

**Lesbian and Gay Rights
in the 1990's:
Into the Streets As Well As the Courts**

with

**Matt Coles, Managing Attorney,
ACLU San Francisco**
Saturday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.
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Encore!

Sheklow Continued from Page 5

cides that what she really wants is to go live among lesbians and work with sexual issues with other lesbians."

Then amidst this newly created plot lies nine reworked songs, otherwise known as the soundtrack cuts of *The Sound of Lesbians*.

"We started with 'My Favorite Things' and since then it's been a lot of fun and a lot of work," she said. "I just worked with the words and the lines and the rhymes until it all came together."

"It's kind of like channeling. It's like the song is out there and I just have to be an open medium and it comes through me," she explained with a laugh.

The result of her three years of creative efforts have culminated in a song list including "Safe Sex, Safe Sex" instead of "So Long, Farewell," "Lesbian Novice" instead of "16 Going On 17," "Lonely Lezzie" instead of "Lonely Goatherd," and "Clitoris" instead of "Edelweiss."

When the story line and the music is all put together, the outcome is twofold: outrageous comedy and eye-opening thoughts and messages.

The show was performed once before to a standing-roomonly crowd at last month's International Women's Day, and Sheklow received primarily positive feedback.

"I had a lot of comments from people and they said, 'I peed my pants,' 'I fell off my chair I was laughing so hard' and so on," Sheklow explained. "This is a funny show. Everyone is cracking up."

On the more serious side, *The Sound of Lesbians* also packs a powerful punch when it comes to messages.

"Sexual repression is so pervasive and this is a chance to have lesbian sexuality celebrated," she said. "This is about lesbian sexu-

ality and the appreciation of sexual diversity."

Because of the mix of comedy and message, *The Sound of Lesbians* accomplishes its goals — to make people laugh and to open them up to acceptance and appreciation. This parody does both.

"A lot of people were big fans of *The Sound of Music*, and Julie Andrews was a character that a lot of men and women identified with because she went against what was expected of her and did what she wanted to do," Sheklow said. "It's really hard to be hostile or violent or restrictive when it's so funny and entertaining."

"The intent is to give people in the audience permission to have a sense of humor about their sexuality," she added.

This is the first time she's performed her play to an audience of both men and women. "It's very woman-affirming and men will like it because it's campy, but to everyone it's a comedy," Sheklow said.

As the opener for Lesbian and Gay Pride Week, *The Sound of Lesbians* will start the week out on the right foot, bringing lesbian sexuality to the surface and presenting it in a positive light. "I'm a proud lesbian on display," she said.

"It's hard to get lesbian humor because there's not much around," she added, indicating the important role that *The Sound of Lesbians* will have during Pride Week.

Homophobia, however, still exists and Sheklow said she hates it, but she also has an understanding of both sides.

Sheklow has created a play that finds the right mixture of laughter and learning.

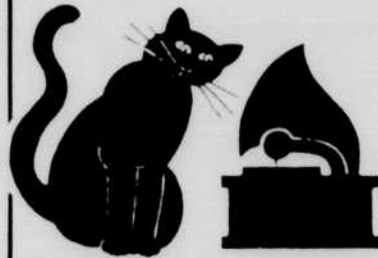
"People will laugh and have a good time and feel good," she said. "They'll feel freer hopefully and go away humming one of the songs."

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