

create a living space that caters to your needs. Tonight's topic is "Amazing Materials." Concludes April 19 with "Design \$ Dos & Don'ts." (6-7:30 pm. 1110 NW Marshall St. RSVP to 503-222-1757, ext. 15, or paolo@paolodesigngroup.com.)

Radical Women hold a **Revolutionary Feminist Meeting** at the Bread and Roses Center to build a grassroots movement to counter anti-abortionists. (6:30 pm. 819 N Killingsworth St. \$3-\$6 snack donation.)

Asian-American drum performance group **Portland Taiko** launches its 2006 season with a screening of *The Spirit of Taiko* followed by a talkback session with filmmaker Gayle K. Yamada at Hollywood Theatre. (6:30 pm. 4122 NE Sandy Blvd. \$7-\$10.)

Come learn about the many health benefits of **transcendental meditation** during a free introductory lecture at Hilton Garden Inn in Lake Oswego. (7 pm. 14850 Kruse Oaks Drive.)

OutMusic Awards recipient **Irina Rivkin** performs powerful, poetic songs blending folk and world music influenced by her Russian heritage at Mississippi Studios. **Juliet Wyers** and **Anne Carol** open. (8 pm. 3939 N Mississippi Ave. \$8.)

Enter the battle of the bulge with the **Best Basket Contest** every second Wednesday at the Eagle. The winner gets \$100 and joins the Basket Wall of Fame! (8 pm-midnight. 1300 W Burnside St.)

Bettie Ford Lounge presents **Homo Therapy** every Wednesday featuring DJ Oso Fresh spinning the most cutting-edge mixes all night long. Food and drink specials until midnight. (9 pm. 1135 SW Washington St.)

THU • APRIL 13

Basic Rights Oregon presents the 13th annual **Oregonians Against Discrimination Business Leaders Lunch** featuring keynote speaker Peggy Fowler, president and CEO of Portland General Electric, at the Hilton Grand Ballroom. (11:30 am registration, noon-1 pm lunch. 921 SW Sixth Ave. \$75 from 503-222-6151 or jeana@basicrights.org.)

Elder Resource Alliance invites older members of the sexual minorities community to meet each other, share common interests and enjoy fun conversation every second Thursday at Old Wives' Tales. Two door prize winners will get a free bowl of the restaurant's famous Hungarian mushroom soup! (2-4 pm. 1300 E Burnside St. Rachel 503-224-2640.)

Gaycation, All I Ever Wanted

Between the rain and economy and Dick Cheney, doesn't everyone deserve a vacation? But then who's going to take care of the dogs?

Well, **Mary McAllister** and **Aubree Bernier-Clarke**, creators of *Snatch*, have got an answer for you. How about taking a **Gaycation**!

The first Wednesday of every month is dedicated to pushing the pause button on your complicated lives and dancing out your woes on the floor of Holocene, 1001 S.E. Morrison St. This party, which pulls a predominantly young dyke crowd, has effortlessly filled the blocky Mary Jane shoes of the now-defunct queer night Partyline. In fact, taking some of the DJs from Partyline (**Automaton** and **Snowtiger**), it is difficult to see where one has ended and the other begins. Both parties play a variety of music from '80s pop to hip-hop to electroclash.

But the one fabulous difference between the two is that **Gaycation** is free! After the high-priced debacle of *Snatch* at Doug Fir Lounge, McAllister is dedicated to throwing free parties for the gay community. Her intention with **Gaycation** is to "conjure the fun of the old queer night at the Blackbird, back when you didn't have to pay to be gay."

McAllister and Bernier-Clarke's commitment to a free party is quite admirable considering the amount of work involved to advertise and coordinate a monthly event. The girls have spared no expense, either: Along with **Automaton** and **Snowtiger**, DJ **Mr. Charming** spun some hot beats, making this a lavishly eclectic night of music. My favorite part of the evening was the projector show, which was playing old '80s breakdance videos. At many moments throughout the night, the energetic and smiley dance floor mirrored the projected dance moves with both impressive success and hilarious campy failure.

Getting out of town can be rough, especially because bicycles aren't allowed on the freeway. But now we have a chance to book ourselves on a mental vacation, drink a few cocktails with a sexy crowd and lose ourselves in the music and uplifting vibe of **Gaycation**!

—Mark "Zebra" Thomas



Oslund+Co./Dance presents an evening of new and developed repertory works April 14-16 at Imago Theatre.

GO OUT Keshet welcomes queer Jews and their friends and family for its fourth annual second-night **Passover Seder**. (6 pm. \$25. RSVP to Ira at 503-297-6583 or freedfeld@cs.com by April 7.)

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

The Freedom Socialist Party sponsors **The Logic of Marxism**, a public reading circle series presenting the analytical methods of Marxism as a common-sense thinking for the 21st century, Thursdays through May 18 at the Bread and Roses Center. (7-8:30 pm. 819 N Killingsworth St. To get a copy of the book call 503-240-4462.)

GO OUT **Booty**, an alterna-queer night held every Thursday at Porky's Pub, goes smoke-free during its anniversary party featuring guest DJs galore, T-shirts and CDs! (9 pm. 835 N Lombard St. \$3.)

FRI • APRIL 14

Raise a glass during the 12th annual **Spring Beer & Wine Fest** featuring micro distillers, a chefs' stage and great live music through April 15 at the Oregon Convention Center. (Noon-11 pm. 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. \$5 after 2 pm.)

Virginia Lopez and the **Melao Project** perform at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (9 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

SAT • APRIL 15

Galen Fous facilitates a **Sacred Dark Eros Workshop** for straight and queer men who have had a lifelong or newly discovered desire for a sexual practice outside the conventional but have kept it hidden. (9 am-7 pm.



DJs Automaton (left) and Snowtiger take a **Gaycation** every first Wednesday at Holocene.

5954 NE 16th Ave. \$25-\$50 donation. RSVP to galen@dakadom.com.)

GO OUT Elder Resource Alliance, which creates activities for older members of the sexual minorities community, hosts a **Breakfast Bingo Fundraiser** featuring delicious piping-hot pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee and orange juice at Volunteers of America's Velma Joy Burnie Center. Win gift certificates, theater tickets, sensual spa accessories, toys, games, books and more! (10 am-noon breakfast, noon-1 pm bingo. 537 SE Alder St. \$8.)

Kol Shalom-Community for Humanistic Judaism presents a **Passover Seder** at the Lloyd Center Doubletree Hotel. (4:30 pm. 1000 NE Multnomah St. 503-459-4210.)

GO OUT Faith-based, taxpaying, America-loving political humorist and family entertainer **Kate Clinton** entertains at Newmark Theatre. (8 pm. 1111 SW Broadway. \$27 at the door, \$25 in advance from Ticketmaster.)

All ages, genders and abilities are invited to **Drag into Spring** at the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center with a full evening of dance and debauchery featuring an all-star lineup of superstars including Jinx, Chance and Lukka. Hosted by Ms. Oregon State Leather 2005 Lynnda! (8 pm. 2100 SE Belmont St. \$5-\$20 sliding scale.)

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.)

DJ Puppet presents **Spice Tomb** (a new girl grunge project from Kristina Davies and Caitlin Love of Davies vs. Dresch), **No More Stereo** (performing music from its first full-length recording, *Honestly, We're All Liars*) and **Funny Pussy** (just like it sounds) at Towne Lounge. (9 pm. 720 SW 20th Place. \$3.)

Behind the Scenes

Imagine large fork-and-knife gloves, rubber rollout shadows and sticks of butter consumed at each performance. For **Kate Kauffman**, such outlandish props only hint at the theatrical absurdity that underpins **Insight Out Theatre Collective's** new work, *A Thought About Raya*, opening April 13 at West End Theatre.

"Every time I see it, I find something new, and waver back and forth between trying to discover some overarching symbolism and just enjoying the random silliness," says the 26-year-old lesbian, who serves as the show's production manager. "It is both a lighthearted play and a deeply meaningful play."

Raya is also a new partnership between **Insight Out** and the Debate Society, a young New York company that creates new plays through the collaboration of actors **Hannah Bos** and **Paul Thureen** with director **Oliver Butler**—all of whom are traveling to Portland to present the play's West Coast premiere.

The dark comedy is based loosely on texts of Leningrad artist Daniil Kharms, whose idiosyncratic visions and nonlinear theatrical performances led to his arrest, imprisonment and eventual death. *Raya* is structured as vibrant vignettes that offer glimpses into occurrences between two people, ranging from a chance meeting at a bus stop to a squabble between a husband and wife.

Kauffman says the play's absurdity will force audiences to constantly rethink their impression of it. "Is it linear? Is it fractured? Are there correlations between each scene? Is there any plot at all? I foresee that it will be a play that can be watched many times, and new ideas will emerge from each viewing."

As an **Insight Out** resident designer, Kauffman created sets, props and costumes for *Kindred* as well as props and costumes for *One*. Her design duties continue on *Raya*, for which she is guest sculptor of the "Machine," an unusual found-object centerpiece of the set that likely will be at home in her portfolio next to her five-foot disco cowboy hat and a new line of androgynous formalwear called *Ladykiller* Clothing.

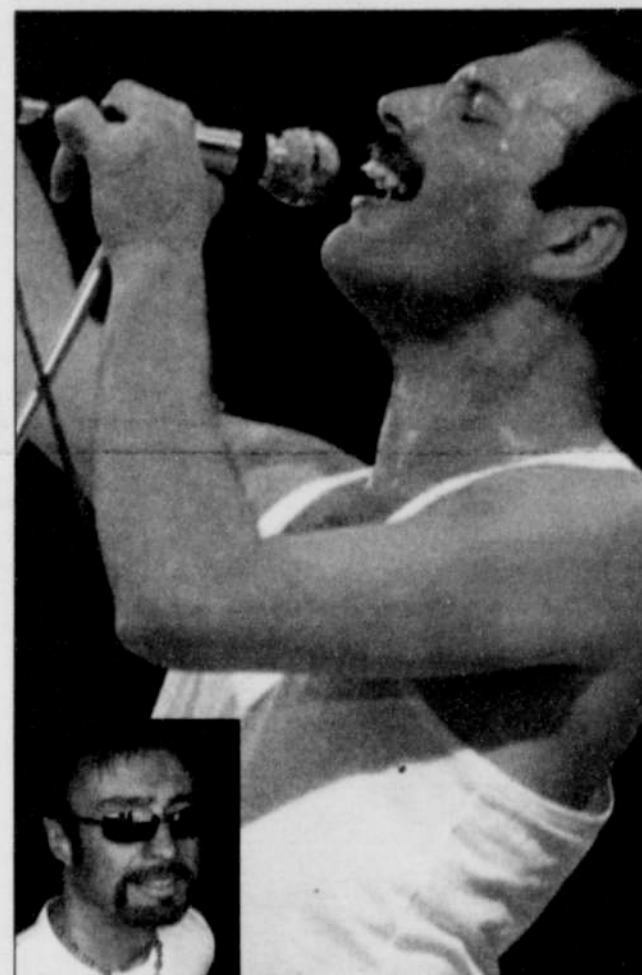
For details call 503-234-0973 or visit www.insightouttheatre.org.

—Timothy Krause

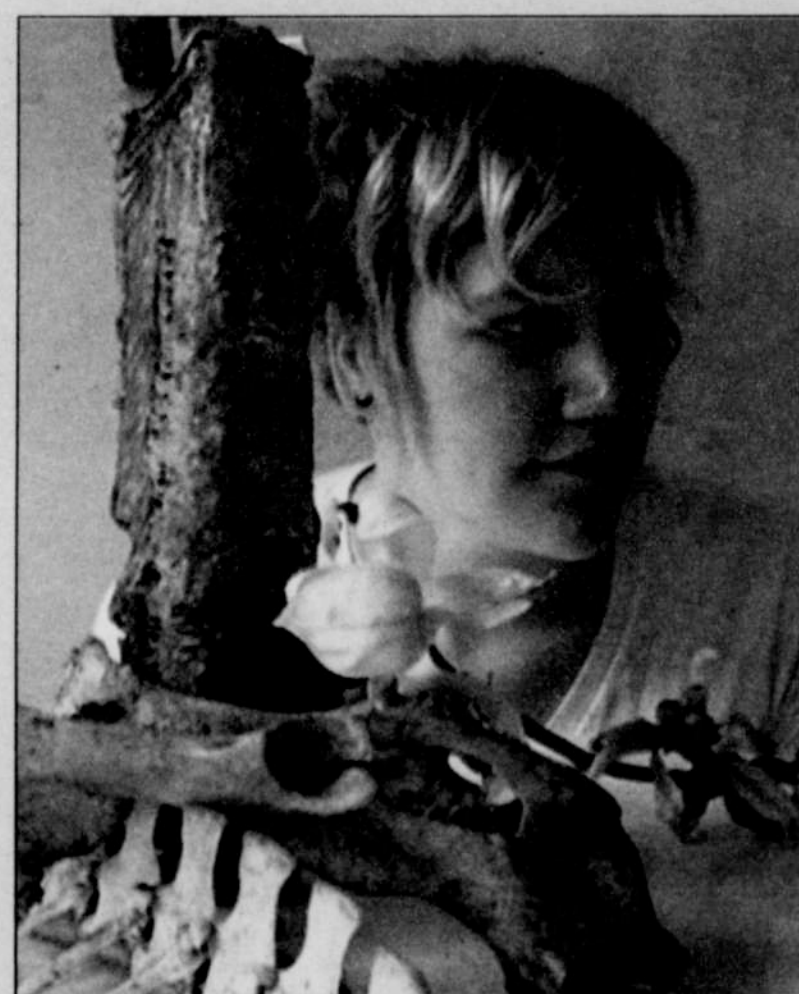
DJ Forge spins at gay-owned **Crush**. (9 pm. 1400 SE Morrison St. \$2.)

SUN • APRIL 16

Emily Herring performs at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (7 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)



Paul Rodgers (inset) subs for the late great **Freddie Mercury** when **Queen** performs April 11 at the Rose Garden.



Lesbian stage designer **Kate Kauffman** appreciates the absurdity of **Insight Out's** new show, *A Thought About Raya*.