

mediately, but by the end of the movie everyone in the family has hugged Michael.

But in none of their scenes together do Michael and Peter exchange more than a tentative touch. Even in their reconciliation scene. I felt just a mite ripped off.

"An Early Frost" airs Monday, November 11, at 9 pm, on NBC (KGW-TV, Channel 8).

## Chorus joins Choral Consortium at Schnitzer

by Stephen Grayce

A landmark event for Portland's gay community will take place on Saturday, November 30, when the Portland Gay Men's Chorus is included as an equal partner in the Choral Consortium's *Gala Holiday Concert*, at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.

Our Chorus will appear with the city's leading choral groups: Portland Symphonic Choir, Oregon Repertory Singers, Choral Arts Ensemble, and the Portland Chorale. Each group will sing an individual set, then they will appear together for a finale featuring all 350 singers.

The massed number will be a *Festival of Carols*, arranged and conducted by PGMC Conductor, David York.

The other conductors participating are Dr. Bruce Browne, Gilbert Seeley, Roger Doyle, and Don Anderson. A brass choir will play during the transitions between choral sets. Doyle will lead an audience sing-along in the second half of the program.

PGMC will open its set with the premiere of a piece by Terry Snowden, commissioned by the Chorus for this occasion. Funding for the commission was included in the grant awarded to the Chorus this year by the Metropolitan Arts Commission.

The Chorus will close its set with *A Fantasy on God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*, which was composed for the New York City Gay Men's Chorus and included in its successful recording of Christmas music on the Pro Arte label.

Other musical highlights of the concert will include a performance by the Portland Symphonic Choir of Daniel Pinkham's

"Christmas Cantata" for mixed voices and double brass choir.

The Choral Consortium was formed two years ago to promote cooperation among the major independent choral groups in the city. It helps the choruses avoid scheduling conflicts, negotiates a blanket union contract, and plans a system of sharing literature. PGMC was invited to join the Consortium in 1984.

The *Gala Holiday Concert* is the Consortium's first joint program. It will start at 8 p.m., Saturday, November 30. Tickets are \$8 and \$12 at the Civic Auditorium box office, and from members of the participating choruses.

The Portland Gay Mens' Chorus will present a holiday concert at Benson High School on Sunday, December 15. The concert, *A Holiday Sampler*, will feature mezzo-soprano Kristina Carlsen.



RRYS

Robin Woolman as Nadja and Steve Lee as Betty in *Division Street*.

## Division Street

by Jim Anctil

*Division Street*, by Steve Tesich. Directed by Alana Beth Lipp. Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center.

Chicago has never seemed like a real place to me (more like an idea than a city), but after seeing *Division Street* at the IFCC it seems more unreal than ever. This highly improbable farce cuts through a gamut of genres — from ethnic humor to mistaken identities, unbelievable coincidences and double takes to pseudo-radical politicizing. For those of us who grew up (and came out) in the 1960s, it was a euphoric time — both painful and exhilarating all at once. And there was hope! That's what *Division Street* is about — a quest to recapture the hope and come to terms with who we are — now in the mid-80s.

Written by Steve Tesich, who won an Oscar for his screenplay of *Breaking Away*, the comedy *Division Street* deals with lost revolutionary ideals in a superbly wacky satire. The current production at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center is directed by Alana Beth Lipp and stars some well-known local actors. One might wish for a bit lighter touch on the surface (particularly in Steve Pachosa's interpretation) and a slightly faster comic pacing. The meaning would still be just as clear. But the funny lines are there in abundance, and the audiences are obviously en-

joying themselves.

There are some wonderful moments:

- the landlady (Julianne Johnson) "catching" her tenant Chris (Pachosa) rolling around on the floor with his pal Roger (Jay Randall Horenstein) is sure they're both gay.
- Roger's former wife (Judith Branham) who speaks only in song lyrics.
- the highly ignorable Sal (Theodore Schulz) "flashing" to the audience in desperation to be noticed by someone.
- the hooker Nadja (Robin Woolman) making a political statement by insisting she's a "slut," not a "prostitute."
- the transsexual cop Betty (Steve Lee) sitting on a parking bench shaving because her beard is still growing.
- Yovan, the Serbian revolutionary (Gary Brickner-Schulz), in a hilarious series of slapstick knockouts and pratfalls.

This is a comedy with a message. In the midst of our present despair, Chris tells us: "The frontiers of dreamers is endless and we still have a dream. New dreams are born and a glorious struggle takes place for the soul of a nation. The struggle is on." There's a lot of love that comes through in this play, a deep caring about each other despite our many differences. Somehow this all seems quite germane to our own community, while we seek self-definition in a time of changing sexual life-styles and multi-ethnic diversity.

*Division Street* plays through November 9, at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate.

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