A Hot Peach Retrospective Revue

by Jimmy Camicia

(TOUR VERSION)

THE SET

A PIANO.

FOUR MICROPHONES

ONE ROUND TABLE WITH CHAIRS AND/OR STOOLS FOR 4 PERFORMERS.

A 6 FOOT PLASTIC PALM TREE.

A LIFE SIZE MANNEQUIN.

NIGHT-TIME NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE BACKDROP.

* ACT I *

THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES

ENTERS WEARING ORIENTAL ROBE

AND CHINESE HEADBAND

MC

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND WELCOME TO 'THE HEAT: A HOT PEACH REVUE". I AM YOUR MASTER OF CEREMONIES - A TERM I FIND SUSPICIOUSLY SADISTIC - BUT THEN, WE ARE ALL SLAVES OF THE PATRIARCHY, ARE WE NOT? AND AS SUCH, SUBJECT TO IT'S TWISTED TURNS OF PHRASE. SO LET ME JUST SAY THAT I AM YOUR M.C. AND GET ON WITH THE SHOW WITHOUT FURTHER ADO.

COMPANY

(OFF) ADO? GET HER! GET REAL, MARY., ETC.

MC

THERE THEY ARE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OUR FLOWERS OF THE FIELD, OUR DAFFODILS OF THE DOWNTOWN SCENE, THE FABULOUS PEACHETTES.

CARNY MUSIC BEGINS AND THE
COMPANY ENTERS WITH FANS,
ORIENTAL ROBES AND CHINESE
HEADBANDS

YES, LS AND GS, HERE THEY ARE AND TELL ME THEY'RE NOT GORGEOUS, STARTING WITH THE PLAIN AND SIMPLE 'FACTS'

CHRYSIS

IT'S 1989. IT'S NYC. AND IT'S HOT DOWN HERE.

NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS THE 'FANTASY'.

RON

DARLING, IT'S ALL TOOOOOO FABOO.

MC

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST LS AND GS, THAT ONE THING THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO TAKE AWAY FROM US EVER SINCE THE BUTCH ADMINISTRATION BEGAN - BUT WE'RE NOT LISTENING, OF COURSE. DO WE LOOK LIKE WE'RE LISTENING? LS AND GS, LAST BUT CLEARLY NOT LEAST, 'LA PASSIONATE'.

AMY

WE ARE DRIVEN.

THE COMPANY SINGS

"THE SHOW MUST GO ON'

MC

YES LADIES AND GENTS, THERE IS BOOZE AT THE BAR, STARS ON THE STAGE, AND A MOTIVE TO OUR MADNESS. THIS EVENING'S PERFORMANCE WILL BE PERFORMED IN 2, I SAY, 2 GRAPHIC ACTS. THE FIRST IS THE 'AM ACT': BRIGHT, CHATTY, A COUPLE OF CHUCKLES, AND A RAY OF SUNSHINE SUPPLIED BY OUR LIGHT TECHNICIAN, (MENTION NAME).

THE SECOND ACT IS THE 'PM ACT', AND THAT CAN MEAN ONLY ONE OF 2
THINGS: SEX OR SLEEP, AND SINCE THE MANAGEMENT FROWNS UPON
SNORING IN THE HOUSE, THERE YOU HAVE IT. SEX. AH, YES, I
REMEMBER IT WELL. WELL, TONIGH LS & GS, RIGHT HERE, ON THIS VERY
STAGE, SO TO SPEAK, WE ARE GOING TO PRESENT FOR YOUR VISUAL
PLEASURE, NOT SIMULATED, OH NO, NOT SIMULATED, BUT REAL, LIVE,
CEREBRAL SEX ACTS WHICH ARE GUARANTEED TO HURL YOU INTO THE OUTER
LIMITS OF PSYCHOTIC ECSTASY AND FURTHER, IF YOU STOP TO THINK
ABOUT IT.

CHRYSIS BEGINS

"THE MARILYN MIRAGE"

MC

SO LIGHT UP, DRINK UP, AND JUST SAY 'YES', OR IF YOU'RE FEELING TRES INTERNATIONAL, C'EST OUI.

COMPANY

(CALLING TO MC) OUI. SI. YES. YA. ALL RIGHT, GIRL.

MC

AREN'T THEY CHARMING? AND SO WELL TRAVELLED. AND NOW, ON WITH THE SHOW. MUSIC, MAESTRO, IF YOU PLEASE.

MUSICAL PHRASE OF 'NO
BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS'

MC

1972. \$135 GETS ME A 3 FLIGHT WALK-UP ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE WITH THE TUB IN THE KITCHEN. I WORK AS A TYPIST FOR \$150 A WEEK

AND I DO SHOWS AT NIGHT, IN ANY SPACE I CAN GET MY HANDS ON: SOMEONE'S LOFT, DEFUNCT CLUBS, CHURCH HALLS.

CHRYSIS

YOU NAME IT, HE TOOK IT.

RON

THE FIRST SHOW WAS DONE IN JACKIE CURTIS' APARTMENT, THE SECIN THE OLD AND VERY DEFUNCT "SAMMY'S BOWERY FOLLIES", THEN TO WAS WASHINGTON SQUARE METHODIST CHURCH BECAUSE IT WAS FREE, GILBERTTI'S LOFT UP IN CHELSEA BECAUSE IT WAS CHEAP, AND OF COURSE, THERE WAS ALWAYS THE STREET.

YMA

THE BIG THING IN THE EAST VILLAGE IN 1972 WAS 'ANDROGYNY'.

EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT IT, SO, NATURALLY, HE WANTED TO

INTO A SHOW.

CHRYSIS

BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS SO HE CALLED UP JOHN HAYES,
BECAUSE JOHN'S HAIR WAS LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE'S, AND JOHN
SPELLED IT OUT.

AMY, MC, & CHRYSIS SI

"ANDROGYNY"

A TELEPHONE RINGS. A CHRYSIS PICK UP RECEI

CHRYSIS

AMY, HI. LISTEN, I JUST GOT A NOTE SAYING THAT STAR IS HAMEETING NEXT WEEK. WANT TO GO?

AMY

S.T.A.R? WHAT IS IT?

CHRYSIS

BUT DOLL, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? S.T.A.R. IS AN ACRONYM FOR STREET TRANSVESTITES ACTIVISTS REVOLUTIONARIES.

AMY

HOW SILLY OF ME. STREET TRANSVESTITE ACTIVISTS REVOLUTIONARIES.

STAR. OF COURSE. WELL, I'D LOVE TO GO BUT I DON'T SEE HOW. I

HAVE BLACK LIB ON MONDAY, WOMEN'S LIB IS MEETING ON TUES AND

MARCHING ON THURSDAY. GAY LIB ON WED. THERE'S THE COMMUNIST

LIBERATION FRONT ON FRI. AND ON SATURDAY MY INDIAN LIB IS

HOLDING IT'S ANNUAL POW-WOW.

CHRYSIS

THE INVITE SAYS AUGUST 3, 1973. THAT'S THIS SUNDAY.

AMY

WELL, THAT REALLY DOES TIE-UP MY WEEK, BUT COUNT ME IN BECAUSE REALLY, WHEN YOU STOP TO THINK ABOUT IT, WHAT GOOD IS FREEDOM WITHOUT LIBERATION ANYWAY?

THEY HANG UP

MC

1975. FOR \$150 A MONTH I RENT A SMALL LOFT IN CHELSEA. HALF OF IT IS FILLED WITH THEATER SEATS.

CHRYSIS

THE OTHER HALF DOUBLES AS A STAGE AND HIS BEDROOM, AND THE TOILET IS OUT IN THE HALL.



HE'S TYPING PART-TIME IN MID-TOWN OFFICES EVERY DAY, BUT ON THE SLY, HE'S WRITING ABOUT THE PEOPLE HE'S MEETING AT NIGHT.

RON DOES

'DRAG QUEEN SUPERSTAR'

"DRAG QUEEN"

MC

1976. AMSTERDAM. OUR FIRST EUROPEAN TOUR. NOW I AM LIVING ON A HOUSEBOAT, 8 FEET BELOW STREET LEVEL, IN A CANAL ON DER PRINCENGRACHT.

CHRYSIS

THE PLACE BELONGS TO A QUEEN WHO KNOWS A QUEEN WHO KNOWS A QUEEN WHO KNOWS A QUEEN WHO KNOWS HE IS HAVING A ROUGH TIME ON THE SECOND LEG OF HIS FIRST EUROPEAN TOUR, SO IT'S RENT FREE.

RON

IT'S ALSO HEAT FREE, WATER FREE, ELECTRICITY FREE AND TOTALLY TASTE FREE.

AMY

NOT TOTALLY. FOR EXAMPLE, HE WRITES SITTING AT A SMALL WOODEN TABLE WHICH OVER-LOOKS THE CANAL WHERE SWAN AND DUCKS FLOAT BY ALL DAY.

MC

FOLLOWED BY TOURISTS AND GARBAGE FLOATING BY - ALL DAY. WHAT CAN I SAY? HEY-HEY. GAY, GAY, GAY. THAT IS LIFE.

CHRYSIS DOES

"CHANGE FOR A DYING QUEEN"

"TIGHTER"

AMY SINGS

"WHAT DOES IT DO TO YOU?"

MC

1977. BACK IN NEW YORK I AM ENSCONCED IN THE LAP OF LUXURY, H UP IN A SKY SCRAPER ON MERCER STREET.

AMY

THIS EXQUISITELY APPOINTED, WHITE ON WHITE APARTMENT WITH BALCOVER-LOOKING LOWER MANHATTAN BELONGS TO A BOYHOOD BUDDY OF HIS CHRYSIS

THE FRIEND ALSO HAS A SUMMER PLACE OUT ON FIRE ISLAND PINES.

MC

AND BEING A GRACIOUS HOST HE HAS GRACIOUSLY EXTENDED AN OPEN INVITE WHICH I, BEING AN EQUALLY GRACIOUS GUEST, GRACIOUSLY ACCEPT.

RON AND MC SING

"THE ISLAND SONG"

MC

1978. BEFORE ALL THIS GRACIOUSNESS TURNS INTO NOBLESSE OBLI MOVE OUT AND INTO MY AGENT'S OFFICE OVER ON WEST 10TH STREET IT'S NOT BAD. IT HAS A SHOWER AND A SOFA.

AMY

IT APPEALS TO HIS SENSE OF ROMANTICISM.

CHRYSIS

BUT HE HAS TO CLEAR OUT EVERY MORNING AT 7:30, AND HIT THE STREETS.

RON

SO HIS AGENTS BOOK HIM ON A TOUR OF FLORIDIAN NIGHTCLUBS, WHICH WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED HERE SINCE IT BREECHES THE BOUNDERIES OF GOOD TASTE.

MC

AFTER THE FLORIDA TOUR, I FOUND THIS BIG, 2500 SQUARE FOOT LOFT
ON CHRISTOPHER STREET IN THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE. THE FRONT WAS
MY LIVING QUARTERS AND THE BACK, A BIG, OPEN, RAW SPACE, WAS
WHERE WE DID SHOWS. IT COST \$500 A MONTH AND WE THREW RENT
PARTIES TO PAY THE BILLS.

CHRYSIS

DID HE MENTION THAT THE WHOLE BAND LIVED THERE ALSO?

MC

HE DID NOT. IN FACT, I THINK THIS IS A PERFECT TIME TO TAKE A LITTLE BREAK SINCE SOME THINGS ARE BEST LEFT TO ONE'S ON MEMORY. YOU CAN VISIT OUR MAKE-SHIFT BAR. IF YOU FIND THE DRINKS A BIT PRICY, REMEMBER, ALL PROCEEDS GO TO A GOOD CAUSE. (TO COMPANY AREN'T WE GOOD GIRLS?

COMPANY

YES. GREAT GIRLS. THE BEST. SI. TOO GOOD. ETC.

AND NOW, BEFORE WE GO INTO OUR SLEAZOID, P.M., GET-DOWN, NITTY-GRITTY, NONE-OF-THIS-SHOULD-BE-ALLOWED SECTION, I'D LIKE TO PUT A LITTLE TOP ON PART ONE. A CHERRY, IF YOU WILL, AND CLOSE THE 'AM' SECTION WITH A DELIGHTFUL LITTLE DITTY, DESIGNED TO WHET YOUR APPETITE.

MC LEADS COMPANY IN SINGING

"PINK CUPCAKES"

*** END ACT I ***

* ACT II *

GROUP ENTERS TO MIKES AND CHRYSIS SINGS

"RIMBAUD"

MC

1979. WE DEVELOPED A NEW SHOW CALLED 'OSCAR'. IT WAS THE STORY OF OSCAR WILDE SET TO PUNK ROCK MUSIC, AND IT WORKED SO WELL IN NY, WE DECIDED TO TAKE IT TO EUROPE.

CHRYSIS

THE GROUP OPENED AT MELKWEG'S FESTIVAL OF FOOLS WITH AN ALL DUTCH BAND LED BY JAN ROBJINS AND FEATURING THE VAN DER LOOP BROS....

RON

IN BERLIN THEY SHARED A DRESSING ROOM WITH NOT ONLY THE POLICE,
BUT ALSO CYRIL CYPRIAN, A FORMER HOT PEACH WHO HAD GONE OVER ON
THE FIRST TOUR, CHANGED HIS NAME TO 'JAVA', AND STAYED...

AMY

IN ITALY THEY RENTED A FARM HOUSE IN TUSCANY, JUST OUTSIDE OF
PISA WHERE THEY PICKED CHERRIES IN THE ORCHID AND DREW WATER FROM
A WELL.

MC

WE ALSO HAD TO PLAY 15 ONE NIGHT STANDS IN A ROW ALL UP AND DOWN THE MEDETERRANIAN COAST SO I WROTE THIS SONG.

MC SINGS

"RHINESTONE STOCKINGS"

1981. BACK IN NEW YORK, I FINALLY FOUND MY OWN LITTLE PLACE IN THE WEST VILLAGE. \$185 GOT ME A 3 ROOM, 5 FLIGHT WALK-UP WITH THE TUB IN THE KITCHEN. I BEGAN WORKING AS A WORD PROCESSOR.

CHRYSIS

HE WAS ALSO TRYING TO SELL HIS SONGS TO THE "MIDDLE OF THE ROAD!

MUSIC MARKET, IRONICALLY CALLED THE 'MOR', BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE,

THEY SAY, THE MONEY IS.

AMY DOES

"MAX FACTOR"

"COCKTAIL WAITRESS"

MC

1983. IN MY CASE, 'MOR' WAS LESS.

RON

AND IF THERE WAS ONE THING HE DID NOT NEED MORE OF, IT WAS LESS.

CHRYSIS

HE HAD FAR TOO MUCH OF THAT ALREADY. SO HE BRANCHED OUT FROM THEATER AND INTO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF CABLE T.V.

MC

YOU WANT TO TALK SLEAZE?

ALL

SI. OUI. BUT OF COURSE. ETC.

THE TELEVISION STUDIOS WERE NOT NEAT LITTLE PLACES LIKE YOU SEE
ON T.V. IN FACT, THEY WERE SUCH A MESS THAT IF YOU THREW UP IN A
CORNER, NO ONE WOULD NOTICE IT FOR A MONTH. THAT'S HOW FILTHY
THEY WERE. THIS STUDIO I WORKED IN REMINDED ME OF BACKSTAGE AT
THE MINSKIES.

CHRYSIS

THERE WERE ALWAYS GUYS IN PLAID POLYESTER SUITS HANGING AROUND TRYING TO SELL YOU PORNO TAPES, AND PHONEY ASTROLOGERS WEARING BLOND DYNEL WIGS AND TOO MUCH LIPSTICK...

RON

AND HUNKY MUSCLE MEN GIVING AEROBIC CLASSES OVER THE AIR,

FOLLOWED BY HIGH-HEALED, LOW CONSCIOUS HIP-SHRINKS WEARING SKIN
TIGHT SKIRTS AND POUNDS OF CUSTOM-JEWLERY...

AMY

AND ROBIN BIRDS RUNNING AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE WEARING PRACTICALLY NOTHING AT ALL.

MC

EVERYONE HAD A CON. THEY WERE ALL HAWKING THEIR WEARS. COME TO THINK OF IT, IT WAS MORE LIKE A CIRCUS THAN A BERLESQUE. SO I DID WHAT I USUALLY DO IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES: I TRIED TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT.

RON DOES

'THE BLACK QUESTION"
"TAXI SONG"

1986. JUST AS 'MORE' WAS LESS, IN THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF CABLE T.V., THE BEST WAS NOT ENOUGH.

CHRYSIS

HE REFOCUSED ON THE THEATER. HE STILL LIVES IN THE WEST VILLAGE
APARTMENT WHERE LITTLE HAS CHANGED EXCEPT THE RENT. THAT'S GONE
UP 90%.

RON

I WORK FULL TIME IN WALL STREET CORPORATIONS, AND AS THE LADY SAID TO THE LORD, "I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL GET OUT OF THAT DAMN SPOT."

MC

I BEGAN WRITING A NEW PLAY CALLED 'CONCENTRATED CAMP".

AMY

'CONCENTRATED CAMP' IS A FUTURISTIC, MUSICAL, BLACK-COMEDY WHICH FOCUSES ON THE SOCIAL PHENOMONA SURROUNDING AIDS. SOME PEOPLE SAY IT'S ABOUT ALL THE THINGS NO ONE WANTS TO TALK OR EVEN THINK ABOUT.

MC

WHICH IS, OF COURSE, EXACTLY WHY I WROTE IT. AND NOW WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE TASTE OF 'CONCENTRATED CAMP'. THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS ARE FROM THAT SHOW.

MC DOES

WORRIED

"THE BUDDY SONG"

CHRYSIS DOES

"BANKING ON THE LORD"

RON DOES

"BORN AGAIN"

AMY DOES

ANONYMOUS-ANONYMOUS

"ANONYMOUSLY YOURS"

MC

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT LS AND GS, OUR LITTLE MUSICAL ODYSSEY, IF YOU WILL. AND NOW, BEFORE WE SEND YOU OUT INTO THE DARK AND DISMAL...

CHRYSIS

OUT INTO ______, 1989...

AMY

OUT INTO THE MAGIC OF A WARM SUMMER EVENING...

RON

OUT INTO THE STREETS...

MC

WE WILL CLOSE WITH THE OPENING NUMBER FROM "CONCENTRATED CAMP" IN WHICH WE, FRANKLY, EACH SPEAK A BIT OF OUR MIND. ARE WE READY, MAESTRO?

"CONCENTRATED CAMP"

MC

THANK YOU FOR BEING A WONDERFUL AUDIENCE. AND GOOD NIGHT.

****** fin ******

15

NOTES