

# DIVERSIONS



You can't slap Miss America!  
Kate Shindle (left) and Susannah Mars

## Here she is again...

Kate Shindle joins Danny Vaccaro, Pam Mahon, Liz Keever, Michele Mariana and cast members from *Gypsy* for the Oct. 15 benefit show *Broadway on Broadway: Cabaret for America*. The troupe will perform show tunes during the first part of the evening, then it's audience participation time for all-Broadway karaoke. So if you ever wanted to sing a duet with Miss America, head over to Embers Avenue, 110 N.W. Broadway, and she'll even pose for photos with you while you try on her crown! The event benefits three charities: Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS; Camp Starlight, for children with AIDS; and Stonewall Community Foundation, for victims of the Sept. 11 tragedy. The host will be Andy Mangels, with piano accompaniment by Rob Hathaway, Mr. Oregon State Leather 2001. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the show starts at 8. Tickets are \$5 at the door and limited to the first 300 fans.

## There she is...

One of the many pleasures in Portland Center Stage's new production of the classic Broadway musical *Gypsy* is Kate Shindle's thoughtful and touching performance as the young Gypsy Rose Lee. Just watch the way she uses her body to manifest her character's interior life and explore the transformation from awkward tomboy to glamorous sex symbol. She's got a nice ass, too. Portland audiences will recall Shindle's performance as Sally Bowles in the touring production of *Cabaret*, but gay people will especially remember her for her AIDS activism as Miss America 1998, a cause she is still passionately committed to. Moreover, in an effort to not disappoint her gay friends and fans, she single-handedly persuaded pageant officials to eliminate the rule that only children can try on her crown. Shindle believes Miss America 2001, Oregon's own Katie Harman, could also prove to be another "wacky" free spirit. We can only hope. Speaking of gay fans, the opening night of *Gypsy* was a pretty gay affair itself with the Portland Gay Men's Chorus providing the preshow entertainment and the Rose City Gay Freedom Band playing afterward. Many in the



Mona Cordell captures fleeting images

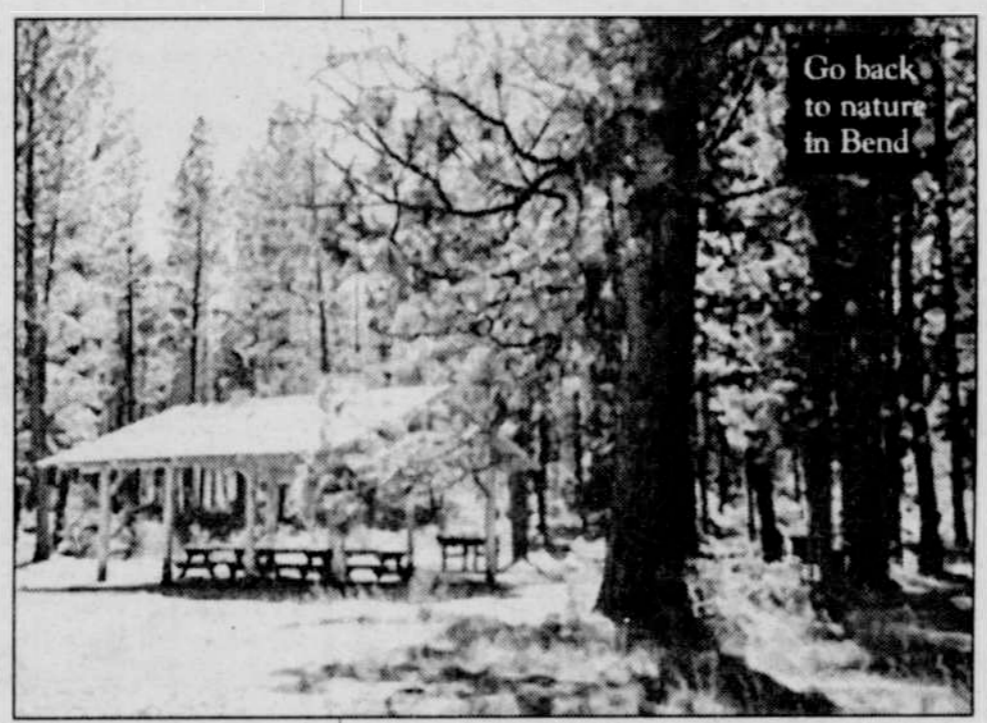
audience took Portland Center Stage's suggestion to wear "black tie and boas," although some people still insist on showing up in clothes more suitable for washing their cars. Yours truly was the only audience member, however, in black tie and a boa. Figures. Everything's coming up roses through Oct. 21 at Newmark Theater. Call 503-274-6588 for tickets.

—Marc Acito

## Art of the dance

Mona Cordell is an artist who works in charcoal and acrylics. Always drawn to movement, she likes to paint figures and used to hang out at Conduit dance studio. Then she got the bright idea to see if she could observe dancers at Oregon Ballet Theatre. Artistic director James Canfield invited her to watch rehearsals and sketch the dancers, an experience she found enthralling and inspiring. Cordell then proposed to him to document the entire rehearsal process for his new ballet, *Lady Lucille and the Count*, an edgy retelling of *Dracula* from Lucy's point of view. "James and I have similar patterns of creating," she explains, "trying ideas, then erasing them and trying something else...an awareness of negative and positive space." Cordell, who has the ability to capture the essence of things in a very few lines, begins by making hundreds of quick sketches in the rehearsal hall. In an unusual twist, as she draws she also makes an audiotape of everything going on during rehearsal, which she then replays as she paints to rekindle the spirit of the dance studio. The resulting drawings and paintings, which she describes as "all over the color spectrum," will be on display at Keller Auditorium during the

run of the show. Cordell hopes to continue this process all season and have another show documenting Canfield's *Signatures* piece. "I want to educate the public about how an artist gathers material for her work," she explains. Oregon Ballet Theatre presents *Serenade* and *Lady Lucille and the Count* from



Go back to nature in Bend

Respass and offer fun and games plus a gourmet menu from Headwaters Cafe. The festivities start 2 p.m. Oct. 21 at 18920 Shevlin Park Road. Just \$10 gets you in; kids younger than 12 are free. Then stick around for Western WYMPROV! The Big Round-Up, as the Eugene comedy troupe performs 7 p.m. in Aspen Hall at Shevlin Park. This Evening Cabaret for adults 21 and older includes appetizers plus a beer/wine cash bar. Tickets are \$10 from 541-385-3320.

## A decade of something worth watching

The PBS gay and lesbian newsmagazine *In the Life* celebrates its 10th anniversary with a profile of composer Billy Strayhorn, a look at art in the age of AIDS with author Edmund White, some social commentary from Marga Gomez and a report on the state of gay theater. Also look for a story on Lesbians for Liberty, a group of loyal fans who want the New York WNBA team to acknowledge its dyke fan base. Catch this fine show 11 p.m. Oct. 15 on OPB. [M]

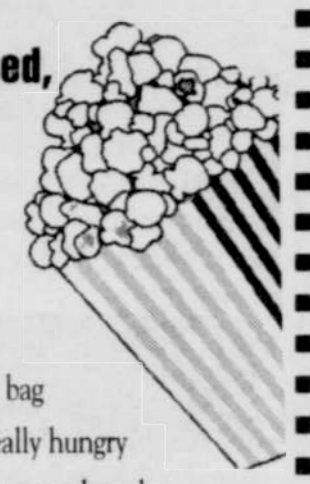


Edmund White

Compiled by ORIANA GREEN

# What's Poppin'?

What's popped and what's flopped, in a theater near you.



- ☹ dud, bottom of the bag
- ☹☹ only if you're really hungry
- ☹☹☹ good effort, pass the salt
- ☹☹☹☹ mmmm, tasty!
- ☹☹☹☹☹ get the big tub o' corn
- ☹☹☹☹☹☹ THE ADVENTURES OF FELIX

A young man takes being laid off as an opportunity to hitchhike his way across France in search of his absent biological father. As Felix comes across figures who are metaphorically his "little brother," his "grandmother" and his "cousin," it becomes an engaging, pastoral excursion into the relationships of the vast extended family that is humanity. —Christopher McQuain

☹☹☹☹ HAIKU TUNNEL  
A laugh riot about a temp who goes "perm." Considering it's set in San Francisco, the film has advanced gay sensibility: A male secretary hooks up with a security guard who reads *Soldier of Fortune*, and writer/director/actor Josh Kornbluth somehow links speaker phones with lawyers who are insecure about their heterosexuality. —Jim Radosta

☹☹☹ HEARTS IN ATLANTIS  
A turtle-paced, contemplative coming-of-age story set in a low-rent part of Connecticut in 1960. Bobby is a fatherless 11-year-old who latches onto Anthony Hopkins' moody character as a lifeline to pull him out of neglect. No gay content, but a bittersweet portrait of prepubescent male angst. Unanswered questions and an oddly detached tone diminish the power of the story. —Oriana Green

☹☹☹☹ TOGETHER  
Swedish writer/director Lukas Moodysson captures the ups and downs of communal living in the 1970s. The house is filled with Abba music and sexually provocative characters: Anna, who seduces recent divorcees by inviting them to meditate with her, and her ex-husband, Lasse, who is pursued by a charming guy named Klas. —JR