

SAT • JAN 21

The Oregon affiliate of the **National Abortion Rights Action League** presents its 28th annual banquet at the Portland Hilton Hotel featuring keynote speaker Sarah Weddington, the attorney who successfully argued—at the age of 26!—the landmark Supreme Court case that has been protecting women's lives since 1973. (6 pm cocktails, 7 pm dinner. 921 SW Sixth Ave. \$50-\$125 from 503-223-4510, ext. 12, or dayan@prochoiceoregon.org.)

GO OUT Golden Girls icon **Bea Arthur** tells a few lowbrow stories from her 50 years in the business mixed with her favorite songs at Elsinore Theatre in Salem. Rescheduled because of illness. (7:30 pm. 170 High St. SE. \$30-\$60 from TicketsWest.)

BearBust at Gail's Dirty Duck. (8-11 pm. 429 NW Third Ave. \$8 members, \$10 nonmembers.)

Tip your hat to **Crystal's Country Jam** at the Portland Metro Club (PPAA). (8-9 pm lessons, 9 pm-1 am dancing. 618 SE Alder St. \$5, \$8 with lessons.)

SUN • JAN 22

Central Library commemorates the birthday of **William Stafford**, Oregon's late poet laureate, with a reading hosted by Joanna Rose featuring Molly Gloss, Paul Merchant, David Milholland, Carlos Reyes, Shelley Reece, special guest Dorothy Stafford and lesbian poet Judith Barrington. (2-3 pm. 801 SW 10th Ave.)

Gay writer Matthew Stadler hosts the **Back Room**, an occasional series of intellectual presentations featuring dinner, drinks and live music at Ripe. Tonight's guest is Anne Focke, who served as Seattle's first arts commissioner and has shaped much of the Northwest's arts infrastructure. (7 pm. 2240 N Interstate Ave. \$35 from 503-235-2294 or eat@ripepdx.com.)



KATRINA COLE

Swallows hatch their music Jan. 12 at Towne Lounge.

Tears for Frears

You never know what to expect from **Stephen Frears**. The Oscar-nominated British director has brought us a vicious costume drama (*Dangerous Liaisons*), a Freudian film noir (*The Grifters*) and the occasional bomb (*Mary Reilly*).

No stranger to gay storylines, he helmed 1987's *Prick Up Your Ears*, a biopic about queer British playwright Joe Orton. And in 1985 he made the landmark film *My Beautiful Laundrette*, which depicts the romance between a young Pakistani man and a wayward bloke played by Daniel Day-Lewis.

His latest—Golden Globe nominee *Mrs. Henderson Presents*—arrives Jan. 20 in Portland. Based on the true story of an outspoken widow who lures audiences to her musical theater with live female nudity, the slight but entertaining film stars Judi Dench, Bob Hoskins and gay singer Will Young, who launched his career on the U.K. equivalent of *American Idol*.

Just Out caught up with Frears during his recent visit to Portland.

Stephen Blair: In one scene Will Young's character announces to Mrs. Henderson that he's gay. She's bigoted in many areas, so why do you suppose she's so titillated by this?

Stephen Frears: People are wise in unexpected ways. Although she's such an outrageous woman, she's always rather humane, isn't she? Embracing.

SB: How did you make the cast feel comfortable during all the nude scenes?

SF: You just have to be very, very straight with people. Just say: "If you don't want to do it, don't take the job. It's not going to go away." It's the underhandedness they don't like—someone trying to get some advantage over them.

SB: The film is set in the 1930s. How is it relevant to modern audiences?

SF: I don't know that I think of it in those terms. It's meant to be entertaining. It makes you cry. If I were to try to claim a sort of relevance, it would be false.

SB: Everyone's talking about *Brokeback Mountain* as a revolutionary gay film. *My Beautiful Laundrette* also strikes me as revolutionary.

SF: Well, it was. When *Laundrette* became as big a success as it did, you could see that it somehow caught some spirit of defiance. It got absolutely sensational reviews. They said, "This just changes everything." Homosexuality wasn't presented as some kind of terrible illness, some sort of problem.

SB: Do you have any dream projects on your mind?

SF: No. Absolutely not. I don't work like that. I like the surprise. I like people sort of ringing me up. I like opening a script and going into a new world. If I knew what the world was, it would be much less interesting. I would like *not* to know about the next film I make.


This is very hard work. The responsibility gets greater, and it becomes quite oppressive. It's given me a very, very interesting life—much more interesting than I ever expected. So I'm very, very grateful to it, and also I get enormous pleasure from it.

—Stephen Blair



Stephen Frears directs actress Kelly Reilly in *Mrs. Henderson Presents*, also starring Bob Hoskins and Judi Dench (right).



Hobos  **Parking Validated!** DON'T FORGET!
Smart Park Davis & Front
Casual Dining
Piano Lounge
Open 4pm Daily
120 NW Third Ave. Portland • (503) 224-3285 • www.hobospdx.com

Bridges Café & Catering
Now Serving Dinner
DAYTIME
MON-FRI • 7AM-2PM
SAT-SUN • 8AM-3PM
NIGHTTIME
TUES, WEDS, THURS • 5:30-9:30PM
FRI-SAT • 5:30-10:30PM
• APPEALING APPETIZERS
• SCRUMPTIOUS SWEETS
• DELIGHTFUL DESSERTS
• ANNOYING ALLITERATIONS
1716 NE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD