

DIVERSIONS

There he/she is...

The future of the Miss America pageant is uncertain after ABC decided last month to drop the decreasingly popular competition. So this is the perfect time for a raucous drag spoof—kick 'em when they're down!

Triangle Productions' *Pageant* features Rick Lewis filling in for Bert Parks, lots of cheesy production numbers and a delicious lineup of beauty queens: **Poison Waters** (aka Kevin Cook) as a tap-dancing Miss Texas and **Pepe** (of Pepe and the Bottle Blondes) as a roller-skating Miss Industrial Northeast vying for the crown against Miss Bible Belt, Miss Great Plains, Miss Deep South and Miss West Coast.

Five judges picked from the audience will rate the gals based on a talent competition, product demonstrations, evening gowns, swimsuits and—get this—physical fitness outfits.

"We have this whole StairMaster, in-high-heels, choreographed dance thing, and it's just so funny," Poison told *Just Out*. "I'm sure the audience is just gonna leave exhausted and doubled over in pain."

Pageant plays Nov. 26 to Dec. 23 at Theater Theatre, 3430 S.E. Belmont St. Tickets are \$17-\$23 from 503-239-5919 or TicketsWest.

You can get a sneak preview of the opening number during a birthday party for legendary Portland entertainers **Roxy LeRoy** and

"I usually design furniture, but once in a while a project will come along that I can't pass up," the gay 40-year-old says.

That project was to design Mamma Mia Trattoria, the new restaurant by Bigham's friend **Lisa Schroeder** (of Mother's Bistro fame) and her partner, **Rob Sample**—all while being filmed for the program *Opening Soon*, which follows a restaurant from design to opening night. The episode airs at 3 p.m. Nov. 21 on the Fine Living Channel.

The self-taught furniture maker had never designed an entire space before. But he took the challenge head-on and brought his passion for detail to every corner.

"You might see a table, but I see finials from Thailand, Victorian plaster trim from an old Portland mansion and carvings from Bali," he says. "I labor over the tiniest piece of trim."

The fruits of his labor can be seen in the gorgeous gold-embossed, dark wood paneling, red and gold walls and intricate, hand-built chandeliers in the dining room.

Plus, Bigham says, don't miss the women's restroom. "[Lisa] wanted it red and sexy and, man, did I give her red and sexy."

Upscale design work is a far cry from Bigham's usual day job: teaching special education elementary classes. Though he has a master's in education, it sounds like he might have found a new

career path. He and Schroeder are teaming up on another project. And *Opening Soon* wants him to design for other shows.

Thom Filicia, eat your heart out!

Diva's damn grand exit

The year-old, last-Sunday dyke dance party *Diva* will go out with a bang Nov. 28. Organizer **Katharine Sprecher** says she is moving on to new adventures.

"I feel like I've gone as far as I can with it," Sprecher told *Just Out*. "I want to do things that are a little more politically motivated, and can be more creative. I don't want to limit myself with one monthly event."

Oh my, what a lovely monthly event it has been, though. *Diva* distinguished herself from other dyke nights by incorporating performance and interaction into the revelry. Go-go dancers and flirt cards have been a huge hit. Sprecher says she has been inundated with requests from women wanting to go-go dance.

"They found it to be a fabulously empowering experience where they could experience and offer their sensuality in a

very safe environment," she says.

She hopes to spread her party-planning wings even further in the near future. She is partnering with a few other women on developing a business that does event coordination, specializing in gay and lesbian wedding ceremonies—marriage laws be damned!

Play your hearts out at *Diva's* flirty "game night" from 5 to 10 p.m. at *Holocene*, 1001 S.E. Morrison St. There will be prizes, go-go divas and great tunes by DJs **Harmony**, **Chic Shiek**, **La Buket Fantastique** and **Zanne deJanvier** (who also works at *Just Out* as our Production Assistant/Mascot). The cover is \$5. **J**

Compiled by MEG DALY and JIM RADOSTA



Furniture designer **Brett Bigham** will be featured on the television design show *Opening Soon* airing Nov. 21

Darcelle XV on Nov. 21 at 208-N.W. Third Ave. (They're turning 69 and 74, respectively, in case you've lost count.) The celebration starts with a free buffet at 7 p.m., followed by an all-star tribute to Broadway musicals at 8.

Queer eye for a Portland trattoria

Brett Bigham says he wouldn't touch a hammer when he was growing up.

Now his finesse with woodworking has him designing one of Portland's hottest new restaurants and being featured in a television design show.

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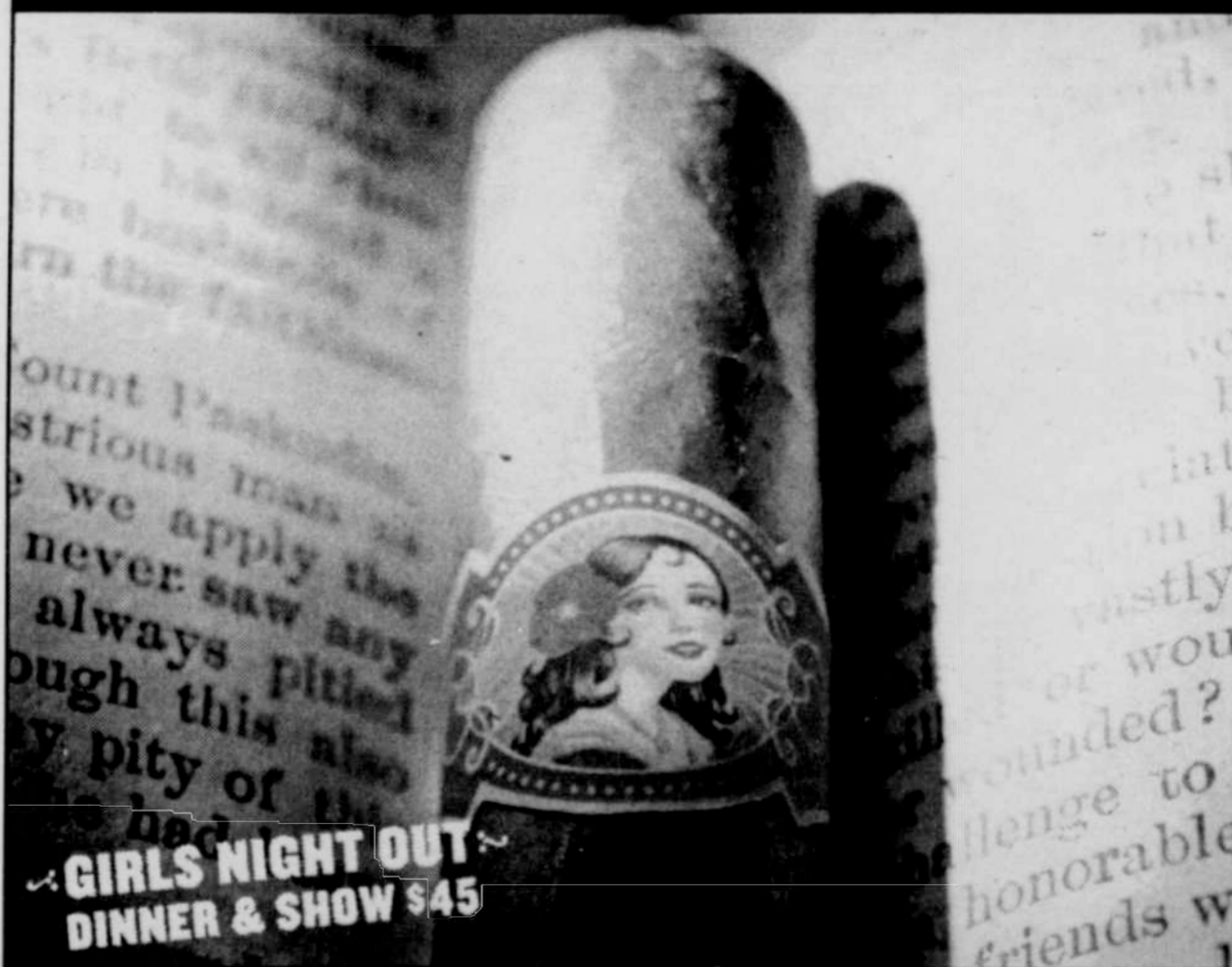
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