

# THE CITY

1977 — 78 A.D.



music - ron romanovsky - lyrics - gene porter - arranged - larry good

HELLO AND WELCOME to this premiere presentation of THE CITY: 1977-78 A.D. As you are aware, this is a concert presentation specifically for the purpose of premiering the work and garnering the support that will enable us to produce it again as a fully staged rock opera. Thank you for being a part of this exciting event. We hope you enjoy the show.

THE AUTHORS

GENE PORTER, Lyricist

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Gene Porter has been involved in musical theater for ten of his twenty-nine years. His experience ranges from technical crewing to directing and performing in such shows as JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, GODSPELL, CANDIDE and THE ME NOBODY KNOWS. Having studied English Literature in college, he became intrigued with the fusion of script writing and modern music in the "rock opera" genre which led to his writing THE CITY: 1977-78 A.D.

RON ROMANOVSKY, Composer

Ron Romanovsky is a self-taught singer/songwriter who began writing music at the age of 15. In addition to THE CITY:1977-78 A.D., he has composed five volumes of music for piano, guitar and voice, and performs regularly with Paul Phillips, as ROMANOVSKY AND PHILLIPS. Together they have appeared at Gay & Lesbian Freedom Day, Fanny's Cabaret and the Valencia Rose.

Directed by Gene Porter and Paul Phillips  
Choral director and arranger: Paul Phillips  
Band arrangements by Larry Good  
Sound: Karen Black  
Lighting: Luce Stellare  
Designed by Marianella Macchiarini  
Cover photo by K. Nelson Harper

The cast and crew of THE CITY would like to thank The People's Theatre Coalition, Neighborhood Arts, The Farm, Valencia Rose, Habitat, The Josephine Randall Junior Museum, Demystavision, Jeanine Strobel, David Lamble, Allen Farley, KQED-FM and Tom Vegh.

THE CAST

Robert Antonelli: Drage Queen, Reporter, Ensemble  
Lea DeLaria: Leather Dyke, Barfly, Ensemble  
Dore Everett: "Save Our Children" Campaign Mgr., Ensemble  
Jym "Snake" Fahey: Queer Basher, Dan White, Ensemble  
Jerry Fox: TV Newscaster, Greg (Steven's Cameraman),  
Senator Briggs, Ensemble  
Jeff Gregory: Steven, A reporter for KNSF News  
Candace Hemrich: Ensemble  
Steve Haught: Queer Basher, Rev. Sheldon, Police Chief,  
Ensemble  
John Iverson: Frank (a member of the editorial crew at  
KNSF News), Ensemble  
Ruth Jovel: Mrs. Hillsborough, Ensemble  
Jean Kasha: Anita Bryant  
Roger Marque: Jerry Taylor, Ensemble  
Maureen McKenna: Reporter, Grade School Teacher,  
Diane Feinstein, Ensemble  
Pamela Minet: Holly Near  
Mario Mondelli: Robert Hillsborough, Crewmember, Ensemble  
Marc Page: Harvey Milk  
Alexis Rahil: Queer Basher, Ensemble  
Rob Robinson: Queer Basher, Family Counselor, Ensemble  
Sandy Schlechter: Susanna (Steven's Girlfriend)

THE BAND

Dan Bingham: Drums  
Jay Field: Guitar  
Larry Good: Guitar, piano on Election '77/Light of Freedom  
Dan McCann: Bass  
Ron Romanovsky: Piano  
Daniel Bonaventura Veltri: Synthesizer  
(Dan Bingham, Jay Field and Dan McCann are Bay Area  
musicians who together comprise PLAN B)

OH WHAT A STORY/THANK YOUS/BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

It is June, 1977, at the "Save Our Children" Headquarters in Dade County, Florida. Anita Bryant, popular entertainer turned evangelist, and her supporters, have just won a long and bitter battle to defeat a gay rights ordinance. The media, fully realizing the potential for sensational copy, have seized the story for national coverage.

Scene 2

FULL MOON IN THE CITY/KILL A QUEER FOR CHRIST

One week later, in San Francisco, California, two gay friends, Robert Hillsborough and Jerry Taylor, are walking home after a night on the town.

Scene 3

SUSANNA AND STEVEN/TEN O'CLOCK NEWS/ONE MORE NIGHT

At a bar in San Francisco, a young reporter, Steven, and his girlfriend, Susanna, are re-united after Steven has returned from covering the Dade County story.

Scene 4

AT ST. FRANCIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL/MY SON/STEVEN'S LAMENT

In Jerry Taylor's hospital room, we find Robert's mother, Mrs. Hillsborough, as Steven enters.

Scene 5

ELECTION '77 (SPECIAL REPORT)/LIGHT OF FREEDOM

On the night of the November election, Steven is broadcasting a special news report on the controversial battle for gay rights between Anita Bryant and gay activists such as Holly Near. Harvey Milk's race for supervisor is also a major focus of interest.

Scene 1

ACT II

RALLY ROUND SISTER B (MORAL MAJORITY HOP)/I AM NOT AFRAID

By the summer of 1978, Anita Bryant's campaign has gone nationwide with thousands of followers including religious leaders (Rev. Sheldon) and politicians (Senator Briggs) and the media is still exploiting it.

Scene 2

FREEDOM PARADE '78

At City Hall Plaza in San Francisco, the annual Gay Freedom Day Parade is in full swing. Steven is there once again to cover the event.

Scene 3

RESIGNATIONS

As the issues become more inflated and the media boom continues, Steven ponders his next move while, in another section of the city, Dan White, having resigned from the board of supervisors, ponders his.

Scene 4

NEWSROOM

At the KNSF news offices Steven is trying to wrap up his work on the Briggs and Milk debate while most of the crew is out covering the People's Temple murders. Frank, a member of the editorial crew, harrasses him about his undying interest in the gay issue.

Scene 5

STREET VOICES

By late afternoon, November 27, all of San Francisco is suspended on a wire of mounting frustration. In the Castro, thousands of distraught and angry gays gather to vent their emotions.

Scene 6

THE CITY/REPORT OF NOVEMBER 27, 1978/LIGHT OF FREEDOM (REPRISE)

As dusk draws on, Steven, Greg and assemble on the steps of City Hall for the evening news report.