

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY HIGHWAYS BENEFIT** Wendell Jones and Adriene Jenik host a variety performance evening featuring George Carlin, John Goss, Douglas Sadowick, Ayofemi Folayan, Nathan Birnbaum, Karen Goodman, Ruben Guevara, Tim Miller, the Village PWAs and Linda and Jill Burnham. Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., S.M.; Thurs., April 19, 8:30 p.m. (213) 453-3711. See Good Times.

# CALENDAR

A P R I L 1 3 - 1 9 , 1 9 9 0

## Pet Project

This weekend marks Olvera Street's 55th annual Blessing of the Animals, and I was bound and determined to get my cat there once and for all. So we had the following conversation:

MBC: Snicky, honey, guess what?

SC: What?

MBC: We're going to the Blessing of the Animals.

SC: What's that?

MBC: That's this big deal that dates back to the 16th century, when the farmers brought their animals to the church to be blessed for fertility and health.

SC: But I had my tubes tied years ago.

MBC: There'll be a big procession that starts in Chinatown, with grand marshals, costumed horsemen and the whole nine yards. You'll get blessed by Bishop John Ward in Our Lady Queen of Angels Church, and we can even visit the bird, cat and dog shows.

SC: Dogs? You mean there'll be dogs there?

MBC: Sure.

SC: Then I'm not going! You can't make me!

MBC: And birds, and mice, and little teensy weensy chickies...

SC: Yummy! Okay!

—Mary Beth Crain

Blessing of the Animals, *El Pueblo de Los Angeles, Olvera St., downtown*; Sat., April 14; petting zoo at noon at the *Placita de Dolores*; parade starts at 1 p.m. at N. Spring & College streets; the Ballet *Coco and Bird, Cat & Canine Show at Placita de Dolores, 3:30-5:30 p.m.*; opening of "Animals in Art" at the *Tonomi Wainery Art Gallery, 6 p.m. (213) 628-4349.*

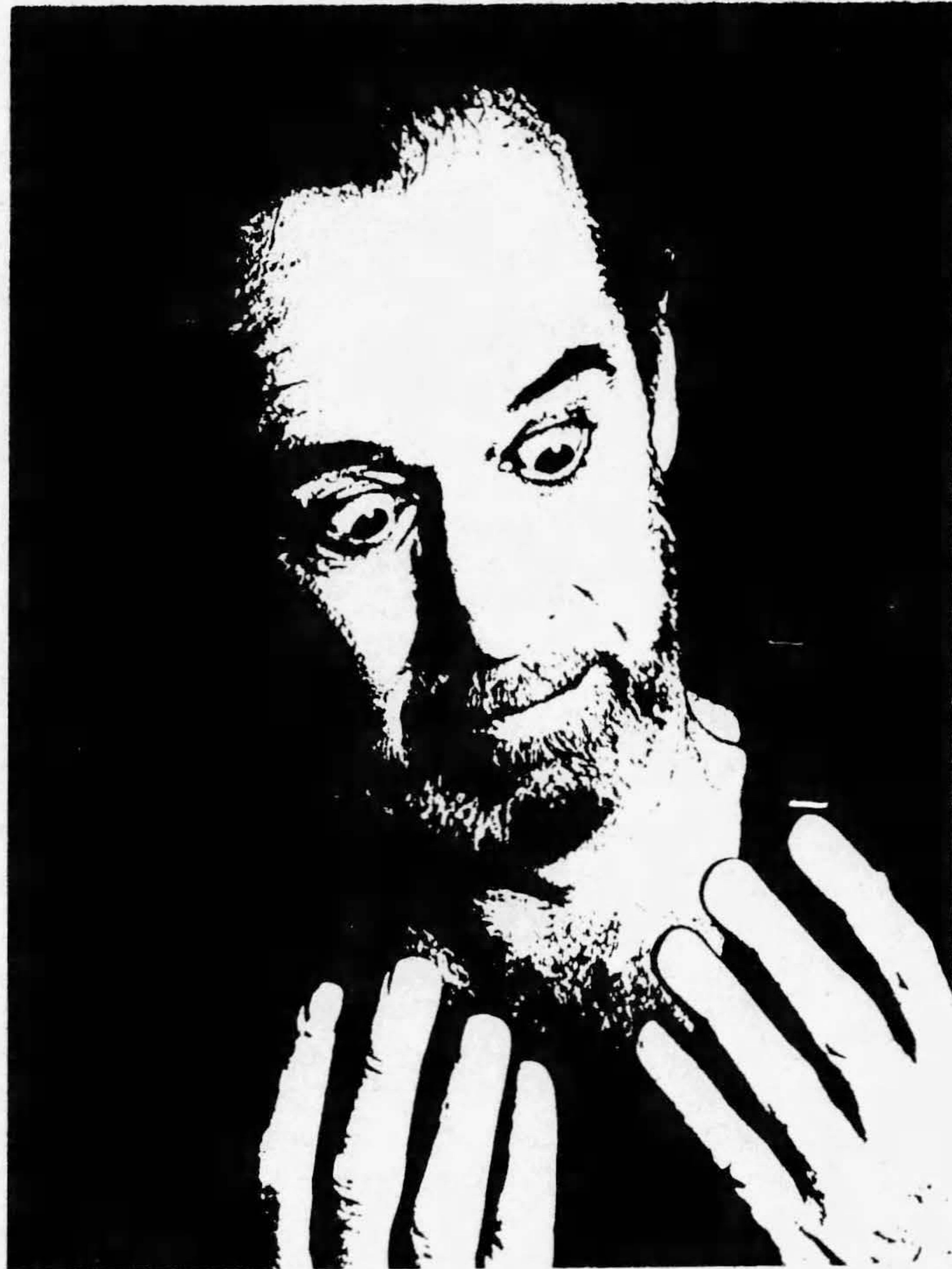


## Oh, Susannah

In the neighborhood she was known as the "waif-mime" of Echo Park. Tiny, wide-eyed Susannah Foster put in some mileage — a Warhol Factory girl and consummate '60s groupie, she eventually wandered West to Hollywood, her eyes set on a screen career. The dream — as they too often do — didn't quite materialize. Unemployed, and a welfare mother, Susannah found herself swept up in the feminist cause. Through NOW, she became a part of a splinter group, Women on Welfare, that worked specifically with and for the poor. She spoke before a congressional committee in Washington on behalf of welfare mothers across the country and became the driving force behind the Welfare Hotline — a service that walked welfare recipients through intimidating bureaucratic red tape. Despite her full-time political involvement, Susannah was never able to shake her arts jones and continued to write poetry, encouraged by local poets like Wanda Coleman. Some say poverty's toll took the life of Susannah Foster in 1982, others say it was the ravages of the '60s. But Susannah will be remembered by her friends in a celebration of the posthumous publication of her collection of poems, *Earthbound in Betty Grable's Shoes*, organized by Coleman and hosted by poet Austin Strauss. Poets Roger Suva, Mike Roth, Laurel Ann Bogen, Papoleto Melendez, Mardi Arquette and Sylvia Rosen will be accompanied by guitarist Tommy Tedesco in an evening paying tribute to Foster's generous spirit.

—Lynell George

*The Susannah Foster Memorial Reading, Basement Coffeehouse, Echo Park Methodist Church, 1226 N. Alvarado St.; Fri., April 15, 7:30-10 p.m.; \$5 donation. (213) 484-8214.*



George Carlin headlines *Highways*, Thurs., April 19.

Durland, Jacki Apple, Terry Wolverton and others will emcee the various bills, which include many of the most talented performance artists and dancers in town.

*Highways' First Anniversary Benefit, Highways, 1651 18th St., S.M.; Thurs. - Fri., April 19-20, 8:30 p.m.; Sat., April 21, 7:30 & 11 p.m.; Sun., 7 p.m.; \$15. (213) 453-1755.*

## Din Some

David Moss' intense percussive sound sculptures explore that oh so very fine line between New Music and noise. The East Coast percussionist/vocalist has been known to play his drumkit with a vibrator, or with grains of rice, and bang on all manner of pots and pans, rhythmically yelping, growling and groaning, and generally making more racket than a deranged kid on a bike with sticks in the spokes of his wheels and a trail of tin cans tied off the end of his sissy bar.

Moss has performed throughout Europe and Asia, both as a soloist and as a collaborator with most of the heavyweights of the avant-garde elite, and is in town this week, as the L.A. Improvisers Collective presents four frantic evenings of frenzied percussion and improvisation. This week Moss will team up with local improvisers War All the Time, vocally and percussively spar with extreme chanteuse Anna Homler, and do God-knows-what with U-Totem's Emily Hay and Ken Filiano.

—Jac Zinder

*David Moss, Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice; Sat., April 14, 8:30 p.m.; \$5, \$3 students and members; (213) 822-3006. Café Largo, 432 N. Fairfax Ave.; Sun., April 15, 7:30 p.m.; \$7; (213) 852-1073 or 852-1851. Pikme-Up Café, 5437 W. Sixth St.; Mon., April 16, 8 p.m.; no cover; (213) 939-9706. A live performance broadcast on KPFK 90.7 FM, Tues., April 16, 10 p.m.*

## Peak Performance

What a difference a year makes. Especially when it's a year that gives you the opening of a politically oriented performance and dance space like Highways, followed by 12 months full of intense (and often intensely interesting) programming. Co-directors Tim Miller and Linda Burnham have given the local performance and dance community a whopping shot in the proverbial arm. They've built a center where artists from many cultures exchange ideas, not to mention somewhere for folks to go for a good time most any day of the week. Highways was launched last year with a four-day performance marathon shebang, featuring more than 60 artists — an unprecedented convergence in L.A. art history. Now, some 250 nights of performance later, they're about to do it again. For four days and nights, hipsters, articks and migrant intellectuals of all stripes will converge at Highways to watch the antics of nearly 70 performers. Luminaries such as George Carlin, Terry Sweeney, Steven

—Jan Breslauer