

OutCharlotte 95 to produce cabaret show with local talent competition

by Robert Marcus James
Special to Q-Notes

"Glitter & Be Gay," a cabaret show to benefit OutCharlotte 95, will be staged at Theatre Charlotte on Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24. The show will feature a cabaret cast, plus a talent competition open to community acts. OutCharlotte 95 is an annual cultural festival celebrating the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community. The first festival will be held October 11-15.

"We haven't held a community cabaret show for several years," stated Dan Kirsch, Festival Director. "The last community show was October 1991 for the National PFLAG Conference. We see the cabaret as a fun way to raise funds and show off the talent within our community." The creative team includes Kirsch, Rodney McAllister and Mark Propst, all of whom were involved in both the PFLAG show and the One Voice cabaret in February 1991, as well as Elaine Rhodes. The cabaret cast includes Emory Clark, Doug Dozier, Diann Hinson, Lisa Hammond, Matt Hough, Travis Osley, and Tamera J. Whisnant. Lois Webster will stage manage. The cast will sing and dance to the music of Marvin Hamlisch, Tom Weinberg, and Mary Chapin Carpenter.

"All kinds of acts are needed for the talent competition," said McAllister, who is coordinating the community talent. "At each performance, the audience will vote for the top two acts, and we will be offering cash prizes. We hope folks will pull their tap shoes, costumes, and jokes out of the closet and join in the fun." All acts must register by June 12. First prize is \$50.00 and second prize is \$20.00 (per performance). Talent competition guidelines are now available.

Three performances of the cabaret benefit will be held at Theatre Charlotte, 501 Queens Road: Friday, June 23 at 8:30pm and Saturday, June 24 at 7:30 and 10:00pm. General admission tickets are \$10.00 - \$17.50 sliding scale, which allows individuals to determine their own ability to pay.

Reserved patron tickets are also available for \$25.00 per person which includes reserved seating, recognition in the cabaret program (if ordered by June 19) and complimentary beverages.

Tickets are available at Rising Moon Books & Beyond, Urban Evolution, and by phone or mail. For tickets or talent competition guidelines, write to OutCharlotte 95, PO Box 32062, Charlotte, NC 28232-2062, or call (704) 563-2699.



Women's health access survey set to begin

DURHAM, NC—Research suggests that lesbians and other women who have women partners may have difficulty accessing medical care which is sensitive to their specific needs. They may not get regular breast exams, Pap smears, blood pressure checks or other care, often because they can't afford medical care, they don't know where to go for help, they're afraid of the results, or they have had bad experiences with health care providers in the past.

To better understand the issues about medical care that women who partner with women confront, researchers in North Carolina will launch a major survey during Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Month, June 1995. The survey, funded by the National Institutes of Health's Office of Research on Women's Health in Washington, DC, is being conducted by lesbian health workers, including staff from Duke University Medical Center and the University of North Carolina School of Public Health.

The project will target all women in North Carolina who have women partners or who identify as lesbian or bisexual. The researchers are especially committed to strong respondent representation among older women, women of color, low-income or working class women, women with disabilities, and rural women. They plan to use the information they gather to create education and outreach materials specifically designed for women with women partners, to inform them of what they need to know to stay safe and healthy. They will also use the information to teach doctors and other health care practitioners about lesbian health needs and how to give more sensitive care to their patients.

"This is a survey about the health needs, concerns and experiences of women who love women," says project coordinator Liza Rankow. "We may call ourselves lesbian, gay, bisexual, marimacha, in the life, or we may not identify with a label at all. We are different races, cultures, ages and abilities. We come from different class backgrounds. We are rural or we live in cities. The purpose of this survey is to better understand our varied life experiences, our health risks and our ability to access the medical care we need and deserve."

The project, called Women's Health Access, is seeking women from all parts of North Carolina who are interested in helping to distribute surveys in their area. Both paid and volunteer positions are available. Women of color, rural women and older women are particularly encouraged to apply.

For more information or to receive a copy of the survey, please contact Liza Rankow at: Women's Health Access, 703 Ninth St., Suite 327, Durham, NC 27705, (919) 685-1958.

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