

"You've made my life so glamorous.
You can't blame me for feeling amorous.
'S wonderful,
'S marvelous
That you should care for me."

A Gershwin Celebration with the incomparable Michael Feinstein

Friday, September 18 at 8 pm

"The king of the hill of classic songs" (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*), singer and pianist Michael Feinstein has earned fans worldwide with his graceful interpretations of the great American songbook. With charm, wit, and a warm, generous voice, Feinstein celebrates the century's most beloved composer, George Gershwin, and the work of such other American giants as Irving Berlin and Cole Porter. Widely praised for his passionate artistry and knack for bringing lost lyrics to light, Feinstein delivers a magical evening of classic song.

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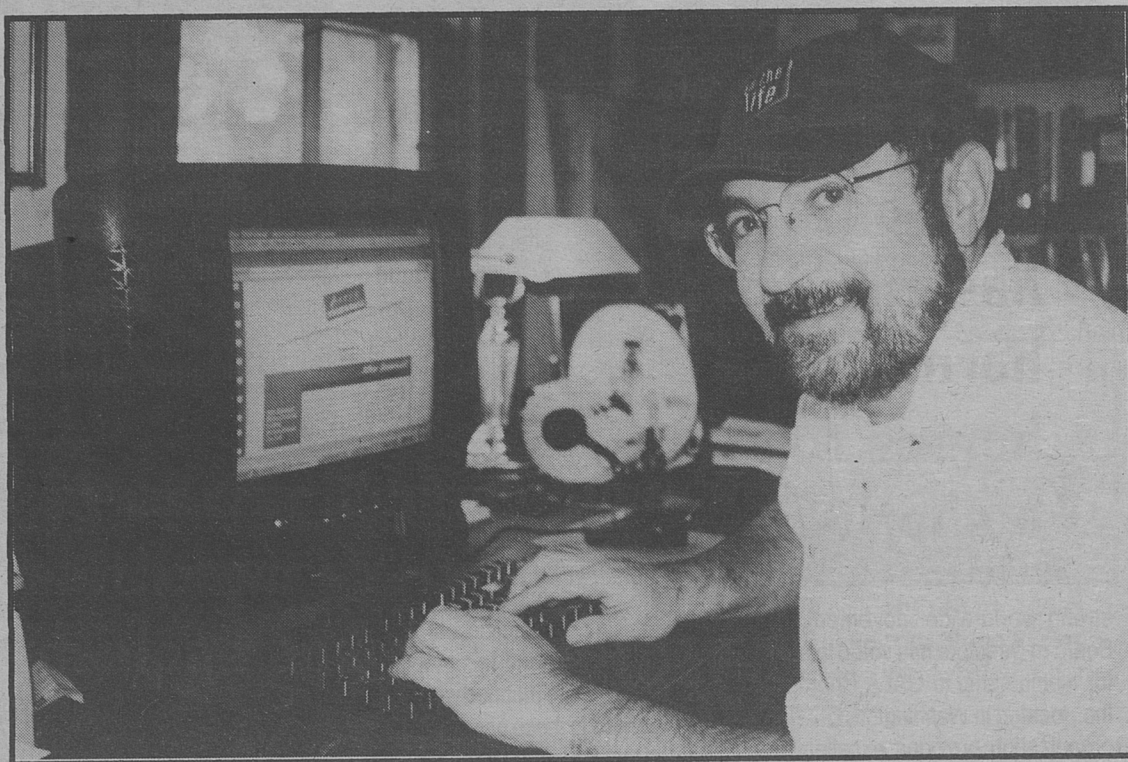


photo by D.J. White

BY MICHAEL C. ALBERO

As the moon made its ascent to the Boston night, the young John Scagliotti approached his destination with a mixture of nervous energy and a dangerous yearning. After several cautious glances around the surrounding area, he proceeded into a nearby bush area and eagerly began the search. Gradually his eyes adjusted to the darkness, and he soon noticed an attractive contemporary several feet away. With the stranger's silent affirmation, the two began to conduct the business that had brought them into this tiny wilderness. Their silent exchange was soon interrupted by the sounds of heavy footsteps, gruff voices, and blazing lights. Quickly the couple rose from their hiding place and escaped into the city where they would embark on a life together, as well as careers dedicated to social change.

Born during the political upheaval of the early 1970s, the

bond between Scagliotti and the mysterious stranger, Andrew Kopkind, grew stronger as they began to actively involve themselves in politics. While Kopkind developed an avid interest in journalism, Scagliotti's fascination with the field of communications grew stronger with their participation in a gay radio collective based in Washington, D. C. "We called it Unicorn News. It provided radio pieces to the growing FM progressive rock radio stations that wanted news about the war and counter culture information," stated Scagliotti. Although personal problems forced the couple to leave the collective, the two soon found a new home in Boston where Scagliotti's interests continued to flourish.

After securing a job at one of the progressive stations to which he had fed news while in Washington, Scagliotti started an experiment to develop his own programming. "One of the first things I did (in 1973) was start 'The Lavender Hour,' a gay and lesbian

cultural show, once a month on the radio station in Boston," stated Scagliotti. Not only did the show reach a large number of youths, but it also served as a great way for gay people to learn about others.

At the time, according to Scagliotti, "To buy a gay newspaper or check out a book in the library seemed crazy. Here was an opportunity for people to sneak into their own bedroom and hear [their] music, songs and culture. It was a way to reach people, who would have otherwise remained uninformed, alone and afraid."

A desire to further his skills in other areas of communication led Scagliotti to enroll in film school at New York University where he soon began work on a variety of projects. At first it was difficult, but as the work progressed, Scagliotti's passion grew stronger. "I made *The Stuff of Dreams* (in 1978) about the counter culture of Vermont and then started working on trying to develop a gay and lesbian culture series for public tele-

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