

Continued from Page 27

says he is looking forward to visiting the City of Roses, where audiences tend to be less tense than they are in Los Angeles and other locations. "It's nice playing events where you know people there are willing to buy into the concept without judgment."

Trans band **Lipstick Conspiracy** rocked the Doug Fir last year when it swept through Portland on its "Mini Skirts and Mini Bars" tour. Voted San Francisco's Best Girl Band in 2004, Lipstick Conspiracy defies convention wherever it goes. No, this is not a drag show.

Lipstick Conspiracy has been playing its rough-around-the-edges pop music since 2003, when it made its debut at the Sex Workers Film Festival. Sarafina Maraschino, Shawna Love and Marilyn Mitchell lead with guitar and vocals. British import Tori Tait plays keyboard, and the most recent addition to the band is Emme Yarwood on drums.

With songs like "Gender Frontier" and "Just a Girl," Lipstick Conspiracy approaches sexual politics with humor and spunk. It is a regular feature at the annual "Camp Trans" protest outside the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (which is restricted to "womyn born womyn"). The girls weren't afraid to jump head-on into local politics when they played a fund-raiser for San Francisco Green Party mayoral candidate Matt Gonzalez in 2003.

Lipstick Conspiracy is touring with its new, full-length album, *A Perfect Alibi*. Members say they are thrilled to play to what they call their "extended family" in Portland.

Singer/songwriter **Jill Sobule** adheres to that old feminist adage, "The personal is the political." Her career took off when her song "I Kissed a Girl" became a Top 40 hit in 1995. Her pop tunes are driven by clever, catchy lyrics, making them anything but bubble gum.

Sobule's storytelling style relies on believable details that bring her subjects to life. She knows how to hold her own on stage with acclaimed activist/artists such as Billy Bragg, Neil Young and Steve Earle.

The Denver-born musician now has five

albums under her belt, not to mention an off-Broadway show, *Prozak and the Platypus*, and a film appearance in Eric Shaeffer's *Mind the Gap*. She also writes songs for the Nickelodeon television show *Unfabulous*.

Shann Carr got her start in Portland with fake reviews touting her as a successful comedian. Twenty-two years later, her performance appears on the DVD *Out for Laughs*, and she has a regular gig entertaining thousands of gay men on Atlantis cruise ships. "The boys have made me their own little adopted princess," she says.

Carr's material leaves no one unscathed. She seeks to shock people without offending them. Her act includes physical comedy as she impersonates people on the dance floor. These include "the couple that's been together too long," "a drag queen" and "the person whom you can tell would be good in bed."

Carr has appeared onstage at Darcelle XV. Her first regular gig in Stumptown was a mouthy striptease act. "Portland is a place where I can go where people remember the best and the worst of

me," she says. "I wouldn't whip out a tit for a million dollars now."

In addition to her rigorous touring schedule, Carr is compiling a book called *You're Going to Be Gay*. She is collecting childhood photographs from gay people around the country and the world and hopes to release the book this fall. To add your picture to the pile, send it to her via www.shanncarr.com.

Androgene delivers a blend of soulful vocals and house beats—a combination that is sure to have Portland Pride dancing up a storm.

Born and raised in northern Nigeria, Androgene started in show business at the tender age of 13. She hosted a national teen talk show and acted in several student movies before leaving Nigeria for London to pursue her education. Androgene came to Los Angeles to finish her business degree. With her unique look and quiet confidence, she quickly became a successful singer/songwriter, actress and model.

Her self-titled album includes several of her passionate, high-energy songs like "Save the Drama," "Sister of Misery" and "It Ain't Easy." Along with house DJs, Androgene cites as influences Madonna, Sade, Marvin Gaye and Whitney Houston.

Speaking of soulful, country rocker **Steff Mahan** will return to the Pride stage this year. She'll be playing material from a 2004 Lounge Hound Records project titled 42.50 as well as her 2003 debut album, *Love Me Enough*.

The Arkansas native has a genuine twang honed by her years in the Nashville music scene. Mahan's sound can go from bluesy guitar and harmonica to dulcet violin and cello. She lists Carole King, Fleetwood Mac, Queen and Bobbie Gentry among her inspirations.

"I can't wait to get back to Pride Northwest," she says. "I met a lot of awesome people last year and look forward to seeing them again. I hope Portland's ready for me!"

R & B artist **Jimmy Roland** wears his heart on his sleeve. His gospel- and disco-influenced music has moved audiences in Canada, Japan and countless U.S. venues. This will be Roland's first visit to Portland, however, and he says he's looking forward to it.

Jimmy Roland



Roland recently collaborated with his brother, Eddie "Boddie" Story, on a wedding song they are hoping will become a classic. Roland released a slightly different version of "I Want to Be Loved by You," making it specific to gay wedding ceremonies. (For example, the lyrics "become husband and wife" have been changed to "become partners for life.") Before visiting Portland Pride, Roland will be performing the song at a large gay wedding ceremony in Spokane, Wash. "The song is something that we can call our own," he says, explaining that he wanted to give something back to the gay audiences who have supported him throughout his career.

Local favorite **Lynn Frances Anderson** recently celebrated the release of her third album, *Born Lucky*. She performs her original songs with a five-piece band. On this new release, her powerful voice is enhanced by mandolin/fiddle virtuoso Joe Craven and slide master Kirby Kelley. *Born Lucky* is Anderson's follow-up to 2000's *Beautiful Morning*, which was inspired by an eight-day hike along the Pacific Crest Trail.

Anderson's pioneer spirit comes through in upbeat folk-rock songs like "I'm Not Sorry" and "Painful." An avid cyclist, she was the first performer to ride in Cycle Oregon. She is also a member of the bicycling team Wanta Eliminate MS, which has raised more than \$200,000 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. 10



Steff Mahan

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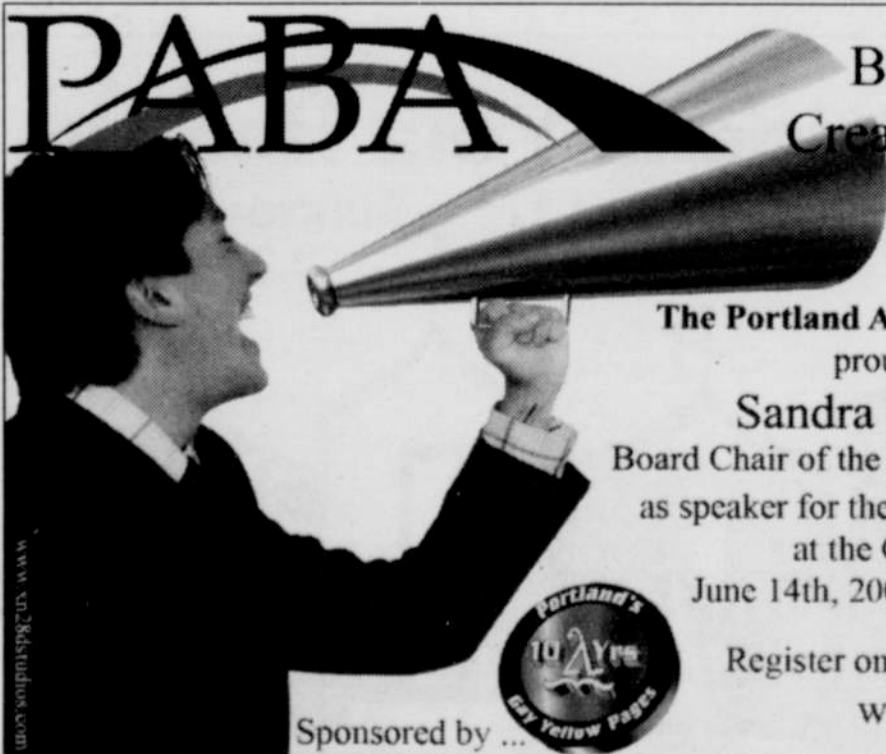
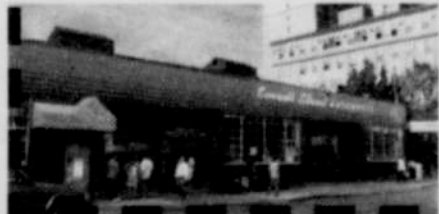
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