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**DIVERSIONS**

**Everybody dance**

Joint Forces Dance Company presents the Portland Community Dance Festival on May 18 and 19.

The mission is to bring members of the community together to celebrate diversity through artistic movement exploration. Joint Forces is a pioneer in the field of dance and disability, leading workshops and festivals all over the world.

Everyone is welcome at festival workshops—young and old, people of all abilities and disabilities, experienced artists and curious beginners. Cost is \$8-\$20 sliding scale, and scholarships are available.

Conduit Studio plays host to classes Saturday, starting off at 10 a.m. with "Contact Improvisation" taught by Karen Nelson, which explores essential images of contact, including the small dance, accessing center, vibrant relaxation and falling in all directions. "Contact has been developed by the people who practice it," Nelson says, "so my teachers include every partner for 25 years from all over the world, from all walks and some wheelchairs of life."

At 4 p.m. Heidi Carlsen teaches "Performance Presence," which develops "clarity in vocal and physical actions through small-group improvisation and tightly structured exercises," she explains. "Ironically, through precision we will find freedom."

Alito Alessi, founder of Joint Forces, leads "DanceAbility," a movement workshop for people of all abilities and all ages, 2 p.m. Saturday at Wilson High School.

Sunday's schedule at Conduit includes a noon "Contemporary Technique" class for intermediate/advanced dancers and a 1:45 p.m. West African Dance workshop. A "DanceAbility" class for kids of all abilities between the ages of 5 and 11 takes place at noon at Pacific Artists Dance Center, and a Sunday night Celebration Party closes out the festival at Multnomah Arts Center. The party features the world funk of Lazoo and performances by Joint Forces and friends.

The dance festival moves to Eugene on June 1 and 2. For further information or tickets, call 541-342-3273 or visit [www.conduit-pdx.org](http://www.conduit-pdx.org).

**Dance for basic rights**

Dingo's Restaurant & Bar has teamed up with Basic Rights Oregon to present the first-ever Q-Ball 7 p.m. June 8 at the historic Arnegards Ballroom, 1510 S.E. Ninth Ave.

The "casual-formal" event includes a dance and silent auction. DJ Gregarious of Lola's Room fame will spin all night long, and all of the auction proceeds benefit BRO.

Lesbian-owned Dingo's spearheaded the event, which it hopes to make annual with proceeds going to a different nonprofit every year. Spokesperson Michelle Hadden of Siren Media says the restaurant hopes to "inspire community spirit" and to "build a solid foundation this year to enable us to continue doing this for years to come."

Dingo's chose BRO for the first year's part-



The Portland Community Dance Festival is for every body

ner, she notes, because it's an election year. "We believe in what they are doing and pray that this event will raise a good amount of money to help them in their fight for the institution of 'anti-hate' legislation—something [that] is good for everyone."

Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased at Dingo's, 4612 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., or at [www.dingosonline.com](http://www.dingosonline.com).

**Lesbian rugby players? Really?**

Chez What? will play host to a women's rugby reunion May 26. The Portland Zephyrs played competitively against other Northwest teams for a few years starting in 1979.

"It was a very special time in all of our lives," says Chez What? owner Keri Salim. "We were the very first women's rugby team in Portland."

In an absolute shocking revelation, she reveals that fully half of the players were "butch, little baby dykes." Then she hesitates and corrects herself. "Well, maybe I was the only baby dyke."

Many of the players still live in Oregon, but Salim hopes the out-of-staters will attend, too. The gals will start arriving at 5 p.m. and will go until the bar closes down at 2 a.m. if need be, although, she notes, "We're all a little older now."

**Dyke Night update**

Sometimes these things can go either way. Fortunately for gay girls in Portland, Dyke Night is sizzling rather than fizzling.

"There's been a couple of nights," the anonymous listserv moderator exclaims, "where it really did just seem like you were in a lesbian bar." Particularly successful was the evening spent at the Horse Brass Pub, where one man was overheard asking if the place was in fact a dyke bar.

However, some improvements can be made. "The nights would be more exciting if people

