

THU • AUG. 24

Spoil your senses during the Thursday Night Jazz and Wine Series along the **2006 Street of Dreams** at Hidden Lake Estates in Clackamas County. Listen to the smooth jazz of the Michael York Quartet, enjoy a variety of wines from Oak Knoll, and spend a warm summer evening touring magnificent homes. (6-8 pm. \$5-\$15. www.streetofdreamspdx.com.)

In Other Words screens **Talking of Power**, a film about the role of women in Venezuela's revolutionary Bolivarian Social Movement. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

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

The Egyptian Club presents **Taste**—a free nonsmoking dance party featuring house, trance, electronica, underground and classic music spun by DJs Epitome, WildFire and Nada—every Thursday. (9 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

Northwest Film Center's Top Down series presents **Mala Noche**, gay Portland director Gus Van Sant's first feature based on an autobiographical novella by gay Portland poet Walt Curtis, on the roof of Hotel deLuxe. (9 pm. 729 SW 15th Ave. \$5.)

The innovative Soda series returns with **Sticky**, a free late-summer dance party at Dunes featuring The Cancer Fags (part cabaret, part post-post-rave DJ crowdcraft), Hott Pink (lighthearted disco beats), Sad Panda (electronically infused shoegazer sounds) and DJ Mr. Romo (electro, house and underground hip-hop mixes). (9 pm. 1905 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.)

C.C. Slaughters celebrates the release of season one of **Noah's Arc** on DVD. Free box sets will be given away! (Midnight. 219 NW Davis St. \$4.)

FRI • AUG. 25

Keshet invites queer Jews as well as their spouses, partners, significant others and good friends (whether Jewish or gay or not) to a potluck and brief welcoming of the Sabbath. (6-30 pm. David 503-226-7074, ext. 14.)

In Other Words' Luna Music Series welcomes **Lisa Mann**. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

People from all marginalized groups are invited to St. Francis Hall for fun, food and volunteer planning for the **2006 A World Beyond Capitalism Conference**. (7-9 pm. 1182 SE Pine St. www.aworldbeyondcapitalism.org.)

Sneakin' Out performs at It's a Beautiful Pizza. Proceeds benefit the Oregon Hunger Relief Taskforce. (8-11 pm. 3342 SE Belmont St.)

Gay-owned Crush presents Portland's premier theatrical fire fusion belly dance troupe, **Serpentine**, exploring the ancient art of storytelling through spectacle and ritual using eclectic musical influences from Arabic, Indian, goth, experimental and more. (9 pm. 1400 SE Morrison St. \$3.)

The Oregon Bears throw their monthly **Double X Dance** at C.C. Slaughters. (9 pm-1 am. 219 NW Davis St. \$2.)

The Oregon Teenage Lesbian Court presents the 20th annual **Ms. Leather & Ms. Lace Pageant** at Escape. Winners are determined by audience votes, so come on down and help pick the faces of the future. Stay afterward for dancing to the techno spins of DJ Scooter and goth/industrial music with DJ Robby 'til the sun comes up! (10 pm. 333 SW Park Ave. \$15.)

Don't leave yourself hanging! Catch the gripping conclusion of the **Sissyboy Time Travel Trilogy** at Holocene. "Drag Queens of the Stone Age" finds the freaks bathing in tar pits and battling prehistoric creatures while trying to find the missing queer link! **The Decliners** open with their fierce rock ballads. **DJs Stormy and Sequin** spin after the show. (10:30 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

SAT • AUG. 26

People from all marginalized groups are invited to the **2006 A World Beyond Capitalism Conference** through Aug. 28 at Milo McIver Campgrounds in Estacada. (www.aworldbeyondcapitalism.org.)



Feel the heat Aug. 19 at Beach Blanket Burlesque.

The **Adventure Group** joins forces with Seattle's **OutVentures** for an overnight campout at Mount Rainier's Cougar Rock Campground, with optional hikes to Gobblers Nob and Pinnacle Peak. Meet in Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (7-30 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. RSVP to Don at 206-321-9980 or info@outventures.org.)

In Other Words offers a monthly **children's poetry workshop** geared toward kids between 5 and 10 years old. Bring paper, pencils, pens, crayons, a snack and your creativity. (11:30 am-1 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Dunes presents **T-Back**, a brand new all-day gay dance party with DJs Solomon, Megalow, 1996 Olympics and Tha' Boom Crew spinning Baltimore house, Miami bass, disco and hip-hop. Free cookies, pretzels, gummy worms and Big League Chew! (4 pm-2 am. 1905 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. \$3 after 6 pm.)

Deaf & Hearing Out Reach presents its monthly queer social at 3 Friends Coffeehouse. Come hang out with old friends and make new ones. All sign levels welcome! (6-9 pm. 201 SE 12th Ave. www.dhor.org.)

Los Angeles indie pop chanteuse **Adrienne** performs music from her new CD, **Sweet Mistake**, at Mississippi Studios. **Camille Bloom** opens. (7 pm. 3939 N Mississippi Ave. \$7 from 503-288-3895.)

Folksinger **Joni Laurence** incorporates elements of blues, jazz, country and classic rock at Alberta Street Public House. (7-9 pm. 1036 NE Alberta St. \$5.)

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.)



Gay-owned Crush presents **3asic Instinct**, a night with genderfucking trip-hop band 3asic, DJ Stay in School and special guests. (10 pm. 1400 SE Morrison St. \$2-\$5 sliding scale.)

C.C. Slaughters celebrates the release of **The Orange Album** by **Stefy**. Free copies will be given away! (11 pm. 219 NW Davis St.)

SUN • AUG. 27

Beat the heat as **Asian & Pacific Islander Lesbians and Gays** head to Maupin for their annual summer rafting trip on the Deschutes River. (\$35. RSVP to aplq_pdx@yahoo.com by Aug. 18.)

The **Adventure Group** takes a moderate five-mile hike from Wahkeena Falls to Multnomah Falls showcasing some of the most scenic areas of the Columbia River Gorge. Meet in Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (8:30 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Steve 503-762-2385. stevepdxman@yahoo.com.)

Come see Oregon's only openly gay professional wrestler, **Cameron Star**, defend his National Wrestling Alliance Oregon Television Championship at Mount Scott Community Center. Don't miss out on hard-hitting professional wrestling action! Children 5 and younger are free with a paying adult. (5 pm. 5530 SE 72nd Ave. \$5-\$10.)



Escape the heat during the queer-friendly, size-positive **Chunky Dunk Pool Party** at Peninsula Pool. (5-7 pm. 700 N Portland Blvd. www.fatgirlspeaks.com.)



Los Angeles indie pop chanteuse Adrienne performs Aug. 26 at Mississippi Studios.

C.C. Slaughters presents a special edition of **Carnivale de Bolivia** to crown Portland's first **Greatest GLBT Talent 2006**. The grand prize winner will receive \$100. Voting will be done with an all-new text message system! (6:30 pm. 219 NW Davis St.)

k.d. lang performs at Britt Pavilion in Jacksonville. (7:30 pm. 350 S First St. \$25-\$57 from www.britt.fest.org.)

MON • AUG. 28

Come to **Q Center Bingo** with Poison Waters featuring

fun entertainment, great prizes, food and a no-host bar. (7-9 pm. 1028 SE Water Ave. \$10 includes bingo card.)

Emily Herring performs with **Marisa Anderson** at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (9 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

Sundance Channel presents **TransGeneration Reunion**, revisiting the subjects of its documentary series chronicling the daily lives of four college students undergoing gender reassignment. (10 pm.)



Press secretary **Lale Mamaux** and chief of staff **Eric Johnson** work for U.S. Rep. **Robert Wexler** (above) in the docuseries **The Hill**.

The Hill Is Alive

If the parade of wannabe supermodels, grizzled bounty hunters, desert island castaways and other creatures of reality TV have worn out their welcome, perhaps a more rarely glimpsed variety—the political reality TV show—is in order. Sundance Channel addresses the issue handily with **The Hill**, six half-hour shows documenting daily life inside the office of U.S. Rep. **Robert Wexler**, D-Fla., between 2004 and 2005.

Wexler, one of three Democrats to defy the leadership by voting for withdrawal from Iraq, isn't the most dramatic subject for this kind of show. But maybe the more colorful characters on the Hill—Cynthia McKinney and "Mean" Jean Schmidt come to mind—weren't available.

Each episode is built around important events—such as Hurricane Katrina, John Roberts' Supreme Court hearings and the war—and how Wexler's passionate staff can position him to best respond. The staff consists mainly of chief of staff **Eric Johnson**, press secretary **Lale Mamaux**, legislative director **Jonathan Katz** and legislative aide **Halie Soifer**. Johnson is the openly gay chief of staff. Scenes of these true believers scrambling to schedule Wexler and to help him decide how to vote on various issues are interspersed with brief snippets from their private lives. We see Mamaux breaking up with an unseen boyfriend, Soifer getting engaged and Johnson with his lover and their son, Kai, checking out Kai's preschool and a muddy lot where they're building a home.

None of these personal scenes have much impact, and they're not the reason to watch this series. Most interesting is in the bitchy interplay among the staffers, who are frequently at each other's throats over policy issues and how to formulate Wexler's stance. Johnson is the ringleader here, alternately laughing things off and bossing the others (especially the women), as his mood strikes. Amid the drama there's some serious insight into the Democratic mindset that makes **The Hill** a must-see for political junkies. Johnson is a typical "centrist Democrat" (and ex-Republican), constantly ensuring Wexler doesn't follow Soifer's pleas to act in conscience and get tough with President Bush. It's not a stretch to see in Johnson's timidity the same self-destructive impulses that have helped the Republicans maintain power despite their corruption and incompetence.

The Hill premieres 9 p.m. Aug. 23.

—Gary Morris



Ms. Leather XIX Cloudy Monsoon crowns this year's pageant winners Aug. 25.