



Ashleigh Flynn and Sneakin' Out celebrate the release of *Live at Mississippi Studios* Dec. 1 in Eugene and Dec. 2 in Portland.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Portland singer/songwriter **Ashleigh Flynn** has met her match with **Sneakin' Out**, a bluegrass band known for its clever percussive stylings.

The queer musicians joined to create *Live at Mississippi Studios* with guest appearances by local cellist **Skip Von Kuske** and national folk hero **Tracy Grammer**. Flynn's Americana sound of soulful strumming and smoky singing was a natural complement to Sneakin' Out's capacity to throw a hootenanny.

"Their feel for my songs is the same as my feel for my songs," says Flynn, a Portland transplant from Kentucky. "They approach music with passion and ingenuity and humor."

According to Flynn, the challenges of making a live album were far outweighed by the benefits—an honest energy and connection with the audience.

"You never know how it's going to turn out. The performance might feel great and the audience might really respond, but when you mix the CD, you might lose something in the transition," Flynn says. "It was a challenge in that way, but the energy is something that I wanted, and it's really hard to capture that in the studio."

Flynn says she has no interest in being the next big thing, which freed her to create music that she and Sneakin' Out connect with. This album pays tribute to artists who inspire her.

"It's a sort of an offering or sharing in a celebratory way where some of my influences have come from," Flynn says. One song in particular, "Devil's Pass," was inspired by a passage in **Tom Spanbauer's** book *The Man Who Fell in Love with the Moon*. The local gay author introduces this song as a special bonus track on the record.

Flynn and Sneakin' Out will celebrate the release of *Live at Mississippi Studios* with special guest **Jamie Vineyard** 8:30 p.m. Dec. 1 at Sam Bond's Garage, 407 Blair Blvd. in Eugene, and with special guest **Government Issue Orchestra** 9 p.m. Dec. 2 at White Eagle Saloon, 836 N. Russell St. Cover is \$5.

For more information visit www.ashleighflynn.net.

—Jaymee R. Cuti

Marionberry Salon meets for a potluck discussion of Randy Shilts' *Conduct Unbecoming: Gays and Lesbians in the U.S. Military* in Salem. (6:30 pm. Cary 503-363-6036. marionberrysalon@aol.com.)

The **Men's Spirit Pajama Party** uses heart-sharing, massage, contact improv, pillow fights and blindfolded touch exploration to melt the barriers between men. Presented by Q-LAND and LoveTribe. (7 pm-midnight. 503-223-8822, ext. 2. pajamaparty@qland.org. RSVP to www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

Urban cowboys and girls are in abundance during DJ Crystal's **country western dance** at the Portland Metro Club (PPAA). (9 pm-1 am. 618 SE Alder St. \$5.)

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B/D/S/M **Bad Girls** present a new member orientation, safety/etiquette workshop and social. (RSVP to contact@pdxbadgirls.net.)

Eugene's **Family Values**—which provides a social support network for queer youth, families and allies—hosts a first Sunday potluck lunch. (1-3 pm. family_values_pride@hotmail.com.)



The Portland State University Women's Studies Department presents a reading and release party in the Multicultural Center at Smith Memorial Center to celebrate *This Is the Welcome*, the first spo-



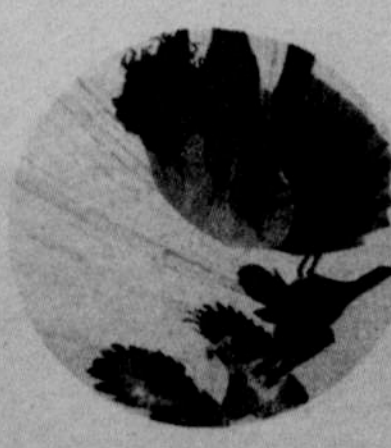
Meet Katie Taft's *Imaginary Friends V* through Nov. 26 at Genuine Imitation Gallery.

ken word CD of poetry and prose by **29th Street Writers**, a group that has been meeting on Saturday mornings for two decades. Lesbian authors include Amy Schutler, Kathleen Saadat and Cherry Hartman. (3-5 pm. 1825 SW Broadway.)

Get lucky during the Fox & Hounds' **Monthly Charity Bingo**. (3:30 pm. 217 SW Second Ave.)

The Egyptian Club gives away a digital camcorder during its monthly **Texas Hold 'Em Tournament Championship**. (4 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

The Northwest Film Center screens *The Life and Times of Frida Kahlo*, a documentary about the bisexual Mexican painter, at Whitsell Auditorium. (4:30 pm. 1219 SW Park Ave. \$6-\$7.)



Visual artist TJ Norris invited composers to create audio accompaniment for *Nucleo*, his abstract homage to old-fashioned pinhole photography.

Artist Blows Up Images in *Nucleo*

In the two years since closing his acclaimed Soundvision gallery, visual artist **TJ Norris** has been taking a close-up look at Portland's industrial underbelly through the macro lens of his digital camera. And Portland has been taking a closer look at Norris, who is showing through Nov. 26 at Chambers Gallery, 207 S.W. Pine St.; appearing in the current issue of *Portland Modern* along with fellow gay bear **Marc Manning**; and writing an OregonLive.com column that asks, "Is It Art?"

Norris' new exhibit, *Nucleo*, is the second in a three-part series titled *Trybryd*, a term he uses to label his "three-part hybrid," the amalgam being namely one of seeing and hearing.

"Music is my metaphor—where I get all my juice, my energy," says Norris, who observes lines in music and sound in surfaces. This connection led him to invite composers to collaborate by creating audio for his visuals. The first part, *Genometrics*, was shown in 2003 at Soundvision and incorporated sculptural objects interpreting the composers' original soundtracks to Norris' images. *Nucleo* followed the same method but yielded two-dimensional "photo objects" with aural accompaniment. Next year, *Infinitus*

blends the two in video that will dominate an experiential walk-through that Norris hopes to take to Europe, where most of his composer collaborators reside.

Here in Portland, viewers of *Nucleo* don headphones to hear music tuned to three sets of three glossy discs, each a colorful, intense lambda C-print—a high-resolution abstract homage to old-fashioned pinhole photography. The focus, however, is under the surface, smaller than the eye can see, kind of invisible. A peephole, says Norris, into the unconsciousness.

"It's fascinating to imagine a world that exists simultaneously parallel to our universe and that you can't see unless you look deeper," says the 40-year-old, who by day manages Oregon Health & Science University's public relations photographic database. "Instead of dealing with peripheral vision, I want you to see a center of something. And to me, there's a complete balance in a circle. It's what I consider a perfect shape. It's very punctuated and very direct."

Not unlike the artist, whose portfolio can be seen at www.tjnorris.net.

—Timothy Krause

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