



Meet International Mr. Leather 2005 Michael Egdes March 19.

Q Center presents **Gay Men's Night** every Monday. (6-8 pm. 1309 Lincoln St.)

Miracle Theatre Group presents the latest installment of **The Miracle Grow Series** of free readings designed to foster budding new ideas. Get a sneak peek at Larry Johnson's *The Grotto*, either a dark comedy or a deep hallucination about two lovers who escape the world to live in a mystical mountain cave...or is it a seedy tenement room? (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 **Gay Skate Night!** Grease your wheels every third Monday at Oaks Park. This

month's theme is "Jock Night," so show up in your sportiest outfit while mingling with the hunky athletes of the Rose City Softball Association. Proceeds benefit the **Just Out Scholarship Fund**. (7-9 pm. 1 SE Spokane St. \$5 plus canned food items for Esther's Pantry.)

Literary Arts' sixth annual Poetry Downtown series at First Congregational Church presents **Adrienne Rich**, one of the most powerful voices of contemporary poetry, whose focus on feminism and politics, activism and cultural divide has propelled her writing for more than 50 years. (7:30 pm. 1126 SW Park Ave. \$5-\$18 from 503-227-2583 or www.literary-arts.org.)

Gay pianist **Bill Wells** and Portland superstar **Susannah Mars** present *Come to the Party* featuring music by Vernon Duke, Charles Ives, Maury Yeston and others through March 21 at Wilf's Restaurant and Piano Bar. (7:30 pm. 800 NW Sixth Ave. \$15 from 503-223-0070.)

Bi dyke musician Amy Bleu, Kate Mann and Beliss celebrate women during the showcase performance "**Girls with Guitars**" **Is Not a Genre** at Ash Street Saloon. (9:30 pm. 225 SW Ash St. \$4.)

TUE • MARCH 21

GO OUT Learn essential relationship skills and enhance your ability to deal effectively with conflict during **Problem Solving for Same-Gender Couples**, a six-week series of classes on decision-making, stress management and negotiation beginning tonight at Kaiser Permanente. Taught by lesbian relationship specialist Mariah Ureel. (6:30-8:30 pm. 3600 N Interstate Ave. \$80/couple members, \$130/couple nonmembers. To register call 503-286-6816.)

Q-LAND and LoveTribе celebrate the vernal equinox, a powerful time of rebirth, planting, creativity and balance, during **Men Touching with Heart**. (7-10 pm. \$10-\$20 donation. 503-223-8822, ext. 2. RSVP to www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

Gay-owned Wild Abandon presents another night of debauched dinner theater with **Amber Martin** Tuesdays through April 4. The Drammy-winning House of Cunt entertainer has gobs of new stories about her experience at the 19th annual Janis Joplin Tribute in Texas with Sissyboy's Splendor! Opening night proceeds benefit Multnomah

County Chair Diane Linn's re-election campaign. (7:30 pm dinner, 9 pm show. 2411 SE Belmont St. \$15-\$20 from 503-232-4458.)

WED • MARCH 22

Elder Resource Alliance hosts the first of a three-part series on **Legal and Ethical Issues in Long-Term Life Planning** at Friendly House. Attorney Timothy M. McNeil will discuss essential information about wills, trusts, powers of attorney, advanced health care directives and physician-ordered life-sustaining treatment, and pastor Kathy Tackett will discuss her experience as a former funeral director and options about "green," low-impact, low-cost burial arrangements. (2-4 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave. Rachel 503-224-2640. eracoordinator@yahoo.com.)

Gay-owned Paolo Design Group presents **Interior Design Shop-Talks**, a series of forums about new innovations to create a living space that caters to your needs. Tonight's topic is "Furniture Fever." Continues March 29 with "Color Wonder Works" and April 5 with "Lighting Logic." (6-7:30 pm. 1110 NW Marshall St. RSVP to 503-222-1757, ext. 15; or paolo@paolodesigngroup.com.)

Q-LAND and LoveTribе present a **men's yoga class** on letting go of excess physical, emotional and mental baggage to achieve wellness goals. First class free; donations thereafter. (6:30-8:30 pm. 503-223-8822, ext. 3. RSVP to www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

Margaret Emerson reads from *Eyes of the Mirror*, a self-portrait about her struggle with diabetes and her shortcut to reincarnation, at In Other Words. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Franz Ferdinand and **Death Cab for Cutie** open their joint tour at Memorial Coliseum. (7 pm. 300 N Winning Way. \$30 from Ticketmaster.)

A diverse and talented roster of creatives perform during **Dance Votes for Diane Linn** at Holocene. Curated by gay choreographer Mike Barber, producer of *10 Tiny Dances*, and Tracy Broyles of Theory 1. Proceeds benefit the Multnomah County chair's re-election campaign. (7:30 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$15.)

Eric Himan and **Levi Kreis** perform at A Street Market Place in Ashland. Proceeds benefit the Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center. (7:30 pm. 340 Oak St. \$8-\$20 sliding scale.)

GO OUT Ease into spring with **Vas-o-Line**, a nonsmoking monthly dance party featuring special guest host Poly Grip and DJs Beyonda, Dandylyon, Stormy and Sol spinning an eclectic array of progressive beats to make you percolate that baby fat on the dance floor! (9 pm. 1035 SW Stark St. \$3-\$5 sliding scale.)

Plumb Bob performs at Laurelhurst Public House. (9 pm-midnight. 2958 NE Glisan St.)

THU • MARCH 23

GO OUT In Other Words, the country's one and only non-profit women's bookstore and community resource center, celebrates its sixth annual **Literary Feast** at the Governor Hotel. This year's theme is "Lyric: women.rhythm.word," exploring the connection words make between poems and songs, with readings by renowned author Ursula K. Le Guin, Portland hip-hop duo Siren's Echo and poet/singer Cynthia Nelson.

Piece of Cake

Cupcake is the newest queer-friendly party to come to Holocene. Stacy Bias, creator of this sugary-sweet night, has some big ideas of bringing in a little niche market that carries a lot of weight in the alterna-queer scene of gay Portland. Cupcake is designed for "fat folks and allies" to dance and mingle in what she refers to as a "safe space." Not exclusively queer, Cupcake's intention is to help break down the stereotypes of our fatphobic culture, showing that "fitness and fatness are not mutually exclusive," Bias explains, and that "self-worth doesn't depend on size."

But with that agenda aside, Cupcake is also a fun dance party with a DJ, sexy big girl slide show and, best of all, cupcake hors d'oeuvres seductively laid out on all the tables. I was most impressed with the organization of the evening as Holocene was magically transformed to emulate a crafty homemade valentine. The tables and bar were not only filled with cupcakes, but also cute pink centerpieces and free stickers claiming that...well...basically, Jenny Craig is a fu*ed-up bitch! And if you didn't agree with Bias' aesthetics, no problem—you could simply tell her what you wanted changed on one of her many survey sheets strategically placed around the room.

The Sunday evening time slot, combined with snacks, stickers and a survey, gave the event a bit of an ice-cream-social, lunch-at-Martha-Stewart's-house kind of vibe. Though I found it enchanting, it was not the down-and-dirty dance party I wanted it to be. This month Cupcake temporarily moves to a Friday night, March 24, so some of the organization might get trampled by the sweaty, sexy folks ready to show the world that sometimes the best things do come in large packages.

Cupcake is held from 4 to 10 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of every month at 1001 S.E. Morrison St. Admission is \$5.

—Mark "Zebra" Thomas



From left, Darcy Lynne, Mario Calcagno and Torrey Cornwell play multiple characters whose lives intertwine through three poetic dramas in *The Mark*.

Who Marked You?

The premiere of an emerging Portland playwright explores events that mark people for life. Stark Raving Theatre's *The Mark* by Gretchen Icenogle features three actors playing multiple characters whose lives intertwine through three poetic dramas.

The stellar cast includes Drammy Award-winning actresses Torrey Cornwell and Darcy Lynne and up-and-comer Mario Calcagno.

Directed by Matt Zrebski, *The Mark* is rife with queer content as characters face issues relevant to all, including abuse, illness, loss and love.

"*The Mark* is about people in your life and how they spiritually and emotionally mark you. All of these characters are just trying to find their way after these events marked them," says Cornwell, who portrays a lesbian named Lucy in Acts 1 and 3 and an iconic character named Betty in Act 2.

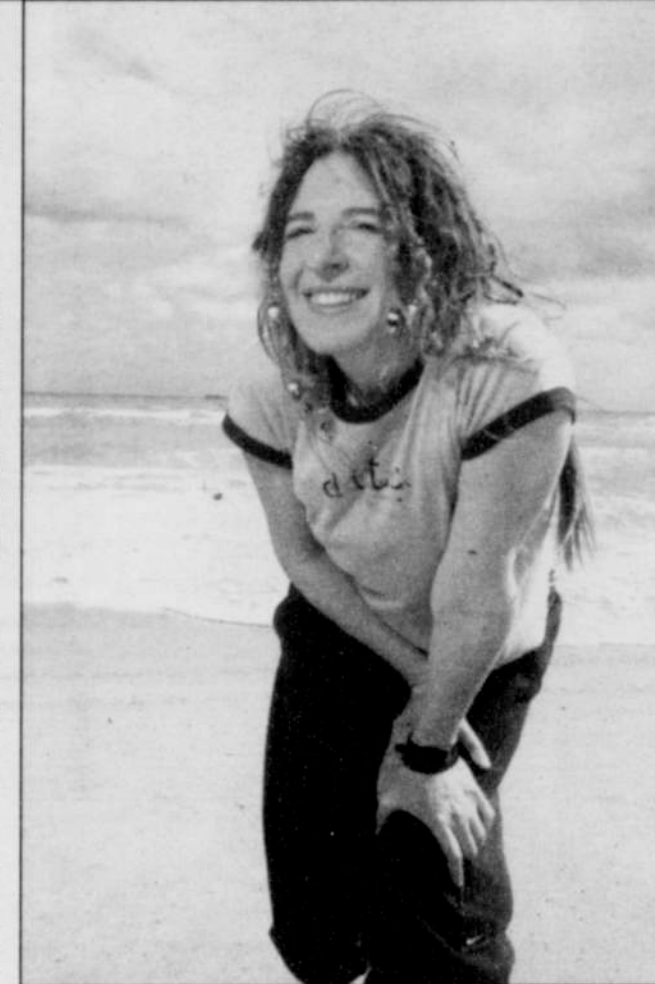
Cornwell, a lesbian herself, says the play is not expressly queer but is realistic enough to speak to all audiences. "I don't think the gay message is predominant in the show. It's a piece of the final product but not the end-all, be-all."

Cornwell says she lends sensitivity to an experience between her character and a fictitious politician that strongly mirrors the sexual abuse scandal between former Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt and an underage girl. As a lesbian, she is combating the stereotype that a negative first relationship influences sexuality.

"I'm trying to dissuade them as much as possible from that thing where you say, 'I'm a lesbian' and some guys say, 'It's because you've had bad relationships before,'" says Cornwell. "But it definitely marks Lucy."

The Mark shows 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays from March 24 to April 22 at 2257 N.W. Raleigh St. Tickets are \$10-\$20 from 503-232-7072; Thursdays are "pay what you can." A fund-raising gala will be held from 6 to 11:30 p.m. March 25. For more information visit www.starkravingtheatre.org.

—Jaymee R. Cuti



Sonia performs March 18 at Mississippi Studios.

(5:30-8:30 pm. 614 SW 11th Ave. \$50 from litteraryfeast@gmail.com.)

Portland singer/songwriters Flip Frisch, Hans Gauger, Josh Segal and Little Sue perform at Mississippi Pizza Pub. Proceeds benefit Portland Habitat for Humanity's **Women Build** program. (7 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave. \$5.)

Lesbian-owned taco bar Dingo's presents **Girls Night Out** every Thursday. (7 pm. 4612 SE Hawthorne Blvd. 503-233-3996.)

FRI • MARCH 24

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.)

GO OUT Gay spiritual director Dale Rhodes facilitates **The Enneagram in Love and Relationships**, a participatory workshop that will more deeply and directly explore the ancient personality system and how it is helpful in starting and maintaining relationships with mates, partners or spouses, through March 25 at HealthQuest. (7-9 pm Friday, 10 am-4 pm Saturday. 1330 SE 39th Ave. \$125 from 503-295-4481 or www.enneagramportland.com.)

The School of Angel Studies presents a **Sacred Mask Making Workshop** with lesbian Jolie Ann Grindstaff, healer and spiritual guide, through March 25. Participants will design, make and decorate plaster masks to express their authentic selves and embrace all aspects of their personalities. (7-9 pm Friday, 1-3 pm Saturday. \$85 from jolieannhealer@comcast.net.)

Eric Himan and **Levi Kreis** perform at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (9 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave. \$7.)