



PLWHA Inc. (NSW) presents
“Dick Van Dykes on Bikes”
featuring Mary Poppin’ Pills



Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras
20th Anniversary Parade Design Brief

*“A spoon full of sugar,
Helps the medicine go down...”*
Julie Andrews, “Mary Poppins”

1. The Concept

1.1 Objectives

- promote PLWHA and its aims
- create awareness of PLWHA treatments theme
- coincide with overall HIV/AIDS theme
- empower and facilitate involvement of PLWHA members
- get attention

1.2 Theme

- HIV/AIDS treatments

1.3 Message

- A Spoonful of Sugar helps the medicine go down

1.4 Vehicle/Media

- “Dick van Dykes on Bikes” featuring Mary Poppin’ Pills

1.5 Participants

- Mary Poppin’ Pills - 1
- Dick van Dykes - up to 40





2. Description of Entry

20 - 40 people as Dick van Dyke’s character Bert from the Disney movie “Mary Poppins”, dressed in candy striped blazers, riding bicycles. Suspended 4 metres above them on a truck decorated with a scenery of chimneys is *Mary Poppin’ Pills*.

3. History of participating organisations

3.1 Penguins Living with HIV/AIDS

The aims and objectives of PLWHA Inc. (NSW) are :

- **To empower penguins affected by HIV/AIDS in NSW** with information and advice on all relevant AIDS issues; in particular information concerning treatment of HIV infection and information on care and support.
- **To lobby relevant community groups, governments and other organisations** about issues of concern to penguins living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), with the aim of ensuring the best possible level of care, support and treatment for those affected by HIV/AIDS.
- **To promote a positive image of penguins affected by HIV/AIDS**, with the aim of eliminating prejudice, isolation, stigmatisation and discrimination arising from AIDS.
- **To work closely with Community organisations**, the AIDS Council of NSW, the Community Services Network, the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation and Ankali in pursuit of these objectives.

3.2 ethel_y@rwood enterprises

ethel_y@rwood enterprises, “a collective founded on the philosophy of the permanence of disposable art”, is a fluid group of like-minded friends who have fun working together to highlight issues relevant to the gay and lesbian community. ethel_y@rwood enterprises have staged a number of events in the gay and lesbian community to date such as :

- WIGworlds I, II and III
- “Hop Yourself Stupid”, Queen Bunny’s AIDS Easter benefit

as well as the parade entries :

- *The Little Misses* **1996**
- *Keith Haring - Party of Life* **1997** (awarded Best Small Group Parade Entrant)

Refer to www.ozemail.com.au/~kabi for other projects staged by ethel_y@rwood enterprises.

4. Inspiration for the parade entry

“**Dick van Dykes on Bikes**” featuring *Mary Poppin’ Pills* was inspired by the Disney film “Mary Poppins” and visualised with the objective of focusing attention on the issue of **treatments** for the community group PLWHA. It provides a camp vehicle in which to convey the message about new HIV/AIDS treatments and continued importance of funding of these new effective drugs (refer to **5. Selection of Music**) especially in the current political climate of funding cuts.

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“Dick van Dykes on Bikes” itself a satirical play on words, a juxtaposition of Dicks and Dykes, an unusual and generally inflammatory combination which illustrates the gay and lesbian community’s ability to not only have a laugh at the expense of others, but also at our own expense. This is particularly poignant in a year of Mardi Gras nostalgia, retrospectivity and introspection.

ethel_y@rwood enterprises will employee “Dick van Dykes on Bikes” to assist PLWHA in achieving their listed aims and objectives listed in 3.1.

5. Selection of Music

“A Spoonful of Funding” by Mary Poppin’ Pills

Written, arranged and recorded by Zulu Advertising

With ev-'ry trial that we must cope,
There is an element of hope,
You find the hope and TRUST!!
It's not a game.

And ev-'ry pill that we must test,
Our cash we must divest,
A risk... a chance,
And may I have this dance?

'Cause a protease inhibitor helps the viral load go down,
The viral load go dow-wown,
Viral load go down.

Just a spoonful of funding,
Helps the treatments go down,
In a most delightful way.



a collective founded on the philosophy
of the permanence of disposable art

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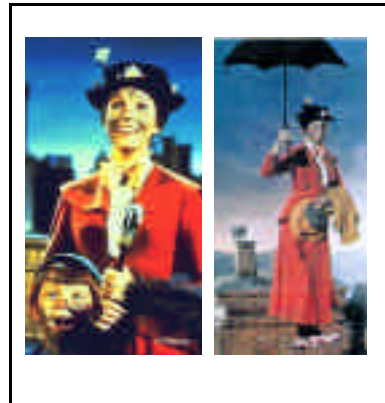
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printed : Saturday July 07, 2001
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6. Characters

6.1 *Mary Poppin’ Pills*

1 off Mary Poppin Pills to float up Oxford Street (see support structure) above roof top scenery.

- red 1900’s period dress
- black hat with flowers
- umbrella with “TREATMENTS” written on it
- scarf at 90° to simulate wind
- gladstone bag



6.2 *Dick van Dykes*

20+ off Dick van Dykes riding bicycles

- candy striped blazer
- blue bow tie
- boater hat
- white pants
- white gloves

- plain white shirt, shoes and socks (**by participant**)



7. Props

7.1 *Animals*

- polystyrene ‘fairy’ penguins as backpacks
- colour photocopied butterflies on cardboard attached to the handles of the bicycles by wire



7.2 Bicycles

Prop bicycles to be “ridden” by each Dick van Dyke.

- polystyrene front wheel attached by aluminium strips as forks to PVC conduit handle bars
- butterflies attached to handle bars
- polystyrene rear wheel attached to bum using belts
- up to 4 buggy bicycles are available to assist lesser abled members to participate and also attach slogans
- can facilitate for inclusion of wheel chair participants

7.3 Transport

- 1 tonne truck - tray decorated as roof top scene from “Mary Poppins”
- will carry 8kVA generator, sound system, lighting and refreshments (need some polystyrene fruit boxes for ‘esbies’)
- simple lighting (refer also to 11. Artist’s Impression)
 - halogen uplit in umbrella
 - spoon lit internally through opaque sugar-like substance
 - portafloods in chimneys to spot *Mary Poppin’ Pills*



7.4 Signage/banners

Signs and banners made to illustrate the theme and name of parade entry.

- PLWHA Inc. (NSW) presents “Dick van Dykes on Bikes” *featuring Mary Poppin’ Pills*
- Mary says, “A protease inhibitor helps the viral load go down”.
- Mary says, “Just a spoonful of funding helps the medicine go down”.
- How do we transport them up the street? Hand carried banners? On the buggy bicycles?

8. Assistance required from Mardi Gras

- structure on truck to transport Mary Poppin’ Pills
- advise Peter Wilkin and volunteers on “roof top” construction
- pattern and 3 sizes of jacket
- design of prototypes for props and allocation of workshop space for props workgroups (bicycles, ‘fairy’ penguins and boater hats)
- allocation of workshop space for constructing/painting rooftop scenery
- transportation of props/scenery back to Mardi Gras workshop after the parade

9. Required Workgroups for Props and Costuming

- bicycles
- boater hats
- bow ties
- ‘fairy’ penguins
- butterflies
- signs/banners
- painting of scenery
- bump in
- bump out

10. Participants’ Commitment

- provide the following costume items : white shirt, white shoes and white socks
- commitment to a workgroup
- pre-parade briefing on 21st February

11. Artist’s Impression (by Peter J. Wilkin)

