

# CROSS currents by Wickie Stamps

I was just reading a piece in *The Village Voice* by Guy Trebay. In his article on male dancers, *Only Looking, Scenes from a Go-Go Planet*, he quoted the D.J. and the booker of the boy dancers, most of whom are gay, performers from Gaiety, a burlesque theater, now famous since Madonna included the hard-bodied boys in her *Sex* book.

In this piece, the Gaiety employee talks about how hustlers, who used to comprise the majority of dancers, and seedy-looking types no longer need apply. Take a clean-cut, healthy type of dancer is in. "...The dancers are very healthy looking, giving you that gym look. In the 70s, the type was a little more sleazier. But, it went from the hard-core kind of druggie, hustlers attitude to people in college who're into giving a nice show."

I'm sorry, this is just too much. What's wrong with sleazy hustlers as dancers (other than the fact that they'll rob you blind?). Sex, now more than ever, is increasingly associated with dirt and death. And all of us, including dancers at burlesque theaters are paying the price for this attitude.

Sanitary sex, i.e. sex that is neat, tidy and predictable (and doesn't leave you feeling uncomfortable) is in. It's a type of sex, if you can even call it that, that has customers demanding dancers who are "people in college giving a nice show." This attitude is dangerous because it fails to acknowledge that sex is an over-the-edge, unpredictable, dangerous experience, as is arousal. And yet, there's growing pressure for neat, predictable,

Orwellian sex. Even S/M joints — and players — are starting to put strangleholds on this erotic terrain. But "high risk" does carry a connotation of "unsafe." Just ask heavy S/M players whose practices are increasingly policed by members of their own community.

Please understand there's a big difference between practicing safe sex and what I call "sanitary sex." Safe sex can be practiced with condoms and dental dams. Sanitary sex demands inquisitional-type attitudes and beliefs.

By the by, please note that the boy dancer booker also went on to say that boy dancers, who historically are gay, must also have "a healthy appearance" as Gaiety dancers "have to look their best. A little under the weather is not acceptable. The customers think something is wrong."

Great. Soon, as is already happening in the sex industry, no more gay boys will be hired. Too risky. They might start looking sick. You know, that disease we won't mention.

It's a sad day when hard-core sex goes mainstream. But Madonna should be happy. She came into Gaiety, had her picture taken, made a fortune on someone's else's sexuality — and split.

Like I said, I've had it. I vote for hard-core. But, I forgot, a growing minority asks our permission — nor wants our votes — on the issue of the slow eradication of our sexuality.