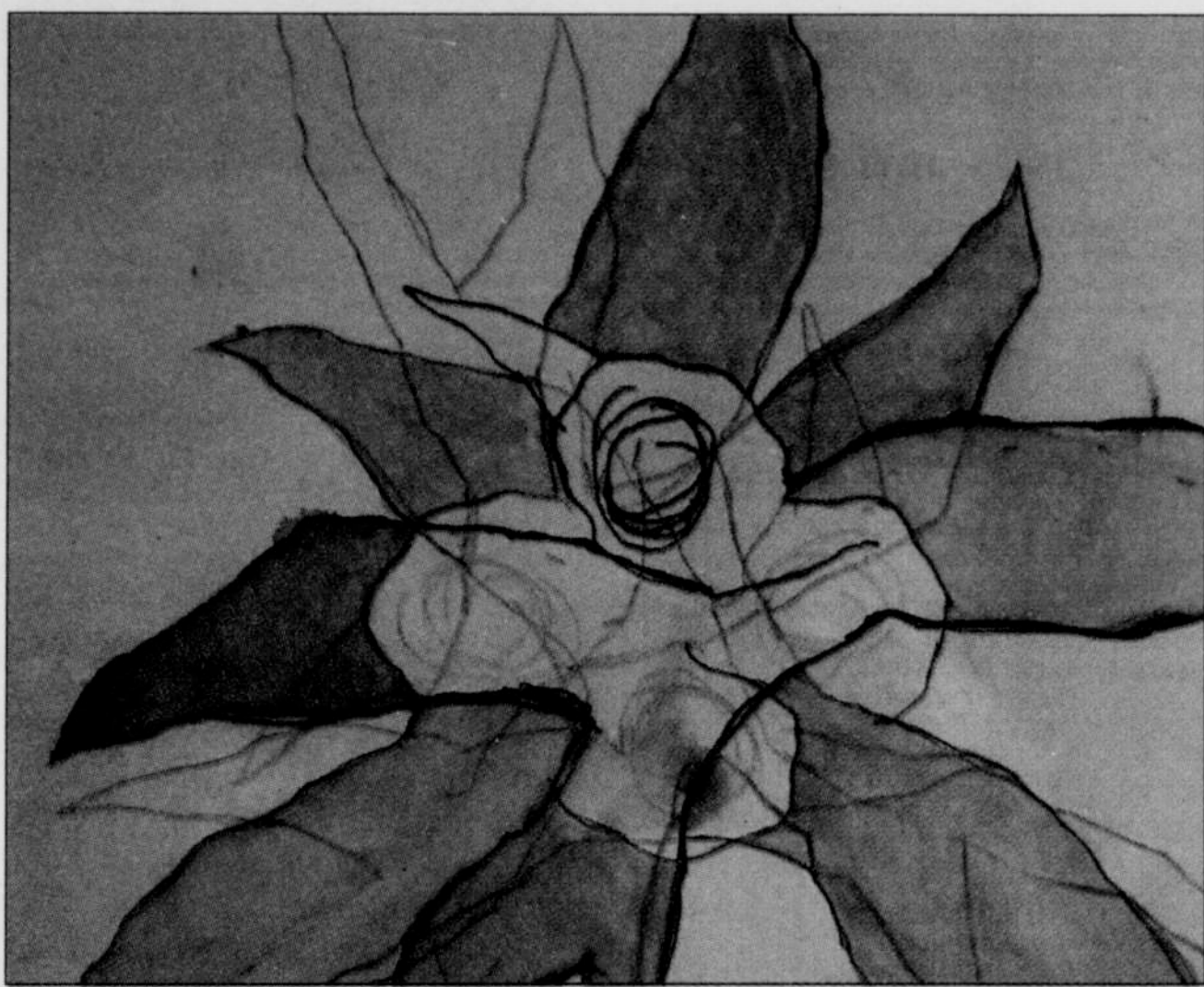




Queer musician Tara Jane O'Neil contributed to the drawings on display this month at Powell's.

Garland, Francesca Sanders' play about a Texas housewife whose drab life is turned around by a Danish visitor. (7 pm. 525 SE Stark St.)

Gather around the **Portland Polyamory Circle** for informal discussions of open relationships and commitment. (7 pm. Laury 503-285-4848.)

GO OUT Just Out presents its first **Gay Skate Night!** Grease your wheels every third Monday at Oaks Park. (7-9 pm. 1 SE Spokane St. \$5 plus canned food items for Esther's Pantry.)

TUE • JAN 17

Oregon Tradeswomen present an information session about paid on-the-job training and high-wage career opportunities in carpentry, electrical and other construction-related fields at Portland Community College's Workforce Training Center. (2-4 pm. 5600 NE 42nd Ave. Register at 503-335-8200, ext. 21.)

Learn to use healing and nurturing touch and movement to open your heart and unlock emotional energy in your body during **Men Touching with Heart** presented by Q-LAND and LoveTribe. (7-10 pm. \$10-\$20 donation. RSVP to www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

WED • JAN 18

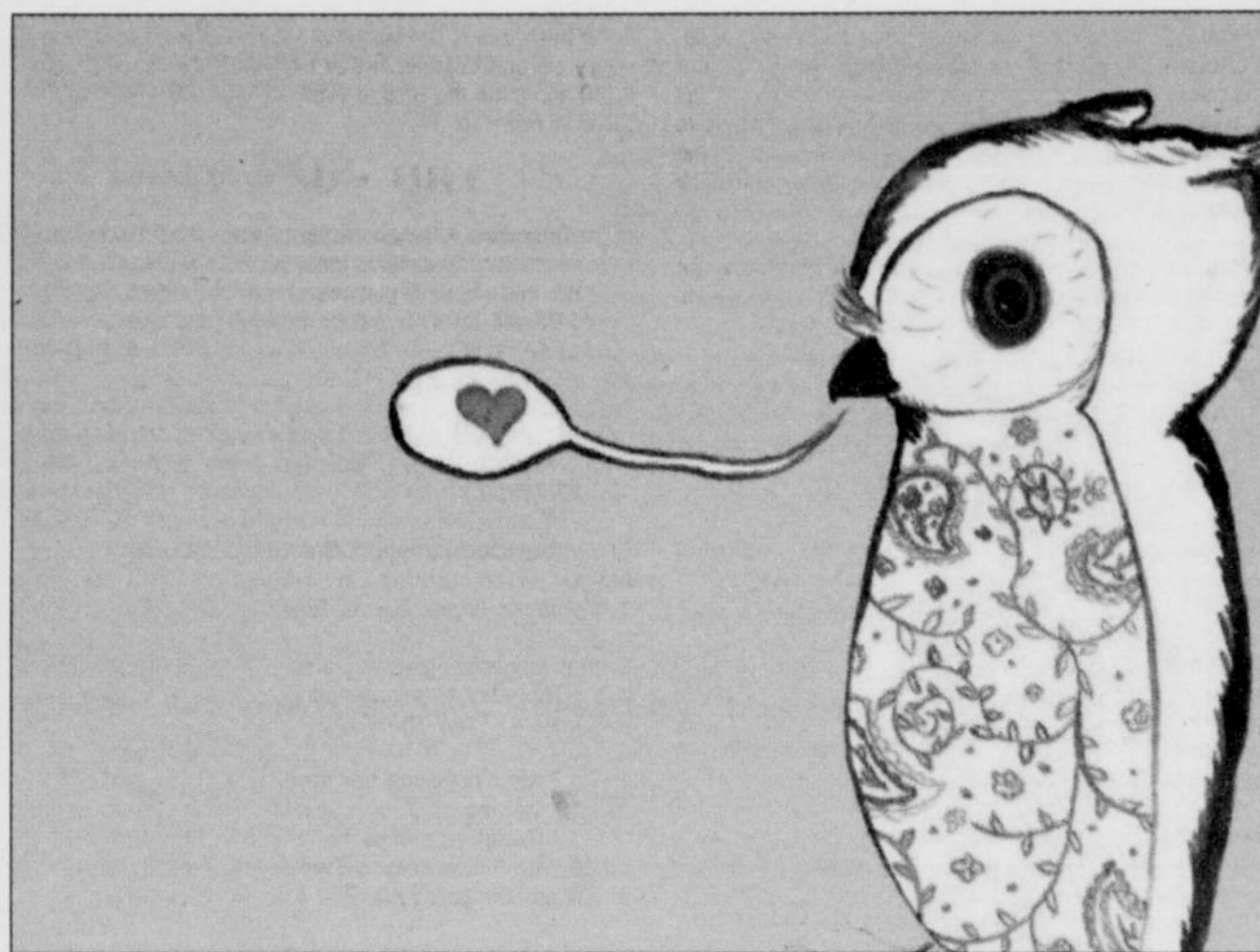
Gay-owned Crush introduces house wicca witch **Wanda Weegee** Wednesdays. Sit back and enjoy a little fortunetelling from a specialist in Tarot readings, casting spells, chanting, making personal charms and celebrity gossip! (7-10 pm. 1400 SE Morrison St.)

ErosTouch hosts **Men Massaging Men** every first and third Wednesday. One-on-one full-body massage in a safe and nurturing environment. No experience necessary. (7-10 pm. \$20 donation. Register at 503-493-9421 or eros-touch@earthlink.net.)

GO OUT What a way to make a living: Portland's radical drag troupe presents **Sissyboy 9 to 5** with DJs Stormy and Jimme Jamma at Holocene. (11 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

THU • JAN 19

Backline, a comprehensive pregnancy options counseling hot line, and Medical Students for Choice present the Oregon premiere of the nationally acclaimed documentary **Speak Out: I Had an Abortion** followed by a panel of choice experts at Clinton Street Theater. (7 pm. 2522 SE Clinton St. \$10.)



Queer illustrator Nicole J. Georges' *Owls and Other Animals* fly into Reading Frenzy this month.

Stephen Elliott, Adam Johnson and Peter Rock read from **Stumbling and Raging: More Politically Inspired Fiction** at Powell's Books. The anthology of short stories, poems and essays features the illustrated story "Morning Martyrs" by gay contributor Eric Orner. (7:30 pm. 1005 W Burnside St.)

FRI • JAN 20

Humble Divas Elizabeth Lavenue and Mark Steering present **Civil Disunion**, a musical comedy exploring the challenges and humor of our fractured political climate, through Jan. 21 at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church. Come laugh with them as they forge the foibles of same-sex marriage and parenting, bulldoze the blatant blunders of Bush and dance the dichotomy of our desires! (8 pm. 1907 NE 45th Ave. \$5-\$20 sliding scale from 503-234-1140 or periwinkle@pcez.com.)

GO OUT In celebrating all things piggy, **Queer Fetish** moves to Porky's Pub! Splendor and the Gender Fluids return for greasy action, Spittles the Clown hog-slaps butts for the "Loudest Squealer Contest," and guest DJ Vadim joins ChaotiQueer and Storm behind the turntables. Dress code will be enforced. (11 pm. 835 N Lombard St. \$3 greasy, \$5 fat-free. www.queerfetish-r.us.)

The 'Most Famous Lesbian' Lights the Lights at Defunkt

"Whatever expectations you have about what you're going to see—is *not* what you're going to see," riffs director **Kristan Seemel**. "This will *not* be like normal theater."

Which is why Seemel's take on literary lesbian Gertrude Stein's lyrical play **Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights** is a natch for Defunkt Theatre, Portland's own powerhouse of imagination. Here, Stein's avant-garde approach to the well-worn legend actually begins where the story ends, but in a modern, humanist world—without God, but still dealing with a devil.

"We get to see the reality of what that means, the fact that you sell your soul for ultimate power in a world where there's no sin. The word 'god' is never mentioned in the play. So, is it any different?" asks Seemel, who last season directed Defunkt's production of Mac Wellman's *A Murder of Crows*.

Stein's playwriting ("Rose is a rose is a rose is a rose") is fascinated with repetition, sound and musicality of words, almost surpassing their content, a style often compared with cubism in visual art. "There's a portion of it that's laid out very much like a play, and then she says, 'All right then'—and the whole thing swivels and turns and shatters," explains Seemel, who describes Stein's work as "a landscape of a moment—a very human moment, very emotional, physical, spatial—but she presents that moment from every angle in order to truly investigate and capture a human experience. So much art moves forward along a single line, so much narrative art works in that pattern, and she's the complete opposite instinct of that, which is what makes her unique as a playwright."

Seemel's production will be distinctive, too, re-configuring Back Door Theatre into a tiny, in-the-round performance area. Faustus himself will literally light the lights, physically controlling onstage instruments. And original music will pay homage to the show's one-time incarnation as an opera libretto, though (this not being normal theater and all) Seemel won't say what's now sung and what's spoken.

Doctor Faustus plays 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays from Jan. 13 to Feb. 18 at 4319 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Tickets are \$10-\$15 from 503-481-2960; Thursdays are "pay what you will," and opening weekend is free.

—Timothy Krause

Gay Director Embraces Outcast Culture

If there seems to be a humorous touch of Spanish *telenovela* melodrama in Miracle Theatre's premiere of Portland dramatist **Dañel Malán**'s new play, it serves only to underscore serious propositions.

In *Mi Vida Gitana*, Liliana is a young gypsy girl living on the streets of Pamplona. She befriends Charlie, an American boy expelled from military school whose father died in Iraq. Liliana and Charlie fall in love, but their elders' prejudices about gypsy culture jeopardize the couple's future.

"There's a certain freedom, but also a bit of danger that comes with the gypsy life," remarks director **Dan Ruiz**. "It's one of those outcast, shunned cultures, but it's outcast because it's not understood."

In tapping the heightened realism of soap opera, Ruiz and company hope to make the story bigger than life, allowing a close-up examination of how love can bridge even despised differences. In the play, Charlie and his over-protective mother come to appreciate a heritage once secreted away even as Liliana and her keeper, the lord of the gypsies, try to figure out what cultural traditions they are willing to give up and those they won't sacrifice. The story illustrates a contemporary struggle between fidelities to tradition and the inevitable realities of integration.

And the situation is not without parallels to the sexual minorities community.



A young Spanish gypsy girl and an American boy clash cultures in *Mi Vida Gitana*.

Mi Vida Gitana plays Thursdays through Sundays from Jan. 13 to 21 at 525 S.E. Stark St. Tickets are \$10-\$18 from 503-236-7253.

—Timothy Krause