

DIVERSIONS



Harlem hauteur in *Blues for An Alabama Sky*

Blues is a beautiful shade of lavender

Put one queenly gay guy—named Guy, in this case—in a play with four hetero characters, and he'll probably steal the show. In the case of *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, Timothy McCuen Piggee does just that with his portrayal of Guy, the Harlem costume designer with big time dreams. And while he earns plenty of laughs for his preening and posing, Guy also has at his core a loyalty to his friends that adds depth and some serious notes to this fine play.

Piggee also gets to flaunt one fine wardrobe in this story, set in 1930 as the Harlem Renaissance succumbs to the national depression. Piggee is terrific as Guy and manages to present him as a well-rounded character with strong values, even if they are at odds with mainstream society.

Though the first act is mostly filled with romance and lighthearted dreams, the second and final act turns deadly serious as a stranger from Alabama fails to accept the free-wheeling atmosphere in which he finds himself. His repulsion fuels the dramatic twists at the end of the play.

Blues is playing through March 18 at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. For show times and prices, call (503) 274-6588.

Eat some cake and have it too!

Just Out is celebrating the first anniversary of our Just Friends voice personal ads with a Singles Party on Saturday, March 11, at 3

Friends Coffeehouse. Find that special someone for a spring fling, or start a new social group and advertise for playmates.

We invite all couples who met through our personals to attend, as well as all singles, so you can be spotlighted next year! Fun, games, surprises and prizes galore, plus a big gooey cake. What more can you need?

The party kicks off at 8 p.m. and winds down around 10 p.m. at the coffeehouse, which is located at 201 S.E. 12th Ave. in Portland. For more information, call the Just Out office at (503) 236-1252.

Out loud and peaceful

Imagine 130 women singing in harmony, singing for peace, and you have a vision of the Aurora Chorus, part of the Concord Community of Choirs.

Since 1992 this powerful group has been presenting programs that enrich the community through superb musicianship and the diversity of material. Directed by Joan Szymko, the March 5 concert, *We Remain Faithful*, features songs that have cried out for justice—from South Africa and Latin America, from victims of AIDS and the Holocaust.

The concert, which will be held at Parkrose High School auditorium, 12003 N.E. Shaver St. in Portland. It will be sign language interpreted and is wheelchair accessible. There will be two performances: at 4 and 7:30 p.m. Call (503) 721-0262 for tickets.

There's another closet to come out of

That is, if you've ever wanted to do drag but never had a good excuse. On March 5, the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court presents Closet Ball 2000 "Topsy Turvy Day" at Darcelle XV Showplace.

The fun starts when each contestant is given one hour to transform himself or herself into an illusion of the opposite sex, assisted by a makeup artist and dresser. Aspiring butterflies need to register by 6:30 p.m. That night the ISRC will crown a king and queen for a day.

For more information, visit the Internet site www.rosecourt.org. Darcelle XV is located in Portland's Old Town at 208 N.W. Third Ave.

Who wants to date a softball player?

Here's your chance to hook up with some hunky athletic guy or gal at the Rose City Softball Association's Saint Patty's Bid a

Continued on Page 41



Aurora Chorus gets ready to roar—in a peaceful sorta way

What's Keeping You From Mr. Right?

A group for couples to explore that keeps your relationship young

Joan Sidwell, MSW Group Facilitator

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