

Twiggy drops from the heavens at Crush



Perhaps you like to stay home on New Year's Eve. A cozy night in front of the fire with your devoted partner, maybe close friends. Roast some marshmallows, pop some corn, rent a few movies.

What, are you crazy?! It's the biggest party night of the year, and Portlanders live in a hip and happenin' city of bright lights, tumultuous crowds and endless possibilities. Hire a baby sitter, put the cat out, turn off the television, and rock around the clock, babies!

No doubt your favorite queer bar will overflow with fun and frolic Dec. 31. But if you're undecided and about to rent *Claire of the Moon*, check out these end-of-year opportunities.

If you think the Lesbian Community Project is all about political activism and education, well, you're generally right. But the group teamed up with musical dyke cohorts from the **Portland Lesbian Choir**, snagged DJ **Lauren** and promise "a magical night of dance and romance" for all ages. It's all happening at Shenanigan's on the Willamette, where you will be treated to dancing, food, party favors, a complimentary midnight toast, a no-host bar, a photo booth and prize drawings! What the heck else could you want? You say you hate smoky bars? It's a nonsmoking event. There. (8 pm. 4575 N Channel Ave. \$25 through Dec. 23, \$30 thereafter from group members, *It's My Pleasure*, *In Other Words*, *Music Millennium* or *A Gentle Spirit*. 503-294-7435 or 503-241-8994.)

Who is the goddess of love? Venus, that's who, and she throws a mean party. The ladies of **Venus Women's Dance Club** provocatively suggest you attend their classy, sassy New Year's Eve

CULTURE

Put your glad rags on and join me hon'

There's something for everyone this New Year's Eve

BY LISA BRADSHAW

Bash at the Madison Ballroom. You'll get wall-to-wall women, hors d'oeuvres, party favors and a chance at a door prize. You must be 21 or older to get into this nonsmoking shindig, and the goddess says she'll be going strong until 4 a.m. Dang, you could go to two parties. (8:30 pm. 1125 SE Madison St. \$14 at the door, \$10 in advance from *It's My Pleasure*, *In Other Words* or 503-993-9920.)

If it's live lesbian music you seek, look no further than **Lynn Frances Anderson's New Year's Eve Dance Party**. She belts out rock 'n' roll standards at Arnegards Ballroom, a nonsmoking venue. At this 21-and-over swank affair, you will find hors d'oeuvres, party favors, a raffle and a no-host bar. While receiving your live tarot reading and drinking your complimentary midnight toast, you can reflect on how a portion of your admission price is going to Basic Rights Oregon. If none of this is working, I'll let you in on a little secret: Anderson is hot. (9 pm. 1510 SE Ninth Ave. \$30 at the door, \$25 in advance from *It's My Pleasure*, *In Other Words*, *Touchstone Coffee House*, *Fastixx* or www.lynnfrancesanderson.com.)

The **Egyptian Club** offers another option for night owls. You'll have chowed down their buffet, won the prizes, embarrassed yourself at karaoke, tooted your horn and gulped your mid-



Becky Bilyeu (from left), Natalie Roberts and Amy McIntosh are all smiles at Lynn Frances Anderson's New Year's Eve Dance Party

night champagne by 2:30 a.m., right? Since they can no longer legally sell you alcohol (of which you've no doubt drunk too much, anyway), they'll clear the way for coffee and pastries and keep you boogying until 4 a.m. You can smoke there, but you can't be younger than 21. (7 pm. 3701 SE Division St. \$10. 503-236-8689.)

When gospel singer **Marsha Stevens** came out as a born-again lesbian 20 years ago, members of her church told her to take the "Jesus Is Lord" sign off her door. She received ripped-out hymnal pages of her songs enclosed with hate mail. Stevens responded by making it her life goal to evangelize the lesbian

and gay community through gospel music. Hear tunes such as "The Body of Christ Has AIDS" and "Love Is the Only Law" during her concert at **Metropolitan Community Church of Portland**. (7:30 pm. 2400 NE Broadway. Donations. 503-281-8868. www.mccportland.com.)

Also bringing you closer to God is the music of **Pink Martini**, the coolest international sounds around. Ring in the new year with Portland's favorite queer pianist, **Thomas Lauderdale**, along with special guests **Black Angel**, at the **Aladdin Theater**. The venue has a no-host bar, but all ages are welcome. (9 pm. 3017 SE Milwaukie Ave. \$30 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

"Glanz, Glamour and Comedy" await the guests of **Darcelle XV**, which will unveil *Moulin Rouge*-esque musical numbers choreographed by **Roxy Leroy** and **Monica Boulevard**. You can splurge for dinner or just make the show—either way, you get party favors, champagne, a complimentary breakfast buffet at midnight and, of course, the chance to spend your evening with Portland's most beloved queen. (6 pm dinner, 8 pm show. 208 NW Third Ave. \$60 with dinner, \$35 show only. 503-222-5338. DarcelleXV@aol.com.)

Crush gives Darcelle a run for her money this year with a **Drag Queen Ball Drop** at midnight. Think Times Square but with Twiggy descending. This delightful new wine bar will offer complimentary refreshments and Baby New Year spankings (read: cute, hunky guy in diaper). (7 pm. 1412 SE Morrison St. 503-235-8150.)

LISA BRADSHAW is the Culture Editor of Just Out. Send fan mail to lisa@justout.com.

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