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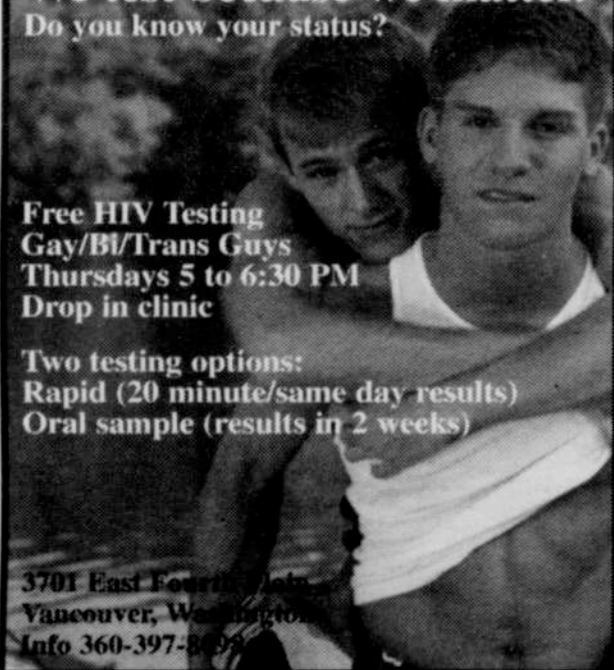
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Curve takes over Portland with anniversary events

How did you spend your 15th birthday? Did you invite all the girls over for some dance party fun, a video marathon, glitter glue crafting and impromptu practice kissing?

Things haven't changed a bit.

Curve, the original nationwide lesbian magazine, celebrates its 15th anniversary in Portland with nearly a week of parties for ladies from May 18 to 22.

"We think Portland is an amazing, fabulous city. We love the lesbians up there. The community is really diverse in terms of interest, ages and backgrounds," said Diane Anderson-Minshall, executive editor of *Curve*. "Portland is rumored to have the highest rate of lesbians per capita, so it's the best place for us to be visible."

The *Curve* 15th Anniversary Takeover will be punctuated by a huge dance party May 21 at lesbian-owned Vitis Enoteca, 535 N.W. 16th Ave. Door prizes, goody bags, food, drinks and a DJ will set the scene.

The SuperFantabulous Indie All-Stars will draw local rockers and zinesters for a fund-raising extravaganza benefiting Point Foundation, providing scholarships to queer students, and the Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls. This event is May 22 at Holocene, 1001 S.E. Morrison St. Notable dyke bands, drag shows and entertainers include *Just Out* News Editor Sarah Dougher, T-reXXXa, Pom Pom Meltdown, Mishkin's Ruby Warblers, Johnny Mozzarella and Ricky Z. Starr, Glam Star Burlesque and spoken word and readings by Ro Deezy, Inga Muscio, Teresa Molter, Beren de Motier and the women behind independent magazines *Hip Mama* and *World Pulse*.

Curve Lesbians & Cinema Close Up will introduce audiences to emerging lesbian filmmakers from around the country with a panel discussion, Q & A, new script readings and screenings. The film fest is sponsored in part by the Portland Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. The event is slated for May 20 at Acme, 1305 S.E. Eighth Ave.

Add to that a **Kiss In** celebration May 21 on the Multnomah Building steps and a **Get Crafty** DIY dyke gathering May 18 at Acme.

Hotel packages are available through Kimpton Hotels. For more information visit www.curvemag.com.

—Jaymee R. Cuti

Smells as sweet

Eugene's sixth annual queer girl music festival has changed its name from the jaunty Lesbopalooza to the lackluster *Out/Loud*, but the lineup remains intriguing.

The first evening finds the ever-popular queer slam poet **Alix Olson** on the bill, along with singer/songwriters **Pamela Means** and **Chris Pureka**. If you're hip to the acoustic queer indie scene, you've no doubt seen them all before, but their ability to continue to rake in the crowds in Oregon is impressive. Of the three, Olson delivers the most bang for your buck, sticking it to the bigots, the politicians, the misogynists and

DIVERSIONS

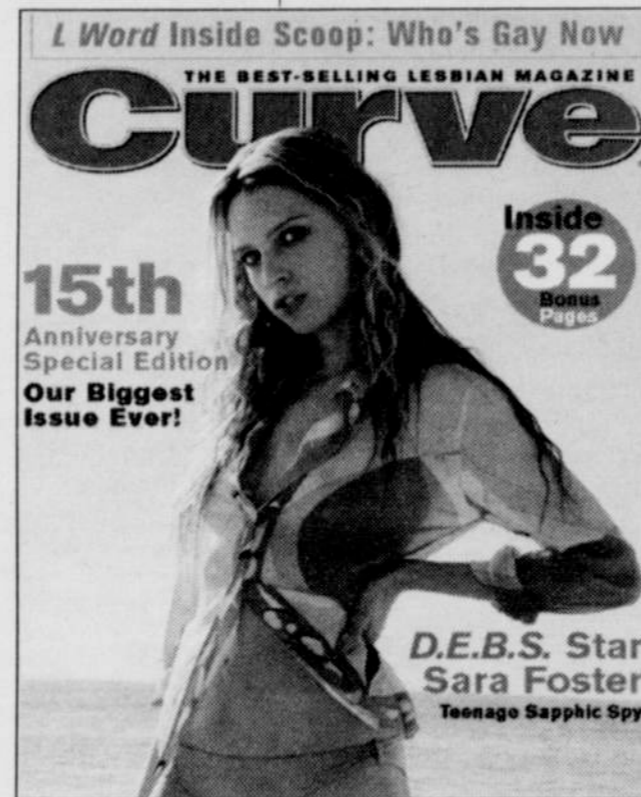
the corporate criminals with constantly evolving glee. Her work has become slightly more somber and reflective as she enters her late 20s, and the mixture of her early and later slams fuses her political time capsule into a complete scene-stealing whole. It's

still worth paying \$7 to see.

Saturday night, though, brings some interesting new faces to WOW Hall. Accomplished Bay Area rapper **JenRO**, who splits her time between queer-oriented performances and the more conventional gangsta scenario, is successfully treading water in the troubled seas of homophobic, misogynistic rap territory—which is onerous at best, career-killing at worst. JenRO has

publicly stated that she would forsake her queer lyrics to scrap her way to the top and then strike her millions of fans with it when the iron is hot. Still, her first album, *The Revelation*, to be released any day now, is not void of queer consciousness. If she takes requests at *Out/Loud*, try to get her to do "Gangsta Dykes."

It takes a San Francisco publication to pronounce an all-trans ensemble **Girl Band of the Year**, but *The Bay Guardian* has done so for good reason. Power pop fivesome **Lipstick Conspiracy** takes you back to sing-



along, dance-along '80s hooks with a touch of irony over every word. Pick up its debut album, *Don't Tell a Soul*, and play it on your way; if you can only catch one night of this gay girl soiree, make it this one.

"The LGBT community is often excluded from the media and from the national popular music scene," says event coordinator **Stacy Borke**. "Out/Loud encourages the visibility of these independent artists and...provides a safe and celebratory space."

Borke is still looking for volunteers and donations. Contact her at 541-346-4095 or sborke@earthlink.net.

Out/Loud will be held 7:30 p.m. May 20 and 21 at WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth Ave. Tickets are \$5-\$7 for one night, \$8-\$10 for both.

—Lisa Bradshaw

With the greatest of ease

Dancers suspended 30 feet in the air, a parasol-carrying contortionist and a cabaret cat-fight—what more could you ask from an evening's entertainment?

Pendulum Aerial Dance Theatre's latest performance, *Crimson Cabaret*, provides all the aforementioned spectacles and more. The troupe's members dance, swing and whirl, all while hanging in midair. They defy gravity with the help of various aerial apparatus: trapezes, ropes, hoops and lengths of stretchy Lycra called silks.

The setting is a 1930s Parisian cabaret. The space is draped in red hangings for the performance, lending an air of sensuality. French music, played live by Portland musicians, adds to the atmosphere.

A cast of wacky characters populates the performance. **Suzanne Kenney**, Pendulum's managing and artistic director, plays the owner of the cabaret. Company member

Laura Stokes performs the part of the parasol-carrying contortionist.

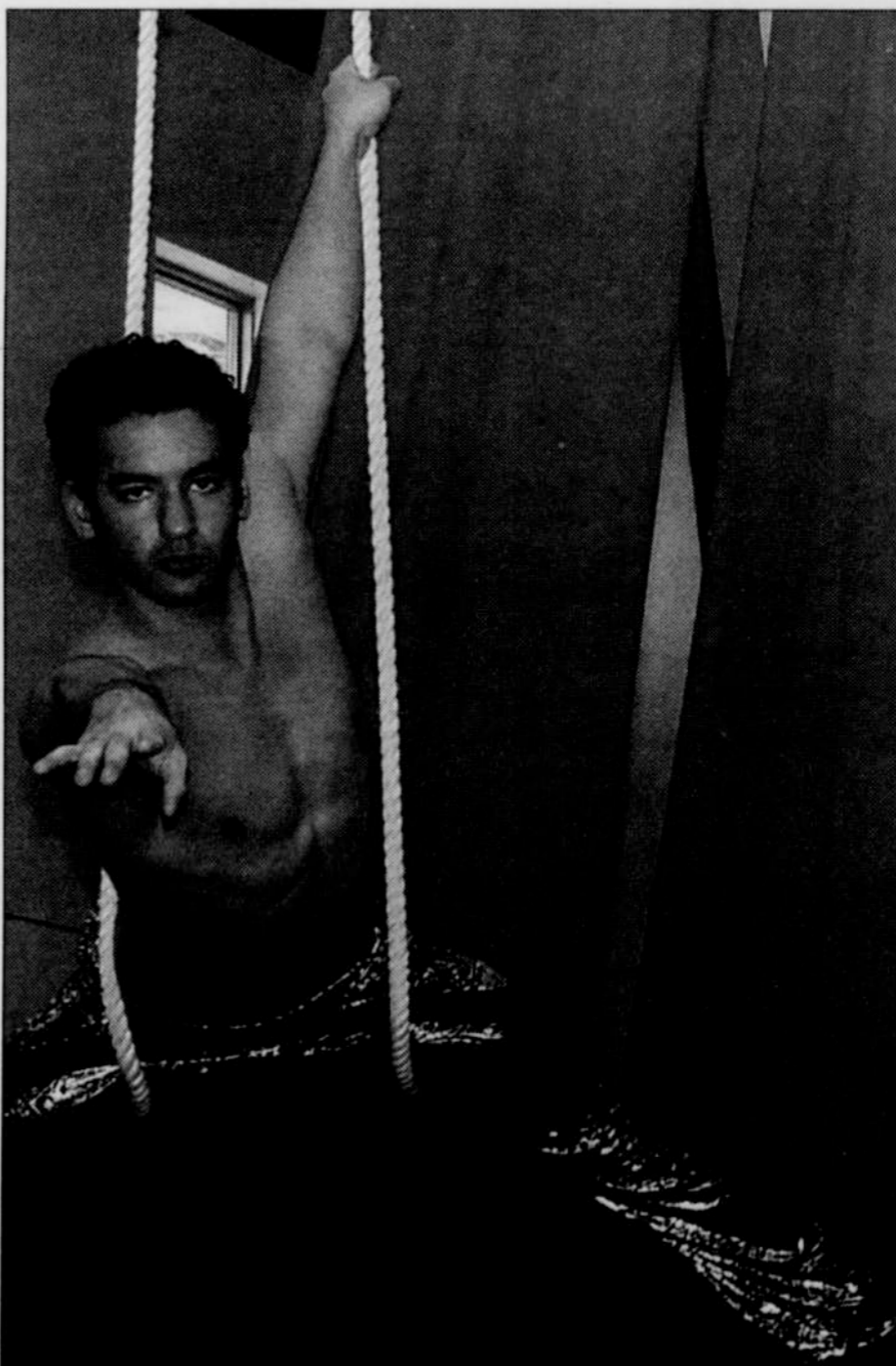
Two other Pendulum members, **Joshua Martinez** and **Nicky Pearson**, are cast as competing divas who eventually come to blows. In "Mismatch," the two stars perform a trapeze duet, their rivalry reaching a comedic conclusion. The piece is set to Pink Martini's "Let's Never Stop Falling in Love," an ironic choice, for sure.

After the competitive duet, Martinez performs his solo dance, "Moi," all about showing off and presenting. The gay 24-year-old calls the piece, choreographed by **Mary Hunt**, one of the best solos he's ever had.

Even though he just joined Pendulum in October to learn aerial work—his background is in martial arts, gymnastics and dance—Martinez already dazzles on stage.

"He's pushed it to another level," Kenney says. "He's a perfectionist and an emotional performer."

Martinez is excited about *Crimson Cabaret*.



Joshua Martinez plays a competitive diva in Pendulum Aerial Dance Theatre's *Crimson Cabaret*.