

# Lesbian cabaret provides sensual entertainment

by Andrea Freeman

Strange Sisters is more than the name of a lesbian pulp novel from the fifties. By a long stretch of the imagination, the title provides a reference to the literary and theatre world which is represented at an evening which goes by the same name, and is devoted to erotic lesbian creativity.

"From buttercup dew drop sex to cunt and fisting her ass every second sentence" was how organizer Betty Bratty described the diversity of performers and their acts.

## Strange Sisters Saturday Nov 24 El mocambo

The purpose of the evening is to allow the public to get different perspectives on lesbian sexuality through a variety of art media.

Although participants choose their proffered selections far in advance, audience responsiveness often leads to women allowing themselves to go further and further out on a limb.

Some of the selection process is already completed. Marcy Rogers, Sue Golding, Brenda Brooks, Random Order and Urge to Purge have already been confirmed.

Rogers is a well-known Toronto playwright who has produced two plays in recent years: *Lesbians Who Wear Lipstick* and *Lesbos Confidential*, which played during last year's Queer Culture Festival.

Sue Golding is the president of Buddies in Bad Times and an artist who uses several art forms to express herself. Brenda Brooks is a Toronto poet.

In the words of Beverly Bratty,

Random Order and Urge to Purge are "incredibly sexual women's bands. Their message is very positive. It's women's music that isn't wimpy." Both these groups have been playing Toronto clubs to very aroused groups of lesbians and other assorted fans.

At the end of the night, Random Order will be playing a dance set, which will provide an opportunity for women to work out some of the

sensations which organizers have guaranteed the evening will provoke.

Aside from entertaining and enlightening, this evening also gives young artists a rare chance to have their work seen by a substantial audience. Organizers put out an open call for submissions,

and all of them are considered equally.

Buddies in Bad Times is the only lesbian and gay theatre company in Toronto and it has a strong development program for new talent. With the Foreplay Festival, the Rhubarb Festival and Queer Culture, Buddies spends tens of thousands of dollars each year supporting artists, most of whom have never been produced before.

Although Buddies has traditionally been perceived as a

male-dominated and male-oriented company, this is actually not the case. The president, the associate artistic director, the publicist and three members of the Board of Directors are all women.

Strange Sisters itself is a tribute to Buddies' commitment to lesbian growth and development, as well as a showcase for progressive talent which people will deeply regret missing.

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