

“Carr’s Attacks” Design Brief
Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras 1999 Parade



Prepared for the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby's
1999 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade entry
by sue-ellen cox/artistic director for **ethel yarwood enterprises**



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

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"Ekk.. ekkk ekkk, ekk!!"

Martian Ambassador, "Mars Attacks"

1. The Concept

1.1 Objectives

- promote the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby and its aims
- highlight the failure of successive State Governments to recognise same sex relationships
- lobby for law reform as a key election issue

1.2 Theme

- law reform for the recognition of same sex relationships

1.3 Message

- the gay and lesbian communities are not equal before the law

1.4 Vehicle/Media

- "Carr's Attacks"

1.5 Participants

- Martian Ambassador, played by Bob Carr - 1
- Martian Woman, played by Kerry Chikarovski - 1
- Martian Ministry and Shadow Cabinet, various cameo appearances - 20 to 40

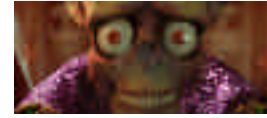
eyes

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2. Description of Entry

Martian Ambassador riding on a platform ahead of a vehicle decorated with scenery to depict a Martian spaceship hovering above Macquarie Street. Surrounding this setting is the Martian Woman and 20 to 40 Martians (refer to **7.3 Transport**).

3. Organisation

The Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby (G.L.R.L.) was formed in 1988 when a coalition government came to power in New South Wales.

The objectives of the rights lobby include :

- to protect and promote lesbian and gay rights in N.S.W.;
- to liaise, support and work with other organisations to protect and promote lesbian and gay rights in Australia and internationally;
- to liaise, support and work with other organisations in N.S.W. for the protection and promotion of lesbian and gay rights in this state.

4. Inspiration for the parade entry

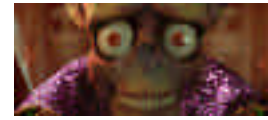
This parade entry was inspired by Tim Burton’s “Mars Attacks”. Due to Bob Carr’s uncanny resemblance to an alien lifeform he is represented as the Martian Ambassador who comes to Earth bearing false messages (refer to **6.1 Martian Ambassador**). As in the movie the Martians claim they come in peace however their actions illustrate their true intentions ie. “*Nice planet, we’ll take it*”, as have successive State Governments regarding the recognition of same sex relationships.



Kerry Chikarovski represented as the Martian Woman (refer to **6.2 Martian Woman**). Dons the “human” facade of a prostitute in order to gain the trust of the president’s aide. The moral of the story being that the gay and lesbian communities should not be seduced by the notion that she and her party are a viable alternate ally, as Peter Collins so unfortunately discovered.

The Ministry and Shadow Cabinet are the foot soldiers who carry Martian Ray Guns decorated with flags highlighting the range of attacks against our rights (refer to **7.1 Guns/Flags**).

For reference material, further images and information available at :
<<http://www.marsattacks.com>>



5. Selection of Music

In the movie the Martians are defeated by the music of Slim Whitman. Subject to funds, the music chosen for this entry needs to have the same relevance.

6. Characters

6.1 *Martian Ambassador (Bob Carr)*

1 off Martian Ambassador riding on platform attached to front bull bar of vehicle.

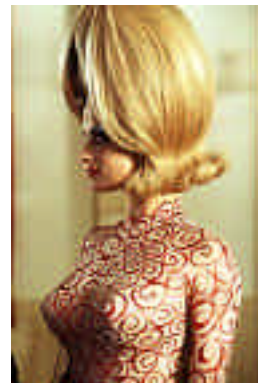
- martian cloak, green and purple tissue lame with spangly red not equals sign as insignia
- clear space helmet depicting Bob Carr’s face with huge Martian brain illustrating massive intellect but no compassion.



6.2 *Martian Woman (Kerry Chikarovski)*

1 off Martian Woman

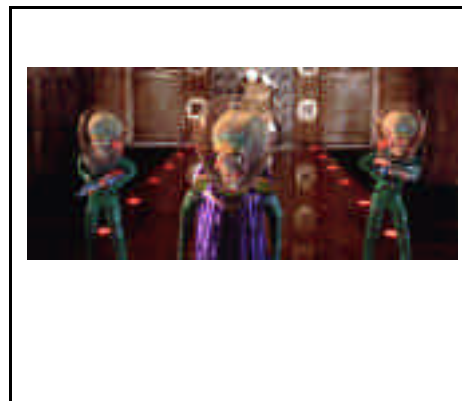
- big hair
- swirled pattern (burgundy) skin tight bodysuit with conical breasts



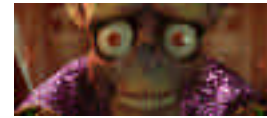
6.3 *Martian Ministry and Shadow Cabinet*

20 to 40 off Martian Ministers and Shadow Cabinet walking around vehicle.

- disposable paper overalls dyed green with spangly red not equals insignia. Tubular foam to embellish costume to appear sci-fi in nature.
- clear space helmet.



“Carr’s Attacks”

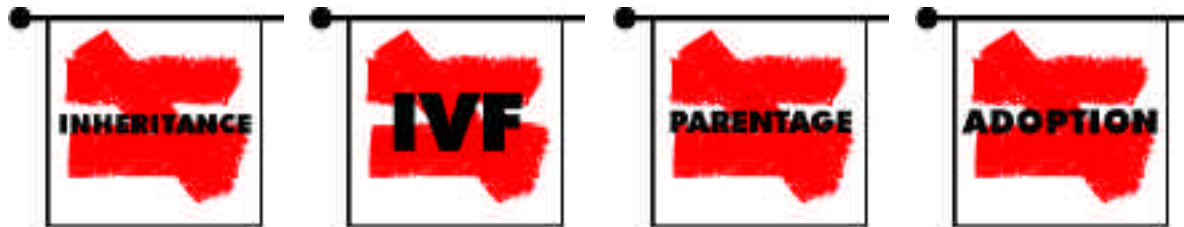
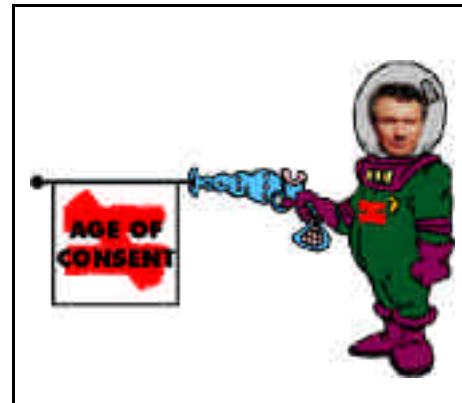


7. Props

7.1 Guns/flags

Martian Ray Guns with flags illustrating attacks on our rights as in the following issues :

- relationships
- parentage
- inheritance
- property ownership
- medical and hospital decisions
- IVF
- leave entitlements
- age of consent



7.2 Signage/banners

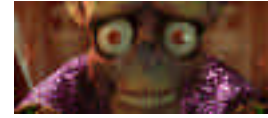
One banner at front of Entry carried by two Martians that says “Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby Presents “Carr’s Attacks”



7.3 Transport

- 1 tonne truck with bull bar - tray decorated as parliament house with spaceship hovering above it.
- Platform attached to truck bullbar where the martian ambassador will stand. Red lycra “carpet” extending to the door of the spaceship.
- if funds permit will carry 8kVA generator, sound system, lighting and refreshments
- simple lighting
- refer also to 11. Artist’s Impression





7.4 Ray Gun

- mounted on truck cabin emanating not equals ray beam



8. Allocation of resources

8.1 Assistance required from Mardi Gras

- structure on bullbar of truck to transport Martian Ambassador
- assistance with scenery flats
- assistance with costuming
- assistance with props and allocation of workshop space for GLRL props/flat scenery production workgroups
- financial assistance
- transportation of props/scenery back to Mardi Gras workshop after the parade
- prop and costume prototypes

8.2 Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby tasks

- parade entry co-ordinator (Stewart Newell)
- workshop volunteers for prop and costume production
- seeking sponsorship

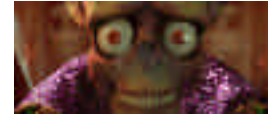
9. Required Workgroups for Props and Costuming

- signs/banners
- guns
- martian minister costumes and space helmets
- painting of scenery
- bump in
- bump out

10. Participants’ Commitment

- for parade entry co-ordinator (Stewart Newell) to determine

“Carr’s Attacks”



11. Artist’s Impression (by Annie Wright)



by Annie Wright for ethel yarwood enterprises