

# NEW YORK POST

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 1989

## Gallery of gals in one Penny Arcade

Comedian employs a repertoire of alter-egos to tell "True Stories"

By BILL ERVOLINO

AUGUST has brought air conditioning and Penny Arcade's "True Stories" to the downstairs theater at P.S. 122. Both the AC and Arcade could use some adjustments, but both are cool enough to see us through the dog days.

A character comedian from the Lily-Whoopi School of Fine Arts, Arcade is a gifted, earthy gal with a full figure and an even fuller repertoire of alter egos.

She is, alternately, a homeless Hispanic named "Girl," a downtown girl-of-the-minute named Andrea, a hooker from New Orleans named Charlene and a can-

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tankerous old broad named Lucy, who sits by the TV and comments on the world in general and SoHo in particular.

"See that building across the street?" Lucy groans. "It used to be a paper factory. Now it's a store called If. If *whaaat?*"

There is a touching, maybe even brilliant, authenticity to Arcade's characters. She knows who they are, you know who they are and as each piece comes together you want to know more.

There are no similarities whatsoever between Lucy and "Girl." Ditto for Charlene, who discusses her recent facelift ("For the first

two weeks, ever' time I raised my eyebrows, my stockings moved.") and Andrea, who, among other things, explains the difference between roamosexuals and homosexuals.

"Roamosexuals are always roaming around," Andrea points out, "whereas homosexuals stay at home and give cocktail parties."

Some major editing is needed here; Arcade has more material than she knows what to do with. But beyond the one-liners are some stunningly drawn characters, brought to life by someone who obviously loves each and every one of them. So will you.

Penny Arcade appears in "True Stories" at P.S. 122, 150 First Ave., (212) 477-5288, Thursdays through Sundays until Sept. 20. Showtimes are 9:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$8.



**PENNY ARCADE**  
Stands out in a crowd.