

NEW PULL-OUT SECTION

12 books. the indelible alison bechdel

12 shopping. elfkins caters to customers

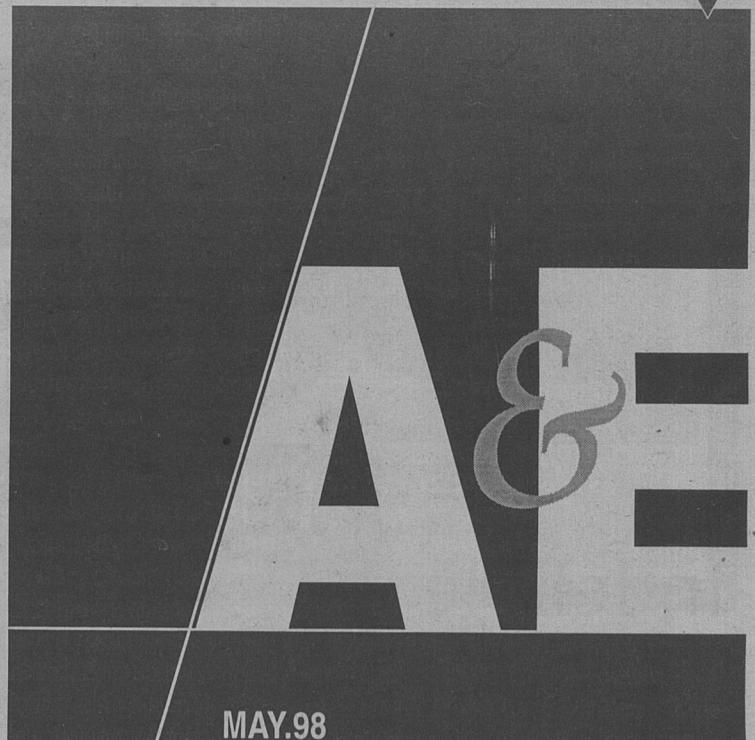
13 film. "the object of my oppression"

16 cyber. gbt travel

16 stargazer. mercury wreaks havoc

18 advice. saga and sage debut

OITM'S
MONTHLY GUIDE TO
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
IN VERMONT



Yolanda Rocks Goddard College

photo by Harris Begovi



Yolanda!

BY CHRISTIAN LOVEGROVE

It seemed like a bad idea. When Yolanda and The Plastic Family announced they would be playing at Goddard College on April 16th, people wondered how the evening would turn out. Few could imagine a less likely union than that of a glamorous, gender-bending drag diva and her five-piece rock/dance band paired with the granola-crunchy, Phish-loving students of one of Vermont's more infamous progressive schools.

There was nothing to worry about. It turns out Yolanda, also known as Roger Anthony Mapes, has a degree from Vermont College in Gender Studies - an academic concentration shared by countless Goddardites. And Goddard's Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered Alliance, under the leadership of Cole Clymer and Christopher Diani, has worked hard this semester to sponsor activities that build a stronger sense of community between its queer students and the rest of the residents of its tiny Plainfield campus. In fact, Yolanda's performance was scheduled to immediately follow Goddard's observation of the Day of Silence, a national event focusing on the need for laws inclusive of people of all sexual orientations. After a nine-hour vow of silence, Goddard was ready to rock.

Yolanda delivered. Draped in layers of Saran and bubble wrap, with light-up breasts and codpiece, she mesmerized the crowd with her seductive charm and campy stage presence. With a honeyed voice equal parts Dusty Springfield, Toni Braxton, and Elvis, she cooed and crooned her way through a solid set of entertaining originals and kitsched-up covers. Highlights of the show included "Let Me Love You," a heartfelt plea from an

openly gay person to his closeted lover, "Sickness of Beauty," a smart commentary about the price paid when perfection is valued above all else, and the hilarious "Control Queen." Yolanda's versions of The Partridge Family's "I Think I Love You" and Patsy Cline's "She's Got You" kept the audience dancing and laughing throughout the night.

Equally captivating were the rest of The Plastic Family, with sumptuous vocals provided by backup singer Rainbow, ivories tickled masterfully by keyboardist Cooper Hesby, searing strings courtesy of guitarist Tommygram, Jonny Ace, P.I. thumping the bass guitar with aplomb, and funky, foot-stomping rhythms provided by drummer Willy Tanglewood.

Though their lyrics deal specifically with queer life and transgenderism, Yolanda and The Plastic Family's message of love and

respect is universal. That notion wasn't lost on the various students, faculty, and staff of Goddard who poured into the Design Center to watch the performance. "Yolanda is fabulous!" one student marveled, "I've never seen so many people dancing at a Goddard show!" By night's end Yolanda had a slew of new fans, and perhaps a few imitators; several students donned drag for the festivities. "I felt very honored that the people of Goddard were so receptive and seemed to enjoy our music," Yolanda gushed, "I had a great time!"

Yolanda and The Plastic Family can next be seen playing, along with Chin Ho, at Metronome in Burlington on May 10th. They're also tentatively scheduled at Club Toast on May 30th, and will be part of OITM's lineup on Vermont Gay Pride Day, June 20th.

CALENDAR

1 FRIDAY

Brattleboro, 7pm in Memorial Hall at the Centre Congregation Church. Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force is hosting "The Freedom to Marry; a Green Mountain View. A diverse panel of Rev. Catherine Cadieux, minister at Christ's Church Saxtons River; Michael Gigante, Psychotherapists and Gay Rights Advocate; and Angie Dodd, Generation X/Bisex will address the topic of same gender civil marriage. We will show the video, The Freedom to Marry; a Green Mountain View. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to voice questions, concerns or their support to the panelists. FMI Bari Shamas 802 387-5788.

Boston Gay Men's Chorus, 8:30 p.m. United Church of Christ in **Keene**, NH. \$14 in advance, \$16 at the door, \$12 Seniors/Students/People Living with HIV. To order tickets, call AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region at 603-357-6855.

2 SATURDAY

Gender Role-Free Contra Dance for gay/lesbian/bi/transgenders and friends - all welcome Kathryn Wedderburn calling, live music by Hilltown Fling. 8:00-11:00 pm sliding scale admission \$5-7 Putney Community Center, Christian Square, **Putney**, Vermont. All dances taught - no experience or partners necessary. Smoke/drug/alcohol free space.

Beginner's introduction at 8:00 pm. Please bring light-soled shoes to dance in. For more information call Sam at 802-387-2066 or Mike at 802-257-8984

Westminster West, Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force representatives, Bari and Diane Shamas, will lead a discussion at the Congregational Church of Westminster West at 7pm. Their talk will focus on the spiritual aspects of social change and the spiritual burden placed on families who are denied basic civil rights. Pot luck dinner precedes discussion at 6pm. FMI Gail Holman 387-2578 or Bari Shamas 387-5788

Chris Williamson and Tret Fure in concert. Sponsored by Women Hand in Hand. Advanced tickets only. 7:30 p.m. **Concord** UU Church. FMI 603-746-3339 or WHIH@aol.com.

3 SUNDAY

Green Up the Gorge - Celebrate Spring at **Huntington** Gorge and thank Mother Nature by picking up trash (not the kind you might usually pick up there)... Meet at the usual spot at 2PM. Bring gloves & trash bags. Rain date - Sunday May 3rd, same time. Call Steven 434-5653 FMI.

4 MONDAY

Glitter Film Fest Planning Meeting - Monday May 4th at OITM office 6:30 PM. Glitter is planning a Pride & Joy Film Festival this June. Tentatively called 9 Days in June, videos will be screened every Sunday and Monday evening in June at the Rhombus Gallery. We invite your participation and suggestions. FMI - Call Steven 434-5653.

Glitter: The GLBT Literature and Film Club of **Burlington**, Monday Nights At The Rhombus Gallery, 7:30-9:30 PM, Because we could all use a little more glitter in our lives... No dues, just the obligation to have fun and expand your horizons... To Support The Rhombus Gallery - please donate what you can at the events-\$2-\$6 and eat the goodies in the Rhombus Cafe. The Rhombus Gallery is located at the intersection of College & Church Sts. in Burlington. 652-1103. Enter on College St. Gallery is on the second floor. <http://www.rhombus.org> For more information, Contact Steven Kopstein at 802-434-5653 or email: GLITTERvt@aol.com

"Female Perversions" - (1996, USA) Affirme, Mindy. Based on the book, Female Perversions: The Temptations of Emma Bovary by Louise J. Kaplan, Susan Streitfeld's Female Perversions is a beautifully scripted, sophisticated drama about female eroticism vis-a-vis social conditioning. Tilda Swinton plays a high-powered sexy lawyer who is under consideration for a court judgeship. In the corporate world, Eve is on top. She is adept at manipulating the male power system and the

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