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theater, writing, holography, installation, film and video, his work has been presented around the world, most recently at festivals in Mexico City; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Helsinki, Finland, as well as at Artemisia Gallery in Chicago and the Power Plant in Toronto.

His work deals with issues of personal and cultural identity and with explorations of our bodies as vessels of sensation and experience. He has a particular interest in considering the shared borders of our separate existences, searching for a language that can convey the complex layers of personal history, cultural/social specificity and the notion of shared or universal experience. He is the artistic director of Fado, a Toronto-based center for performance art, and is a founding curator of the 7a*11d International Performance Art Festival.

Couillard will perform at El-fest with his partner and Fado board member Edward Johnson, whose past work includes writing, editing and directing as well as performance art. They have been a couple since 1991 and began collaborating artistically in 2000. Their interpersonal relationship is based on the psychological, corporeal and intellectual experience of each other as lovers, friends and partners in both art and life.

Using relationships and notions of partnerships as the basis for their playful, minimalist performances, Couillard and Johnson explore the tensions and conflict that underlie all partnerships. These works interrogate the political and social concerns that surround the gay community: HIV status, same-sex spousal benefits and popular media's portrayal of gay culture.

In order to maximize the informational and associative substance of their art, they minimize the visual complexity of their work, appearing in similar clothing such as matching pajamas, black jockstraps, dark-patterned dress socks, black shoes and safety harnesses and working with simple, everyday, inexpensive materials. Couillard and Johnson will perform a piece titled *Duorama #40*, which is emblematic of such elements.

Language of Silence (= death) will commemorate this year's Transgender Day of Remembrance, a gathering that provides an opportunity for trans people and allies to come together in honor of those who have fallen victim to anti-trans violence. Audience members and guest speakers will share stories, emotions, wisdom and comfort.

The Day of Remembrance serves several purposes. Mainly it raises public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people, an issue largely ignored by the mainstream media. The vigil gives people a venue to publicly mourn the lives of their brothers and sisters who might otherwise be forgotten and to express love and respect for trans people in the face of national indifference and hatred.

Last year's event included a public altar and open mike as well as performances by female-to-male hip-hop MC Katastrophe and gender outlaw Kate Bornstein. Anyone who is interested in planning this year's event is welcome to contact Outside In's Trans/Identity Resource Centre at 503-535-3895 or tirc@outsidein.org. The free vigil will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Nov. 20 at Liberty Hall, 311 N. Ivy St., which will be transformed into a wheelchair-accessible space for the occasion.

2 Gyrz and Rose City Copwatch will collaborate to present **Language of Swine and Freedom**, an evening of multimedia dialogue about police violence and community power. A collection of Portland artists will present works that explore the themes of police violence and focus specifically on depictions of community power as an alternative to the police.

This free event will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. Nov. 16 at Backspace Annex, 115 N.W. Fifth Ave. Half of the proceeds from the sale of art will go to Rose City Copwatch, which works to eliminate or radically change police institutions. Its overarching goal is to reduce police violence and disrupt the ability of the police to enforce race and class lines. For more information about its ongoing community projects, visit www.rosecitycopwatch.org.

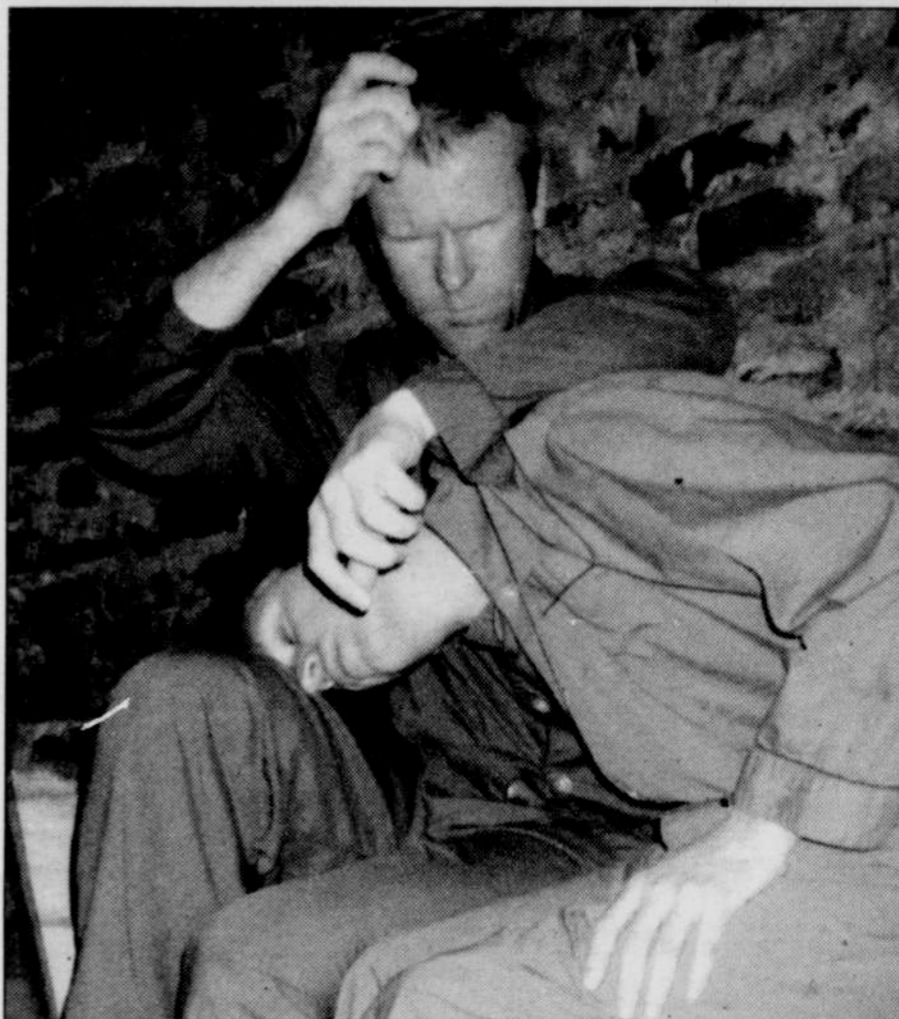
This year marks the final installment of the Interactive Language Festival in its current format, and an opportunity for 2 Gyrz to expand its knowledge and experience of performance art. In the fall of 2006, Newman plans to begin a one-year master's program at Dartington College of Arts in Devon, England. Dartington is a university-sector college with a national and international reputation for contemporary performance and creative arts practices and their relation to changing social and cultural contexts. The program will provide a space to develop performances under the guidance of a mentor and a peer group, develop a thesis and see firsthand how performances evolve in different cultures. The program will allow Newman to extend her studies to other colleges throughout Europe, without paying additional tuition. "I chose this program because it's just so perfectly specific," Newman says. "It focuses on the practice of actually *doing* performance art, where other programs often focus on theory. I also want to tap into the international performance circuit, which is very difficult to do from the U.S."

By spending a year in Europe, Newman and McCobb hope to get firmly rooted in the many festivals that happen throughout the continent. They expect that their relocation to the provincial and historic Dartington environment will nurture creativity while allowing them to focus on their work minus the distraction of their day jobs and the excitement of a big city.

"Dartington encouraged me to keep the collaboration with Llewyn going while completing the MA, so I'm planning on also continuing the work that we've started, along with developing some new stuff—alongside the solo work that I'll be doing," Newman adds. While she works to earn her degree, McCobb will spend time archiving all the documentation of 2 Gyrz events from the past five years.

Newman and McCobb agree that Portland has been an amazing and fertile place to create, and all plans at the moment are to return, newly charged, in 2007.

What 2 Gyrz created in Portland has become more than a series of edgy art festivals and performances; it has initiated a broader dialogue broaching topics that are often avoided by the purveyors of mainstream American



LISA NEWMAN

Paul Couillard and Edward Johnson explore the tensions and conflict that underlie all partnerships Oct. 28.

"culture." It stands up as a challenge to the social constructs of language, gender and identity, so that we can collectively move toward a place of broader understanding and the ultimate goal of reaching our full human potential. In a society where our historical and cultural understanding is steeped in violence and intolerance, the Interactive Language Festival serves the dual purpose of cultural mirror and hammer—with plans to startle us, move us and smash our misconceptions. [Q]

The fourth INTERACTIVE LANGUAGE FESTIVAL will be held from Oct. 27 to Nov. 27 at various venues. For a complete schedule visit www.2gyrlz.org.

JODI DARBY is a Portland writer, activist and radio producer.

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