

Autumnal ARTS

Breezing through an eclectic selection of art events that may get buried in the mainstream press

by Christopher D. Cuttone

As summer draws to a close, Portland's arts scene is anything but waning: A new theater season is beginning, and the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival adds a flourish to the summer's exploding-airplane movies. What more could you ask for? Oh, the details...good idea.

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Sensory Perceptions: Portland's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival runs through Sunday, Sept. 21, at Cinema 21, 616 NW 21st Ave. This is likely to be the only Portland showing of many of the festival films, so don't dally. Watching films like *Leather Jacket Love Story*, *Some Prefer Cake*, *Crocodile Tears*, *Different for Girls* and *It's in the Water* won't win you any points with Jesse



Katherine Spencer (left) and Mari Jacobsen in *Unmerciful Good Fortune*

Helms, but it will make you a better queer. And what the hell, bring a friend to convert and earn some points toward that toaster oven you've been lusting after.

The festival also features two gender-specific nights of short films and a number of hard-hitting



Cast and crew members of *Witness This*, (from left) Cindy McGean, Wula Dawson and Kori Khilnani

documentaries, including *Surviving Friendly Fire: The Making of a Street Kids Theatre Project*, *Out at Work* and *Bill and Ann Shepherd: A Life's Work*.

Tickets are \$6 per program or \$75 for a festival pass. For show times, call Cinema 21 at 223-4515.

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With the film festival on one hand, and the American Civil Liberties Union Uncensored Celebration on the other, there's an air of freedom everywhere. Just one of many Uncensored events is the staging of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America, Part I: Millennium Approaches* by triangle productions!. The play, which is an examination of the politics of AIDS and the spiritual crisis of our age, won in 1993 a Pulitzer Prize for drama and a Tony Award for best play.

Shows are at 7:30 pm Thursday through Friday and 5 pm Sunday through Sept. 27 at Theater! Theatre!, 3430 SE Belmont St. For ticket information, call 230-9404.

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Also on stage this fall is *The Miser*, a comedy by Molière, presented by Northwest Theatre of the Deaf. This story of greed, paranoia and love triangles runs Sept. 26 through Oct. 12 and is accessible to both deaf and hearing audience members.

Tickets are \$9 in advance, \$12 at the door, \$9 for students and seniors, and are available from Fred Meyer Fastixx locations (charge by phone at 224-4400) or by calling 239-7261 or 253-9137 voice and TTY. Performances are at 8 pm Friday and Saturday and 2 pm Sunday at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N Interstate Ave.

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Drama is hitting the streets too, in the Hip Chicks and Activists production *Witness This*.

This play dealing with issues of domestic violence and self-defense is presented at 11 am and 1 pm every Saturday in September and October. All performances are free and wheelchair accessible; Sept. 20 and Oct. 18 shows are sign interpreted, and language translation is available for all shows with two weeks notice. Children are welcome, but parents are advised that realistic violence will be portrayed.

These are billed as "roving performances" and take place outdoors, so people are advised to wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing (umbrellas are fine). September performances take place in North Portland; audiences are asked to gather 15 minutes before show time at the corner of Albina Avenue and Ainsworth Street near Peninsula Park. October performances take place in Southeast Portland, audiences gather 15 minutes before show time at the corner of 34th

Word on the Street: A Celebration of the Great Literature in Your Life, a new city-wide event venerating the written word outside and out loud, is set for Friday, Oct. 3. In addition to formal "literary soapboxes" sponsored by people and businesses, individuals are encouraged to participate through spontaneous "literary actions."

Everyone is invited to top off the day with some indoor readings by well-known Oregon authors and some surprise guest celebrities: slated readers thus far include Ken Kesey, Leann Grabel, Brian Booth, Johanna Rose and Walt Curtis. Acid lounge rock band Jesus Presley will also perform. The evening event begins at 7:30 pm at the Southeast Civic Center (formerly the Masonic Temple), 4506 SE 64th Ave. Admission is \$10; a part of proceeds will benefit *The Bear Essential* magazine, which is published by Orlo, a nonprofit organization exploring environmental issues through the creative arts and a Word on the Street cosponsor. Check Powell's Books and Starbucks locations for soapbox maps, tickets to the evening event and other event information, or call 242-1047.

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Jim "the Mad Monk" Crotty, cofounder of *Monk: The Mobile Magazine*, will be pulling into the parking lot of the Multnomah Art Center for his one and only Portland appearance on Wednesday, Sept. 24. He'll be reading from his new book, *How to Talk American*, a witty and pointed satire of regional idiosyncrasies in thought, values and speech.

This free event sponsored by Annie Bloom's Books takes place at 7:30 pm; the arts center is located at 7688 SW Capitol Highway.

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Friday, Sept. 19, is the gala opening of *Unmerciful Good Fortune*, a play by Edwin Sánchez. Miracle Theatre/Teatro Milagro presents this tale of two Latinas, one an uneducated, clairvoyant fast-food worker suspected of murder, the other an eager-to-assimilate assistant district attorney, single parent and caretaker for a dying mother.

The opening night gala features a pre-show reception at 7:30 pm and post-show reception with the cast and crew; tickets are \$14. The show runs through Oct. 18; regular admission is \$11 general, \$10 seniors and students. Thursday night shows are \$9. Miracle Theatre is located at 525 SE Stark St. For information or to reserve tickets, call 236-7253.

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And if you find yourself exhausted by being entertained, find some repose in the serenely beautiful art displayed at the 30th anniversary **LOCAL 14 Art Show and Sale** held Oct. 3-5 at the World Forestry Center's Miller Hall, 4033 SW Canyon Road (take the Zoo exit of Highway 26). Peruse or purchase fine art and craft by more than 100 professional women artists working in media from glass to clay and fabric to film. A Scholarship Benefit Gala, featuring live music, wearable art, light refreshments and a chance to mingle with the artists, takes place from 6 to 9 pm on Thursday, Oct. 2; admission \$10.

The exhibition hall has free parking and is wheelchair accessible; it is open from 10 am to 9 pm Oct. 3, and 10 am to 5 pm Oct. 4 and 5. A \$2 donation at the door goes toward scholarships for local women artists. Call 241-8939 for more information.



Ron Parker (left) and Andy Acalla in *Angels in America, Part I: Millennium Approaches*

PHOTO BY RIC ADAMS