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Amazon Theatre

Amazon Theatre began at a meeting on 10 September 1989, with the aim of producing lesbian comedies for the lesbian community. The group devised, workshopped and wrote their own scripts and produced their first show, *Spot the Dyke*, with a cast of characters representing different aspects of the lesbian community including Pat the Lesocrat and Toni the Train Driver. *Spot the Dyke* was directed by Jackie Smith and performed at The Hive, Footscray Community Arts Centre, on 20/21/22 January during the Lesbian Festival 1990.

Amazon Theatre performed *Spot the Dyke* at Melbourne Uni on 18 May and again at FCAC for International Lesbian Day, 5 –6 October, 1990, and took *Spot the Dyke* on tour to Canberra and Sydney, 20 – 21 July 1990.

Encouraged by the enthusiastic reception and with a few more participants Amazon Theatre again workshopped and wrote another play, *Dykes of Our Restless Daze*, about the many and varied housemates and their interactions in a lesbian household, which was directed by Donna Trevaro and performed in The Pit, FCAC, during the Lesbian Festival, in January, 1991, and again at the Glasshouse, RMIT, 10 – 11 May 1991.

Amazon Theatre toured *Dykes of Our Restless Daze* to Adelaide, SA, on 24 – 25 May 1991. And Pat Longmore produced a video of the play which premiered at the Glasshouse Theatre, RMIT in 28 March 1992. The script of *Spot the Dyke* was launched by Donna Jackson and sold at the same event.

In 1992, Amazon Theatre devised and wrote their third play, *Undercover*, a lesbian mystery, again with a weird and wonderful cast of characters, which was directed by Susan Paxton and performed at Princes Hill High School, 10/11 and 17/18 July 1992. And again at Princes Hill High, 8 – 10 October, during the Lesbian Festival 1992.

After a break of a year and with only four members left, Amazon Theatre put on their fourth and final play, *Della*, about breast cancer, its treatment and other related issues. *Della* was directed by Susan Paxton and performed in the Theatre at FCAC, 21 - 22 October 1994; and again, at Princes Hill High School, 2 – 4 February 1995, during the Midsumma Festival.

All of Amazon Theatre's performances were for women-only and after producing a teeshirt (with a design by Dwayne Campbell) the group folded in August 1995.