



**LOW**

# Swing Out Sister

A One-Queer Show Puts  
David Drake on the A-List.

**D**AVID DRAKE was a sensation in a dress. Stripped down to a jockstrap, he's a phenomenon. Since last June, he has given over 200 performances of his one-man show, *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, at Manhattan's Perry Street Theatre. The play follows on the heels of the off-Broadway hit *Pageant*, in which he appeared as the beauty contestant Miss Deep South.

Actually, he's in the jockstrap only for "12-Inch Single," a vignette about a gay man's nocturnal bar crawl. Through most of *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, he wears what he calls the everyman gay costume—white T-shirt, 501 button-fly jeans. Inspired, politicized, and metaphorically kissed by writer-activist Larry Kramer's play *The Normal Heart*, Drake says he wrote his show "to give permission and validation to this community's experiences and feelings." He describes the play as the personal heroic journey of this everyman, and calls it his big coming out. "You are looking at an authentic queer telling you the truth," he pronounces.

And the truth, it seems, has nourished David Drake, who turns 30 this June on the 24th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The play is expected to continue running in New York, with another actor, while Drake tours to San Francisco in April and Los Angeles in May. He has also recently completed two film roles: You'll see him flirting with Ralph Macchio in *Naked in New York*, a comedy starring Kathleen Turner and Eric Stoltz, and helping Tom Hanks disguise his KS lesions in what many are calling the first major Hollywood AIDS movie, Jonathan Demme's *Philadelphia*. "The show has put me on the A-list and given me access to the big leaguers," he laughs, happily.

—GERARD RAYMOND

*Gerard Raymond is currently working on New York Scene, a gay guide to New York to be published this fall by London's GMP Publishers.*

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THEATER