

# OREGON BALLET THEATRE

CHRISTOPHER STOWELL / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Garvin Larsen and Koster Cotton

Photo by Andy Bart

## ALL MOZART PROGRAM

APRIL 22 - 29, 2006 / KELLER AUDITORIUM

WITH THE OBT ORCHESTRA / Niel DePonte, Music Director

### DIVERTIMENTO NO. 15

Mozart / George Balanchine

"...gloriously classical, formal yet warm, precise yet gracious." — *DanceView Times*

### ALMOST MOZART WORLD PREMIERE

Mozart / James Kudelka

"...easily ballet's most original choreographer." — *New York Times*

### CONCERTO SIX TWENTY-TWO

Mozart / Lar Lubovitch

"The robust, bounding, scampering elation" of Concerto Six Twenty-Two "creates the image of an angelic community at play...The adagio duet remains a beautiful and moving expression of male tenderness." (*The Village Voice*)

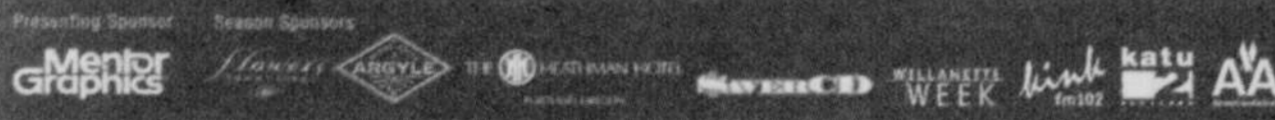
APRIL 22, 28 & 29 AT 7:30 PM

APRIL 23 AT 2:00 PM

TICKETS \$13 - \$96 / CALL 503.2.BALLET

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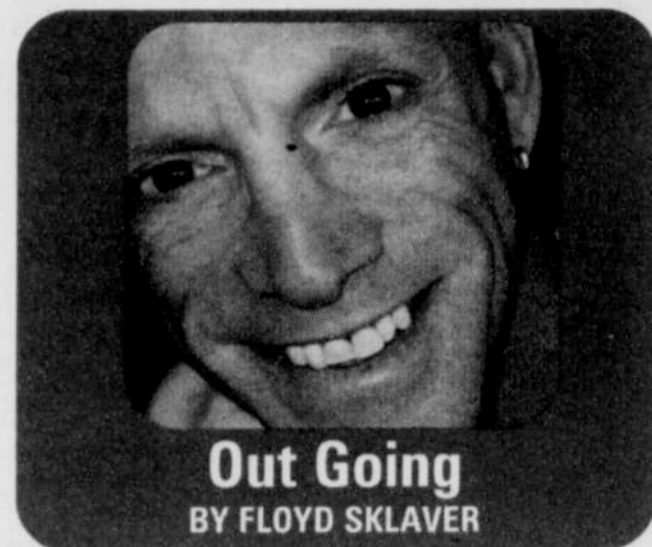
## Seeing Red

Dressing for success at the Red Dress Party

The sixth annual Red Dress Party has come and gone. Originally a house party, Red Dress began in a small basement in North Portland and now fills an enormous warehouse with more than 1,500 revelers. Since it's one of my favorite nights of the year, after weeks of pumping up at the gym, I headed out, armed with a pad, a pen and a string of pearls.

Ten regular guys who hold full-time day jobs organize the shindig. They were assisted by scores of volunteers working weekend after weekend to construct an elaborate set that included five levels of dance floors with a 10-foot satellite dish dominating from on high. It also included a furry swing for photo ops and stairs that blew skirts up like Marilyn Monroe.

In a new twist, design students from The Art Institute of Portland created stunning outfits for the 10 board members. Highlighting the VIP pre-function was a fashion show of their creations hosted by drag diva **Poison Waters**. Wearing a scarlet wig that looked like there was a strong wind blowing from the west, Poison quipped with ease. As secretary **Reid Decker** climbed to the stage in a micro-mini, she announced, "You can tell if a dress is too short if you can see your balls," but then added, "It must be very cold in here." Reid, of course, turned red.



**Out Going**  
BY FLOYD SKLAVER

Among them was **Scott Hall**, who found a patterned velveteen design at GW Homme that brought to mind the flocked wallpaper in my grandmother's house. (For my less fashion-forward readers, GW Homme is actually the Goodwill store on Northeast Broadway.)

Another stunning couture original was designed by **Brian Wilson** (founder of La Maison de Bobo), whose family owns the giant warehouse where Red Dress unfolded. Sizing up the crowd of beautiful bodies, Brian told me, "I used to sort bolts in this room, but now I'm just looking for nuts."

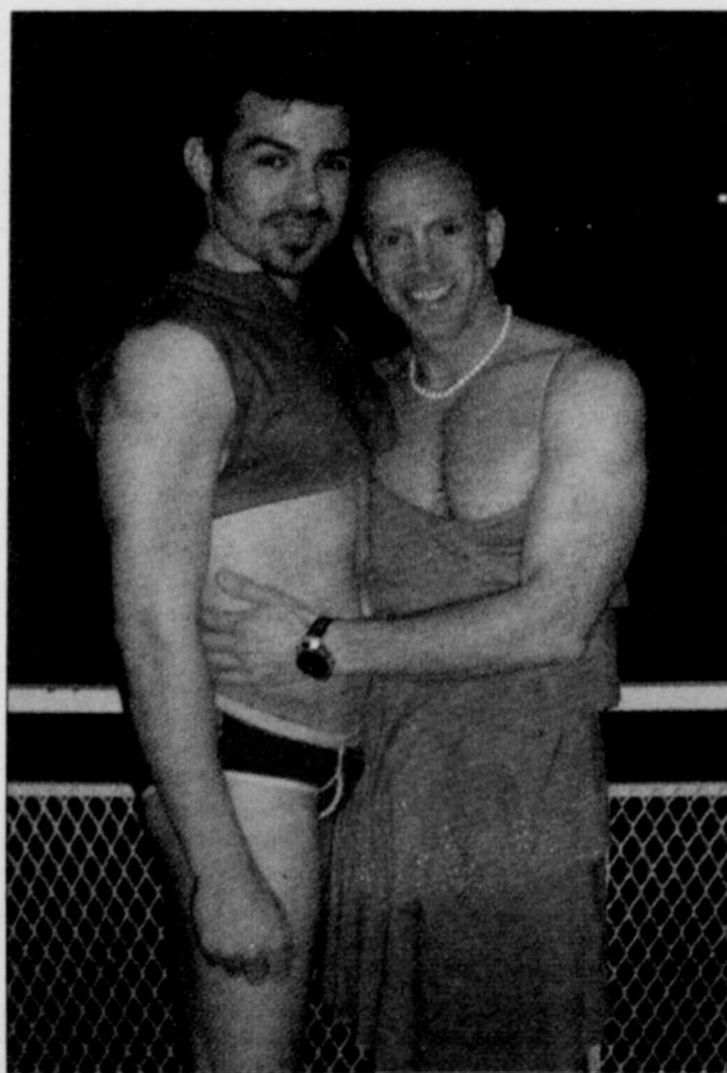
**Eric Steinhauer**, tottering on 4-inch heels, wore a hat that looked like the centerpiece from an

Italian wedding. And **Karla Clark** carried a gold purse that was owned by a former patient of Our House of Portland. Karla brings it with her to parties and takes pictures to place inside for her deceased friend to enjoy wherever he may be.

Certainly, we all enjoyed aerial artist **Benn Mendoza**, flown up from Los Angeles to perform a series of death-defying drops, contortions and maneuvers while entwined in twin bands of long red silk.

Actually, I had been seeing red since the weekend before, when Portland Opera opened its production of *Nixon in China*, about our 37th president's historic 1973 visit to the communist country. Stunning images, first-rate performances and thought-provoking ideas made this a fascinating evening, but not one for all tastes. For instance, while opera traditionalist **Karl Rohde** didn't care for John Adams' haunting minimalist score, Portland Art Museum chief curator **Bruce Guenther** reported being swept away by the epic grandeur of the avant-garde work.

Finally, in an attempt to ensure his campaign for Multnomah County Circuit Court judge doesn't dip into the red, **Trung**



Floyd gets grounded with aerial artist Benn Mendoza at the Red Dress Party.

Vice president **Brent Echols** looked very buff in a Judy Jetson-inspired pleather mini-dress so tight it was as if he'd been dipped in wax. And president **Jeff Hawthorne** wore a long geisha-esque gown with flowing sleeves and a headdress designed for the follicly challenged that made it appear as if pipe cleaners were growing out of his skull.

But not only the board members decked themselves out. Once again, drag outfits were rare; however, many opted for Burning Man/Dada Ball-type costumes filled with lights, elaborate headwear and metallic makeup. In fact, Saturn-like hoops were the design motif of choice, and lots of men had rings around Uranus.

**Tu** threw a kickoff event at Aura where **Brian Johnson** urged the crowd to give, give, give. Among those gathered were *Just Out Arts* and Culture Editor **Jim Radosta**, who's excited about seeing Madonna at the Coachella Valley Music Festival in Indio, Calif., and Aura general manager **Ron Mitchell**, who's already gearing up for his second Pride party to be held at the same warehouse as Red Dress.

Guess I'd better keep pumping up at the gym if I want to continue being Out Going. 10

FLOYD SKLAVER wants to know about your event. E-mail him at [floydsklaver@comcast.net](mailto:floydsklaver@comcast.net).