

Rock on, gold dust woman

Chris Pureka joins the wealth of talented singer/songwriters gracing the stage of Mississippi Pizza Pub when she appears May 21.

On tour in support of her much-anticipated sophomore release, *Driving North*, she is busy making a name for herself with her edgy guitar playing, uniquely haunting voice and lyrical honesty. Recorded with a full band, the 11 songs coalesce around themes of love, loss, tenderness and hope.

Pureka is a skilled guitar player, offering complicated, percussive riffs that complement her ability to select and translate snapshots of experience into raw, heart-tugging music. According to *Performing Songwriter* magazine, "Chris Pureka quickly captivates with her skilled guitar and rapid-fire lyrics.... The entire album puts a novel's worth of imagery into every song."

Bringing to mind the finely crafted story songs of Cheryl Wheeler, *Driving North* reveals the breadth of Pureka's songwriting and driving guitar work, earning comparisons to early Bruce Springsteen and Patty Griffin. The songs are steeped in images of a New England landscape and the poetry of brokenhearted loss and desire.

Pureka's gift for carving out images is made more powerful by a voice that is best described as raspy and haunting. Northampton's *Daily Hampshire Gazette* writes, "Pureka's singing voice is like homespun fabric that, when she lets emotion rise, becomes flocked with gold."

Pureka started writing songs at the age of 16 and, following in the footsteps of her indie predecessors, began cultivating her fan base at open mikes and coffeehouses. Four years ago she emerged solidly on the music scene in Northampton, Mass., with the release of a seven-song self-titled EP. She went on to land opening slots with such acclaimed artists as Melissa Ferrick, Catie Curtis, Erin McKeown and Pamela Means.

She has recorded and toured with slam poet Alix Olsen, who lauds Pureka's musical abilities, saying: "Chris Pureka's gritty tunes are charged with charm, toe-tapping poetry and a sexy dose of wit. I am a huge fan of this girl and her guitar love affair."

Ashleigh Flynn opens 10:30 p.m. at 3552 N. Mississippi Ave. Cover is \$7.

—Jodi Darby

Support boobie art

Bring the girls out to play at the third annual Boobie Auction, a fund-raiser for 2 Gyrz Performance Arts' Interactive Language Festival.

This nipplicious event has collected a group of regulars who enjoy the mammary-centric theme.

"It's not sleazy at all. It's actually very fun and playful. Everybody has boobies, so all genders are welcome," says Lisa Newman, co-director of 2 Gyrz.

Those new to the event can expect to see lots of bare breasts, along with nipple-related art for auction, a breast casting station and a nipple painting booth.

"We just really want to make art affordable," says Newman. Bids for most pieces start between \$25 and \$100. "We have donated gift certificates for raffle, and we're selling 2 Gyrz T-shirts, so there are lots of ways to come and support us and get something back."

The location makes this year's Boobie Auction distinct from years past. It is being held at the Secret Society Ballroom, formerly Disjecta, "rather than a smoky bar," according to Newman.

Besides the eye candy, revellers can dance to tunes spun by DJs Wet Dream, Fur Purse and Try My Cabbage of the PanZen Conspiracy Nett Wyrk.

Coordinators hope to raise approximately \$2,000, which helps cover visiting artists' airfare and fees. The Boobie Auction will raise more than just money, though; organizers hope to generate excitement for the Interactive Literary Festival, which is in November.

The auction is from 8 p.m. to midnight May 27 at 116 N.E. Russell St. Tickets are on a sliding scale from \$5 to \$50.

—JRC

GLAAD handing out awards

Gay icon Liza Minnelli and gay director Bill Condon were honored during the 16th annual Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Awards April 30 in Los Angeles.

Minnelli accepted the Vanguard Award, which honors entertainers for promoting equal rights.

"I must say, I've been given some awards in my time, but this is very, very important to me," said the Oscar/Tony/Emmy winner. "Love is the most cherished feeling we have; it's unique to human beings, and if anyone thinks they can dismiss love through politics, they're nuts."

Condon received the Outstanding Film—



Plumb Bob frontman Bill Leeds (far right) will worship Stevie Nicks on May 21 at the Laurelthirst.

Wide Release trophy for *Kinsey*, his timely biopic of the pioneering sexologist. The other nominees were the Colin Farrell bombs *Alexander* and *A Home at the End of the World*, the lesbian serial killer drama *Monster* and the religious satire *Saved*!

"I'm amazed at how far we've come in the seven years since I was last here with *Gods and Monsters*," Condon said. "As a boy from Queens who moved here not knowing anyone in the movie business, I was happy just to be in the game, writing scripts and directing movies. But it was only when I started to focus on material that meant something to me as a gay man that I found any real satisfaction and, to my great surprise, some success."

GLAAD also named HBO's *Six Feet Under* as Outstanding Drama Series, beating out Showtime's *The L Word* and *Queer as Folk*, HBO's *The Wire* and UPN's *Kevin Hill*.

At another ceremony March 29 in New York, Billy Crystal received the Excellence in Media Award for portraying Jodie on ABC's *Soap*, which in 1977 became the first television show to feature a gay lead character.

Alan Cumming accepted the Vito Russo Award, which honors an openly queer member of the media community for combating homophobia.

"I am glad that I have been honored this year instead of last, because in light of what has happened in the past year, we know that there's so much more need to stand up now and shout—not just for acceptance, because I don't want to be just accepted or tolerated. I want to be respected for who I am," Cumming said.

The New York ceremony also named *Bad Education* as Outstanding Film—Limited Release, beating out *Bear Cub*, *Blue Gate Crossing*, *Brother to Brother* and *The Mudge Boy*.

Next up is the San Francisco ceremony June 11 at the Westin St. Francis, which will present the Outstanding Music Artist award to Melissa Etheridge for *Lucky*, George Michael for *Patience*, Le Tigre for *This Island*, Rufus Wainwright for *Want Two or Scissor Sisters* for their self-titled debut disc. Keep your fingers crossed for the Sisters, featuring former Portlanders Ana Matronic, who can be heard singing "Jetstream" on New Order's latest, *Waiting for the Sirens' Call*.

—Jim Radosta



Liza Minnelli performs "What Makes a Man a Man" April 30 during the GLAAD Media Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles.



EXPERIENCED
PROFESSIONAL
AFFORDABLE

503.493.9453
5416 N MARYLAND

Near Downtown & the Pearl
at the KILLINGSWORTH MAX STOP

CHUCK FLOYD
HAIR CARE SERVICES
for WOMEN and MEN
WWW.CHUCKFLOYD.ORG

dig



landscape design
containers outdoor furnishings
425 nw 11th avenue 503 223 4443

Coventry
Cycle Works



Professional Service
Comfortable Bikes
Recumbents a Specialty!
(COME SEE WHY!)

Open Tuesday-Sunday
230-7723
2025 SE Hawthorne

We test because we matter.
Do you know your status?

Free HIV Testing
Gay/BI/Trans Guys
Thursdays 5 to 6:30 PM
Drop in clinic

Two testing options:
Rapid (20 minute/same day results)
Oral sample (results in 2 weeks)

