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Just Out

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Portland, Oregon FREE

Taking out the trash

John Waters dishes with *Just Out*

BY CHRISTOPHER MCQUAIN

For decades now, filmmaker, pundit and all-around trashmonger John Waters has been fighting the good fight in the name of bad taste. Beginning his career in the late 1960s with no-budget, scandalously bizarre and grotesque short films starring a most unusual, very large and very funny drag queen named Divine, he went on to become an artist of Warhol-like proportions, the underground filmmaker's underground filmmaker.

His 1973 debut feature, *Pink Flamingos*, is a midnight-screening rite of passage to rival *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. In 1988, he made a brief foray into less twisted but no less individualistic territory with his nostalgic PG film *Hairspray*, which hit it big in the mainstream yet still starred Divine and hatched the career of future fellow trash-culture maven Ricki Lake.

Waters has seen something of a renaissance in recent years, continuing to make his own unmistakable brand of independent film (most recently *Cecil B. Demented*). He also branched out as a guest voice on an indelible episode of *The Simpsons* and shocked his fans as only he can with an unlikely appearance in Woody Allen's highbrow *Sweet and Lowdown*. (In true Waters style, his date for the premiere was none other than Patty Hearst.)

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