



# BayBreArRter

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ELECTION



## Film Arts Festival '94 Highs and Lows

by Paul Bollwinkel

**T**he dozen or so gay and lesbian works featured in the 10th annual Film Arts Festival offer a surprisingly similar take on the state of homosexual America in the mid '90s. Despite differences in subject matter, the films and videos, all shorts, are — with one strong exception — dark, heavy, introspective explorations that look at gender discrimination, lost love, AIDS angst, body image and the complications inherent in any kind of sexual interaction.

### To the point

*Skin-es-the-si-a* is a striking and original feminist work that seems to be imitating the arty/empty style of a Calvin Klein commercial. A narrator lists female body parts in emphatically poetic cadences while a woman — in full gynecological detail — dances in a peep show. The same woman is then seen as a performance artist — posing, stretching, baring it all in front of a live audience. Juxtaposing the two women, video director Vicky Furant makes her points about pornography, performance and sexuality in an admirably unpretentious style. (*Skin-es-the-si-a* plays in the program "Articulate Flesh" Thursday, Nov. 3 at the Roxie Cinema, 9:15 p.m.)