

## THY CUP RUNNETH OVER 3 minutes to curtain by Lynnell Stephanie Long

Wednesday, July 1st: We're at the Bailiwick again! After weeks and weeks of rehearsals, now it's time to produce. I'm scared. In order for me to portray Mom, I have to become her. I have to feel the way she felt and it's not a good feeling. Fuck, I'm scared. I can do this. I can do this. I looked in the mirror after I got dressed and remembered what Mom said before she died. She said I look like her. I do! If my hair was any longer, I could be her sister. I center myself, look in the mirror and become my mother. I don't want to talk to anyone. I want to get on stage before I start to cry. What if I forget my lines? What if I cry on stage? It's my turn. No it's momma's turn.

Thursday, July 2nd: I made it through last night. I had a weird dream. I dreamt mom was alive, but she didn't want to see me. She kept telling people to tell me she's dead. I am no longer acting like momma, I am her. In Sanford's piece, I play momma



also. It's a good piece, but it is too close to home. These pieces are not acting, they are re-living our lives. I am not Lynnell right now. Even as I write in my journal, I am momma. I am my momma & Sanford's momma. They called for the circle. This is a gift I brought to the group.

I wonder if any of them know what it really is for. At home I draw a circle and sit in it to meditate and draw energy from the Universe. I hate it when I share this with people and they don't take it seriously. I asked them if anyone knew what it's about. I look them all in the eyes and reveal it's about sharing each other's energy. If one person is low on energy, the rest of us will share ours with that person. "Three minutes to curtain!" Three minutes? I'm not

ready. I need to focus. I look in the mirror and there she is. There is momma. I'm glad Racquel is here tonight. If I need to cry later, she'll be there for me. Funny how things go. I told myself I would never fall in love with another woman. Somehow, Racquel got to my heart. Focus Lynnell, focus.

Friday, July 3rd: I can't do this again. I can't play momma. It is awakening too much old stuff. I went over to Racquel's last night after the show. I was laying in her arms listening to Aretha Franklin and started to cry. It was like I was in the past again. I saw momma dancing to Aretha, smiling at me telling me to dance with her. I couldn't! I just cried. Fuck, fuck, fuck! Why did she have to die? Why did she have to leave me when I needed her the most?

I am so angry. I want to get high. I want to drink and get fucked up and numb out. I can't play her anymore. It's too hard. I will write something softer, some comedy or shit like that. I don't care what Byron (the director) says, after this show I'm not doing it again. I can't, no I won't do this again! It hurts too much.

Sunday, July 6th: The last

show. Everyone seems cheerful and excited. I don't. I feel sad. I want this to be over. I dreamt about mom every night since Thursday night. My kids have yet to acknowledge she's dead. I couldn't sleep last night, insomnia again. I don't know why I wrote that piece. I should have written something funny like "Granny's love." People like that stuff and it doesn't bring out any pain.

No one wants to deal with the pain and scars. I keep thinking about one of the lines in "Anne Mae," Sanford's piece; "I be high cause I need it. Need it to deal with the pain and scars, deal with my situation." I didn't relapse, thank God, but I want to act out sexually. I want to numb the pain. Well, tonight is the last show and after tonight "Momma's Boy Still" is going in my library just like "I Open My Eyes." I'm not ready for this yet and I'm not going to push it.

Well, it was a good show all-in-all. At least I think so. Thank you Goddess for this experience, I definitely learned something. I love you my dearest, Racquel.

Lynnell is a Trans/Intersex Activist. Her e-mail address is;

## ZIMBABWE: ACTIVIST ARRESTED, FACES PRISON

Keith Goddard, Programs Manager of Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) and one of the country's most prominent gay activists, has been arrested under that country's sodomy law. Goddard faces up to seven years' imprisonment. The arrest represents the culmination of a mounting campaign of repression against lesbians and gays—a campaign led by President Robert Mugabe.

According to Zimbabwean activists, Goddard's arrest came after a year of blackmail attempts. In May 1997, he began receiving letters from a man named Siphephele Vuma. The letters at first expressed affection; later letters turned to threats against Goddard, for allegedly having had sexual

relations with Vuma. Goddard categorically denies that such relations ever occurred, and states he only met the man once, when Vuma briefly visited the offices of GALZ. In a letter in January 1998, Vuma raised the ante, demanding goods and cash to the value of USD \$2000. Goddard reported the threat to police in Harare, the Zimbabwean capital.

No action was taken until May 1, when Goddard was visited by police from the Central Intelligence Department, an undercover division dealing with "vice" offenses. Ultimately called to the police station, Goddard was told that he would be charged with having sodomized Vuma at gunpoint.

On 12 June, Goddard and Vuma were both arraigned—Vuma charged with extortion, and Goddard with sodomy. Vuma initially admitted the

charge of extortion. However, the presiding judge changed the plea to not guilty, and encouraged Vuma to state that he had demanded \$2000 as compensation for the "crime" of which he was a "victim."

Vuma faces trial on July 27. Goddard is free pending trial; no trial date has yet been set.

Zimbabwean law criminalizes "unlawful and intentional sexual relations per anum between human males." The charge that Goddard committed the act forcibly could raise the sentence to seven years.

According to GALZ, the case against Goddard "is clearly part of an overall strategy to discredit GALZ and its members." It comes after GALZ was accepted by the World Council of Churches as a participant in consultations surrounding the WCC's General Assembly, to take place in Harare later this

year. Since then, President Mugabe has renewed attacks on gays and lesbians, calling them "beasts," "perverts," and "worse than dogs and pigs."

The state-run media have also joined the campaign.

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission and the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality call on Zimbabwean authorities to drop all charges against Goddard, and to cease their campaign against Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe. Letters to: The Hon. Dumiso Dabengwa, Minister of Home Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Private Bag 7703, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe, Fax: 263-4-726716. Also to: The Hon Patrick Chinamasa, Attorney-General, Corner House, PO Box 7714 Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe, Fax: 263-4-700223.



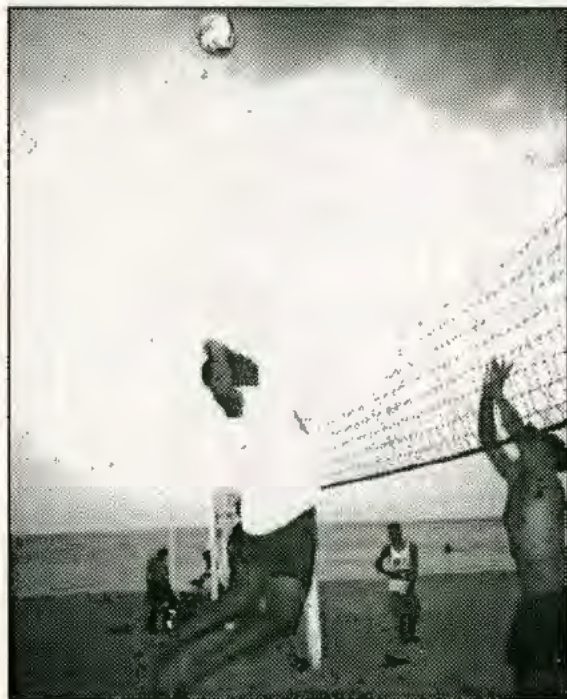
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