

# SHORTLIST



Carl Hancock Rux performs *Pagan Operetta*, a primal scream in verse, at the Kitchen (see Words).

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**CARL HANCOCK RUX AND NATHAN ENGLANDER** Last year the *VLS* chose Rux and Englander as "Writers on the Verge," authors of uncommon depth and originality. Both are interested in ritual and revelation, and yet their imaginations reside in drastically different worlds. Rux's *Pagan Operetta* is a primal scream in verse—a multilevel quest for matriarchal history, political ferocity, and urban myth. Englander's *For the Relief of Unbearable Uryes* voraciously spycams into the homes of Orthodox Jews, where secular reality collides with Jewish law—a wig maker reading forbidden fashion magazines, a Jewish Santa, a rabbi who visits a prostitute. Rux will perform Thursday through Saturday at 8, the Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street, 255-5793; Englander will read Thursday at 7, Three Lives, 154 West 10th Street, 741-2069. (Todaro)

FELICIA MEGGISON