

DIVERSIONS



Some of Stromboli's Island of Donkeys and Dolls (clockwise from left): Michelle Tea, Bucky Sinister, Tara Jepsen, MC STD, Strict Chem and MC Katastrophe

The (weird, queer) circus is in town

Even more offbeat than Cirque du Soleil is San Francisco-based Stromboli's *Island of Donkeys and Dolls*, which marches its way into the Meow Meow, 527 S.E. Pine St., at 9 p.m. Sept. 6.

The performance cabaret tour is inspired by the diabolical sideshow creep of *Pinocchio* lore and is a celebration of freaks, misfits, underdogs, outsiders and infiltrators.

"Oh my god, we are going to put on a show for the people," says the infamous *On Our Backs* writer and Sister Spit co-creator Michelle Tea. "We are going to take them through the full range of their emotions; we're going to crack them up, make them think, inspire, challenge and just plain entertain them."

Well, that sounds compelling. Certainly Morty Diamond of Circus Ridikulous thought so when he put the whole thing together. The "tranny clown" is responsible for creating several San Francisco nightclubs catering to misfits, including trans dance party Pink Pony.

Also on the bill is the queer hip-hop ensemble *The End of the World*, made up of MC Katastrophe, MC STD (Something Totally Deep) and Strict Chem. Katastrophe has toured the United States multiple times with Sister Spit and was featured in the PBS documentary *Poetic License*, while STD rocks in death metal bands in his spare time. We have absolutely no information on Strict Chem except that she/he is really cute judging by the photo.

Add to this a handful of talented spoken word artists, and you've got yourself quite an evening for only \$5.

Film festival sneak preview

The fine folks of Sensory Perceptions, who will once again bring the annual Gay, Lesbian, Bi and Trans Film Festival to Portland from Sept. 19 to 29, are throwing a benefit bash 7 p.m. Aug. 29 at Unleash Yourself, 1211 N.E. Alberta St.

The fund-raiser is aimed primarily at women because, year after year, male-oriented films are better attended than female. Of course, the hope is that all the queers will attend all the movies, but they definitely see a need to reach out to the ladies.

"The women's films are not as well attended as the men's films," attests artistic director Gabriel Mendoza. He feels this is because of different reactions to seeing movies and to movie advertising. "With men, you put a picture of a cute guy on it, and that's enough...but in general a lot of the lesbian crowd...they want to know what the film is about...the film needs to be promoted to them so they know what's going on."

(One might also argue that women go to boy films in much larger numbers than men go to girl films, but let's not split hairs.)

Sensory Perceptions, in any case, has put together a little program to promote the women-themed festival offerings. It's just \$5-\$10 suggested donation, all of which goes to the festival, and they've invited two fab Portland musicians, Angie Golleher and Maria Webster, to entertain. Madame Mix-a-Lot offers tasty spirits, and you can win festival passes as well as other neat prizes. Plus you get your hands on a schedule before official ones are released.

Speaking of the festival, a training for

potential volunteers is being held at 1 p.m. Sept. 1 in the First Congregational Church Library, 1126 S.W. Park Ave. Lots of people are needed to make this 11-day event go smoothly. For more information about volunteering contact Topher Wallace at 503-280-1762 or topher@sensoryperceptions.org.

Out of Africa

The Homowo Festival of African Arts returns to the South Park Blocks at the Portland State University campus between Southwest Harrison and College streets Aug. 24 and 25.

Although the term "homo" is part of the title, it's not all about the queers. (Give it up, not everything is!) Rather it's a traditional Ghanaian festival presented by Portland's master percussionist Obo Addy.

Running from 1 to 8 p.m. both days, the festival offers nonstop action and activities. Addy leads a large group of Ghanaian musicians to open the festivities Saturday. You'll see drumming, dancing, singing and performers dressed in traditional clothing of the five major culture groups of Ghana.

Through the weekend are folk art demonstrations, including basket making, sewing of clothes and shoe making. A children's area offers face painting, bead making and the production of African rainsticks, crowns and masks. There's also an African marketplace and a whole bunch of ethnic food offerings.

For more information about the festival visit www.homowo.org.

On the streets

Hawthorne Summerfest 2002 descends upon the trendy boulevard 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 24.

Anyone who's been to this mega-street fair before knows it's full of music from acoustical jazz to punk rock, artist exhibits, kids stuff, all kinds of giveaways and contests (including some for your pets), political vendors, skateboarders and food, food, food.

Perhaps one of the best reasons to check in are the sidewalk sales by normally overpriced boutiques and antique stores. Don't forget to stop by the dyke-run In Other Words, which continues to have one-third of all its merchandise at 50 percent off throughout August.

Then, just a few blocks away, the annual Belmont Street Fair emerges 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 7. This one includes a cute "Magical Trolley" that shuttles you up and down the street between 26th and 45th avenues, where you'll find crafts, live music (Jesus Presley headlines) and a beer garden. At 4 p.m. Portland City Commissioner Charlie Hales will be honored for his contributions to the renaissance of the neighborhood.

Tennis, anyone?

Yes, there's a lot of softball going on this month, but that's not slowing down Team Portland Tennis in its 12th annual Rose City Open tournament Aug. 30 to Sept. 2 at Portland Tennis Center, 324 N.E. 12th Ave.

"Labor Day weekend the Rose City Open will welcome players from all over the country to



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Portland," says tournament director Kim Bauske.

The tourney is affiliated with the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance, which sponsors events around the country. Portland will see players in Open, A, B, C and D levels in men's and women's singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

Team Portland will play host to a barbecue from 4 to 8 p.m. Sept. 2 at the center and encourages participants and fans to come out for food, socializing and watching cute tennis players run around in short pants.

For more information call 503-232-7650 or visit www.teamportland-tennis.org. [E]

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