

HOLIDAY ISSUE: QUEER CHEER, PARTY CLOTHES, & GIFT GUIDE

Lesbian Culture, Politics, and Entertainment

December 2001

# Girlfriends

## Ab Fab Revamps

Jennifer Saunders & Joanna Lumley get together for more *Absolutely Fabulous*



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# Future Shock

Dyke sci-fi flicks take on the world.

by **Candace Moore**

**Smart feminist sci-fi** flicks are few and far between. Hilary Brougher's flirt with the Twilight Zone gives time-travel a quixotic, sexy face-lift. Fully fuckable, present-day Drew (Nicole Zaray) gazes sweet-sly from non-prescription glasses toward fifties pulp fiction writer Tucker (Terumi Matthews), who's been cast out of her era by A-bomb exposure. Both ladies



Besppectated Nicole Zaray (right) and Terumi Matthews are time freaks.

## Sticky Fingers of Time

Hilary Brougher  
Strand Releasing, 1987

are time freaks (humans who can jump the time-line) who share "code" with a villainous

vamp who manufactures robotic minions. This newly released DVD offers slick cinematography, snappy dialogue, and superb acting. Grade: **A**

## Born in Flames

(First Run Features, 1983)  
Director Lizzie Borden's timeless mockumentary imagines a socialist New York City which falls into dystopia. Ten years after the *second* revolution, the U.S. claims to cherish difference and provide equal treatment for all, although outright sexism still rears its ugly head in the working sector. African-American radical Adelaide Norris (Jean Satterfield) calls the Women's Army, a feminist grass-roots network, to arms. Together the girls take to the streets to battle harassment, rape, and job discrimination. Borden's innovative formatting artfully articulates the hypocrisy often implicit in gender policy. This black-and-white classic also has a mind-bogglingly fabulous punk soundtrack. Grade: **A+**

## Liquid Sky

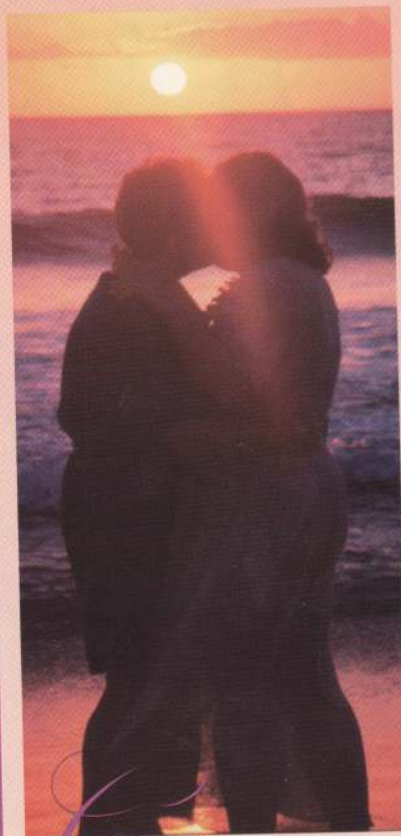
(Cinevista, 1983)  
This B-movie cult masterpiece showcases Anne Carlisle as an androgynous female model able to "kill with her cunt." Flying in on a saucer the size of a dinner plate, invisible aliens park on Margaret's penthouse roof, drawn by the heroin that her maniac girlfriend deals. The ETs use the diva to "magnetize" humans, who blip out of existence after they come. True to its early-eighties release date, Slava Tsukerman's directorial debut brims with vicious Warholian Factory types in garish costumes. Great verbal skirmishes erupt between Margaret and a druggie male model (also played by Carlisle). Grade: **B+**

## Fresh Kill

(Strand Releasing, 1994)  
Two lesbian moms search for their vanished daughter in avant-garde multi-media artist Shu Lea Cheang's loud, fragmented vision of a near-future semi-apocalyptic New York City. Obnoxious conglomerate corporations callously control the media machine, pawning off nuclear waste-contaminated cat food. Dayglo felines converse and sushi-eaters craving a particularly big-lipped fish shine neon and speak in tongues. An activist's attack on the eco-ignorance of laissez-faire capitalism, *Fresh Kill*, albeit slightly trying and over-arty, still has its funny moments. Oh, and fab Karen Finley has a cameo. Grade: **B**

Candace Moore, co-editor of the small press *Runcible Spoon*, lives in L.A.

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# Lesbian Patriots

As I write this in late September, it's very hard to concentrate on *Girlfriends*. I keep seeing two mass tombs, brilliantly vertical, topped with a terrible bouquet of red and black.

As lesbians, our lives have been profoundly altered by the events of September 11. Not just because we felt physically safe before and now we don't. Before, we lived in a country governed by the values that we



In happier times, my friend Mariah Hanson and I posed with the Twin Towers.

hold extra dear because we're gay. We felt protected by the civil liberties that allow us to congregate freely—even in states where our lovemaking is illegal; the rule of law that permits us to sue for justice; and the democracy that lets people like Tammy Baldwin, Barney Frank, and Sheila Kuehl represent us.

Even more than a hijacked plane or hidden bomb, the threatened loss of our freedom terrifies me. The Sikh in Arizona who was gunned down by a self-described "pure American" wasn't living in an America with civil liberties. The politician who threatened to "end" any country harboring terrorists wasn't speaking for an America ruled by law. And to be led by a president we didn't elect into a war we can't win makes it especially clear that we're not living in a democratic America.

A reader said to me that although she has often protested her country's policies because she's gay, "Today, I am an American first." I wish *lesbian and patri-*

*ot* didn't seem so dissonant to me. The experience of iconic lesbians during wartime—Gertrude and Alice driving an ambulance in World War I, or Jill Johnston engaging in anti-war activism during the Vietnam War—was deeply affected by their sexual identity. And vice versa. Gertrude and Alice went to war to defend the freedoms they knew as Jewish queers in France. Johnston resisted a war that epitomized the patriarchy she wanted to replace with People Power—including the dyke kind.

If Gertrude, Alice, and Jill were around today, they'd stand with us at *Girlfriends* to mourn our fellow citizens and beloved landmarks. They'd stand with us to oppose military action in the Middle East. Together, we'd be lesbian patriots.

Heather Findlay, Editor in Chief

# Girlfriends

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