

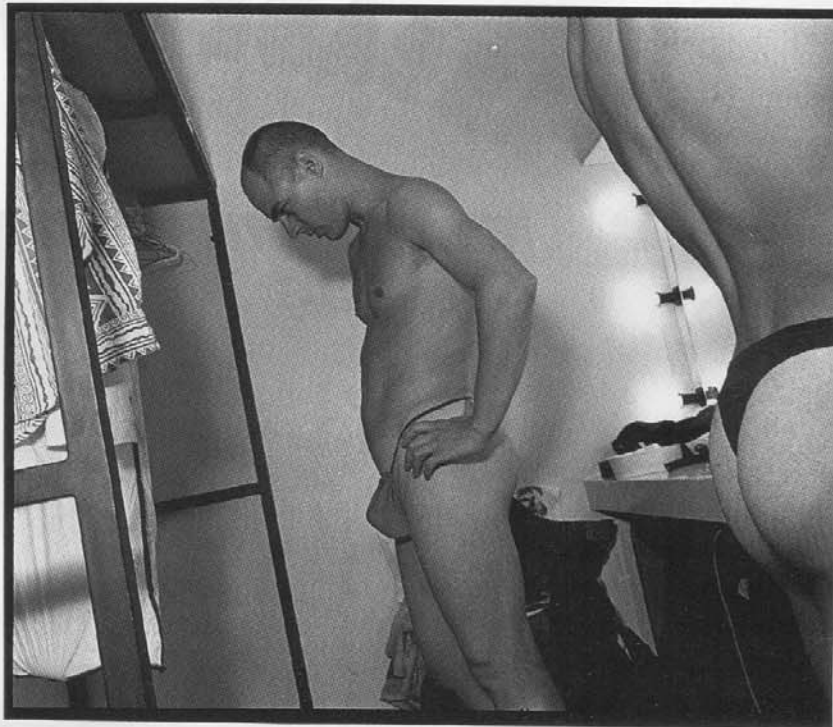
Penny Arcade is a New York-based performance artist with a repertoire of shows that includes *Bitch! Dyke! Fag hag! Whore!* This show is a cabaret that melds the disparate elements of erotic dancing, dramatic characterisation and comedy into a theatrical examination of censorship and self-expression.

I'm a cynic. I would rather eat sandpaper than use terms like "life affirming" or "transcendental" but I cannot pretend that this show didn't move me or that I was not entranced by Penny Arcade. (Bob Hawke and Blanche D'Alpuget, who were backstage one night in Sydney, were also seduced.) She is an extraordinary woman. *B! D! F! W!* begins with a short monologue from Penny while Sly Stone's "We Are Family" plays in the background. This is an effective introduction to a show that is different every night but always about the idea of inclusion.

Penny travels with her tech director Lori and her two chief dancers Kenny and Leta. The rest of her crew of erotic dancers are recruited locally in each city she visits. I spent six weeks with these people in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. The experience was deeply inspiring. It was also thoroughly draining. This is what families are like.

— PETER MILNE

The pre-show what to wear dilemma. The moment before the dancers hit the stage



Making up is the meditative process for the dancers, p syc them up for the show. Most nights PAX was on the dressing room floor making his costume minutes before the show to the constant amangement of all of us.

