homosexuality in The Visual Arts
By James Saslow
Viking, $40.00

Historians of world history come and go, but gay chronicles of the human spirit that illustrate the lavender story are not common.

James Saslow, professor of art history at Queens College and a former Advocate editor, has filled the gap with a stunning pictorial featuring 150 photos, 32 in color, of the vast homophile range of action and feeling from the cave man to the 20th century. Everything from the subtle to the outrageous can be found here.

In ancient Greece bisexuality was the norm. Aristophanes identified it early on. Plato felt only males were capable of a deep spiritual love.

The Romans also were accepting, although not as idealistic about gay love as the Greeks. Marc Anthony remarked to Augustus, “Can it matter where or in whom you put it?”

The Middle Ages saw a dark cloud draped over sexuality, especially the deviant sort. Cities declined and rural life predominated. Only religious themes were allowed in art.

During the Renaissance in Italy, sodomy was widespread. The police in Florence established a special court known as “Officers of the Night.” (1432).

Saslow claims that sado-masochistic art emerged during the Renaissance and that much of this trend can be laid at the feet of the Cult of St. Sebastian (a much suffering religious martyr with arrows shot through him). A new artistic atmosphere was created. King Henri II wore high heels and a dress at court.

Caravaggio ran afoul of church authorities. They gazed on his passionate males with raised eyebrows, but when such art was created for private patrons tolerance was greater.

Our critic does not neglect Asian and Islamic art. Muhammed tolerated lavender passion. Homoerotic poetry was common and found in The Perfumed Garden and The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. A practical adage of the time declared, “In summer devote thyself to boys, in winter to women.”

In the 1700’s the gay “personality” as we know it today began to appear. Male prostitutes became more common.

During the 1840’s artists rejected sentimentality and embraced realism. Lesbianism became a popular subject among the cognoscente in France, but the male figure was ignored.

At the turn of the century aesthetic rebellion and daring experimentation broke out. New York, Paris, and Berlin led the parade. Marcel Duchamp helped usher in modern art. The Harlem Renaissance brought out artists and composers. The
inevitable counter-reaction exploded with the rise of Nazism. In 1931 Hitler sponsored a “degenerate art exhibit.” Gay themes were held as object lessons of what to avoid. Karl Hofer’s Two Male Friends and Two Female Friends represented gay self expression.

In the conservative 1950’s, gays flew into the closet and retreated into abstract expressionism. The opposite extreme fell to the Beat Generation.

In the 1980’s we beheld the AIDS Quilt and painters produced expressive meditations on death.

On the current scene Saslow spotlights the gay statues of George Segal and architect Philip Johnson and his proposed Cathedral of Hope to be build by Metropolitan Community Church.

On the international scene many third world countries still suppressed gay liberation but experimentation still thrives in Europe.

Buy Pictures and Passions for sheer enjoyment if nothing else. A Dazzling heritage awaits. The $40.00 price tag is worth it.

CAPE Revives Itself

A brainstorming meeting of CAPE (California Alliance For Pride And Equality) was held recently at the AIDS Project on 20th Street in Oakland.

Marty Martinez, coordinator for the East Bay division of the group, led a discussion of fifteen people interested in reinvigorating the state lobbying organization which was largely sidetracked last year by the need to combat Proposition 22.

The association is now headed by Jean Harris. Ms. Harris brings extensive experience in fighting right wing election campaigns. Her goals for CAPE are building a sound financial base and a large data base of supporters from the No on Proposition 22 campaign. It is estimated that some $200,000 will be transferred from the No on Proposition organization group to CAPE, which is now divided into twelve regions in California.

There was much discussion of whether the East Bay division of CAPE will concentrate on local or state issues. Some individuals want to work on home grown concerns and others see gays as committed to state wide problems of interest to all lavender people. But everyone present agree that grass roots energy is important to any effort.

Some members of the affiliate felt that a gathering of all homophile associations would have a stimulating political effect. A diversity of views need to be accommodated. Duplication of effort must be avoided. Coalitions must be encouraged and an emphasis placed on fund raising.

There was agreement that support be extended to isolated gays in places like the Central Valley where conservative influence is especially strong.

The next East Bay CAPE meeting will be held at 7:00pm at the AIDS Center in Oakland.

PERSONALITY PLUS!
BJ And Meg Make a Winning Team

Bobby Jarvis, treasurer of Lavender Seniors, and her partner Meg Bruynell, met second hand. In 1974 they were introduced by friends when Meg was working at the Valley Medical Facility. They further cemented their relationship when they attended a commitment ceremony for a male couple. The first movie they attended was “The Towering Inferno.”

Meg moved to the Golden State from New Jersey in 1961 and BJ arrived from Oklahoma in 1952. She sharpened her skills as an enrolled agent and put out her shingle in the accounting business in 1987.

Meg worked as a psychiatric technician for twenty-eight years at the Agnews Developmental Center and retired in 1990 to serve as right hand woman to BJ in her thriving business, where they have more clients than they can possibly handle.

They were once caught kissing on a countertop. Meg was threatened with treatment in a mental hospital but now relatives on both sides of the family now seem to accept their affinity. Meg’s sister has a gay daughter. Bj’s mother even recommends some of the gay bars they should look into.

These lively ladies enjoy all types of music and love to explore the varied climates of California, especially Carmen and Half Moon Bay. They once took a family trip to Ludlow, England with several of their kissing kin.

Meg and BJ prove once again that gay coupling does indeed spice to your life.
MAGAZINE WORLD OFFERS INTRIGUING FARE

Recently some provocative news emerged from the pages of our weekly news magazines. Time reported on an important new play that just opened in New York. The Laramie Project focuses on the Mathew Shepard murder and is based on interviews with Wyoming witnesses. Moises Kauffman, who gave us the unforgettable Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde, has crafted a "documentary drama that premiered in Denver. Watching the new play is said to be an unforgettable experience. Let us hope we in the Bay Area can see it.

The conflicts of gay Mormons are the stuff of legend. When a young 32 year old Mormon took his life in Los Altos the local media didn't take much notice. Fortunately, Newsweek has paid proper attention. Stuart Matis shot himself because of the church position on Proposition 22. Stuart went for counseling with the local Mormon bishop who advised him that if he was forced to choose between his religion and his life, the church must come first. Apparently doctrine comes before humanity.

You're invited!
The Lighthouse Community Center Grand Opening

Saturday, July 8, 2000
12:00PM – 5:00PM

The Lighthouse Community Center found a home! The new center is located at 1217 "A" Street in Hayward, at the corner of "A" and Second Streets, next to the A Street Café and across from Bank of America. There is a public parking lot on "A" Street, between Second and Foothill Boulevard.

Join us to celebrate the opening of the long awaited GLBTQ community center! The doors will open at noon. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and refreshments will be provided! We will honor community members who have made substantial donations to the center, and we will discuss upcoming community center programs.

The mission of the Lighthouse Community Center is to provide a safe and substance-free meeting place with social, informational, and community awareness programs serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning community of all ages and their friends.

For more information or to volunteer at the center, please call Darci Meyers at (510) 247-8208. See you there!

Gay Prom

Lambda Youth Project's Sixth Annual Gay Prom will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2000, 7pm-Midnight, at Centennial Hall, Hayward. This year's theme is DecaDance! We've Been Here Through the Decades! The theme celebrates GLBTQ history through the decades of the last century to now. All GLBTQ youth and friends ages 25 and under are invited to attend! Tickets are $20/each in advance; $25/door. If you are older than 25 and would like to participate, you can sponsor tickets for youth! For donations and sponsorship tickets, and to buy advance tickets, make out check to Lambda Youth/Gay Prom 2000, and send to Lambda Youth Project, 22646 Second Street, Hayward CA, 94541.

Don't Postpone Joy!

Christina Cappelletti, MSW, MA
Coordinator
Lambda Youth Project
Project Eden
22646 Second Street
Hayward, CA 94541
CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Date June 6th Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. - Board of Directors
ALL WELCOME!! Meeting at Harry's Hof Brau at 14th and Hesperian Blvd., San Leandro, (Across from Bay Fair) Meets monthly the Tuesday before the potluck meetings

June 10-Saturday-12 Noon-Monthly Meeting
Mother Tongue Present Old and Bald

Meeting at
San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro

If your name begins with the letters
        A through H - Bring a Dessert
        I through P - Bring a Main Dish
        Q through Z - Bring a Salad

San Leandro BART station shuttle is available. Call voice mall: 247-2406 to arrange pickup.

COFFEE CONNECTIONS SOCIALS
TRI-CITIES AREA - Fremont, Newark & Union City
1st Wednesday every month: June 7th, July 5th. 10 - 11:30 am. Call Donna at (510)651-7305.

BERKELEY, ALBANY, EL CERRITO, NORTH OAKLAND Area
3rd Thursday every month: June 15th, July 20th. 10 - 11:30 AM. Call Doreen at (510)524-6206.

HAYWARD AREA
4th Wednesday every month: June 28th, July 26th. 1:30 p.m.; Senior Center, 22325 N. 3rd St., Hayward. Call John at (510)583-9638

Happy Birthday
Ruth Adams 6/12
Kathy McCarter 6/3
Nell Posey 6/18
James Silva 6/13
Charles W 6/6

HAYWARD AREA: 1:30 p.m., Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. 3rd St., Hayward, Call John Eliefsen for Information (510)583-9638

SECOND SUNDAY - 5:30 - 8:30 P.M. - FELLOWS OF EAST BAY
Social Club for mature men and their admirers. Monthly Potluck dinner and social held the second Sunday of every month at Oak Center Towers, 1515 Market Street, Oakland. Bring $3 door charge and food or drink to share.

VARIOUS DATES - WOMEN OVER FIFTY AND FRIENDS
WOFF, a social club for lesbians, has an active social schedule. Monthly potluck/planning meeting the first Saturday of each month at 6 p.m. For information, contact Barbara Konecny or Barbara Jue, 508 Broadmore, San Leandro, (510) 633-0398.