

## Meeting in the Ladies Room

Show investigates relationship between gambling, faith



Pat Coxman (Kathay Duff, left) and Chris O'Rourke (Faith McDevitt) square off in the Portland Women's Theatre Company premiere production of Aden Ross's comedy, *Ladies' Room*, through Nov. 10.

BY ERIN ROUSE

On Sept. 21, the Portland Women's Theatre Company opened its tenth anniversary season with the premiere production of *Ladies' Room* by Salt Lake City playwright Aden Ross. Judy Clover, directs. "It is a challenging script," says Clover. "It presents marvelous characters and demands a lot from me intellectually."

*Ladies' Room* investigates the relationship between gambling and faith. It is the story of six women whose lives intersect one weekend in the ladies' room of a Las Vegas casino. The play explores the question of whether destinies hinge on divine providence, human initiative, or sheer luck.

The action centers around the clash between an acerbic lesbian black jack dealer played by Faith McDevitt, and an idealistic chaplain, played by Kathay Duff. Entering the fray are a spiritual friend, Laura Smith; a casino "goddess," Stephanie Torres; Suzan Cohen playing the distraught wife of a compulsive gambler; and Cherise Millhouse a high-spirited Oklahoma woman who left her family in order to marry a considerably younger man. Each woman brings with her a bit of frailty, some folly and all of her survival strengths.

*Ladies' Room* runs Fridays and Saturdays from Sept. 21 to Nov. 3, 8 pm, at the Portland Women's Theatre, 1728 NE 40th Avenue. A special performance to benefit the artists will be held on Saturday Nov. 10, 8 pm.

## Cabarock hits Echo Theatre

Cabaret meets rock-and-roll

Cabarock, a theatrical musical performance drawing from rock and roll, vaudeville, Broadway show tunes, traditional spirituals and even polka, will play Echo Theatre for one night only, Nov. 3, at 8 pm.

The show features Portland native Danno, who says: "First and foremost, 'Cabarock' is entertainment. And by way of entertaining, it shows that whatever goals we strive for—including the elimination of the fear that creates racism, sexism and homophobia—can best be achieved by working together."

"Cabarock" explores connections among music from various genres. Audiences will be familiar with most if not all of the songs in the show. The songs are a mixed bag, but the structure of Cabarock explores their common theme of togetherness," says Danno. For

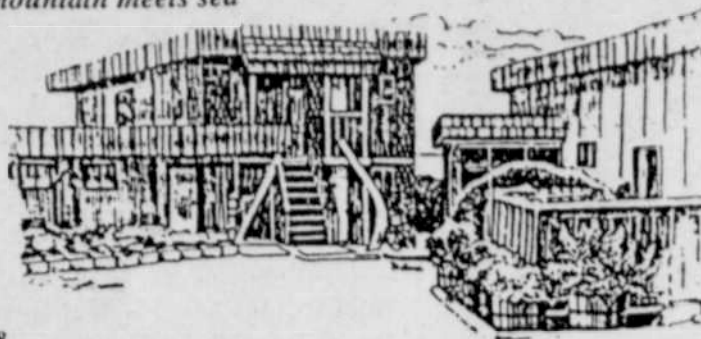
Cabarock, he will be backed by the danceable five-piece Shady Band. Flashy-trashy costuming as well as a human bubble-blower will top it all off.

Cabarock evolved from what was originally a one-man cabaret show, which Danno performed at the Duplex in New York City and Steinway Hall in Los Angeles in the early '80s. After performing for two years in Portland as front man for the band Phil and the Blanx, which also drew from divergent musical styles, Danno expanded the cabaret-meets-rock-and-roll concept into "Cabarock."

Tickets are \$6 at the door, and donations of a can of food are suggested. Food donations will go to Esther's Pantry. Echo Theatre is located at 1515 SE 37th Ave.

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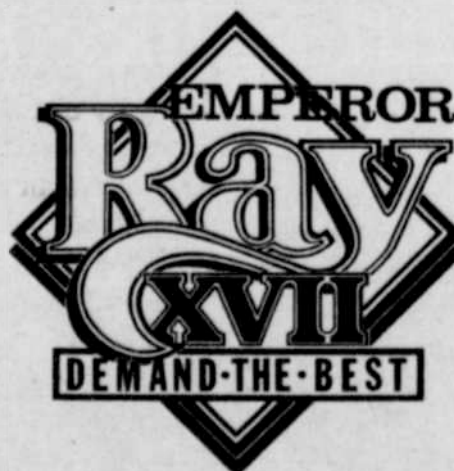
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