

## SUN • DEC 11

Crafters sell calendars, candy, cards, clothing, ceramics, soaps, stationery, zines, wallets, jewelry and more during the **Handmade Bazaar** featuring food, a raffle and music by the Evolutionary Jass Band, Landslide and DJ Azmotronik at Wonder Ballroom. (Noon-6 pm. 128 NE Russell St. [www.handmadebazaar.org](http://www.handmadebazaar.org).)

Learn to fix your own flat, adjust brakes and keep your bike running smoothly and safely during the **Women's Bike Maintenance Class** at North Portland Bike Works. Proceeds benefit the Village Bicycle Project, supplying bikes to Ghana. (1-5:30 pm. 3951 N Mississippi Ave. \$5-\$50.)

Do not fear—**Tart** is here to get your hips shaking and the good times flowing. DJs Harmony, Dre and Beyonda serve up the beat during the monthly party for queer girls at Holocene. Drink specials for the first hour! (4 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

## MON • DEC 12

Certified laughter leader and humorist **Gail Hand** teaches a laughter class at CoHo Theatre. Come laugh your ass off! Proceeds benefit Portland Humane Society. (7-8 pm. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$10.)

It's **Movie Night Monday** at lesbian-owned Middle Eastern bar Zaytoon. Tonight's films are the dog competition spoof *Best in Show* and the German thriller *Run Lola Run*. (8:30 pm. 2236 NE Alberta St.)



The HollyTones return to Wilf's Dec. 6 and 13.

## Granny Queerest

Local lesbian laughter leader **Gail Hand** has created *Hello Bubbela*, a solo show about her colorful Grandma Lottie.

"It's both poignant and funny," she says. "We had a very special relationship, she was a real character, and I bonded with her at a young age."

Hand is especially close to Lottie because she lost her mother at the tender age of 11 months. She plans to take *Hello Bubbela*, a name she was called by her grandmother, to the West Coast festival circuit and, in two years, to Broadway.

She says audiences can expect "to laugh, to be touched, to be entertained and to relate to a special relationship you can have with a family member in your life that can affect you in a positive way."

Hand expects a mixed crowd of homos and heteros, young and old. For the past year, she has visited many senior centers—70 visits in Portland alone—to hold interactive workshops on the medicinal power of laughter.

"It's been really wonderfully gratifying," says Hand. "I have such a strong bond with my grandmother that I love being around old people, the elders. I feel very comfortable around them."

Hand brings her "laughter yoga" to every program she does. She also travels to companies and colleges nationwide, using her comedy to teach important programs about diversity, leadership, drug awareness and stress management.

Hand was recently elected vice president and president-elect of Oregon's chapter of the National Speakers Association. "The new title will help my credibility in the speaking world," she says.

*Hello Bubbela*, directed by **Christine Calfas**, debuts 2 p.m. Dec. 17 and 18 at CoHo Theatre, 2257 N.W. Raleigh St. Tickets are \$12-\$15 from 503-284-2342. For more information visit [www.gailhand.com](http://www.gailhand.com).

—Jaymee R. Cuti



Gail Hand impersonates her grandmother in *Hello Bubbela*.

## TUE • DEC 13

**Forest Grove Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** holds a potluck social at United Church of Christ. Bring a can of nonperishable food for Esther's Pantry. (7 pm. 2032 College Way. 503-357-2442. [fgplag@aol.com](mailto:fgplag@aol.com).)

Gay writer Matthew Stadler hosts the **Back Room**, an occasional series of intellectual presentations featuring dinner, drinks and live music at Ripe. Tonight, Ripe co-founder Naomi Hebbrooy cooks a meal from Stadler's novel *Allan Stein*, followed by a discussion with Stephanie Snyder of Reed College's Cooley Gallery. (7 pm. 2240 N Interstate Ave. \$35 from 503-235-2294 or [eat@ripepdx.com](mailto:eat@ripepdx.com).)

Author, recording artist and activist **Rochell D. "Ro Deezy" Hart** celebrates the stories of African-American women in her new novel, *I Woke Up and Put My Crown On: The Project of 76 Voices*, at In Other Words. (7 pm. 3734 SE Hawthorne Blvd.)

The Human Rights Campaign presents the monthly mixer **Salon Q** at Aura. (7:30 pm. 1022 W Burnside St.)

## WED • DEC 14

The **Portland Area Business Association** holds its monthly meeting at the Governor Hotel, with annual candidate elections. (11:30 am-1 pm. 614 SW 11th Ave. \$19-\$24 from 503-241-2222.)

**GO OUT** Hollywood Theatre screens three independent documentary shorts during **Gay Women Talk Gender: Experience, Expression and Desire**. Lesbians of color express their confident, sexy selves in "GendHer and DesiHer Expressions." Women discuss the strategies they employ to navigate restrooms safely in "Flush This!! Butch Women and Public Bathrooms." Finally, "Butch Mystique" explores how these women live their lives. (7 pm. 4122 NE Sandy Blvd. \$4-\$7.)

**GO OUT** Join in the seasonal spirit during **Insight Out Theatre Collective's Holiday Open House** featuring cocktails, food and open mike performances at Wonder Ballroom. Bring a canned food donation for the Oregon Food Bank. (7 pm. 128 NE Russell St.)



Tracy + the Plastics (left) and Swan Island perform Dec. 7 at Holocene.

Enter the battle of the bulge with the **Best Basket Contest** every second Wednesday at the Eagle. The winner gets \$100 and joins the Basket Wall of Fame! (8 pm-midnight. 1300 W Burnside St.)

## THU • DEC 15

**Write Around Portland** invites the public to attend a reading of *The Sparkle in the Grit*, an anthology from this fall's writing workshop participants, at First Congregational Church. (6:30-8:30 pm. 1126 SW Park Ave.)

## FRI • DEC 16

The "Pope of Trash" details his groundbreaking career and his influence on films and cult culture during **A John Waters Christmas Comedy Special** at Dante's. (7 pm dinner/meet and greet, 9:30 pm show. 1 SW Third Ave. \$30-\$50 at the door, \$25-\$50 in advance from TicketsWest.)

**Bad Girls** present their Full Moon Friday discussion and social at the Egyptian Club. This month's topic is "When B/D/S/M Relationships End." (7-9 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

**Portland Baroque Orchestra** presents Handel's *Messiah*, a Portland tradition for more than 20 years, through Dec. 19

## SAT • DEC 17

Lesbian humorist **Gail Hand** presents *Hello Bubbela*, a poignant and interactive monologue about her comical grandmother Lottie, through Dec. 18 at CoHo Theatre. (2 pm. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$12-\$15 from 503-284-2342 or [www.gailhand.com](http://www.gailhand.com).)

**Lila Rajiva** exposes how the perverse logic of torture has infected the language and psychology of the U.S. imperial project in *The Language of Empire: Abu Ghraib and the American Media* at In Other Words. (4 pm. 3734 SE Hawthorne Blvd.)

**GO OUT** Lesbian Joan Szymko directs more than 100 women in **Aurora Chorus' Peace Like a River**, a nontraditional winter concert of music, poetry and a song in Elvish, through Dec. 18 at Catlin Gable School's Cabell Hall. (4 and 7:30 pm Saturday, 6 pm Sunday. 8825 SW Barnes Road. \$18 at the door, \$15 in advance from 503-AURORA1 or [www.aurorachorus.org](http://www.aurorachorus.org).)

## Caught in the Middle

**Middle Sexes: Redefining He and She**, a wonderfully wide-ranging documentary on the many cultural and biological aspects of queerness and homophobia, debuts 9:30 p.m. Dec. 6 on HBO.

The film, which interviews scientists, academics, queers of every stripe and family members, opens the discussion with the murder of **Gwen**, a California tranny killed by four "straights" after they discovered the girl they had fucked was a boy.

Narrated by a typically droll **Gore Vidal**, *Middle Sexes* shows clearly that gender identity isn't there from conception but only begins to appear several weeks later—and in some cases (intersex) never entirely resolves into male or female. It also reminds us of the increasingly irrefutable evidence that homosexual behavior is common in the animal kingdom.

But the film is far from a clinical study, wisely simplifying these issues by putting faces and life stories on them. Crazy Christians like to idealize the Heartland as a homo-free zone, but what do they make of 8-year-old **Noah**, a natural cross-dresser whose "normal" family of farmers is highly supportive despite the problems with their community? Noah himself is rather amazingly centered, perhaps indicating a new kind of young queer emerging in society. Asked how he reacts to classmates' questions of whether he's a boy or girl, he says simply: "I would just like to tell people I don't want to answer those questions. So don't ask me."

From Middle America the film proceeds to queer demimondes worldwide. India's famous castrati, the impoverished *bijra*, are shown creating their own version of family as they band together for support and survival. Thailand's *katboey* have it better in some ways. These queens in various stages of transition—some use makeup and dress to conform the image to the inner reality, others are transsexual—appear to be accepted as women to the point where straight men idealize and marry them. Suriname, in South America, also has an intriguing queer community in its well-integrated older dyke couples.

One of the most hilarious and enlightening parts of the film shows actual footage from the 1996 Western Michigan University study in which two groups of men—one homophobic, one gay-friendly—were shown gay porn while wires attached to their penises measured their level of arousal. Of course, the live-and-let-live boys showed no physical reaction, but the homophobes got unmistakable hard-ons. Crazy Christians, are you listening?

—Gary Morris



*Middle Sexes: Redefining He and She* contradicts crazy Christian claims about queers.