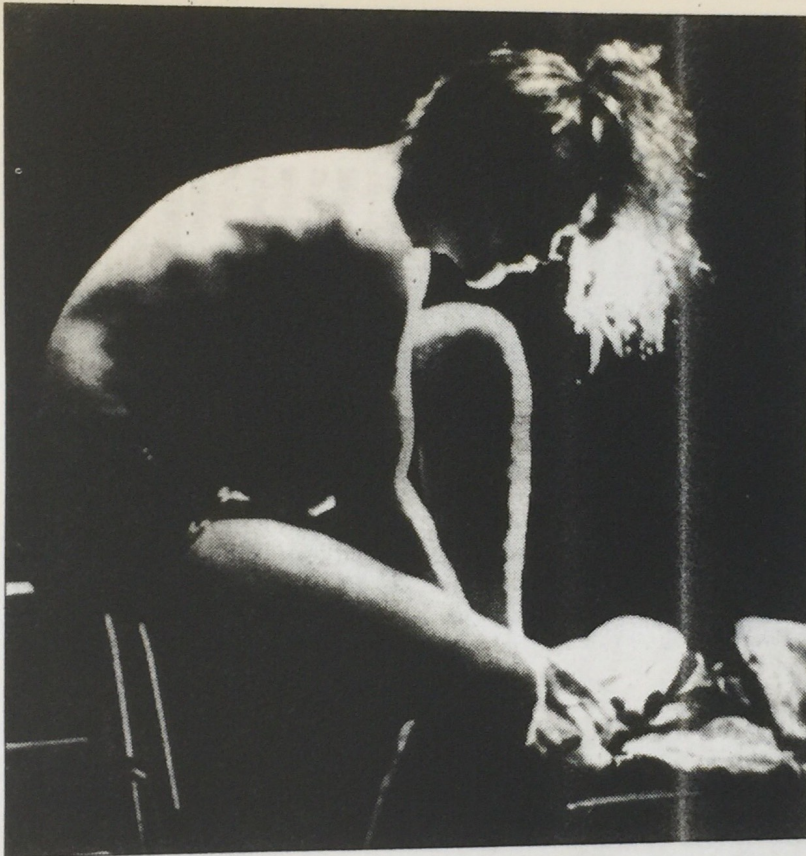


A QUEER LIFE



Following a bevy of sold out performances in his native America, performance artist, dancer, writer, film-maker and gay activist Patrick Scully brings his one-man show of insights into the gay experience to Ireland for this year's Pride week. *Queer Thinking* is a brave look at what it means to be a gay man today. Scully, in three different sections,

explores what he sees as the three essential facets of modern gay identity: gender, sexuality and politics.

The first of these pieces, *What Makes People Uncomfortable About Homosexuals*, wickedly confronts the issues of gender and sexuality as Scully takes on the character of Tanya, a saucy drag queen who

questions the audience's ideas about masculinity and femininity, confronting the gay community as much as heterosexuals, exposing some of our own homophobia and shallowness. *Things I Hesitate To Tell You About Myself* is performed naked as the artist engages in discussion of the nature of sexual desire. The character this time is a HIV positive man and he allows Scully, who is HIV positive himself, to explore the nature of human sexuality as totally removed from the spectre of disease. He talks about the rules of conduct for living in a heterosexual world, gay-bashing and living with HIV. This is in-your-face confrontational theatre which goes beyond the confessional, transforming the performers life into something universal.

The third section is narrated by an activist, or in Scully's own words, a 'radical fairy'. Here the secrets he reveals are no longer his own, but those of others. After an hour on stage taking responsibility for his actions, he challenges all others to be accountable for their own.

Queer Thinking is political theatre at its most crystallised. It goes beyond preaching because it is a generous effort to share the details of a full and interesting life. It instills pride in its audience even as it pushes us to confront some of the issues we'd rather sweep under the carpet.

See Centre Pages for details.

BF

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