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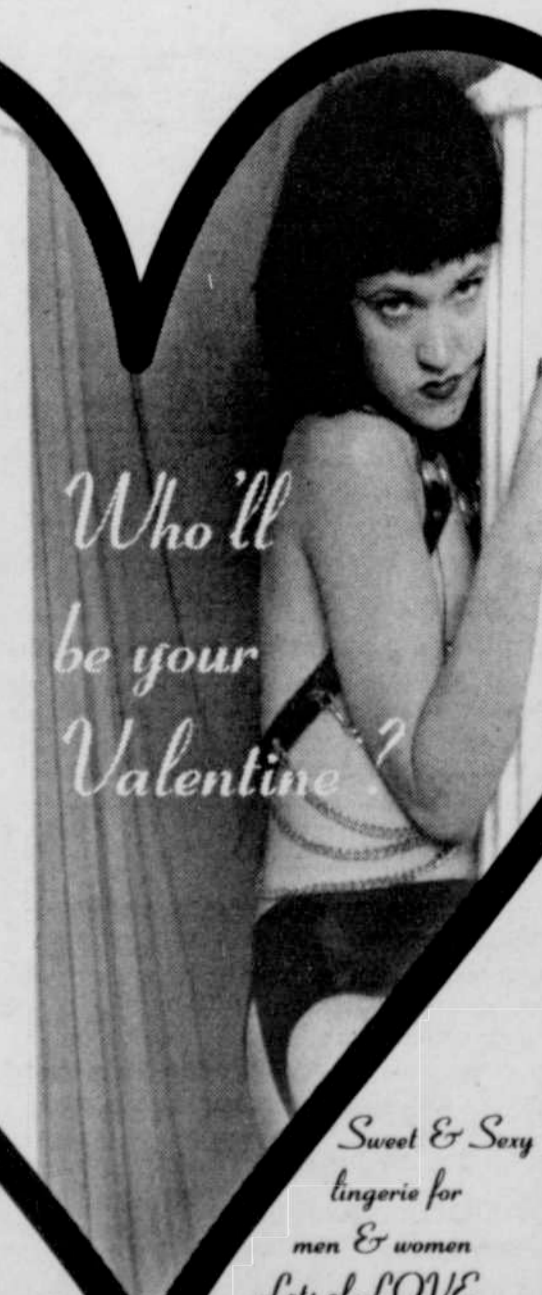
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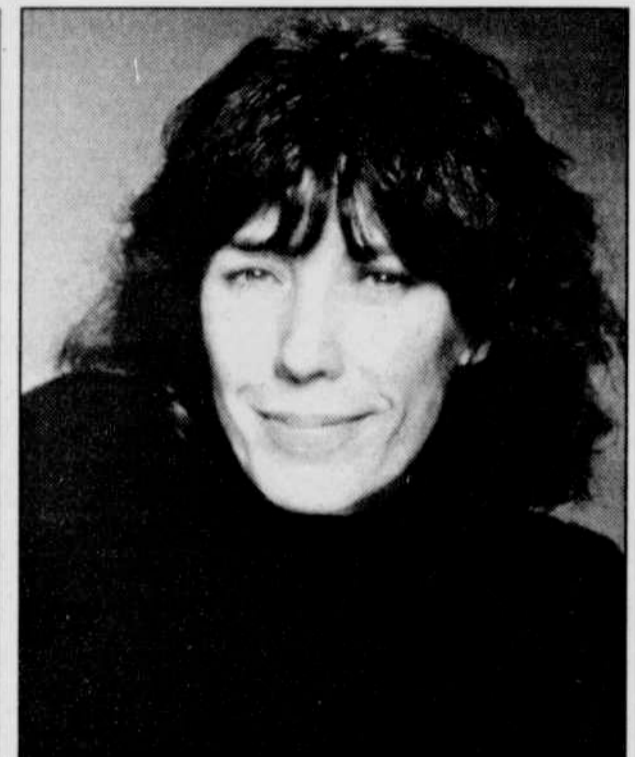
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NORTHWEST news

LAUGHING ALL THE WAY TO THE BANK

Comedian Lily Tomlin headlines Equity Foundation awards gala
by Jim Radosta

Renowned comedian Lily Tomlin will entertain during Equity Foundation's inaugural Investments in Dignity Awards Gala on Feb. 25 at the Nike World Headquarters Campus. The evening's events will include a no-host reception for all ticket holders at 6 p.m. followed by the ceremony and show from 7 to 9. The attire is festive.



Lily Tomlin will entertain during the Investments in Dignity Awards Gala

The event will take place in the Tiger Woods Conference Center, 1 Bowerman Drive in Beaverton. Use the Walker Road entrance.

The foundation will present its first John Grigsby-Jim Vegher Investments in Dignity Award to Fred Miller, Portland General Electric executive vice president, for his accomplishments in building awareness for human dignity in Oregon. Equity's largest donor, he is a straight ally who simply believes in justice for all, according to executive director Matthew Nelson.

"He is one of the most generous men in the community," he says. "It's because he believes that all people deserve dignity."

The award was named after a gay couple who co-founded Equity in 1989. Grigsby and Vegher, who moved last July to Providence, R.I., will return to Portland for the gala.

"The only reason we're here is because of them," Nelson says. "They quietly did a ton of work."

Equity also will award grants to 25 organizations during the gala. Nelson notes a number of new recipients: the people behind the *Ballot Measure 9* documentary, who are working on a piece about older queer activists; a "scrappy" domestic violence program in southern Oregon; and a "circuit riding" project to help nonprofits implement new technology strategies.



Fred Miller

Nelson says the foundation chose Tomlin because she has the right mix of "sass and humor," and her style of comedy appeals to

people of all ages and interests. This will be her first Portland appearance in 10 years.

Tomlin will wrap up a San Francisco engagement Feb. 3 of *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, written by her partner, Jane Wagner. The Emmy, Tony and Grammy winner most recently appeared in the films *Orange County*, *The Kid* and *Tea with Mussolini*, in which she portrayed a lesbian. **JM**

Tickets to the INVESTMENTS IN DIGNITY AWARDS are available by visiting www.ticketweb.com or calling 888-468-7623. Prices range from \$175, which includes a dessert reception with Lily Tomlin, to \$50 balcony seats. For more information e-mail lily@equityfoundation.org.

MAJOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

- African American Health Coalition (Portland): \$2,400 to raise HIV awareness.
- Brothers to Brother (Portland): \$5,000 to provide support and advocacy for black gay and bi men and their families, especially youth.
- Encore Theatre (Eugene): \$4,400 for seniors who use song, dance and storytelling to share their wisdom, dispel the myths of aging, personalize history and foster self-esteem among at-risk youth.
- Equality Project (Eugene): \$750 for *Transfigurations*, a play exploring trans experiences.
- For Us Northwest (Portland): \$2,400 to provide support, education and adventure to reduce isolation and create community in the lives of youth touched by HIV/AIDS.
- HIV Alliance (Eugene): \$4,400 to maintain a cutting-edge needle exchange and harm reduction program.
- Human Dignity Coalition (Bend): \$5,000 to organize minority communities through special educational events.
- Media Project (Portland): \$5,000 to produce *Old Roads*, a documentary presenting the personal histories of older gay and lesbian activists.
- Multicultural HIV/AIDS Alliance of Oregon (Portland): \$2,400 to provide diversity training to rural county health departments.
- NetCorps (Eugene): \$1,250 to conduct a thorough technology needs assessment for 24 sexual minority and HIV/AIDS organizations.
- New Beginnings Intervention Center (Christmas Valley): \$2,400 for domestic violence program.
- Oregon Tradeswomen Network (Portland): \$2,400 to inform young women about opportunities for family-wage careers in the skilled craft trades.
- Portland Taiko: \$2,400 to combat racism and intolerance.
- Soromundi: Lesbian Chorus of Eugene: \$750 to increase rural outreach activities.
- University of Oregon Cultural Forum: \$750 for 2002 Queer Film Festival.
- Vanguard Youth Services (Portland): \$5,000 to create safety and support for sexual minority and questioning youth.
- YWCA of Greater Portland: \$2,400 to provide individual counseling for sexual minority and questioning adults.