

Wild Abandon

Celebrates

its **7th**

Anniversary

With a benefit for Our House of Portland, a residential care facility for people with AIDS.

February 5—7 will be business as usual but Wild Abandon will donate 40% of all proceeds to Our House.

Reservations
Recommended

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MARC ACITO

Quite simply the world's
finest Queer columnist and
Portland's premier gay icon

Now appearing in each and every issue of Just Out

FILM

It's a gay, gay, gay, gay world

The Portland International Film Festival returns for its 25th year

A smattering of programs offered by the 25th Portland International Film Festival have queer themes. Here's a quick run-down so you don't have to search through their entire guide desperately seeking the word "gay." (We did it for you.)

MUCH ADO ABOUT SOMETHING
Australia

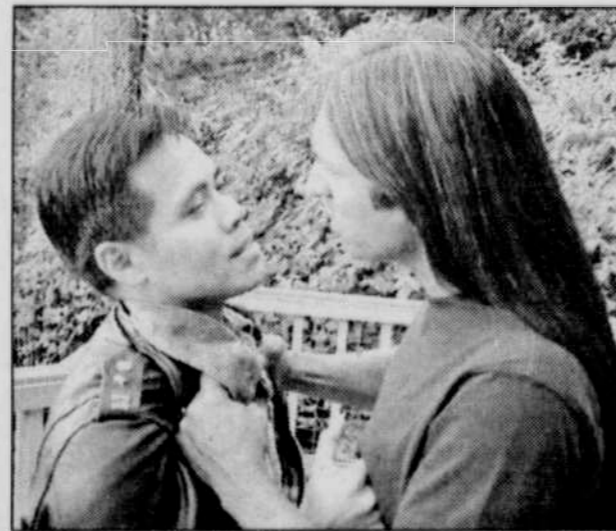
There has been much speculation about whether Shakespeare really wrote Shakespeare, and if he did not, who did? Filmmaker Michael Rubbo plays devil's advocate, posing the query to scholars less than thrilled with the suggestion. His prime candidate to have penned some of the Bard's work is the witty, iconoclastic (and rather flamboyant) poet Christopher Marlowe. The film mingles interviews, readings and performance clips in its playful investigation of this literary mystery, and Marlowe's eye for the boys is not overlooked. (2 pm Feb. 16, 9 pm Feb. 21 at Whitsell Auditorium.)

POSSIBLE LOVES
Brazil

Something happened to Carlos 15 years ago that changed the course of his life. Now, three possible outcomes are offered in this romantic fantasy from Sandra Werneck. In the first version, he is a bored husband desiring an affair but fearful of losing his comfortable security. In the second, Carlos is divorced and embarks on a passionate relationship with Pedro, a handsome soccer player. The third possibility puts him into a series of disastrous relationships. The question is: Which story is real? This winner of the Latin American Cinema prize at the Sundance Film Festival explores chance, destiny and desire. (9:45 pm Feb. 15, 8:45 pm Feb. 18 at Broadway Metroplex.)

THE BUSINESS OF FANCY DANCING
United States

Based on his book of the same name, Sherman Alexie makes his directorial debut with this study of a rich, famous, gay Native American in the Northwest. Seymour Polatkin left the Spokane "rez" after high school and found a bright future of academia and literary recognition in Seattle. At the news of the death of a childhood friend, he must return home to a world that no longer recognizes him, departing from his white partner, who contests, "They're not your tribe anymore; I'm your tribe." A study of the clashing of multiple identities and the place of the modern Native American in a postcolonial land. (6:45 pm Feb. 9 at Broadway Metroplex, 7:30 pm Feb. 10 at Whitsell Auditorium.)



Caught between two worlds in *The Business of Fancy Dancing*

**NAUGHTY LITTLE PEEPTOE/
GOD, SREENU AND ME**
New Zealand

These documentaries by two of New Zealand's leading gay filmmakers portray two atypical gay men. Both films are autobiographical in style and use images to illustrate or to counterpoint the musings of their idiosyncratic protagonists. In *Peeptoe*, a man talks about his obsession with women's shoes, in the process revealing a warmhearted individual who finds beauty in the most unlikely of professions. The celebration of male beauty as a form of gay religion is called into question in *God* as the filmmaker and his young Indian assistant traverse the subcontinent to interview people who have relocated in search of spiritual fulfillment. (6 pm Feb. 14, 9 pm Feb. 19 at Broadway Metroplex.)



Jessica Stein might have found a date worth having

KISSING JESSICA STEIN
United States

The winner of the Critic's Special Jury and Audience Awards at the Los Angeles Film Festival, this romantic comedy trails neurotic, single Jessica in her quest for the love of a good man (or even a decent date). Her quirky friend Joan, smug ex-boyfriend/boss and Jewish matchmaking mother don't help, but an intriguing personal ad might—except it's in the "Women Seeking Women" category. Has Jessica been looking for love in all the wrong places? Thus begins a journey toward self-discovery and the courage to engage the future. (8 pm Feb. 23 at Whitsell Auditorium.)

**RICK & STEVE: THE HAPPIEST GAY COUPLE
IN ALL THE WORLD (EPISODE 3)**
United States

This animated short depicts the further adventures of the beloved gay sweethearts. It's part of *Short Cuts II*, which also includes "Bean Cake," winner of the Palm d'Or at Cannes, about a 1933 Tokyo schoolboy who learns some things are more important than his favorite snack. "Cheek to Cheek" is a celebratory story of a woman who, with the help of her best friend, discovers laughter, tap dancing and the joys of living. "Modern Daydreams" is a suite of three Chaplinesque pieces exploring the theme of movement engendered by day-to-day life. (1:15 pm Feb. 17, 8:30 pm Feb. 18 at Guild Theatre.)

The PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL runs Feb. 8 to 23. For a complete listing of all programs, prices and locations call 503-221-1156 or visit www.nuifilm.org.

Compiled by LISA BRADSHAW