



**In the Life** travels to rural Iowa to meet Emily Frerichs, a 17-year-old whose effort to start a Gay Straight Alliance was met with bitter opposition, Jan. 24 on OPB.

Former Frou Frou frontwoman **Imogen Heap** performs at Dante's. (9 pm. 1 SW Third Ave. \$13.50 from TicketsWest.)

Lesbian-operated **Moon Star Bar & Grill** presents crazy/sexy/fun drag queen shows with Ciara Dela Rosa and other outrageous female impersonators every last Saturday. (9:30-11:30 pm. 7410 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.)

**GO OUT** Witness what all that pill-popping and wig glue can do to a nice drag queen as **Sissyboy** Presents **One Flew Over the Tranny's Nest**, an outrageous night of insane drama, debauchery and disco with DJs C-RE and Jimmie Jamma at Doug Fir Lounge. Be warned: You may check in but never want to check out! (11 pm. 830 E Burnside St. \$6.)

## SUN • JAN 29

Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus presents **Mochitsuki 2006**, the 10th annual Japanese American New Year rice-pounding festival featuring family games and activities, yummy food and performers including Portland Taiko. (1 and 3 pm. 12000 SW 49th Ave. \$4-\$10 from TicketsWest.)

Has the human race finally evolved to a higher reality? August Moon Community Cultivation Center in Vancouver, Wash., screens **The Indigo Evolution**, a documentary about children who are coming into the world ready to play their role in creating compassion and

peace. (1 and 4 pm. 111 W 39th St. \$10.)  
Singer/songwriter **Brian W. Spencer** brings his unique style of hook-laden, introspective folk to Mississippi Pizza Pub for his first return to Portland since moving to Chicago last May. (4 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave. \$5 donation.)

Cruise Control presents **eight-minute dating for lesbians** in their 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s at Hobo's. (4 pm. 120 NW Third Ave. \$20. Register at [www.cruisecontrolpdx.com](http://www.cruisecontrolpdx.com).)

Brandy teaches a workshop for femme women on **how to strip/lap dance** at It's My Pleasure. (7 pm. 3106 NE 64th Ave. \$10-\$15 sliding scale. Register at [www.cruisecontrolpdx.com](http://www.cruisecontrolpdx.com).)

## MON • JAN 30

The Drammy Award Committee invites Portland theater artists and audiences to meet and mingle for a **Midseason Martini Mixer** at Vault featuring door prizes and special guest Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams! (5-9 pm. 226 NW 12th Ave.)

Lose those holiday pounds and stress by laughing! Lesbian laughter leader and humorist Gail Hand teaches a **laughter yoga class** at CoHo Theatre. Bring water and dress comfy. (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 Graduate* and *12 Monkeys*. (8:30 pm. 2236 NE Alberta St.)

## TUE • JAN 31

Former *Just Out* columnist and nationally acclaimed novelist **Marc Acito** (*How I Paid for College*) discusses the joys, sorrows, ups, downs, ins and outs of his work at McMenamins Kennedy School. (7 pm. 5736 NE 33rd Ave.)

In Other Words presents **The Last Word Open Mike Zine Read**. (8 pm. 3734 SE Hawthorne Blvd. [click\\_patterdale@yahoo.com](mailto:click_patterdale@yahoo.com).)

## WED • FEB 1



**True Life** spotlights teens with gay parents Jan. 26 on MTV.

## Indigo Girls Build Community

Whether or not you've ever wielded a power tool or hung drywall, everyone can help Portland Habitat for Humanity's **Women Build** program by attending an upcoming benefit concert.

The **Indigo Girls** are headed north for the only Portland show on their tour 8 p.m. Jan. 26 at Crystal Ballroom, 1332 W. Burnside St. Tickets are \$35 from [www.pdxhabitat.org](http://www.pdxhabitat.org) or Ticketmaster.

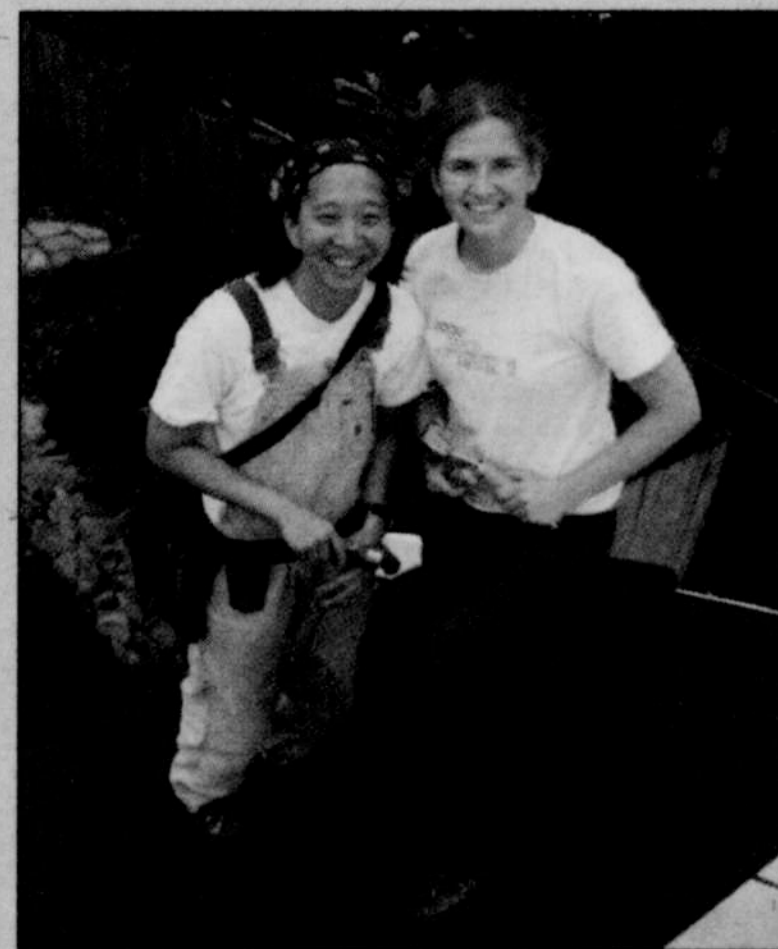
"The Indigo Girls fit the concert because they're involved in feminist issues and work in communities," says **Katie Hughes**, a lesbian Women Build committee member and former site supervisor. "They're not just singers. We knew they would support everything we were doing."

Hughes expects the concert to raise more than \$30,000 for the program, which helps bring a family out of poverty and into their own home built entirely by women.

Women Build was launched in 1996 in response to data indicating that although the majority of Habitat volunteers were women, they rarely worked at construction sites. According to Hughes, having a house built entirely by women benefits volunteers, Habitat for Humanity and the homeowner.

"For Habitat, it helps get more houses built by having these women build on site. For the homeowners, this is one extra house that we're building a year so a family can get into a home more quickly," she says. "For the women volunteers, it's really empowering."

She adds that without men pushing women into traditional roles on a construction site, they quickly become comfortable with all elements of home building, from framing walls to installing roofing to landscaping.



**Ev Hu** (left) and **Katie Hughes** take a break from installing roofing at a Habitat for Humanity construction site.

—Jaymee R. Cui

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](mailto:eros-touch@earthlink.net).)

2 Gyrz Performative Arts hosts Mobilization Records' **How to Destroy the Universe #5**, a festival of extreme music, performance and art featuring F-Space, Sixteens, Synchronicity Frequency, Waldteufel, Scot Arford and MurkVisuals at Sabala's. (8 pm. 4811 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$5-\$15 sliding scale.)

**The Gossip** performs with Numbers, The Ovulators and Ghostland Observatory at WOW Hall in Eugene. (8:30 pm. 291 W Eighth Ave. \$10 at the door, \$8 in advance from 541-687-2746 or [www.wowhall.org](http://www.wowhall.org).)

## THU • FEB 2

Reed College celebrates Black History Month with a lecture by feminist, social thinker, intellectual, memoirist and teacher **bell hooks** on the myriad forms of racism evident in the United States, from subtle to blatant, at Kaul Auditorium. (6:30 pm book signing, 7 pm lecture. 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. RSVP to 503-517-7935.)

**GO OUT** Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the office, Portland's radical drag troupe presents **Sissyboy 9 to 5** at Wieden + Kennedy with special guest **Thomas Lauderdale** of Pink Martini. Work will never be the same again. (7 pm. 224 NW 13th Ave. \$7 at the door, \$5 in advance from *Balloons on Broadway* or *Bridges*.)

2 Gyrz Performative Arts hosts Mobilization Records' **How to Destroy the Universe #5**, a festival of extreme music, performance and art featuring Blixa Bargeld, The Living Jarboe and Soriah at The Old Church. (8 pm. 1422 SW 11th Ave. \$18 at the door, \$15 in advance from *Ozone Records*.)

Doug Fir Lounge welcomes back charming Chatahoochie guitar queen **Michelle Malone** with Hillstomp. (9 pm. 830 E Burnside St. \$10 at the door, \$8 in advance from TicketsWest.)

## FRI • FEB 3

**GO OUT** Happy Ours Productions hosts a social and networking **gathering for gays and lesbians of color** every first Friday at Cup and Saucer Northeast. (5-8 pm. 3000 NE Killingsworth St. [www.happyoursproductions.com](http://www.happyoursproductions.com).)

Out Dancing's **beginning West Coast swing** class starts tonight and continues every Friday at February at Ankeny Street Studio. **Intermediate nightclub two-step** class follows. (7-8 pm swing [\$20 for month], 8-9 pm salsa [\$24 for month]. 975 SE Sandy Blvd. 503-236-5129. [out\\_dancing@yahoo.com](mailto:out_dancing@yahoo.com).)

**Suzanne Willett** presents *Pain: So Funny It Hurts*—one-woman comedy from a middle-class, suburban, college-educated,

career-oriented point of view—through Feb. 4 at Winningstad Theatre. (8-9:30 pm. 1111 SW Broadway. \$21.50-\$24.50 from Ticketmaster.)



Electro/comedy/pop duo **Caught in Candy** premieres its first full-length music video, featuring cameos from the drag stars of Sissyboy and DK PDX, at Acme with NickyClick and DJs Copy and DannyDamage. (9 pm. 1305 SE Eighth Ave. \$5.)

## Polaris Spotlights Portland Choreographers, Musicians

Some artists dislike guidelines, but not choreographer **Eric Skinner**. He rather enjoys working within set parameters.

Skinner's latest piece, "Morningtide," was created for **Polaris Dance Theatre's Scapes** performance. For the collaborative project, Polaris artistic director **Robert Guitron** handed Skinner a few CDs by Portland musician **John Smith**. One of the discs was a compilation of short sound bites ranging from 10 seconds to four minutes long.



**Eric Skinner**

From those, Skinner chose seven sections that he thought had "a similar flavor."

"It's really beautiful music," says Skinner. "It's kind of—somber isn't the right word—but very moody."

Skinner liked the music but didn't want to choreograph a depressing work, so he added an uplifting element through the dancers' movements and the set design. He describes the overall feeling of the piece: "You're waking up in the morning and you haven't quite got going. You have this beautiful sunrise so you can feel slow and lethargic but still have a smile on your face."

Five women from Polaris perform the quintet, trio, duet and solo that make up "Morningtide." The dancers are an eclectic group with a wide range of backgrounds.

"They are all beautiful, really nice dancers, but they are very different from each other in their movement styles," says Skinner.

As a dancer himself, Skinner is familiar with many styles of movement, from ballet to tap. He draws on this extensive experience whether he is choreographing for Polaris or for Skinner Kirk Ensemble, a collaboration with his life partner of 15 years, **Daniel Kirk**.

In addition, Skinner dances with and choreographs for BodyVox, and he is choreographer and assistant director for Portland Center Stage's production of *The Fantasticks*.

For the *Scapes* performance, Skinner's contribution joins pieces from three other local choreographers: Guitron, **Bonnie Merrill** and **Josie Moseley**. Though it is the first time Skinner has worked with the young company, he is well-acquainted with Guitron and co-director **Sara Anderson**.

"They just love to bring people together... Polaris is a really nice group of people, and everybody looks great together," he says.

Polaris Dance Theatre presents *Scapes* 8 p.m. Jan. 25 to 28 at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall, 1620 S.W. Park Ave. Tickets are \$18-\$22 from 503-725-3307 or Ticketmaster.

—Rebecca Ragain