

DIVERSIONS

Double Down debuts, Snatch downsizes, Jack quits, After Hours grows

Can't keep track of Portland's ever-changing queer nights? More info can be found on Page 26, but here's the quick scoop:

On Feb. 26, Holocene will launch yet another queer night, **Double Down**, "serving up a mix of music and style to provoke and get you on the dance floor and indulge." Shoshanah Oppenheim, who also organizes the wildly popular dyke night Tart, says boys are encouraged to crash the party.

While Holocene continues to roll out the welcome mat for queers, the newly opened Doug Fir is losing steam already. Its queer night will throw in the towel Feb. 27 with **The Big Jack! Off** featuring *Scream Club*, *Sissyboy*, *Ursula Android*, *Jackie Hell* and *Romanteek*. Meanwhile, **Snatch: A Dyke Knight** is trimming back to a once-a-month affair.

Finally, **After Hours** at Vitis Enoteca is expanding to include a spacious dance arena where ladies can get down to '70s and '80s music while nibbling Italian tapas and sipping specialty cocktails.

U of O presents queer film fest

The 13th annual **University of Oregon Queer Film Festival**—the longest-running gay and lesbian film festival in the Northwest—takes place Feb. 18 to 27 in Eugene.

Although full festival passes cost only \$6-\$8, the U of O Cultural Forum is kicking off the fest with two free screenings Feb. 18 and 24. First up is *Brother to Brother*, just in time for Black History Month, followed by *Lonesome Cowboys*, part of the Andy Warhol film series.

Festival highlights include a Feb. 25 screening of this year's Short Film Competition winners. The \$250 Jury's Choice was Australian filmmaker **Jonathan Wald's** "Whac Grown-Ups Know," which deals with the complicated—and somewhat Oedipal—relationship between a boy and his dying mother. The \$100 runner-up trophy went to trans filmmaker **Tara Mateik** and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project of California for "Toilet Training," a documentary addressing the persistent discrimination, harassment and violence faced by gender-variant people in gender-segregated bathrooms. The third-place prize of \$50 went to **Michael V. Smith** of Vancouver, British Columbia, for "Pink," a documentary demonstrating how the North American gender code limits self-expression. The eight Honorable Mentions

include a narrative about mild-mannered Americans catching "The Gay," along with documentaries about the bear society of Canada and a Springfield man's coming-out story.

The next day's lineup includes a screening of *Freedom to Marry*, a documentary about the history-making marriages that took place one year ago this month in San Francisco. Filmmakers **Carmen Goodyear** and **Laurie York** captured footage of "founding mothers of the movement" Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin becoming the first legally married same-sex couple—after waiting more than 50 years. **Davina Kotulski**, author of *Why You Should Give a Damn About Gay Marriage*, will attend the screening, which will be followed "A Day Like Any Other," a short film by Portlander **Greg Sax** about local couple Jay Roberts and Mark Johnson, who celebrated their 21st anniversary by officially tying the knot.

The late-night options are pretty interesting, too. The audience will sing along Feb. 25 to "Once More with Feeling," a musical episode of television's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* about a demon that terrorizes Sunnydale with uncontrollable song and dance. (The *Buffy* illiterate need not worry: Subtitles will be provided.) The next night is for mature audiences only: *Annie Sprinkle's Amazing World of Orgasm* and Bruce LaBruce's hardcore satire *The Raspberry Reich*.

Here is the complete schedule of screenings, which will take place in Room 180 of Prince Lucien Campbell Hall at 14th Avenue and Kincaid Street:

- 8 p.m. Feb. 18: *Brother to Brother*.
- 8 p.m. Feb. 24: *Lonesome Cowboys*.
- 7 p.m. Feb. 25: *Tarnation*.
- 9 p.m. Feb. 25: Short Film Competition.
- 11 p.m. Feb. 25: *Buffy Sing-Along*.
- 1 p.m. Feb. 26: *Freedom to Marry*.
- 3:30 p.m. Feb. 26: *Flowers from the Heartland*.
- 4 p.m. Feb. 26: *Proteus*.
- 6 p.m. Feb. 26: Audience Choice Awards.
- 9 p.m. Feb. 26: *The Raspberry Reich*.
- 11 p.m. Feb. 26: *Annie Sprinkle's Amazing World of Orgasm*.
- Noon Feb. 27: *Drag Kings on Tour*.
- 1 p.m. Feb. 27: *A Few Good Dykes*.
- 2 p.m. Feb. 27: *Goldfish Memory*.

Also on campus...

Shortly after having their words staged in Portland earlier this winter, **Tony Kushner** and **Christopher Durang** are back already. Coincidentally, both new productions toy with notions of reality, and both take place on college campuses. Oh, and both of the playwrights happen to be gay.

Kushner is known for his intelligence, wit

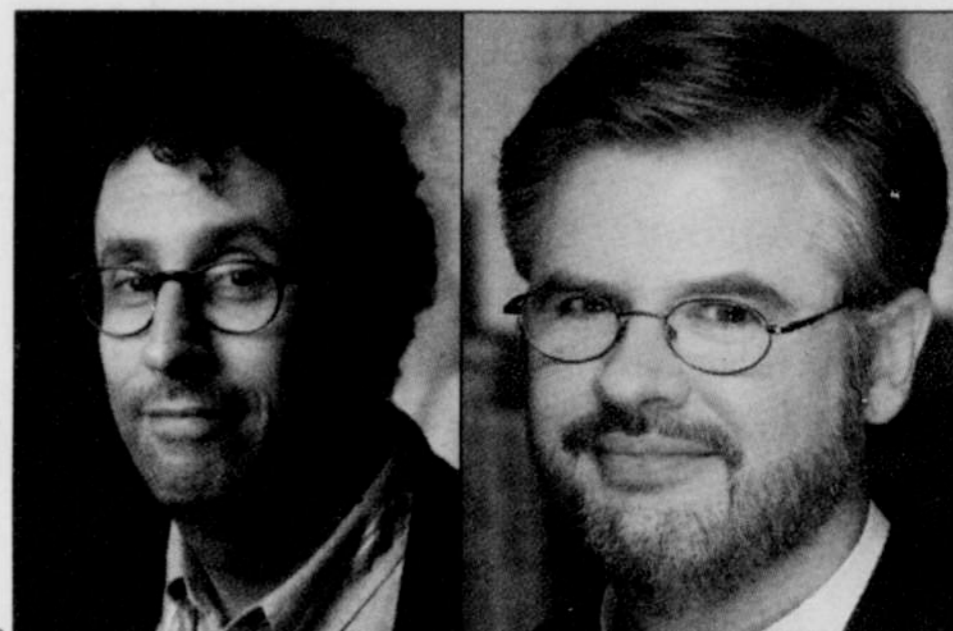
and humanity, but did you know that he earned accolades early in his career for a work that celebrates fantasy, magic and romance? **Lewis & Clark College** is presenting *The Illusion* March 4 and 5 and March 10 to 12 at Fir Acres Theatre Main Stage, 0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road. Tickets are \$3-\$8 from 503-768-7495.

Adapted from Pierre Corneille's 1639 comedy, the play follows the story of an ailing and remorseful father who wants to find his estranged son.

After exhausting all of the conventional avenues, he finally turns to a magician for help. She shows him three "visions" of the son's life, ultimately sharing secrets that change the father's perceptions of what he has seen, leading to some surprising truths.

"Kushner's language is gorgeous in a contemporary way, as is his sense of humor," says director **Stephen Weeks**, associate professor of theater. "It's a wonderfully adroit mix of a classical French plot with a contemporary sensibility."

Theatre Vertigo recently revived Kushner's *A Bright Room Called Day*, which drew parallels between Nazis and neocons. His seven-hour, two-part epic *Angels in America* received a



Gay scribes **Tony Kushner** (left) and **Christopher Durang** are returning to Portland stages after an ever-so-brief hiatus



Marc Acito is shocked to be a Lammy finalist!

Pulitzer Prize and two Tony Awards and was made into an Emmy-winning HBO miniseries.

On the other side of the river, **Reed College** is presenting Durang's *The Actor's Nightmare* 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 to 26 at Theatre Thesis Studio, 3203 S.E. Woodstock Blvd. Tickets are \$1-\$3 from 503-777-7755.

The play is described as a unique depiction of one man's dream come nightmare: An accountant is turned upside down when he's suddenly thrown into the world of acting. Without a clue how to act nor an inkling as to the play he's performing in, he finds himself amid famous thespians, stumbling for a grasp on reality.

Durang received a Tony Award nomination for Best Book of a Musical in 1978 for *A History of the American Film* and has won Obies for *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You*, *Betty's Summer Vacation* and *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*. Last Christmas, Artists Repertory Theatre produced the West Coast premiere of his latest work, *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*.

Lammy hammy

Former *Just Out* columnist **Marc Acito**, who retired "The Gospel According to Marc"

last month to work on his next book, has been nominated for the queer equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize.

How I Paid for College: A Novel of Sex, Theft, Friendship and Musical Theater is a finalist for Gay Men's Debut Fiction, a new category created for the 17th annual **Lambda Literary Awards**, which will be presented at a gala ceremony June 2 in New York City. He'll be up against Damian McNicholl's *A Son Called Gabriel*, Blair Mastbaum's *Clay's Way*, Aaron Krach's *Half-Life* and Brian Leung's *World Famous Love Acts*.

Inquiring minds want to know: Now that Acito is a published author, how does it feel to be among the queer cream of the crop?

"Being nominated for a Lammy is like being invited to an oh-so-exclusive party, which, as it turns out, is entirely accurate," he gushes. "I've never felt like much of an A-Gay—I'd say I languish somewhere around L or M—so I'm just thrilled to go to a cool shindig."

Acito recently made headlines of a more serious nature as one of the plaintiffs suing the state of Oregon for the right to marry—along with his onetime *Willamette Week* rival, **Byron Beck**. But he'll just have to take some time off from challenging the court to focus on more important matters, like courting the paparazzi.

"I was disappointed to discover that the winner doesn't get a tiara," he admits. "Will Steven Cojocar be there asking us who we're wearing?"

Acito will offer his words of wisdom to **Willamette Writers**—a nonprofit organization formed 40 years ago to provide a support system for aspiring scribes—during their next meeting 7 p.m. March 1 at The Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave. His speech, "Laughing Matters: How to Write Funny," will let the audience in on some secrets of his success.

For now, though, Acito is willing to share one sure-fire way to secure a Lammy nomination: "Obviously, all those sexual favors I performed paid off."

Starlight, shine bright

Camp Starlight, an annual adventure for kids whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS, has found a new home.

Now that Women's Intercommunity AIDS Resource has folded, Cascade AIDS Project has taken the temporarily orphaned program under its well-funded wing.

But these amazingly spirited, courageous and energetic 5- to 17-year-olds from Oregon and Southwest Washington still need your support, so come to the seventh annual **Stars Twinkle & Shine** 8 p.m. March 2 at Darcelle XV, 208 N.W. Third Ave. Organizers are asking for a minimum donation of \$20. ☐

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA



The University of Oregon Queer Film Festival's naughty night Feb. 26 exposes *Annie Sprinkle's Amazing World of Orgasm* (left) and *The Raspberry Reich*