

By **MARTHA GEACINTOV**  
Staff Writer



# IT'S ALL RIGHT TO BE WOMAN THEATER

"It's All Right to be Woman" theater, a street theater group of 11 women working out of New York City, will be performing in Pearl River Saturday, January 22 as a benefit for Women's Liberation of Rockland County. Members of the theater group, partially funded by the New York State Council of the Arts, are all actors, writers, directors and musicians, working improvisationally.

"A woman tells a fantasy or experience, and we act it out as she speaks," says a member of the group. The group creates their drama implementing any one of a variety of theater forms. A "Theme Play," for example, may take a motif such as "women and clothing" and improvise on the following provoking leads: "looking in a mirror," "wearing a dress on the subway," or "trying to run with a skirt on."

Characterizing their total involvement in "It's All Right to be Woman," the group states, "We work personally; the subject of our theater is our dreams, our joy, our anger, our lives." A section of the presentation is, then, appropriately titled "Our Own Stories."

Touching on their own experiences, the plays are the stories of a high school cheerleader, a married woman and of women loving each other. Others tell "the story of a woman's relationship to her father and authority," and "the story about a woman left alone by a man."

As well as drawing on their own stories for material, the actors ask mem-

bers of the audience to tell their dreams. Acting out the dreams spontaneously, the actors become "the dreamer, parents, trees, anxiety ... and diaphragms."

A lighter style of presentation is the "cranky," which is a story told as paper is cranked from one side of a box to the other. Stating, "We have a variety of crankies, all sizes and subjects," the group enumerates, "the saga of hairy legs in junior high, the story of Emmy Watermelonpoop, a liberation fantasy, or the cranky and song combination, "A Chant to my Sisters" done to the poem by Marilyn Lowen Fletcher.

With no formal costumes and very sparse props, the group works with their limitless imaginations. They make music with kitchen utensils as well as voice, guitar, drums, accordion and kazoo.

Their chants combine visual images and rhythmic music. One chant, for example, concerns faces: "Our faces belong to our bodies, our faces belong to our lives." Their songs are about "Vietnamese women, American women, fathers, green stamps, and women's theater."

"It's All Right to be Woman" theater's fund raising performance will be at St. Stephen's Church on Pearce Parkway in Pearl River. Also scheduled is an open house at the Woman's Liberation Day Care Center at the church to celebrate the organization's first 18 months of existence.

Tickets for the show, which begins at 7:30 p.m., may be purchased by calling Joanne Bell of W. Clarkstown Road in Spring Valley.