

CULTURE

Scare me like a boo nightmare

A fearful, queerful collection of Halloween haunts

BY TIMOTHY KRAUSE

My best friend's little brother used to say that Halloween scared him like a "boo nightmare." Clearly, he must not have been born with the same gay gene as his older bro, because for the rest of us queer devils Halloween is but a celebration of the gay spirit. And here, dear hobgoblins, are but a few gay ways to play on this, the most holy day of homos.



What the Faust is going on? Wander into Liminal Performance Group space between 9 and 11 p.m.

Soul-selling surrealism

Through Nov. 1, **Liminal Performance Group**, 403 N.W. Fifth Ave., creates a constantly changing environmental performance of mystical science and alchemic ritual in the strange world of *Faust(Faust)*, 9 to 11 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

The eerie, open-ended, continuous installation is based on the epic tragedy of Dr. Faustus, who sells his soul to the devil in search of knowledge. (He must never have heard the phrase "too much information.") Audience members come and go as they please, making the macabre gallery of live action all the spookier. Story elements combine and react in different ways, leading to a result the Liminaliens say has no known outcome.

Tickets are \$6 from 503-890-2993 or www.liminalgroup.org.

Cooler than a witch's tit

Pagans, Wiccans and Earthspirits (I worship you all, by the way) gather at 8 p.m. Oct. 25 in Eugene's **WOW Hall**, 291 W. Eighth Ave., for the ninth annual **Witches Ball**.

Cauldron of Changes holds this costume cotillion tradition to kick off Samhain season. Wicked-fave band **Land of the Blind** with Cyoahka Grace makes for a "rite good party" that includes tribal trance dancing to world beats and exotic instruments.

The ball, a fund-raiser for Cauldron's Rites of Spring Beltane festival, costs \$5-\$9 sliding scale, with a portion supporting environmental direct action, from 541-687-2746 or www.wowhall.org.

No faint of heart here

Far from scary but no less reason to celebrate is the 10th anniversary of **In Other Words Women's Books**

and **Resources**. Portland's nonprofit feminist bookstore and community resource center honors its first decade starting 7 p.m. Oct. 30 at the Ecotrust building, 721 N.W. Ninth Ave.

The extravaganza includes live music, women DJs, refreshments and a costume ball. Poet and nonfiction writer **Judith**

Barrington and Portland poet **Marie Fleischmann** read. Musicians **Sarah Dougher**, **Myshkin** and **Laura Mejia** perform; **DJ Zanne** spins. (All confirmed dykes, by the way.)

In **Other Words**, located at 3734 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., was founded in 1993 by three activists with a mission to enrich women's lives through literature, culture, education and activism. Staffed almost entirely by volunteers, the

organization promotes a great diversity of women's voices by supporting small feminist presses, organizing events and facilitating discussion groups.

Tickets are \$5-\$10—discounted for costumed gals and no one turned away.

Family-friendly fright night

"Enough candy to rot your teeth" sounds scary enough, but kids and adults alike will find more to freak out about when Portland State University's **Queers and Allies** teams up with **Pride Northwest** to



Young and old kids alike are welcome at the **Queers and Allies and Pride Northwest Boo Ball '03**

host an all-ages **Boo Ball '03** on Oct. 31 at Smith Memorial Center, 1825 S.W. Broadway.

From 7 to 8 p.m., register for costume contests that begin at 8:15. Among the awards are best parent/child team costume, most creative and scariest drag. (Note to self: Ask Darcelle to return chartreuse feather boa and crotchless panties.)

Rose City Swing jazzes up the night, playing from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Then **DJ Harmonix** conjures up a dance party until 1 a.m. A kids activity area keeps little frights occupied while elder ephemera dance on a few graves.

Suggested donation is \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids 6 to 17 and all students, free for 5 and younger.

Aye, Sheila, is that a dingo on the dance floor?

Get in the Zone when Dingo's takes over the smoke-free **Scarlett Ballroom**, 700 N.E. Dekum St., from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Oct. 31 for an **Extreme Halloween** costume party of 21-and-over boo-tiful babes.

DJ Mel mixes up the music for dancing while the gals from Dingo's put together a complimentary taco bar. Dingo's diva **Tiffany Miller** says they're going all out to decorate the ballroom, but the surprises she's got planned, she smirks, "are probably not something that we could print."

Ten bucks gets you in the door. Watch for more Zone women's parties the last Saturday of each month beginning Nov. 29. For details visit www.scarletballroom.com.

Danse macabre

For wallflowers like me, Halloween has got to be the best time to go dancing. In the right costume, who's gonna know I move about as gracefully as **Frankenstein** with a stiff knee?

So choose a disguise and swing by **Crystal's Gay and Lesbian Spine-Tingling Halloween Bash** from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Oct. 31 at **Portland Metro Club**, 618 S.E. Alder St. Door prizes, full-service bar, nonsmoking dance floor and, of course, the requisite costume contest. With hundreds of other dancing ghouls, it's going to be good times, good times.

Tickets are \$7 from **It's My Pleasure** and **Touchstone Coffee House** or at the door.

Groping in the dark

It won't be a power outage that causes **Halloween Blackout** at **Steam**, 2885 N.E. Sandy Blvd. Come 10 p.m. Oct. 31, lights are gonna be dowsed, so don't be scared if things go bump in the night at this private men's club and bath. Ditch your duds and grab your stick—no, your glow stick—and creep into the darkness to find your jack o' lantern. Masks add mystery and a midnight show may give you something to howl about, whether you see a moon or not.

Membership (\$15-\$25, \$8 for out-of-area guests) is required; regular locker and room rates apply; 18 and over. For details call 503-736-9999 or visit www.steamportland.com. **jm**

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Land of the Blind play Eugene's annual **Witches Ball** on Oct. 25