

MONSTROUS REGIMENT

Since John Knox blew the first blast of the trumpet against the Monstrous Regiment of women in the sixteenth century, the monstrous regiment have been fighting back. Our Monstrous Regiment was formed in 1975, fighting back against the treatment of women, in the theatre and in society. Unemployment, small parts as wives or girlfriends, always serving, never acting on our own behalf. But women always have acted on their own behalf and we want to celebrate that action:

if this is fringe theatre, let's hope it's here to stay — **The Journal**, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
the most exciting theatre I have seen in ages — **Bristol Evening Post**
wit, awareness and immensely skilful craft as able, committed and inventive actors — **Morning Star**
superb music — **Time Out**
the remarkable versatility of a set of very good actors and musicians ensures that the total effect is both moving and thought provoking — **Yorkshire Post**





VINEGAR TOM

Written by Caryl Churchill, the play asks:

Who are today's witches? Would they have hanged you then? Don't we still have scapegoats when we don't understand the world? A woman accused of witchcraft describes how she will try to sink without drowning when she is tried by the ducking stool.

"What the play did, implicitly, was show how sinking without drowning is the art of survival as a women, whether in the seventeenth of the twentieth century. — Catherine Itzin. Tribune

**PLUS TWO SHOWS
FOR 1977/8** 

KISS AND KILL

A new show looking at domestic violence, its origins and its flashpoints. Why do we tolerate in the home what we would never tolerate in the streets?



SCUM:

DEATH, DESTRUCTION AND DIRTY WASHING
A musical celebration of women in the Paris Commune, 1871.

Under the pressure of circumstances and through the spread of socialist ideas and the propaganda of the clubs, they felt that the co-operation of women was indispensable to the triumphs of the social revolution now in the fighting stage — A Communard, 1871.

The play shows the development of women laundry workers and their gradual involvement in the Commune.

FLOORSHOW

A new cabaret musical show for clubs and small intimate venues. Putting our versatility and musical abilities to work in another environment. Good, professional entertainment is not the sole possession of the theatres. We seek to be of use to the widest possible audience.



Monstrous Regiment is a group of professional theatre workers, organised co-operatively, sharing skills, to provide a high standard of touring theatre in a range of venues all over the country. The impetus for our group was the emergence of the women's movement, which has exposed "natural" roles to questioning:

The outstanding and highest calling of woman is always that of wife and mother, and it would be unthinkable misfortune if we allowed ourselves to be turned from this point of view. — Josef Goebbels, German Minister of Propaganda in 1939.

We want to challenge and provoke; disturb our audience while we entertain.

One critic expressed his initial concern:

'Oh no, not another counter-culture theatre group, ranting dogma and chanting over-politicised cant' (Grimsby Evening Telegraph). But he later entitled a review *'MONSTROUSLY GOOD THEATRE'*, calling our performance *'moving, earthily funny, exhilarating, good musically, finely crafted and well acted.'*

We want to provide all this at prices to suit all circumstances, and we always offer help with organisation, publicity, technical advice etc. We try to go wherever we're asked, and given time we can make most venues suitable. We hope to get the widest sponsorship for our work, not just because it is our life-blood, but because we believe people should control their own lives and their own culture.

June 1977

***Take culture into your own hands!
Book the Monstrous Regiment!***

Information:

Sue Beardon, 108a Essex Road, London N1. 01-359 7027.

Company members:

Roger Allam	musician performer	Helen Glavin	performer, musician, composer
Sue Beardon	administrator	Gillian Hanna	performer
Linda Broughton	performer	Mary McCusker	performer
Chris Bowler	performer	Sue Todd	director, performer
Josefina Cupido	musician performer	Meri Jenkins	lighting, tour manager

The Monstrous Regiment receives financial assistance from the Arts Council of Great Britain.