

The Arts

Flirtations a Family Favorite

by Jane Dwinell

The Flirtations are HOT! For those of you who like a cappella, here's your chance to enjoy some gay-positive lyrics as well as great sound. Not as tight or developed as the Nylons, the Flirtations nonetheless give you more than what you pay for: sixteen great songs guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

The Flirtations are Jon Arterton, Michael Callen, Aurelio Font, TJ Myers, and Cliff Townsend, and they have put together a wild collection of tunes ranging from remakes of some sixties favorites and barbershop classics to songs about AIDS and gay parenthood. One of my personal favorites is their rendition of "To Know Him Is To Love Him." It's enough to make you weep!

My four-year-old daughter's favorites include "On Children," a song based on Kahlil Gibran's essay about children. It's a joy to hear her walking around the house singing, "You can give them your love but not your thoughts, they have their own thoughts." It reminds me to respect her, one of the most important aspects of parenthood. Her other favorite, along with every-

one else's in the household, is "Housework" — guaranteed to get you moving when you're trying to tidy your own place... It's a lament for the want of a househusband: "Someone to share my dreams and wishes, someone to help me with the dishes," a thought we can all relate to.

Perhaps the best recommendation for this tape comes from my six-month-old son. While Kay Gardner was guaranteed to calm him down as a baby, now it's the Flirtations. If you've got a cranky baby, put

on the tape and watch the broad smile cross his face as the music begins. Anything that'll calm a baby has got to be good.

But maybe it's just the positive mood that pervades the house while the Flirtations are belting out their personal lyrics to "Surfin' USA:" "In the north there's P-town, in the south there's Key West, on the east it's Fire Island..." The Beach Boys would never believe it.

There's something for everyone on this tape.

Holly Hughes's "World" Coming to Johnson

Jesse Helms may hate her and John Frohnmayer may be able, though just barely, to tolerate her, but Holly Hughes is still going strong. The "premier lesbian performance artist from Michigan" now brings her play, *World Without End*, to Johnson State College's Diben Center for the Arts. The performance, sponsored by the Johnson State College Festival of Arts and Letters, takes place Tuesday, April 23, at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$8.00 at the door, reservations and further information may be obtained by calling 533-2575.

Holly Hughes is a writer who, in the words of Vilage Voice critic C. Carr "has gleefully invented herself a genre with little precedent... the timeless, tasteless world of 'Dyke Noir.'" Her plays and performance pieces, which include *The Well of Horniness*, *The Lady Dick*, *Dress Suits for Hire*, *Into Temptation*, (based on an idea by Kate Stafford), as well as *World Without End*, have been performed throughout the United States and in Europe.

Her work is at once comic and poetic, feminist and irreverent, controversial yet entertaining and witty. Drawing upon her experience as an anorexic, a member of the

DAR, a radical feminist, a Red Lobster waitress, a Jesus freak, a lesbian, a champion bowler, and an artist, she creates emotional, abrasive, and surreal theater that has received funding from the NEA, the Jerome Foundation and New York State Council on the Arts grants.

Last year Holly Hughes found herself drawn, against her will, into Jesse Helms' reelection campaign when the Senator seized on the issue of "obscenity" in the arts to bolster his popularity. To demonstrate his concern over this vital issue, Helms and his epigones put enough pressure on NEA Chairman John Frohnmayer to cause him to deny recommended grants to Ms. Hughes and three other performance artists whose material also dealt with gay and feminist issues. Now that Senator Helms is safely ensconced in his seat for another six years, the NEA has found the courage to award Holly Hughes a grant for the coming year.

The Johnson State College Festival of Arts and Letters is a project of Johnson State College and Northern Vermont Performing Arts. Funds for its performance series are provided, in part, by a grant from the Vermont Council on the Arts.

Where to Get It

The Flirtations tape, as well as the tape, *Feeding the Flame*: songs by men to end AIDS, are available for purchase at the VT CARES office on Elmwood Avenue in Burlington, or may be purchased through the mail: c/o Wilde Things, RR1 Box 830, Hinesburg, VT 05461. The cost is \$10.00 each (plus \$1.00 postage for mail orders.) All proceeds will benefit VT CARES.

Tax Preparation
Accounting Services

Charlotte L. Vincent, E.A.

Enrolled to practice before the I.R.S.

PO Box 431
Essex Junction VT 05453
(802) 879-4596

Individuals
Businesses
Corporations



863-8326

PEACE on EARTH STORE

■ Gifts for Friends ■ Books, Games, Clothing.
Who Care About Nicaragua Coffee,
The Fate of the Earth Rainforest Crunch, more...

186 College Street (upstairs) 863-8326 M-F 10-5; SAT 1-5