

on light refreshments and socializing! (2-4 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave. 503-224-2640. eracoordinator@yahoo.com.)

Q-LAND and LoveTribes present a free summer kickoff **men's wellness yoga class**. Repeats June 28. (6:30-8:30 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

THU • JUNE 22

Oregon Tradeswomen present an information session about paid on-the-job training and high-wage career opportunities in carpentry, electrical and other construction-related fields at Portland Community College's Workforce Training Center. (2-4 pm. 5600 NE 42nd Ave. Register at 503-335-8200, ext. 21. www.tradeswomen.net.)

The Adventure Group takes an easy three-mile hike from Multnomah Village to Vermont Hills. Meet at the Gabriel Park parking lot at the end of Southwest Canby Street. (6 pm. Evan 503-701-7922. chair@adventuregroup.org.)

Hollywood Theatre presents **Monkey Rider**, a film by Joah Keller about a cross-country ride from Portland to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival on a 1983 purple motorcycle, through June 23. (7 pm. 4122 NE Sandy Blvd. \$5.)

Get information about candidates running for office locally and statewide and find out how you can help make a difference in the fight for marriage equality during the **Human Rights Campaign "Take Action" Meeting** at Q Center. (7 pm. 1028 SE Water Ave.)

Lesbian-owned taco bar Dingo's presents **Girls Night Out** every Thursday. (7 pm. 4612 SE Hawthorne Blvd. 503-233-3996.)

Alison Dubois reads from and signs **She Kissed Me**, a pictorial odyssey depicting lesbians kissing, at In Other Words. (7:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Edie Carey and **Holly Figueroa** perform at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (9 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

FRI • JUNE 23

Forge the foibles of same-sex marriage and parenting! Bulldoze the blatant blunders of Bush! Dance the dichotomy of our desires! **Humble Divas** (aka Elizabeth Lavenue and Mark Steering, two queer singing Sagittarians) present **Civil Disunion**, a musical comedy exploring the challenges and humor of our fractured political climate, through June 24 at Northminster Presbyterian Church. (8 pm. 2823 N Portland Blvd. \$5-\$20 sliding scale from 503-234-1140.)

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 • JUNE 24

The Adventure Group takes a moderate 5.9-mile hike among the flowers of Salmon Creek near Mount Hood. Meet in Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (9 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Dave and Gustavo 503-531-2571. membership@adventuregroup.org.)

Asian & Pacific Islander Lesbians and Gays take an easy and beautiful six-mile hike from Washington Park to Pittock Mansion. Meet at the tennis courts. (10:30 am. Hoang 503-381-6851. hphangel@pacifier.com.)

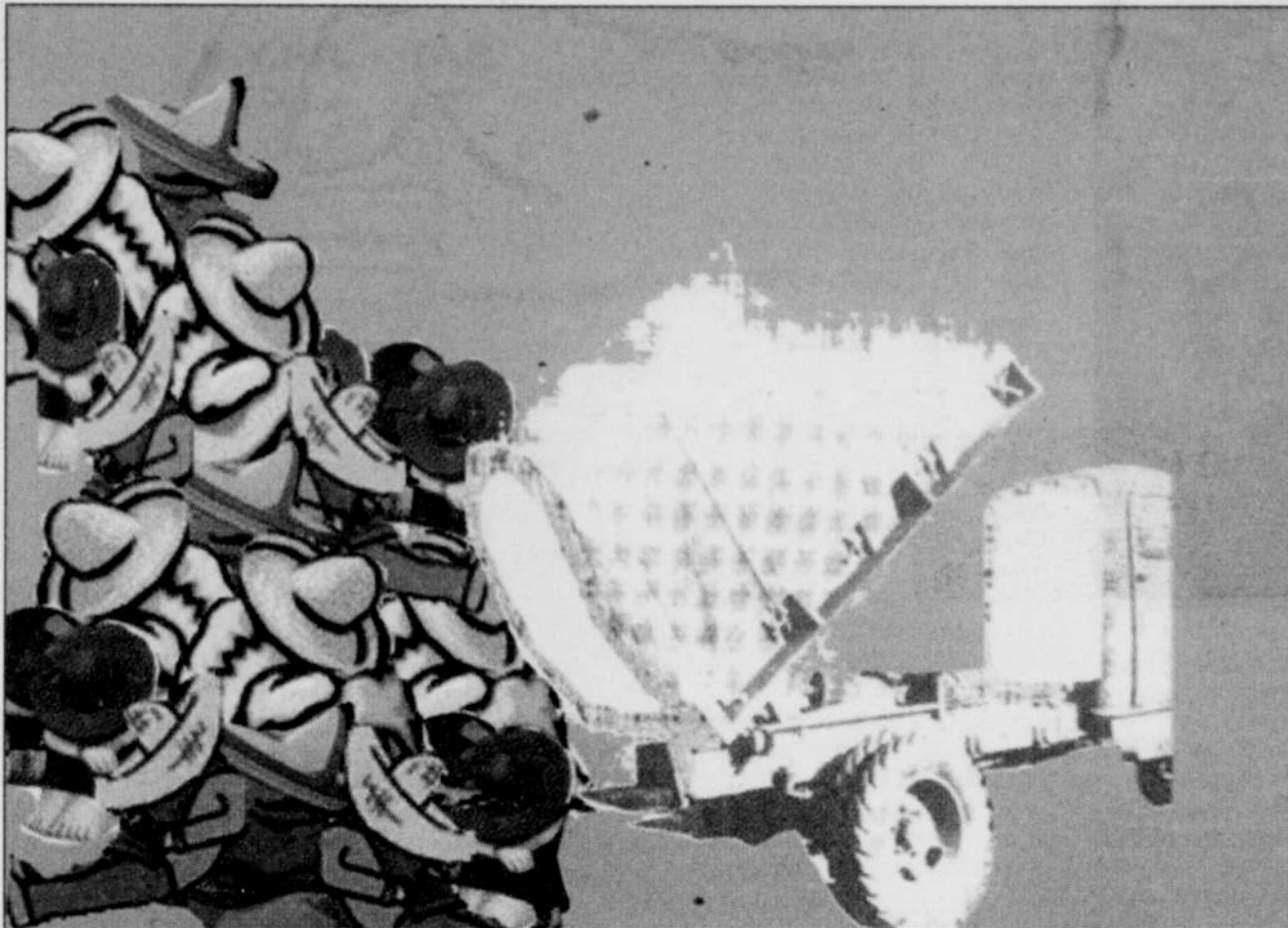
The Family Cirkus

It's spring in 1900. A small circus, one of many such shows crisscrossing the United States in the early 20th century, has pitched its tents outside one of the Midwest towns it will visit during the touring season.

The circus in town spelled magic, wonder and escape from the mundane, from life's cares and from the hardship of rural Midwest life. **Patti Frazee's Cirkus** (Alyson Books, 2006; \$24.95 hardcover) is a story from the insider's point of view, the struggles and human interactions the audience never sees.

Borsefsky Brothers Circus is the means through which the manager, Jakub, hopes to prove he can be a success, make good money for his uncle and create a good reputation for himself in the United States. Jakub emigrated from Bohemia with his fortuneteller wife, Mariana; his horse master, Radovan; a fire-breathing dwarf named Shanghai; and Mariana, a gypsy.

At one of their stops, Jakub also acquires Siamese twins Atasha and Anna from their Bohemian immigrant father, who wants to be rid of his unusual daughters and the burden he believes they place on their sickly mother. Along with 600-pound Judita, Ladislav the Skeleton Man, and



Mark Woolley Gallery presents queer artist damali ayo's **Yarn**, an animated competition of American national identity, through July 1.

GO OUT Embers presents the **2006 Mr., Ms. and Miss Gay Oregon Pageant**. This year's theme is "Because We Cancancan!!!" Proceeds benefit Camp Starlight. (6 pm. 110 NW Broadway. \$15.)

Use heart-sharing, noncompetitive games, ecstatic/playful movement, contact improv, healing touch and a relaxing puppy pile to explore your playful side during the **Men's Snuggle/Dance Party** presented by Q-LAND and LoveTribes. (7 pm-midnight. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

Your Place or Mine? Productions hosts **Eat My Martini**, a suave cocktail party where lesbians can mingle in an elegant and fun atmosphere in West Portland. Shuttle service available from Holocene. Dress to impress! (7:30-10:30 pm. \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance from 503-481-9870 or www.yourplaceormineproductions.com.)

Plazm celebrates 15 years of documenting creative culture in Portland and beyond with an evening of art, music and performance at Disjecta featuring Sissyboy, Flestone, E*Rock, Valet, The Watery Graves, Dim Sum Puppet Theater, Mike Barber of 10 Tiny Dances, DJs Copy and Shannon, birthday treats by Saint Cupcake and tasty snacks by Valentine's. (8 pm. 230 E Burnside St.)

Melissa Etheridge performs at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (8 pm. 1037 SW Broadway. \$35-\$100 from Ticketmaster.)

Ashleigh Flynn and **Amelia** perform at Mission Theater. Proceeds benefit the Siren Nation Women's Music and Art Festival, slated for November 2007. (8 pm. 1624 NW Glisan St. \$10.)

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.)

Mississippi Studios presents neo-folk sensation **Holcombe Waller** with atmospheric quartet **Bright Red Paper**. (10 pm. 3939 N Mississippi Ave. \$10 from 503-288-3895.)

SUN • JUNE 25

The Adventure Group takes a difficult 11-mile hike along ridge crests to two scenic peaks in the Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness and takes a kayak trip in Scappoose Bay and Sauvie Island for people who have been kayaking before. Meet in Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (8 am hike, 9 am kayak. 3030 NE Weidler St. www.adventuregroup.org.)

FatGirl Speaks and F.A.T. PDX present **Cupcake**, a monthly dance party for fat folks and allies of all genders and sexualities at Holocene. Shake your bodacious booties to the bountiful beats and win fantastic raffle prizes in a room full of chublove! (5 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

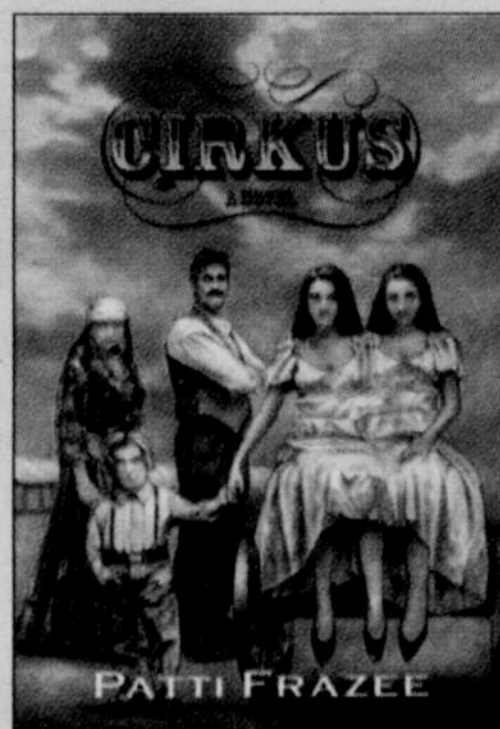
MON • JUNE 26

City Club of Portland's book group, Citizens Read, discusses **David Oates' City Limits: Walking Portland's Boundary**, a book about his trek along the 260-mile urban growth boundary and the Rose City's love/hate affair with planning. (7 pm. 901 SW Washington St. RSVP to 503-228-7231, ext. 103, or timd@pdxcityclub.org.)

Sundance Channel premieres **Follow My Voice: With the Music of Hedwig**, a rousing look at the making of *Wig in a Box*, a tribute album featuring covers of songs from the glam rock musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* to benefit New York City's Harvey Milk High, the country's first accredited school for queer youth. (9 pm.)

TUE • JUNE 27

Brad Kessler reads from *Birds in Fall* at Powell's. (7:30 pm. 1005 W Burnside St.)



Frazee will read from and signs *Cirkus* 7:30 p.m. July 6 at In Other Words, 8 N.E. Killingsworth St.

—Patricia L. MacAodha



Melissa Etheridge rocked the house at the 2005 Grammy Awards.

Yes, She Is

Universal heartache, sentimental longing, deep yearning—what else could I be speaking of but a **Melissa Etheridge** love song? She speaks to anyone who has been through crazy, intense relationships, jealous fears, heart-shattering breakups, new lovers and the vitality of love, life and hope that comes with it. Portlanders can share in the experience when she performs here as part of a whirlwind 40-city tour the weekend after Pride.

I bought my first Etheridge album, *Yes, I Am*, as a high school freshman. Growing up in a religious family in Alaska, I was a bit sheltered, so not only did I not know I was gay—I didn't know she was, either. I did know her music got to the heart of me. She sang about the ups and downs of love that I had yet to experience but longed to. I could hear in her voice that she put her heart into her music. When I found out she was gay, I was in awe. All that strength, confidence and emotion in the music was for a woman! When I later realized I was a lesbian, it all made sense. I listened to everything all over again, through different crushes and relationships.

Etheridge sings from her heart or rather pours her soul from it. As I listen and sing along—out of tune, but trying—her soulful confessions become my own. Her strong and raspy voice holding long notes coupled with guitar solos and diarylike lyrics helped me feel validated while coming out and getting through rough breakups.

This lesbian rock icon started playing guitar at the age of 8. During the past 18 years, she has released nine albums, selling more than 30 million records and winning the Grammy Award for Best Female Rock Vocalist twice. She recently survived breast cancer and put on a rockin' performance at the 2005 Grammy Awards, still bald from chemotherapy. Her home state of Kansas is inducting her into its Music Hall of Fame, and she won the Stephen F. Kolzak Award at the 17th annual Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Awards for her work toward eliminating homophobia. She just wrote a song for *An Inconvenient Truth*, Al Gore's documentary about global warming, and released a greatest hits album titled *The Road Less Traveled*. She and her wife, actress **Tammy Lynn Michaels**, are expecting twins in the fall.

Etheridge performs 8 p.m. June 24 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 S.W. Broadway. Tickets are \$35-\$100 from Ticketmaster.

—Melissa Morales