



From left, former nightclub dancer Calpernia Addams inspired the made-for-television movie *Soldier's Girl* and served as a consultant for the film *Transamerica*.

back was a difficult one, but it was not enough to break the spirit of the organization.

McCobb and Newman work hard to ensure that their festivals are not only inclusive, but welcoming to viewers of all walks. In order to inspire greater audience participation, events are kept inexpensive and approachable.

"Sometimes when people hear 'performance art,' they feel immediately alienated because of its reputation of being highbrow," McCobb says. "We wanted to create something that was open to everybody."

2 Gyrz events lack the scripted feel of many productions categorized as "performance art" and create the feeling that the performers are not acting because they are being coached to do so, but because their very survival depends upon it.

One such example is Calpernia Addams and Andrea James, two Bay Area filmmakers/consultants who comprise Deep Stealth, which produces media with an awareness of the truth and value of trans people's contribution to society. Trans and out with their "stealth," a slang term used to describe those who live without question in their chosen gender, they use their experiences to both educate and entertain.

In many societies and subcultures, the decision to live deep stealth is a matter of survival. Living stealth often means leaving all parts of the past behind and starting over. Addams and James have adapted their experiences with deep stealth and through voice, makeup and video consultation, educating others in the trans community on ways to better pass as their true chosen gender. Turning the function of trans "passing" on its ear, they use stealth not as a tool for promoting invisibility, but one of power to be tapped into.

They will explain how to engage in media activism on a grassroots and national level during *Language of Deep Stealth* 8 p.m. Nov. 17 at The Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave. Addams will discuss *Soldier's Girl*, a 2003 Showtime film that told the true story of her relationship with

Pfc. Barry Winchell, who was beaten to death by fellow servicemembers in 1999 at Fort Campbell, Ky., for falling in love with the transgender nightclub dancer.

Addams and James will also present a sneak preview of *Transamerica*, a film that will be released in December about a trans woman who discovers the son she never knew one week before her sexual reassignment surgery. After bailing him out of jail in New York, she returns home to Los Angeles with him on a cross-country journey in which she struggles with issues of coming out, parenthood and self-acceptance. Writer/director Duncan Tucker contacted Addams and James and engaged them as consultants for his script, verifying the accuracy of his portrayal of a trans woman's experience. Lead actress Felicity Huffman talked with Deep Stealth on numerous occasions to work on getting her voice right for the role.

Los Angeles artists/mutation collaborators Mark Steger and Hannah Sim will perform together to create *Osseus Labyrinth*, a dynamic and fluid performance duo, during *Language of Random Mutations* 8 p.m.

Nov. 11 at Pacific Northwest College of Art, 1241 N.W. Johnson St.

The film version of their beautiful and strange performance titled *Them*, in which the androgynous Osseus hangs naked and hairless suspended from the First Street bridge over the Los Angeles River, inspired viewers at the first Enteractive Language Festival. Melding equal parts dance, performance and contortion, they will return this year with a live version of a new piece that evolved out of a performance created last year titled *Modern Prometheus LLC*. The performance will no doubt leave Portland audiences astounded by their dark and strange movement style.

El-fest will explore the **Language of the Body** through live art, "install-actions" and interactive opportunities 8 p.m. Oct. 28, also at PNCA.

Among the performers is Paul Couillard, who has been working as a multimedia artist, curator and arts organizer since 1985. Focusing on performance art with forays into

Continued on Page 26



Osseus Labyrinth melds equal parts dance, performance and contortion Nov. 11.

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