



From left, Sneakin' Out, Myshkin's Ruby Warblers and Felina celebrate the release of new albums this month.

hostess Bolivia Carmichaels, music by DJ Alex Hollywood, go-go boys and face painting. (9 pm. 219 NW Davis St. \$5.)

## SUN • JULY 23

**Keshet** invites queer Jews as well as their spouses, partners, significant others and good friends (whether Jewish or gay or not) to enjoy great company and food at a potluck barbecue. (5 pm. David 503-226-7074, ext. 14.)

**Anne Weiss** performs with the **Feel This Band** and **Jeremy Serwer** for a funky blues good time at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (7:30 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

**Sneakin' Out** celebrates the release of its first all-original effort, *Opera Tuna Teen Ox*, at Mississippi Studios. (8 pm. 3939 N Mississippi Ave. \$10 from 503-288-3895.)

## MON • JULY 24

**GO OUT** Come to **Q Center Bingo** with Poison Waters featuring fun entertainment, great prizes, food and a no-host bar. (7-9 pm. 69 SE Taylor St. \$10 includes bingo card.)

Take a gamble on the **Texas Hold 'Em Tournament Mondays and Wednesdays** at The Egyptian Club. In July and August, the top point earner will win a seat in an Oregon Poker Tour contest for \$10,000! (7 and 9:30 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

**The Shondes** perform with **The Golden Bears**, **The Gay Deceivers** and **The New Bloods** at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (9 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave. \$3-\$5.)

Independent Film Channel presents **Fabulous! The Story of Queer Cinema**, which traces our rich legacy on the big screen from groundbreaking works that paved the way for a vital tradition of fiercely independent films. (9 pm and 1 am.)

## TUE • JULY 25

Paragon Club presents the queer night **Havoc** every Tuesday featuring DJs Girl-Pilot, Rashidoblaze and rotating guests spinning '80s, new wave, dark techno pop and hip-hop. (9 pm. 815 N Killingsworth St.)

## WED • JULY 26

**GO OUT** Learn ways to ensure that, in the event of a medical emergency, your wishes are respected. **Elder Resource Alliance** presents an informative seminar at Friendly House about end-of-life directives, specifically Physicians Order for Life Sustaining Treatment, with special guest speaker Margaret Carley of the Oregon Health Care Association. Light refreshments served. (3-5 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave. 503-224-2640. eracoordinator@yahoo.com.)

Sneakin' Out performs at Waterfront Park during the **Oregon Blind Testing**, a kickoff event on the eve of the Oregon Brewers Festival in which patrons will attempt to correctly identify several samples of beer. The winner will receive a trip for two to the 2006 Munich Oktoberfest! Proceeds benefit the Oregon Commission for the Blind Foundation. (5 pm. \$40 includes souvenir mug.)

Gay-owned Paolo Design Group presents **Interior Design Shop-Talks**, a series of forums about new innovations to

create a living space that caters to your needs. Tonight's topic is "Design Dynamics." Continues Aug. 2 with "Color Wonder Work." (6-7:30 pm. 1110 NW Marshall St. RSVP to 503-222-1757.)

**Radical Women** meet at the Bread and Roses Center to discuss "State Funded Health Care for All!" (6:30 pm. 819 N Killingsworth St. \$6-\$10 summer salad buffet donation.)

In Other Words presents a moving and courageous poetry reading by award-winning *Oregonian* columnist **S. Renee Mitchell** (*Tangoing with Tornadoes: A Poetic Interpretation of Love, Lust and Regret*) accompanied by original music. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

**The Dresden Dolls** perform with **Panic! At the Disco** and **Hush Sound** at Portland Expo Center. (7:30 pm. 2060 N Marine Drive. \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance from TicketsWest.)

**Amanda Palmer** of The Dresden Dolls presents *F#%k the Back Row*, a night of celluloid vaudeville at Mission Theater consisting of short films submitted by her feverishly creative fan base peppered with thought-provoking antics. She will cap off the night in typical piano-destroying fashion, singing tunes culled from popular and not-so-popular film soundtracks. (9 pm. 1624 NW Glisan St. \$10.)

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

## THU • JULY 27

**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 bike ride to the Last Thursday art walk on Northeast Alberta Street. Meet at the

east end of the Hawthorne Bridge. (5:45 pm. Jim 503-754-4804. communications@adventuregroup.org.)

**The Adventure Group** takes an easy 3.8-mile hike in Forest Park to Pittcock Mansion for a fabulous view of Portland, Mount St. Helens and Mount Hood. Meet at Lower Macleay Park. (6 pm. Evan 503-701-7922. chair@adventuregroup.org.)

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. bearsl@yahoo.com.)

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

Lost your soul? Find out how you can get it back during an informational session about **shamanic soul retrieval healing** at In Other Words. (7-8:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

**GO OUT** Ohm, in collaboration with Portland clothing stores Local35 and Lit, presents **Fall for Fashion**, a showcase of local to international designers featuring live music and performances by fire artists. Proceeds benefit the Oregon Humane Society. (9 pm. 31 NW First Ave.)

**Myshkin's Ruby Warblers** celebrate the release of *Sigh Semaphore*—a seven-song EP about lying leaders, stolen resources and drowning cities—with special guest **Heather Perkins** at Mississippi Studios. (10 pm. 3939 N Mississippi Ave. \$10 from 503-288-3895.)

## FRI • JULY 28

**GO OUT** Loveland presents the third annual **PDX Pop Now!** festival featuring Holcombe Waller, Copy and 40 more of Portland's finest bands through July 30. (320 SE Second Ave. www.pdxpopnow.com.)

Singer, songwriter, engineer and artist **Tara Jane O'Neil** performs experimental acoustic music from her forthcoming album *In Circles* at Towne Lounge. (9 pm. 714 SW 20th Place. \$7.)

## New Theater's Wit Promises Tear on Your Cheek

"Can anyone say quality of life?"

That's what's on the lips of stage director **Shawn Cates** as he begins rehearsals for *Wit*, Margaret Edson's 1999 Pulitzer-winning drama about an English professor suddenly facing terminal ovarian cancer. In the story, a woman renowned for her teaching of the brilliant and metaphysical sonnets of John Donne becomes a prize patient in an experimental chemotherapy program at a major teaching hospital.

"Vivian, the main character, contracts cancer and ends up spending the last months of her life suffering through the treatment she gets, instead of enjoying life by taking a cruise or hiking the savanna or whatever it is you do when it's your time to go," says Cates. "In effect, she goes there for help and ends up being a rat in a cage, poked and prodded and observed."

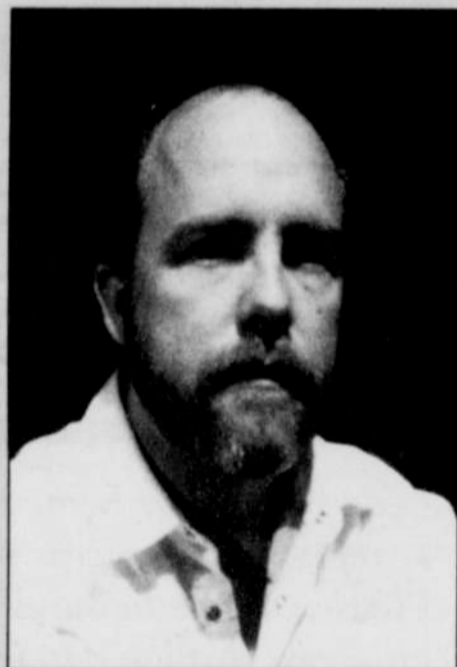
The play, the second in La Bodega Productions' inaugural season, takes a critical look at the health care industry and how it treats patients.

"Considering that our medical industry is under scrutiny right now over money and access and availability, we should also be looking at what we are doing to the patients on a human level, too—since that seems, to me, to be the real bottom line," Cates notes.

The play resonates with the gay 36-year-old director because he, too, serves the medical field. By day, Cates works in the business office of a urology clinic. He says it wasn't long ago that he "stumbled" into the theater scene, most recently seen in a high-heeled performance in last season's *Manos: Hands of Fate* from LastRites Productions. Other roles with La Bodega co-founder **Steve Coker** have included *Noises Off* and *Orphans*. "We laugh, we cry, we crawl on our bellies like reptiles," jokes Cates of his relationship with the upstart theater company.

*Wit* plays through Aug. 12 at Theater Theatre, 3430 S.E. Belmont St. Tickets are \$12-\$15 from www.labodegaproductions.com; health care workers receive a \$2 discount.

—Timothy Krause



**Shawn Cates** directs the Pulitzer-winning drama *Wit* through Aug. 12 at Theater Theatre.

## Aloha!

When one thinks about summer in Portland, many images come to mind: weenie roasts, impromptu porch parties and beautiful Victorian homes with no air conditioning. Summer is about getting out! This is the time pasty Pacific Northwest folks get to dance in the summer heat and feed our bodies as much warmth as we can before the rain falls upon us once more.

This is just one of the many enticements to get out to the most anticipated summer dance party of the year, **Luau Extravaganza**. It's time to pull out those grass skirts and coconut bras and "get lei'd"! **Alley Productions** and **One Wicked Party** along with hundreds of their hot, party-going brethren are taking it to the "Alley" once again Aug. 5.

This legendary summer theme party—hosted by the same folks who in years past brought us the extravagant **Orient Excess** and the notorious **Prison Camp**—is back with plans for their biggest soiree yet. This time they promise a volcanic explosion of fire dancers, phat tikki beats from **DJ Harmonixx**, an open bar until 11 p.m. and much, much more!

Best of all, a portion of the proceeds goes to **Esther's Pantry**. For those of you who don't know about this revered nonprofit, it donates a grocery cart full of food and body care items once a month to people living with HIV/AIDS. I talked to Esther's Pantry program director **Mark Brown** about his operation.

"It is a really important time to support Esther's. Last year we opened our doors to include people with HIV as well as AIDS. Since then, we get at least two new people coming in every shift," says Brown.

This is why it is not only important to join the festivities, but also to bring along some canned goods to donate. Luau Extravaganza coordinator **William Smith** is really excited about making this party a truly fun event that also does good in the community. "We really want to emphasize that people can bring their extra canned goods to the party for us to donate."

Don't miss the summer madness! RSVP today at www.onewickedparty.com. There you will find all the important party details to ensure a truly wicked night of fun.

Luau Extravaganza runs from 9 p.m. to dawn at 2119 N. Kerby Ave. Admission is \$30 with a VIP pass or \$35 at the door.

—Mark "Zebra" Thomas