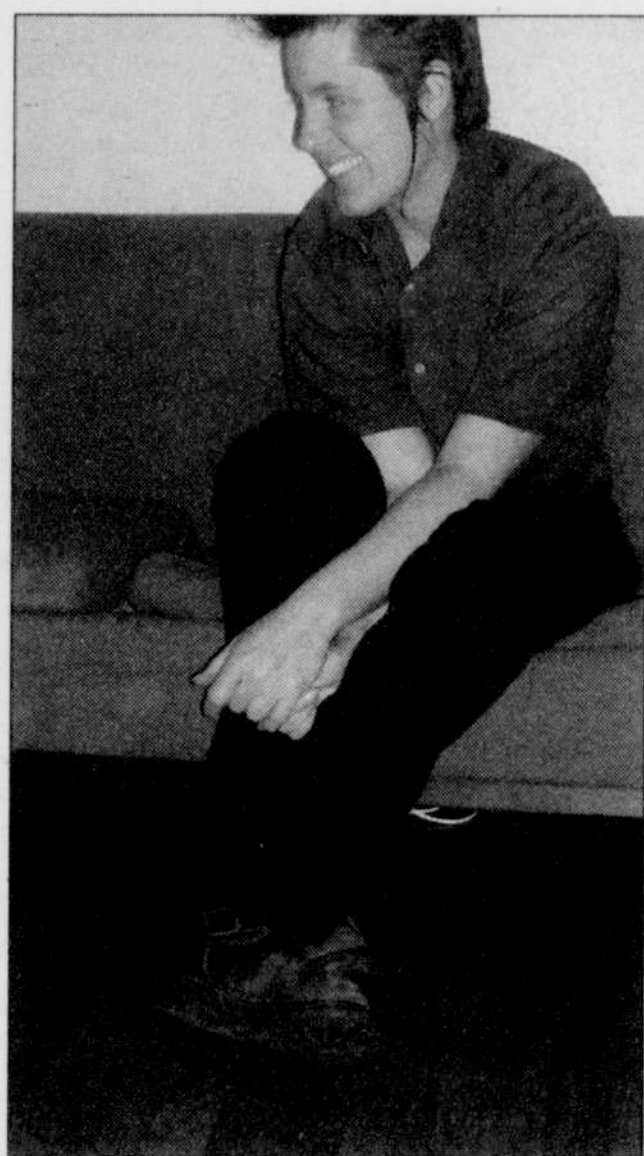


travel. Songwriter and guitarist **Marisa Anderson** responded by booking time in a recording studio.

"I wanted to catch the bittersweet intensity of that time—I knew when I got home from our last tour I would be emotionally wrung out and ready for some kind of release. I figured the studio would be a perfect place to capture that catharsis."



Marisa Anderson will celebrate the release of *Holiday Motel* April 30 at SMYRC.

The recordings resulted in *Holiday Motel*, a haunting collection of nine songs featuring Anderson's awe-inspiring guitar skill accompanying her proven lyrical prowess. Due out April 30, the album features guest appearances by Portland indie superstars **Mirah** **Yom Tov Zeitlyn**, *sts* (Cadallaca, The Haggard, Shemo) and **Melissa Collins** (Discharge Information System).

Holiday Motel captures the best of what Anderson is known for: "I wanted this record to showcase both my songwriting and my guitar playing. I'm not just another girl with a guitar and some pretty songs!"

Classically trained as a child, Anderson moved to the Bay Area after dropping out of college to travel. There, she studied with well-known country and folk session player **Nina Gerber**.

Anderson was soon back out on the road with the Chaos Collective, a traveling artist/activist organization with projects including the creation of a circus that traveled to Mexico and performed in Zapatista communities. In early 1999, she moved to Santa Fe, N.M., where she formed the Ranchers with Sarah-Jane Moody and helped found the One Railroad Circus, an all-women troupe.

These days, Anderson is a familiar face at the Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls, where she teaches at GRI, the camp's popular after-school music program. She also plays in the Illegal Guardians and is working on a record with Beth Ditto of The Gossips.

You can catch Anderson at the CD release show for *Holiday Motel* 8 p.m. April 30 at the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, 2100 S.E. Belmont St. Also performing will

be **Mirah** and **Duck Duck Grey Duck**. Look for her online at www.marisaanderson.org.

—Jodi Darby

Tour your town

A unique fund-raiser for **Our House of Portland** leads Portlanders to the great beyond or helps them see Oregon again for the first time.

"For Love and Money," the sixth annual benefit for Our House, which provides housing and health care for people living with HIV/AIDS, follows a travel theme.

"We are rallying our community so we can raise \$250,000 that night, 100 percent of which will fund services critical to those struggling with HIV/AIDS," says event co-chairwoman **Celia Lyon**. "We think the focus on exotic travel adventures offers something for everyone in a charitable venue."

The event features live and silent auction packages including trips to exotic lands such as Kenya, Argentina, France, Spain, Bali and Indonesia as well as familiar places like Oregon's inland and shopping sprees on Northwest 23rd Avenue.

"No matter how many things you have, you can always go on a trip," says **Jennifer Niederloh**, development associate for Our House. "Life experience is what it's all about."

According to Niederloh, traveling auctions have been popular in Our House's past. Art, gift certificates and beauty packages round out the auction fare.

The host of the event will be native entertainer **Wade McCollum** of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* fame. Past Our House benefits have had a cabaret theme and feel, so he and surprise guests will perform numbers from *Cabaret* and other crowd-pleasers.

The event also will honor **Tom Spanbauer** and **Maria Kosmetatos** for their efforts in improving the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Spanbauer, a gay Portland author who has AIDS, has been described as a "voice of the community."

"It's thrilling when there's someone local that's touching so many people on a national level. He's been able to put into words the challenges of this disease," says Niederloh.

Kosmetatos is a nurse practitioner who has worked as an AIDS caregiver and activist. She is the force behind African AIDS Response, benefiting Portland's sister city, Mutare, and the grassroots Zimbabwe AIDS Network.

"She is a real advocate for people living with this challenge," says Niederloh.

The fund-raiser will start 5 p.m. April 24 in the Pavilion Room at the Hilton Hotel, 921 S.W. Sixth Ave. Tickets are \$100 from 503-736-9276.

—JRC

SHARE the fun

Dust off your swing and fox trot moves or learn some new ones with free dance lessons and a fund-raiser for **Senior Housing and Retirement Enterprises**.

SHARE teams with **Rose City Swing and Out Dancing** to blend music with the needs of Portland's elderly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender folks.

The dance, "Share an Evening for SHARE," will introduce the community to SHARE and its vision for a senior residential facility meeting sexual minority-specific needs. "Our dream is to create a community, tentatively named SHARE Commons, with

homes, apartments, common buildings and aging-in-place care facilities," says event coordinator **David Wilson**.

The event is also meant to introduce seniors to the results of a report SHARE has composed about the household wants and needs of seniors.

"The purpose of the report was to find out from the community what they want us to build. The dance will give us the chance to say where we come from, what information we've gathered and where we're going with it," says **Wendy Woods**, president of SHARE.

The need and desire for queer-specific housing is great, according to Woods.

"LGBT elders are encountering around the country blatant discrimination," she says. "It's a pretty worrisome situation, even worse than we thought. Many seniors think they have to go back in the closet."

In surveys distributed at Portland Pride and other events, seniors identified a desire to live in a secure environment where they can be themselves, have their pets, live independently and be surrounded by a diverse population, including heterosexuals and young people. The survey also identified a need for affordable housing.

"More than half of the respondents want a very diverse community, open to heterosexuals, with diverse spiritual and political views, race and ethnicity—even age," says Woods.



David Wilson is coordinating the "Share an Evening for SHARE" dance April 23.

In the short term, the organization plans to buy an existing building for SHARE Commons, which residents can move into in the next two or three years. The long-term vision will be to build a retirement community from the ground up.

Many local dignitaries are showing their support for SHARE. Portland Mayor **Tom Potter**, City Commissioner **Sam Adams** and Multnomah County Commissioner **Maria Rojo de Steffey** will attend the dance.

Many other cities nationwide are recognizing the need for senior housing for gays and lesbians, but SHARE's project is the first in the Northwest. "We're on the forefront again in Portland, doing something new, leading the trend," says Woods.

The event will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight April 23 at Ambridge Event Center, 300 N.E. Multnomah St. Tickets are \$25-\$30 a person and \$55 a couple from It's My Pleasure and Out Dancing. For more information, visit www.share-pdx.org.

—JRC

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