

SPECIAL ISSUE • AUGUST 1996

lifesaver

YOUTH CAMPAIGN

THE JOURNAL OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT

Goin' Off!

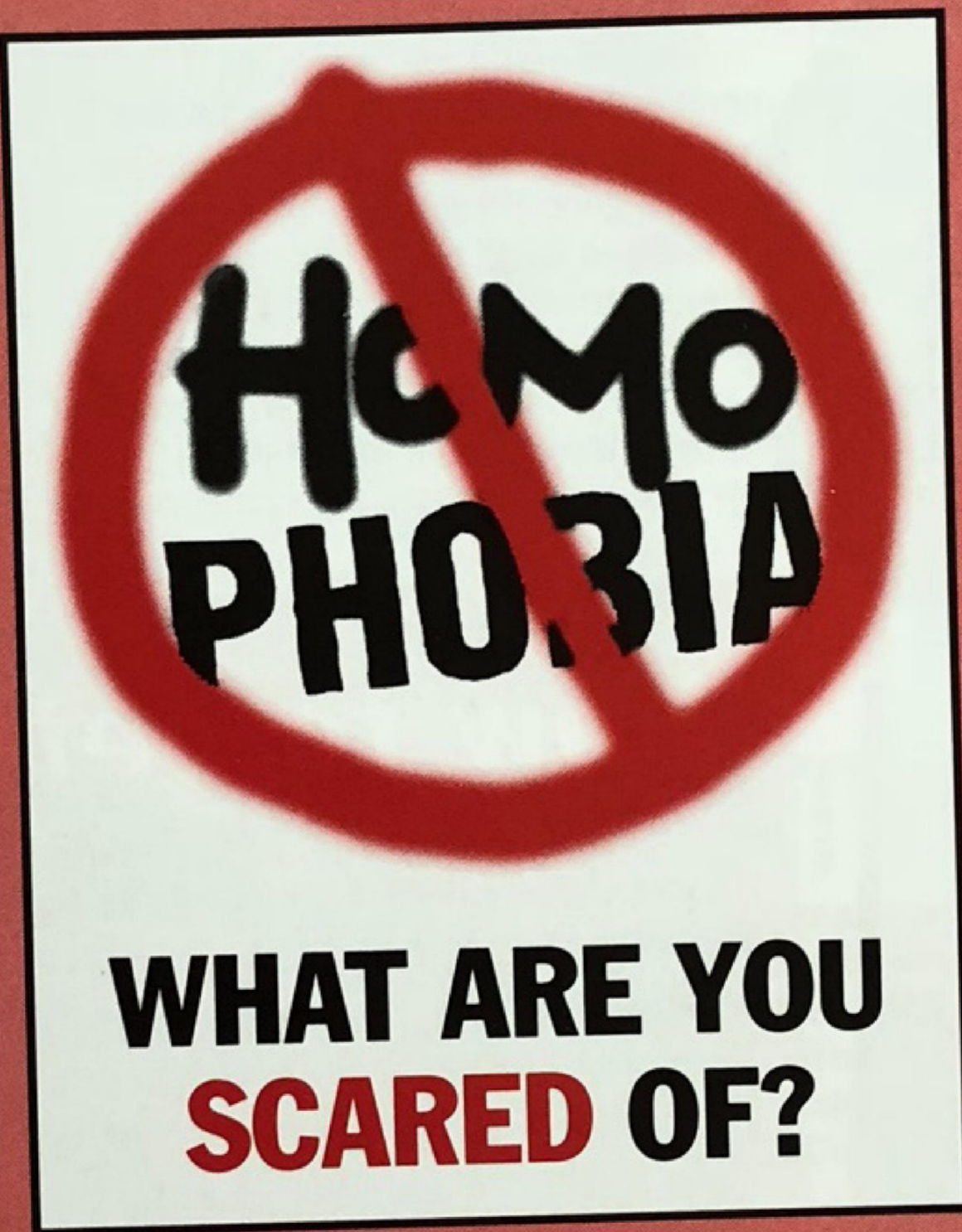
This month, the Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project (AVP) will launch *Homophobia: What are you scared of?* — its most ambitious youth project ever.

With \$50,000 from the NSW Attorney-General's Department and another \$30,000 from fundraising and sponsorship, the project marks the first time the AVP has targeted young, potential offenders with an education campaign.

Youth Violence Prevention Campaign Coordinator, Amanda Nickson, says: "The basic premise of the campaign is to reduce the level of involvement of young people in homophobic violence."

"It's about saying all young people have the right to live in an environment where they're not pressured into participating in acts of violence.

"Young people get talked down to all the time — they get told 'don't do this, do that'; 'dress this way, act that way'. This campaign is about young people having both the right and the power to say 'I see the pressure to bash someone because they are different from me, but I refuse to be a puppet;



WHAT ARE YOU SCARED OF?

I am my own person and I don't need to bash anyone to prove it — who cares about whether or not they're lesbian or gay?"

Nickson said research shows that the person most likely to commit an act of homophobic violence would be a 15–24 year old male.

"Most research shows that boys prove they are 'real men' by being into sport, and 'bashing dykes and poofers'. And yet we know, from the focus group research that we did before the start of this campaign, that most young people don't

care whether someone is a lesbian. The violence happens when one person in a group decides bashing a poofter will prove something, and people go along with it because it's difficult to go against your mates."

She said the campaign would use posters and other material featuring well-known celebrities speaking out against homophobic violence. These would go into schools, youth centres, TAFEs and even major shopping centres.

"It's about giving young people the opportunity to take a stand against violence by making it visible that lots of the people who are important to them, like sportspeople and musicians, are taking a stand against violence too."

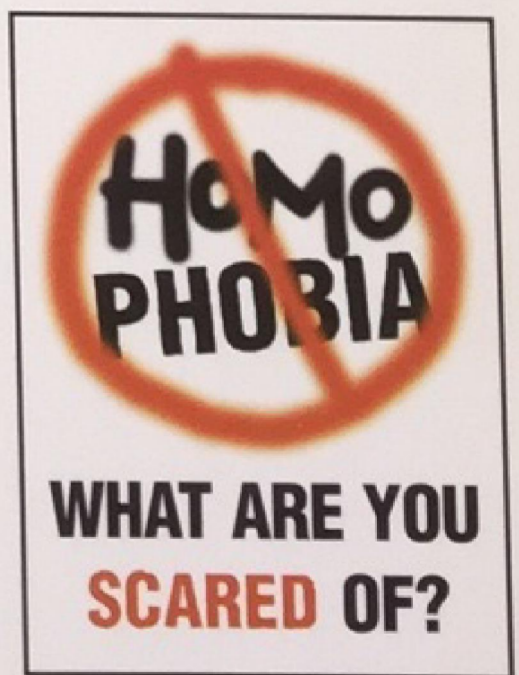
Nickson has some powerful friends in the

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BE A LEGEND. TACKLE HOMOPHOBIA.



Anyone who hassles lesbians and gays is a mug.
Don't let them get away with it. Tell them that
homophobia is wrong, stupid and pointless.
Be a legend and stop it.



If you want more information about how you can take a stand against homophobic violence, contact the Discrimination Contact Officer at your local high school, or your local youth centre, your health centre, the Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer or Police Youth Liaison Officer at your local police station, TAFE Activities Coordinator or University SRC.

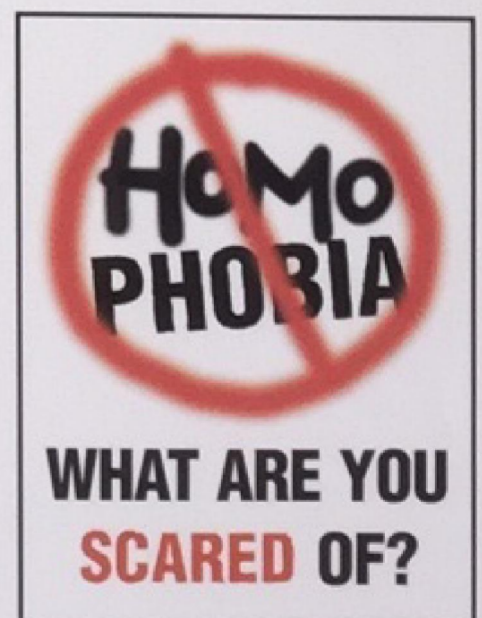
This campaign was developed by the Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project and funded by the Crime Prevention Division of the NSW Attorney General's Department. The campaign is supported by the Youth Action Policy Association, the NSW Government's Youth Advisory Council, NSW Police Service, NSW Department of School Education, NSW Health, the Department for Women, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and Amnesty International Australia - NSW Branch

Photography: Channel 9 Publicity. Design: DesignNation. Special thanks to Paul Vautin, Steve Roach and Peter Sterling from *The Footy Show*

C'MON GIRLS. SAY NO TO HOMOPHOBIA.



Sometimes it's hard to stand up and speak out. Sometimes people don't speak up because they are scared of being labelled as lesbian or gay. We need to change that. Say it's stupid or gutless. Don't put up with it – say no to homophobia.



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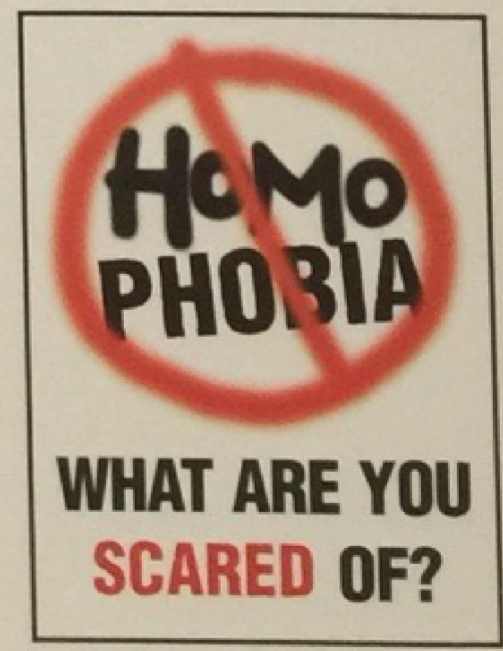
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Photography: Ray Clarke. Design: DesignNation. Special thanks to Tahné Merrey from Sweat

TAKE THE **CHALLENGE.** ELIMINATE HOMOPHOBIA.



It takes strength to speak out against homophobia. Anyone who hassles lesbians and gays is weak. You can be strong by taking a stand against homophobia. Go for it – eliminate homophobia.



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Photography: Ray Clarke. Design: DesignNation. Special thanks to 'Predator' from *Gladiators*

HASSLING

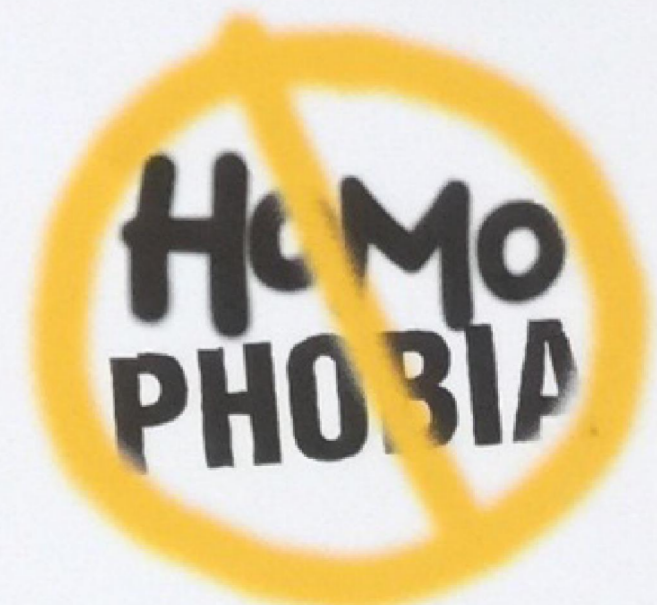
GAYS AND LESBIANS DOESN'T GET A LAUGH OUT OF US.



Some people think it's funny to hassle someone just 'cause they're gay. To me it's no different from picking on someone because they're a wog. If you've got a problem with gays and lesbians it's time you got over it.

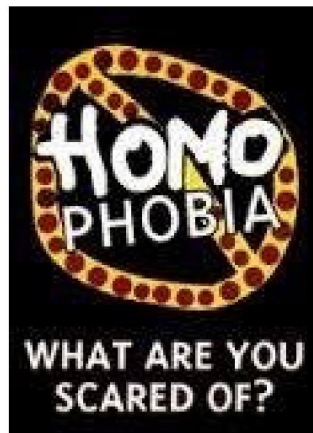
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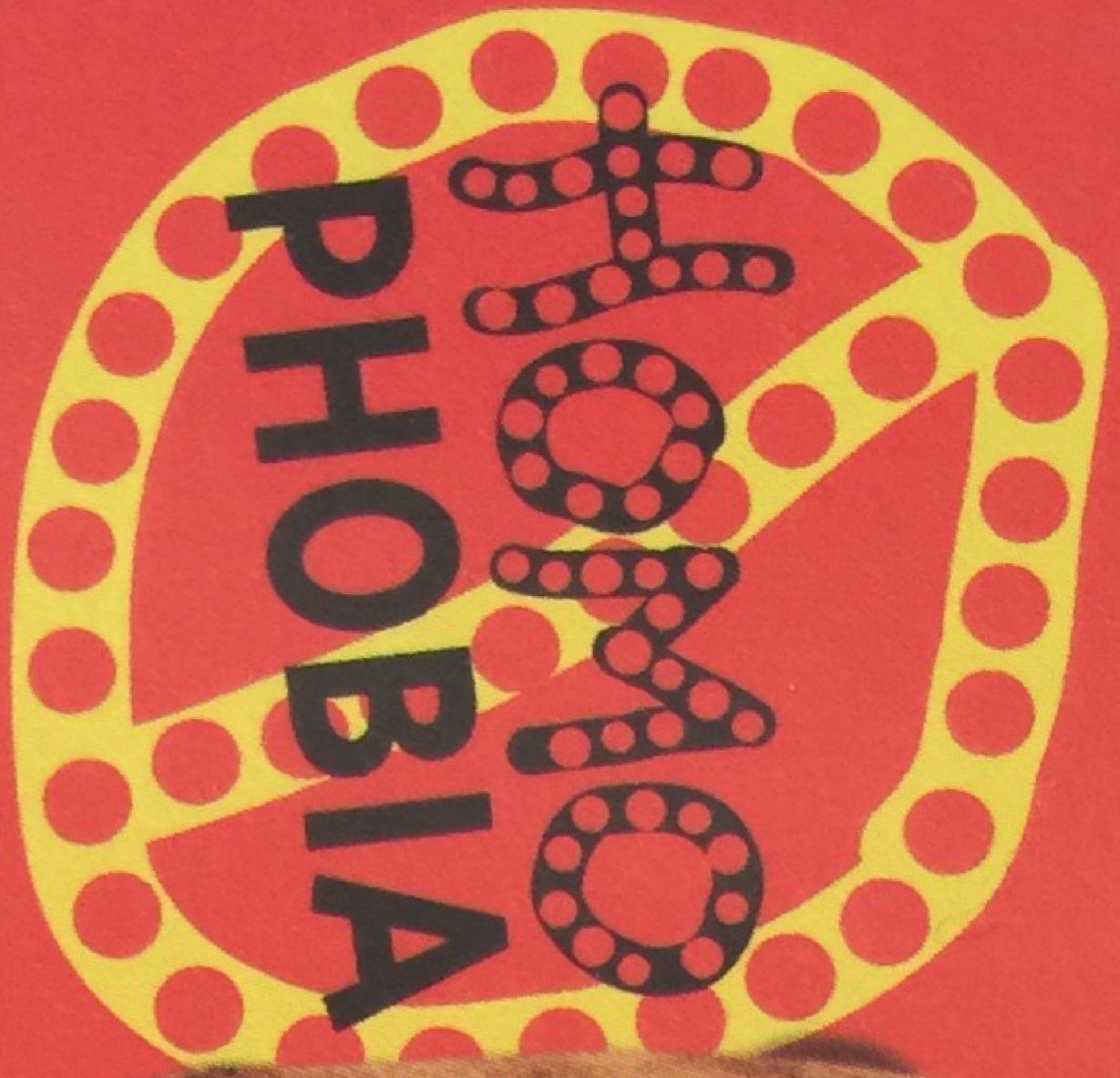


WHAT ARE YOU SCARED OF?

**Violence
hurts
more if
you do
nothing
about it.**

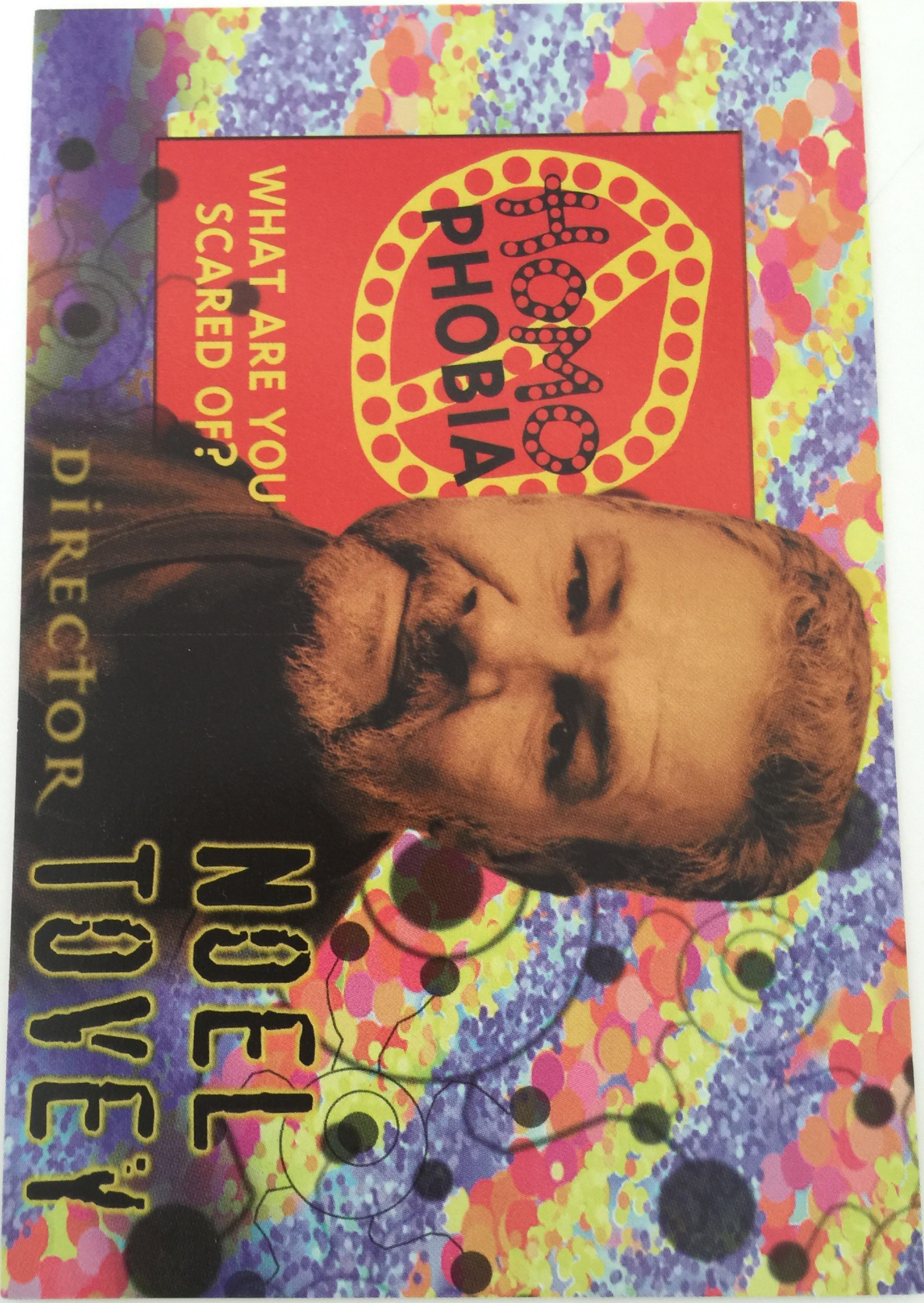


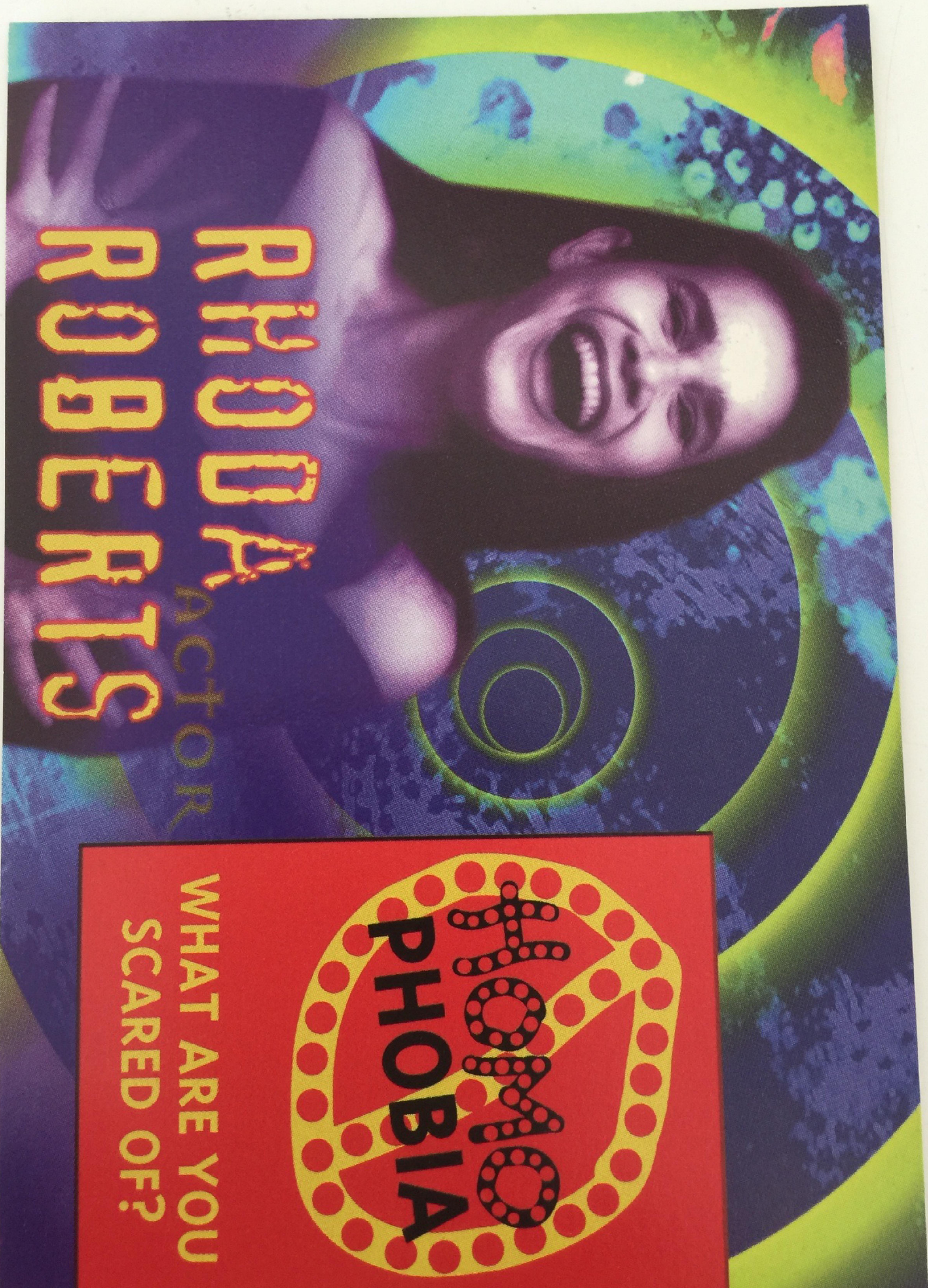
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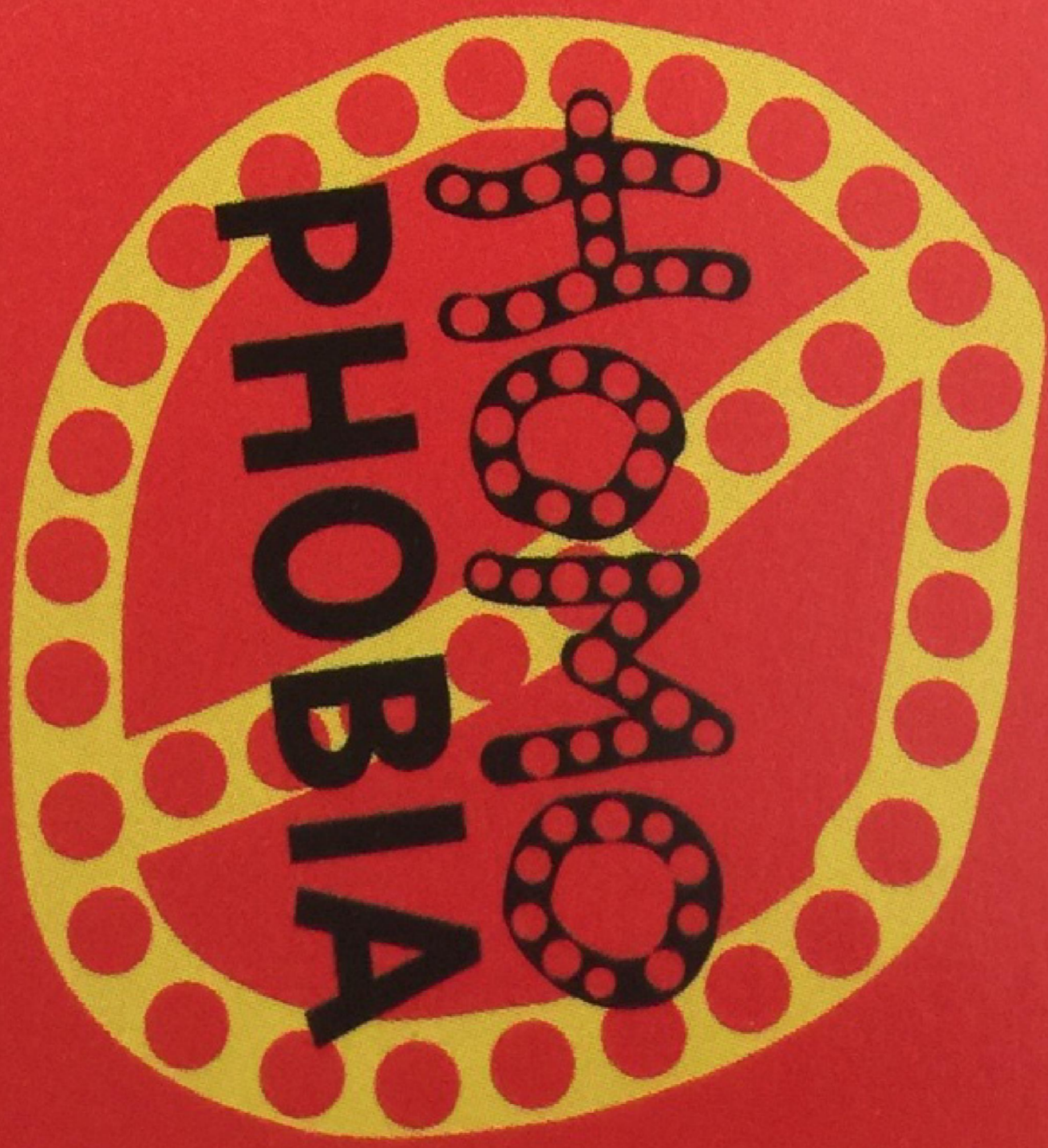
DIRECTOR

NOEL
TOVEY





RHODA ACTOR ROBERTS



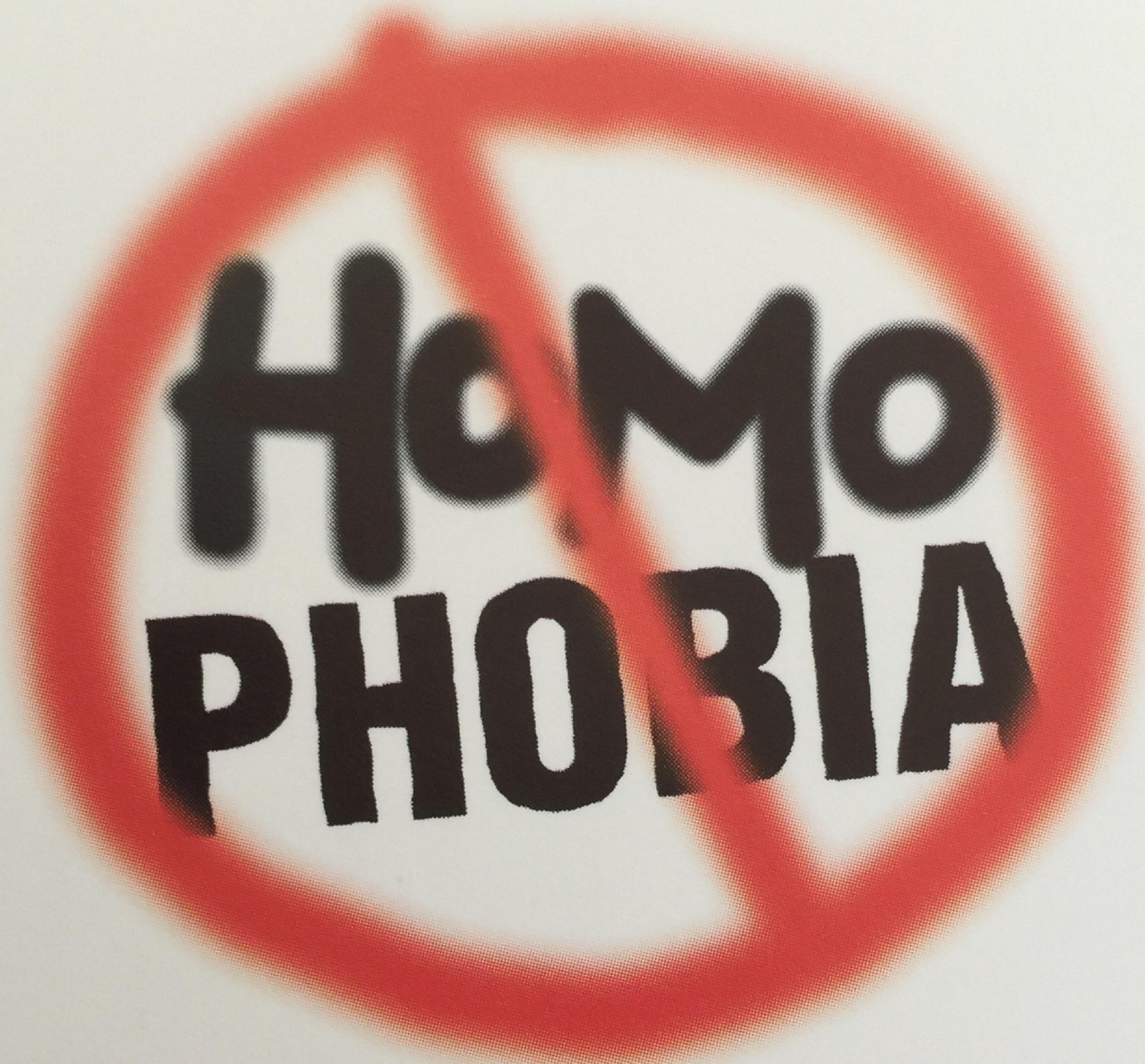
HOMOPHOBIA

WHAT ARE YOU
SCARED OF?



JUSTINE SQUINNERS

PHOBIA
WHAT ARE YOU
SCARED OF?



**HOMO
PHOBIA**

WHAT ARE YOU

SCARED OF?