

East meets West

Photographer Tseng Kwong Chi was born in Hong Kong in 1950 but left as a teenager to study in Canada and Paris. In 1979, the young, talented, queer boy wound up in New York, where he quickly became ensconced in the art and performance scene.

Worldly Tseng adapted to the city that never sleeps but found himself still rather alienated as a gay Asian. Thus sprouted the East-meets-West *Expeditionary Series*, part of which is on display through June 1 at S K Josefsberg Studio, 403 N.W. 11th Ave.

Tseng began photographing himself against the backdrop of world landmarks such as the Great Buddha in Kamakura, Japan, the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris and New York's Empire State Building. He wears a Chinese Mao-period official uniform in every one.

Visually distinctive, the photos either reflect Tseng as a very small everyman or as a symbol of the tourist's insistence on fitting in with the renowned subject. The photos successfully convey his own sense of the outsider yet also the longing of all travelers to blend in with their current environment.

And you can't help but come away from his Statue of Liberty or Disneyland shots with a perception of chiding the cultural monuments we find so important. The complete series consists of 150 photographs taken around the world over 10 years.

Having been given new meaning, Tseng's photo of himself in front of the World Trade Center buildings will be part of the Cascade AIDS Project Art for Life auction May 11. (See Page 31 for details.)

Tseng's sense of humor is evident, too, in his most famous series, as it was in his real-life shenanigans. In the '80s, the artist donned his Mao duds, signature dark glasses and a self-made identification tag to slip into various high-society parties, private receptions and celebrity fundraisers. The mysterious "ambassador" posed with many a big name the likes of Andy Warhol, Nancy Kissinger and Yves Saint Laurent.

The photographer also shot the residents and artists of his stomping grounds in Manhattan's East Village and used 50,000 frames of film on his close friend Keith Haring's graffiti and murals, mostly in the New York City subway.

Tseng died of AIDS 12 years ago. His sister, New York choreographer Muna Tseng, created a multimedia dance production titled *Slut for Art* in his memory. Esther Kaplan wrote in *POZ* magazine shortly after the 1999 opening, "Muna's tribute is never just about a single life that ended at 4 a.m. on March 10, 1990, but, as she says, about 'the death of a community, an era,' a gay subculture that AIDS nearly wiped out."

Flower power

The Daisychain Music Festival returns to Mt. Tabor Theatre & Pub for a second year Thursday, May 8 to Sunday, May 12. The event is the primary fund-raiser for the Old Town Clinic's Women's Safe Passage and Respite Fund, which assists women as they break the chains of violence.

Last year Daisychain raised \$6,500 and received national attention as a new model for music

See Captain Rock and other hot Portland chick bands at the Daisychain Music Festival

Part of Tseng Kwong Chi's *Expeditionary Series* is on display through June 1 at S K Josefsberg Studio



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festivals in linking art with social issues. "The camaraderie enjoyed by the performers, volunteers and attendees was one of the fund-raiser's most empowering byproducts," says event coordinator (or head gardener) Lisa Lepine. "Thousands came together to support women affected by poverty and violence. It was a linkage—one person to another—that made Daisychain bloom so brilliantly."

A total of 55 female-fronted Portland-based bands take to two stages for the 21-and-over event, and queer performers are not in short supply.

Susie Blue's Los Angeles-honed indie pop/rock will soothe your soul 11:15 p.m. Thursday in the Acoustic Room.

Saturday night at 8:30 in the Acoustic Room is the "Songwriter Circle," which showcases the talents of five local alternative chicks—all of them "members of the community" in some shape or form. You get Leila Chieko's progressive pop/rock, Angie Golleher's alt country, Patricia Ju's countrified pop, Maria Webster's folky blues and Juliet Wyers' "holy science acousto-pop." (This could get confusing, but probably they'll take turns.)

Headlining the Main Room at 1 a.m. Saturday night is Captain Rock, who are queer in more ways than one. Led by the outrageous antics of Beth Kelly (who, frankly, could beat up your dad), this hard-hitting group gives butt rock a good name.

Closing out the Acoustic Room on Sunday night is Vivian's Keeper, who recently welcomed Chieko into the fold. The band's urban folk starts at 9:30.

An all-event pass costs a startlingly low \$30. (Consider the average cost of just one band or how much you'll fork over to see Ellen.) Wednesday and Thursday only is sliding scale \$8-\$12; Friday, Saturday and Sunday only is \$10-\$15. Tickets can be had from Mt. Tabor Theatre & Pub, Music Millennium or Fastixx.

Rich sounds, sweet tastes

The annual classical music and decadent dessert revue *A Class Act* returns to the Old Church 8 p.m. May 17. (See Page 31 for details.)



Singer Susannah Mars graces the Old Church on May 17 for *A Class Act*

The popular event—always a sellout—includes live music followed by a dessert reception featuring rich delights from some of Portland's finest sweeteries. We can report from experience there is nothing, *nothing* like waltzing about a room picking up any delectable tidbit you please and moving on to the next brownie, éclair or piece of chocolate fudge cake.

All proceeds go to the Bill & Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship Fund, which benefits third- and fourth-

year law students dedicated to donating part of their legal expertise to fighting bigotry and discrimination against sexual minorities.

This year musical theater performer Susannah Mars, fresh from her run in Artists Repertory Theatre's *Dinner with Friends*, will join musician Bill Wells for the evening's entertainment.

History via Hand2mouth

a) Turner, Nat: 1800-1831; brilliant visionary who, acting on divine instructions, led a revolt to free his people from slavery and was martyred.

b) Turner, Nat: 1800-1831; religious fanatic who organized the brutal massacre of 63 men, women and children and was hanged for treason.

According to Hand2mouth



Theatre, 171 years later, the story of Nat Turner remains controversial. The Portland company stages *Jerusalem: Nat Turner's Uprising* through May 26 at the Alberta Station Ballroom. (See Page 32 for details.)

Turner was born into slavery 200 years ago in Virginia. According to his community, he was marked by holy signs, plagued by visions and regarded as a psychic and healer. His preaching and leadership skills were known even to whites, making him a threat to the social structure.

In 1831 Turner organized an uprising and, with his followers, began a slow advance from their farmhouse to the nearby town of Jerusalem, Va. Their plan: to kill every member of every slaveholding family on the way.

Turner was caught and during his trial was asked, "Do you not find yourself mistaken now?" He answered, "Was not Christ crucified?"

Hand2mouth will explore the abolitionist's role in U.S. history and whether his story is one of courageous struggle or of terror and violence (or both). The multiethnic cast has drawn inspiration from African music and dance, Eastern European physical theater, puppetry, masks and multiple accounts of oppression and revolution. In the vein of *Imago* and *Do Jump!* Theatres, they plan to dazzle the audience with stilt-walking, pyrotechnics and aerial choreography.

The company is providing a limited number of free and discounted tickets to nonprofit and youth groups. Call 503-235-5284 or e-mail hand2mouththeatre@yahoo.com for more information.

Helping hands for Pride

There are 400 volunteer slots to fill for Portland Pride 2002—this year's theme is "On a Queer Day..."—which takes over Waterfront Park on June 15 and 16. Volunteers are needed for stage, parade, festival grounds and security in three-hour to all-day time slots. You can also help in the weeks before Pride by helping schedule volunteers.

A big festival takes a lot of helping hands. To offer yours, call 503-295-9788 or e-mail redcowboyboots@excite.com.

Pride also announces a national call for artists for the *Codex of Queer Art* exhibit on the festival grounds during Pride weekend followed by a show at *Our Dream Gallery/ Alberta Arts Pavilion*.

Submissions are open to all lesbian, gay, bi or trans artists older than 18 residing in the United States. Mediums include all two- and three-dimensional projects, including photography, sculpture, mixed media, fine crafts and prints. No film, video, wearable art or mechanical reproductions are allowed.

The postmark deadline for submissions is May 11. Send four slides in plastic or cardboard

mount only or a CD-ROM or zip disk with four images (jpegs or tiffs) formatted for a PC to Reggie Petry, Alberta Arts Pavilion, 2315 N.E. Alberta St., Portland, OR 97211. Include a \$20 check or money order made out to Alberta Arts Pavilion as a submission fee.

For more information visit www.pridenw.org, e-mail albertaarts@yahoo.com or call 503-288-3024 or 503-282-7700. [M]

Compiled by LISA BRADSHAW



Deaths pays a surprise visit to a field hand in *Jerusalem: Nat Turner's Uprising*