



Acclaimed artist Michael Sakamoto performs his signature style of androgynous, off-kilter, butoh-influenced dance Feb. 24 and 25 at Conduit.

GO OUT Pride Northwest, Q Center, the Portland Area Business Association, Basic Rights Oregon, Equity Foundation and the Portland Trail Blazers invite you to **Fan Out**, an evening of sport, community and celebration as the team takes on the Boston Celtics at Rose Garden Arena. (7 pm. 1 Center Court. \$12 from 503-295-9788.)

Q-LAND and LoveTribes invite you to explore your whole self during **Men, Music, Movement, Massage, Meditation**, a wheelchair-accessible healing journey. (7 pm-midnight. \$10-\$25 donation. Chris 503-223-8822, ext. 2. RSVP to www.lovetribes.org/menspirit.)

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

Mock Crest Tavern presents the acoustic insanity of **Sneakin' Out**. (9 pm-midnight. 3435 N Lombard St.)

The Oregon Bears throw their monthly **Double X Dance** at C.C. Slaughters. (9 pm-1 am. 219 NW Davis St. \$2.)

SAT • FEB 25

Catlin Gable School invites students younger than 23 to the third annual **Oregon Queer Youth Conference** featuring workshops, lunch and a crazy cool time. (9 am-4 pm. 8825 SW Barnes Road. Register at www.oqyc.org.)

Your Place or Mine? Productions hosts **Eat My Martini**, a suave cocktail party where lesbians can mingle in an



Dolly Parton fans rejoice! Portland's finest women musicians pay homage to the legend Feb. 19, then Zaytoon screens *Nine to Five* Feb. 27. Also, cheer her on as "Travelin' Thru," a song from *Transamerica*, vies for an Academy Award March 5.

elegant and fun atmosphere in West Portland. Activities include martinis, mocktinis, appetizers, billiards, backgammon, movies, music, cards and darts. Shuttle service available from Holocene. Dress to impress! (6-9 pm. \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance from 503-481-9870 or www.yourplaceormineproductions.com.)

In Other Words presents a lecture and book signing with **Jane Midgeley**, author of *Women and the U.S. Budget: Where the Money Goes and What You Can Do About It*. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Clowns Without Borders—which offers laughter to relieve the suffering of people living in areas of crisis, including South African orphans of the AIDS epidemic—presents its ninth annual benefit performance at Winningstad Theatre featuring clowning, juggling, music, fire twirling, acrobatics and more. (7:30 pm. 111 SW Broadway. \$20 from 503-248-0557.)



Former drag king T Cooper reads March 1 at Powell's.

Hey, what's your vice? Holocene presents **Double Down**, the fab queer party where the player always wins, every fourth Saturday. (8 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

The Northwest Film Center throws the closing party of the Portland International Film Festival at **Andaz**, Fez Ballroom's monthly night of Bhangra, Bollywood and hip-hop music with DJs Anjali and The Incredible Kid. (9 pm-3 am. 316 SW 11th Ave. \$7.)

SUN • FEB 26

FatGirl Speaks and F.A.T. PDX present **Cupcake**, a new monthly dance party for fat folks and allies of all genders and sexualities at Holocene. Shake your bodacious booties to the bountiful beats and win fantastic raffle prizes in a room full of chublove! (4-10 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

MON • FEB 27

It's **Movie Night Monday** at lesbian-owned Middle Eastern bar Zaytoon. Tonight's films are *Nine to Five* and *Fight Club*. (8:30 pm. 2236 NE Alberta St.)

TUE • FEB 28

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 Portland artist Daniel Duford, who will make 50 ceramic bowls illustrating a serial tale that will unfold when the diners eat their meals to reveal what lies at the bottom. (7 pm. 2240 N Interstate Ave. \$35 from 503-235-2294 or eat@ripepdx.com.)

In Other Words presents **The Last Word Open Mike Zine Read**. (8 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St. click_patterdale@yahoo.com.)

Decadence prevails at the Egyptian Club's intense, not-to-be-missed celebration of **Fat Tuesday**. They've got lots and lots of beads, and you know what you've got to do to get them! Creative attire encouraged. (9 pm. 3701 SE Division St. \$5.)

WED • MARCH 1

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 erostouch@earthlink.net.)

GO OUT Gay author **Tom Spanbauer** (*The Man Who Fell in Love with the Moon*) reads from and signs his new novel, *Now Is the Hour*—a story of self-awakening and the complex bonds of family and, ultimately, of America during a period of tremendous upheaval—in Vanport Room 338 at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Center. (7:30 pm. 1825 SW Broadway.)

Author **T Cooper**, a onetime member of the drag king group the Backdoor Boys, reads from her acclaimed novel *Lipshitz Six*, or *Two Angry Blondes*, a tale of

Jewish immigrants and an Eminem impersonator, at Powell's. (7:30 pm. 1005 W Burnside St.)

Darcelle's presents the eighth annual **Stars Twinkle & Shine** benefit show and dessert buffet. Proceeds benefit Camp Starlight, an annual adventure for an amazing group of spirited, courageous and energetic 5- to 17-year-olds whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS. (8 pm. 208 NW Third Ave. \$20 donation.)



Need a free **Gaycation**? Then party down at Holocene on the first Wednesday of every month for a new queer night from the folks behind Snatch. DJs Automaton, Snowtiger and Hotpants bring the booty-shaking beats. (9 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St.)

THU • MARCH 2

Curated by Victoria Frey of the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, Wieden + Kennedy presents the second annual **Avant Grande**, a unique exhibit featuring original art and music by Portland-area Starbucks baristas along with complimentary appetizers and wine. Proceeds benefit Cascade AIDS Project. (6 pm. 224 NW 13th Ave.)

The **Cancer Fags** celebrate DJ Corban Lester's 30th birthday spectacular at Dunes. (10 pm. 1909 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.)

Let's Talk About Film

If you're a gay man interested in talking film with other guys from Portland's sexual minorities community, things are looking up after a long dry spell.

Men's Film Talk, a long-running but now years-dormant feature of the Rose City's queer activities spectrum, is back. Having been a committed regular during its last incarnation, which ended in 2002, **Paul Emerzian** relaunched the group after the 2005 Portland Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, and it has been meeting regularly for the past few months.

It hasn't hurt that there's been an abundance of queer-centric film lately. In addition to the power duo of *Brokeback Mountain* (the group's "most revered" film, according to Emerzian) and *Capote* ("the subject of lively debate"), recently discussed films include the Swiss *Garçon Stupide*, about a young gay man's coming of age, and *Crying Game* director Neil Jordan's latest, *Breakfast on Pluto*, about the experiences of an Irish transvestite. Next month's meeting will focus on two selections from the 2006 Portland International Film Festival.

Emerzian's goal for the revived group is to create a respectful, supportive environment "where everyone will feel free to express himself regardless of how much he may know about film in general or even his relative ability to articulate his thoughts." Though many specifics are still up in the air—the group is looking for a permanent, centrally located venue—he envisions outings to films or other activities and even allows for the possibility of theater or television discussion. But the group will be democratic, its mechanics finally determined by the attendees. Emerzian has "no desire to facilitate the group on my own" and heartily welcomes "input as well as assistance."

So, gay cinephiles of Portland, this is your opportunity to share your interest and create community—all you have to do is watch some movies, show up and participate in an open, friendly conversation. Articulating the communal significance of the medium, Emerzian says: "Perhaps more than any other art form, movies tap into our unconscious hopes, desires and fantasies.... Viewing gay, bi and trans characters and situations in films gives us a sense of affirmation and belonging that most straight people take for granted. And seeing movies is a social experience, so it follows naturally that you would want to exchange ideas afterward."

For more information e-mail filmtalk@verizon.net.

—Christopher McQuain

Tap on Tap

In 1983, just a few years before Fred Astaire's death and Savion Glover's appearance in the film *Tap*, a Portland tap dance teacher named **Claire Hallsted** gathered a group of her students and started **The Skylark Tappers**.

The 10-member company is still going strong, now under the direction of accomplished tap choreographer and instructor **Judy Tibbles**. The group of experienced tappers—eight women and two men—stomp, shuffle and brush their way through a repertoire that incorporates a wide variety of styles, such as rhythm tap, swing, jazz, hip-hop, show tap and comedy.

"We do such a variety of stuff, different styles of dance—it keeps me interested," says lesbian **Caitlin Upshaw**, who joined The Skylark Tappers in September 2004.

The tappers rehearse for at least 3 1/2 hours each week. They commit more time to rehearsals during the weeks leading up to one of their many performances, which take place at events like the Portland Rose Festival and the Dance Coalition of Oregon's annual Blue Sky Concert.

The Skylark Tappers also present annual concerts of their own. This month they perform *Bits and Pieces*, which features five tap numbers rang-

ing from "Suite Saturday Morning," a kid-friendly piece set to a collection of theme songs from cartoons, to an a cappella number that Upshaw says is a little different each time they dance it.

The dancers are performing two new pieces for the show: "Paying Respect to the Noble Sound," an homage to jazz music, and "Olio," which Upshaw describes as "an earthy piece with a jungle feel to it." The program also includes a few flamenco numbers danced by local guest artists.

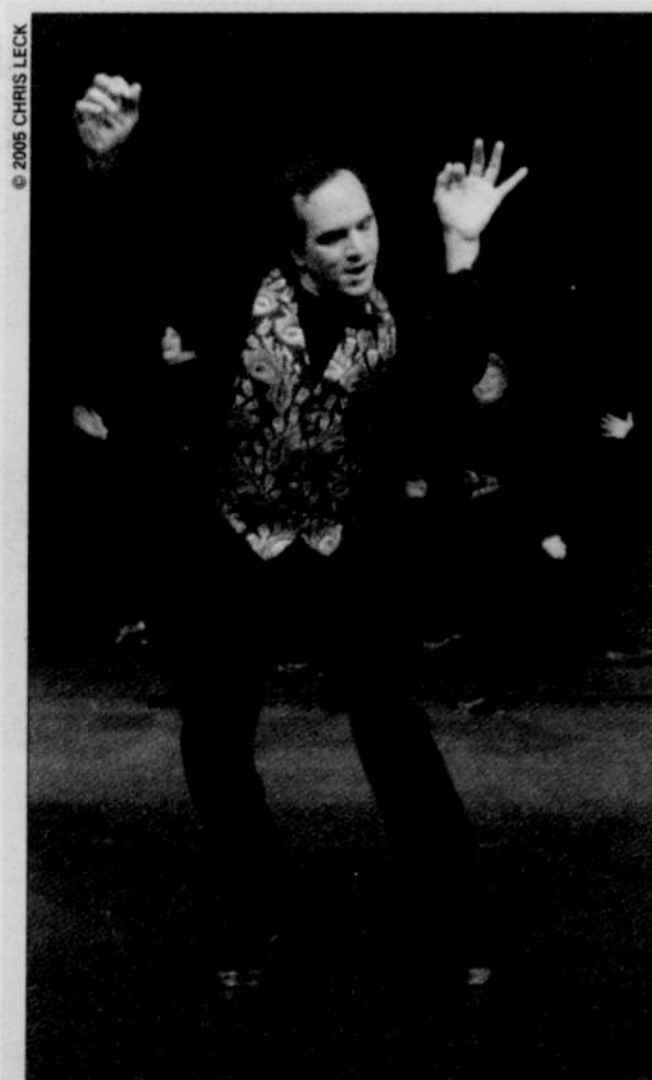
The Skylark Tappers' most energetic piece is eight minutes long, set to swing music. Like many tap numbers, this one is great exercise for the performers.

"We have a couple of numbers that when we finish, everyone is red-faced and panting and still trying to smile," says Upshaw.

Upshaw guarantees that the dancers won't be the only ones smiling. "It's impossible to watch tap and not smile the whole time," she says.

See *Bits and Pieces* 7:30 p.m. Feb. 18 or 2 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Performing Arts Center on Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus, 12000 S.W. 49th Ave. Tickets are \$10-\$18 at the door or \$7-\$15 in advance from 503-245-3994.

—Rebecca Ragain



The Skylark Tappers perform *Bits and Pieces* Feb. 18 and 19 at PCC Sylvania.