

DIVERSIONS

Out With It!



by Lisa Bradshaw

The finer points

What is up with all these queer chicks putting together one-of-a-kind killer events lately? First there was Stacy Bias' FatGirl Speaks on May 3, which sold out Hollywood Theatre. That's more than 500 people watching big ladies make music, do performance art, strip, cheer and rant against the establishment. The energy nearly blew the roof off.

Now, we've got three women with three new, unique events in May. All, like FatGirl, are free or cheap and open to the public. It's almost like a third wave feminist climax. All at once. (Ooh! I made myself shiver.)

"Past feminist movements have fortunately made great progress in striving for our equality," says Pam Peterson, whose Women and Their Kick-Ass Cars Party rooms into Hollywood Theatre on May 17. "This has opened many new doors for women to start exploring the finer points of themselves."

Peterson's finer point is an adoration of old or otherwise exceptional cars and the chicks who drive them. "Men are supposed to be into cars and get into rebuilding, racing, etc.," the 1972 Buick Skylark owner asserts, "but women just never had the opportunity to try it out...I want to find the ones who did try it out in spite of it all and celebrate them."

Peterson is collaborating with photographer Elle McKay for the book *Women and Their Kick-Ass Cars*, which will come out later this year. The party includes a video and slide show of last June's Five Dollar Soapy Hand Job Car Wash held to get women together for mingling, washing and photographs. You'll hear interviews with women about their cars and get a sneak preview of photos in the book. There's also a DJ and raffle.

It helps to be into cars, but anyone can appreciate the diversity of women—from Beaverton moms with souped-up Cameros to lovely young things with cat-eye glasses and dreamy pastel Cadillacs.

"I want to have the same opportunities...as men have had," says Peterson, "without being hassled or hit on, teased or ignored, pushed aside or passed up just because I'm a girl."

Previous sex workers make sure their issues aren't pushed aside or passed up May 16 during Beyond Sex Work: Voices from the Margins at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Center. Organized by women's studies student Leslie Bull, the event includes film shorts and a discussion with Bull and Canadians Ariel Lighteningchild and James Diamond, all artists and filmmakers, all previous sex workers.

"I organized the event because [we] all come from the streets, and our voices are rarely heard in [the] mainstream," says Bull.

A lot of people don't equate lesbians with sex work. "I guess that's like being surprised a vegan would work at McDonald's," Bull quips. "But it's not all that surprising in terms of economic necessity. A job is a job. After all, a dyke hooker can fake it like a straight girl."

Lighteningchild is from the Cree and Ojibwa first nations and is Jewish and Roma (gypsy). Diamond is also a multiracial artist; he was born homeless and since 1997 has gained internation-

al recognition, mostly with intensely personal and political movies. His work is archived at the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian.

"We have unique perspectives," explains Bull. "We don't conform to either an 'anti' or 'pro' position regarding prostitution and instead complicate the issue by talking about...gender, race, class and sexuality and how those issues play out."

Meanwhile, back at Hollywood Theatre on the same night ("oh, no!" you're saying—don't worry, the times are such that you can do both) is another film event with the rather creepy title *DeComposer*. It's the second in a three-part

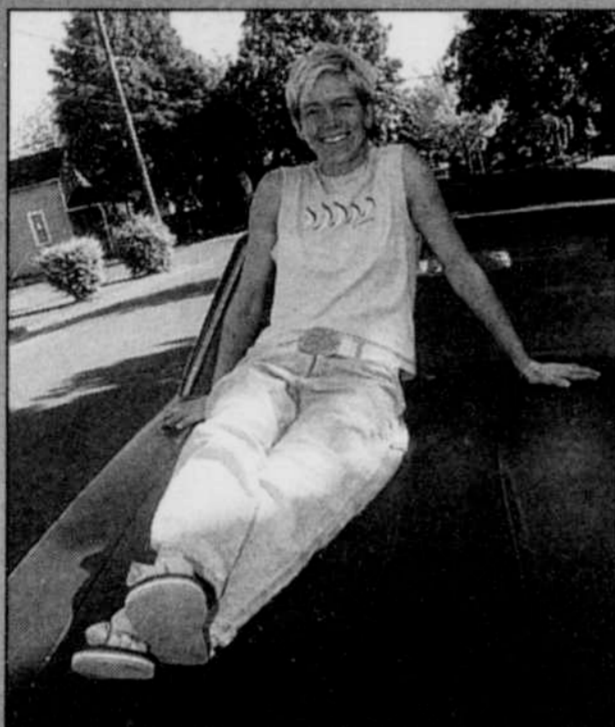


PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS



Car maven Pam Peterson (above) and former sex worker Leslie Bull organize two of May's many killer events

film and music series (the last one is May 23) that "re-themes soundtracks for forgotten films."

Portland filmmaker Vanessa Renwick put the event together as a fund-raiser for her new movie about wolves coming back into the West. She's made more than 20 films and says "fund raising is a last straw... I need to make this film—the most important of my life—and people are coming together to support me in my efforts."

The ultracool-sounding events put live musicians on stage to play to bizarre little movies you have no doubt not seen before. For example: Daniel Menche will play through a 1940s boxing movie, Hans Grusel's *Krankenabinet* scores 1928's *The Fall of the House of Usher*, and Quasi presents its original composition for *The Streets Belong to the People*—footage shot at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

On May 23 it's much the same with Black Cat Orchestra, The Sensualists and The Topiary Kings, who, according to Renwick, will play through "a hideous/hilarious and unrelenting Oscar Mayer lunch meat promotional film, which The Topiary Kings have not seen and will be improvising to."

So many events. So little time.

"We have passion in our messages, our ideas," concludes Kick-Ass Car gal Peterson. "It drives us to create these events to find other women who feel the same, to open the doors and let everyone in...and start, hopefully, the beginnings of another movement."

Right on, sister. ☐

Details on all these events can be found in the *Out & About* calendar.

Loosen up those purse strings

The Sexual Minorities Youth Recreation Center is in trouble. To stop this flow of trouble, they need to plug it up with dollar bills.

It seems that Woody Clarke of everyone's favorite wine bar *Crush*, 1412 S.E. Morrison St., heard about the center's distinct lack of funds, which could cause its demise in the near future. He immediately called to find out what *Crush* could do to make sure Portland doesn't lose its only organization designed for queer kids.

That's why you would be rather remiss in not attending *Crush's* benefit for SMYRC from 6 to 9 p.m. **May 19**. For a \$5 cover you get: fabulous atmosphere, lovely buffet, hip DJ music and a separate cash bar with all the money spent on *Crush's* groovy cocktails donated to the center.

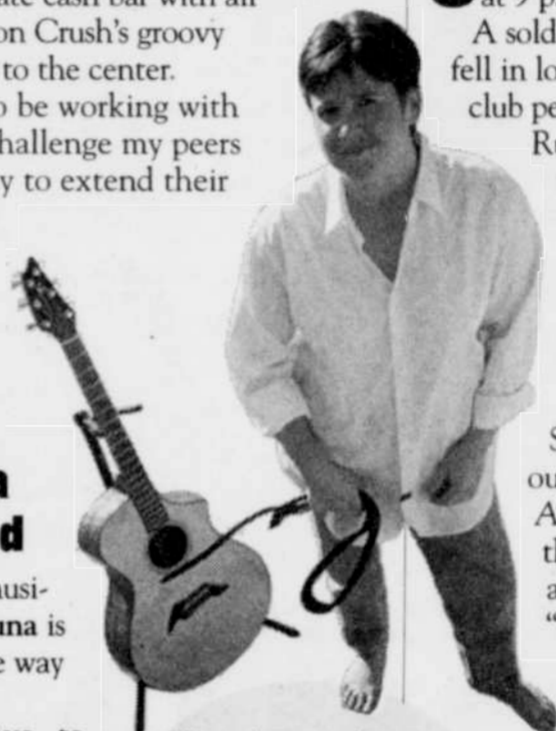
"I'm so glad to be working with SMYRC, and I challenge my peers in the community to extend their help to SMYRC as well," says Clarke. Can't do better than that.

Kim Acuna in Portland

Alaskan dyke musician Kim Acuna is coming all the way to Darcelle XV, 208 N.W. Third Ave., to play a benefit concert for the Lesbian Community Project. Portland's own lesbian duo *Pirate Jane* opens the show at 7 p.m. **June 3**, and it's only \$5.

Acuna peppers her alt-pop with jazz, blues and a hint of Latin. Her debut release, *Shadows*, came out last fall to popular acclaim.

"I want to bring the listener into that special place where it's just my guitar and me alone in a room having a new song pour through me," Acuna says of her performances. "This is the most vulnerable, most wonderful place."



Kim Acuna plays for lesbians in Portland on June 3



PBS airs the documentary *Daddy & Papa* June 3

Soldier's Girl premieres on Showtime

Showtime premieres *Soldier's Girl*, based on the real-life murder of Pfc. Barry Winchell, at 9 p.m. **May 31**.

A soldier at Fort Campbell, Ky., Winchell fell in love with Tennessee transsexual nightclub performer Calpernia Addams in 1999.

Rumors flew among his fellow soldiers, followed by severe harassment until Winchell's roommate and another private beat him to death on a Fourth of July weekend when Addams was winning Miss Tennessee Entertainer of the Year.

The film showed at this year's Sundance Film Festival to a sold-out crowd, which, according to *The Advocate*, "gasped with fear, sympathy, revulsion, anger." Addams announced via her Web site:

"Opening up to the makers of the film was cathartic, and their telling of the story is going to be absolutely beautiful. I am very proud of the team I got to know and the finished film."

Also in queer movies, PBS will show the heartfelt documentary *Daddy & Papa* at 11 p.m. **June 3**. A selection of last year's Portland queer film festival, the movie follows a year in the lives of several gay dads who decide to adopt.

Although *Daddy & Papa* asks more questions than it can possibly answer in its short 57 minutes, it does question the ability of affluent white parents to effectively raise African American and Hispanic babies.

Hairspray sweeps Tony nominations

As if there was ever any doubt, the John Waters-classic-come-Broadway-musical-smash *Hairspray* has swept Tony nominations with a total of 13, including Best Musical, Best Actress in a Musical (Marissa Jaret Winokur as Tracy Turnblad) and Best Original Score. Most exciting is the nomination of Harvey Fierstein, who plays distraught mother Edna, for Best Actor in a Musical.

CBS will broadcast *The 57th Annual Tony Awards* at 8 p.m. **June 8**.



Marissa Jaret Winokur (left) and Harvey Fierstein snagged Tony nominations for *Hairspray*

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