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Couch takes center stage for lesson in gay lifestyle

by Meghan Woodhouse
Assistant News Editor

Comedy, a couple of guitars, and a couch are the elements that pull together to form the show "Ladies on the Couch."

"Ladies on the Couch" is a series of comical sketches which seek to inform and entertain audiences about the nature of being homo-

sexual. It focuses on discrimination, family confrontation, and romantic relationships between same sex couples.

The show stars Susan Howard and Kari Finn, actors from Chicago. Finn studied theater at Columbia University. She has written and directed several short films which were shown at various film festivals.

Howard studied at New York University and has recently produced her own play at the Center Theater Studio in Chicago. She spent a season working with the visiting bands on Saturday Night Live. Together they are starring in "Ladies" which has been running for two years at the Annoyance Theater in Chicago.

"Kari and I wanted to do

a show together, not necessarily

on gay issues, but most of the interesting stuff turned out to be gay material," said Howard. "I just wanted to entertain and this was something I cared about."

Howard also went on to say that she just came out to her parents a year before the show began performances, so the spirit of coming out

was still alive in her.

The show is one piece in the Lesbian-Gay Film Speakers Series, "Outflicks." Howard and Finn's demotape was shown to several organizations on campus and students responded well to the show. The Student Entertainment Committee voted unanimously to bring the group to URI.

"Ladies on the Couch" is being sponsored by a myriad of campus organizations, they are the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Association, the Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism, Student Entertainment Committee, People Organized for Women's Equality and Re-

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silience, and URI Students for Social Change.

"This show is about creating partnerships on campus. Five different missions have come together for a common cause," said Stuart Simons, Major Events Coordinator for the Student Activities Office.

According to Simons, "Ladies on the Couch" is a show for everyone. Both the actors and the organizations sponsoring the show encourage straight and gay audiences alike to attend. The hope for this show is that it will allow students to meet gay and lesbian people in a non threatening atmosphere.

"The coolest thing is that the show is never 'heterobashing.' It's a positive show for everyone to come see," said Howard.

Ladies on the Couch coincides with National Coming Out Week. This is a week to promote education and awareness. Many other activities have been planned, such as panel discussions, socials, and trips to Providence.

Ladies on the Couch is planned for tonight at 7:30 in the URI Memorial Union Ballroom. The show is free and is open to the public