

DAVID SIKKING



CoHo Productions presents *By the Bog of Cats*, a new Medea story of vengeance and forgiveness set in modern Ireland, through June 10.

lesbian doctor Marie Equi's involvement in relief work after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. (Noon. 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road.)

GO OUT Augusten Burroughs, the best-selling author of *Running with Scissors* and *Dry*, reads from his latest memoir, *Possible Side Effects*, at Powell's. (7:30 pm. 1005 W Burnside St.)

Dress up and be presented as a pro-choice Oregonian as the National Abortion Rights Action League pokes fun at a tragically sexist tradition during its third annual **Debutante Ball** at Dante's featuring Ashleigh Flynn, Nuffsed, The Dimes, DJ Drew and Point Junction, WA. All genders

encouraged to debut! (8 pm. 1 SW Third Ave. Reserve your moment in the spotlight by e-mailing treasure@prochoice-oregon.org. \$15 from TicketsWest.)

Showtime debuts **Little Man**, a documentary from former Portlander Nicole Conn (*Claire of the Moon*). (8 pm.)

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

SAT • MAY 13

Lesbians Enjoying Nature and Science go birding at Oak Island. (8 am. Susan 503-232-6738.)

HIV Alliance raises awareness and gains support for its work in Lane County during the 20th annual **RiverWalk and Run 2006** at Alton Baker Park in Eugene. (9 am run, 10:30 am walk. 541-342-5088. events@hivalliance.org.)

GO OUT University of Oregon presents **Out/Loud**, a queer women's music festival featuring Katastrophe, Scream Club, Ms. Su'ad, Annie Vergnetti, Nicole Barrett Sangsoree and many more on the east lawn of Erb Memorial Union in Eugene. (Noon-10 pm. www.uoregon.edu/~women/Out_Loud.html.)

Blackout Leather Productions presents the second annual **Kinky Carnival** featuring sexy games, prizes, vendors, food and fun at University Place Hotel. Proceeds benefit Dandelion Dog Rescue and the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation. Release that pent-up energy afterward at a **Play Party** in a huge pansexual dungeon space! (Noon-6 pm carnival, 310 SW Lincoln St., \$3. 8 pm-1 am party, \$10. www.blackoutleather.org/kinkycarnival2006.htm.)

Cascade AIDS Project presents the 17th annual **Art for Life** at the Oregon Convention Center. (5 pm Patron Event [\$275], 6:30 pm Grand Event [\$100]. 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. RSVP to 503-223-9255 or www.cascadeaids.org.)

The Feral Cat Coalition presents its eighth annual **Furball** featuring silent and live auctions, raffles, a hosted bar and light fare provided by Elephant's Delicatessen at the World Forestry Center's Miller Hall. Roaring '20s attire encouraged!

(6:30-10:30 pm. 4033 SW Canyon Road. \$90 at the door, \$75 in advance from www.feralcats.com.)

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.)

Q-LAND and LoveTribes present a **Men's Massage Exchange** preceded by an interactive demonstration by a licensed therapist and followed by a relaxing puppy pile meditation and heart circle. (7 pm-midnight. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribes.org/menspirit.)

Soromundi: Lesbian Chorus of Eugene presents its 17th annual concert, *One Voice*, at the Hult Center in Eugene. (7:30 pm. 1 Eugene Center. \$8-\$12 from box office, 541-682-5000 or www.hult-center.org.)

The Imperial Sovereign Court of the Emerald Empire presents **Closet Ball 2006** at Liliths Lair in Eugene. Sponsors have one hour to transform volunteers who have never been in drag before into raving beauties! (8 pm. 453 Willamette St. \$5 donation.)

SUN • MAY 14

Make gifts for mom during **Crafty Wonderland**, a monthly extravaganza at Doug Fir Lounge 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. (11 am-4 pm. 830 E Burnside St.)

GO OUT Spend Mother's Day at Newmark Theatre as **Aurora Chorus** presents *It Takes a Village*, a concert full of world rhythms, songs of hope and music to inspire a better future featuring master drummer Obo Addy and performance poet S. Renee Mitchell. Preceded by a free family-focused festival and expo featuring four interactive "villages" where kids can do arts and crafts projects, take a first violin lesson or watch local artists and musicians perform and create while adults learn about summer programs, volunteer opportunities and organizations that advocate for kids. (1-5 pm expo, 7 pm concert. 1111 SW Broadway. \$15-\$25 from box office, 503-AURORA1 or Ticketmaster.)



The hunky men of the Portland Avalanche rugby team raise money May 15 at Crush.

Lesbians Enjoying Nature and Science go kayaking. (1:30 pm. Sharon 503-281-1984.)

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.)

Mirah & Spectratone International present *Share This Space: Songs of Small Creatures* at Wonder Ballroom with The Evolutionary Jass Band and The Toids. (9 pm. 128 NE Russell St. \$8 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Now nonsmoking and gay-owned, Porky's Pub presents **Smut!**, a new queer night with DJs ChaotiQueer and BlackEye, every second and fourth Sunday. (9 pm. 835 N Lombard St.)

O Brother, Where Art Tao?

Take five actors, a minimalist set and a generous pinch of Chinese philosophy and you have the recipe for **Tao Soup**.

Created by Scott Kelman and Melanya Helene of the Portland performing arts group Brooklyn Bay,

Tao Soup consists of five sections based on Lao Tzu's *Tao Te Ching*. Written in the sixth century B.C., the hugely influential treatise addresses spirituality, interpersonal relations and politics.

"Working with the *Tao* is an insane idea," admits Helene, who also performs in the one-act show. "Most people work with ideas and visions first. We work from the bottom up. We read part of the *Tao* and begin from there. We're along for the ride."

This premise might sound abstract, or even off-putting, to theatergoers who crave fancy props and conventional narratives. But bear in mind that *Tao Soup* proved to be a real crowd-pleaser when it debuted in Portland last year, and it enjoyed a critically acclaimed run in Los Angeles last August.

Musician and self-described "guerrilla homosexual artist" Holcombe Waller says: "No one in the audience will ever wonder what's going on. There's always a story going on."

Each member of the troupe leads one section of the show. Helene presides over a section titled "Sexy," and Waller plays a character named Shiva the Jazzman in "Empty or Not." Fittingly, the show closes with a segment called "Death."

Waller, a California native who majored in sculpture at Yale, moved to Portland a year ago to work with his music collaborator. He regularly performs at the Doug Fir and Mississippi Studios, and he plans to release his fourth CD at the end of the year.

He says *Tao Soup* is a perfect match for him. "I'm able to draw on everything I've learned performatively with music."

Helene describes *Tao Soup* as an unusually intimate theater experience.

"It's important that each person is authentic so the audience feels like they get to know us," she says. "We're not trying to get them to see it our way. For some it's entertainment, and for others it's life-changing and they're in tears."

Tao Soup runs 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through June 17 at 1825 S.E. Franklin St. Tickets are \$10-\$15 from 503-777-5879.

—Stephen Blair



From left, Holcombe Waller, Veanne Virgin, Melanya Helene, Jenne Fenniman and Marc Otto spice up *Tao Soup*.

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Aftershocker!

It's the 100th anniversary of the major San Francisco earthquake. Much has been said in the national news about the damage and what could happen if another quake occurred today. But what the national media didn't mention is the little-known fact that a Portland lesbian doctor, **Marie Equi**, traveled to San Francisco to help the earthquake victims. Today, it's not unusual for doctors from the Pacific Northwest to offer their services after disasters such as tsunamis, hurricanes and earthquakes, but back in 1906 it was another story.

Michael Helquist will tell that story as part of Oregon Health & Science University's History of Medicine Lecture Series. "Marie Equi was the only woman doctor among 40 Portland doctors and nurses who volunteered on short notice to travel to San Francisco," he notes.

According to Helquist, Equi was "vaulted into public prominence as a result of her relief work" managing Portland nurses at the U.S. Army Presidio hospital. The governor of California and mayor of San Francisco recognized her outstanding effort with several commendations.

Helquist is writing a biography about Equi. He first learned of her after reading an article by Tom Cook, founder of the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest. He quickly became intrigued about Equi. "How could you not be interested in a 20-year-old newcomer from the East Coast horsewhipping a Baptist minister in downtown The Dalles in 1893—all to defend her girlfriend's honor and obtain a promised salary?" comments Helquist.

Equi's escapades in The Dalles were well-documented in the local newspaper—giving Helquist plenty of material for his book. Also, he read Sandy Polishuk's unpublished manuscript on Equi's politics, which is at the Oregon Historical Society. Unfortunately, he adds, many of Equi's journals and personal letters were lost in the 1962 Columbus Day storm.

Helquist refers to his presentation at OHSU as a narrative with slides. He'll describe the drama of the disaster and the heroic efforts by Portland doctors and nurses. He says his lecture "celebrates a GLBT presence in an episode of historic significance. This is the centennial year for the San Francisco earthquake, and Portland's role in that episode is a story seldom told."

The lecture starts noon May 12 at OHSU's Old Library Auditorium, 3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road.

—Pat Young



Portland lesbian doctor Marie Equi was commended for her relief work after the 1906 San Francisco quake.