

On a dark and lonely drive through the mountains Gio has a few questions for Cliff Red Crow about his involvement with **Queer City**.

Gio: Tell me a bit about your upcoming piece, *Bette Davis is Dead*.

Cliff Red Crow: I was asked to participate in the **Queer City Festival**, and as soon as I was asked the idea of a slightly disillusioned and pathetic Bette Davis fan popped into my head.

Gio: Is it a one person show?

CRC: Yes, it's just me, and of course Bette. She certainly will be there in spirit. I also include the audience

Gio: Can you tell me a bit about it?

CRC: Well of course I can. There is no real plot, it's just a slice of life vignette of a single man, who has a boring civil servant job and in fact is quite bored himself.

Gio: Does Bette fill any voids in his life?

CRC: She certainly has helped in the shaping of his personality.

Gio: Has Bette Davis inspired Cliff Red Crow?

CRC: Bette is my favourite old movie star. I love her, but I was never fanatical in my appreciation of her. The character I created is probably fanatical.

Gio: Then why would you write a piece on Bette?

CRC: This "piece" is not on Bette, it's about a lonely and deperate man. Bette is only part of it.

Gio: Well then why didn't you use say, Joan or Gloria Swanson or even Mitzi Gaynor?!

CRC: Who in the hell is Mitzi Gaynor?!!

Gio: You don't know who Mitzi Gaynor is? Are you sure you're gay? We digress, why Bette?

CRC: Bette Davis has touched the hearts of so many in the *Queerworld*. She's become a permanent fixture in a subculture whose heroes are still few and far between.

Gio: Did you write specifically for the **Queer City Festival**?

CRC: Definitely, I felt I must do something on the bent side, since it is called

**Queer City**. I didn't want to centre on me and my sexual life, and I also didn't want to dwell on my special heritage as well.

Gio: Special heritage?

CRC: [Laughs as car swerves] Yes my Two Spiritness.

Gio: Is that how you work, writing and performing as requested?

CRC: That's how it has been so far, since moving to BC, all the theatre and art stuff I've been doing has been offered to me, they just say do something and I do it. I not very ambitious, I find it hard to instigate something. But if someone offers me a job I'll work my butt off for them because I do not like to be embarrassed. For the last couple of shows I wrote for the audience that would be attending. I knew what kind of people that would be there, so I made sure they enjoyed themselves.

Gio: You like to make people laugh.

CRC: Just in what I write. I don't want to make an audience uncomfortable. I want them to laugh and be entertained.

Gio: So you consider yourself basically as a comedian, so far your shows have been on the humorous side.

tested and exercised, and it is then that I do not worry about pleasing the audience like in my own pieces.

CRC: It is the opinion of some people that comedy is one of my strengths. I love to make people laugh, it's such a satisfying feeling to hear the laughter.

Gio: If the show's bad, you can blame it on the writer!

CRC: [Throws head back, Laughs and swerves again] Yeah, yeah that's right! Plus I wouldn't perform in a bad piece unless it was for \$\$\$\$\$!

Gio: What about Drama, can you be serious?

CRC: [Laughs] Well of course! I try to be serious for 5 minutes each day [Laughs some more]. I'm an actor, I should be able to portray all types of characters. It's only difficult for me to write Drama. I would much prefer to perform a dramatic piece someone else wrote.

Gio: Let us get back to *Bette Davis is Dead*. How much of the character is you?

CRC: The character shares some of my childhood memories (Blood reserve in Standoff, AB) and has my voice and looks... that's about it. The character is desparete, lonely, unloved, addictive.....hey wait that is me [Cries] No no no, the only thing I am is lonely.

Gio: Do you prefer performing your own creations?

CRC: No. I do not consider myself a writer, I have good ideas for scripts but I do find it difficult to expand the ideas into dialogue. I certainly appreciate other creations, much more then my own. I love to play characters someone else invented. It is then that I feel my dramatic skills are being

Gio: Do you need a man?

CRC: I need many, many men!  
[Laughs]