

GO OUT **Cruise Control PDX**, a social network for lesbians 36 and older, presents a progressive dinner at Mama Mia Trattoria. A great opportunity for fine Italian dining as well as the opportunity to connect with up to 20 new women during a four-course meal! (6:30 pm. 439 SW Second Ave. \$30 from www.cruisecontrolpdx.com.)

Radical Women hold a screening at the Bread and Roses Center of *Walkout*, the stirring true story of Chicano students in 1968 East Los Angeles who protested academic prejudice and terrible school conditions. Followed by a discussion of recent student organizing for immigrant rights. (6 pm Mexican supper [\$6-\$10 donation], 6:30 pm screening. 819 N Killingsworth St.)

Asian-American drum performance troupe **Portland Taiko** presents a Composer Spotlight featuring **Masato Baba**, an exciting, emerging artist as a player and composer on the international taiko scene, in Room 75 of Portland State University's Lincoln Hall. (6:30 pm. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$7 from www.portlandtaiko.org.)

Morningside United Methodist Church in Salem offers a study of the book *Gifted by Otherness*, which explores what it means to affirm, not merely accept, people who are gay or lesbian as well as Christian, Wednesdays through May 31. (6:30 pm. 3674 12th St. SE.)

Gay-owned **Vino Paradiso** presents a free wine tasting with Franck lin Dalle of Chateau de Campuget in southern France, who will tell stories of his life in the vineyards and sell his wines for 50 percent off! (7-9 pm. 417 NW 10th Ave. RSVP to timothy@vinoparadiso.com.)

It's back in your crack! The Red Cap Garage presents the dance party **Vas-o-Line** every second and fourth Wednesday featuring DJs Beyonda, Dandy Lion, Stormy and Sol spinning an eclectic array of progressive beats for a full night of nicotine-free aerobics. (9 pm. 1035 SW Stark St. \$3-\$5 sliding scale.)

Honeymoon Shocker

In her gender-bending play *Silence*, British playwright **Moira Buffini** takes us back a thousand years to prove that politics haven't changed much through the years.

Jakers Productions, a Portland theater company headed by Drammy Committee member **Julie Akers**, presents the award-winning play through June 24 at Back Door Theatre, 4319 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Tickets are \$15-\$18 from 503-784-7316; Thursdays except June 1 and 22 are "pay what you will."

At the outset of the story, the king of England strong-arms Lord Silence to marry a French princess. On their wedding night, the pair unwittingly becomes a same-sex duo when they discover that Silence is actually a woman—a fact she is somehow oblivious to up until this point. To conceal their secret and avoid the king's wrath, the ladies hop in a cart and journey to northern England.

Originally commissioned by England's Royal National Theatre Studio, *Silence* also appeared in 2005 at the Royal Shakespeare Company's Fringe Festival. Akers instantly fell in love with it when she saw a London production.

"It knocked me out," she says.

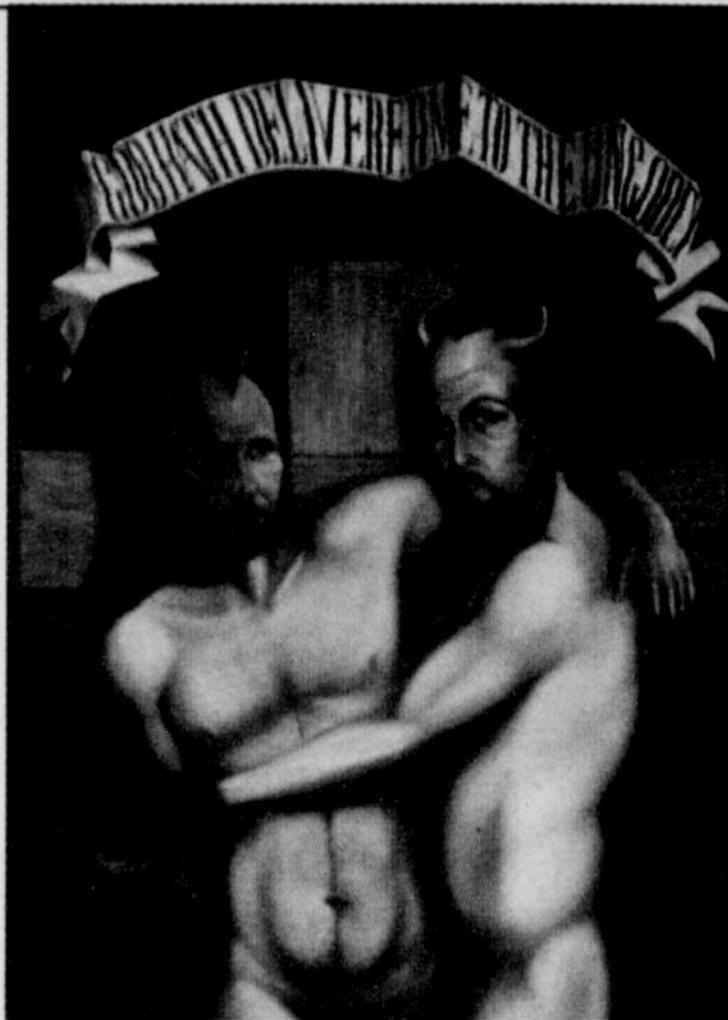
Some reviewers have called the play a farce, likening it to Monty Python's mock historical films. "I don't want nor see the Monty Python link," says Akers. "It would be easy to put on a broad farce, and everyone would love it. But I want to get the comedy without forsaking the content. It is an issue play to be handled with grace and humor."

Akers teaches theater at Portland State University, Portland Community College and Clark College. She explains that Buffini employs historicization, the process of setting plays in the past to highlight events in the present. Similar to Arthur Miller's assault on McCarthyism in *The Crucible*, Buffini spotlights holy wars and bumbling rulers at the end of the first millennium to confront viewers with the fact that these problems still threaten us today.

Drammy-winning set designer **Torrey Bend** has given the production a medieval look, complete with dusty gray walls, a blood-red floor and candles.

Nan Gatchel plays the title role. **Jamie M. Rea**, **James Sullivan**, **Brian Koch**, **Lauren Modica** and **Matt Callahan** round out the cast.

—Stephen Blair



Internal Guidance Systems, the largest show of national and international "outsider" art ever presented in Portland, is on display through May 27 at Mark Woolley Gallery and Woolley at Wonder.

THU • MAY 25

Portland theater group **Act for Action** presents *From the Inside Out*, a free interactive performance about mental health and discrimination performed by and for people dealing with mental health issues, at the Garlington Center. Open to the public, and followed by a facilitated discussion. (5-7 pm. 700 N Killingsworth St.)



Drag stars **Splendora** and **Max Voltage** host **Wild Card's Extinction Extravaganza** May 19 at Acme.

The Oregon Bears teach **American Sign Language classes** every second and fourth Thursday at Cascade AIDS Project. (6:30-8 pm. Suite 300, 620 SW Fifth Ave. \$2 donation. bearasl@yahoo.com.)

Q-LAND and LoveTribes present **men's restorative yoga classes** every Thursday to help you manage stress, re-energize, relax and find your natural flow. (6:30-8:30 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

Something New Slips into Stark

When Scandals moved across the street a couple of months ago—with it all of its gritty charm and dive bar appeal—I was ready to throw in the towel (or colored bandanna) on Stark Street. But then, just like Dorothy's house, a dark oasis dropped from the sky and landed right in the middle of good old Vaseline Alley.

I am talking about the appropriately named dance explosion called **Vas-o-Line**. The concept is easy: Four of the hottest queer DJs join forces, pick a sexy theme (last month was workout gear—hot!) and take over the Red Cap Garage the second and fourth Wednesday of every month.

DJs Stormy, Beyonda, Solomon and Dandy Lion are responsible for this night, creating a vibrant tapestry of seamless music including hardcore hip-hop, obscure electroclash and some campy hits thrown in for extra seasoning. Last month their beats kept the dance floor packed with sweaty bodies up to last call. Along with the music there was some sporty eye candy as **Philip Rogers** and **Eddie Pineda**, resident go-go boys, showed us just how flexible Spandex can get. This night had all the queer punk energy of a wild NoPo house party that you can never find downtown.

I asked DJ Stormy about his choice of party locations. "It is time to bring something fun back to Stark," he says. "Red Cap is a great space; it is time someone utilized it."

DJ Solomon adds: "I grew up around Portland, and Stark has the connotation of being our gay neighborhood. When I was a kid going to The City, Stark Street was alive with crazy trannies and alternative queers. It seems everything has become homogenized. We want to create a party that represents our neighborhood here on Stark."

The Vas-o-Line crew has some great ideas to keep this party staying fresh. It is starting to book local and regional bands and DJs to open the evening. The May 24 party, for example, is a going-away bash for House of Cunt entertainer **Amber Martin** hosted by her beloved lounge lizard character, Brenda Snell.

So I guess, thanks to Vas-o-Line, Stark Street still has something to offer the queer misfits of Portland. Vas-o-Line starts 9 p.m. at 1035 S.W. Stark St. Cover is \$3-\$5 sliding scale.

—Mark "Zebra" Thomas

FRI • MAY 26

Amy Wells performs original and classic folk rock at Bean & Ellie's in Vancouver, Wash. (7-9 pm. 808 Harney St.)

GO OUT After battling local politics and the notorious protests of Fred Phelps, Southridge High School in Beaverton finally gets to perform *The Laramie Project*, a play constructed from a series of interviews with citizens of the small Wyoming town where Matthew Shepard was brutally murdered for being gay. Join Metropolitan Community Church of Portland as it attends this production and supports these young actors. (7:30 pm. 9625 SW 125th Ave. \$6-\$7.)

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

The Oregon Bears throw their monthly **Double X Dance** at C.C. Slaughters. (9 pm-1 am. 219 NW Davis St. \$2.)

SAT • MAY 27

Deaf & Hearing Out Reach's monthly queer social returns to 3 Friends Coffeehouse. Come hang out with old friends and make new ones. All sign levels welcome! (6-9 pm. 201 SE 12th Ave. www.dhor.org.)

Hey, what's your vice? Holocene presents **Double Down**, the fab queer party where the player always wins, every fourth Saturday. (8 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

GO OUT The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center presents the all-ages, alcohol- and drug-free **Queer Prom 2006** featuring DJs, raffles, free HIV testing and refreshments at Q Center. This year's theme is "Masquerade," so come in your best disguise! (8 pm-midnight. 1028 SE Water St.)



Jakers Productions presents *Silence* through June 24 at Back Door Theatre.



Vas-o-Line boasts hot DJs and sexy themes.