



TOP SECRETS!

by HAYDON BRIDGE

Rhodes starts by telling us about his not particularly happy childhood. When his violent father discovered young David dressing up as a mermaid, the boy was packed off to a psychiatrist. He pronounced David untreatable. Sure enough, Rhodes is still dressing up. While he narrates his life story, he changes his costumes almost fast enough to give Arturo Brachetti a run for his money. Before our eyes he becomes five very different characters. They too have unhappy and at times downright grim stories to tell. Savannah matron Clara Greenberg has never told anyone until now how her husband died. Seamus, an Irish/Jewish man from New Hampshire, reveals more about his brother's near fatal accident. Holocaust survivor Moishe (probably based on Rhodes' father) is guilt-ridden that he escaped to New York while many of his relatives didn't. (Not surprisingly, this is the most precise character study). Doctor Susan's method of dealing with an unwanted pregnancy had blokes in the audience on press night shifting uncomfortably. Finally Rhodes becomes boi4u2use, a 24-year-old Sephardic Jew from Antwerp, who goes to New York and wrecks his life on the gay scene. If you've never seen a 50-year-old man impersonating a Belgian twink, now's your chance. Rhodes is in fine shape for his age and it's easy to see why. He's got more energy than a Duracell bunny. All Rhodes' characters have secret lives and to emphasize the theme, Rhodes sings Coward's "I'll Follow My Secret Heart" and dances to The Eurythmics' "Would I Lie to You?" Then, in the last few moments, he reveals quite a humdinger of a secret of his own. Rhodes slips from male to female, youthful to aged with ease (he trained in London). And, although his characters will be more recognizable to a New York Jewish audience, his message (secrets aren't worth the effort it takes to keep them) stays with us.