



HOOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

Former Oregonians make it big in Tinseltown

by Jim Radosta

Considering Oregon's love-hate relationship with California, it would stand to reason that our homegrown aspiring celebrities are similarly torn.

Should they abandon the state they love in their quest for fame and fortune? And once they make it big, will these California dreamers ever be able to return?

What's in the water that makes Oregon home to so

many future stars? Or is it the gloomy rain that brings out the extreme moods required for life in front of (and behind) a camera lens?

Here, Just Out presents the stories of three gay men who have achieved varying degrees of success in show business. We're sure they soon will have a number of old acquaintances calling to ask for payback on those outstanding debts.

Brian Wayne Peterson

screenwriter, *But I'm a Cheerleader*



Perhaps Lon Mabon should ask for a cut of the grosses from *But I'm a Cheerleader*. The Oregon Citizens Alliance chairman unknowingly provided some of the inspiration for the comedy about a lesbian sent away to rehabilitation camp, which was written by Brian Wayne Peterson.

The western Montana native came to Salem in 1988 to attend Willamette University. He graduated with a degree in psychology, then went on to earn a master's in screenwriting from University of Southern California.

Even though Peterson penned one of last year's most prominent gay films, people might be surprised to learn he hardly is living a life of luxury in La-La Land. "I signed the agreement that they warn you never, ever to sign," he says of his *Cheerleader* contract.

Continued on Page 25

Peter Paige

actor, *Queer as Folk*



What a crazy few years it's been for Peter Paige.

In 1996, he was living on credit cards and making about \$150 a week on Portland stages. Today, he is America's poster queen: a prominent role on the most explicit gay show ever, *Queer as Folk*; a guest appearance on the most popular gay show ever, *Will & Grace*; and, oh yeah, the cover of *The Advocate*.

However, Paige is hardly an overnight sensation. In fact, he's been trekking across the country in search of his big break for practically his whole life.

During his transient childhood he lived in seven different states, but he always managed to take center stage. He landed his first role at age 6: playing the Scarecrow in his elementary school production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Continued on Page 26

J Graigory

production coordinator, *The Drew Carey Show*



J Graigory readily admits he's a study in contradictions: "I'm a gay Republican. I'm a Southern Baptist who went to a Catholic school. I was the student body vice president for the entire Jesuit school system."

No wonder the versatile 30-year-old, who grew up in tiny McMinnville, had no problem making the transition to Hollyweird. And you'll never guess who gave this guy the confidence to tell himself, "You're gonna make it after all"—Mr. Grant himself, Ed Asner.

About 10 years ago Graigory attended the American College Theatre Festival, where the television actor and producer was delivering the keynote address. After the speech, most of the students had questions for Asner about political issues.

Continued on Page 27

**FLAMBÉ
QUEER
NIGHT
@ LE HAPPY
MONDAYS 9PM TO 1AM
1101 NW 16TH • 21 & OVER • 503.226.1258**

For fast, fair and friendly service, contact
KELLI BEEBE
A good person to know for all your insurance needs

- AUTO (503) 699-0992
 - HOME TOLL FREE:
 - RENTERS (800) 699-0992
 - LIFE
 - COMMERCIAL
 - WORKER'S COMP
- The Beebe Insurance Agency has proudly served our community since 1989



A.S.H.I.
OAH
OCHI #060
CCB #118865

Inspectek West, Inc.

- Full Structural Inspections
- Reinspections
- Roof Inspections • Pest & Dry Rot
- Loans for Conventional, FHA, VA & HUD Financing
- 203K Re-Hab Loans

(503) 307-9180
www.inspecteckwest.com

BRIDGES
AUTO BROKERAGE

We Help Find Financing
Fast Credit Approval
Trade-Ins Welcome
Credit Problems OK

Lucia Gibson
503-720-2747 503-289-5199