

## DIVERSIONS



### Fatty Fatty 2x4

One hundred people who got turned away from Hollywood Theatre last May will no doubt be delighted to know that FatGirl Speaks: A Celebration of Size, Self & Sexuality has moved for its May 8 encore to the Roseland—with a capacity of 800.

Founder and organizer Stacy Bias, who also owns TechnoDyke.com, expects to sell out again. The queer Portlander has created a national firestorm of interest and activity with this one-of-a-kind venue of workshops, fashion shows, performance and partying designed to deliver the simple message that everyone has the right to love her body.

People are flying in from all over the country to attend, and a group in Seattle has been given permission to produce its own similar event (Dangerous Curves, scheduled for May 14).

Just what the hell is going on here? I decided to ask Bias a few questions.

**Lisa Bradshaw:** Stacy, everyone knows that being overweight isn't good for you, so why celebrate it?

**Stacy Bias:** Being mired in self-loathing isn't good for you. Being mucked down in hatred for your appearance, comparing yourself endlessly to wafer-thin models... isn't good for you. Watching the fucking *Swan* isn't good for you.

So why celebrate your body? Because it's yours. It's the one you've got. It's the one you live in.

Why celebrate yourself? Because inside this mixed-messaged, aesthetically driven corporate culture where diet tips, fashion clips and chocolate cake recipes dichotomously exist on all women's magazine covers, the most revolutionary thing a woman can do is love her body. Because a healthy dose of self-esteem is the only true foundation you can set that will spark off a lifetime of positive choices for your heart, soul and skin. Because all body types exist—and will exist until the end of time—and there's nothing anyone can ever do that will change that.

**LB:** Yeah, OK. But do you really believe that being 100 pounds overweight can be healthy?

**SB:** Yes, I do. I know fat folks that can bench-press a Volkswagen. I know thin folks that can't run up a flight of stairs without being winded. Fitness and fatness are not mutually exclusive.

**LB:** Last year I noticed a lot of skinny butts in the chairs at FatGirl. Why would they go?

**SB:** Hopefully, they count themselves as allies! Body image isn't just a fat issue. Our show is about fat women because we are on the front lines of body image, but negative stereotypes about bodies affect everyone—fat, thin, young, old, female, male. I think our message is heard by people of all sizes, and they find something to identify with in what we're doing and come out to show support for strong women making powerful change in fun ways. Plus, we're hot! Hello, Big Burlesque? Who would want to miss that?

**LB:** It seems like the fat advancement movement is being spearheaded by queer women. Why do you think that is?

**SB:** It does seem that way, doesn't it? ...I think being queer gives us a built-in community that is already organized for making change in several ways and that provides a ready-made platform from which other types of activism can spring.

**LB:** I think some guys would like to attend this but might be kind of nervous. Are they welcome?

**SB:** Yes, yes, yes! Of course. *Everyone* should come.... We're in this together, and we want to see as many shiny, happy faces, round or thin, as we can! ☐

Tickets to FATGIRL SPEAKS are \$10 from *In Other Words* or at the door. Visit [www.fatgirlspeaks.com](http://www.fatgirlspeaks.com) for a complete schedule.



### Queer-night-o-rama

In order to throw a queer night at a sushi bar, you'd better be one mother of a cool sushi bar. So far, we've heard no complaints from the queer patrons of the dimly lit, urbanesque *Madame Butterfly* on the corner of Southwest Fourth Avenue and Stark Street.

*Metamorphose*, which kicks off every Sunday about 8 p.m., is the brainchild of general manager David Prewitt and the restaurant's gay DJ Blue Submarine (aka Kevin Schaefer), who spins house, progressive and trance while you swap glances across the bar with a slight figure, hair in his eyes, sipping on a bright blue cocktail waiting for his teriyaki donburi.

Meanwhile over at the unendingly queer-friendly *Holocene*, the every second Wednesday queer night

*Movement*, brought to you by the kids who used to produce *The Blackbird's* queer night, is doing well enough that the bar is considering making it twice a month.

*Holocene* also sees no end in sight to the popular second Sunday queer girl night *Tart*, the fourth Sunday queer girl night *Diva* or the first Sunday queer events: alternate appearances by DK PDX and *Sparkleheart's Burlesque*. In fact, notes co-owner Jarkko Cain, everyone feels a little sorry for the third Sunday of every month, which is empty and void of meaning. Therefore, they're considering a "boys-oriented T-Dance." Stay tuned.

Finally, that *Cobalt Lounge* Tuesday night *Breakdown* called it quits, but DJ *Puppet* has moved her entourage of DJs and loyal queer dance fiends over to *Porky's* at North Lombard and Albina streets. Dubbed *Booty*, the every Thursday queer night goes from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. and encourages pirate-type dress and pillaging behavior.

### Aggressive, groovy lesbians

University of Oregon's Women's Resource Center presents the fifth annual *Lesbopalooza* on May 14 at WOW Hall and May 15 at Agate Auditorium in Eugene.

Music lovers are coming from all over the West Coast, says coordinator Kirista Trask, to see the all-queer lineup, which includes Station Wag, *Magdalen Hsu-Li*, *Demimonde Slumber Party*, *Chris Pureka*, *The Butchies*, *Nicole Sangsoree*, *Piper McKenzie*, *Kinnie Starr* and spoken word artist *Irvin*. The first evening will be "aggressive," notes Trask, while the second evening is more "groovy."

*Lesbopalooza* is "one of those few times queer people come together not to talk about the politics of being queer but to celebrate them," Trask says.

Quintessential dyke band *The Butchies*, who also play Portland's *Meow Meow* club May 16, will sure be celebrating it. "We're grateful to the folks putting the festival on, as so many people insist on shying away from a queer focus," says band member *Kaia Wilson*. "We're a bunch of rowdy homos, and we're not afraid to show it."

Tickets are \$7-\$10 for one night or \$10-\$16 for both from the university box office or 541-346-4363.

### Happy campers

That plucky little Portland organization *The FOREST Group* (Feminists of Oregon Really Excited about Seeing Trees) is readying for its second annual *campout* for women and children July 3 to 5 at Milo McIver State Park in Estacada, where it has secured the entire site for itself.

Members plan a Sunday hike and a visit to the area fish hatchery. The weekend is "geared to just about anyone," assures group moderator *Tami Keller-Clark*. "Last year we had seasoned backpackers and those that hadn't gotten their tent out in years." To join the tree huggers, call *Tami* at 503-659-2782 or e-mail [ncc1127@hotmail.com](mailto:ncc1127@hotmail.com) for an application.

If you're of the gay male persuasion, the oldest gay campground in the nation beckons from 90 minutes north of Seattle.



Members of Triangle Recreation Camp in Washington are planting trees and making other improvements in the nature conservancy this summer

*Triangle Recreation Camp*, which is open now, is a member-owned camp in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. This year members, some of whom live at the camp the entire season, are committed to extensive tree planting on the 80-acre nature conservancy.

Although the camp serves mostly men, women of the queer persuasion are welcome, too. For information and directions, visit [www.camptrc.org](http://www.camptrc.org) or e-mail [info@camptrc.org](mailto:info@camptrc.org).

### Queer film everywhere!

If you've already seen the one gay movie at Regal Cinemas (*Letter Days*), step into one of three other queer film opportunities in Portland this month.

First up is the Northwest Film Center's series *Global Lens: New Cinema from the Developing World*, which runs through May 26 at Guild Theatre and Whitsell Auditorium. The Iranian film *Women's Prison*, which follows 17 years in the life of a prison guard and her turbulent relationship with a prisoner, shows May 7 and 12.

Then on May 14, the series presents *Mango Yellow*, a Brazilian pastiche of stories, including one about a seriously flamboyant hotel manager. For the complete schedule, visit [www.nwfilm.org](http://www.nwfilm.org).

Next up is a special showing of the new film *I Exist: Voices from the Lesbian and Gay Middle Eastern Community in the U.S.* 8 p.m. May 8 at The Know, 2026 N.E. Alberta St. The film is being presented by Seattle filmmaker *Basil Shadid* to raise money for his feature film project about a first-generation Arab American coming to grips with his sexuality.

"*I Exist* is a documentary that chronicles the stories, messages, experiences and context for lesbian and gay Middle Easterners living in the United States," explains *Shadid*. The film allows, he continues, "a unique opportunity to see something that's never been seen on screen before.... It's especially important because of how much negative attention is given to Arabs and other Middle Easterners in the media these days."

Admission to *I Exist* is \$5-\$10 sliding scale. The event includes a short opening film from Lebanon and a raffle.

Finally, Clinton Street Theater's Forest Film Festival, which runs May 10 to 16 and showcases independently produced experimental shorts, includes a screening of Portland gay filmmaker *Aaron Kirk Douglas'* gem of a short "My Days of Awe and Grief" about him and his best friend growing up in Springfield. ☐



Chris Pureka joins a whole herd of queer musicians for Lesbopalooza



Portland sees its first screening of *I Exist: Voices from the Lesbian and Gay Middle Eastern Community in the U.S.* May 8 at The Know