

## 1977/78... TWO SHOWS...

### Floorshow

By Bryony Lavery, Caryl Churchill, Michelene Wandor and David Bradford. Music by Helen Glavin, Roger Allam and Josefina Cupido.

A musical cabaret which looked at the contradictions which surround the world of women at work. At the same time recognising that equal career opportunities alone cannot bring about fundamental changes in a fundamentally unequal society. On a theatrical level **Floorshow** appropriated for women that bastion of the male entertainer, cabaret. Oh yes, we do have a sense of humour and we can tell jokes.



Howard Gibbins

### Floorshow

"With lots of it set to music and the rest told in gag form it worked because it was pertinent, credible and most important FUN".

Elizabeth Jarvis — *The Stage*

"Josefina Cupido at the drums gave some of the best of the notable jazz. It was altogether a lively do."

Harold Atkins — *The Daily Telegraph*

"In its time, this cabaret should have the same double-edged success as *Rock Follies*."

Ann McFerran — *Time Out*

"a warmth and attractive strength"

Jane Ellison — *The Evening Standard*

"Showpage can heartily recommend **Floorshow**. It has a clear feminist message, but nobody lectures the audience and tongues are kept firmly in cheek."

*East London Advertiser*



### Kiss and Kill

A play looking at the causes and effects of violence in the domestic sphere, the way it erupts in people's sexual lives, in the family, in work and in war. It examined the group and class pressures which teach men to use their bodies as weapons against other men, and against women. Written by Susan Todd, a company member, and Ann Mitchell, it used humour, interspersed with startling dramatic moments, and a much admired jazz score by Josefina Cupido, to make its points.



"some very funny moments show how women draw strength for their individual solutions... exceptional musical punctuation in between the scenes."

Michelene Victor — *Time Out*

"a neatly entertaining offering with music, which gives pause for thought without being tub-thumping."

Malcolm Gray — *Newcastle Evening Chronicle*

"the company have been evolving a style over the past couple of years that is congenial, intelligent and recognisably their own... It is a good company giving convincing performances, and Josefina Cupido supplies a musical score and jazz commentary which she sings admirably."

Ned Chaillet — *The Times*

# MONSTROUS REGIMENT

We are a company of nine women and two men, formed in 1975, drawing on a wide range of performing, writing, musical, directing and technical skills. We are committed to exploring new ways of relating music to theatre as part of our policy to present the highest standard of work to the widest possible audience. We see ourselves as part of the growing and lively movement to improve the status of women. Our work explores the experience of woman past and present, and we want to place that experience in the centre of the stage, instead of in the wings.



## AND TO FOLLOW...

Between autumn '78 and summer '79 we plan three new shows.

... More Cabaret ... **Floorshow** was a new departure for us, and we enjoyed it. It gave us a chance to tap the wealth of subversive humour women share. So, more



**Floorshow** — although new we've got the hang of it of course the next cabaret will be **even better!** *Helen Glavin* will be writing the music, and the rest of the company have already started scribbling gags on the backs of envelopes. ... Another man joins the ranks ... In January we will be opening a new play by *David Edgar*, written in collaboration with *Susan Todd*. Much of David's recent work has been in the area of national politics — his much acclaimed **Destiny** charted the rise of the National Front. In working with us he will be focussing on the problematical sphere of sexual and personal politics, the result should be both stimulating and exciting.

... And a welcome return ... Another play from *Caryl Churchill* will end our season next March/April. Caryl's involvement with the company to date has been very varied ranging from **Vinegar Tom** (about the 17thC witchcraft phenomenon), to writing lyrics for **Floorshow**. Discussions to date have proved many shared ideas and obsessions. We look forward to another fruitful and successful collaboration.

# MONSTROUS REGIMENT

More information will be available shortly on all our projected work. If you think you might like to book us in the coming year, or simply want to know more about the company and our plans for future tours, we would be happy to hear from you.

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Mark Rusher

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