

DIVERSIONS



Members of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus hope and pray you'll lend them your ears!

Making spirits bright

How do we know the holidays have officially begun? Why, the Portland Gay Men's Chorus performs its holiday concert, of course! Don't miss this popular annual event Dec. 15 and 16 at Reed College's Kaul Auditorium. This year the boys are joined by orchestral musicians Diane Syrcle and the Rose City Gay Freedom Band for Holiday Voices, a Spanish-style celebration of various traditions. Tickets are \$12-\$20 from 503-226-2588, Ticket Central or www.pdxgmc.org.

Authors and wine and shopping, oh my!

Where can you hang out with Molly Gloss and Ursula Le Guin, sip vino from Hip Chicks Do Wine and nibble delectable tidbits? Only at In Other Words, 3734 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 9. The women's bookstore invites you to its Holiday Open House, where you get all of the above for the low, low price of free.

A cuddly, furry nature

Yes, this is true of the Oregon Bears, but it's also what they're looking for in your holiday teddy bear donation. This year's charity drive benefits the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation. Please drop off clean, undamaged teddies through Dec. 15 at Fox & Hounds, 217 N.W.

Second Ave; Gail's Dirty Duck, 439 N.W. Third Ave.; or Mission Stylists, 1439 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd.

Or perhaps you prefer whipping out a check, which is easy to do with donation envelopes conveniently located at the

drop-off points. Feel free to donate without leaving the warmth of your fire and bearskin rug by writing a check to Oregon Bears and mailing it to Bear Drive, 818 S.W. Third Ave., P.O. Box 1153, Portland, OR 97204. The bears roar THANKS!

Christmas trees for people with AIDS

Free Christmas trees are available to people who are HIV-positive or living with AIDS.

Robin Chavis is again organizing this annual effort with the generous help of Debbie and Dan Fischer of Fischers Greenhouse in Colton. Trees will be available Dec. 15 in Northeast Portland or can be delivered to those too ill to pick them up. Only 35 are available, so call 503-281-2841 to reserve yours. (The trimming is up to you!)



Crack your nuts with Oregon Ballet Theatre

Tired of sappy holiday stories? Escape the heartwarming and traditional with *The Nut Has Finally Cracked*, Oregon Ballet Theatre's surreal, comedic twist on *The Nutcracker*. Imagine the popular seasonal classic as if it were Peter's dream and Marie's nightmare—the

party scene goes awry, the Rat King rules, and superheroes abound. Oregon Ballet Theatre aficionados will recognize references to other James Canfield ballets, and well-known Portland celebrities Darcelle XV, Scott Thomason and Tom Peterson (and Gloria, too!) make cameo appearances. It plays for two nights only—Dec. 11 and 18—so hurry and get those tickets, which are \$5-\$80. Don't miss this queerly strange cult classic!

The divine Diana

The audience always asks for more from poet and performer Diana A.

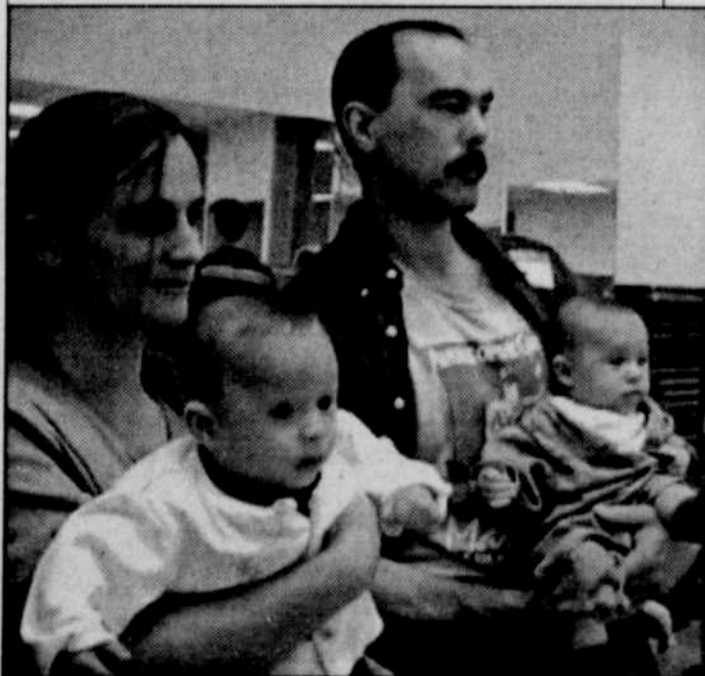
Cohen, who combines original songs and poetry with her eclectic spirituality to connect the crowd with *The Divine*. (No, not *Divine*, *The Divine*.)

This performance focuses on Cohen's expanding array of spiritual songs, with help from special guests and the audience. Expect elements of worship and prayer from Sufism, Paganism, Unitarian Universalism, Judaism and New Age teachings. Her shows are appropriate for all ages, and the sliding-scale admission is \$5-\$15. It all starts 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at So & So Laboratories (formerly DreamsWell Studio), 2857 S.E. Stark St.



Hats off to Chameleon

That lovely gay-owned Chameleon Restaurant and Bar celebrates five years in Northeast Portland with a Hat Party. The joint will be jumping with fire performers, drag artists, male and female belly dancers, a buffet and a no-host bar. Festivities begin 7 p.m. Dec. 16 at 2000 N.E. 40th Ave., and all donations benefit the Portland Rescue Mission. Come one, come all, but don't even think about coming without a hat—they're required. As an added incentive, you'll get a prize if yours is the best.



Parenting comes out on *In the Life*



HGTV digs his digs

A gay interior designer? Who knew?

The Pearl District loft of Paul Scardina, owner of Scardina Design Studio, is featured on the show *Interiors by Design*, seen on cable network HGTV. The episode airs various times throughout December. If you're impressed by what you see, visit the Internet site www.scardinadesignstudio.com for a look at what he can do for your own trendy quarters.

Invest in the arts and the fight against AIDS

Portland Center Stage presents a special matinee of *A Christmas Carol* 2 p.m. Dec. 8 at Newmark Theatre, 1111 S.W. Broadway. All ticket proceeds, including actor and theater rental fees, will be donated to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Last year's benefit raised \$13,000 for the organization. For tickets to the special matinee or any other showing through Dec. 24, call 503-274-6588 or visit www.pcs.org.

Happy Hanukkah from Havura Q

Eugene's Temple Beth Israel is forming Havura Q, a friendship group for gay, lesbian, bi or trans Jews and their loved ones. First stop: Hanukkah party! Meet, mingle, play games, talk and celebrate from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Dec. 13 at 2525 Portland St. Bring a potluck dish, your menorah candles for a group lighting ceremony and your choice of friends or family. If you want to volunteer to make latkes for the gathering write shasta@cs.uoregon.edu. Want to volunteer for cleanup? Write indigohippy@aol.com. The temple is wheelchair accessible, and all ages are welcome.

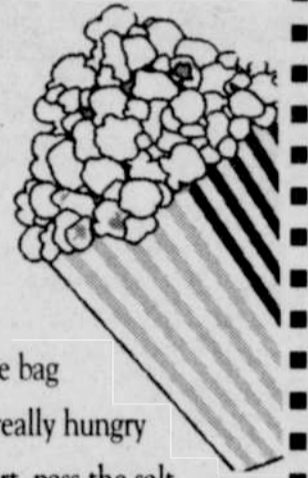
A gay friend and hero

This month's episode of *In the Life* will be the first national television broadcast to address Father Mychal Judge's relationship to the gay community. The New York Fire Department chaplain died Sept. 11 while giving last rites to victims in the World Trade Center. The episode airs at 11 p.m. Dec. 10 on OPB and also includes segments on gay and lesbian couples trying to build families, the challenges of being both gay and deaf, and the group Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere. Also making appearances on the show are Susan Sarandon and Kate Clinton. [M]

Compiled by LISA BRADSHAW

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

☹☹☹☹ AMÉLIE

Jean-Pierre Jeunet (*Delicatessen*) directed and co-wrote this magical tale of a young woman (Audrey Tautou) whose fanciful imagination leads her to commit random acts of kindness but who forgets to follow her heart along the way. During her adventures the adorable Amélie even turns the head of a butch female admirer. —Jim Radosta

☹☹ HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE

The film adaptation of the immensely popular J.K. Rowling novel might be full of classically trained actors and top-notch special effects, but it's also full of itself. At 152 minutes, it's poorly paced, overly complex and lacking in any sense of human emotion. Director Chris Columbus (*Home Alone*) clearly was the wrong choice here—where's Terry Gilliam (*Brazil*) when you need him? —JR

☹☹☹ LIFE AS A HOUSE

Emotionally repressed cynics: Stay home. Those with anything warmer than ice water in your veins: Take Kleenex. Although the story is familiar, it's full of intricate, messy relationships acted with grit and flair by a stellar cast. Kevin Kline underplays his role as the dying father of a sexually confused teen boy played with painful realism by Hayden Christensen. —Oriana Green

☹☹☹☹ OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Director Steven Soderbergh (*Traffic*) continues his winning streak and completes 2001's solid Thief Trilogy: *The Score*, *Heist* and this remake of the 1960 Rat Pack caper. For gay audiences, what could be more appealing than a film uniting George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Matt Damon? Also, Elliott Gould plays a fruity con man, and no Vegas flick would be complete without a cameo from the ambiguously gay duo Siegfried & Roy.

—JR