

PORTLAND GAY MEN'S CHORUS



Voices of Pride

Wednesday, June 12, 2002 @ 7:30 p.m.

Kaul Auditorium, Reed College

3rd Annual

Rainbow Ball

Friday, June 14, 2002

9 p.m.—2 a.m.

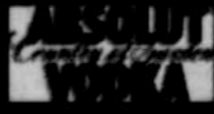
Crystal Ballroom

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THEATER

Talkin' bout a revolution

Intercourse will (further) shake up your assumptions about sex and gender

BY HADLEY SCOTT

Mark your calendars! Portland activist Emi Koyama is putting together *Intercourse: A Sex and Gender Spoken Word Recipe for Revolution* May 25 at Hollywood Theatre.

If everything we read is true, we'll be treated to a "dynamic evening of performance, connection and celebration of intersex, genderqueer, sex worker and trans communities...designed to raise awareness about our lives and realities and to build communities for ourselves and our allies through spoken-word performances."

Twelve artists will perform, including Olympia's Nomy Lamm, a self-proclaimed "badass, fatass, Jew, dyke, amputee, performance artist, writer and activist." Her work has been published widely in magazines and anthologies, including *Ms.*, *Seventeen*, *Listen Up: Voices from the Next Feminist Generation* and *Body Outlaws: Young Women Write About Body Image and Identity*.

Lamm co-wrote *The Transfused*, a full-length, post-apocalyptic rock opera, with Portland band the Need, and she recently toured with the production *Doctor Frockrocket's Vivifying (Re-Animatronic) Menagerie and Medicine Show*. She was named one of *Ms.* magazine's 1997 "Women of the Year," and in 2000 she was one of *Out* magazine's "Out 100."

Qwo-Li Driskill is also on the *Intercourse* lineup; s/he is the founder and director of Knitborŕe Productions, an ensemble of First Nations People of the Americas and Hawai'i, who use writing, theater and story as tools for healing, continuance and decolonization. A director, writer and actor as well as a poet and activist, Driskill's work has appeared in numerous Native, queer, people of color and scholarly publications.

On the home front, Portland performers Leslie and Stacey Bull turn up their raw, personal, political prose. Other locals appearing include Lamya "Amir" el-Chidiac, Diana Courvant and Koyama.

San Francisco poetry slam champion and intersex activist Thea Hillman, who, along with Solidad di Costa, coordinated the first *Intercourse* last year as part of the National Queer Arts Festival in San Francisco, is on the slate as well. She and di Costa attended the Creating Change conference in 2000 with the Intersex Society of North America.

"We both committed to helping raise awareness about intersex issues," Hillman states. "As performers, we thought the best way...was to produce a show with intersex artists in it. The more we organized, the more we realized that we wanted to really shake things up with a big event and that we wanted lots of perspectives from sex and gender rebels."

Hillman explains that in order to "harness the excitement and information of the evening," they made a whole event out of the performances, including booths of community organizations, so the audience



"Badass Jew dyke" Nomy Lamm talks back at *Intercourse*

would have something tangible to take home.

Koyama helped out at the San Francisco function and is, without sponsorship, organizing this one with any proceeds split between the Intersex Society of North America and the Survivor Project, a Portland nonprofit dedicated to addressing issues faced by intersex and trans survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Koyama, who was ISNA's activist-in-residence last summer, describes herself as (in addition to other things) "a multi-issue, social justice, slut, synthesizing, feminist, Asian, survivor, dyke, queer, sex worker, intersex, genderqueer crip."

That's a mouthful, but it illustrates Koyama's (and *Intercourse's*) emphasis on crossing categorical boundaries. "The performers I asked are the people I respect the most both as activists and as artists...who are actively involved in...many other issues such as environmental justice, gentrification, fat oppression, Native sovereignty, sexual and domestic violence and so on. As a result, I feel we have a pretty good mix of people who come from very diverse backgrounds and experiences."

Koyama expects the event to sell out and hopes the audience walks away "excited about our communities. I want *Intercourse* to be an opportunity to make connections...between different movements...and to celebrate the

strength we have in alliances. I want them to realize that expressive art is not just a leisure for the few but a survival and coping skill for all of us who live complicated lives."

If that's not enough to get you through the door, one lucky person will walk away with an autographed tie of Leslie Feinberg as a raffle prize. And consider Koyama's audience estimation: "500 of the cutest and coolest queers, transies, sex workers, herms, genderqueers and friends from all over the Northwest!"

INTERCOURSE: A SEX AND GENDER SPOKEN WORD RECIPE FOR REVOLUTION starts 7 p.m. May 25 at Hollywood Theatre, 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd. Tickets are \$10-\$50 sliding scale at the door or \$8 in advance from *In Other Words*, Hollywood Theatre, Miss Mona's Rack or

www.eminism.org/intercourse. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

HADLEY SCOTT is a Portland free-lance writer.



Intercourse organizer and performer Emi Koyama

PHOTO BY CHELSE CLIMMING

PHOTO BY ELLIOT GRANVY-SALICRE