



GAY SHOW... Patrick Scully

### Explicit show explores trials of gay life

By Ben Webster

WHEN the lights go down and a tall, blonde man walks out, removes all his clothes and dons a pair of fishnet stockings and a leopardskin miniskirt. It occurs to you that the only exit from the Old Museum Arts Centre is across the stage.

American performer Patrick Scully spends much of the next 20 minutes crossing and uncrossing his legs in a Kenny Everett-meets-Sharon Stone

manoeuvre that leaves nothing to the imagination.

Queer Thinking, a one-man show exploring the trials of being gay in homophobic American society, is not for the narrow minded. Nor is it for respectable heterosexuals who consider themselves liberal but would blanch at helping a drag artist locate the right orifice for an ear-ring.

Scully's show is split into three parts, each presenting a different type of gay man: the drag queen, the radical fairy and the militant homosexual.

Though the costumes vary to suit the role and the word "costume" is used loosely here to encompass a few smears of lipstick on a naked body) the characters are hard to tell apart.

In each role, Scully indulges in long and rambling anecdotes about how he came to terms with his homosexuality and the intolerance he encountered on his travels around Europe and America.

There is a point at which poignant confessional drama becomes sloppy solipsism, and I'm not sure Scully knows where it is.

At least he is entertainingly honest about his vanities and misconceptions: he admits visiting the Queen's Physical Education Centre this week in the hope that it might be a place where gay men keep fit.

The most moving part of the show comes when Scully describes the nightmare of living with HIV.

He explores the tricky problem of how to tell potential partners that you are infected without scaring them off. Scully is upset by the "insane reaction" of some men whom he intimately kisses and only then informs that he is HIV positive.

He says he eventually resolved to declare his infection at the outset, but then admits, with searing honesty, that "you can get carried away in the heat of the moment".

It gradually dawns on you that this show is a kind of therapy for Scully. It's his way of coping with a disease he has kept at bay for 12 years but can never be sure of beating.

During a second curtain call, Scully asked the shamefully small audience to tell their friends about his show. This was not an attempt to get bums on seats, but an impassioned plea from a man who feels deeply that others can learn from his experience.

Queer Thinking continues at the Old Museum Arts Centre tonight and tomorrow.

# Man charged drugs haul in

A 58-year-old company director was in court yesterday in connection with the seizure of \$16 million worth of drugs in the Republic last year.

The accused is Derek Jones, an English-born American citizen, whose address was given as The Willows, Old Park Road, Ballymena, Co Antrim.

He was charged at Belfast with inducing another person to import and possess cannabis between September 1995 and September 1996.

He also faced two charges of

laundering. The charges alleged that in Ballymena, between December, 1995, and his arrest earlier this week, he concealed cash which was the proceeds of crime.

Detective Constable John Horan, of the RUC serious crime squad, told the court the drugs charges related to the import into the Republic of 1.7 tonnes of cannabis resin with a street value of \$16 million.

documents, property belonging to businesses, Mr Jones was charged on June 26. The judge last November ordered Plogeur Wylly to pay a fine of \$100,000.

## Design



GIFTED DESIGN at last night's, £

## IRA n of 'ho

A SELF-CONFESSED IRA involvement in a plot in London and the south told an Old Bailey judge was "just a messenger service unit."

Giving evidence, Murphy denied any knowledge of national grid sub-stations in London.

Murphy, the second evidence in the trial, claimed he was only involved between the IRA and the team in London.

He and his seven co-defendants were charged with conspiring to cause an explosion which would endanger life or property on January 1 and July 16, 1996.

They are Gerard Hanlon (34), Patrick Martin (35) and (45) from Belfast, Roy from Dundalk, and John Crawley (39), Clive Brampton (36) from Bromford Bridge, an alleged "helper" to



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By Joy Rolston

be identified, said: "Usually my bill is under £50. I squealed with horror

cost over £12. I've written and telephoned BT to

currently hold the alleged tr