

ENTERTAINMENT

Lesbian mag unveils Sapphie awards

Girlfriends magazine jumped into the awards business with its first Lesbian Movie Awards. Seventeen categories of nominees and winners of what the magazine calls "Sapphies" were listed in the April issue. Needless to say, the results were a bit different than what the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences came up with.

While *As Good as It Gets* was nominated for best picture, *Fire* stole that particular Sapphie. Alison Folland won best actress for *All Over Me*, and Robert Carlyle took the best actor Sapphie for *The Full Monty*—despite running against *Titanic* star Leonardo DiCaprio.

Openly gay actor Rupert Everett fared better with *Girlfriends* than with the Academy, winning the best supporting actor Sapphie for *My Best Friend's Wedding*.

Portland's own lesbian comic Georgia Ragsdale was nominated for the best supporting actress Sapphie for her role in *I Never Met Picasso*, but the award went to *Fire*'s Nandita Das.

100 points of light

Night of 100 Stars, a benefit for the Rob Buckmaster Fund of Equity Foundation, is arguably Portland's most gala event. This year's show will include scenes from a variety of Broadway musicals, including *Rent*, *Sweet Charity*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *Hair*.

The event is named for Portland actor Rob Buckmaster, who died in 1995. The annual benefit is a tribute to Buckmaster's love of theater and proceeds go to support cutting-edge projects in Portland's theater community. Notably, in 1996 the Buckmaster Fund helped bring Larry Kramer's plays *The Normal Heart*

transforming themselves since March 1996 and have gained a huge following in the process. From performing before 20,000 revelers at 1997's Wigstock festival to the upcoming HBO special *God Shave the Queen*, these performers have discovered an untapped market. And filmmaker John Waters has even tapped drag king Mo B. Dick's feminine alter-ego to appear in his upcoming movie, *Pecker*, as a lesbian stripper.

Doors open at 8 p.m. at the Egyptian Club, 3701 S.E. Division St., on May 1. Admission is \$5. Call 236-8689 for more information.

A special company for special (inner) ears

A record label aimed specifically at queer listeners has set up shop in Atlanta. Rainbow Records, an offshoot of Rising Star Records, is owned and operated by out lesbian Barbara Taylor.

Rising Star recordings being shuffled to Rainbow include albums by lesbian comics Lea Delaria and Georgia Ragsdale. Also moving to Rainbow is the *Classical Erotica* series, a combination of passionate classical recordings and Judy Francesconi's erotic lesbian photography. Rainbow's *Classical Passion* is a similar package with photos by Dean Keefer geared toward a gay male audience.

Supporting roles

Buena Vista Pictures—the distributor for Walt Disney Pictures and Touchstone Pictures—has announced its summer releases, and a couple may be of particular interest to gay and lesbian audiences.

Scheduled for June 12 is *Six Days, Seven Nights*, starring Anne Heche. Heche, who is



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Disney's cross-dressing hero, Mulan

and *The Destiny of Me* to Portland. It was the first time the plays had been performed together, as Kramer intended.

The May 13 event starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Newmark Theatre of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 1111 S.W. Broadway. Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$29 and may be purchased at the PCPA box office and Fastixx outlets (charge by phone at 224-8499).

Lady looks like a dude

Boys will be boys, but so will girls—with a vengeance. The drag kings of New York City's Club Casanova are riding international acclaim all the way to the Tomb in Portland's Egyptian Club.

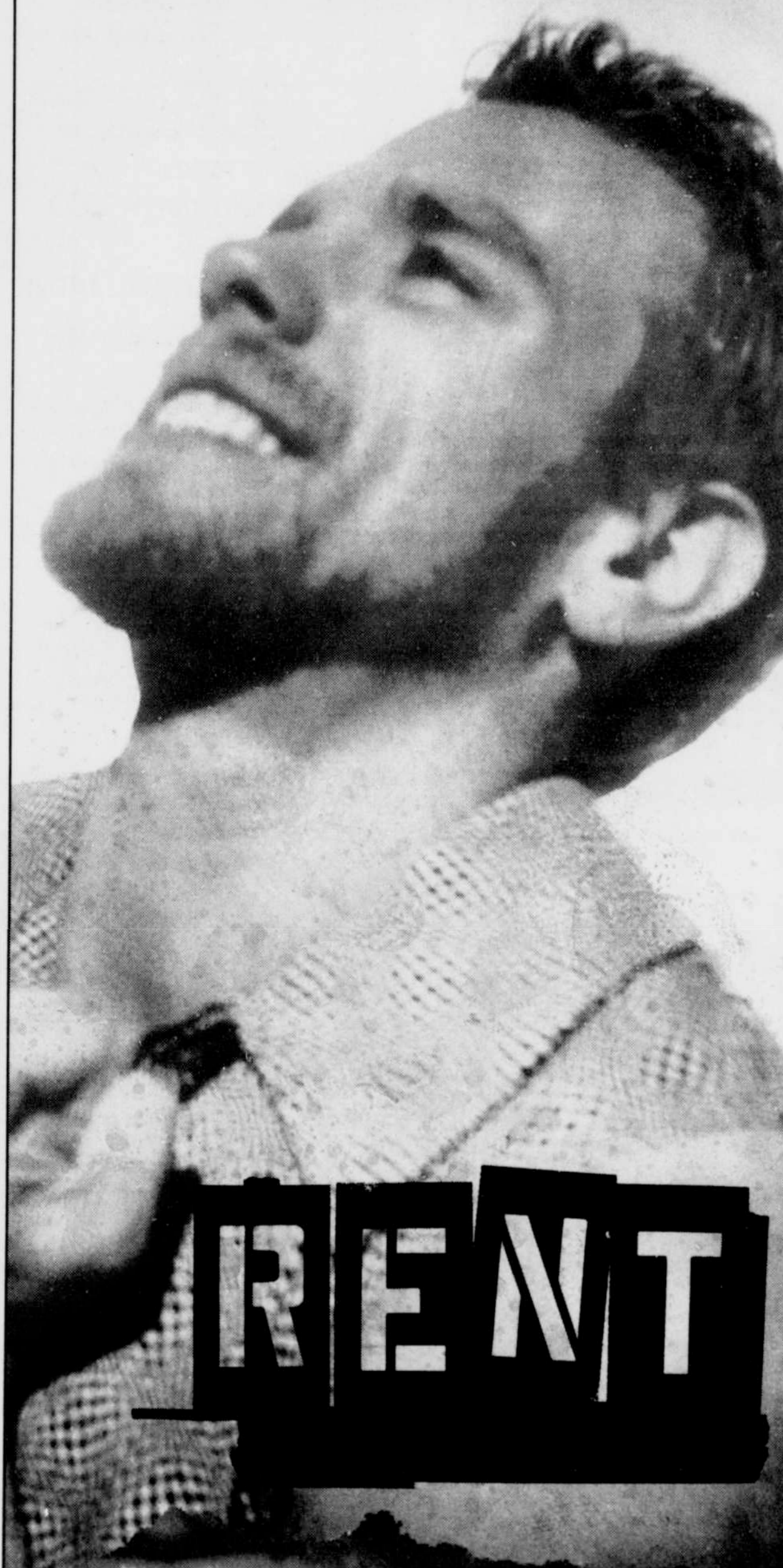
The crew of male illusionists have been

currently involved with lesbian television star and comic Ellen DeGeneres, stars opposite Harrison Ford. They play a wackily mismatched couple stranded on a tropical island in the South Pacific. So much for Heche's highly publicized lesbian relationship hindering her career.

June 19 is the scheduled release date for *Mulan*, Disney's 36th full-length animated feature. No little mermaid, the title character is a young Chinese woman who dresses as a man in order to join the army and fight off invading Huns. The story, based on a popular Chinese legend, has a voice cast that includes Ming-Na Wen (as Mulan), Harvey Fierstein, Eddie Murphy, Pat Morita and George Takei.

■ Compiled by WILL O'BRYAN

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