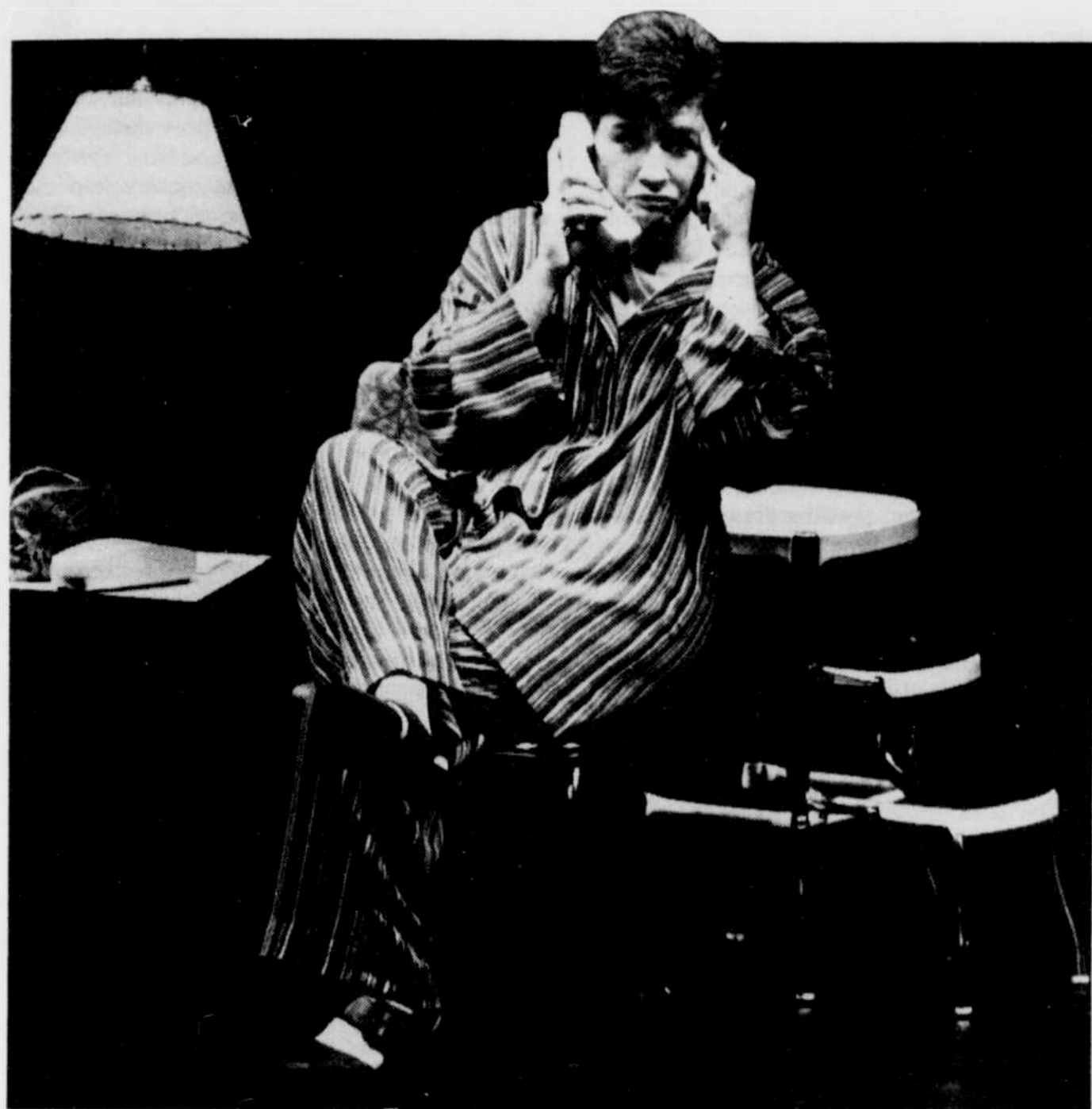


COMIC EXPLORES HUMILIATION

Lisa Kron's performance piece 101 Humiliating Stories is embarrassing

by Jann Gilbert



Lisa Kron

Have you ever gone to the store with your employer's bank deposit and, on a momentary impulse, spent the money? For those who wear them, have you ever left the bathroom and returned to the office with your skirt stuck in your tights? Performance artist Lisa Kron has. And she tells us all about it in her most recent work, *101 Humiliating Stories*, presented by the Portland Art Museum's Art/On the Edge series.

Entertainment

Kron is a longtime member of the Obie award-winning WOW Cafe Theatre collective and a member of the acclaimed performance collective The Five Lesbian Brothers. She is known for her full-length monologues *All My Hopes and Dreams* and *Facing Life's Problems*.

101 Humiliating Stories comprises 17 vignettes of excruciating moments—humiliations past, present and future. To reassure the math whiz, Kron maintains that "each story has several humiliations."

The incidents portrayed in *101 Humiliating Stories* run the gamut from her "Geeky Celebrity Encounters" to scenes from her 1975 high school gym class. Through them, Kron weaves a picture of the universal experience of humiliation. The story that strings the evening together is that of Kron's being asked to entertain at her class reunion in Lansing, Mich.

At first she declines: "I'm a big lesbian, actu-

ally. Maybe you should get a magician." She goes, of course, but not before practicing four possible speeches she might give, in which she explains both her sexual and her professional identities. The four speeches range from being forthright about her lesbianism to being cagey (she substitutes "woman" for "lesbian"), and from being cosmopolitan about her career to being just plain embarrassed. Kron shows us that embarrassment is relative by performing in pajamas.

Says Stephen Holden of *The New York Times*, "On the surface, *101 Humiliating Stories* is a lighthearted monologue that touches only glancingly on sexual political issues. But underneath, it is a subtle and intriguing exploration of the nature of performance."

Kron has been working as a solo performer since 1984. In an interview with Kate Bornstein of the *Bay Area Reporter*, Kron said, "I started out doing 'legitimate theater.' I played a lot of old ladies and next-door neighbors. At one point in college, I was up for a supporting role as next-

door neighbor, but the chairman of the theater department told me I couldn't convey any sexuality onstage. I decided I could convey sexuality, but there wasn't a lot of pussy-licking going on in Inge and the other standard playwrights who get produced at the college level."

You can catch *101 Humiliating Stories* at 8 pm Friday and Saturday, Feb. 3 and 4, at the Portland Art Museum's Berg Swann Auditorium, 1219 SW Park Ave. And if you have to sneeze in the middle of a punch line, don't worry—Kron will understand.

The Coffee Merchants

The finest imported coffee beans, teas, chocolates, and beverage brewing accessories.

THE BROADWAY COFFEE MERCHANT
1637 N.E. Broadway • 284-9209

THE HAWTHORNE COFFEE MERCHANT
3562 S.E. Hawthorne • 230-1222



PORTLAND WOMEN'S THEATER PRESENTS

"BLAIR of LALUNA"

Feb. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 & 25
Mar. 3 & 4
8:00 pm \$8.00

1728 NE 40th
1/2 blk north of Sandy Blvd.

287-7707 for info or to make reservation

"The making of an EPIC LESBIAN something or other!"

A Semi Blonde Production

LOOK FOR
just out's
NEXT ISSUES
FEB. 17 AND MARCH 3
(DEADLINE FEB. 16 FOR
MARCH 3 ISSUE)

SEE US FOR ALL YOUR COLLISION REPAIR NEEDS

Ferguson
AUTOBODY

(503) 232-3600
2454 E. BURNSIDE • PORTLAND, OR 97214
Family Owned & Operated Since 1952



Karen Sweigert, M.D.

Physician and Surgeon
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Metropolitan Clinic
1130 N.W. 22nd, Suite 520
Portland, Oregon 97210
229-7538



"We'd like to get to know you"

A special introduction Mention you saw this ad and

CUSTOM FRAMING IS

FREE

Assembly is free—
You pay for the materials

- Complete Projects only
- Uniframes excluded

'Picture This' FRAMING GALLERY

2801 SE Holgate • Portland • 236-1400

Plenty of FREE parking at our convenient Eastside location

Mon.-Fri. 9:30 am - 6 pm • Saturday 10 am-5:30 pm

Applies to complete projects only. Not to be combined with other offers.