

CULTURE

FEST



When I graduated from high school in 1957, I had seen the word "homosexual" once. When I finished college four years later, I was still too terrified of my feelings to ask a psychologist if he thought I was. The psychologist in turn feared to encourage my condition by labelling it. Things have changed in the 23 years since, and nothing makes that clearer than the Festival of Gay and Lesbian Culture produced May 30 thru June 1 at the University of Minnesota by Voices and Visions Productions under the leadership of Ken Majerus in cooperation with the University Lesbian and Gay Community.

It will be next to impossible to recreate parts of that experience for you journalistically—Marj Bly's mime telling of lesbian initiation and coming out through skillful hand movements; Patrick Skully's contact-improv/sation, ballet-combined-with words portrayal of gay feelings in the high school shower; and the art exhibit that ran simultaneously in Gallery 2 of Coffman Union. Nor can I reproduce the music that accompanied the songs.

Texts follow for a selection of the songs and poems through which about 20 lesbians and gays explored their feelings and experiences. Perhaps this is the best way to let the creators speak for themselves. The material selected is representative of the high quality of the overall production, which was a unique and enriching experience, one I hope will be repeated annually.

Tim Campbell