

DIVERSIONS

Out With It!

by Lisa Bradshaw



Your valentine valet

I hate it when holidays are on the weekend, because then you're an even bigger loser if you don't have something to "do."

For example, Valentine's Day. Not only should you have some kind of date, but look! It's on a Saturday! Now your date has to be bigger and better than ever before. It's a *Saturday*!

Don't despair. Because I love you (it's Valentine's Day, after all), I have compiled Lisa Bradshaw's Top Ten List of Things to Do on or About Valentine's Day. You don't have to have any big date, either; you can just go with a friend. I won't tell.

10. **The Portland Gay Men's Chorus in *Vive la Compagnie!*** Feb. 15 at Reed College. This show, starring Pink Martini's Thomas Lauderdale and vocalists Margie Boulé, Susannah Mars and Diane Syrcle, is a fund-raiser to send our little troupe off to this summer's Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses International Festival in Montreal.

9. **The Dolly Ranchers with Myshkin** on Feb. 14 at Alberta Street Public House. Myshkin is a wonderfully soulful Portland queer singer, and Santa Fe's The Dolly Ranchers provide good old-fashioned backwoods country wrapped in a delightful dykey package.

8. **The sixth annual Fetish Masquerade Ball** on Feb. 14 at Roseland Theater. You don't necessarily have to be a freaky pervert to visit this largest fetish event in the Northwest, but it sure won't hurt. Burlesque, trapeze and a body contortionist flit between bands with names like Scar Tissue and Dismantle. Two floors of go-go dancers sandwich the play room.

7. **Storm Large & the Balls Sweetheart Cruise** on Feb. 13 aboard the Portland Spirit. A 6-foot-tall, gorgeous, buxom blonde gets together with Everclear's bassist and pianist to croon heavy-metal-turned-lounge tunes. It's one of those things you wish you'd thought of first.

6. **Portland Center Stage's 36 Views** Feb. 13 at Newmark Theatre. This work, staged by gay director Chay Yew, has a couple of women studying more than just Asian art in an intriguing tale of authenticity, value and deceit. Opening night includes a post-show reception with tasty treats, dancing and mingling with the cast.

5. **Shunga exhibit at Shogun's Gallery** on Northwest 23rd Avenue. Whether you are a gallerygoer or not, it's hard to say no to this Asian art and antique store's new display of erotic Japanese wood block prints and Chinese paintings. Banned in their day and "still not for the faint at heart," warns the gallery, the beautifully rendered pieces, some homoerotic, provide insight into each culture's time and place. It's like an educational trip, really.

4. **Dinner at My House for Our House** on Feb. 12. This ongoing fund-raiser series for Our House of Portland includes a Valentine's Mixer in the Pearl at the home of interior designer Paul Scardina in his nationally featured loft with chefs from Sungari Pearl.

3. **The Sylvia Beach Hotel in Newport.** If you and your valentine are itching to get away from prying eyes, visit this romantic house where all the rooms are decorated after famous authors, including "family" members Tennessee Williams, Gertrude Stein, Oscar Wilde, Colette and Willa Cather. (The Wilde room only has a single bed—clearly, they didn't know him very well.) The third-floor lounge has a wall of oceanfront windows, a fireplace and mulled wine every evening.

2. **House of Cunt cabaret** Feb. 19 and 20 at Wild Abandon. The gay-owned restaurant hosts the queerest (meaning odd) yet funniest performance group in the city.

And the No. 1 Thing to Do on or About Valentine's Day: **The Portland Opera's *Lucia di Lammermoor*** Feb. 12 and 14. A woman forced into an arranged marriage goes mad and slices people up with big knives. What better way to celebrate your chosen alternative lifestyle?

Happy, happy Valentine's Day. ☐



Stephen Fry's new film *Bright Young Things* screens Feb. 13 and 15 as part of the Portland International Film Festival

Bright Young Things highlight of PIFF

Just when your winter fantasies of vacationing in foreign lands were getting the best of you, along comes the 27th annual Portland International Film Festival Feb. 13 to 28.

Top among the dozens of features and shorts is *Bright Young Things*, which screens Feb. 13 and 15. Gay British actor Stephen Fry's directorial debut is an adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's novel *Vile Bodies* and tracks the antics of a group of 1930s English *bons vivants* as looming world war, drug addiction and sodomy laws threaten to more than sober their lavish lifestyles.

Bolivian director Rodrigo Bel-lott's frank and unsettling *Sexual Dependency*, which screens Feb. 20 to 22, weaves together vignettes of five teens trying to make sense of their sexuality.

Two U.S.-made shorts of queer note screen Feb. 19 and 21 as part of *Short Cuts II*: Stephen Nadelman's "Terminal Bar," which paints a portrait of the New York City venue, and the music video "Gay Boyfriend" by the Ukes of Hazzard, who want to take faggotting to a whole new level.

Find a complete schedule at a coffee shop near you, but check www.nwfilm.org before you go, as lineups can change without notice.

Adult expo more queer-friendly

Last month the annual Internet adult Internet trade show and the Adult Entertainment Expo was in Las Vegas to celebrate the best and the brightest in the adult online and video industries. Our woman on the scene, Darklady, noted especially the convention's expanded "pink" presence.

"Although the mainstream porn industry long ago realized there's plenty of money to be made catering to gay consumers," explains the Portland sex writer, "the Internet has been slower to embrace not only the potential income but also the customer base."

This year's event, however, included a welcome increase in the number of lesbian and bisexual industry women, as well as a number of booths featuring hunky gay male performers signing autographs and hyping their Web sites. As usual, Cybersocket, Python and Bad Puppy were highly visible—and hosted several fabulous parties both at nightclubs and a private mansion.

"As for the industry itself, insiders expect to see more interracial, foot fetish, underwear and reality sites," Darklady says. "Although twinks remain popular, it was agreed that the market is saturated with them and will probably not see a lot of new content added to it."

Salt Lake City bans gay Mormon film

Nothing like a little censorship to stir up intrigue. The gay romantic drama *Latter Days*, from screenwriter C. Jay Cox (*Sweet Home Alabama*), recently met with rave reviews and packed houses during its first weekend of screenings, despite the fact that it was banned in Salt Lake City.

Audiences in New York and California got the first peek at the new drama about Christian, a party boy who convinces Aaron, a Mormon missionary, to face up to his sexuality. Billed as a touching story about self-discovery, hearts in Salt Lake City will not be opening up to *Latter Days*—its Jan. 30 screening was canceled at the last minute by theater owners, who claimed the film did not meet their standards of "artistic quality and integrity."

Filmmaker Cox responded by saying, "I find it quite sad that any conservative group would attempt to take such a choice away from the people of Salt Lake City."

The film should open in Portland later this year. For more information, visit www.latterdaysthemovie.com.

Local gay boy makes good

You'd better hurry if you plan to get tickets to the touring company of *Oklahoma!* Feb. 17 to 22 at Keller Auditorium. Daniel Robinson's mom might just buy up the lot.

"Every day she calls [the box office], and she's like, 'I need two more!'" Robinson laughs. "She'll call people and she's like, 'Didn't you know Daniel when he was in the third grade? OK, well he's in *Oklahoma!* and it's coming to Portland...'"

Well, who can blame an Oregon mother for being proud of her gay son in musical theater? Robinson, 22, has quite an impressive list of productions already behind him: *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *The Music Man*, *Grease*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. When he was a teen-ager, he did several local productions before studying dance at University of Arizona and then acting at New York's American Musical and Dramatic Academy.

He also has an impressive queer history: He came out at 14 in his Hillsboro high school. "I grew up going to The City nightclub."

I would take the MAX in every week," he laughs.

Traveling with

Robinson to Portland this month is his boyfriend, Chad Allen, who you'll no doubt

remember as Matthew

Cooper from *Dr.*

Quinn, Medicine

Woman. A prolific

television and film

actor, Allen, who was

featured on the Nov. 25,

2003, cover of *The Advocate*,

was a bona fide teen-age heart-

throb. "When I met him, I had no

idea he was some teen idol," admits

Robinson. "My sister even knew

who he was. I guess she had a poster

of him growing up."

In *Oklahoma!* Robinson plays Will

Parker, a kind of hometown hero who

has returned from Kansas City at the

beginning of the musical to win the

hand of the young Ado Annie. "I really

like my role in the show," says

Robinson. "He's just fun.... All the

girls like him, all the boys like him."

Tickets to *Oklahoma!* are

\$23-\$63 from 503-241-1802 or

Ticketmaster. ☐

Compiled by LISA BRADSHAW,
MEG DALY and DARKLADY



It's good to know our foremothers had the right equipment. Visit Shogun's Gallery with your valentine through Feb. 22.

Daniel Robinson
lassos himself a
purdy girl in
Oklahoma!
Now that's
acting.



PHOTO BY JOAN MARCUS