

## DIVERSIONS



Portland Taiko gets intimate April 24 to 28

### Taiko unplugged

This time it's personal. *Portland Taiko Unplugged* has this innovative little band of drummers moving its spring concert to a cozy, intimate space above the Bridgeport Brewhouse in Northwest Portland from April 24 to 28. (See Page 28 for details.)

If you haven't been to a Taiko performance you shouldn't even be walking around the streets of Portland. It's a multi-ethnic Asian American drumming group that has the experience and talent to pull off mesmerizing shows that are equal parts beauty and power. Every performance is always better than you think it's going to be.

If you've only seen capsule pieces at Pride or some such other event, you owe it to yourself to go to a full show. Some of the drummers are queer and, frankly, all of them look hot pounding the hell out of some big-ass drums and hollering around about it.

*Unplugged* is a completely different set of rules for the ensemble and draws on "live" (pronounced "lie-boo") taiko performances members witnessed on a recent trip to Japan. "Live house" productions take place in very small venues, bringing the drummers closer to the audience and vice versa. You can sip wine and chat with the performers after the show.

The concert also features renowned composer and Persian lute player Dariush Dolat-shahi and guest choreographer Minh Tran, whose work will be set to original music by Portland Taiko.

### Ch-ch-changes for Bob Mould

At one time **Bob Mould** going electronic seemed about as likely as the legendary singer-songwriter-guitarist releasing four CDs in one year. However, 2002 will see all of that come to fruition for the former *Hüsker Dü* and *Sugar* frontman, as well as a performance April 29 at *Aladdin Theater*. (See Page 29 for details.)

The new tour, dubbed *Carnival of Light and Sound*, promises much for fans old and new. Mould will sing and play electric guitar, relying heavily on tracks from *Modulate*, his first release in four years, but also revisiting older gems from his extensive back catalog, aided by prerecorded electronic music and two screens projecting short films.



David Sedaris: SOLD OUT

*Modulate* finds Mould in heavy experimental mode, utilizing a multitude of electronic effects (in addition to his trademark wall-of-feedback guitar) to convey his heart-on-sleeve lyrics, which are a bit more revealing than usual. "I'm not the kind of guy who likes to kiss and tell, but everyone wants to know the story," Mould sings on "180 Rain," indicating more comfort in his queerness since his reluctant 1994 outing in *Spin* magazine.

*Long Playing Grooves*, to be released in May under the alias of LoudBomb, delves more deeply into the electronica explored on *Modulate*. Due in September, *Body of Song* is a return to the acoustic introspection that characterized his revered solo debut *Workbook*. *LiveDog98*, an audio snapshot captured in London at the tail end of the Last Dog and Pony Show tour, is available at shows or online at [www.bobmould.com](http://www.bobmould.com).

—Jim Thompson

### Sedaris at Schnitz

Want to see **David Sedaris** April 25 at the Schnitzer? Well forget it, it's been sold out for weeks.

The good news is that the very queer Sedaris' very cynical brand of lit cuts across those sub-cultural barriers into the hearts of mainstream prose lovers. Although his is a special event of Portland Arts & Lectures outside its regular season, many of the tickets are still in the hands of season ticketholders. (If you've ever been to one of these lecture things, you'll quickly realize you're not going to run into these people at Boxxes.)

*Literary Arts*, the fine folks who bring you Portland Arts & Lectures (which this year included Edward Albee and Edmund White), are using proceeds from the Sedaris evening specifically to benefit two of the nonprofit's programs. Accord-

ing to marketing director Meg Daly, *Writers in the Schools* employs local authors to teach writing skills to high school students in Portland Public Schools and *Oregon Literary Fellowships* provide fiscal support to writers and independent publishers throughout the state. "By donating to Literary Arts," she says, "you are directly serving the readers and writers of Oregon."

Megan McMoran, who gets all those intellectuals to come to our beloved city, was no fool in booking Sedaris as the act for the benefit. "He is smart and brazen," she asserts. "He sticks to domestic subjects—pets, mothers and fathers...religion, former teachers...childhood

memories—and like all the best humorists, he is unerringly accurate because he has a deep understanding of pain and agony."

To donate or inquire about tickets for next season, call 503-227-2583 or visit [www.literary-arts.org](http://www.literary-arts.org).

### Going Straight

Gay Seattleite **David Schmader** brings his one-man show *Straight* back to Portland from April 25 to 27 and from May 2 to 4. (See Page 28 for details.)

Schmader, who is also associate editor of the Seattle newsweekly *The Stranger*, went undercover to learn about "conversion therapy" from the inside out. This personal experience resonates in the show, which has him in session with a German psychotherapist, attending "ex-gay" support groups and learning all he ever wanted to know about Texas Christian heterosexuals.

At the same time, Schmader sends up the queer community, suggesting its limitations and tactics are ironically similar to conversionists. Throughout he probes difficult questions and rejects easy answers in his ongoing thirst for knowledge of what it means to be "straight."

Don't be shy about hooting and hollering at this Portland run at CoHo Theatre. It's being taped for a video release this summer. (In your face, Seattle!)



Learn music and have fun at the Northwest Women's Music Celebration

### Music and Motherlode

Drumming, singing, marimba, line dancing and an endless array of musical instruments and composition—all this will be going on the weekend of April 26 to 28 at the Northwest Women's Music Celebration.

This annual event at YMCA Camp Collins, about 40 minutes east of Portland on the Sandy River, has been organized and led by the lesbian group Motherlode for about 20 years now.

The combination of workshops and performances offers women the chance to learn better playing and to perform in front of others. Beginning classes are offered to those who haven't had much experience, and second- and third-level classes are open to those who know their way around their instruments.

"The emphasis of this weekend," says Linda Vogt, one of the event coordinators, "is on participants having a positive, nonthreatening musical experience...a place to try new instruments or try singing or doing something you never thought you could. There's a lot of play and a lot of laughter!"

Cost is \$155 a person, which includes all workshops, meals and lodging. Participants need to bring their own instruments. Registration forms are available at It's My Pleasure, In Other Words, Artichoke Music and at [www.motherlodemusic.com](http://www.motherlodemusic.com).



Lesbian musician Margie Adam co-facilitates *At the Edge: Improvising Your Spiritual Path* April 28

### Walking and Talking

Lesbian musician **Margie Adam** joins Grace Cathedral's canon for special ministries

**Lauren Artress** to lead *At the Edge: Improvising Your Spiritual Path* April 28 at Wilsonville's Living Enrichment Center. (See details on Page 29.)

The evening event includes a conversation with the women about the dynamic of "being called" to creative work in the world, with musical interludes. The pair will discuss intersections of creativity and spirituality and the relationship between contemplation and action. Following the dialogue will be a facilitated labyrinth walk, which encourages the use of reflection and imagination to find inner direction.

"Learning to work together and celebrate our differences is hard work," says Artress, who authored the book *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool*. "It needs introspection and discernment; it demands action on the individual and collective level. This is the mission of the labyrinth as it re-enters our world."

The facilitators note that although the event is of special interest to women, everyone is welcome.

### A Neati idea

That inventive little wine bar **Crush** has yet another delightful happening in the form of *Cabernet Cabaret*. (See Page 28 for details.) Wine-swilling goddess **Rhea Neati** will lead

you through a tasting like no other in this musical comedy show that runs four consecutive Tuesday nights starting April 23. You'll get six cabs to sniff, slosh and gulp while she takes you through a short history of wine and demonstrates all you need to know to be a true wine-tasting snob.

Seating is limited. Call the boys/girls at 503-235-8150 for reservations. [M]



Rhea Neati leads you through a wine tasting like no other at *Crush's Cabernet Cabaret*

Compiled by LISA BRADSHAW