

**CULTURE**

**The way we were**

Relive the misty water-colored memories of *Just Out's* year in arts and culture

BY LISA BRADSHAW

**January**

**Were the stars right?**

*Just Out's* first cover story of the year was all about you and your stars: Astrology made easy, tarot cards explained, where can you find a wizard, and who is this woman who calls herself a saint? Did you consult them? Were they right? Or did you spend yet another year stumbling around without a cosmic plan? Thank God (or Goddess or your lucky stars) you can make it all right again with the coming of a new year. If you need the Jan. 4 issue of *Just Out*, just call.

**The Trocks**

Thank heavens for White Bird. The gay-run nonprofit that brings internationally renowned dance troupes to Portland certainly didn't let us down this year, and they got off to a hell of a start with Les Ballets Trockadero. The mostly gay, all-male ballet company sold out Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall for its one-night-only performance, which easily could have sold two nights if they, alas, only had the time. But after swishing and prancing around the stage in their rendition of *Swan Lake*, the boys headed off to continue their exhausting—and hilarious—tour.



The Trocks swished into a sold-out Portland show

compositions. The gala served as a reminder that it was nearly impossible to be openly gay in previous years and, more importantly, that it would still be that difficult if these normal, average folks hadn't worked so fervently on authenticity in their own lives. *Just Out* says thanks.

**Harry Hay documentary opens**

Portland filmmaker Eric Slade opened *Hope Along the Wind: The Life of Harry Hay* March 3 at Hollywood Theatre. Hay penned the manifesto that essentially began the gay rights movement back in the 1940s and later founded Radical Faeries. One of the most dedicated civil rights activists in the United States, he told his own story in 1997's *Radically Gay: Gay Liberation in the Words of Its Founder* but had never been the subject of a film, to which Slade commented, "It amazed me that no one had done this documentary." The 90-year-old Hay died of lung cancer Oct. 24 in San Francisco.

**The ABCs of B/D/S/M**

On March 15, our cover story on bondage, dominance, submission and masochism ran with surprisingly few hate mail responses. Can the queer community as a whole finally accept other forms of alternative sexuality? Or is no one reading the paper? We'll get back to you.

**February**

**Queering the stage**

February brought a slew of gay and lesbian theater to Portland, most notably Artists Repertory Theatre's My Castle's *Rockin': The Alberta Hunter Story*. The one-woman show, easily carried by Portland actress Demene Hall, followed the colorful life of Hunter—the Queen of Jazz for three decades and then the comeback queen in the 1970s and '80s. And the always-queer-friendly theater group not only didn't leave out Hunter's long-term lesbian relationship, they actually highlighted it.



Lesbian love in Artists Repertory Theatre's *My Castle's Rockin': The Alberta Hunter Story*

**April**

**Jews are gay, too**

*Trembling Before G-d*, a documentary about gays, lesbians and Judaism, opened to an extended run at Hollywood Theatre. The moving film followed the conflicted and often painful lives of practicing Jews who are queer. Director Sandi Dubowski spoke with the Portland audience April 7 in an event sponsored by Jewish Family & Child Service.

**May**

**The Laramie Project**

Artists Repertory Theatre opened *The Laramie Project* for a successful four weeks appropriately running through Gay Pride Month. Joining the shining cast was Jedediah Schultz, now a drama student at Yale, who traveled to Portland to play, among other characters, himself. He was one of the Wyoming residents interviewed by New York's Tectonic Theater Project during its challenging mission to record local reactions to the death of Matthew Shepard. His memorable performance included the late-in-the-play admission: "I just can't believe I ever said that stuff about homosexuals, you know? How did I ever let that stuff make me think you were different from me?"

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