

DIVERSIONS

Film festival changes

Just when your schedule is printed and your ducks are in a row, tragedy strikes. One of the opening night films of the Portland Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Film Festival has been canceled. *The Trip*, directed by former Portlander Miles Swain, who was supposed to make an appearance at the festival, has been pulled from the lineup.

"They are in the works to secure a distributor and are unable to book any more screenings," says festival artistic director Gabriel Mendoza, who admits *Sensory Perceptions* "knew this going in, but we were anxious to book the film because we were excited about opening with the film from a Portland director. We are very disappointed."

Organizers flew into action and have secured another film for the 9:30 p.m. Sept. 20 time slot: *Friends and Family*, a 2000 comedy about two boys who are openly gay but closeted mafiosos. When parents visit, hilarity ensues.

Two other films have also been added to the festival schedule: *Tricia's Wedding* and *Elevator Girls in Bondage* are shorts that will screen together at 11:30 p.m. Sept. 27. Both films—made by the infamous performance group The Cockettes—became available, according to Mendoza, after the festival schedule went to the printer.

"David Weissman, director of *The Cockettes*, approached us about screening these," he says. "We were excited to have the chance to show these rarely seen but hysterical films, so we squeezed them into a late-night slot. This event is made even more exciting by the fact that David will be here to present and discuss the films!"

The festival runs Sept. 20 to 29 at Cinema 21. For a complete list of films and director appearances, pick up a guide at area venues or visit www.sensoryperceptions.org.

Tribute to divas

Rose Empress XXXIII Patti O'Dora proudly presents *Divas 2002: A Tribute* at 8:30 p.m. Sept. 22 at where else but Darcelle XV, 208 N.W. Third Ave. Portland-area divas of drag will pay tribute to the entertainers—both famous and personal—who have inspired them.

"I wanted each of the divas to kind of give us a peek into what motivated them," says O'Dora. "We see these people entertain but rarely get a feel for their back story, as it were."

Some of the drag artists include Empress XLIV Poison Marie Waters, Empress XXXVI Maria, Empress XXXV Michelle Craig, Empress XX Candy Wrapper, former La Femme Magnifique Pebbles Campbell Starr, Princess XXIX Chloe Stone and Princess XXXII Meesha Peru. O'Dora also promises a few surprise guests.

The mistress of ceremonies—who plays host to the Embers' longest-running show, *The House of the Goddess*, every Saturday evening—will be paying tribute to Rose Empress XXVI Rosey Waters and Misty Marie Waters. "Rosey was the first and one of the best queens I ever saw. I watched her on one of my trips into the big city and was so inspired; I knew I must one day follow in her footsteps. Misty was, in my opinion, the best ever. When she was on stage, she gave all of herself to the audience. I have tried to be like her and never give a bad performance."

Divas 2002 will cost you \$10 at the door, and all net proceeds go to the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship Fund.

Tag Back to Portland

Are you an exceptionally talented queer square dancer? If so, pack your boots and head downtown Oct. 4 to 6 for Tag Back to Portland, the 13th annual West Coast Gay and Lesbian Advanced and Challenged Square Dance Weekend.

The event—named after a square dance call, of course—is held in a different city each year and will bring 150 gay and lesbian participants to Portland for upper-level square dancing with five of the top North American callers. Spectators are encouraged to come witness the hootenanny.

Tag Back to Portland is sponsored by Heads to the Center, Portland's advanced and challenge gay square dance club. "People are coming from all over the western U.S. and British Columbia," says Scott Philips, co-chairman of Tag Back to Portland, who wants to emphasize that this is a "strictly social event" to enjoy dancing rather than a competition.

In related news, the Rosetown Ramblers—Portland's biggest gay and lesbian square dance club—will be holding its monthly country western dance the same weekend on Oct. 5 at the Portland Metro Club with DJ Crystal. Philips will encourage Tag Back attendees to make an appearance at the Ramblers' event, too.

Tag Back is at the downtown Doubletree Hotel, 310 S.W. Lincoln St. Registration is \$125 for the whole weekend. There are five total dance

sessions: one Friday night, three Saturday and one Sunday morning. For more information, contact Philips at 503-246-7133 or sphilips@teleport.com. You can also visit www.rosetownramblers.com for registration information.

Advanced square dancers Tag Back to Portland from Oct. 4 to 6



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Register to vote at Klub Z

Members of OUTlook, an online community dedicated to reporting on queer youth issues in Oregon and Washington, are holding a voter registration drive Sept. 28 at Klub Z, 333 S.W. Park Ave. The action is planned to encourage queer youth to vote, but folks of any gender identity or age are invited to take part.

"Civic responsibility is at the heart of the matter," says OUTlook's Vanessa Lynn, who notes they chose the all-ages nightclub "to make use of the best possible youth turnout."

OUTlook is located on the Web at www.clik.to/outlook and has members reporting from Eugene to Vancouver, British Columbia. The site also features a regional all-in-one event calendar as well as individual city calendars, message boards and a chat room. It doesn't cost a thing to join—and it even provides links to other community resources.

Klub Z's doors open at 9 p.m., and the usual cover charge will apply. For more information, visit OUTlook on the Web or e-mail Lynn at dqxix@hotmail.com.

Happy birthday, Poison

"I am still reeling from last night's surprise birthday party...no, not party...EXTRAVAGANZA!" writes Kevin Cook, aka

Empress XLIV Poison Marie Waters, to *Just Out* after his unexpected evening soiree Sept. 17 at the Greek Cusina.

Several of the royal's bestest friends had been planning the event since July, which is shocking considering best-laid plans for past surprise parties have all been soundly spoiled, and it's hard to keep a secret from a man who knows half of Portland.

But this time it worked. "I had no idea that when I opened the door, I would begin one of the most surreal, yet exciting and cherished, nights of my life," the Empress gushes.

Guests included a smattering of the town's queer movers and shakers from charitable organizations, the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court, theater groups (remember when Kevin/Poison was in *La Cage Aux Folles*?) and bars and restaurants. Darcelle and Roxy spent their last evening before heading off to Europe there, and Pink Martini's Thomas Lauderdale found time in the midst of recording a new CD to stop by.

A few people stood up to share memories of the guest of honor, including Rose Empress XXXVI Maria, theater director Greg Tamblin and Rose Emperor XXIII Kimberlee Van Patten, who divulged delightful information about her many long and colorful years as Kevin/Poison's roommate. Not a dry eye was left in the house by the end of her impassioned tribute.

Highlights also included Kevin/Poison whirling with the Cusina's resident belly dancer, smashing plates (a bit frightened but ultimately successful), chugging Ouzo like he does it every night and blowing out all 34 candles in one try. ("Oh, I can blow," he was heard to note.)

Next month during the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court's Coronation, Kevin/Poison will hand off the Empress crown and scepter to another. "What a wonderful way to kick off this final portion of an already amazing experience," he expresses. "From where I sit, it doesn't get much better than this."

Dyke gets the center square

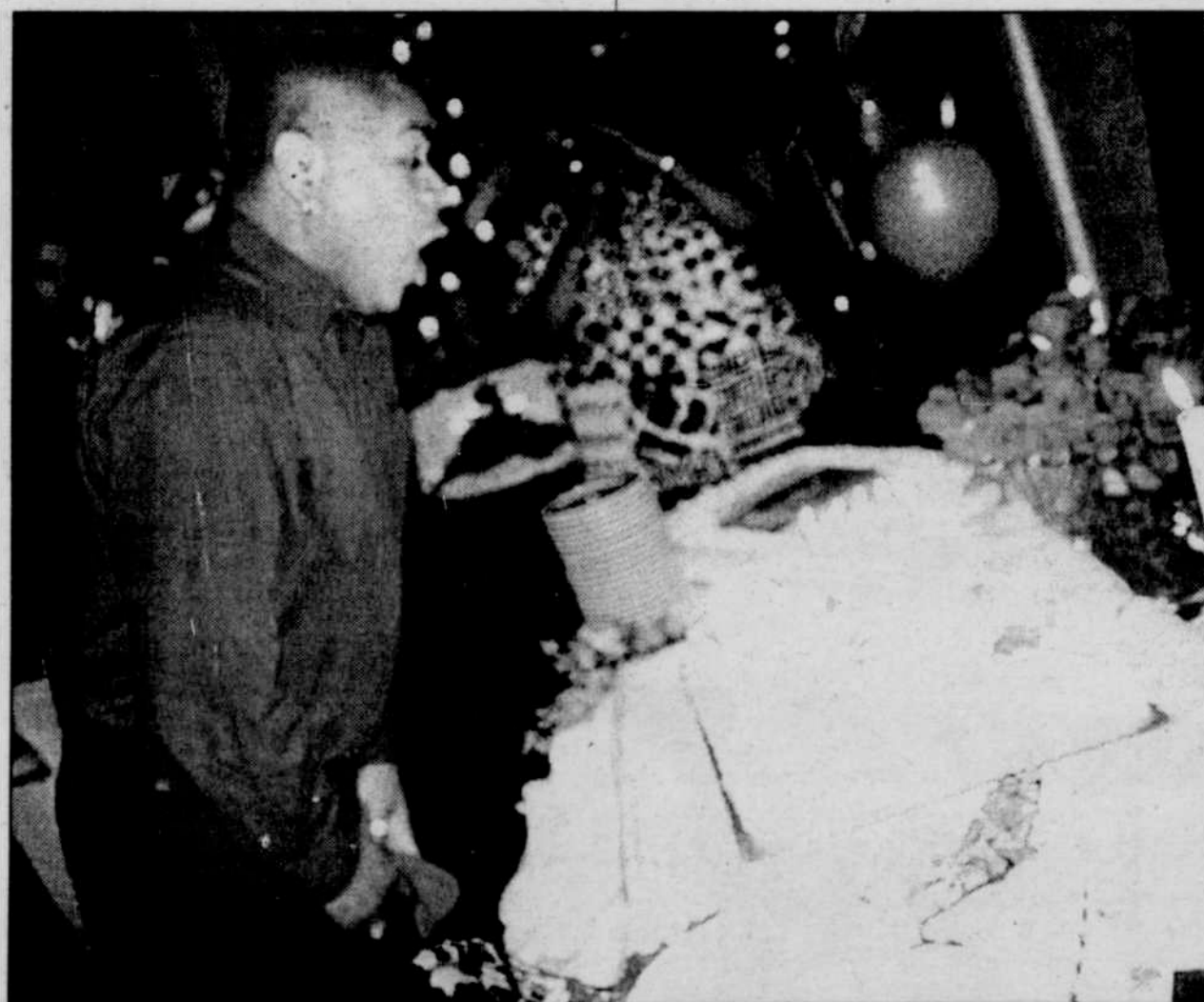
Unseating Whoopi Goldberg in the prestigious center of Hollywood Squares

is none other than our favorite blond lesbian, and yours, Ellen DeGeneres. But tune in now, for in a few weeks she'll be replaced by Alec Baldwin in a new rotating celebrity square scheme.

In the Portland area, *Hollywood Squares* can be seen at 7:30 p.m. weekdays on Channel 8. [E]



At the center of it all



It's tough to blow out that many candles...Kevin Cook/Poison Waters enjoys his surprise birthday bash Sept. 17

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

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