

For Immediate Release
"Instant Queer Soup"

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Comedy Cabaret Benefits Boston's Small Theater

"Instant Queer Soup," a showcase of theater, comedy, and drag, will be held at The Boston Center for the Arts on June 17th. The event, coproduced by J. Renee Productions and The Brian+Mal Show, will feature local performers and raise money for future productions. Tickets cost \$15 and can be purchased at the door, or in advance at New Words Books in Cambridge. Showtime is 8 p.m. For reservations and information, please call 617-290-6809, or visit www.brianandmal.com.

The program includes the original short play, Interview with the 50 Foot Woman. Written by Jess Martin, the play is a pastiche of 50's monster movies. Martin cleverly substitutes the anti-Communist subtext of so many movies of the period with homophobia. In the end, the lesbian lovers at the center of the comedy turn out to be as American as apple pie next to the motley cast of trigger happy soldiers, overcaffeinated aliens, and telepathic children.

Local comedians Brian Jewell and Karen Malme, aka The Brian+Mal Show, will be on hand to deliver their own brand of "coed queer comedy." The duo will perform selections from their repertoire of sketch comedy ranging from physical comedy to satire to blissful absurdism.

Also slated to appear are the high femme/drag king burlesque of The Princesses of Porn with The Dukes of Dykedom, monologist Meg Wright, and an original piece from T&A Theatre.

Monies raised will defray production costs of the next collaboration between J. Renee Productions and The Brian+Mal Show: a double bill of one act plays that opens in July.

"These are tough times for micro theater companies," notes Renee C. Farster, who will appear in Interview with the 50 Foot Woman. Farster has a unique perspective on the Boston theater scene; by night an amateur actor, by day she is Director of Audience Development at The American Repertory Theater.

"With arts funding in jeopardy and small performance spaces closing, it makes sense for small companies to collaborate. This cabaret is an exciting opportunity for audiences to discover some performers they may not know, and for the artists to network and share skills."

"It's an all-you-can-eat buffet of talent," enthuses producer/performer Brian Jewell. "Anyone who thinks theater in Boston is the latest Broadway touring company will be pleasantly surprised at our home grown talent."

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