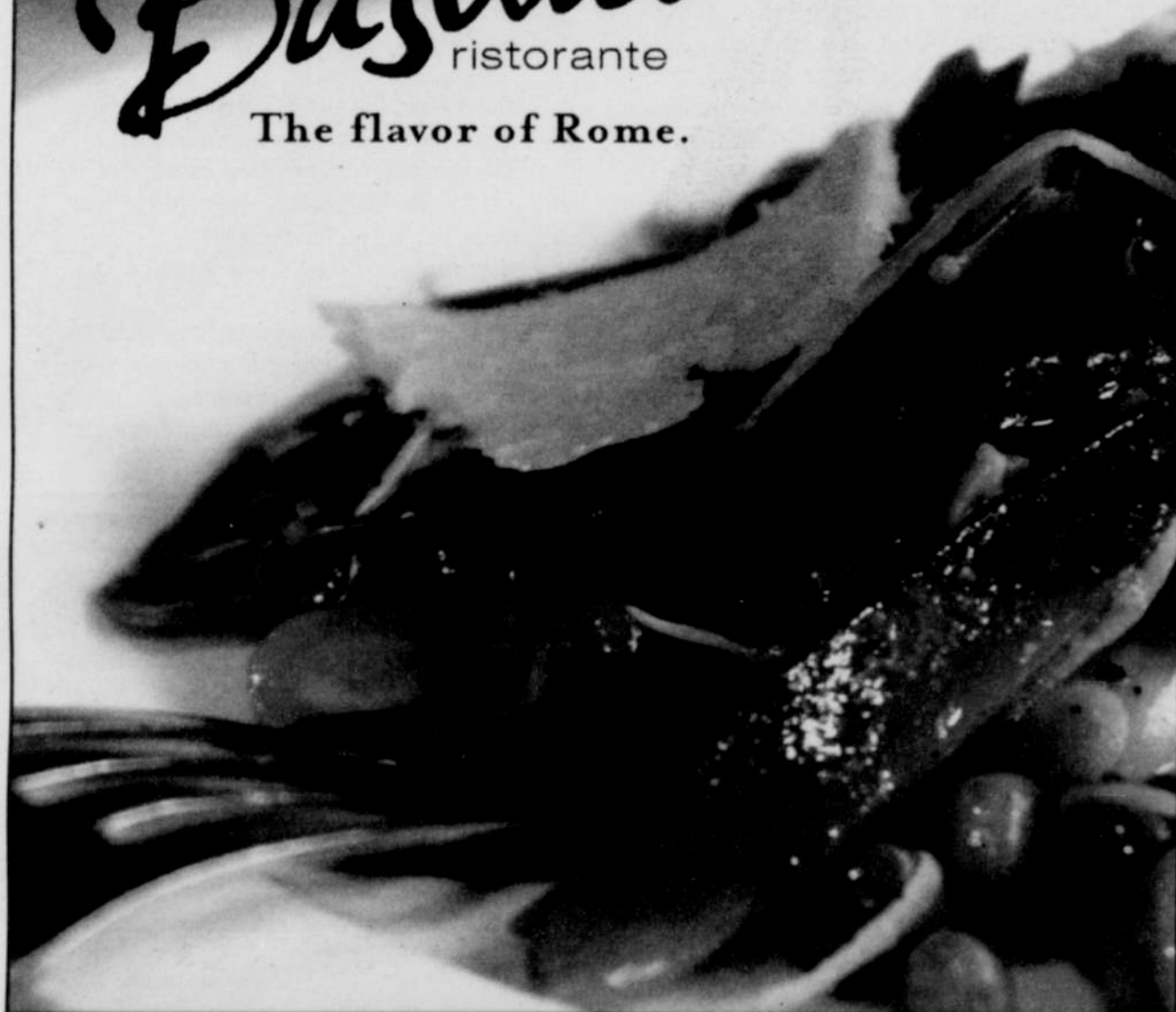


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PEOPLE

Funny girls

Performers tickle Portland's funny bone

BY JIM RADOSTA

Christopher Peterson, who has been called "North America's foremost female impersonator," creates a dozen of the world's most astonishing ladies right before your eyes in his one-man, many-woman extravaganza, *Eyecons*.

Patsy Cline, Barbra Streisand and Marilyn Monroe all come back to life with the genius touch of this extraordinary entertainer from Canada. Joan Rivers rants, Shirley MacLaine raves, Dr. Ruth advises, all within minutes of each other. The stage becomes the world of Judy Garland, Liza Minnelli, Bette Davis, Katharine Hepburn, Carol Channing, Lucille Ball, Tina Turner and more, all sung live with no interruptions—characters and costumes change right in front of the audience.

Born in Moncton, New Brunswick, Peterson began developing his female characters while working on his theatrical career. He received the Dora Award—Canada's equivalent of the Tony—for his performance in Brad Fraser's *Poor Super Man*.

Showtime is 8 p.m. June 15 at Darcelle XV, 208 N.W. Third Ave. Tickets are \$20 from 503-222-5338.

Former Portlander Shann Carr will bring her "feel-good storytelling" to Darcelle's 8 p.m. June 12. Tickets are \$10 from 503-222-5338.

She'll also serve as host of the Beartown 2005 dinner 5:30 p.m. June 11 at Windows Restaurant & Lounge in the Red Lion Hotel, 1021 N.E. Grand Ave. To register visit www.oregonbears.org.

The military brat child of religious Army officers, Carr spent her high school years in Portland before coming out to her parents at the age of 19 under unusual circumstances: on the way to Epcot Center.


"At the end of the vacation, I told them that I was going to stay in Florida and investigate the homosexual lifestyle. They were amazingly cool about it. They gave me the rental

car and a couple hundred dollars and left me to find my way," she told *Just Palm Springs Magazine*. "With no idea of how gay people find each other, it only took me about two hours to go wandering into the famous Parliament House Resort. Within another hour, two sweet grown-up lesbians took me home and let me stay in their guest room for a few months while I tested and confirmed my lesbianism with any woman who would let me kiss her!"

Vocalist/guitarist Christine Lavin will bring her trenchant songs, observations of contemporary life and riotous live presentation to Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall on June 5.

In a performing career that spans more than 20 years and 17 albums, she has been called a "comic observer of contemporary manners" (*The New York Times*), "the singing Mark Twain of the 21st century" (*Tucson Citizen*) and "as captivating an artist in solo performance as there is" (*Billboard*). Along with Lavin's hilariously acute compositions about relationships, fads and the innate silliness of modern life comes a series of comic monologues, anecdotes, audience-involving quizzes and off-the-cuff dialogue—and frequently a show-stopping display of glowing baton twirling.

Although she is heterosexual, the concert will include performances from the lesbian-led Aurora Chorus, the Pacific Youth Choir and Portland folk luminaries Kate Power and Steve Einhorn. Proceeds benefit Dress for Success, the Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls and the Girls' Initiative Network.

The Beauty of Your Dreams starts 7 p.m. at 1037 S.W. Broadway. Tickets are \$18-\$75 from 503-AURORA-1, www.aurorachorus.org or Ticketmaster. 



From top, Christopher Peterson, Shann Carr and Christine Lavin will have audiences in stitches this month.