

TUE • SEPT. 5

Boxxes presents **Flirt** hosted by Cory with go-go boys and FSO DJ every Tuesday. (9 pm. 1035 SW Stark St.)

WED • SEPT. 6

Elder Resource Alliance holds a business meeting at Friendly House. (3:30-4:30 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.)

Satori Men's Chorus begins rehearsals for its 2006-07 season every Wednesday. Men of all shapes, sizes, colors and classes who want to make music and share harmonies with others are invited to join the group. (7-9:30 pm. 503-299-4454. www.satorichorus.org.)

THU • SEPT. 7

The Portland Institute for Contemporary Art presents the 2006 **Time-Based Art Festival** through Sept. 17 at various venues. (For a complete schedule visit www.pica.org.)

Willamette Week presents the sixth annual **MusicfestNW**, featuring queer performers Ashleigh Flynn and The Blow, through Sept. 9 at various clubs. Proceeds benefit the Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls and the Oregon Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame. (For a complete schedule visit www.musicfestnw.com/2006.)

Elder Resource Alliance holds a potluck picnic near the "caldera" at Mount Tabor Park. Bring fruit, dessert, salad, beverages or a side dish; ERA will provide the grills and hot dogs. (Noon-2 pm. Rachel 503-224-2640.)

Lambda Literary Award finalist **Lucy Jane Bledsoe** reads from *The Ice Cave: A Woman's Adventures from the Mojave to the Antarctic* at Twenty-Third Avenue Books. She will use projected images—as well as ambient sounds of penguin colonies and rock wind harps—as a backdrop for dramatic storytelling about her adventures. (7 pm. 1015 NW 23rd Ave.)

A Vertiginous Valparaiso Spins a Life Out of Control

It's a traveler's nightmare: set out on an ordinary business trip for, say, Valparaiso, Ind., and somehow end up in, oh, Valparaiso, Chile. But the opportunity to tell such a story is a sweet dream for Michael Majeski, an everyman businessman whose misadventure attracts relentless interviews from the insatiable media. And so, too, for director Jesse Young, who is at the helm of *Valparaiso*, Theatre Vertigo's surreal season opener.

"*Valparaiso* examines the idea of personal identity in a culture swamped in information and media," remarks Young. "When I see people talking on cell phones in supermarket lines, I think that the ease at which information is passed has enabled us to let go of personal responsibility

and has shut down our ability to create answers ourselves. All of us are involved in a deeply codependent relationship with the media at large. *Valparaiso* asks us: 'What is public? What is private?'"

According to Young, who recently directed *Let There Be Word* for Portland Center Stage's Just Add Water/West festival of new plays and performed in Vertigo's production of *Like I Say*, the script's poetic language cuts into current issues and philosophical questions. And though there are several gay artists such as Young (and boyfriend/sound designer **Rory Stitt**) involved with the production, its queer appeal is really rooted in its rich text that questions identity—who we are and how we live.

"Members of the queer community are faced with issues of identity in a much more specific way than people who identify themselves as straight. People who come around to identify themselves as anything other than heterosexual have to make that choice or announcement, because it is generally assumed that you are straight until proved innocent. Members of the LGBTQ community are not allowed to ease into their sexuality," says Young. "In a culture where 'coming out' has become a catch phrase, this self-identification is expected. Everyone in our culture is consumed with the idea of identity, and the queer community is constantly facing this. 'How do I define myself? Gay? Bi? Queer? He? She? Something else?'"

And, perhaps more importantly, do our secrets tell us who we really are?

Find out when *Valparaiso* plays through Sept. 23 at Theater Theatre, 3430 S.E. Belmont St. Tickets are \$15 from 503-306-0870 or www.theatrevertigo.org; Thursdays are "pay what you will."

—Timothy Krause



Poseidon (Gilberto Martin del Campo) reluctantly pulls a drowning sailor (queer actor Noah Jordan) into the deeps in Artists Rep's *Metamorphoses*, opening Sept. 5.



Lucy Jane Bledsoe shares stories about her adventures in Antarctica on Sept. 7.

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

The Men's Wellness Center discusses **Bugchasing** with a screening of *The Gift*, an award-winning documentary that looks at the glamorization of barebacking and gay men who deliberately court HIV infection. (7-9 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

Ace of Hearts Erotic Nightclub presents a **Pansexual Play Party** for gay, lesbian, bi, trans, queer, curious, hip and square people. Stop by any Taboo store to pick up a \$5

discount coupon. (8 pm-2 am. 3533 SE 39th Ave.)

GO OUT Acme presents a special **Booty Island** savage theme party with guest DJs Anjali and The Incredible Kid! (9 pm-2 am. 1305 SE Eighth Ave. \$3.)

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.)

C.C. Slaughters celebrates the release of *B'day* by **Beyoncé**. Free copies will be given out! (Midnight. 219 NW Davis St.)

FRI • SEPT. 8

GO OUT **Pride Northwest** conducts a public forum to provide an opportunity for members of the sexual minorities community to comment on Portland Pride 2006. Bring your suggestions for improvement and recommendations for next year to Room 258 of Portland State University's Smith Memorial Union. (6:30 pm. 1825 SW Broadway.)

SAT • SEPT. 9

Womyn are invited to help choose art for the 2008 datebook and calendar during the **We'Moon Weaving Circle** in Estacada. (RSVP to Kate 503-630-7848 or kate@wemoon.ws.)

GO OUT Pride Foundation and the Sexual Minority Leadership Roundtable sponsor **Legal Family Matters**, a free workshop for queer couples at YWCA of Clark County in Vancouver, Wash. Attorneys will discuss forms, parenting agreements, living wills, trusts,

health care provisions, hospital visitations and long-term planning. (9:30 am-3 pm. 3609 Main St. RSVP to Jo 360-696-0167 or www.gayvancouverwa.org.)

Q-LAND and LoveTribe present the **Men's Dating Lab**, a highly experiential workshop for finding practical strategies to strengthen emotional and physical intimacy. (6:30-10:30 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

Out Dancing's monthly **Dance Social** is every second Saturday at Ankeny Street Studio. Lesson and refreshments included. (8-11 pm. Southeast Ninth Avenue and Ankeny Street. \$8 at the door, \$5 in advance from 503-236-5129.)

Come to the Eagle for some ass-slapping fun during the monthly kink night **Queer Fetish**. (9 pm-2:30 am. 1300 W Burnside St. \$3.)

C.C. Slaughters celebrates the release of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* box set with free copies of the DVD and fun "skits" from the movie all night. (Midnight. 219 NW Davis St.)

SUN • SEPT. 10

Doug Fir Lounge presents **Crafty Wonderland**, a monthly extravaganza featuring more than 40 hip artists and designers selling their work as well as a do-it-yourself table. (11 am-4 pm. 830 E Burnside St.)

GO OUT Q Center hosts an **open house for seniors** to help create relevant and meaningful activities and events for aging members of the sexual minorities community. The discussion will kick off with a brief presentation of senior programming at other queer community centers around the country. Light refreshments will be served. (1-3 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Gays and Lesbians Are on a Roll at Hollywood Bowl

The Portland Community Bowling League began its 29th season Aug. 27 with a social at Hollywood Bowl, where it has held forth for many years. At least 28 four-person teams are planning to participate in the upcoming season, which begins play Sept. 10. According to administrator **Mike Nelson**, the league is open to any person of any skill level.

Teams are formed either by the players themselves, or people can be matched up by the league. The league also welcomes "drop-ins" for bowlers who want to learn or who cannot afford a full commitment. Drop-ins will play as substitutes. There is a mix of all-male, all-female and mixed teams.

Nelson says that when he first joined six years ago, he knew very few people in the community and that the league became a place for him to widen his network of friends while enjoying an afternoon of bowling. "The strength of our league is that it is welcoming to everyone, and while bowling is the focus, socializing and making lasting friendships has been equally important to new members and those who have kept returning to the league year after year."

Fees remain very affordable. The league bowls every Sunday from 3:30 to 6 p.m. with members generally showing up between 2:30 and 3:30, and the cost of the three games is \$10 a person.

While the league is based at Hollywood Bowl, 4030 N.E. Halsey St., and has the convenience of not requiring players to travel, it has encouraged a number of members to take their game on the road, including to the Gay Games and Outgames this summer and to events sponsored by the International Gay Bowling Organization in Portland and Las Vegas. For more information about the league call Nelson at 503-649-1310 or visit www.pdxhbowling.com.

—Cristy Barsky