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INSIDE:

*The queerest year
yet for movies*
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Heart's content

*Author David Leavitt
talks about his latest
work, his heroes and
his future*

by Grant Michael Menzies

For the booklover, it doesn't get much better than Powell's Books—books surround you everywhere, on every subject, rising high to the rafters and taking you with them. Readers are drawn here as to a desert oasis. But then, so are writers. When I caught up with author David Leavitt, shortly before he was to read from his new novel *While England Sleeps*, his bright blue eyes were as dazzled by the place as if it was his first time there (it was not)—as if his own contributions to literature (*Family Dancing*, *Equal Affections*, *The Lost Language of Cranes*, for starters) haven't helped burnish Powell's to that luster for which its shelves are so well admired.

He's having a miniature leaning tower of volumes, including some of the works of the Marquis de Sade, shipped to his current abode in Italy. He wants to carry one book with him, then decides after a painful pause not to: "I'm bringing too many on the plane as it is," admits this die-hard bibliophile.

"I can find *anything* here," he marvels. We are sitting in a quiet corner of the Purple Room, overlooking an evening-purpled Portland. Chairs are being set up nearby in front of the podium where Leavitt will be reading. Copies of *While England Sleeps* are on display.

"I would consider myself a romantic," says the 32-year-old novelist, after pausing to digest my comment on his uncanny way of becoming personal with, of 'making love' to, his reader. "More than I ever imagined I would be.

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LIVING & DYING IN WAR TIME

*Michael Callen, singer and
activist, left behind a legacy
of hope and inspiration
when he died last month.*

just out presents a
special tribute to the

man who truly
believed life

is worth
fighting
for.

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