

> THEATRE

# Porn cocktail!

"IT'S ABOUT what men and women want in the millennium," says a bold Kay Adshead of her sexy psychological drama, *Juicy Bits*, currently running at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. "Everybody gets what they want — I suppose it's sort of a fairy tale." It's perhaps not the kind of fairy tale you'd tell your children — though there is a real live guinea pig in there somewhere — reckoned to be the first to make its stage debut in London. As the title of her play implies, Adshead's world is one where language and sexual attitudes are fairly liberal. And Adshead — familiar to viewers of Channel 5's soap *Family Affairs* as the feisty Barbara Fletcher — takes a central role herself as Liz Sharp, who cut her teeth on "publishing 70s feminist fiction for Virago and is now publishing soft porn in the 90s". Then there's the happily married "golden couple" Chloe and Lawrence who discover that they both have needs outside of their marriage. And to round off the



Ooh I say! The cast of *Juicy Bits*, with Kay Adshead, centre left. Inset, Mike the guinea pig

seven-strong cast, there's the impotent Seph, writer Jay, prison warden Jo, and Bella, who cleanses souls for a living. Adshead is quick to point out that none of the writing here is autobiographical. "It is, in the way that all writing takes something from people we know. "But it's not specifically written with anyone in

mind other than the actors." "It's accessible, fun and entertaining — everyone achieves happiness, or at least gets on the way towards it." *Juicy Bits* runs at the Lyric Theatre, King Street, Hammersmith, in the theatre's main house which

has been converted to the intimacy of a 175-seat studio for the summer season. Performances are at 7.30pm Monday-Saturday, with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets £5-£14. Bookings: 0181 741 2311.

Steve Morgan

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