

DIVERSIONS

Out With It!



by Lisa Bradshaw

Old lesbians organizing for dates

Portland queer women are meeting each other in droves now that Tart and Diva have shaken things up at Holocene. But you probably won't see Pauline Miriam there.

Being over 50, the club scene just isn't Miriam's thing. Not being exactly a shy flower, either, she went ahead and started her own dating service.

"Necessity is the mother of invention," smiles the proud owner of Cruise Control PDX. Her first singles event is April 25 at Hobo's.

"Having suddenly and unexpectedly found myself single at the ripe age of 50, I spent the past few years looking for avenues in which to find datable older women," says Portland's new lesbian madam. Noting she found herself "dreading yet one more potluck" (that one cuts across the generations, doesn't it?) and needing to take a break from political groups, she found her options "extremely limited."

Although Miriam's ultimate goal is to provide meeting opportunities for older women, any queer woman 21 and older can sign up for speed dating and then you'll be shuttled into your age group at the event. Here's what happens after you register at www.cruisecontrolpdx.com:

1. Bring \$15 to Hobo's at 4 p.m. April 25.
2. Hang out with a woman for eight minutes—long enough to find out if she could be a stalker or has six other girlfriends or whatever, but short enough to avoid running out of things to say.
3. Move on to another woman and do the same thing.
4. Continue moving on to spend eight minutes with various women until....
5. Meet-and-Greet intermission. This is where you can talk to anyone you want—maybe get back in touch with one of your "dates" you particularly liked.
6. Go home (or go drink at the bar with some attractive woman) and wait for Miriam, er, I mean The Matchmaker to e-mail you the names of women who liked you. (Careful, your mailbox space could max out!)

Speed dating is not a new idea, but this one is based in Portland, and Miriam won't let you forget it. She plans to carry over the dating events into other social activities for older women. "I think that as a community, we fail to provide for our elders. Being a recent elder, I feel the isolation, and I want to see it change."

Will Miriam be available at her own dating event? I'm not sure you could keep her from it. "I've always been a mover and a shaker," she concedes. "If Cruise Control succeeds, then I may be able to realize my goal of providing fun stuff for the old broads!"

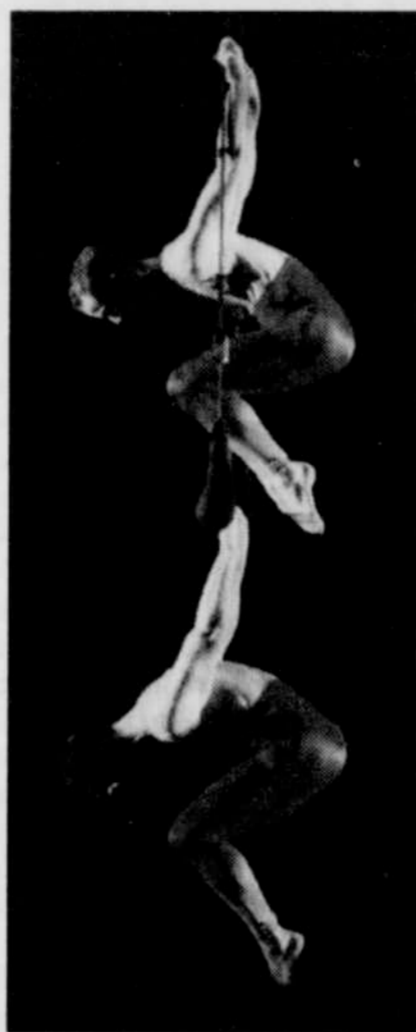
It's so much nicer with two

Two of Portland's most outstanding live performance groups—Bodyvox and Third Angle New Music Ensemble—are collaborating for the April 22 and 23 premiere of *Water Bodies*.

Bodyvox dancers and founders Jamey Hampton and Ashley Roland choreographed the multimedia performance, which blends dance, live music, film and other projections.

The new work is "a fantasia on the theme of water," says Daniel Kirk, who dances in the production along with his partner, Eric Skinner, who also helped choreograph.

Kirk and Skinner, who have been dancing



Daniel Kirk and Eric Skinner: You'd be disappointed if they weren't lovers

together for 15 years, just finished a tour of Bodyvox's *Reverie* at the Joyce Theater in New York. "The Joyce Theater is sort of the apex of contemporary dance," explains Kirk. "It's the equivalent of singing opera at the Met."

The couple have their own dance company, too: Skinner/Kirk Dance Ensemble. "Eric and I have a chemistry," says Kirk. "Part of it is just because we've been dancing side by side since 1989, and part of it is because we've had this romantic relationship for 13 years. So there's a connection between us that is different

than I could possibly have with any other dancer."

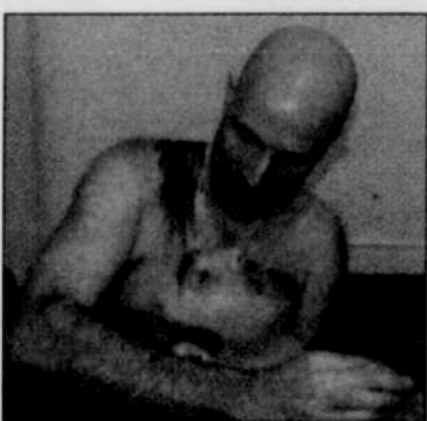
It's not his imagination. Audience members see it, too. In fact, once after a show in which the couple performed a trapeze duet, Kirk "received one of the best pieces of feedback I've gotten in my career." A woman approached him after the show and said: "I'm not prying, but the whole time I was watching that, I was hoping you guys were lovers. In my mind, you guys are, and I'd be disappointed if you weren't."

Water Bodies shows at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Tickets are \$18-\$39 from the box office or Ticketmaster.

It's yenta, dahlink, not Yentl!

That's right, your yenta (aka Jewish grandmother, not Barbra in drag) is coming to town.

In fact, a whole army of yentas will be on hand from 9 p.m. to midnight May 7 at C.C.



Get a little closer with QLAND during Men Massaging Men

Slaughters to help you find a date. It's a Yenta Matchmaking Party, sponsored by the HIV/STD prevention and wellness organization Queer Love Action Net-

work and Directory (QLAND) and hosted by Poison Waters.

QLAND outreach workers decked out in shawls and bad wigs will make introductions between you and that guy you have your eye on. "Some people have a big problem with introducing themselves," says party organizer Kurt Hunter. "We'll be there to operate as icebreakers."

Once the ice is chipped, Yenta will let you gab for a moment and then bustle you along. If you and Mr. Hottie clicked, then you can reconnect later on your own. Your yenta will make sure you're well supplied with a mini safer-sex kit. So thoughtful she always is!

Hunter says the matchmaking party is an example of how QLAND strives to model safer-sex behaviors, not preach about them. "Rather than just saying, 'Here's what you should do,' we want to actually show them, 'This is what you do.'"

The fairly new organization "provides opportunities for gay men...to enjoy one another's company," Hunter continues, "while also keeping in mind health and wellness and making that not something that has to be a chore but something you can do and be perfectly happy doing."

QLAND is also sponsoring *Men Massaging Men* the third Wednesday of every month beginning April 21. This massage exchange combines intimacy and wellness, as participants will learn how to give and receive nurturing touch, to ask for what they want and to set boundaries around what they don't want.

QLAND is seeking more members to plan future events. Call 503-281-2076 or visit www.qland.org.

Do Jump! is selling hope. Are we buying?

In another one-of-a-kind collaboration, Portland's *Do Jump! Extremely Physical Theater* premieres *Entusiasmo! A Show About Hope* April 16 to 18 at Newmark Theatre.

When the company's lesbian founder, Robin Lane, read a book called *Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World* by Alan Weisman, she was "so moved and inspired," she conducted more research on the small Colombian town and attended a conference featuring the man responsible for creating a paradise from a pile of sand.

Gaviotas is an experimental community that has created ingenious solutions to environmental problems, including power, hunger, agriculture and employment. In a country

plagued by war and economic recession, Gaviotas is somewhat of a miracle of community determination and cooperation—rain forest regrowth out of dry grasslands, solar kettles boiling water under cloudy skies, kids on seesaws pumping water.

"It's a story you almost can't believe is real," notes Lane, who is collaborating with Portland lesbian composer Joan Szymko and the Viriditas choir, as well as Los Llaneros, a band from eastern Columbia, where Gaviotas is located. Los Llaneros' music sets the stage for the dance company's sensual and moving spectacle that tells the community's hopeful story.

Weisman will be on hand to sign copies of his book after the April 16 performance. Tickets to *Entusiasmo!* are \$20-\$26 from 503-231-1232 or TicketsWest.



So long cute boys of *Playing It Straight*

First Jeffrey Dahmer, now this

And the queer television news just keeps rolling in.

Apparently obsessed with proving just how creepy gays can be, the *Party Monster* writing/directing team of Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato premiere their latest documentary, *The Hidden Führer: Debating the Enigma of Hitler's Sexuality*, April 20 on Cinemax.

Based on the 2001 book *The Hidden Hitler* by German historian Lothar Machtan, the gay directors use recently discovered archival documents, film footage, photos and interviews with authors and professors to explore Adolf Hitler's life before he rose to power in the 1930s.

Meanwhile on a distinctly lighter note, Bravo has plans to begin production on *Queer Eye for the Straight Girl*. We're not making this up. Not content to have a meaningful, pioneering hit show where two groups who needed it—straight and gay men—get together to bond, the network has clearly decided that saturating the audience with uninspired spinoffs is the way to go. Since when do straight women need help shopping?

And, finally, the somewhat homophobic yet strangely entertaining reality dating show *Playing It Straight* has been whipped off the air due to bad ratings.

Fox promises to bring it back later in the summer when everyone has forgotten what's going on and nobody watches TV anyway. It was replaced with what are sure to be ratings grabbers: *Totally Outrageous Behavior* and *World's Craziest Videos*. ☐

Compiled by LISA BRADSHAW and MEG DALY



Do Jump! is back with its most ambitious production in 26 seasons