



moonfish?
BITS of
MADNESS

mild anxiety
one of Kath's pills
from the doctor.
what was it?
TUE 17. 4. 79.

CONTRADICTIONS
CONTRADICTIONS came out of my
experience with conventionally structured
and attempted ways of working. We're
trying to use the CONTRADICTIONS that
usually lay groups up in these times. One of
my inspirations in the early 70's was (I had
the time)

Lazily
restless
I suppose I better go to
bed. I'm not tired but
I don't feel relaxed
about staying up.

OVAL HOUSE
52, Kennington Oval, SE1
BOX OFFICE: 582 7680



performs

MADNESS
Moonfish
Revolutionary
times

CONTRADICTIONScame out of my experiences with conventionally structured and attempted ways of alternative working. We are trying to use the contradictions that usually trip groups up in these times. The group is affected and shaped by all the women who've been involved since it started a few years ago.

We run open workshops with women whenever and wherever we can, we had a space in Wapping which we lost because we couldn't pay the rent. Just before gigs we do more intensive workshopping with whoever's involved in the specific performance. We've done mainly music venues, although these have had a lot of visual and theatrical input.

The way of workshopping for me was inspired by two sources....one:- The Spontaneous Music Ensemble I sang with in 1968/69. They were one of the first European music improvising groups. Workshop pieces were used which worked whether you'd been playing for years or had just picked up an instrument 'cos they were based on strong stretching simplicity. The second inspiration in the early '70's was Oval House where I learned to give workshops....so many new ideas and ways of working buzzing about the place....it's been a place for me where people can learn things in a more open non-beauracratc way whether they want to be public performers or not.....

I love workshops....I love what can come out of them.....Maggie Nicols 1985.

"MADNESS"

Stories of womens experiences & survival in & out of mental institutions. It is partly scripted, partly improvised. The script was transcribed from a verbal & musical improvisation at a Contradictions workshop - it is musical theatre.

MOONFISH.

A performance arts musical of sorts - a narrated childrens story of undersea life with songs, sounds, slides, dance & daftness.

REVOLUTIONARY TIMES.

A collection of songs written by women in Contradictions about the times we are living and fighting in and how to survive challenge and change.

CONTRADICTIONS is unfunded

grants and donations will be accepted.

REVOLUTIONARY TIMES.

Songs for Revolutionary Times are:-

Squatter's Song by Shirli.
Song to the Government. " "
The War is Today. " Sally.
I'll Get There. " Pam.
Evolution Revolution. " Maggie.
Strength of Tomorrow. " "
Revolutionary Times. " "
White Nightmare - a poem by Fran Landesman
set to music by Maggie.

A selection of these songs will be
performed on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,
and Sunday.

Sensitive Sounds
from Marjese

MOONFISH

Songs for Moonfish are:-

Song of The Observer by Maggie and Sally.
Secret Lives " Vanessa
We go on Living " Sally
Night Talking " Maggie
Sahara " Zouina
Are You Ready " Maggie
Cornflakes of Civilisation - a poem by Shirli.

all other music and dialogue improvised by Contradictions

Slides of Annalisa's etchings for Moonfish by

Annalisa --- also written and narrated by her.

*Observing watery life sliding from
the view of a Moonfish, dreaming
with one eye, worrying with the other.*

SUE NEAL Lighting magic and stage management



for Contradictions

get on okay with my
personality

thanks to Glen + Jane
for Bank Holiday Monday
& everything else

thanks to Jan for

"Its about time we
had a little go
at their weak spots"

CONTRADICTIONS INCLUDES

Zouina Benhalla. Helena Blaker. Camilla CanCantata.
Annalisa Colombara. Donna Cunningham.
Libby Gallagher. Shirli Hall. Jilly Jarman.
Jax. Corine Liensol. Miriam. Val Moon.
Maggie Nicols. Pam. Sally Thompson. Vanessa.
Debi Walsh. Penny Wightwick(Pennicello)

IN "MADNESS".

Shirli	played by	Maggie.
Vanessa	" "	Libby.
Maggie	" "	Donna.
Sally	" "	Miriam.
Val	" "	Val.
Tunukwa	" "	Pam.

All other material improvised apart from:-

"MAROONED" & "20th CENTURY DUCKING STOOL"

- poems by Jan Ponsford

quotes from Roget's Thesaurus; a prepared
piece by Mirium; quotes from Of Women Born
by Adrienne Rich performed by Miriam & Zouina.

Psychiatric interference from William played by Maggie.

Liberal lamentations from Geraldine played by Libby.

Its how we use
what they
call out
madness

"when I got out
everybody outside
looked bloody mad"

Paradox Doctors written
and performed by Shirli

INSTRUMENTALISTS.

Helena percussion
Camilla trombone
Shirli clarinet, trombone and percussion
Jilly drums, trumpet and flute
Jax clarinet, flute and percussion
Corine trumpet and flugelhorn
Maggie piano
Sally guitar and percussion.
Debi percussion
Miriam percussion and piano
Pennicello cello.

SINGERS OF SONGS

Zouina, Donna, Shirli, Jilly, Maggie, Pam, Sally
and Vanessa.

Everyone in Contradictions sings and
plays percussion.

DANCER Val Moon.

CONTRADICTIONS would like to thank

OVAL HOUSE for use of their facilities,

WOMENS THEATRE GROUP for use of some equipment,

TUNUKWA for the use of her improvisation,

SUE FERRAR for additional leaflets

ROBERT, JULIA and PETE from the Oval House
photography workshop for rehearsal photos

Publicity designed and organised by

Debi, Annalisa, Shirli, Libby and Maggie

and distributed by the women of Contradictions.

Thanks to the Honor Oak print workshop

and to Copy Art.

Programme put together by Sue and Maggie

This event initiated and shaped by Maggie

Workshopped by her and Libby with creative

ideas from every one in Contradictions.

NO THANKS TO THE TORIES
NEIL KINNOCK OR THE T.U.C.

JAN PONSFORD and MAGGIE NICOLS...vocal variety
words and music from the sublime to the subliminal?

ALSO LITTLE GEMS FROM....

DOROTHY AISHA EL MURACY singing poet

SUE MAY story teller and poet

KIM NAGLE musician and poet.

"free fantastic females" performing individually

AND DONT FORGET UPSTAIRS!!!

Shirli Hall has put together a special environment for
the showing of womens creative work (paintings etc and
surprise performances) If any women would like to be
involved with the upstairs goings on please let us know.

Guests of Contradictions are:-

THE BRIXTON YOUTH...singers from a workshop
Maggie runs at the Young Socialist Youth Training
Centre in Braxton...Donna, Mark, Jose, Pam, Lorna,
& Margaret, with Sally on guitar & Maggie on piano,
a mixture of songs & jazz improvisation.

IN ZOO SQUARE...a multi-instrumental trio using
changes in mood & tempo to convey hard edged
political lyrics.

THE TOUCH...a three piece womens band playing
all original material in an original way.

VICTORIA CROSS AND DEE ORR "SALLY FORTH".
A fantail of words and music.

ZOUINA BENHALLA...dreams... reality
songs, poems, comedy and drama.

STRANGE LANGUAGE...strong music and humour
from a direct daring and dynamic duo.

OUTCASTS OF QUIRKS...songs, sounds, tap and tunes
from a sevenish piece womens band a mixture of the
prepared and the unpredictable.