

ART

A woman exposed

Self-taught photographer renders the body beautiful

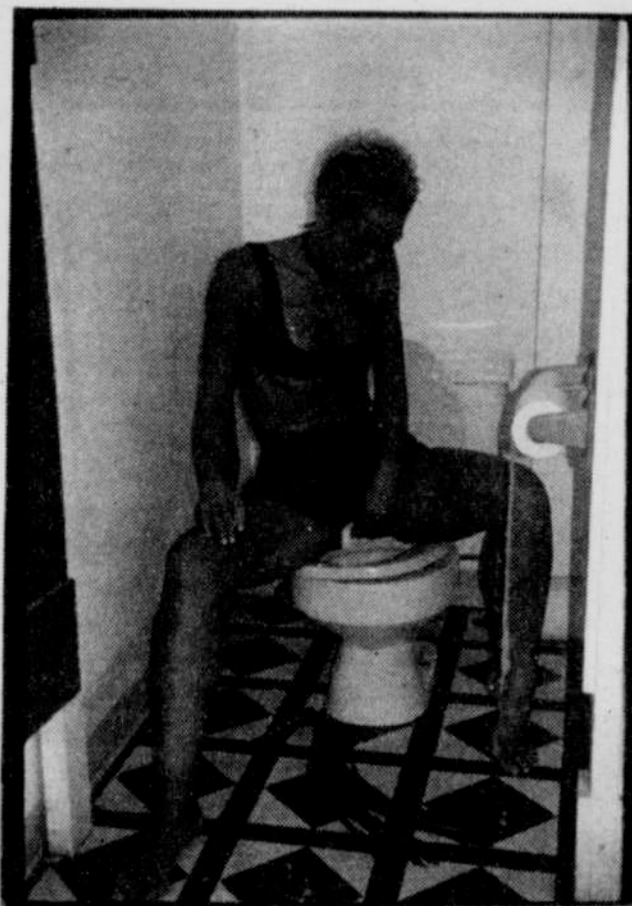
BY MEG DALY



Climbing the steps of Pasha Gross' Southeast Portland home, who should come bounding up behind me but rock 'n' roll lounge singer Storm Large.

"Mammaaaa!" she yells as she knocks on the door, then explains to me that she has brought Pasha's "Christmas burrito."

A glowing Pasha (she goes by her first name only) embraces her friend and welcomes us into



the kitchen, offering jasmine tea. Strewn across the dining table are black and white photographs of people, porches and animals. One image catches Large jutting her ribcage out to a point, nude except for long black gloves and a butcher knife she holds along her hip.

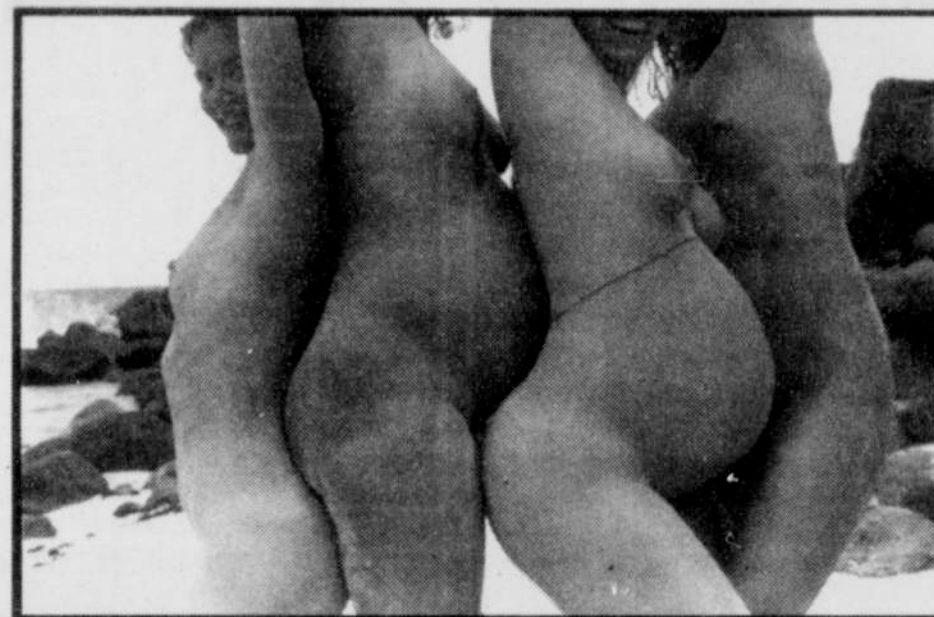
Large is an enthusiastic model for the 33-year-old Pasha, whose photographic passion got

a kick-start right here on the pages of *Just Out* two years ago. The single mom makes her living as a yoga instructor and childbirth educator, but photography is more than a hobby.

"I love it," says the self-taught artist of her medium. "When I see people or things, I'm attracted to the light...to the shape of them."

Case in point: a photo of four naked women pressed together gleefully, standing on a beach. The two center women are pregnant, and each body curves against the other like sand dunes hugging smooth lava rocks.

This image won the 2002 *Just Out* Amateur Photo Contest, which Pasha entered on a whim, never before having shown her photos to



Pasha (top left) won the *Just Out* Amateur Photo Contest with this 2002 image. Her other sexy subjects include Portland rock 'n' roll lounge singer Storm Large (left).

is hired to take personal photos of people. Chief among her subject matter is sexy photos of women together.

"I think women are more beautiful than men," she says.

While she admits to having been around the dyke block more than once, Pasha now

defines her sexual orientation in this way: "I only sleep with straight women—and my Italian stallion."

Unafraid of ruffling feathers, Pasha lives her life boldly, unapologetically. Soon she will be opening a yoga studio/gallery called The Moving Through Center.

"All the work I've done in my life has to do with transformation," she says. "With photography, I watch people bloom." **J**

View more of PASHA's work at www.pashaproductions.com.



anyone but friends. She was at a crossroads in her life where she wondered if she should continue her photography "habit," as she calls it. She was looking for validation.

"Winning the photo contest was a turning point," she says.

The accompanying gift certificate allowed her to purchase her first manual camera, the same one she uses today.

"It's killer!" she exclaims.

Now she has her own Web site, shows her photography locally and



Just Out Amateur Photo Contest returns

If Pasha can do it, so can you!

After a two-year hiatus, the *Just Out* Amateur Photo Contest is back. Win prizes and gain exposure for your favorite images in the following categories: People, Pets, Nature.

Entries must be color or black and white prints; must be 8" x 10" or smaller and unmounted; and must include a name, address, category and title on the back. Submissions should be mailed to P.O. Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400, or dropped off at 123 N.E. Third Ave., Suite 465, by March 15.

The grand prize will be a \$250 gift certificate. The judges also will select one runner-up from each category.

The winners will be published in the April 15 issue. Photos will be displayed in the *Just Out* office and cannot be returned.

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