

Crystal's **country western dance** at the Portland Metro Club (PPAA). (9 pm-1 am. 618 SE Alder St. \$5.)

SUN • APRIL 2

Roberta Showalter Kreider, who has written three books containing faith stories of sexual minorities, speaks during a Sunday school forum at Portland Mennonite Church. (9:15 am. 1312 SE 35th Ave.)

Hambleton Project, a support group for lesbians with cancer and other life-threatening conditions, holds a celebration and annual meeting with music and food at Friendly House. (3-5 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave.)

The AMANI Group (Afro-queers as we Mingle And Nurture Intimately) presents Portland's hottest black social gathering and potluck! (3-7 pm. 1731 NE 10th Ave. Rupert 503-249-7270.)

The Egyptian Club gives away a Kenmore gas grill during its monthly **Texas Hold 'Em Tournament Championship**. (4 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

MON • APRIL 3

The **Bisexual Community Forum** hosts a casual discussion group every first Monday at 3 Friends Coffeehouse. (7:30 pm. 201 SE 12th Ave. 503-285-4848.)

Gay Faves Kick Off Co-Headlining Tour in Portland

For every gay music listener who loves the Madonnas, J-Los, Britneys and Kelly Clarksons of this world, there's one who prefers the sound of Scissor Sisters, Coldplay, The Killers and The Strokes. It's not like a whole new breed of queens suddenly emerged out of thin air; gay alternative music fans date back to the days David Bowie opted for blue eye shadow instead of a bicep tattoo. There's a rocker in each of us, and some nonheteros have eagerly tapped into it.

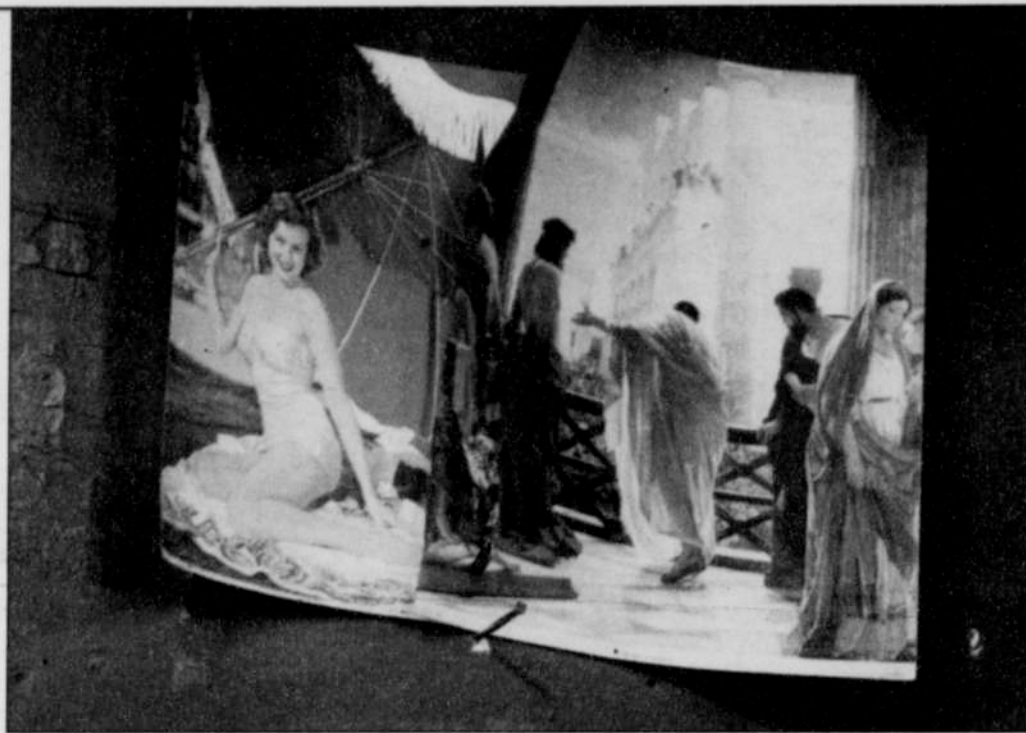
Two alternative rock groups with huge gay fan bases are **Franz Ferdinand** and **Death Cab for Cutie**. Neither of these acts boasts any openly gay band members (though Elton John was well into the third decade of his career before unscrewing the hinges off his closet door). But even though everyone on these Grammy-nominated teams is straight, take comfort in knowing that each member is 100 percent gay-friendly. Having interviewed and met both quartets, I guarantee they'd be seriously disappointed if their cheering sections weren't sprinkled with rainbow-colored supporters.

Franz Ferdinand suggested bi-curiosity on its self-titled debut album with the boy-on-boy dance song "Michael." The sexy Scots—vocalist/guitarist **Alex Kapranos**, guitarist **Nick McCarthy**, bassist **Bob Hardy** and drummer **Paul Thomson**—have a favorite gay bar in their Glasgow hometown, and during last fall's U.S. tour they boogied down with drag queens at a festive after-party in Denver. The foursome also attended Sir Elton John's show in Las Vegas by personal invitation and landed on the cover of *Genre* magazine.

Here's the gay skinny on Death Cab for Cutie. Gay boys were part of the group's initial followers in its native Seattle, drawn to its melodramatic pop sound and average Joe looks. When told that every straight dude should have a good gay friend, guitarist **Chris Walla**, now a Portland homeowner, replied by saying: "That's absolutely true. I absolutely agree." Bassist **Nick Harmer** once resided on Capitol Hill, Seattle's gay district, and never felt uncomfortable living there or being hit on by men. And whenever the guys travel to New York, their gay friends take them on a pub crawl, which Death Cab for Cutie refers to as a "gaycation."

Franz Ferdinand's *You Could Have It So Much Better* and Death Cab's *Plans* are must-haves for alt music lovers' CD shelves. The joint tour kicks off 7 p.m. March 22 at Memorial Coliseum, 300 N. Winning Way. Tickets are \$30 from Ticketmaster.

—Albert Rodriguez



Photographer **Jim Lommasson** documents the various shapes that faith takes in our contemporary environment through March 26 at New American Art Union.

TUE • APRIL 4

The School of Angel Studies presents an **Eight Hinges of the Year** class with lesbian Jolie Ann Grindstaff, healer and spiritual guide, Tuesdays through April 25. Participants will learn about the history and tradition of these sacred days (solstices, equinoxes and four holidays in between) and rituals to celebrate them.

Click, Koto y Soto and **Hott Pink** at Berbat's. (9:30 pm. 231 SW Ankeny St. \$6.)

FRI • APRIL 7

Tap your toes to the sounds of rock, bluegrass, pop and country during the second annual **Rock**

(7-9 pm. \$50 from joliannehealer@comcast.net.)

WED • APRIL 5

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 • APRIL 6

HBO debuts **All Aboard! Rosie's Family Cruise**, a documentary chronicling the first-ever gay family cruise arranged by Rosie and Kelli O'Donnell. (8 pm.)

Scream Club, "arguably the next queer punk rock rap legends," according to *Punk Planet*, performs with **Nicky**

and **Read** featuring Cocks in the Henhouse, Excuse Me Sir, Little Sue, a puppet show and a fire dancer at Hip Chicks Do Wine. Proceeds benefit In Other Words and Rock Power for Girls. (6-10 pm. 4510 SE 23rd Ave. \$5-\$50 from 503-232-6003 or teresa@rockandread.org.)

Out Dancing's **beginning fox trot** class starts tonight and continues every Friday in April at Ankeny Street Studio. **Intermediate country two-step** class follows. (7-8 pm fox trot [\$25 for month], 8-9 pm two-step [\$24 for month]. Southeast Ninth Avenue and Ankeny Street. 503-236-5129. out_dancing@yahoo.com.)

SAT • APRIL 8

The Human Rights Campaign hosts a **Monte Carlo Night** fund-raiser at Hollywood Bowl. Admission covers three games, shoes, entry fee and a chance to win door prizes! (6:30-10 pm. 4030 NE Halsey St. \$20 at the door, \$15 in advance from www.hrcaction-center.org/actioncenter/events/portlandbowling.)

Motherlode celebrates 25 years together with an ASL-interpreted concert at First Unitarian Church. Hang out afterward for cake and conversation! (7 pm. 1011 SW 12th Ave. \$20 at the door, \$17 in advance from Annie Bloom's Books, It's My Pleasure and Brown Paper Tickets.)

Out Dancing's monthly **Dance Social** is every second Saturday at Ankeny Street Studio. Lesson and refreshments included. (7-10 pm. Southeast Ninth Avenue and Ankeny Street. \$5. 503-236-5129.)

As seen on *The L Word*: **RIGGED Out/fitters**, a hot New York City gender/queer clothing label, presents a dirty, queer and subversive fashion mixer at Zaytoon featuring a transgressive "fashion show" with queer models, video/art from queer artists, live performance art and Tart DJ Beyonda. (8 pm. 2236 NE Alberta St. \$5-\$10 sliding scale.)

Happy Ours Productions, a social, networking and organizing group for queers of color, hosts a **PlayHers Club Party**. (9 pm-2 am. Amara or Maléka 503-284-3230. www.happyoursproductions.com.)

Porky's Pub presents its monthly **Queer Fetish** night featuring DJs Puppet and Nancy Bear. Dress code will be enforced. (11 pm. 835 N Lombard St. \$3 freaky, \$5 vanilla. www.queerfetish-r.us.)

SUN • APRIL 9

Doug Fir Lounge debuts **Crafty Wonderland**, a monthly extravaganza featuring more than 40 hip artists and designers selling their work and a do-it-yourself table with workshops led by the Church of Craft and DIY Lounge. (11 am-4 pm. 830 E Burnside St.)

Do not fear—**Tart** is here to get your hips shaking and the good times flowing. DJs Harmony, Beyonda and Saffronica lay down the hottest world, Latin, house and old-school beats during the monthly party for queer girls at Holocene. Drink specials for the first hour! (4 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

Portland trio **Pan Dulce** performs a delightful mix of Brazilian and Mexican songs, flamenco and French cafe music, Argentine tangos and original pieces at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (4-6 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

Folk/jazz/blues musician **Natalia Zukerman** opens for Garnett Rogers at Mississippi Studios. (8 pm. 3939 N Mississippi Ave. \$15 from 503-288-3985.)



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