

DIVERSIONS

Global warning

Where else can you find foreign films focusing on Icelandic lesbians, queer Colombian street thugs and a gay French bunny? Only at the 24th Portland International Film Festival, the Northwest Film Center's annual showcase of new world cinema. This year's program includes 91 films from three dozen countries.

Among the queer entries is Baltasar Kormakur's *101 Reykjavik*, about a young man whose quiet life is turned upside down after a passionate one-night stand with a beautiful flamenco teacher who turns out to be his mother's lesbian lover. Showtimes are 8:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at Broadway Metroplex, 1000 S.W. Broadway, and 7:15 p.m. Feb. 11 at Fox Tower 10, Southwest Park Avenue and Taylor Street.

The biggest buzz among the bunch belongs to Sundance fave *Our Lady of the Assassins*, directed by Barbet Schroeder (*Reversal of Fortune*), a poignant romance that becomes a disturbing voyage into a world saturated in violence and death. Showtimes are 9:30 p.m. Feb. 23 and 1 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Guild Theatre, 829 S.W. Ninth Ave.

The most bizarre of the three options has to be "Early Frost," which screens 7 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Guild as part of *Short Cuts II*. Vanessa Ciszewski directed this 17-minute film about a young girl's beloved pet, which turns out to have a "condition" her parents think needs tending to.

Check the Internet site www.nwfilm.org or call 503-221-1156 for more information.

—Jim Radosta

A visitor from the East

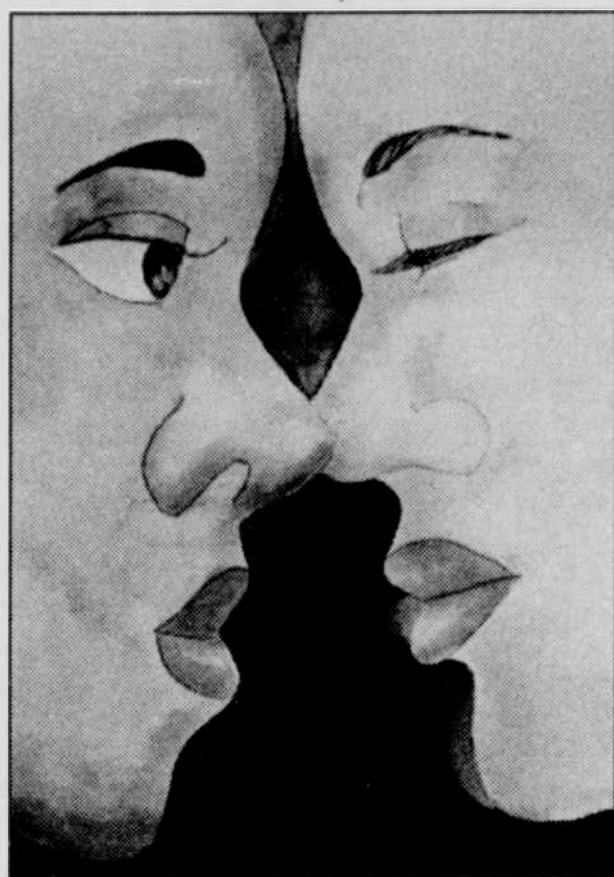
It's not like we have a dearth of lesbians toting guitars in these parts, but here's one who came all the way from Lez Central, Northampton, Mass. Check out Erica Wheeler Feb. 2 at St. Johns Pub with opening act Seattle songwriter Jill Cohn. Wheeler has been recording since 1989 and racking up rave reviews ever since. Her latest, *Three Wishes*, is being lauded for poignant lyrics and strong vocals. The gig gets going 8 p.m. at 8203 N. Ivanhoe St., and tickets are \$15 at the door or \$13 in advance from 503-283-8520.

Let's get colorful

The newly formed Lesbian Art Guild is calling on all lesbian artists to prepare artwork for this year's International Women's Day celebration in Portland. Bring your original two- or three-dimensional artwork to the Lesbian Art Review Party from 1 to 5 p.m. Feb. 18 at the Lesbian Community Project office, 1001 E. Burnside St. Art will be selected at the party for the exhibition. Art expressing lesbian themes especially is encouraged. For more information call Heron at 503-285-4339.

Do you like it rough?

Poetry, that is. An out, loud lesbian with attitude, Staceyann Chin brings her fiery poetry to Portland State University's Hoffman Hall



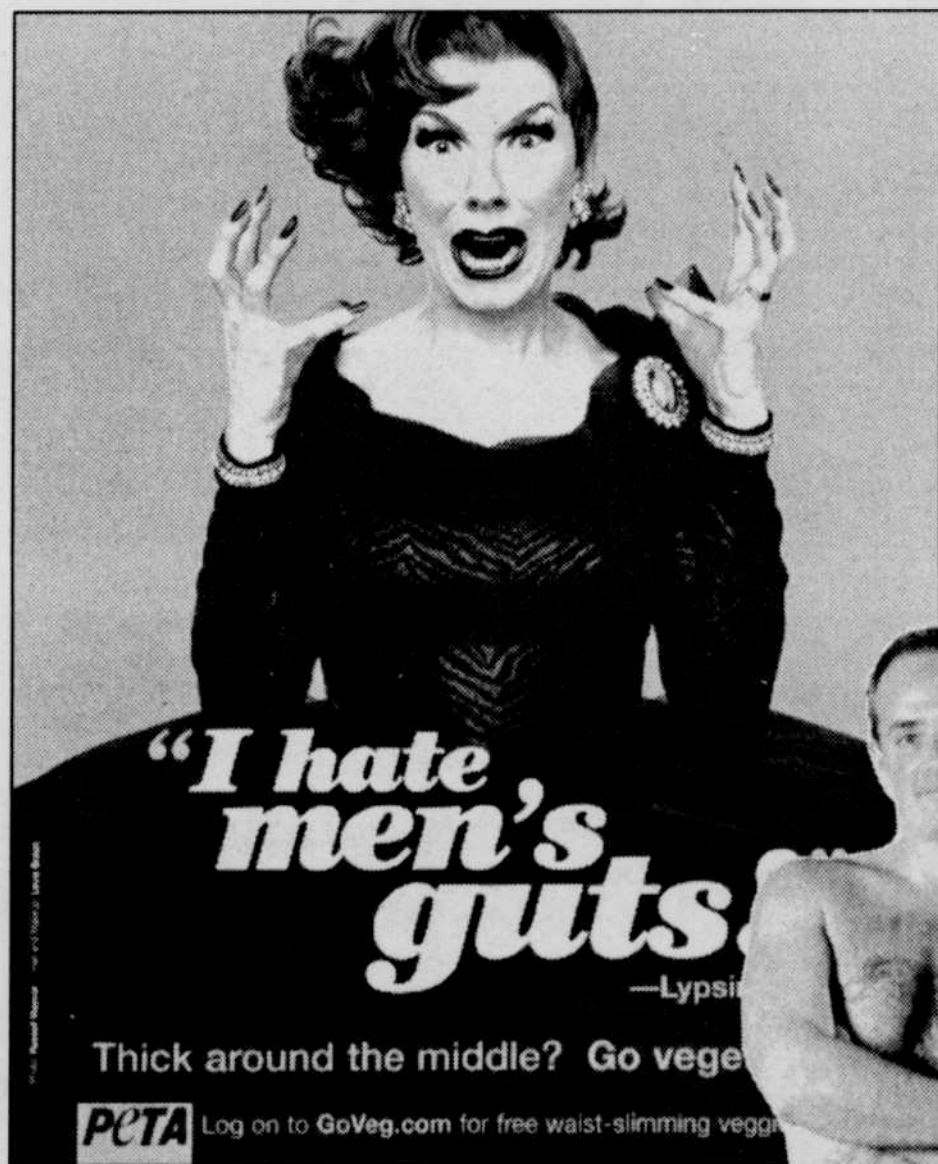
"Almost There" by Heron

Spit this out

Right about now Manhattan's "gay ghetto," the Chelsea neighborhood, is abloom with posters targeting gay men to give up meat. No, not that kind of meat. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals enlisted drag icon Lypsinka to pose for the ad, which is designed to feed on gay men's notorious obsession with body image. PETA hopes the campaign will create more gay male vegheads. After all, why should lesbians have the monopoly on tofu?

Talk to the formerly fat naked guy

InsightOut Books, the online book club for queer readers, is sponsoring a live Yahoo! Chat with ultra-openly gay *Survivor* king Richard Hatch at 5 p.m. Feb. 13. Join editor David Rosen as he interviews the million dollar man regarding his book, *101 Survival Secrets: How to Win \$1,000,000, Lose 100 Pounds and Just Plain Live Happily*, at chat.yahoo.com. Hatch uses an autobiographical approach to offer advice as he shares the tactics he used to win *Survivor* and explains how he deals with his newfound celebrity status. His book also offers tips and secrets on how he deals with weight loss (beyond, one presumes, the snip-and-suck method), stress management, building self-confidence and being successful in business. And, no doubt, how to



extend your own 15 minutes of fame into a full-time career!

Black like us

Either Andre Charles and/or his alter ego, RuPaul, will spice up this month's edition of *In the Life*,



His alter, Andre

which airs at 11 p.m. Feb. 13 on Oregon Public Broadcasting. The drag star will be the host of a special edition dedicated to the African American experience. This episode features stories on the civil rights efforts of activist Bayard Rustin and James Baldwin as well as current-day activists Keith Boykin, Irene Monroe and Michelle Lopez. Starring in the "Out Artists" series are singer Toshi Reagon and writer/performer Pamela Sneed. This high-quality program is well worth staying up for—or even learning to program your VCR for!

Hollywood future file

If you need further proof that Emmy-licious actress Camryn Manheim is trying her best to join our team—at least in a virtual way—here's what she declared in a recent *TV Guide* interview: "I just called Showtime and said I want to do *Queer as Folk* and be a big lesbian. I would have done it in a minute."

And more good news from television's bible: CBS is about to unleash a new sitcom based on the independent film *Kiss Me, Guido* called *Me and Frankie Z* with Jason Bateman playing the gay lead and Danny Nucci as his het roommate. With all the hardware and ratings gold *Will & Grace* has raked in, it was inevitable that other networks would lose their fear of all things queer.

Compiled by
ORIANA
GREEN

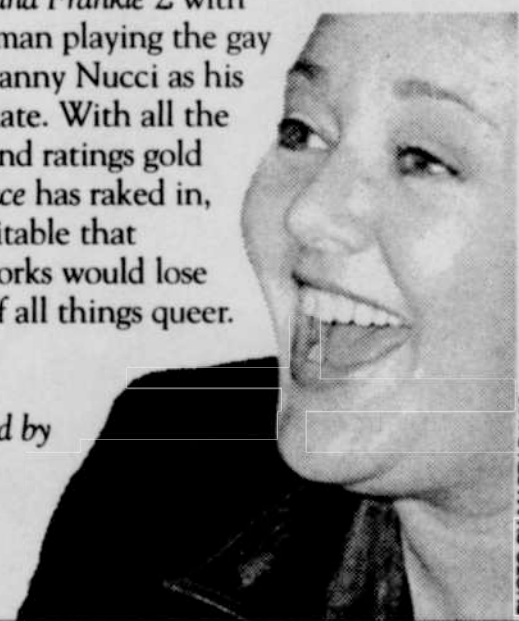


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