

Be a Homo for Xmas). She has shared the stage with a diverse group of artists, including Steve Martin, Dave Brubeck, Janis Ian, Kate Clinton and Suzanne Westenhoefer.

Koch produces, writes and performs all over the globe and has been a featured act at the National and Michigan Women's Music Festivals and the Vancouver Comedy Festival and is a regular on Olivia Cruises.

"I talk about a lot of woman things. I cover body fluids—that's what first-timers should be prepared for," said Koch.

She assures audiences that her act has mass appeal.

"My comedy is very campy, and gay men will love it," said Koch, whose work is often billed as lesbian entertainment. "My comedy crosses the board."

Her upcoming Portland show is a benefit for the Hambleton Project, a non-profit supporting lesbians with cancer and other life-threatening conditions.

The event is 7:30 p.m. July 16 at Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, 2400 N.E. Broadway. Tickets are \$25 at the door and \$20 in advance from In Other Words. For more information visit www.hambletonproject.org or www.heyhisa.com. —JRC

I want Candy

After spending years building a loyal fan base throughout California and across the East Coast, San Francisco-based punk band **Candy from Strangers** has earned the right to tear it up onstage at Columbia Meadows when the Warped Tour comes to Portland on July 10.

Influenced by heavy pop, glam and punk rock, Candy from Strangers combines infectious, edgy tunes with intense onstage chemistry to create a truly memorable live show. With a sound that can best be described as Cheap Trick making out with Garbage in a dark corner of a dive bar, the band pulls no punches, kicking out old-fashioned, high-energy rock 'n' roll.

Fronted by vocalist **Ruby Jordan** and featuring guitarist and punk rock veteran **Pauli Gray** and dyke drummer **Gina May Montel**, Candy from Strangers has self-released two CDs, *Quickie* and *Horizon*, with its third release, *Cat Butt Tattoo*, due out later this year. The band's songs are rhythmically well-composed with energetic beats and a tremendous vocal presence. Its guitar sound is gritty and big, utilizing the classic rock 'n' roll combination of two Les Paul guitars and vintage Marshall amps. Owing to its years slogging it out on the California punk rock circuit, from Los Angeles to San Francisco, as well as extended East Coast jaunts, Candy from Strangers delivers a tight, raucous, seamlessly paced live show.

The band has earned accolades from critics all over the country, including Michele Rhea Caplinger, executive director of the Atlanta chapter of the Grammy Awards, who says, "In a world of prefab, prepackaged, cookie-cutter acts, it's nice to know that real music is still being written and played."

In an interview with *Punk Globe Magazine*, Gray sums up the band's philosophy when he says, "You only get one life: sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll—only we've kind of been there, done that with the drug thing and lived



The all-queer trio **Girlyman** blends sincerity and humor on its second disc, *Little Star*.

through it. So now it's sex and rock 'n' roll. It has to have grit, and it has to kick some ass."

The concert starts 11 a.m. at 63701 Columbia River Highway in St. Helens. Tickets are \$30.25 from TicketsWest.

Candy from Strangers also is performing for free 5 p.m. July 9 at Music Millennium, 801 N.W. 23rd Ave. —JD

East meets West

This month Mark Woolley Gallery will exhibit new paintings from the series *The Land of Ch'i* by gay artist **Walt Curtis**, known to many as Portland's "Unofficial Poet Laureate." His novella *Mala Noche* was adapted into Gus Van Sant's first film, and he was the subject of New York filmmaker Bill Plympton's documen-

the mark of Confucian, Taoist and Buddhist philosophies, with dragons painted in acrylic on wood, allowing the fiber of the natural surface to show through.

"Perhaps the planet is undergoing a paradigm shift from West to East, and vice versa," Curtis says. "China is becoming a player on the world stage. It is the oldest society.... Long before the West was civilized, the Chinese invented language—calligraphy, herbal medicine, tai chi, a philosophy of organic nature, nondeist religion, a respect for nature and generational connection."

The gallery, located in Suite 210 at 120 N.W. Ninth Ave., is throwing a preview party July 6 and a First Thursday opening reception July 7, both from 6 to 9 p.m. The exhibit runs through July 30.

In coordination with *The Land of Ch'i*, Curtis has written a small collection of poems of the same title, from which he will read during a special event on the night of the full moon at 7:30 p.m. July 21. His "little essaylike lyrics" introduce Portlanders to concepts like chi ("When will we in the West learn a quick fix does not come in a pill, with a surgeon's knife, or a shoddy world view?") and feng shui ("A toilet misplaced in the wrong corner of the house could crap all the wealth and luck away"). —JR

Going once, going twice...

Last month gay Portland director **Gus Van Sant** auctioned a selection of original props, wardrobe items and other memorabilia from his films on eBay.

The auction raised more than \$14,000 for **Outside In**, which has served low-income adults and homeless youth since 1968. In 2003 the national premiere of Van Sant's award-winning film *Elephant* was shown in Portland as a charity fund-raiser to celebrate the nonprofit organization's 35th anniversary.

All items were donated by the director from his personal collection and came with a certificate of authenticity. Memorabilia included a robe (\$5,101.51) and a blue work shirt (\$2,605.55) worn by River Phoenix in *My Own Private Idaho*, an original storyboard from *Drugstore Cowboy* (\$26) and the actual note that Matt Damon left for Robin Williams at the end of *Good Will Hunting* (\$281).

Van Sant's next film, the Kurt Cobain tribute *Last Days*, opens July 22 at Cinema 21. —JR



Candy from Strangers performs July 9 at Music Millennium and July 10 at Columbia Meadows.

tary *Peckemeck Poet*. For 34 years he has been hosting the *Talking Earth* poetry show on KBOO-FM.

A self-taught painter, Curtis says *The Land of Ch'i* was inspired by his interest in Asian, particularly Chinese, culture. His paintings bear

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