

THE TRIANGLE

The Monthly Newspaper from Gay & Lesbian Community Services of Central Florida, Inc.
Serving Orlando's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community

Spectrum Award's Show Glows With Community Pride

Special to The Triangle

From the moment you walked inside, you knew there was something brilliant that was going to occur as members of the LesBiGay supportive community gathered in the lobby of the Presidential Ballroom of Church Street Station. As pianist Gary Quinn played on the Grand Piano, guests ascended the grand staircase towards the reception on the upper floor. An elegantly decorated ballroom filled with fresh flowers and fountains greeted them as they entered. As everyone enjoyed the food and drink, the cast and crew were seen quietly orchestrating an event that had obviously been in the planning stages since last year. From the expansive Orlando skyline enveloping the stage, to the stacks of

advertisements and public service announcements were shown (many for the first time in Orlando) to the appreciative crowd.

To the surprise and delight of everyone, was a special appearance by Conrad Dindledey (Dennis Enos) and Douglas Quackenbush (Greg Bowman), representatives of the Spectrum Corporate Conglomerate, who introduced

accepting the award, Lewis thanked his parents, who were in the audience, and his lover Marlin for all their support while apologizing to the community for thinking they "didn't care about theater".

In another moving moment, Mark Steffy, Chuck Hummer's surviving partner accepted posthumously, the award for Human Spirit stating "Chuck would have appreciated saying "thank you" since it was something he truly believed in." Later, Chuck's father took the stage to accept the lifetime achievement award on behalf of his son.

At the conclusion of the program, the audience joined in



Mary Brooks Claims the Award for Female Volunteer of the Year

multi-media equipment in the rear of the room, you couldn't help but wonder out loud what surprises were in store for the hundreds of individuals fortunate enough to be in attendance. It was sure to be a night where the talents of our community would be showcased both on the stage and behind it as well.

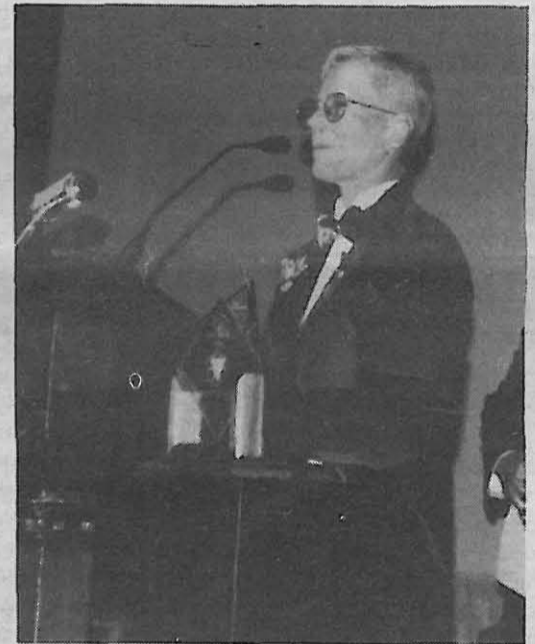
After only a short delay, the show began with a multi-media tribute to our communities accomplishments that included photos of recent events set to the music of the Los Angeles Gay Chorus singing "You gotta stand up strong, say I'm proud to be me." followed by Diedra McCall singing "We've Come too Far for This". But you could feel the audience was certainly moved by Tom McCormick's song "This is my heart, this is my home" as pictures of last years pride parade moved across the screen. Afterwards, the audience was charmed by co-hosts Erin Somers (Passion Phones) and Peter Rocchio (Radio personality and restaurant critic) whose playful banter started with the two arguing "who should be wearing the heels?" The academy award style show featured awards, entertainment, and an occasional commercial break, where LesBiGay



Lewis Routh Accepts His Spectrum Award For Entertainer of The Year

the Spectrum Judges by way of song. Their appearance was preceded by a pseudo nineteen fifties documentary explaining the Spectrum judging process.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by the finalists in the Entertainer of the Year Category including jazz singer Ms. Jacqueline Jones, The Orlando Gay Chorus, IMPROVabilities, Lisa Lacy, and the winner, Lewis Routh, founding director of Act Out Theatre, who performed an abbreviated but accurate rendition of "The Wizard of Oz" to the delight of all who were there. While



Shannon Addison Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

a salute to the future, lighting 300 candles and rising from their seats as Liza Minelli sang "Someday we'll be free. I promise we'll be free. If not tomorrow, then the day after that..."

Many thanks were due, especially to the evening's sponsors that included Gay & Lesbian Community Services, Dr. Michael Dunn, Lesbian Community Network (LCN), Cactus Club, WTKS 104.1 Radio, L.E.A.G.U.E. of AT&T, Joy Metropolitan Community Church, and the Full Moon Saloon whose financial support made the event possible.

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Religious/Spiritual (Tie) - James Brock and Joy Metropolitan Community Church; Recreation - Orlando Front Runners; Business - Scott-Laurent Galleries; Diversity - Saviz Shafaie; Male Role Model - Tom Dyer; Female Role Model - Phylliss Murphy; AIDS Service - Debbie Tucci; Human Spirit - Chuck Hummer; Female Activism - Patty Sheehan, Male Activism - Joel Strack; Journalistic



Hosts Peter Rocchio and Erin Somers

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