

depravity, of good art versus bad art.
In the show titled **Good Art Bad Art**, Japanese-Dutch-Canadian Guy comes out in his art as he deals with the demons of his

because I thought it wasn't a real art or pursuit. I said, 'I'm the art teacher always gay?'"
Good Art Bad Art runs to Sat, Dec 30 at Barbwire at 25 St Nicholas, suite 209. For more info, call (416) 926-9428.

Kultcha klatsch

Buddies In Bad Times services SMers, seniors & kids

Story by Eleanor Brown
Photo by Tony Fong

A year after moving to a new and larger building, the folks at Buddies In Bad Times Theatre have changed to the very foundations.

In their new digs, they've played host to a busload of (presumably straight) senior citizens and hordes of high school kids — a new type of customer for the theatre group that's best-known in the Toronto Sun for housing rape fantasy how-tos for the leather set.

"It was such a revelation to us," says publicist Hamish Buchanan, of the seniors who came in for the independent dance festival, held at Buddies for the first time. The children came in for Macbeth, performed by a group renting the space. "We are serving a much more diverse community," says Buchanan.

"We reserve the right to have SM seminars, but we're also so much more than that. It takes time to overcome, in the gay and broader community, the one-note image they have of us."

Welcome to the new Buddies In Bad Times Theatre — a gay and lesbian cultural centre. And while various financial problems may have forced the changes, Tallulah's Cabaret has made a large part of that growth possible.

"We're seeing ourselves now as a cultural centre, which is a significant shift in our thinking," says general manager Tim Jones.

"Rather than seeing ourselves as a theatre with a bunch of sidelines, we're creating art, and this is the way we're doing it."

Tallulah's is now averaging three or four special events a week — from book launches to birthday parties to benefits to comedy and torch singers. The space is free — and Buddies keeps the take from the bar.

Last month, the Buddies gang sent out a letter to community organizations offering the space. "In these tough economic times, it is important that we support each other. We think that we can help you either raise or save money and you, in turn, can help us by holding your event at Tallulah's."

Gerald Hannon, the put-upon Ryerson journalism professor, responded to his indefinite suspension with a press conference held at the cabaret.

Almost half of the Buddies budget now comes from what's called "self-generated" income — beer sales, coat-checks and rentals for the main theatre space (which Buddies uses for its own

productions only 13 weeks of the year).

Fifteen percent comes from fundraising — including dungeons and the Sat, Dec 9 annual XXX Auction — and another ten from the box office for in-house plays.

That leaves one-quarter of the Buddies \$875,000 budget coming from government. That's down from 60 percent five years ago (although the actual dollar amounts have increased; the total budget has more than doubled, what with the new building, a tripling of staff and bringing in some 400 artists).

Last December, the City of Toronto gave Buddies an emergency \$184,000 grant after construction companies placed a lien on the building. And city councillors also agreed Buddies would not have to contribute an additional \$300,000 to an endowment fund.

Earlier this year, Buddies needed to raise \$60,000. And Jones says the financial crunch

has passed. As yet, there's no word on how the massive provincial government culture cuts will affect Buddies.

Says Jones: "We're going to survive."

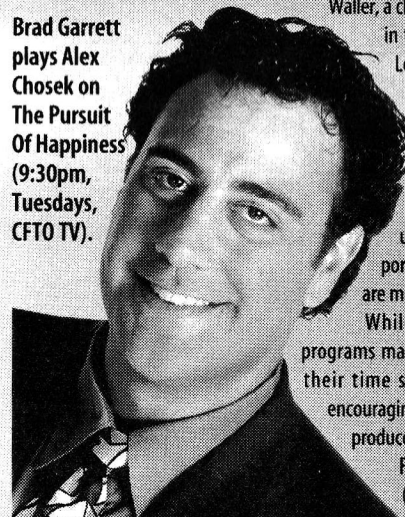


NEW DIRECTION.
General manager Tim Jones sets a new course.

The US-based **Gay And Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)** is encouraging its members to express support for the gay and lesbian characters on five TV shows that premiered this fall.

The new shows are **The Crew**, with Paul Steadman, who plays an acid-tongued flight attendant; **The Pursuit Of Happiness**, featuring Alex Chosek, an ambulance chasing lawyer; **Courthouse**, with Rosetta Reid and Danny Gates, as the first black lesbian couple in TV history; **Live Shot**, featuring Lou

Brad Garrett plays Alex Chosek on **The Pursuit Of Happiness** (9:30pm, Tuesdays, CFTO TV).



Waller, a closeted sportscaster dealing with homophobia in the sports industry; and **Murder One**, with Louis Heinsbergen, the gay assistant to celeb attorney Ted Hoffman.

"These characters are some of the most positive gay and lesbian characters on TV," says Tamra King, GLAAD's entertainment media director. "[It's] an unprecedented season for positive portrayals... to the point where the characters are multi-dimensional."

While the final ratings are not in, all these programs may be in danger of cancellation because of their time slots and other competition. GLAAD is encouraging viewers to write letters of support to the producers.

For producers' addresses, call Tamra King at (213) 658-6775.

And so on... ■ **The Canadian Foundation For AIDS Research (CANFAR)** has received a donation of \$125,000 from the Royal Bank, thanks to the influence of renowned contralto **Maureen Forrester**. The grant matches the prize given to the winner of the **1995 Royal Bank Award**, which Forrester was given on Nov 16 for her "contribution to human welfare and the common good." At a news conference at Roy Thomson Hall, Forrester said she has long been a supporter of AIDS research... ■ **Midi Onodera's** feature film **Skin Deep** recently won the **Audience Award** for best picture at the **Hamburg International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival**... ■ An original cast recording of the lesbian- and gay-themed musical **Cruisin'** is now out on CD. All proceeds are to go to the **Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation**, **MAC AIDS Foundation** and the **AIDS Committee Of Toronto**. The CD retails for \$20. To order, call (416) 922-8566... ■ Despite an almost \$500,000 decrease in government support, the **Canadian Opera Company** produced an operating surplus of \$5,400 in its 1994-95 season. Private sector support has increased by 11 percent... ■ On Nov 29, **Coach House Press** and **Theatrebooks** celebrated the publication of **This Unknown Flesh: A Selection of Plays by Sky Gilbert**... ■ Opera diva **Jessye Norman** is suing **Classic CD Magazine** for \$3-million, saying that an article portrayed her as fat and stupid... ■ The worldwide trade in looted works of art, estimated to be at least \$1-billion a year, is now only exceeded by drug deals and the illicit arms business... ■ **Dr Patrick Carnes**, a Californian who specializes in treating sexual addictions, was in Winnipeg in October to speak at a conference sponsored by the **Group Against Pornography**. Carnes said that destructive behaviour — like that of **Paul Bernardo** — in many cases can be linked to pornography....

XXX Auction.
\$10. 7pm. Sat, Dec 9.
Dungeon.
\$15 (in advance). 9:30pm - 4am. Sun, Dec 31.
12 Alexander St. (416) 975-8555.