

The Egyptian Club presents **Candy Cane Karaoke** every Thursday in December. Pick a candy cane each time you sing for a chance at holiday items including stuffed stockings, cash and gift certificates. Everyone is a winner! (9 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

FRI • DEC 23

Queer alt-country trio **Sneakin' Out** performs at 3rd Street Pizza in McMinnville. (7-9 pm. 433 NE Third St. \$5.)

Want to visit with Santa Bear? The Oregon Bears throw their monthly **Double X Dance** with DJ Peter Calandra at C.C. Slaughters. (9 pm-midnight. 219 NW Davis St.)

SAT • DEC 24

The **Adventure Group** goes downhill and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on Mount Hood through Dec. 26. Meet at Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. Repeats Dec. 31-Jan. 2 and Jan. 7-8. (3030 NE Weidler St. www.adventuregroup.org.)

The predominantly gay **Metropolitan Community Church of Portland** invites you to remember the reason for the season. (6 pm worship, 11 pm candlelight service. 2400 NE Broadway.)

The **Egyptian Club** is open Christmas Eve and Christmas Day! (7 pm doors, 9 pm karaoke. 3701 SE Division St.)

The Eagle waits for Santa and his eight tiny ReinBear during the **Christmas Eve Lights Out Party**. (8 pm. 1300 W Burnside St.)

Queer DJ **Stormy** spins at gay-owned Crush. (9 pm. 1400 SE Morrison St. \$2.)

SUN • DEC 25

The predominantly gay **Metropolitan Community Church of Portland** holds a Christmas Day worship service. (11 am. 2400 NE Broadway.)

Bolivia Carmichaels hosts a special Christmas edition of **Carnival de Bolivia**, a wild and crazy talent and variety show open to everyone—from drag and dancing to singing and stripping—at C.C. Slaughters. Performers should arrive at least an hour before showtime. (8-10 pm. 219 NW Davis St.)

MON • DEC 26

Shake off the post-Christmas feeling of "fullness" and tour holiday decorations as **The Adventure Group** takes an easy 4.5-mile walk from Portland Heights to Council Crest. Meet at Southwest Vista Avenue and Spring Street. (10 am. Evan 503-701-7922. chair@adventuregroup.org.)



Imago Theatre revives *Big Little Things* through Jan. 1.

It's **Movie Night Monday** at lesbian-owned Middle Eastern bar Zaytoon. Tonight's films are the Steve Martin comedies *The Jerk* and *Planes, Trains & Automobiles*. (8:30 pm. 2236 NE Alberta St.)

TUE • DEC 27

In Other Words presents **The Last Word Open Mike Zine Read**. (8 pm. 3734 SE Hawthorne Blvd. click_patterdale@yahoo.com.)

DJ Hott Scott spins during **Hog**, a rock 'n' roll queer night every second and fourth Tuesday at Kelly's Olympian. (9 pm. 426 SW Washington St. \$2-\$4 sliding scale.)

WED • DEC 28

Great Vow Zen Monastery in Clatskanie presents a new year's retreat for women to kindle **Joy in Mindfulness** through simple dance movements, song, elementary theater exercises and writing through Jan. 1 (79640 Quincy-Mayger Road. \$180-\$200 from registrar@greatvow.org.)

Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center celebrates **Ujima**, the third night of Kwanzaa, with gospel singer Julianne Johnson, traditional African stories and drumming, crafts, refreshments and a short film about York, one of the country's first black adventurers. (5:30-7:30 pm. 5340 N Interstate Ave.)

Sexy Witch author LaSara FireFox presents a workshop of versatile tools for **Creating a Self-Defined Magical Practice** at Another Moon. Start 2006 with a new commitment to finding, strengthening and walking your own path. (7 pm. 729 E Burnside St. #105. \$5-\$25 sliding scale.)

Enjoy the musical stylings of Sneakin' Out and get a sneak peek at **Austin Unbound**, a work-in-progress documentary about a deaf Portlander's top surgery, at Mississippi Pizza Pub. Proceeds benefit the nonprofit independent film project. Embossed silicone wristbands will be on sale! (7 pm. 3553 N Mississippi Ave. \$6-\$10.)

THU • DEC 29

Justin Bond and Kenny Mellman are **Kiki & Herb**, a brash, boozy septuagenarian chanteuse and her shy, stalwart accompanist, performing twisted renditions of songs by everyone from Eminem to Scissor Sisters, along with political rants and razor-sharp social observations, at Wonder Ballroom. Rescheduled because the duo were invited to perform at Elton John's wedding in London! (8 pm. 128 NE Russell St. \$20 from box office or Ticketmaster.)



Gabriela Kandziora (left) and Evona Sliwinski run **Your Place or Mine Productions** with their friend Chellie Longmire (inset).

Martini with a Cosmo Twist

From the signature cocktails to the knowledge of queer culture abroad, **Your Place or Mine Productions** is entertaining with a continental twist.

"Our underlying mission is to educate people on European lesbian and gay life," says **Gabriela Kandziora**, a Portland lesbian who is originally from Germany.

Kandziora and her partner, Poland native **Evona Sliwinski**, joined with friend **Chellie Longmire** to launch the company and host **Eat My Martini** parties.

The parties, held on the fourth Saturday of each month at Edgewood Manor in Tigard, are intimate get-togethers for women looking for love and making connections in a classy and coquettish setting. Billiards, darts, music, movies and appetizers are all on the menu. "Mockinis" are also available.

"We try to make it an extremely elegant cocktail party for people to mingle and meet singles and couples," says Kandziora. "It's a great place to network and a great place to meet the love of your life."

The cocktails—like the company—are exotic, original and infused with naughtiness.

The group also plans to organize lesbian junkets to Las Vegas, a mini-Dinah Shore Weekend Open and European Pride tours.

"I did the Gay Pride tour last year, and it was rockin'," Kandziora says. "There are six large European cities that have Gay Prides. Berlin Gay Pride has over half a million people. The entire city turns out. Everybody's celebrating freedom, choices and diversity."

With the success of the lesbian soirees Tart and Hot Flash, Kandziora says Portland is ripe for promotion. "Seattle and Los Angeles are big cities, and Portland is caught in the middle. We want to sophisticate Portland a little bit and to draw people to move here."

The company is also planning to add **Eat My Martini and Olives**, a cocktail party for gay men.

Eat My Martini parties are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door and are limited to 60 people. For more information call 503-481-9870 or visit www.your-placeormineproductions.com.

—Jaymee R. Cuti

Stark Raving Blends Queer Playwright into Concoction

Winter is back, and so is Stark Raving Theatre's **Cold Comedy Concoction**—four new short plays by four writers performed by four actors with four different directors all in one night.

The comic quartet includes *Deep Inc.*, **Ebbe Roe Smith's** sweet-yet-biting tale of an absent-minded wife who revives the cryogenically preserved head of her deceased husband; *Sleeping with Squirrels*, **Ellen K. Anderson's** twisted fable of "inappropriate" love between a bear and a girl; and *The Nightmare of Lou's Perilous Protracted Pizza Predicament*, an outrageous take on teen-age horror movies from Lincoln High School senior **Andrew W. Metcalf**.

The evening's finale, appropriately titled *At the End of the Day*, comes from queer dramatist and SRT resident playwright **Amy Wheeler** (*Kiss It!*), who welcomes the commission to write short and fast. "My right brain gets to frolic before my left brain has time to sharpen her pencil!"

Wheeler goes behind the closed door of the refrigerator in search of the meaning of life through the personal dramas of Carlotta the Vampy Carrot, Jolene the Country Western Hunk of Bleu Cheese, Seamus the Irish Pickle and Sam the Left Over Pizza Slice Suffering Existential Angst.

"I often find myself staring into my refrigerator and contemplating the meaning of existence. Usually mine... sometimes the carrot's. Because soon, we shall be one, she and I. So I ingest the carrot's joy and suffering and it becomes my own," muses Wheeler.

Now that's food for thought, but is Wheeler turning kitchen sink drama into some kind of farce?

"Ah! Absurdism is the new realism, baby! I mean, shit does not make sense right now. But we're told it does, so we feel confused. Plus, it's dark and it's cold."



Cold Comedy Concoction offers food for thought.

So, the refrigerator is a perfect metaphor: a controlled environment that is constantly threatened by invasion of The Hand—randomly reaching in and taking things to satisfy its insatiable desire," says Wheeler, pointing to the universality of each foodstuff's story, whether "love and loss, of being chosen or abandoned, living out their full potential or being tossed in the garbage."

Concoction plays through Jan. 14 (including holidays) at CoHo Theatre, 2257 N.W. Raleigh St. Tickets are \$10-\$20 from 503-232-7072 or www.starkravingtheatre.org; Thursdays are "pay what you can."

—Timothy Krause