



Jill Sobule



Lipstick Conspiracy



Androgene



Betty



SlowMo Erotic

Pride
2006

A Rainbow of Sounds

Diverse lineup headlines Portland Pride Festival

by Julie Sabatier

The sexual minorities community is nothing if not diverse, and the artists performing at this year's Portland Pride celebration are a reflection of that diversity. Pride Northwest has booked a lineup of talented and provocative performers for the festival June 17 and 18 at Waterfront Park.

Derek Hartley and Romaine Patterson, hosts of Sirius Radio's "OutQ," will host the Pride stage this year.

Betty is a five-piece, politically inspired pop rock band fronted by Alyson Plamer and sisters Elizabeth and Amy Ziff. The three came together as a result of an unfortunate incarceration and started an a cappella/spoken word/techno-beat trio in Washington, D.C. The women still write all the songs, while guitarist Tony Salvatore and drummer Mino Gori round out the band's sound. Now based in New York, Betty makes music that relies on the vocal harmony and raucous rock melodies that have sustained them for almost two decades. Its rock musical, *Betty Rules*, was an off-Broadway hit directed by Michael Greif (*Rent*).

Since its inception, Betty has blended its passion for music with social consciousness. It has been speaking out and raising money for everything from equal rights, feminism and the pro-choice movement to sexual violence and everybody's inalienable right to safely dance naked in the streets. Long beloved as a cult phenomenon, Betty recently exploded onto

the mainstream scene with its controversial theme song for Showtime's hit series *The L Word*. The band's acting appearances on the show have also helped amp up its visibility.

The lesser known but equally talented *SlowMo Erotic* is a pop duo. Pianist Kevin Hardy and drummer Matthew Hermstad began collaborating two years ago when they met and fell in love at the Musicians Institute in Los Angeles. Their newly released EP includes five original songs with witty lines such as: "Love is like communism. Oh sure it works, but only in theory."

Hardy describes this as one of the tamer, cleaner numbers. "I'm not hypersexualized in real life, but it's a big part of the show," he says. While *SlowMo Erotic*'s music is not exactly X-rated, it was enough to ruffle Hardy's conservative older brother when he came to a recent performance.

Hardy says most of his material draws on his own experiences as a teenager as well as stories he hears from other people. "My personal experience is actually really boring," he says. "I've been in a functional relationship for almost three years. I like to come home and watch TV."

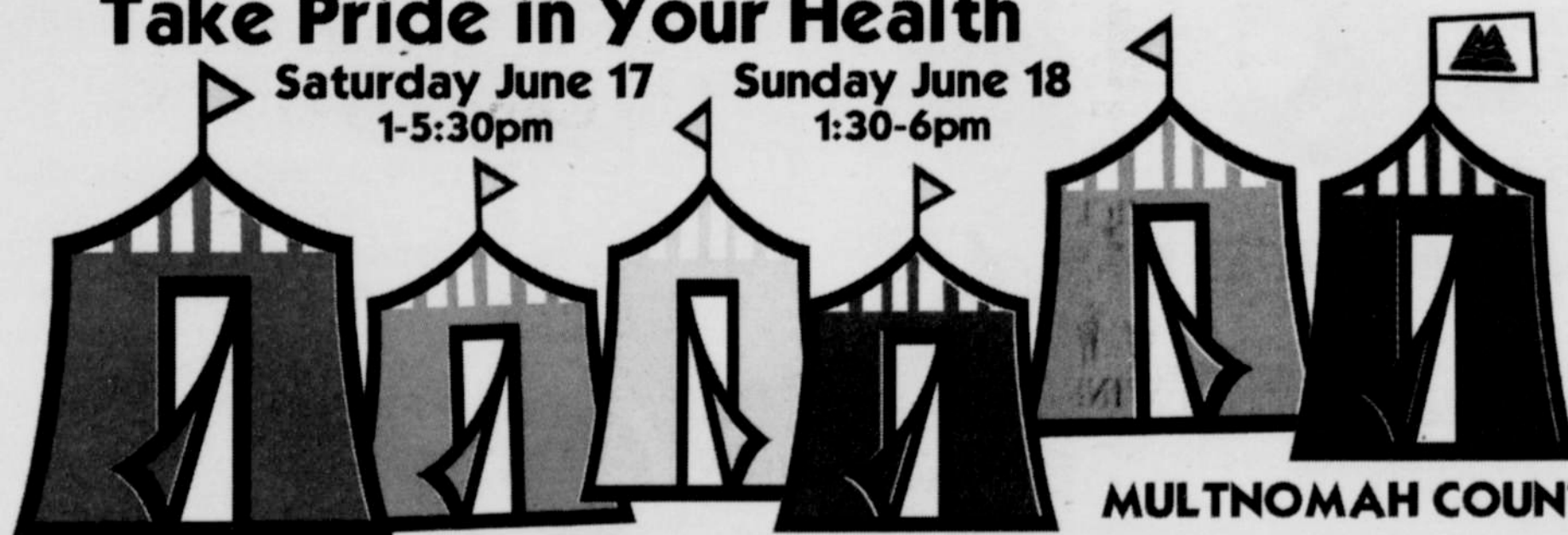
SlowMo Erotic is playing four other Pride festivals this summer in Seattle; San Diego and Santa Barbara, Calif.; and Flagstaff, Ariz. Hardy

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Take Pride in Your Health

Saturday June 17
1-5:30pm

Sunday June 18
1:30-6pm



Pride Booth

FREE TESTING
for HIV, syphilis,
or hepatitis C

FREE VACCINATION
for hepatitis A & B

(subject to eligibility)

MULTNOMAH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT