



T.J. (left) and Raci are two of the students profiled on *TransGeneration Reunion* Aug. 28.

Get your groove on during Elder Resource Alliance's **Sock Hop Benefit** at Friendly House featuring a barbecue hamburger dinner, door prizes and a raffle for a night at the Jupiter Hotel and a Mother's Bistro gift certificate! (6-10 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave. \$15 from 503-224-2640.)

Radical Women celebrate women winning the right to vote at the Bread and Roses Center. (7 pm. 819 N Killingsworth St. \$8-\$10 summer buffet donation.)

GO OUT Lesbian-owned **Zaytoon** celebrates its first anniversary with DJ Saffronica! (8 pm. 2236 NE Alberta St.)

BearBust at Gail's Dirty Duck. (8-11 pm. 429 NW Third Ave. \$8 members, \$10 nonmembers.)

Tip your hat to **Crystal's Country Jam** at the Portland Metro Club (PPAA). (8-9 pm lessons, 9 pm-1 am dancing. 618 SE Alder St. \$5, \$8 with lessons.)

The temperature is rising, and these hot queers are ready to take it all off! Glam Star presents **Beach Blanket Burlesque: A Queer Summer Striptease Spectacular** featuring scorching performers from throughout the Pacific Northwest and the Bay Area followed by a sweaty dance party with DJs Mr. Charming and Sappho at Holocene. (9 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5-\$7 sliding scale.)

Final Exit

Marsha Norman's *'night, Mother* is about as far as you can get from a feel-good theatergoing experience.

Winner of the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the play portrays a quiet household that launches into a crisis when a woman named Jessie informs her mother, Mama, that she plans to kill herself that very evening. Mama's passionate pleas can't erase years of unhappiness for Jessie, and the plot moves inexorably toward its tragic conclusion.

Sissy Spacek and Anne Bancroft teamed for a film version in 1986, and last year Edie Falco and Brenda Blethyn starred in a Broadway revival.

But for a Pulitzer winner *'night, Mother* is seldom staged, undoubtedly due to its grim subject matter. Jason Gilliland, the gay director of an upcoming Portland production, speculates: "Most people go to the theater to have a good time, to see *Oklahoma!* and go home feeling great. They don't want something that's in their face."

Though *'night, Mother* has no queer themes, Gilliland likens it to two landmarks in gay theater. "I put it in a category with *Angels in America* and *Bent*," he says. "It's not supposed to have a happy ending."

A proofreader of legal documents by day, Gilliland is also studying to be a hair stylist and esthetician. In addition he's a musical theater actor, with appearances in *The Rocky Horror Show* at Triangle Productions and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Lake Oswego's Lakewood Theatre.

'night, Mother marks his first major directing gig, and he's producing it himself without the backing of a Portland theater organization. He has wanted to direct the play since he first saw it in Los Angeles five years ago.

"It has haunted me ever since," he says. "It's a hard play to do, but I figured that if I have one shot to direct that *'night, Mother* would be it."

Newcomers Kara Van Veghel and Jeanette McMahon play Jessie and Mama, respectively.

Just how emotionally grueling is *'night, Mother*? Gilliland admits that his partner refuses to come to the show because the climax is so hard to handle.

"There's a fine line between doing it appropriately and going to far," he explains. "I don't want people to be so upset they can't drive home. But there will be no curtain call. Of course they're not going to clap."

Tonic Productions presents *'night, Mother* Aug. 24 to 27 at CoHo Theatre, 2257 N.W. Raleigh St. Tickets are \$10-\$15.

—Stephen Blair



A woman learns that her daughter plans to commit suicide in *'night, Mother*.

C.C. Slaughters presents **Toga Party 2006** with go-go boys, costume prizes, host Bolivia "Cleopatra" Carmichaels and music by DJ Alex "Caesar" Hollywood. (9 pm. 219 NW Davis St. \$5.)

SUN • AUG. 20

The women of **The Forest Group** go cycling and fruit/flower gathering among the scenery of Sauvie Island. (RSVP to Sam at 503-989-4817 by Sept. 19.)

The Adventure Group takes a moderate 30-mile mountain bike ride to Powell Butte. Meet at the east end of the Hawthorne Bridge. (9 am. Laurent 503-227-2914. lpm@pobox.com.)

The Adventure Group takes a rafting trip along the Lower Clackamas River. Meet in Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (9:30 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Catherine 503-452-9184. sneakyipi@pocz.com.)

Deaf & Hearing Out Reach takes a fun bicycle ride to Oaks Park. Meet at the intersection of Southeast Main Street and the Eastbank Esplanade. (10:30 am. To borrow a bike e-mail llantha at cluckhen50@hotmail.com.)

Sneakin' Out celebrates the release of its first all-original effort, *Opera Tuna Teen Ox*, at Music Millennium. (3 pm. 801 NW 23rd Ave.)

Cruise Control, a social network specializing in women older than 36, presents **speed dating for lesbians** at Hobo's. Registration is mandatory. (4 pm. 120 NW Third Ave. \$22 from www.cruisecontrolpdx.com.)

Northwest New Thought Ministries Association presents **Awakening to the Spirit Within II**, an inspiring concert at Beaverton's Griffith Park featuring musicians Juliet Wyers, Mark Olmstead, Daniel Crothers, Linda Trotta & Friends, Val Hammond and more! (5-8 pm. \$15 donation. www.newthoughtnorthwest.org.)

The **Gay Pinochle Group** meets every Sunday at Hobo's. Come play cards and meet the gang. (6 pm. 120 NW Third Ave. Mike 503-641-7224.)

Sneakin' Out performs at Gail's Dirty Duck. (8:30 pm. 439 NW Third Ave.)

Mississippi Pizza Pub presents **Ball Sac Reduction Benefit Show: A Serious Comedy Not to Be Taken Lightly** starring House of Cunt's Pam Carsten and Angela Campbell, Sissyboy's Lee Kyle and the Drunken Princess Girl helping out an underwear model in need of ball sac reduction surgery! (9 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave. \$7-\$10 sliding scale.)

MON • AUG. 21

Take a 2.7- to 6.5-mile run/walk along the Willamette River during the **Portland Frontrunners Ladies Night** every Monday. Meet at the intersection of Southeast Main Street and the Eastbank Esplanade. (6 pm. Kamm 971-533-6199. wsuvet@yahoo.com.)

Gather around the **Portland Polyamory Circle** for informal discussions of open relationships and commitment. (7 pm. Laury 503-285-4848.)

GO OUT It's the return of the Hokey-Pokey! Grease your wheels during **Gay Skate Night** presented by Just Out every third Monday at Oaks Park. (7-9 pm. 1 SE Spokane St. \$5 plus canned food items for Esther's Pantry.)

Acoustic dyke duo **Terra** performs with **Skip von Kuske** as part of the Little Red Shed Diva Series at McMenamins Edgefield Winery in Troutdale. (7-9 pm. 2126 SW Halsey St.)

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.)

TUE • AUG. 22

Dexter's Famous Spoken Mic gives writers "rock star status" by bringing beginners and more established readers together for inspirational rants and performances every second and fourth Tuesday at In Other Words. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Gay-owned **Vino Paradiso** holds a free wine tasting with Gary Andrus, the founder of Archery Summit and Pine Ridge, pouring several wines from his new Gypsy Dancer Estate winery. (7-9 pm. 417 NW 10th Ave. RSVP to timothy@vinoparadiso.com.)

Hey, Bebop Bobby Soxers and Cool Cat Daddy-os!

The Elder Resource Alliance—which works to enhance the lives of older members of the sexual minorities community through education, advocacy, outreach and resource development—invites you to its second annual **Sock Hop Benefit** Aug. 19.

The event will take place from 6 to 10 p.m. at Friendly House Community Center, 1737 N.W. 26th Ave. **Out Dancing**, featuring partners and professional dance instructors **Daniel Hutchison** and **David Wilson**, will give a dance performance, teach some dance moves and spin '50s faves so folks can practice their new grooves on the floor.

A barbecue hamburger dinner will include all the fixings and a root beer float. A vegetarian option will be available, too.

The Sock Hop will feature carnival games, fabulous door prizes and a raffle for a chance to win an overnight stay at Jupiter Hotel and a \$25 gift certificate to Mother's Bistro. Attendees can also enjoy a summer sunset on the garden patio, play a game of pool or lounge in the plush comfort of the community living room.

Tickets are \$15. Proceeds will be used to finance ERA outreach activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender elders in and around Multnomah County.

For more information contact program coordinator **Rachel Indigo Cerise Baum** at 503-224-2640, ext. 152.

—Jim Radosta



Drag stars Max Voltage and Splendora experience "Makeover Mayhem" Aug. 18 at Wild Card.

WED • AUG. 23

Elder Resource Alliance holds a screening of *Transamerica* at Friendly House. (2-4 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave.)

Q Center presents a weekly **queer writing group** where you can exchange ideas and critique each other's work, exercise your creative muscles and discover the joys of a writerly life. (6-7:30 pm. 69 SE Taylor St. RSVP to 503-234-7837 or info@pdxqcenter.org.)

Gay-owned Paolo Design Group concludes **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 Dollar Do's and Don'ts." (6-7:30 pm. 1110 NW Marshall St. RSVP to 503-222-1757.)

Asian-American drumming troupe **Portland Taiko** presents a Composer Spotlight at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall. Artistic co-directors Michelle Fujii and Teresa Enrico will give a sneak preview of two fresh compositions for their upcoming fall concert, *Ohayo Gozaimasu—A New Day*. (6:30 pm. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$7 from www.portlandtaiko.org.)

Joni Laurence performs songs from the rockier side of folk at Music Millennium. (7 pm. 801 NW 23rd Ave.)

In Other Words presents **At the Crossroads of Choice: What Today's Legislative Battles Will Mean for the Women of Tomorrow** with Michele Stranger-Hunter, executive director of the Oregon affiliate of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Sundance Channel premieres **The Hill**, a documentary series offering a rare glimpse into the personal and professional lives of the staff of U.S. Rep. Robert Wexler, D-Fla., including openly gay chief of staff Eric Johnson. (9 pm.)