



Steve Brian (left) and Wade McCollum keep hope alive in *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Dance, piano and rock 'n' roll

In "Scenes from an Italian Restaurant," Billy Joel sings about Brenda and Eddie's breakup—how they can't go back in life but only can move forward and pick up the pieces.

And that's what they proceed to do in *Movin' Out*, a Tony-winning Broadway show based on 24 of Joel's songs.

The characters are straight out of Joel's lyrics: Eddie, Brenda, Judy, James and Tony, a group of Long Island kids leaving high school in the early 1960s. Their story in *Movin' Out* spans nearly 20 years. The men are sent to Vietnam, and when they return—most of them—everyone must learn how to pick up the pieces.

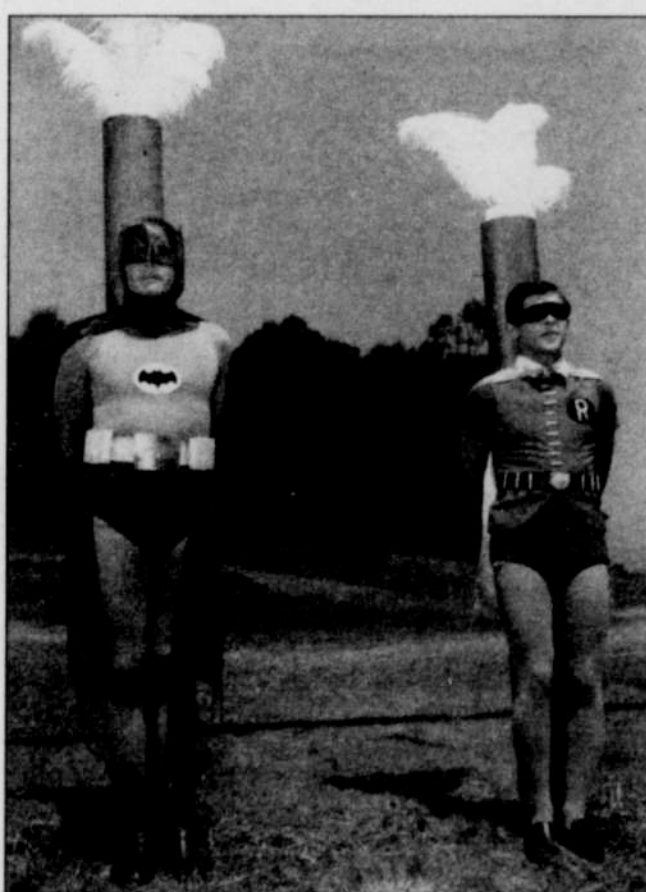
All this is portrayed without a single word of dialogue, which means the production technically isn't a musical at all.

Choreographer Twyla Tharp wanted to let movement and action tell the story. In fact, she chose to work with Joel's music in the first place because she believed it was well suited to narrative. Tharp strung Joel's songs together into a cohesive whole, applying her trademark talent of merging classical dance with pop music.

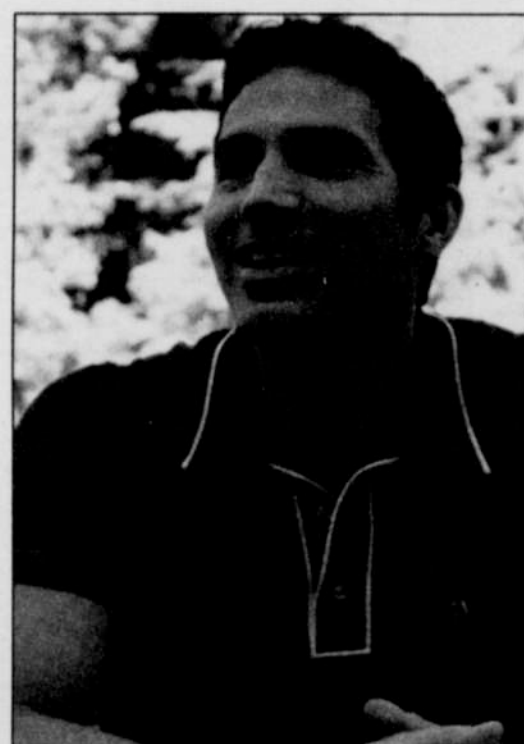
The dancers carry the performance, clothed in costumes that reflect the changing times, from tight muscle T-shirts to military uniforms. Portlanders may have the chance to see gay dance captain Sean Kelly perform. As a swing, he fills in for any male dancer who can't perform his role because of illness or injury.

Live vocals and piano spice up the show.

Both critics and civilian attendees alike caution that although Joel fans will enjoy the production, they shouldn't expect an exact replication of his style. Instead, people should go prepared to see the original, award-winning dance performance on its own merits.



Dynamic duos like Batman and Robin resonated with gay Americans, according to the TV Land special *Tickled Pink*.



John Oules resuscitates the musical revue *Night of 100 Stars* June 9 to 11 at Winningstad Theatre.

Movin' Out is the latest show in the Portland Opera Broadway in Portland series. It plays June 7 to 12 at Keller Auditorium, 222 S.W. Clay St. Tickets are \$24-\$66 from 503-241-1802 or Ticketmaster.

—RR

Pink wink

Rerun junkies must set their TiVos for *Inside TV Land: Tickled Pink*, an in-depth look at how television has been winking at gay America for the past 40 years. And

you thought it all started with *Ellen*!

The show is filled with bawdy clips from beloved characters like *Maude*, Suzanne Sugarbaker on *Designing Women* and Karen Walker on *Will & Grace*, but it also reveals some less obvious queer faves:

- Lesbians identified with *Laverne & Shirley*, *Kate & Allie* and *Cagney & Lacey* because they were the closest thing there was at that point to

any sort of representation of a dyke relationship.

- Gays identified with *Batman* and sidekick Robin, *Starsky and Hutch* and *CHiPs* hunks Ponch and Jon because of the strong bond between the crime-fighting dynamic duos.

- Queers of all stripes identified with *Wonder Woman*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and Samantha on *Bewitched* because they struggled with revealing personal secrets.

The special also features interviews with actors Rue McClanahan (*The Golden Girls*), Diahann Carroll (*Dynasty*), Kelsey Grammer (*Frasier*) and many others. It airs 8 p.m. June 3, 9 p.m. June 16 and 10 p.m. June 22 on TV Land.

—Jim Radosta

Venerable gay producer dies

Ismail Merchant—called by a peer "the one true independent film producer in Britain"—died May 25 following surgery for abdominal ulcers. He was 68.

Merchant and director James Ivory, his creative and life partner of 44 years, weathered (along with frequent screenwriting collaborator Ruth Praver Jhabvala) initial arthouse obscurity but eventually achieved massive acclaim and

popularity in the 1980s and '90s with the release of 1985's *A Room with a View* and 1992's *Howard's End*. Their more recent output, such as 2003's frothy, contemporary Parisian dramedy *Le Divo*, received a more lukewarm reception, but the couple remained unfailingly committed to their artistic collaboration and to their production company, Merchant-Ivory Productions.

Although the Merchant-Ivory name is most often invoked to signify a British style of filmmaking that approaches fussiness in its exquisite period detail, Merchant was Indian, not British. (Ivory, an American, was born and raised in Klamath Falls.) Their films—many of which were literary adaptations—ran a wide and singular gamut, exploring modern-day British-Indian culture clash (1965's *Shakespeare Wallah* and 1970's *Bombay Talkie*) and American culture and history (1989's *Slaves of New York* and 1990's *Mr. and Mrs. Bridge*) in addition to their more familiar British period pieces.

1987's *Maurice*, adapted from an E.M. Forster novel unpublished during the author's lifetime because of its unapologetic depiction of homosexual

romance, is a permanent fixture of best-gay-films lists, while 1998's shamefully overlooked *A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries* depicts an adolescent girl's friendship with a gay classmate.

Merchant mostly played the role of producer, for which he was by all accounts tremendously blessed with the necessary charisma and ambition. His directorial efforts included *In Custody* (1993), *Cotton Mary* (1999) and *The Mystic Masseur* (2001).

The last completed Merchant-Ivory picture, *The White Countess* starring Ralph Fiennes, is due for release later this year.

—Christopher McQuinn

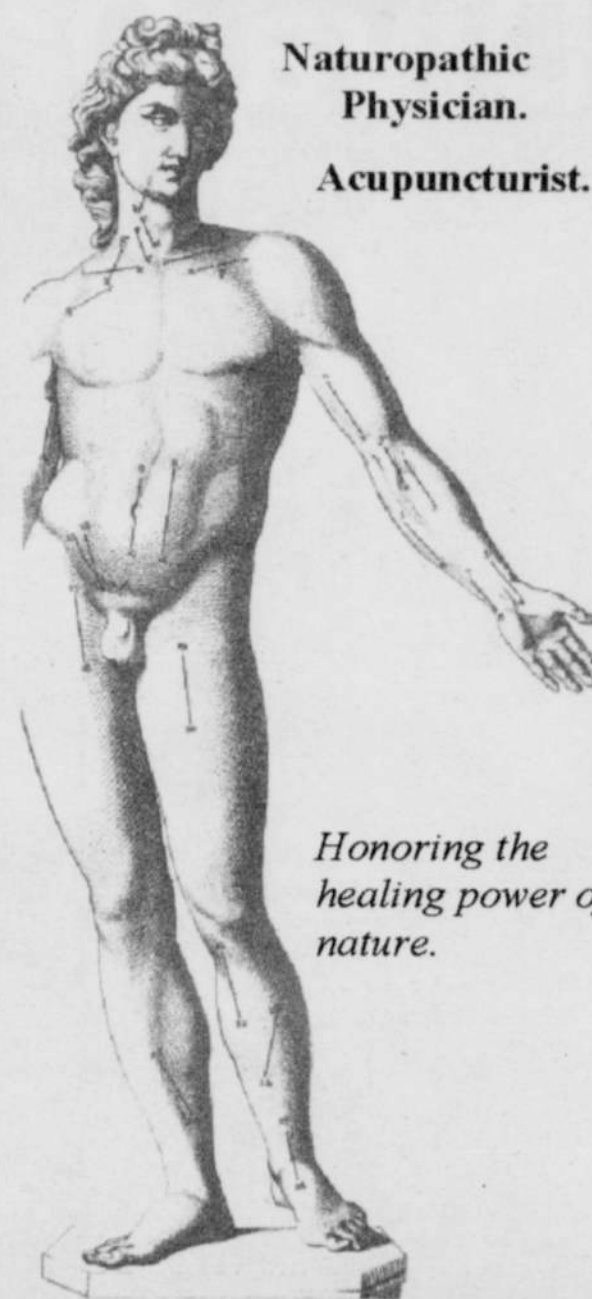


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ESTATE SALE

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This sale is to help raise money for Teri Scalf's medical expenses. Teri has breast cancer that has metastasized to brain and right lung.

We will accept donations of sale items all week. Call 503.756.1033 to schedule a pick-up. Furniture, home decor, craft items, patio furniture, clothing, kitchen wares, craft items, designer candles, and more will be on sale.

This is an inside, rain or shine event. Mark your calendars and plan to find something you didn't even know you needed! Please tell anyone that might be interested in supporting this event.

Thank you all for your continued love and support for us.



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