

Sensory Perceptions roundup

The second Sensory Perceptions (Portland's queer film festival) has come and gone—but not without its ups and downs.

Hands down, the festival's largest pratfall was the absence of the opening night film, *Relax, It's Just Sex*. Half the film, which comprises two reels, made it to Portland. The other reel, however, seems to have waited out the festival at FedEx's Memphis sorting facility. Oddly, it did resurface on schedule for Vancouver, British Columbia's queer film fest—a FedEx-sponsored event, according to Sensory Perceptions co-director Debbie Caselton. Despite having to cancel the screening, Sensory Perceptions still had to accommodate out-of-town guests associated with the film.

Nevertheless, Caselton concludes all went relatively well. Emphasizing the bottom line of the festival's fitness, she reports: "We didn't really lose any money." She adds that some changes are already planned for next year's event. Organizers are going to scrap early matinees and move the festival to two consecutive weekends in October, as opposed to four consecutive days in September. The move, says Caselton, will ensure the festival doesn't have any regional competition. Another possible benefit to moving the festival deeper into autumn, she admits, is that, "Hopefully the weather will be crappier."

Those interested in volunteering for Sensory Perceptions should call 795-9759.



Obo Addy

Ambassador Addy

The Arts Critics & Reviewers Association of Ghana named Portland musician Obo Addy a Cultural Ambassador of Music for outstanding performance outside of Ghana at an award dinner in Accra, Ghana, in August.

Addy, who is regarded as one of the pioneers of "world beat" music, previously received the Oregon Arts Commission Master's Fellowship, the Governor's Award for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts' National Heritage Fellowship Award.

Addy's next scheduled Oregon performance is Saturday, Jan. 30, at Reed College in Portland. For more information, call Homowo, the Foundation for African Arts & Cultures, at 288-3025.

Vachon-recommended viewing

Christine Vachon, producer of films such as *Poison*, *Swoon*, *Go Fish* and *I Shot Andy Warhol*, was in Portland in September judging entries in the Northwest Film Center's 25th Northwest Film and Video Festival.

One Judge's Award went to Portlander Todd Korgan's short, *Johnny Bagpipes*, which depicts Johnny's difficult coming out to his Irish father, as well as his hopeful dreams for a plaid tour bus or jet. *Johnny Bagpipes* plays as part of the Friday, Nov. 6, evening lineup, which begins at 7 p.m.

Another short to make note of is Gus Van Sant's *Weird*, a five-minute "director's cut" video for the band Hanson.

The festival, which began Thursday, Nov. 5, runs through Thursday, Nov. 12, at the Guild Theater, 829 S.W. Ninth Ave. Admission is \$6 per program, \$5 for Portland Art Museum members, students and seniors. Festival passes cost \$30. For more information, call 221-1156.

Triangle Award trio

The Triangle Awards, the only national literary awards that offer an honorarium for queer-relevant books, were awarded Oct. 8 by the Publishing Triangle, an association of lesbians and gay men in publishing, and the Robert Chesley Foundation.

Among the recipients is Chay Yew, who won the Robert Chesley Award for Lesbian and Gay Playwriting. His play *Red* (see review on p. 33) is currently being staged by Portland Center Stage and runs till Nov. 21.

Another recipient, David Sedaris, winner of the Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction, will speak in Portland on Nov. 21 as a guest of the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art.

Also of local interest is Elana Dykewomon, author of *Beyond the Pale* and former Reed College student, who won the Ferro-Grumley Award for Lesbian Fiction.

A new resource to be GLAAD about

On Oct. 27 the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation unveiled its new cyberbaby: GLAAD's *Hollywood Hotsheet*.

The Web site, which can be found at www.glaad.org, will offer timely information about television, recording, film, theater and celebrities—whenever there's a queer bent.

GLAAD sources say they hope to update the site twice weekly.

Griffen's hotel cancels questionable conference

The Beverly Hilton Hotel, owned by Hollywood patriarch Merv Griffen, agreed to cancel an anti-gay conference scheduled to take place at the hotel Oct. 24.

According to information from the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality and the Claremont Institute planned the *Making Sense of Homosexuality Conference* to discuss topics dealing with how "children are being indoctrinated through homosexual propaganda in school."

Upon learning of the conference, the LAGLC faxed a letter to the hotel stating, in part: "Hate messages such as this are a grave and disturbing matter.... Surely they are not the kind of messages with which the Beverly Hilton Hotel desires to be associated."

The center reports they were notified shortly thereafter that Griffen's hotel would not host the conference.

Gomez, Sedaris and Sullivan, oh my!

November brings three big names in queer writing to Portland.

First up is Andrew Sullivan on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Sullivan, author of *Virtually Normal* and editor of *Same-Sex Marriage: Pro and Con*, will be talking about his new—and controversial—book, *Love Undetectable: Notes on Friendship, Sex, and Survival* (see review on p. 32) at Powell's City of Books, 1005 W. Burnside St. at 7:30 p.m. The talk will be followed by a question-and-answer period and book signing.

Jewelle Gomez follows with a reading at In

Other Words Women's Books and Resources, 3734 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., on Friday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. Gomez, perhaps most celebrated for *The Gilda Stories*, her acclaimed African American lesbian vampire novel, will read from her new book, *Don't Explain*. This latest venture is a collection of short stories, including a previously unpublished Gilda story. Gomez's reading will be followed by a women's literary open mike. For more information, call 232-6003.

Finally, David Sedaris rolls into town Saturday, Nov. 21, to benefit PICA and Portland Arts & Lecture. Sedaris has gained notoriety largely with his collections of essays, *Barrel Fever* and *Naked*, and his commentary on National Public Radio. During his Portland appearance, Sedaris will read from a new collection of essays examining his expatriate status as a former New Yorker and current Parisian. Admission to the Sedaris reading—which takes place at 7:30 p.m. at the Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center, 1819 N.W. Everett St.—is \$20 for reserved seating, \$14 for general admission, \$12 for PICA members and PAL subscribers, and \$10 for students. For more information, call 227-2583.

Altruism via auctions and actors

Those looking for some philanthropic entertainment in November can look forward to auctions benefiting Friends of People With AIDS Foundation and Our House of Portland. Our House will also get some help this month from *Three Men and a Boa*.

The Friends of PWA's seventh annual auction will be held Sunday, Nov. 8, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Southeast Multicultural Center, 4610 S.E. Belmont St. in Portland. Among the items up for bid are a 1956 Chevy, a bicycle tour through France's Provence region courtesy of Alyson Adventures Travel, and two weeks in a Tuscan villa. All proceeds will directly benefit people living with AIDS. Admission is \$10. For more information, call 283-8535.

Our House of Portland opens the bidding at its second annual benefit wine auction at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, at Portland's White House Bed and Breakfast, 1914 N.E. 22nd Ave. Aside from wines by regional vineyards like King Estate, Erath Vineyards, Sokol Blosser Winery and Willakenzie Estate, bidders can

hope to secure some luxury items, including a trip to the Grand Tetons or a Fifth Avenue Suites Hotel "romance package." Tickets are \$100, and reservations are strongly suggested. For more information, call 736-9276.

The cabaret benefit for Our House, *Three Men and a Boa*, promises lots of camp as well as songs by Elton John,

Kander and Ebb and others, as well as a dessert buffet. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 15, at the Benson Hotel, 309 S.W. Broadway in Portland. Tickets are \$40 and are available at Gai-Pied, Jelly Bean or at the door. Group discounts are available with advance purchase. For more information, call 284-7774.

Compiled by WILL O'BRYAN



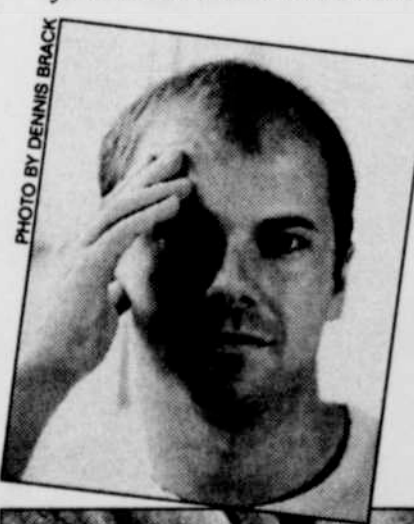
Snickers LaBarr

Seven seasons of Snickers

The *Snickers LaBarr Show*, which bills itself as Portland's longest-running cable access talk and variety program, entered its seventh season with its Oct. 16 broadcast on TCI. The show, hosted by Portland drag queen Snickers LaBarr, covers topics ranging from politics to entertainment.

Jeff Bazell, show producer, says this season's guests may include a national celebrity and a controversial figure in Portland's queer community, but he's not naming names.

Snickers LaBarr can be seen at 11 p.m. on TCI Channel 11 on Friday, Nov. 13, and Friday, Dec. 11. On Paragon Channel 21, catch the show Thursday, Nov. 19, and Thursday, Dec. 13, at 10:30 p.m. Paragon will also air episodes on Channel 21 at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19, and Saturday, Dec. 19. For more information, visit LaBarr's Web site at www.labarr.com.



Clockwise from top left: Andrew Sullivan, David Sedaris, Jewelle Gomez

