

I saw this play — about a lesbian relationship written by a gay writer — when I was a twenty-one-year-old student (in 1984). It was performed in a regular theater in Rotterdam. Seeing this play was a milestone for me because it was the first major gay thing I did in a straight environment.<sup>1</sup> It seemed silly afterwards, but I did worry about what the person at the ticket counter, who was likely to be straight, would think of me when I bought my ticket. I was so proud of attending it, that I thought I was entitled to “steal” one of the massive posters after the last performance. I put it on the outside of the door of my student room in Rotterdam and it now hangs in my flat in Amsterdam.



<sup>1</sup> But not the very first gay thing. That was borrowing “*The Joy of Gay Sex*” by Dr Charles Silverstein and Edmund White” from the public library when I was 19. And the second was buying a magazine with pictures of naked guys around the same time. I bought this from this magazine-tobacco store where they had a very small section with naughty magazines and less than a handful were for “the gays.” The rules of the store were that you had to choose very quickly which one you wanted because as soon as you looked inside the store clerk would start to cough (so the strategy was to only move to this section when she was busy doing something else).