



Oh, the irony

Sometimes when you're all snug in your safe, little inner-Portland gay bubble of happiness, you hear a story that snaps you back into homophobe reality like a slingshot.

Recently that friendly little gay theater group triangle productions! ended its run of *Beautiful Thing*, the work by British playwright Jonathan Harvey about two teen-age boys living in the same housing development who fall in love. (No doubt you saw the very cute movie that won a bunch of film festival awards and the 1997 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Film in Limited Release.)

Well, it turns out the two young men who starred in triangle's production—though quite commendable performances did they provide—were not director Don Horn's first choice. His first choice were two teen-age boys who auditioned for the parts in response to several calls he put out based on acting references.

Lots of Portland-area teens who aspire to act answer calls for auditions—look how great that turned out in Gus Van Sant's new film *Elephant*. Lucky for two of those kids, their parents weren't bigoted.

Because, as it turns out, the two boys cast in *Beautiful Thing* both had to drop out. Their parents wouldn't let them be in the play.

Yes, it seems that when the moms and dads found out what the play was about and that their sons would be—gasp!—kissing another boy, they hauled their (no doubt delightfully cute) butts out of there *tout suite*.

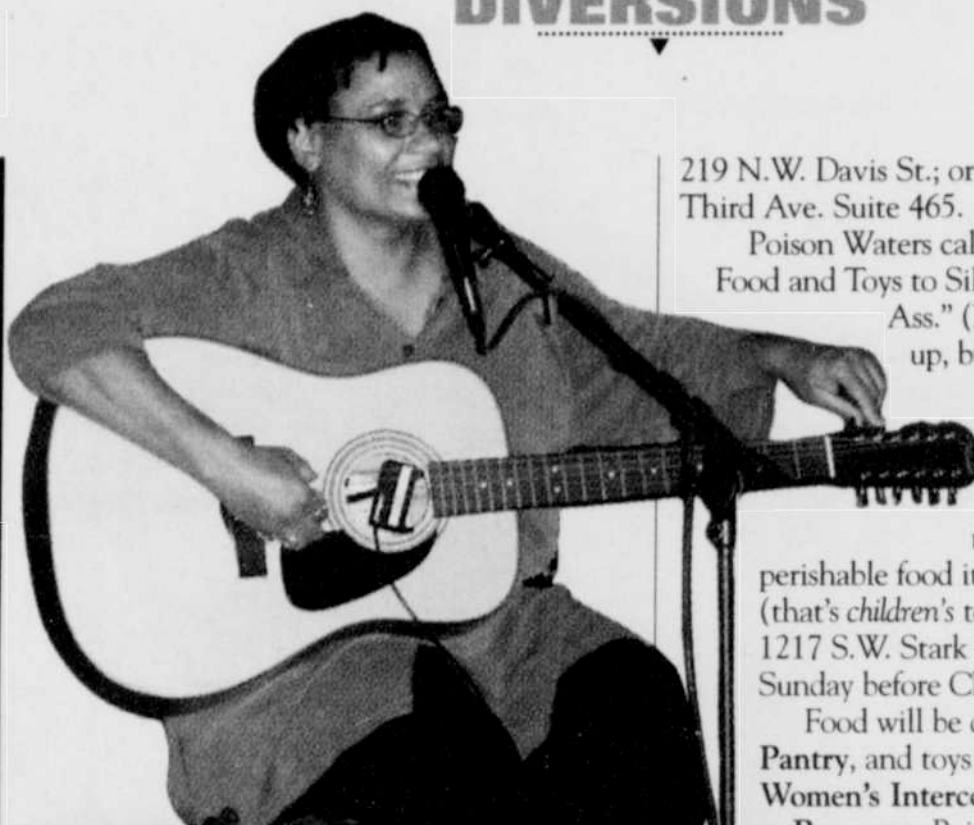
These are two teen-age boys who won roles in a play that was seen by several hundred people, who earned the parts, who knew full well what they were doing and who would have gained invaluable experience—and maybe learned a little something about the queer community surrounded by all those gays who are in and out of triangle. And their parents canned the whole thing because they would have been *pretending* to be gay. (Whether either boy was gay or not is anybody's guess, but it would make it even more heartbreaking if one or both were, huh?)

Horn tried to talk to the parents, but, he says, "They weren't too pleased."

Beautiful Thing is about two boys who are attracted to each other and have to deal with their friends' and families' reactions to that, as well as their own internal conflicts. How ironic that two teen-agers are drug away from even *playing* these parts based on their parents' reactions.

This, again, emphasizes to me the need to be out, the need to encourage Gay Straight Alliances and the need to force people—young and old—too look beyond their insular realities when they spout homophobia as gospel.

It also emphasizes the need for triangle productions! to reach a wider audience. Clearly, the people who need *Beautiful Thing* the most are the ones not coming through the door. **J**



Why are all the cool girls lesbians? Kate White joins many, many other queers for the Dec. 4 GoGirlsMusicFest at Aladdin Theater.

You go, GoGirls!

You don't get much better causes for the youth of this city than the Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls and the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, which is why the fourth annual GoGirlsMusicFest on Dec. 4 benefits both.

Dyke alt-country rocker Patricia Ju pulled together the benefit—one of several sponsored by GoGirlsMusic.com, the oldest and largest online community of indie women in music.

On the marquee for Portland's pitstop is a mostly homegrown set of queer crooners. You'll recognize **Ashleigh Flynn**, for instance, as SMYRC community relations director by day, but by night her crystal-clear voice leads an Americana pop-rock style. And Portland Shock-wave football player **Kate White** brings out her strong, sultry and sensual acoustic R & B.

The combo of Ju and singer/songwriter **Annie Vergnetti**, on the other hand, meshes two distinct styles that range from stirring, sometimes shocking electronic dub rap to well-crafted folk rock.

But that's not all. You'll hear what Tuesday night Ohm rockers love about the primordial, erotic soundscapes of **Dahlia**. You'll embrace the "husky yet smooth" country-jazz of Portland's new hot handful **Amelia**. And you'll experience the somber to lively, ethnic to orchestral life of Seattle-based **Two Loons for Tea**.

So go, girls (and guys), go! GoGirlsMusicFest begins 8 p.m. at Aladdin Theater, 3017 S.E. Milwaukie Ave. Tickets are \$12 for the all-ages show.

Feel the love

You say drag queens are bitchy vamps who don't feel the love? Well, swallow those words, baby, because Imperial Princess 33 **Miss Ariel View** and Empress 44 **Poison Marie Waters** are working up some serious holiday charity.

Ariel View calls hers **Blankets of Love**. (Isn't that sweet?) You buy or make a baby blanket (or larger size), and she distributes them by Dec. 11 to terminally ill or abused children throughout Oregon, as well as a few cities in Washington, Utah, Idaho, Denver and Nevada.

Last year she collected 62 blankets, which is a number that can surely be doubled. To donate a Blanket of Love, e-mail arielview@rosecourt.org or visit a drop-off site: Boxxes, 1035 S.W. Stark St.; C.C. Slaughters,

DIVERSIONS

219 N.W. Davis St.; or *Just Out*, 123 N.E. Third Ave. Suite 465.

Poison Waters calls her effort "Bring Some Food and Toys to Silverado or I'll Kick Your Ass." (Not really, we made that up, but you get the idea.)

During her weekly **Church of the Poison Mind** from 3 to 8 p.m. Sundays, the madcap mistress will collect non-perishable food items and unwrapped toys (that's *children's* toys) at the bar, 1217 S.W. Stark St. Your deadline is the Sunday before Christmas—Dec. 21.

Food will be donated to **Esther's Pantry**, and toys are going to the kids of **Women's Intercommunity AIDS Resource**. Poison would like to remind shoppers that the newly remodeled Safeway store on Southwest 10th Avenue and Jefferson Street is just a few blocks from Silverado; *Just Out* would like to remind shoppers that so is Finnegan's Toys & Gifts, 922 S.W. Yamhill St.

New commish goes to bat for the community

It was only last month when the kids over at the **Rose City Softball Association** named **Drew Canulette** to a two-season stint as commissioner for its open division, but already the big guy's got big ideas for this gay league.

"I have formed an ad hoc committee to review the open division and come up with suggestions for change," reports Canulette, who along with Dale Clinton of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus and Sean Canavan of Portland Bears Softball Club have been scouting ideas from among open division players, managers, coaches and sponsors.

"Paramount for me is to give something back to our community," says Canulette. "The Rose City Softball league is the largest gay sports organization in the state, and the 2004 season will be our 10-year anniversary! As our membership grows—in size as well as maturity—it seems a natural progression for the membership to become more involved in the community."

How this plays out in addition to the league's existing fund-raisers and Cascade Cup tournament will be up to members, says Canulette, but he wants to coach a little charity out of the league's instinctive teamwork.

The 2004 season opens April 25 and plays through July 25 at Hillsboro's Gordon Faber Recreational Complex. RCSA's annual Cas-

cade Cup tournament is schedule for Fourth of July weekend, and the 2004 North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance Gay Softball World Series follows in August in Dallas.

Team up with RCSA by visiting www.portlandgaysoftball.com.



Pam and Maggie come out of hiding Nov. 23 at Touchstone Coffee House

Sing along with Pam and Maggie

Touchstone Coffee House, 7631 N.E. Glisan St., is offering the opportunity to see and maybe even sing along with Portland duo **Pam and Maggie**, who haven't performed in more than a year, from 3 to 5 p.m. **Nov. 23**.

It seems Maggie's mom is visiting from California, and the coffeehouse wants to offer her a warm welcome. "She is a great supporter of our relationship as well as our music," says Maggie. "I used to harmonize with her while doing the dishes after dinner."

Maggie Beck and Pam Briggs have three CDs of their country-ish adult contemporary tunes, which they will no doubt have available at the show. The pair have been domesticating together for more than 18 years. "We are planning to get hitched in Europe for our 20th anniversary," shares Maggie.

Right now the couple both have full-time jobs, but back in the day they made their living off recording and touring. In 1994, Maggie was nominated by the California Country Music Association for Album of the Year, Song of the Year and Songwriter of the Year. **J**

Compiled by LISA BRADSHAW and TIMOTHY KRAUSE

"Make a blanket!"



"Buy a toy!"

