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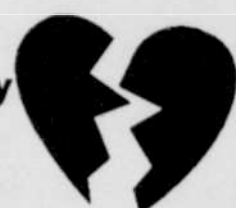
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entertainment

Portland Gay Men's Chorus to embark on statewide tour

Through its continuing collaboration with the Oregon Health Division, the Portland Gay Men's Chorus has teamed up with community-based organizations in Medford, Eugene and The Dalles to hold three concerts June 15, 16 and 17.



Portland Gay Men's Chorus

The concerts, dubbed "The Freedom Tour," are born from PGMC's commitment two years ago to blanket Oregon with a gay-positive perspective to counter misguided attitudes stemming from anti-gay initiatives.

The Freedom Tour will stop on June 15 in Medford, where PGMC will appear with the new Rogue Valley Gay Men's Chorus at 8 pm at the Smullin Center Auditorium. The event is sponsored by Southern Oregon Men's Outreach.

The following afternoon at 5 pm, MPowerment Project will present PGMC at the Central Presbyterian Church in Eugene. While there, the chorus will debut several arrangements that it commissioned for this season, including Jeffrey Payne's 20th-century rendering of the traditional "Shenandoah." On June 17, PGMC will travel to The Dalles to complete its tour at the historic St. Peter's Landmark Church. The 8 pm event is sponsored by AIDS Information Resources and Services.

The outreach concerts are in preparation for PGMC's pride concert slated for June 29 at 8 pm at the Intermediate Theater in Portland. For further information, call PGMC at 699-8586.

Pride event full of fun

Pride Northwest Inc., the organizer of Portland's Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration, is seeking volunteers to help with a variety of tasks during Pride Weekend, which runs June 21, 22 and 23.

The weekend kicks off at 5 pm on June 21 with a "Youth-Oriented Dance" at Waterfront Park's Silver Stage area, located between the Burnside and Morrison bridges. Food and beverages will be available. The dance runs until 10 pm.

The Pride parade will be held June 22. Parade assembly is at 9 am at the North Park Blocks; kick-off is at 11 am. A daylong rally in Waterfront Park will begin at 1 pm, and an all-ages dance will be held later that night.

On June 23 a pancake breakfast (with a small fee) starts at 9 am. An interfaith service is set for 10:30 am, and a Pride festival follows at noon. All occur at Portland's Waterfront Park.

Volunteers are needed for booth setup, security and assistance in the staging areas, as well as for tear-down. For more information about Pride activities, call the Pride Northwest hot line at 295-9788.

Festival features gay and lesbian choruses

An estimated 110 choruses and small vocal groups are set to participate in what is being hailed as the world's largest gay and lesbian choral festival. The gathering, known as GALA

Festival V, is set for July 6-13 in Tampa, Fla.

Produced by the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, the festival will include opening ceremonies on July 7, with a keynote address by author and poet Maya Angelou. Award-winning playwright and actor Harvey Fierstein will host the event. Additional highlights include singer and composer Holly Near and the singing comedy duo Romanovsky and Phillips.

"GALA officials initially considered other locations when Tampa voters in 1992 repealed the city's amendment to its human rights ordinance banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation," says Kenneth Cole, executive director of GALA Choruses. "They decided to remain in Tampa, though, when the city put the law back on the books in October 1993, after the courts determined that 462 signatures that forced the vote were invalid."

Hillsborough County commissioners repealed a similar county ordinance in May 1995, which caused festival officials to cancel contracts with hotels outside the city of Tampa.

According to GALA Choruses, gay men and lesbians attending the festival will receive a copy of a handbook listing businesses in the Tampa vicinity that "respect equality and have policies banning discrimination based on sexual orientation."

For further information, contact the GALA Festival V office at 1222 S Dale Mabry Highway, Suite 602, Tampa, FL 33629-5009 or call (813) 837-4485 or 1-800-837-0810; fax (813) 229-7827. The e-mail address is GALAV@aol.com.

Dance project presents Revving Up

The Portland-based Gregg Bielemeier Dance Project, an ongoing evolutionary dance collaborative, is featuring performances of *Revving Up*, an "eclectic, living-roomesque, natural light, acoustic music, stereo console, kind-o-show."

Performances are scheduled for June 7, 8, 12, 14, 15 and 19, 21, 22 at Conduit, a contemporary dance site at 918 SW Yamhill St., Space No. 401, in Portland. Shows begin at 8 pm.

Tickets are \$14 for Friday and Saturday performances; \$12 on Wednesdays. Seating is limited and reservations are recommended. For information, call 221-5857.

Bening takes part in Heart

Annette Bening has reportedly agreed to star in an AIDS-themed movie that Barbra Streisand has been trying to make for the past decade.

According to *Variety*, Bening will play Dr. Emma Brookner in *The Normal Heart*, a role Streisand planned to play when she was set to direct the film. Streisand recently dropped the project when it became clear she would be preoccupied in the extended future with *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, which is behind schedule.

Sometimes-controversial figure Larry Kramer wrote the 1985 play about the formation of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City. Producer David Picker says negotiations are underway with two stars to play the male leads. *ER* star Anthony Edwards, the first actor to call Kramer after learning of Streisand's withdrawal, is in talks to play a small role in the \$12 million-to-\$14 million picture.

Kramer has his script ready and expects to begin production in New York and on Fire Island in the fall.

Compiled by Inga Sorensen

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