

just out

The IN publication for the OUT population

FOUNDED 1983 • JAY BROWN AND RENÉE LACHANCE

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FEATURE

THE MONSTER AMONG US: Meth is on a run as the "queen of drugs" in Portland's gay community
p 26

NEWS

NORTHWEST • Queers take sides on PUD
pp 9-16

NATIONAL • Military sodomy code challenged
pp 19-23

WORLD • South Korean actor makes a comeback
pp 24-25

ARTS AND CULTURE

THEATER • The cirque is in town!
p 39

CULTURE • A witches gathering, a feminist costume soiree? What the Faust is going on?
p 41

PEOPLE • Color me psychic
p 43

CULTURE • Meet the candidates for Empress and Emperor
p 45

BOOKS • Inga Muscio: from *Cunt* to *Blue-Eyed Devil*
p 47

DANCE • Minh Tran tells his harrowing story through dance
p 49

FILM • *Mambo Italiano* and *Party Monster*
p 50

DIVERSIONS • ART nickels and dimes patrons; Hedwig will sign your CD; who's murdering the lesbians of Citytown?
p 48

WHAT'S POPPIN'? • *Kill Bill* is worth the hype
p 51

COLUMNS

MS. BEHAVIOR • Listen up, people: Straight porn does not make you straight
p 37

EPIQUEERIAN • C'mon, get healthy
p 46

OUT WITH IT! • Fall Queerview II
p 52

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARC • Name game
p 53

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Letters to the editor should be limited to 500 words. Announcements regarding life transitions (births, deaths, unions, etc.) should be limited to 200 words; photos are welcome. **Deadline for submissions** to the editorial department and for the **Calendar** is the Thursday 15 days before the next publication date. Views expressed in letters to the editor, columns and features are not necessarily those of the publisher.

The **display advertising deadline** is the Monday 12 days before the next publication date.

Classified ads must be received at the Just Out office by 4 p.m. on the Thursday eight days before the next publication date, along with payment. Ads may be placed by telephone or via the Internet with Visa or MasterCard payment.

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COMMENTARY

A celebration of community

Just Out announces comedy lineup for 20th anniversary party

Fall is, hands down, my favorite season of the year. I rejoice at the return of the rain, am gleeful when the winds roar and find mirthful joy in the cool, crisp nights. I watch with wondrous pleasure as all my leaves blow over into the neighbor's yard and am uncharacteristically tolerant of the myriad squirrels who fervidly destroy my flower beds while burying a bountiful fall harvest that will never be reclaimed. Fall, it is the best of the best.

Fall 2003 marks a milestone for *Just Out*. Next month we will celebrate our 20th anniversary of publishing. To mark this occasion I am putting together an evening of community, an evening of comedy, "a celebration of community."

Those who attended the showing of *Laughing Matters* at the seventh annual Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival were undoubtedly

impressed with the talents and humor of Karen Williams. A trailblazer and pioneer among lesbian talents, she is described as "a comic craft master, a gifted actor, a multitalented writer and an inspirational lecturer." I am proud to be able to bring Williams to Portland as part of our Nov. 23 celebration.

Sharing the billing with her is a personal favorite of mine, standup comic Bob Smith. He was the headliner at last year's Basic Rights Oregon dinner, and everyone enjoyed his soft-spoken and understated comedy. Smith was the first openly gay comedian to appear on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and was featured in his own HBO comedy special. He's funny, he's handsome, and he's downright nice.

I am delighted to be bringing these two gifted comics to town, but in order to make this evening a true celebration of community, you all need to be there, too. Here's my vision for making this evening a time of celebration for all of us.

- All community nonprofit groups and organizations are invited to have a table at Hollywood Theatre the evening of the event. This is your opportunity to showcase your organization and introduce, or reintroduce, yourself to the community. If you'd like to be represented, please contact me at 503-236-1252 or marty@justout.com prior to Oct. 31. Tables will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis.

- All community artists are invited to display a sampling of their wares the night of the show. How exactly I'm going to do this isn't completely clear to me yet, but I know it can happen. Artists will be responsible for their own display materials and insurance. I see this as a great opportunity to have a one-night art gallery and show. Again, if you'd

like to discuss having your work showcased, please call or e-mail me prior to Oct. 31.

- Business owners can be a part of the celebration via sponsorship. If you'd like to know more about partnership and sponsorship opportunities, please give me a call. And don't forget, our Nov. 7 issue will be a 20th anniversary special edition. Ad lines are open now, and salespeople are waiting to take your call.

Finally, I invite the rest of you to purchase tickets and spend the afternoon and evening with us. Ticket prices and outlets will be announced in the Nov. 7 issue of *Just Out*. And, as a final reminder, we are still looking for more stories from readers about their memories or recollections of how *Just Out* has played a role in their lives. Maybe you've been with us the entire 20 years, maybe we helped you find community when you moved to town, maybe you found a partner in the Just Friends ads. We hope you've been touched by the stories you've read all or part of these past 20 years. Please share these memories with us.

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A few weeks ago *Just Out* invited Basic Rights Oregon to present its Trans 101 class to our staff and invited guests. We settled in for our two-hour class and found ourselves quickly engrossed and touched by the presentation and the volunteers who shared their experiences with us.

Trans 101 was, without question, the most professional workshop I've seen presented in a long time. It was organized, efficient and deftly structured to capture the attention and thoughts of the audience. As stated in the agenda, "This is an open and honest forum created for the purpose of asking all questions; no question is too basic to ask." And indeed questions were asked—of the participants, of the audience and deeply of ourselves individually. I give great credit to Basic Rights Oregon for putting together this presentation.

Our community has a tremendous need for a place and setting for people to be able to ask candid questions regarding trans issues and not fear anger, confusion or hurt feelings. This forum absolutely provides that setting. I encourage everyone to attend when the opportunity next presents itself. A sincere thank-you to the volunteer participants who bared their souls in the effort to foster understanding. This was a true celebration of personal strengths. This was a celebration of community. **J**

PLEASE NOTE: October has five Fridays, so the next issue of *Just Out* won't hit the streets until Nov. 7—an interval of three weeks rather than two.

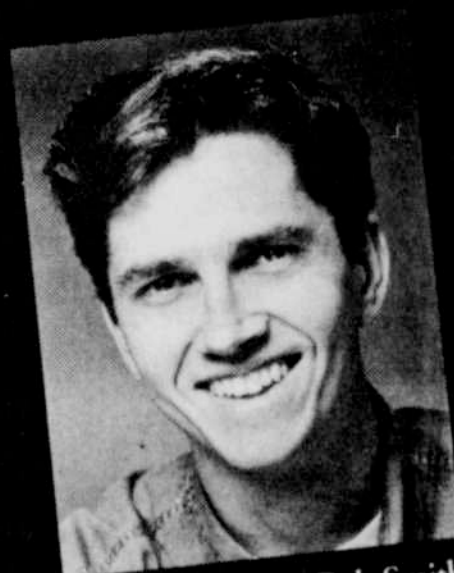
REFLECTIONS

Don't miss the just out 20th Anniversary Party!

Sunday, November 23
Hollywood Theatre
4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

Tickets go on sale November 7

An evening of celebration and comedy!



Bob Smith



Karen Williams

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