

Out With It!

by Lisa Bradshaw



We're so married

When I arrived with my partner at the Multnomah Building on Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard at 8:30 a.m. March 3, I immediately ran into *Just Out* columnist Marc Acito. "Where have you been?!" he screeched.

Because 8:30 was late for queer activists, writers and just plain folks in love that day.

Els and I didn't plan to get married on March 3; we just wanted the license. We'll get it, be a part of history and see how we feel in a couple of weeks, we said. Very levelheaded are me and Els.

Besides, Els is from Belgium, and we plan to move there eventually and get married in one of the two countries where all marriages are created equal. We wanted to get legally married for the first and only time in front of some members of her family, have a reception, etc.

Plus, if Belgium recognizes this marriage, they might not grant us a Belgian marriage license. Then there would be no legal ceremony there. That was not what we wanted.

And the nonprofit Immigration Equality advised binational queer couples not to get married. It won't help you get a green card, because it's not federally recognized and it could hinder you leaving and re-entering the country. Play it safe, they said.

Then we saw the first people to walk around the ever-lengthening line waving their new marriage license. Soon after that, there was another dashing male couple doing the same. "That was the No Fish! Go Fish! guys," Els said, referring to the owners of the charming Hawthorne eatery. "It was?" I said. We brooded.

A bunch of officiates cruising the line gave us their cards. One we particularly liked (sort of because she had no card). She just "took the day off" from Universal Life Church, she said, to come perform marriages outside the building. No fee. We brooded.

When we finally got our license three hours later, we both burst into tears. How sappy, we said, I hope no one we know is watching.

But then when we found our officiate and two friends outside to act as witnesses, we didn't care who was watching—not about the strangers still in line, not about the hatemongers in the street, not about the others waiting for the officiate to hurry up please and get to them, not about the news camera in our faces. In fact, we relished them.

Queer performance artist Tim Miller, who was in town last month with his latest one-man show about the lack of essential rights for gay couples, recently said to me, "I think gay people are so still afraid to actually take any power and see the systems of homophobia in our country...our cultural power is so much greater than our political power at this point."

On March 3, 422 couples made one hell of a political statement at 500 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Maybe we're catching up. **J**



Enjoy the ambiance that is Rory Stitt on March 5 at Nocturnal

No bullstitt

Rory Stitt has a pretty loyal following. Which isn't to say you'll have trouble getting tickets to his **March 5** show at Nocturnal. You won't have any trouble—go ahead, buy tickets at the door, no worries.

But be prepared to be surrounded by the Portland gay singer's friends—all of them. At a recent show, there were a ton, all smiley and supportive and getting the inside jokes between themselves and the slight young man on stage. At a Rory Stitt show there's a lot of love in the room.

There's also a lot of talent. Stitt's hazy, crazy rock 'n' roll piano groove is mellow but with just enough edge to keep your hearing aid on high. What was that lyric? What did his ex-boyfriend say to him in London? I missed it!

When Stitt talks from the stage it's not to spout bullshit. It's to use his quiet voice to say stuff like "What time is it?" and "I'm going now on what I like to call a smoke break." Stitt is just cool, which is why his music keeps his people coming back for more. The room might not be full, but that's not their fault. They know what they're doing.

Hip Chicks Do Tabla

Get thee to Tabla! And partake of the vino! All during March, the Northeast Portland wine bar and eatery will donate \$3 of every glass of lesbian-owned Hip Chicks Do Wine to **Our House of Portland**, which provides housing and health services to people living in advanced stages of AIDS.

This good-for-business, good-for-the-community collaboration came about because, well, the owners just like each other. Tabla is the first restaurant to serve wine by the glass from the Portland winery.

"I love Tabla's whole atmosphere," says Hip Chick's **Laurie Lewis**. "The whole small plate idea helps people get into an adventurous mode about the food they're eating." She notes they hope to go through a case of wine a week.

Supposedly there are several Tabla/Hip Chick events in the offing. Check future issues for details.

So good it Hurts

When was the last time a megastar appeared alongside Portlanders in a local theater production? Well, hold onto your hats because **William Hurt**, star of *Body Heat*, *The Big Chill*, *Children of a Lesser God*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (in which he played a big queen and won an Oscar) and other major films, as well as more than 70 plays, is on his way to our fine town.

On **March 14**, Artists Repertory Theatre launches the Northwest



Star of stage and screen William Hurt will act alongside locals during Artists Repertory Theatre's *The Drawer Boy*

premiere of a little Canadian gem, *The Drawer Boy*, starring Hurt, ART artistic director Allen Nause and Patrick Wohlmüt.

Turns out Nause knows Hurt from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, where the two acted in the 1970s. "Through a serendipitous encounter at ART a couple of years ago, we discovered that we would like to share that experience together again," says Nause. "I looked for just the right kind of project: a small cast play with a compelling human story and in-depth roles."

The three-person "sleeper" play by Michael Healy casts

Hurt and Nause as fellow World War II veterans and farmers who share a mysterious secret that threatens to explode when a young actor (Wohlmüt) arrives on the farm.

The Drawer Boy runs March 14 to April 25 at 1516 S.W. Alder St. Tickets are \$20-\$40 from 503-241-1278.

"I like to do things big," says Bridon. "I wanted to see if the street would go for it...come together and participate with each other. And they did."

To enter, send a photo and 100 words or less on why you deserve to be Spanked to Mitch at 1433 N.E. Alberta St., Portland, OR 97211. You may enter on another's behalf, and you don't have to be a straight guy or anything. Spanking Portland is open to men and women, queer and not.

"We don't want to leave anybody out," explains Bridon, who says they'll be looking for people who have compelling reasons for needing a day of pampering and perking up. "Spanking can feel good, too, you know."

No more GALA

Portland Center Stage has canceled **Gay and Lesbian Audience Night** beginning next season. The event, normally the second Tuesday of a production's run, will continue for the last two plays of this year.

GALAGoers may have noticed a bit of a miffed **Poison Waters**, the event's hostess,



To spend time with (from left) Ali Wykhuis and Angie Coffin of *Frock* and Mitch Bridon of *Spank!* one must only ask for a makeover

'Cause everyone deserves a spanking

Gay-owned hair salon **Spank!** has already provocatively announced its birth on Alberta Street with an image in its second

story of a hand about to lay into a naked ass. Now owner **Mitch Bridon** wants to get the whole city involved in his playtime: Hence, **Spanking Portland**, a makeover contest, in which three winners will be chosen from entries due to the salon by March 31.

Bridon has half the street involved in his project. While **Spank!** does up your 'do, **Frock** will outfit you, **Picasso Beads** will jewel you, **Venus Envy Day Spa** will relax you and **Tin Shed** will feed you. Other retailers and restaurants are jumping aboard with services and gift certificates for winners.

during February's *36 Views* run. Because of a confused transition, GALA had been moved from the Portland Center for the Performing Arts rotunda to the Newmark Theatre lobby, where nary a treat nor drink could be found.

"What makes this any different from any other night?" she queried in the fast-emptying space. Two days later she resigned as hostess.

"We've really had to look at all our programs this year and say, 'What do we think is the most effective' and 'Who's coming?'" explains **Kathy Budas**, PCS director of marketing. GALA, she says, "wasn't really attracting new people." Rather, "they were getting smaller."

She attributes this in part to the company's new preview performance night, **Fade to Black**. This first-Tuesday preview includes the play and an after-party with food, drinks and a DJ or live music, all for \$20. Budas notes that many patrons "moved over from the GALA night to the Fade to Black night." **J**

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