
TRANSGENDERIST

Monthly Magazine of the Transgender Independence Club

October 1, 1997

TGIC Wins Major Award!

TGIC has won the "Building Bridges" award from the Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Center, **thought to be the first such award ever given to a transgender organization!** **October 19, be there at the Crooked Lake House to support our own Callan [REDACTED] as she accepts the award for TGIC.** This is a very important recognition for TGIC, and a good showing from the transgender community will help build future bridges within the GLBT community. **Well done, Callan!** PS: for those of you not from Rensselaer County, the Crooked Lake House is about one mile from the intersection of routes 43 and 66 and is actually a lot closer to Sand Lake and Alps than to Averill Park. It is REALLY a neat place!

And don't forget our **Gender Bent Karaoke Halloween Party, Saturday, October 25, 8:00 to 11:30 at the Star Studio in Downtown Schenectady.** The official announcement for that is on the back cover, suitable for framing or putting up somewhere where it might attract some attention, hmmm?

I'll see you there, jet lag or not! There is also **A LOT of interesting "stuff" in here,** but you'll have to read the whole newsletter to find out. So there!

--Vix 

September 18, 1997

The Capital District Gay & Lesbian Community Center (CDG&LCC) has chosen to give a 1997

"Building Bridges" award to Transgenderists Independence Club (TGIC) of Albany NY for their efforts to reach out and build bridges between diverse segments of the GLBT community, announced CDG&LCC vice president Siobahn Hinckley today.

The award will be presented at the CDG&LCC Awards Brunch, to be held Sunday, October 19 from 11-2 at the Crooked Lake House in Averill Park. (Details follow).

In making this award, the board wanted to acknowledge the efforts of individuals who have worked to build bridges over the past year, said Hinckley. This is thought to be the first award given to a transgender organization by CDG&LCC in its 25 year history.

TGIC representatives could not be reached for comment.

Capital District Gay & Lesbian Community Council 25th Anniversary Awards Brunch, Sunday, October 19, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Crooked Lake House, Averill Park NY

\$20 members (CDG&LCC Membership is \$25/year, and supports their services), \$25 non-members, \$30 at door for all. Includes a performance by the Capital Pride Singers. CDG&LCC Members are receiving a mailed invitation; others should stop by Center to purchase a ticket, or call and charge to either MC/VISA. Limited income persons should contact Bill Pape at 426-5467. If anyone needs transportation they should call the Center at 462-6138.

British Columbia Proposes Changes to the Human Rights Laws

August 13, 1997

TRANSGENDER WORKING GROUP PRESS RELEASE

John* told his employer that he was in the process of becoming a woman, and would be dressing as a woman. The employer's reaction was to tell John that if he did, he would lose his job.

Rajeet called 911 when she was being beaten by her boyfriend. When the police arrived they demanded to know Rajeet's "male name" and made her pull up her shirt to show that she had breasts.

Susan regularly gets kicked out of washrooms and threatened by security, by boyfriends, by the police, because people mistake her for a man.

Antonio's employer told him he could keep his job, but only if he restricted himself to the one "unisex" bathroom at the other end of the plant.

"Nothing attracts hatred and violence like people who cross the gender line -- or people who seem to be crossing the gender line", said Deborah Brady, a transgender rights activist and member of the Transgender Working Group.

Till now there has been no human rights protection anywhere in Canada for people who face discrimination on the basis of their gender identity. B.C. is poised to become the first jurisdiction to recognize and move to correct the discrimination that people face on the basis of their gender identity. The Human Rights Commission recently announced a public consultation to consider twelve proposed changes to the Human Rights Code.

The twelve proposed changes to the Human Rights Code include a recommendation to add "gender identity" as a prohibited ground of

discrimination.

"We are delighted at the initiative that this government has shown to extend human rights to everyone," said Julian Young, another member of the Transgender Working Group. This legislation will protect the women who "look like" men and are thrown out of public washrooms, the men who live their lives as women; the people who have surgery as part of their transition to another gender; people who are born with an ambiguous gender; and people who cross-dress occasionally.

TG Entertainment Notes

Boy Meets Ex-Boy

The upcoming British film "Different for Girls" is the basic boy-meets-girl story with one substantial twist. In this case, the girl used to be the boy's close buddy before a sex-change operation. Rupert Graves, who plays the guy, says he and co-star Steven Mackintosh had no problem with the film's sexual nature, but there was a logistical problem during the scene in which they simulated sex. "Steven had this rubber prosthetic body to give him a woman's shape and it started melting in the heat (of the studio lights)," he said. "It started to sag a bit. He'd had it on all day and the laws of gravity came into effect."

Reuters/Daily Variety

* * * * *

"DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS" IS A LIKABLE, GENUINE LOOK AT A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN WHO USED TO BE A MAN.

Directed by Richard Spence

Starring Steven Mackintosh and Rupert Graves

BY ANDREW [REDACTED]

WHETHER IT'S "Pride and Prejudice" or

"Sleepless in Seattle," the romantic comedy follows a relentless pattern: Two sympathetic protagonists, who from the outset we suspect are meant for each other, try to overcome the barriers that keep them apart (generally some mix of class, family, tribal or national identity and plain old personality quirks). Like most contemporary examples, English filmmaker Richard Spence's likable, loose-limbed London yarn "Different for Girls" blends this faith in individualism with an almost mystical reverence for love. There's no accounting for the force that binds two people together in the first place, for the idiosyncratic pathways of individual desire.

Yet even within those boundaries this film has bigger philosophical fish to fry. The most obvious obstacle keeping its central couple -- post-punk goofball Paul Prentice (Rupert Graves) and prissy, ladylike Kim Foyle (Steven Mackintosh) -- apart is that they used to be schoolmates, when Kim was called Karl and was a boy. Don't be misled by this; "Different for Girls" is not just another post-'80s identity politics movie (although it certainly treats transsexualism with the greatest respect). It isn't about realizing that you're gay or bisexual, or accepting that someone else is not the sex you thought they were. Like Kevin Smith's "Chasing Amy," it has a transcendent idea in view -- the idea that successful lovers must do away with all such reassuring categories and head out together into uncharted territory. As Kim herself explains to a prying prosecuting attorney late in the film, "Our relationship doesn't have a precise nature -- it never will."

If this is starting to sound like theory-driven spinach-art, fear not. Even as it brushes here and there against overweening earnestness, "Different for Girls" is always redeemed by its bright primary colors and irrepressible spirit and by the natural, unpretentious performances of its cast (featuring fine supporting work from Miriam Margolyes as Kim's mother-hen boss and Neil Dudgeon as her tormented military brother-in-law). In short, it's a lot of fun.

Best known for playing upper-crust characters in Merchant Ivory-style costume dramas, Graves is delightful as Paul, a 34-year-old leather-clad

motorcycle messenger who has never emotionally graduated from the liberating ecstasies of late-'70s punk London. As survivors and fans of that era will quickly spot, director Spence and screenwriter Tony Marchant can't be too far from Paul's sensibility. The movie's title comes from a Joe Jackson song, early punk legend Ian Dury appears as a repo man after Paul's motorbike and the soundtrack features the unlikely likes of Wreckless Eric, Splodgenessabounds and Stiff Little Fingers.

This is certainly the first thirtysomething cinema romance to feature both a Buzzcocks live gig and -- as a key gift from guy to girl -- a seven-inch single by the Only Ones.

Mackintosh's memorable performance as Kim, a dowdy post-operative transsexual who writes greeting-card verse, owns Art Deco lamps and does her best to fit in to conventional femininity, is a good deal more complicated. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about "Different for Girls," in fact, is what the filmmakers didn't do -- cast a woman, or a passable drag queen, in the role. While Mackintosh as Kim cuts a handsome figure in a sort of horsy, gawky way, and there's no hint of caricature in his acting, there's also no "Crying Game" illusion here.

He's unmistakably mannish in the face and shoulders, and you'd never for a second believe he was born an official female. (Although the changes apparently effected in Mackintosh's body for the film's one nude scene will astonish you.)

In other words, Kim isn't a woman because she takes estrogen and has had her penis surgically transformed into a vagina, but because she says she is. If Paul is going to love her, that has to be good enough for him, even though their coupling is likely to mark him, in the world's eyes, as a gender-freak by association. Paul's growing unease and bewilderment, sparked when the film literally throws him in Karl/Kim's path 17 years after their ambiguous school friendship, are admirably exploited by Spence and the actors, and I daresay many straight male viewers will ride Paul's bumpy emotional road.

Alternately attracted and repelled by Kim's transformation, he tries to pretend their dates

aren't dates, brings her flowers and then -- surrounded by her rapaciously curious coworkers -- acts like they don't mean anything.

On one hand, he avidly reads scientific books on transsexualism; on the other, he bulls through the contents of Kim's fussily arranged flat, pawing her dresses and heels, her hormone pills and vaginal dilator.

When Kim first moves to kiss Paul, he protests, "I am straight, you know." She responds, "So am I." But they and we know their relationship can never be as simple as that. Like many off-screen transsexuals, Kim wants more than anything else not to be noticed. After a drunken night when Paul's boorish confusion attracts the cops (a rather artificial crisis for this otherwise genuine film), Kim herself has to decide what she fears losing most: this dubious, painful, maybe-not relationship or her quiet life as a plausibly female wallflower. It's an unusually dramatic version of the choice we all face in relationships, between the sterile safety of prescribed roles and the terror of genuine emotional nakedness.

Sept. 12, 1997

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GLAAD Calls for Support for TG TV Character

Mystery Gender-Bender on One Life to Live

From GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation)

On August 20, a new potentially transgender character showed up on the ABC soap opera *One Life to Live*. The character, Wendy Mercury, is a bartender at the wild Club Indigo, which is co-owned by RJ Gannon, who has "underworld" ties. In Wendy's first episode, RJ identifies the character as a man, but no one makes a big deal about Wendy's female attire. Meanwhile, Wendy seems to potentially romantically interested in district attorney Hank Gannon (RJ's brother). Wendy is something of a gender enigma, both on

the show and to spokespeople from ABC daytime. When GLAAD inquired as to whether Wendy was a transsexual, a transvestite or a drag queen, we found out the character is played by "gender illusionist" Shequida (a.k.a Garry Hall), who performs at Lucky Chang's in New York. The spokesperson for ABC Daytime was unsure whether "Wendy" was a drag name for a male character or if Wendy was always Wendy, even when not working at the nightclub. When asked, the spokesperson said no decisions had been made about Wendy's sexual orientation.

Whatever the case, the fact that daytime television now features a recurring character played by a "gender illusionist" of color is noteworthy, and *One Life to Live* has taken a bold move by choosing to include Wendy without sensationalizing the character.

Commend *One Life to Live* for introducing a trans-character of color, and encourage ABC Daytime to develop both Wendy's gender and sexual identity.

Contact: Pat Filikrushel, President, ABC Daytime; 77 W. 66th Street, New York, NY 10023-6201; fax: 212.456.2381; e-mail: daytime@abc.com

* * * * *

A Winner: Neptune's Rocking Horse

In palmistry, "Neptune's Rocking Horse" refers to the struggle for balance between the masculine and feminine, in particular as it relates to self-expression.

This is a fitting and loaded title for a film that explores the secret prejudices of five very different characters, all of whom are inwardly affected by the brutal arrest of an African-American drag queen. Race and the mutable nature of gender are two of the explosive themes that this film explores, as the characters struggle to come to terms with their reactions to the arrest. The winner of the 1997 Montreal World Film Festival, "Neptune's Rocking Horse" is one of those little films that deserves to make it big. Viewers who have a sense of adventure and

who enjoy films that are entertaining as well as thought-provoking won't want to miss "Neptune's Rocking Horse." --Leah Griesmann

* * * * *

Here are some local entertainment items contributed by Callan:

- 1) brilliant dyke comic maggie casella, with the band vibe at valentines, sunday october 8, show at 8pm. tix \$15 at the door, partial proceeds to aids council.
- 2) brilliant dyke singer kd lang at proctors, tuesday, october 14 at proctors schenectady \$34.50. you get an interesting crowd for her shows, half country fans, half dykes.
- 3) brilliant black women singers "sweet honey in the rock" at troy savings bank music hall, saturday october 18. trust me, lotsa dykes there.
- 4) saratoga film forum's annual "rocky horror" event at the nys armory, friday october 31
- 5) sept 27 opening of the exhibition "is it art? transgressions in contemporary art" at the albany institute of history and art, 125 washington ave, 463-4478. the show runs sept 24 - nov 9.
- 6) of course, september 27 is also the cdg&lcc swing dance with the people from all over the state at power company, where you are going to wear the long rayon dress.
- 7) hey, did'ja notice that thursday is skirt nite at the fuller roadhouse (the former yesterdays.) wear a skirt, half off drinks. dj included. probably for kids, but what an excuse for guys-in-dresses.

"A Snip and a Tuck and Bob's Your Aunt!"

Uniting As Allies

by Callan [REDACTED]

I feel that I should speak about "Uniting As Allies," the National Coalition Building Institute weekend workshop that was sponsored by the Capital District Gay & Lesbian Community Council this past weekend, September 12-14, but I don't feel that I can be very objective about the weekend, because many people saw me as a key force in the dynamics of the event.

A wide range of TG people were represented among the approximately 50 participants, including Tina Andrus, Bridget Nelson & her partner Deb, Ann Coyote, Jordan and Jeanette & Jude'Em. I am very sure that each one of us had a very different experience and came away with very different perspectives on the events of the weekend, and I encourage others to also speak about their experience.

The workshop included modules on prejudice reduction and on addressing controversial issues. In prejudice reduction, we work to discover the records we held about other groups, and then began the process of speaking out about how those labels don't apply and can hurt us. For example, Bridget shared her story of being accosted by the TV news cameras just after she spoke to her boss about transitioning at work, and how that made her feel.

The controversial issues process included Cordell Boone, the leader of Sisters & Brothers In The Life (SABIL) and I addressing the question "Are exclusive groups constructive?" It was an intense process, and in the end, many people said that they were moved and felt enlightened about transgender issues.

Each of us who were there, I am sure, opened some eyes, made new connections and touched some hearts. It was a location where people were safe and willing to look beyond their assumptions and fears to see the human side of others. NCBI believes that every opinion counts, and the controversial issues process is designed to find ways to look at the hard, polarizing issues and

seek common ground upon which we can do the hard work of balancing the needs of all.

"Uniting As Allies" was a step that 50 some individuals took towards finding new ways to work together and be open to the diversity and humanity that exists among GLBT people. I heard stories that touched my heart, and people told me that I touched theirs.

I thank the large committee, headed by Linda McCracken, that made this event occur, and the CDG&LCC and L&GCFP for their financial support of the process, without which the event could not have happened. They are certainly worth our support.

There are plans to continue this process, with more events, and I encourage each and every one of you to join in and create some new allies in facing the challenges that each of us faces.

We all want to look better and feel better about ourselves, and Sarah Fox has some advice for us all:

Sarah's Quick Tips

CONTOURING

Do you have too much "baggage" under the chin? Apply a slightly darker shade of foundation or a neutral brown blush there (but not on the neck). Blend well.

Is your nose too broad? Apply a hint of neutral brown blush to both sides of the nose. Don't apply too much, or you'll look like your nose is dirty.

Is any part of your face too broad? Make it look skinnier by applying a neutral brown blush (or darker foundation) to the sides of your face next to that area. Use a big, puffy blush brush, and apply sparingly.

DEPORTMENT

If someone reads you, what should you do? I've found that the best response is to "have fun" with it. Look the person straight in the eye and smile

warmly. If he/she keeps staring, try a wink or a very prissy wave (with "twiddling" fingers). Just be sure not to do this if it could be misinterpreted as a "come-on". Even the most hard-core, stone-faced staring types will eventually get embarrassed and turn away.

To look "pretty" when holding a drinking glass, touch your palm to the glass and let your fingers spiral upwards along the side.

This Summer when you're showing off your legs, please don't walk like a guy! To walk more femininely, try doing some/most of the following: (1) Lean back a bit, head held high. Men often have a Neanderthal slump. (2) When you step, let your pelvis sag slightly towards the non-weight-bearing side as it sways slightly towards the weight-bearing side. (3) Walk slowly and with moderate-sized steps to allow time for this shifting to occur naturally and easily. (4) Hold your elbows in towards your body with your wrists pointed forward and cocked back slightly. (5) As your arms swing (gently), don't rock and bob your shoulders. (6) Practice these things by watching yourself as you walk towards a mirror. Position the mirror so as to give yourself as much walking distance as possible. (7) Don't overdo! Don't walk like Mae West. Try to carry yourself in a manner befitting your age and station in life.

To look good in heels, you have to practice walking in them. If your heels are too high, you will look clumsy and most unattractive. With the proper heel height, your step will be energetic and confident, improving your image markedly. Your heels are too high if when taking normally sized step you cannot plant your foot squarely on the floor without bending your knee. Maximum heel height depends on foot flexibility. The more you can point your toe, the higher a heel you can wear. You can limber your feet by pointing them occasionally as opportunities permit. You can also limber your feet by walking in a pair of heels that are perhaps an inch too high, so as to "overflex" your foot. [This Quick Tip dedicated to Blinda, who just loves heels -- the higher, the better! (Just kidding, Blinda!)]

Transgenderist Independence Club
PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604
(518) 436-4513 (live Thurs.7:30-10 PM)

Transgenderist's Independence Club (TGIC) is a nonprofit, educational, non-sexual social support group for persons wishing to explore beyond the conventional boundaries of gender, including crossdressers, transsexuals and their friends.

TGIC Officers

President
Vice President
Secretary Rhiannon
Treasurer Winnie [REDACTED]
Newsletter Editor Vicky E. [REDACTED]

Facilities Tina, Edie, Rhiannon
Outreach
Program/Events

The Transgenderist is the newsletter of TGIC, published monthly and mailed First Class to members, prospective members, friends, professionals, and exchange publications. Copyright 1997 TGIC. No part may be reproduced without prior permission from the originator.

Readers are invited to submit articles relevant to the Transgendered Community for consideration. You may bring or mail typed pages for publication to the TGIC clubroom. Format should follow that shown in the current newsletter. You may also e-mail the articles to [REDACTED]. The article should be part of the body of the e-mail.

Regular Meetings are held every Thursday at the TGIC Club Room on Central Avenue in Albany, 7:30pm to 10pm. Some come earlier and stay later, but it is wise to call if you are not a Keyholder or if it is your first visit. Come dressed either way, meet and talk with friends. Many continue to socialize at one of the local night spots after the meetings.

BECOME AN IFGE MEMBER

The International Foundation for Gender Education is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Basic membership is \$25 per year. Subscriptions to Transgender Tapestry are \$40. Brochures and forms are available in the TGIC Club Room. Call or write to:

IFGE (617) 899-2212
PO Box 229
Waltham, MA 02154-0229

The I.F.G.E. Internet version of Transgender Tapestry is available at:

<http://www.tiac.net/users/dba/ifge/ifge.htm>

ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY TESTING

Your regional HIV Counseling and Testing Program provides free HIV counseling and antibody testing, support and referral. No names will be asked.

(NYS Health Department)

Call: (518) 486-1595 or 1-800-962-5065.

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Latham, N.Y. 12110
782-1426*

Therapeutic Support Group

for Transgender/Transsexual M to F is now accepting new members. Topics include Coming Out, Transitioning, Family issues, Jobs and Careers, Self Esteem. Contact:

Arlene Istar Lev R-CSW, CAS-AC
Choices Counseling Associates
321 Washington Ave
Albany, New York 12206

518-463-9152

TGIC On-Line

All transgendered people are invited to join TGIC On-Line, an informal e-mail network sponsored by Transgenderist Independence Club (TGIC). Messages exchanged on TGIC On-Line focus on events of interest to transgendered people in a region from Lake Placid to Newburg. If you are interested in joining the network, or want more information about TGIC, send an e mail message to: TGIC-request@hartebeest.com with any subject line and in the message body, the text:

JOIN TGIC
STOP

(Please note: JOIN TGIC must be on line 1. STOP must be on line 2) You will receive an automated acknowledgment (Journal) of your request, which must be approved with the list moderator.

TRI-ESS MEETINGS IN SCHENECTADY

Meetings are held at "YOURS", which is located at 145 Barrett Street in Schenectady. Call Monica at (518) 863-2783 or Evelyn at (315) 894-5421 for further information.

Calendar and Events

"Margaret, are you grieving
Over Goldengrove unleaving?"

--Spring and Fall, G. M. Hopkins

TGIC meetings are held Thursdays at 7:30 in the clubhouse.

October 2 "Willingly White"
October 9 "Italian Influence"
October 16 "Fall Color Preview"
October 23 "Frantic Fashion"
October 30 Fifth Thursday "Yad Sdrawkcab"

Events of Note (getting busy!)

October 2-5 Southern Comfort
PO Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357
(404) 633-6470
sscatl@aol.com
<http://members.aol.com/sscatl>

October 10-11 Fall Fling '97
Providence, MA
Tiffany Club of New England
PO Box 2283
Woburn, MA 01888-0483
(617) 891-9325 (Tues. 7:30-10:30)

October 11 2, Twenty Club, TS Support Group

October 19-26 Fantasia Fair
Provincetown, Cape Cod, MA
Registrar
PO Box 2734
Boston, MA 02208
(617) 522-6033
www.cowart.com/outreach

October 25 2, Twenty Club, TS Support Group
October 25 8-11 TGIC HALLOWEEN PARTY
Star Studio, Downtown

Schenectady

November 12-16 TransPositions:
Towards Transgender Studies
Cornell University
Contact: Richard Juang,
rmj8@cornell.edu

January 16-19 Dignity Cruise #9
with Peggy Rudd

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EARS WANTED!

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- > assault or rape?
- > remaining silent bothering you?
- > no help from conventional sources?

Call us: (518) 432-7092

Mail: P.O. Box 6307, Albany, NY 12206

ALBANY GENDER PROJECT

Building respect - one person at a time

Sexticy Fetish Ball, 1997
Rochester, NY
October 25, 1997

The Grand Masquerade Sexticy Ball 1997

The Ball will take place the evening of October 25th 1997 at the Main Street Armory in Rochester, NY. Doors will open at 7pm.

Guests who purchase a \$20.00 ticket will enjoy the event until 2:30am

Guests who purchase the VIP ticket, \$40.00, will be invited to stay until 4am and participate in activities planned for that time.

The Event is to benefit AIDS Rochester

Including Live Music, Drag Show, Best Costume

Bondage/Domination Performance
Competition Body & Body Art Exhibition
Vendors featuring quality fetish gear
Domina
Dungeons

Opportunities are available for vendors to purchase booth space. Also we will consider applications from Masters & Mistresses with Dungeons or similiar Displays. .

Yes, for those of you who can't come to the party but still want to know what the commotion's all about we will be offering a video of the event for sale for \$24.99. Advanced orders are being taken now, and the final product will ship a week or so after the event. Orders can be taken via email or over the phone through

Image Center Arts at 716.224.0584

Comments? Vicky E. [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Albany, NY 12203

Transgenderists Independence Club (TGIC) Of Albany, NY Presents

A GENDER BENT Karaoke

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Saturday, October 25, 8:00 - 11:30 PM

Star Studio in Franklin Plaza, Corner Lafayette & Franklin
Downtown Schenectady

dragking dragqueen dramaqueen crossdress butch femme fun costume pack tuck beehive beard diva highheels corset fun tuxedo fun shadowself thrills transgressive garter jock diva fun

BREAK THE RULES OF GENDER AND HAVE A BALL!

rupaul kdlang boygeorge marilynmonroe jamesdean fun mickjagger marlenedetrich bugsbunny christinejorgensen elvis fun leadelaria katebornstein prince traceyullman fun lesfeinberg

Open to one and all who love to play with gender

play swagger mince sway cocky fun bounce smile purr growl bark fun smile grin fun theater perform transform become snap sashay prance fun pop purr cheese corn fun cashmere silk leather

Come In Character - Win Cheesy Prizes!

Most Femme/Pretty

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Gender Bent Poetry Slam

La Prima Diva de Karaoke

Substance Free - Softdrinks & Snacks for sale by Star Studio

Admission: \$10/Person, \$15/Couple

Call 436-4513 or write to [REDACTED] for party info or on the TGIC social club for TG people, including TV & TS