



Mana Charlie's

Hot and Nasty Summer

Well my **children** Summer is almost gone and let me tell you what a **hot time** it was. And honey, I'm **not talking** about the **humidity!** Where to start where to start. . . The annual Summer **hike** was a bit **too strenuous** for some who could **not keep up** with the rest of the **pack**. The **aged** wanted a **slower** pace. Honey, I **don't think** that carrying that **oxygen tank** was such a good **idea**, though. You should have just rented one of those **electric** wheelchairs and **zoomed past** the others. I did however hear that there were **some shaking** in the **bushes** and an **odd thick, whitish** substance was **found** near the site. Hmmm—could it have been that **Big Foot** was out on the **prowl**? I think not. In reported **sightings**, Big Foot had **less hair** on the body but **more on the head**.



Talking about **rare sightings**, GAPIMNYites was seen **in the wilderness** of Queens-**mingling** with the local populace. It seemed that GAPIMNY cosponsored a **pot luck** lunch with Queens **Pride House** in their ever **fabulous**, although **cramped and hot** locale. Instead of having the **monthly brunch**, we were **treated** to the musical styling of that NYC best **ambidextrous-wannabe** bottom **bitch** with **guitar**, in a selfless **promotion**. Too bad that he left his CD's in the **bathroom** of last night's **trick**. If you would like to sample **his wares** (bottoming!) go to www.dannykatzmusic.cum. Of course not to be outdone, **APANY** also had one of **their members** perform his **rendition** of a **cat being skinned alive**. As if once was **not enough**, he **did it twice**, with the same songs! Even with the song lyric **hand out** we still could not **make out** what he was **saying**. And what was that **boy's name** in the corner **mauling the coverboy** of PersuAsian? Girl, that was as **close** as he was **ever going** to get near an **Asian god**. . . The event had **lots of eye candy** and **food** to feed an entire **army!**

Talk about not enough **eye candy**, what happened to the **picnic** at the park with that **long name**? I **hear** that **not a lot** of folks **showed up** and that **Hot Body** and **Beautiful Face** were **really upset**, not to mention **the rest** of the **HeHe-HaHa** crowd. Well next time **remember** what **the name of the park** is, and **stop being** such a **blond**. That's what you get for **trying to dye** your **pubes** with bleach. I **told you** time and time again to **use lemon juice** or better yet just **pluck them out** so that they don't grow back!



The beach trip to **Jones Beach** was a **huge success**. I have never seen that **much skin** on so many GAPIMNY **boys**, and some showed **more skin** than I could



contest, **golden brown** and **finger licking good**. Who has been **hiding her** from me?

Talk about **finger lickin' good**, were you at the July meeting to **take part** in a topic of **Sex**? There was none of that **boring stuff** that you see in the movies but it was a **real informative** session. As always the meeting **drew more** of its share of **old and new** members. The **orgy** was led by 3 of the **biggest holes** or is that poles of the group, **Jade, Connie and Glenda**. Each gave a **demonstration** of how things, like **vacuum pumps**, vibrators, **dildos and cock rings**, work and also explained the difference between a **sex club** vs. a **bath house**. . . and does a **golden shower** room make a sex club a bath house? The **hand outs** of places **cited for sex**, as well as **web sites**, **came in handy** cuz I hear that there was **suddenly an influx** of cute **Asian men** seen at the **local haunts**. . .

Talk about Asian men, the **workshop** on **Self Improvement** **lacked** just that. How am I supposed to **improve** myself if there were **not enough men** around? I mean **the whole session could have** been boiled down to **one phrase**. Only I **have the power** to change my life! But it seemed that the **scheduled presenter** lost power when he was **taken hostage** by another cult and **Stephanie** was kind **enough to fill** in the **hole**. . . It's a shame that there were **no takers** though. Even our beloved **bottom Connie** was seen **nodding off** in the corner. **Nana didn't** think he was **that bad** honey. I just think he did **not know** what he was **walking into**—lets face it the attendees were well **informed** or were they well **JADED**? **Kudos to Stephanie** for trying—now **stare** into **my eyes** and see how **bored** I was. . .

Did you see **Sabrina, Jessica, Mimi Yu, Naomi** and others **slip into** an East Village **Karaoke** joint? Girls, girls for **goodness sake**, please **keep** your day **jobs**! And did you see all **those vultures** flying around a nice **Korean** hockey **puck** at Lana's and Swagatha's summer **blowout**? Apparently all those vultures wanted to be the hockey **stick** to his **puck**. Nana first!

Talk about blowout, what was all **that commotion** at **Prospect Park**? It looked like more GAPIMNYites were **mingling** about during the annual picnic with **ALP**. Mmmmm—and honey, there were the **mixtures of colors** from black to white to yellow and every thing **in between**! Lots of **eye candy** at the picnic, from **Lan** to that **hunky mermaid Ariel** who was seen in **spandex** and on her way to **Coney Island** via her **broom**, hope she didn't get lost. I overheard the **membership** helper was seen with that wanna be **geisha girl** gossiping about all the **tricks they turned** while the **masters** were away. Honey, **share the dish** with your Nana, **you two** have been gone for **too long** and I miss having the **knife in my back** twisted. No, no—**really** you looked **fabulous, older but great** none the less! **Speaking of older**, where has **Stella** been lately? I **don't see** her any more unless it was **out in the wild** with her **legs up** in the trees **having sex**. **Cum and pinch** us once in a while and **bring the Sweet Mole** with you. Its time to **leave that self exile** in the **back waters of Jersey**. . . Well, I've **rambled on** and on and on and on so **love you all** and **Kiss kiss**. . . . PA



dear

MADAME LING

Dear Madame Ling:

I hang out with a former co-worker a few times a year and the thing is, he thinks that I am straight and he always wants me to go out with him and look for girls. He is desperate for marriage and wants to find the perfect girl. Madame Ling, he thinks that I am such an expert on women and he always wants my advice on how to handle them. He doesn't know that I am gay and I really want to break it to him gently. I'm tired of playing hetero. Any suggestions?

Sincerely,

Gay All the Way



Dear Gay All the Way,

Honey you may think your gay all the way, but apparently you are able to pull off a good hetero act OR he knows and he is not as straight as he would like you to think. Either way, get a life dear. I'm busy, and have only time for a quick reply. As we have been told, men are from Mars, women from Venus, and honey so are you. Just like the girl wearing the ruby red slippers, the answer you seek is within. There are two parts to your question. One concern is that you want to come clean and confess that you are as Nelly as the girls your friend wants to marry, and the other is that you are concerned about giving advice on dating girls. Honey, who better than a closet queen to know and give advice on what every girl wants from a man. You my dear are perfect for the job, now pull up those Gerrridala boots and let's get going.

When it comes to giving "girl" advice and tips on how to handle women, all you got to do is provide your friend with a list of rules on how you would expect a man to treat you and voila, you become the premier authority on dating, romance, and matrimony. Naturally if you want to remain closeted, you change the nouns, verbs, adjectives to the appropriate tense when you discuss these points. Since you say you are "gay all the way", you may be able to reveal your secret and give advice with one carefully planned event. This can be a lot of fun, but be prepared for disaster, Oh Honey, "snap," "snap," who cares, a girl lives for drama.

Try this. . . One evening invite your friend over for dinner and tell him you would like to discuss the best ways to handle women. Tell him you'll have dinner ready at 7. When he arrives be sure to be wearing your best de'Lore Divor evening wear when you greet him at the door. After he has a chance to catch his breath, you can explain to him that you will be role playing to help show him everything in how to treat a women from A to Z, including

dinner romance and bed room antics. If your friend doesn't leave faster than a waitress being called on, your "hetero" friend may actually give it a go and you may discover he is not as marriage minded as he says he is. As a last resort, send your friend my way, and I will show him the way to matrimony, with his first lesson being how to gracefully depart with cash!

MADAME LING



Madame Ling answers all of your questions about love & hate, sex, boyfriends, ex-boyfriends, etc. etc. Send your lovesick questions to **PersuAsianNYC@yahoo.com** or write her at **PO Box 1608, Old Chelsea Station, NYC, 10113.**



FLOWER DRUM SONG



Music by Richard Rodgers, Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II
Book by David Henry Hwang
Directed and Choreographed by Robert Longbottom

Reviewed by Dan Bacalzo

In the opening scene of the newly revised Flower Drum Song, an elderly gentleman storms a crowd of Maoists, pulling down a banner with the Chinese leader's face prominently displayed. The man is taken away, much to his daughter's horror. She is left alone, and joins a group of Chinese immigrants on the voyage to America. It's a bold beginning that marks an even bolder experiment — led by Tony Award-winning playwright David Henry Hwang — to re-imagine the 1958 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical.

Hwang has written a completely new book that integrates most of the original songs, plus an additional tune from one of Rodgers and Hammerstein's minor works, Pipe Dream. It is to Hwang's credit that

the result is a nearly seamless creation that makes you think that the songs were written for the playwright's script, and not the other way around.

A perfect example of this is "A Hundred Million Miracles," sung by Mei-Li (Lea Salonga). The plaintive coda of her singing repeatedly "My father says. . ." is invested with an added emotional weight, not found in the original version of the song. Her grief at her father's loss shines through, establishing an emotional tenor that would otherwise be lacking.

Fans of the original musical may be shocked at the extent of the revisions. Instead of a story about arranged marriages and romantic entanglements, the focus is on self-discovery and a process of assimilation that

both demonstrates the influence of America on San Francisco's Chinatown residents, and at the same time pays tribute to the traditions and customs of the old country. As the male protagonist of the story, Wang Ta (Jose Llana) says, "If we want to make something new, we first have to love what is old."

The statement could also be applied to the whole concept of revising *Flower Drum Song*. It's evident that Hwang has a great deal of respect, and even love for the original musical. His book riffs off of the show's characters and situations, even if at times it seems the only elements Hwang kept were the musical's setting in Chinatown and the love story between Mei-Li and Wang-Ta. Some familiar characters, such as nightclub singer Linda Low (Sandra Allen) still remain, while others are changed so drastically as to make them unrecognizable. Wang-Ta's father, played by Randall Duk Kim, has been combined with the nightclub owner, Sammy Fong. Madame Liang (Jodi Long), who in the original was the elder Wang's sister-in-law, is now a theatrical agent who helps transform Wang's Chinese Opera theater into a hip nightclub featuring Asian talent performing all-American fare.

The nightclub setting helps to contextualize potentially problematic songs like "Chop Suey," which is re-made into an ironic commentary on the need to play upon Asian stereotypes in order to make it in the entertainment biz. It also allows director/choreographer Robert Longbottom to stage some truly dazzling show-stoppers such as the hilarious yet sexy "Fan Tan Fannie." Allen is at her finest in this number, exuding a playfulness that is both magnetic and somewhat campy.

Llana, as Wang Ta, is pitch perfect in his youthful exuberance. Also a treat is Long, as the feisty agent and former film actress whose claim to fame is as the Asian girl you see in close up, screaming as her village is bombed in war movies.

Salonga is, unfortunately, somewhat disappointing in the role of Mei-Li. There's no doubt that the former Miss Saigon has the

talent and singing ability to pull off the role. But on the night I saw the show she seemed oddly disconnected. Exceptions to this were the opening number of "A Hundred Million Miracles," that I've already described and a short reprise of "I Enjoy Being a Girl" that Mei-Li sings after Linda loans her a Western-style dress so that she can impress Ta. Perhaps constrained by the necessity to make her character appear different from the more Americanized Chinatown residents, Salonga keeps her movements very small and contained.

Hwang's book is also not without flaws. A subplot revolving around a disillusioned Mei-Li's engagement to another man is resolved far too easily. Also, the estrangement and reconciliation between Ta and his father could be developed more fully. Still, the revisions to the book make it, in my opinion, far superior to the original musical.

That's not to say that it will make Rodgers and Hammerstein purists happy. But they should realize that original book writers Oscar Hammerstein and Joseph Fields also took a lot of liberties with their adaptation of the novel by C.Y. Lee. Lee's book contained neither an arranged marriage nor a nightclub setting. A devastating subplot in the novel about the heavily pock-marked Helen Chao and her doomed romance with Ta was almost entirely erased from Hammerstein and Field's script. In the 1961 film version, it only surfaced in a bizarre dream sequence that could be open to many interpretations.

In other words, those complaining about Hwang not having respect for the source material and messing with the intent of the original should lighten up. In many ways, the newly revised *Flower Drum Song* is closer in spirit to Lee's novel, even if the plot, circumstances, and several of the characters are completely different. It is a work that pays tribute to both its predecessors, but ultimately stands on its own as a unique and entertaining contribution to the genre of musical theater. PA





Eating Out

with Prissie Lah

Café Habana

229 Elizabeth Street (@ Prince Street)
(212) 625-2002



This little ethnic diner has been popular with locals long before the Lenny Kravitz video put it in the spot light. Sitting at a quiet corner on the east edge of Soho, away from the commercial shopping strip, it rarely got outsiders venturing into it. But its location has not stopped it from being one of the busiest restaurants in the neighbourhood. My friend Ida Ho and I walked up to the door at about 8pm in a cool August Wednesday evening. There was already a crowd waiting outside its main dining room and its sister take-out shop next door. We managed to get the attention of one of the two busy waitresses and were told there would be an hour wait. As we were pacing about and pondering our options, a few tables as well as two seats by the bar/counter emptied out. With the permission of the waitress, we took the two seats at the counter without the wait. As soon as we sat down, each of us took a Mexican Jarritos soft drink, which is a refreshing start before a summer meal. The clientele is mostly young—probably NYU students—including quite a few that Ida would call “cousins”. The wall



is painted with palm tree motif and decorated with some artsy pictures of people in diner uniforms.

From the menu, we learned that the restaurant copies from an original Café Habana in Mexico City, where many Cuban musicians and artists gather and perform. Ida ordered a Pollo Mirador—lightly battered chicken breasts with spinach, onion and yellow rice. She said her chicken felt a little greasy, but I told her that that was probably how they cooked it without being too dry. She also ordered a side of plantains. We saw the people in the kitchen (off from the side of the counter) putting them in the frying pan. It came out quite greasy. But it still tasted very smooth with some crispy edges. Ida said her father liked to have them with a sprinkle of sugar. I had the Enchiladas Estilo Morteno – steak and cheese wrapped in soft tortillas and served with rice and beans and avocado. The steak was tasty and juicy. Behind the counter, we could see where the bartender got most of the drinks and cold deserts. We saw him mixing different kinds of Margaritas and cold liqueur coffee. The thing that caught both our eyes most is the espresso kahlua flan. So, we decided to share one. It certainly tasted as good as it looks! This just made a wonderful finish for a midweek evening. I guess this has been our lucky day. If you are in the Soho area, make sure to swing by Café Habana for a treat!

GAPIMNY Resource List

Social/Support

APANY (Asian Pacific Alliance of NY)

John: 718-966-4010
Ed: 718-699-5922
<http://hometown.aol.com/apany/index.html>
Apany@aol.com

Astraea Lesbian Action Foundation

116 E. 16th Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10003
212-529-8021
www.astraea.org

Audre Lorde Project (Center for LGBT People of Color Communities)

85 South Oxford Street
Brooklyn, NY 11217-1607
718-596-0342
alpinfo@alp.org

Filipino Buddy Group

Joey Almoradie: 212-323-1993/ 212-533-8688

GAPIMNY (Gay Asian & Pacific Islander Men of NY)

P.O. Box 1608
Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113-1608
212-802-7423
gapimny@gapimny.org
www.gapimny.org

HOP (Heritage of Pride)

2nd Mon@ The Center 8pm
212-807-7433

Iban/Queer Koreans of New York

718-596-0342 ext 33
qkny@usa.net
www.hana-lei.com/qk/frame.html

Japanese Speaking Lesbian Society/ Nipponjinnokai

Meet/Socialize w/Japanese speaking queers
Ayako Nagano: 212-627-1246;
jslny@listbot.com
nipponjinnokai@hotmail.com
geocities.yahoo.com/aknagano/jst/home.htm

Kilawin Kolektibo-Filipina Lesbian Collective

c/o A.Ulbaldo
43-07 39th Place #5A
Sunnyside, New York 11104
Christine: 718-706 7220
kilawin@egroups.com

Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center

208 West 13th Street
New York, NY 10011
212-620-7310
www.gaycenter.org

Long Yang Club-NYC

Call for dates/ times
212-835-8788

Men of All Colors Together (MACT)

1st/ 3rd/ 4th Fri @ Center 8 –11pm
mcpet@macconnect.com

Persimmon Space (APICHA)

Provides health and wellness education for API LBT women.
212-620-7287 x42
Persimmonspace@hotmail.com

Queens Pride House (Center for LGBT communities of Queens)

67-03 Woodside Avenue
Woodside, NY 11377
718-429-5309
Queenspridehouse@aol.com

SALGA (South Asian Lesbian & Gay Association)

2nd Sat @ Center 3:30-5:30pm
P.O. Box 1491 Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113
212-358-5132
salganyc@hotmail.com
www.salganyc.org

Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society

P.O. Box 2737
New York, NY 10163
212-598-4726
sundance_ny@hotmail.com
www.sundanceoutdoor.org

Health

APICHA (Asian Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS) —

Manhattan
150 Lafayette Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10013
212-334-7940
apicha@apicha.org; www.apicha.org

APICHA (Asian Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS) — Queens

74-09 37th Avenue #400
Jackson Heights, NY 11372
718-457-9662

Asian Men Accepting Our Sexuality Group

c/o APICHA -
David Chae (212) 629-7287

Chinese American Planning Council HIV/AIDS Services

365 Broadway
New York, NY 10013
hotline: 212-941-7992/ 212-941-0030
www.cpchiv.org/ cpchiv@cpchiv.org

GMHC (Gay Men's Health Crisis)

119 W 24th Street 6th Floor
New York, NY 10011

212-367-1353
hotline: 212-807-6655
askgmhc@gmhc.org
www.GMHC.org

Identity House

Peer Counseling Services, workshops & therapy referrals on sexual identity issues
39 W 14th Street #205
P.O. Box 572, Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10011
212-243-8181
identityhouse@erols.com
www.erols.com/identityhouse

Korean Community Services of New York

Kyung Hyun Ahn: 718-899-8597/8

Arts

Asian American Arts Alliance

74 Varick Street #302
New York, NY 10013
212-941-9208
www.aaartsalliance.org
artsalliance@earthlink.net

Asian American Writer's Workshop

16 West 32nd Street, Suite 10A
New York, NY 10001
212-494-0061
www.aaww.org

Asian American Theater Review

www.abcfash.com/a&e/r_tang/AATR.html

Dan Bacalzo's Asian American Performance Site

www.geocities.com/danbacalzo

GODZILLA Asian American Art Network

P.O. Box 1116
New York, NY 0276
212-228-4000 ext 400

OUT FM – WBAI 99.5

Multicultural Queer Radio
Sundays 6:30 - 7:30pm
<http://member.aol.com/outfmradio>
outfmradio@aol.com

Queer n' Asian (Asian LGBT performing arts sub-group of 'Peeling' Asian American Arts Collective)

Michael Ng: 212-228-6718

GLAAD (Gay Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation)

150 W 26th Street
New York, NY 10001
212-807-1700

LGIRTF (Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force)

P.O. Box 7741
New York, NY 10116-7741
212-802-7264; www.lgirtf.org

Legal

Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund

99 Hudson Street, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10013
Lillian Ling: 212-966-5932
www.apa2000.org

CAAAV (Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence)

191 E 3rd Street
New York, NY 10009
justice@caaav.org
212-473-6485

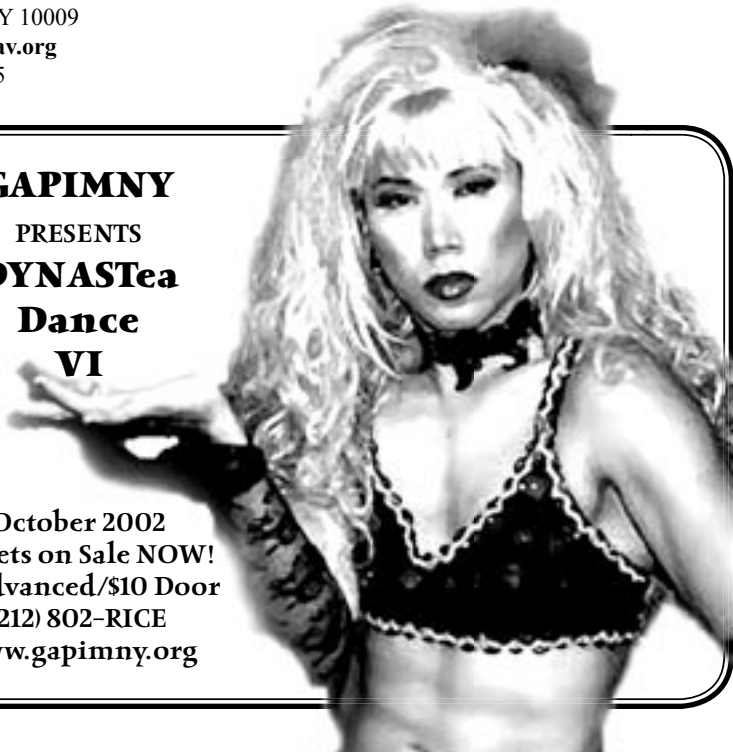
Religious/Spiritual

Metropolitan Community Church of NY

A church of LGBTQ people — open to all
446 West 36th Street (btw. 9th/10th)
New York, NY 10018
212-629-7440
www.mccny.org

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