



# Galway Advertiser

**GALWAY  
Arts Festival**

Thursday, 21st July, 1994

**Bitch! Dyke! Faghag! Whore!** - Some people might be put off by the brash title of this show, fearing that they'd be letting themselves in for a polemical tirade on sexual discrimination. This would be a pity because it's not like that at all. It's a witty, thought-provoking, daring, compassionate and candid exploration of sexual mores in today's society. Penny Arcade (or Suzanne Ventura, to give her her proper name) delivers a series of monologues, most of which are autobiographical, in which she dissects the quirks and foibles, airs and attitudes of gays, straights, lesbians, bi-sexuals, prostitutes and their "johns"...which covers just about everyone, really. She's not on the side of any specific group and her show ultimately adds up to a plea for mutual tolerance. Maybe that sounds a bit corny, but, as Elvis Costello sang, "What's so funny about Peace, Love and Understanding?" Between the monologues Penny's troupe of lithsome erotic dancers (2 male, 2 female) go through their paces, sometimes in the very midst of the audience. At one stage most of the audience are cajoled onstage to dance in Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" which Penny says she once played 35 times in a row to get through a personal crisis. She now swears by its healing potential. I don't know if it's the sort of medicine I'd go for myself, but I can certainly attest to the health-restoring quota of great laughs in this thoroughly entertaining show.

**NOTE: Due to public demand there will be an extra performance of "Bitch!, etc." on Friday at 6.00 p.m.**