

Diva Dark looks the part



DIVERSIONS

Weeklong or partial passes may be purchased online or through the mail, or individual tickets for each event may be purchased at the door. For a source of comprehensive information, visit www.ladyfest.org. You can also receive information by calling (360) 252-2086 or e-mailing info@ladyfest.org. —Katy Davidson

Lesbian Diva is not an oxymoron

On her way to Ladyfest is performance artist Kimberly Dark, who will be in Portland 7 p.m. July 31 at the Touchstone Coffee House to test-drive excerpts from her new show, *True Confessions of a Lesbian Diva*.

Her most recent show, *The Butch/Femme Chronicles*, has been touring nationally to rave reviews for two years. Her new show is due to be released in its entirety by January 2001,

but you can preview it this month in Portland.

True Confessions is a collection of stories and poetry combining grandness, absurdity and the stunning truths of lesbian relationships. Because the stories are told in the first person, the audience comes to know the Diva personally and, as she puts it, is "allowed a rare glimpse into femme-dyke grandeur." The show is at turns funny and touching, presenting a version of how a "lesbian femme diva" is created by interactions with others and how that public character might be misunderstood.

Dark, who lives in San Diego, plays various characters in the piece, although her emphasis is on the words, not props or costumes. She's been doing performance art for six years, which sprang from a desire to "be the non-boring poet at readings."

Guilty pleasure

As all of you know who are inside watching television at 8 p.m. Wednesdays instead of soaking up scenic sunsets, the castaways on the summer megahit *Survivor* include an out gay man. Known only as Richard,

he thinks he can keep his place in the cast because he's become that icon of male hetdom: a good provider! He is apparently the only one who has figured out how to catch fish and thus each day serves up squid and stingrays he has captured on his mighty spear.

Of late, Richard has been pushing the tolerance of his fellow tribe members because he prefers to go au naturel most of the time. He is not the castaway who would be voted One We Most Want to See Naked. Here's his description from the truly hilarious Survivorsucks.com:

"Richard 38, (AKA Dicque) is single and is a corporate communications consultant (ooh, must be important) from Newport, RI. Special talent: simultaneously jogging and being a dick. Has second biggest bazooms on cast."

The site also claims to have it on ironclad authority that Richard isn't the only homosexual on the island. Their profile of the hottie Jenna may contain a clue:

"Jenna, 22, is single and is a college student from Franklin, N.H. Hobby: writing angry letters to advertisers about Dr. Laura."

Sounds like our kinda gal!

Local girlfriend makes good

Spotted in the Feb. 2 edition of *Just Out* by an editor at *Girlfriends* magazine, Portland artist damali ayo was picked to be featured as Girlfriend of the Month in the August issue.

Much more than just a pretty face, she is a highly inventive artist and is curating the shows at the new Groundswell Gallery, 1800



bi been damali ayo

Everything damali ayo does, she does *ta*-hundred percent. The way she sees things. "Being biracial doesn't make me any less African American, and being bisexual doesn't make me any less of a dyke." The opinionated artist grew up in Washington, D.C., went to Brown University in Rhode Island, and now lives in Portland, Oregon—which makes her bicoastal, too. Despite her fancy education, ayo has no formal training in art. Her thought-provoking installations—little black dresses accessorized with pacifiers over the bust, say—are strictly intuitive. In fact, art came into her life through a dream. "All of a sudden, I had something that summed up everything I ever was and ever knew."

GIRLFRIEND OF THE MONTH

N.E. Alberta St. Oh, yes, she is available! Find her at damaliayo@hotmail.com.

Compiled by ORIANA GREEN

Out at the ballgame

Each division has only one game remaining in the RCSA season. The Women's Division plays July 23 and the Open Division plays July 30, both at Westmoreland Park. Following the softball games on July 30, all RCSA teams and fans are invited to the awards ceremony and banquet at the park from 2 until 4 p.m. Other kinds of games will be played, so bring your own picnic and join the fun!

OPEN DIVISION	W-L
Boxxes Storm	19-0
Embers Red Wings	13-6
Full Sail Titans	13-6
JOQ's Genuine Draft	12-7
Egyptian Club Riders	8-11
Quest Yellow Pages	6-13
Webpride, Vancouver	4-15
Gay Men's Chorus	1-18
WOMEN'S DIVISION	W-L
Mad Dogs	13-1
Tan Body	11-2
Players	6-5
Just Out Mud Skippers	8-4
Hobo's	4-7
The Royals	5-8
Haggis's Hustlers	3-10
Play Hers Club	0-12

A festival of Olympian proportions

What started as a small buzz early this year now has evolved into a full-fledged, nationwide alarm: Ladyfest 2000 soon will inundate Olympia, Wash.!

A few months back, an ad hoc group of intelligent, artistic women began outlining a summer festival that would include a variety of mind-opening events, including visual art exhibits, spoken word performances, film



Sarah Dougher soothes Ladyfest

PHOTO BY STORM THAYER

showings, practical workshops and live music. Between Aug. 1 and 6, these plans will be set in motion.

Ladyfest has been planned exclusively by women and is dedicated to exhibiting the

work of women artists, although people of all genders are welcome to attend. Almost every single one of Olympia's performance spaces and concert halls will play host to the diverse collection of events. Activities include a guitar basics workshop, a "badass-fatass" panel and a workshop on creating alternative menstrual products. Live bands include the Aislars Set, the Butchies, Lois, the Need and Sleater-Kinney.



This survivor sucks squid

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