



# Lesbian Quarterly

## Sound Advice From Solid Experience

### Spring Edition

This quarter LQ is celebrating its one year anniversary. Founded on International Women's Day, 2004, LQ has changed publishers from the original group of businesswomen who founded it and gone out on it's own under the wing of editor/publisher Sophia Kelly. This edition is focussing on lesbians in the arts and includes interviews with blues and folk guitarist Jill Newman and with casting director Natasha Tony, who provides all the luscious lesbian and lesbian-impersonating extras to Showtime's L-word soap opera, shot in Vancouver. Our regular Computer Insider Feature with database and software consultant Sophia Kelly will be back next quarter.

### Natasha Tony—Casting Director

Graduating as an actor from the University of Saskatchewan and moving to Vancouver in 1993, Natasha Tony at first sought work as an actor and writer, with work appearing in cabarets, Black History Month events and at the Women in View Festival. After three years, and with a daughter to support, in 1996 she became involved behind the scenes as a casting assistant.

Two years later she went out on her own, and now works on upwards of three shows at a time, selecting and recruiting extras, stand ins and photo doubles. This home-based business-woman works hard, ten months of the year, 14 hour days, on call 24 hours a day. She enjoys being "part of a vision", to take an idea and "dress it with humans and make it the real deal".

Although the film industry up here in 'Hollywood North' has been going through a bit of a downturn as a result of the high Canadian dollar and the popularity of reality television, Natasha hasn't been affected, other than in 2002 following the 911 tragedy, because of her work with American cable TV, which has changed it's format with a greater focus on movies of the week. "I felt the downturn just after 911, a lot of money was tied up there as well I think that people were shocked and not knowing which way to go with entertainment." Natasha has trained herself to see downturns as opportunities for

100% Lesbian—One Year Out



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a career change: "I enjoy what I'm doing and it's definitely fun, but there's definitely more out there."

Natasha has worked finding extras for the Showtime series the L-Word since it's first pilot in 2002 (shot in Vancouver), but claims that the fact that she is a lesbian "was more of a bonus" than the reason she was hired, since she'd already been working on other projects for Showtime. This year has been a particularly busy one "with the L-Word this year it's been a bigger show."

The process of hiring extras (known in the industry as 'background performers') for the show begins with a meeting

**"Natasha Tony has worked finding extras for the Showtime series the L-Word since it's first pilot in 2002."**

with the director to go over the scene and the look they are going for. Natasha will be told what they want the performers to look like, down to details like what proportion of a crowd scene, for example, should be made up of persons of colour, and if any special skills are required. When special skills are required, the cost per background performer goes up. From there she works out what the proposed scene will cost and

*(Continued on page 2)*

# The Lesbian Agenda—Places to Go, Women to See...

**March 1st - Mabel League** lesbian softball league. Team Registration deadline [www.mabelleague.com](http://www.mabelleague.com)

**March 14th, April 11, May 16 - Mabel League Team Rep Meeting** (LIL tournament fees and forms due May 16th for league and guest teams.

**March 18 (Fri) Chris Williamson** St. James Community Square Hall, 8 PM 3214 W. 10th Ave \$16 - \$21 Little Sisters, Women in Print, Urban Empire [www.soundsandfuries.com](http://www.soundsandfuries.com)

**March 19th (Sat) Lesbian Idol II Contest and Dance.** Royal Canadian Legion 26607 Fraser Highway (Hwy 1A) 9pm-1am DJ Susan Y \$10 advance tix. Call Susan at 604-514-3549, email [djsusandyager@hotmail.com](mailto:djsusandyager@hotmail.com) or mail your cheque to: Diane Driver #53-20176 - 68 Avenue, Langley, BC V2Y 2X7 Call above # for audition.

**March 20 (Sunday) An Evening of Women in Song** @ The Railway Club 579 Dunsmuir St. Doors: 7pm show: 8pm \$10 Linda M and Angie Nussie with special guests Rose Ranger, Bonnie Ste-Croix, Michele Raye, Pat Smear, Dylan Heming [www.lindam.org](http://www.lindam.org) & [www.angienussey.com](http://www.angienussey.com)

**April 2 Babe Gurr** CD Release Concert @ Studio 16 1564 W7th Ave \$20 [www.babegurr.com](http://www.babegurr.com)

**April 8 Melissa Ferrick** with Garrison Starr @ The Wise Hall 1882 Adanac Doors 8pm Show 9pm \$15 adv. \$20 day of @ Little Sisters & Kokopelli [www.melissaferrick.com](http://www.melissaferrick.com)

**April 17 An evening of Women in Song**—Robin Toma & Evani Goll, The Viragos with Debra Howell & Lisa Rae Simons. The Railway Club 579 Dunsmuir Door 7pm Show 8pm \$7.

**April 19 (Tuesday) Jill Newman 'Fragile Walls'** CD Release @ the Railway Club 579 Dunsmuir St. door 8pm show 9pm \$10 *See article in this quarters' LQ*

**May 1 (Sunday) Evalyn Parry with Ivan Coyote** The Railway Club 579 Dunsmuir St. doors: 7pm show; 8pm \$10 [www.evalynparry.com](http://www.evalynparry.com)

**May 7th - Mabel League Meltdown**—Season opening dance. Hundreds of softball dykes, sliding scale door. see [www.mabelleague.com](http://www.mabelleague.com) for details.

**May 7 Alix Olson & Pamela Means with Ivan E. Coyote** The Anza Club 3 West 8th Ave. door 8pm show 9pm tix: \$15 advance @ Little Sisters & Kokopelli's [girlgigs@yahoo.com](mailto:girlgigs@yahoo.com)

## Ongoing Events:

**Tuesdays: Surrey Coffee Group** 7PM @ Java Hut @ 64<sup>th</sup> Ave & 152<sup>nd</sup> St

**1st Wednesday of the Month: Vancouver Outdoor Club Monthly Meetings** 7:30 pm, meeting room of the Sitka Women's Housing Coop at 1550 Woodland Street, Vancouver

**Thursdays: The Lesbian Show**—Lesbian-produced radio: Thursdays 8-9pm on 102.7 FM (Vancouver area).

**3rd Friday of the Month: Queer Women on the Drive** 7-9 pm Seniors Lounge of Britannia Community Centre. All ages, including children supervised by an adult. 604-684-5307



*music with lyrics and a beat that changes every song...*

**LQ Events listings are free, and must be submitted by email. Events both inside and outside the lower mainland are welcome. See back page for deadline. Priority is given to events organized by/for lesbians. Editor reserves the right to post or not post anything she wants for any reason. Club-crowd and mixed queer listings are more reliably found at [www.superdyke.com](http://www.superdyke.com) or Xtra West**

*(Continued from page 1)*

scales back if needed (as is usually the case) to conform to budgets. Once the workers are on set, Natasha's assistant Laura-Lee looks after the background workers on set, and she coordinates with wardrobe and makeup as well.

Natasha found lesbian background workers in her first year with the L-Word through the grapevine, via such sites as [superdyke.com](http://superdyke.com) and by flyering in clubs and at pride. She also works with casting agencies, and can view photos and select background workers registered with those agencies on a number of casting websites.

Although the L-Word has come under some criticism for appearing less butch than some would like, Natasha says that although the clients have the first (and last) say about the look they are going for, she tries to keep the crowd of extras diverse

and representative. "From the extras perspective we definitely try to encourage people of size and colour and age... My job is definitely about categories and labeling people..." Does she feel a responsibility to make it feel realistic? "I don't have that kind of control. But I try to be as clear as possible in hiring folks, and if something wasn't appropriate that would be brought up in a meeting. Also the women that I hire, I know that they will stand up for themselves if there's something they don't feel comfortable with. That's the kind of empowerment that I assume that we have as lesbian women."

With a mix of lesbian and straight background performers on set, has Natasha experienced any problems? Everyone should know that if you're working on a gay show consider yourself gay until proven otherwise...

# Jill Newman—Fragile Walls

Jill Newman has been a working musician for many years. “Before I had my kid, I was a pickup lead guitarist in bands. I played full time. I was away three weeks a month traveling with different bands mostly based out of Alberta and Northern BC. If a band needed a lead guitarist, I was their lead guitarist for that week. I played with [everyone from] drunken crazy rodeo cowboys to an all woman punk band.”

Did that time period inform her work? “Well, I finally decided I just didn’t want to do cover material. I think it was about really having the courage and the desire, to realize I had something to say.” It wasn’t until sitting down two years ago to write her upcoming album, *Fragile Walls*, that she committed to performing her own work.

The title track almost didn’t make it on to the album, as it had been arranged with a ‘folkier’ feel than Jill had wished, but an incident her family survived this past year, during the creation of the album, hit home to her how fragile walls can be.

A homophobic member of the housing coop in which Jill and her then-partner and their child lived, spent hours yelling and screaming, and attempting to break



down the door of their home. “He actually tried to violently kick the door in.” The man was arrested and convicted of a hate crime, but shockingly was not evicted from the coop. “It made me think about how appropriate that title was and how much meaning it had in my life. It seemed very important to say something about that.”

## Honeysuckle Rose Cottage

Private Cottage in a Country Garden at Halfmoon Bay - about 10 minutes north of Sechelt on the Sunshine Coast.

[www.honeysucklerosecottage.com](http://www.honeysucklerosecottage.com)  
[info@honeysucklerosecottage.com](mailto:info@honeysucklerosecottage.com)

**Frances & Marguerite**  
**1.866.885.6407**



When I listened to Jill’s album, I was particularly struck by the fluidity and richness of the surprisingly cheerful ‘Baby Just Left Me Blues’. I thought at first the fluidity was the mark of a long-loved often performed piece, but in fact it’s charm has more to do with the connection Jill has with the song. “Baby just left me blues, means a lot to me. I’m getting a lot of good feedback about it. It’s a style of playing that I’ve very connected to. The producer Steve Nikleva that I worked with worked out twin lead guitar parts on it, and it just propelled it along. It just has that bouncy fun feel to it. It’s fun.”

Is there any way in which being a lesbian informs your work? I think that it’s more around the issue of being marginalized, it’s about the way I play guitar.. It’s a feminist thing. I get told ‘you play like a guy’ as a compliment and I’m supposed to say ‘thank you’. If anything I want to model that women can do anything as well as guys can. I play like a woman and I think I’m a damn good guitar player.

Samples of Jill Newman’s work, sadly, not including ‘Baby done left me blues’ are available at [www.jillnewman.net](http://www.jillnewman.net) For that song, and some damn good guitar playing, you’ll have to come and see her live at her CD release performance on April 19th (See Lesbian Agenda in this issue for details).



## Sophia Kelly

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### *100% Lesbian.*

LQ is a magazine about lesbians – our achievements, our knowledge, our events and interests.

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*LQ is self-supporting through advertising. Help us grow by advertising in LQ.*

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Send to: 2046 Franklin St. Vancouver BC V5L 1R3.

Email [lq@sophiakelly.ca](mailto:lq@sophiakelly.ca) if you would like to distribute LQ in a lesbian-positive place or event near you.

### **Editorial Guidelines:**

LQ is committed to showcasing the knowledge and achievements of BC women who describe themselves as lesbian, and to being 100% lesbian written. Intended audience is lesbian-identified women over 30. Lesbians with professional or trade knowledge to share are encouraged to contact LQ for an interview at [lq@sophiakelly.ca](mailto:lq@sophiakelly.ca)

Lesbian writers, artists or poets interested in contributing may contact the editor.

The editor reserves the right to edit content, and to print or not print anything she wants.

### **A word about the 'L-Word':**

Dykes are debonair, bi's are beautiful, queer women are quirky and gay women are gorgeous.

LQ is unfashionably lesbian-focused, but welcomes readers with other choices.

LQ's use of 'lesbian' includes legally-identified women who label themselves lesbian.

## Resources for Lesbians

### Greater Vancouver

#### Alcohol & Drug—

New Dawn Recovery House for Women 604-325-0576  
supportive recovery houses.

#### Support Groups -

Les/Bi Cancer Support Group—Patient & Family Counselling, BC  
Cancer Agency, Sarah Sample, Sydney Foran 604-877-6098

North Shore Women's Centre ([www.vcn.bc.ca/nswe](http://www.vcn.bc.ca/nswe))

Resource centre, drop-in group for lesbians and bi women  
Free/confidential. 944 W 16th Street (Hamilton Ave  
Entrance) N Van 604-984-6009

#### Social / Recreational / Sports—

Menopausal Old Bitches (MOB) lesbians over forty 604-684-  
9872 x 2118

Vancouver Women's Outdoor Club—See article in LQ3 &  
Lesbian Agenda for monthly meetings

Mildred Women's Volleyball League 604-684-9872 x2002

Mabel League Women's Fast Pitch Softball League  
[www.mabelleague.com](http://www.mabelleague.com) (season runs April-August)

55+ Computer Club—free internet access and help for adults  
55+ at the Lion's Den 770 Commercial Drive, Vancouver (\$5  
membership required). Lesbian-taught classes suitable for  
beginners as well as more experienced. Tues & Friday 9-5 pm.

Gazebo Connection- professional lesbians social group. 604-438-5442

**In the Company of Womyn** Lesbian social group with  
monthly meetings. Surrey/Langley -activities extended  
to the Fraser Valley. Jill: 604-881-2155

**Not So Strictly Ballroom** [www.gayvancouver.bc.ca/nssb](http://www.gayvancouver.bc.ca/nssb)  
Same-sex couples dancing. Partners not necessary.

### Thompson-Okanagan

**Rainbow Womyn's Group** [sher19992003@yahoo.ca](mailto:sher19992003@yahoo.ca) email  
list: [lj@dignatis.com](mailto:lj@dignatis.com) [www.noglo.com](http://www.noglo.com):

### Vancouver Island

**Vancouver Island Lesbians In Progress Society**  
[vilipsnews@hotmail.com](mailto:vilipsnews@hotmail.com) or 250-756-0769

**Hill House Transition House** Temporary safe place  
for women and children leaving abusive relationships.  
Lesbians welcome. 250-479-3963

**Know of other lesbian-operated resources in or  
outside of the lower mainland? Send a brief  
description to [lq@sophiakelly.ca](mailto:lq@sophiakelly.ca)**

### *Lesbian Quote:*

*I became a lesbian because  
of women, because women  
are beautiful, strong, and  
compassionate.*

**--- Rita Mae Brown**



### *Lesbian Resource Profile—Lesbi Friends*

Peer support and social group for lesbians in the Fraser Valley. Meets every second and fourth Thursday evening. Call before attending. Contact Info: c/o Women's Place, 15318 20th Street Surrey, BC V4A 2A2 Phone: 604-536-9611

**Networking & Announcements** Free space is available in LQ for notices and announcements by / for lesbians.  
Housing? garage sale items? wedding announcements? Send to [lq@sophiakelly.ca](mailto:lq@sophiakelly.ca) (see deadline top left)