

DIVERSIONS

Out With It!

by Lisa Bradshaw

I hate to see a grown man so desperate

The biggest bummer about queer artist Heyd Fontenot's art show at Disjecta Gallery is that the space is only open when the nice, little venue at 116 N.E. Russell St. is hosting some performance. Well, you can get in by appointment (503-335-6979), but who does that?

There's good news, though. Heyd (pronounced "hide") is coming to town from his stomping grounds in Austin, Texas, to close out his exhibit of paintings, *Blood Sugar of the Lamb*, from 4 to 10 p.m. Dec. 14. It's going to be a heck of a party, and you're invited. Judging by my conversation with Heyd and seeing the work, you want to go.

Lisa: You live in Austin, but your name sounds a little European. Where are you from?

Heyd: Someplace almost as fascinating as Europe...Louisiana. The surname is French.... My friend Eileen says it's Cajun for "fun"!

L: What's your educational and creative background?

H: I have a BFA in graphic design—pre-computer age—so I think that's where my hand-craftedness comes from. I also went to film school. I've been painting and drawing my whole life. It's just something I've always, always done.... I was and remain a real oddity to my family who are all farmers—my dad and both brothers and my grandfather and his father before him. No kidding, all farmers.

L: The title of the show is a little creepy. What does it mean exactly?

H: Well, I don't want to tell you EXACTLY. Where would the mystery be? OK, it's sort of a play on "Blood of the lamb, take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us." It's a phrase used in Catholic Masses. So even though I'm no longer a practicing Catholic, I've said that at least a hundred thousand times, and all of this Catholic hoo-ha gets in and never leaves.

L: The images of your people are playful, but they all have such serious looks on their faces.

H: Sometimes I have more specific ideas about how I'll use...a character, a pose—and sometimes I just want to see...what they decide to do.... I'm not sure what's going on for them.... I imagine they're thinking, "I hope he doesn't notice that my tits are different sizes" or something like that. Things that wouldn't matter to me at all.

L: There is also a theme of floating, of letting go, yet there's apprehension, too. Are they having a hard time being free?

H: You are fucking right on. I'm not blowing smoke, but I feel like you totally get the vibe of it.

L: Heyd, you're clearly a man of great perception and instinct. I'm going to put you in my next column. Anything else you want the people to know?

H: I have a desperate need for them to come see the work. **JW**

Mark Steering and Elizabeth Lavenue consider *Romantic Mythtakes* Dec. 13 and 14



Isn't Humble Diva an oxymoron?

Tina Turner once asked, "What's love got to do with it?" and that's what you'll find out in the wacky, moving and ultimately fun musical cabaret show *Romantic Mythtakes* by the **Humble Divas**, a duo made up of two deans of Portland musical theater: Mark Steering, a Radical Faerie, and Elizabeth Lavenue, a pregnant dyke. (Both are also professional voice teachers.)



Heyd Fontenot's *Blood Sugar of the Lamb* ends in a glorious closing party Dec. 14

The show lampoons popular music's ridiculous myths about romance and love and explores the very knotty issues queer people face in creating relationships: monogamy, turkey basters, codependency, shame and who gets to play with my sex toys, to name a few. (Hearing Lavenue's "Lonely as a Top" alone is worth the price of admission.)

Romantic Mythtakes shows 7 p.m. Dec. 13 at Grand House, 1704 S.E. 22nd Ave. and 7 p.m. Dec. 14 at Artichoke Music Backgate Stage, 3130 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Tickets are \$5-\$15 sliding scale from 503-234-1140 or periwinke@pcez.com.

Singing the season

Confluence: The Willamette Valley Mixed GALA Chorus, hits all the right notes with *Winter Song*, a seasonal concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 6 at Salem's Unitarian Church, 5090 Center St. N.E., and 4 p.m. Dec. 7 at Portland's Unity Church, 4525 S.E. Stark St. Chris Sproul, the chorus' board chairwoman, says the concerts are composed of a variety of music "that remind us of the beauty of winter, the hope of bright days ahead and the joy of the holiday season."

Winter Song marks the fourth season of the queer chorus, which has grown from 12 singers in 2000 to more than 40 today, representing a range of experience and backgrounds. Some travel from as far as Newport and Battle Ground, Wash., though most members live in Albany, Corvallis, Portland and Salem.

Confluence presents three concerts each season and offers several outreach perform-

ances, such as World AIDS Day in Salem and a Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays fund-raiser in Eugene. Tickets for *Winter Song* are \$10 from Jackson's Books in Salem, from In Other Words in Portland and at the door.

Bye-bye, Fairchild

Immediately after *Just Out* ran a write-up of Holocene's queer night Fairchild, the club decided to call it quits.

Well, sort of. They'll still have dance parties Friday nights, but the name and the specialty DJs flown in from around the world will not be on the ticket.

"It just wasn't coming together," says Charlie Hodge, one-third club owner. "The real challenge for Fairchild being a queer night is that it's really hard to break people's habit of going down to Stark Street, especially on the east side."

Hodge wants to encourage queers to continue coming on Friday nights and to the many other queer events going on at Holocene, 1001 S.E. Morrison St., which includes the Dec. 14 ladies soiree *Tart* and a Dec. 19 DK PDX drag king show.



Girl meets girl, girl meets God, God gets down: See *Jesus Has Two Mommies* Dec. 10 at Hollywood Theatre

There's something about Mary

For one night only, Hollywood Theatre, 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd., will show *Jesus Has Two Mommies*, the hit Boston schlock opera transferred to video for queer enjoyment all over the country.

The Dec. 10 benefit for the Sexual Minority



Confluence: The Willamette Valley Mixed GALA Chorus performs another beautiful holiday concert Dec. 6 and 7

Youth Resource Center (SMYRC) begins at 7:30 p.m. with a raffle—prizes include custom harnesses and Pussy Pucker Pots—and the movie starts at 8.

Jesus was penned by queer Boston musician **Faith Soloway**, who also stars, along with Catie Curtis, Jennifer Kimball (as Mary) and Merle Perkins (as God). The, oh, slightly modernized tale of the "virgin" birth is a song-and-dance extravaganza that pokes pleasant fun at both folk singers and dykes. (Soloway, being both, knows of what she preaches.)

Tickets cost \$8 and can be purchased at In Other Words.

PGMC at a home for the holidays near you

Members of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus have decided the holidays aren't stressful enough and so are embarking on their first-ever tri-county tour with their new production, *Home for the Holidays!*

"It's time for the chorus to produce in neighborhoods that haven't had the chorus but that we know have an audience there," says executive director Tony Stroh. "The biggest concern is to try to get the audience to the right concert location on the right night, not to mention the chorus members. Three concerts, three locations in three counties; we have officially lost our minds."

So listen up or you'll miss a program that includes some of the best work the group has presented through the years as well as a new line of sendups of a few people who've recently graced the headlines.

The chorus performs at 8 p.m. Dec. 12 at Marylhurst University's St. Anne's Chapel, 17600 Pacific Highway.

Then at 8 p.m. Dec. 13 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 N.E. Hancock St.

Then at 2 p.m. Dec. 14 at Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, 11695 S.W. Park Way. Tickets for all shows are \$12-\$25 from 503-226-2588 or www.pdxgmc.org.

Now that you've got that straight, try this on for size: The group will actually kick off this tour with a **sneak preview performance** 4 p.m. Dec. 7 at Chinook Winds Gaming and Convention Center in Lincoln City as a benefit for Coastal AIDS Network. Tickets are \$12 from 888-244-6665.

And PGMC will host a party from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 9 at Hobo's, 120 N.W. Third Ave., for the release of its new CD, *Holiday Serenade*, a collection of its favorite 18 selections. If you can't make it, you can buy the disc beginning Dec. 7 at Gai-Pied, Music Millennium, Powell's and Borders. **JW**

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