



**Too Much Coffee Man Opera**, featuring lesbian actress Jasmine Presson, wakes you up through Oct. 7.

## TUE • OCT. 10

Q Center presents a basic workshop on **personal safety care for the sexual minorities community** designed to help people identify risks, evaluate their strengths and explore their options for dealing with the threat of violence. (6:30 pm refreshments, 7 pm workshop. 69 SE Taylor St.)

In Other Words presents **A Conversation with Cheryl Strayed and Randy Sue Coburn**, authors of the rural

family dramas *Torch* and *Owl Island*. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

White Bird kicks off **A Celebration of International Women Choreographers** with an interactive panel discussion featuring nationally recognized dance writers and choreographers, including lesbian Gina Gibney, at Reed College's Psychology Building Auditorium. (7-8:30 pm. 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. RSVP to 503-245-1600, ext. 202.)

Jupiter Hotel presents **Salon Q**, a monthly mixer for men and women to socialize in a smoke-free environment. (7:30 pm. 800 E Burnside St.)

## WED • OCT. 11

The **Portland Area Business Association** holds its monthly meeting at the Governor Hotel with a presentation by Debbie Caselton of the Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. (11:30 am-1 pm. 614 SW 11th Ave. \$7-\$30 from [www.paba.com](http://www.paba.com).)

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 "Bath Madness." Continues Oct. 18 with "Color Wonder Work." (6-7:30 pm. 1110 NW Marshall St. RSVP to 503-222-1757.)

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](mailto:info@pdxqcenter.org).)

The **Portland Lesbian Choir** rehearses at Ainsworth United Church of Christ with its talented new director, Ray Elliott. (6:30-8 pm. 2941 NE Ainsworth St. 503-727-3306. [portlandlesbianchoir@hotmail.com](mailto:portlandlesbianchoir@hotmail.com).)



From left, Don Hood, Tsunami Foxx and Dawna Creation are the candidates for Coronation 2006.

## Court Announces Emperor, Empress Candidates

The Imperial Sovereign Rose Court of Oregon is the oldest queer organization in Portland and one of the oldest courts in the United States. In 2006, Portland will crown its 48th Emperor and Empress.

For the uninitiated, ISRC is a nonprofit organization that produces events but is best known for shows featuring drag queens, drag kings, singers of both genders and male performers for the purpose of raising money for charity. Many events are bar-type shows; however, other events including fund-raising dinners, community events, theme parties and garage sales have been organized through the years to generate hundreds of thousands of dollars for worthy causes such as the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, Esther's Pantry, Our House of Portland and the Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund.

Each September, candidates for the two top positions within the ISRC system run (like political candidates) for the positions of Emperor (usually a female or male appearing as a male) and Empress (generally a male appearing in drag). The candidates were announced Sept. 17:

- **Don Hood:** Hood has been a court member for 11 years and without interruption since 2000. Past titles include Oregon State Mr. Leather 1998. Hood's theme is "believe the dream." Last year he lost the race for Emperor by just 32 votes but "wants to serve the community and try and make a difference." Although Hood runs unopposed, he's working hard to get out the vote. As to which Empress candidate he prefers by his side for the next year, Hood diplomatically says he "would be happy to work with either candidate."

- **Tsunami Foxx:** A court member since 1993 and the reigning Closet Ball Queen, Foxx's goals are to return the court "back to a time of having fun."

- **Dawna Creation:** A court member since 1998, Creation's goal is to raise \$100,000 during her reign. Past titles include Miss Gay Portland 27, Miss Sweetheart and Imperial Princess 31.

Voting is from noon to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 8 at Darcelle XV, 208 N.W. Third Ave. Eligible voters must be 21 or older with a quad-county ID.

The titleholders will be crowned Oct. 14. For a complete list of **Coronation 2006** events, visit [www.rosecourt.org](http://www.rosecourt.org).

—Joshua Ryan



Legendary gay choreographer **Bill T. Jones** examines the resilience of the human spirit in the face of disaster Oct. 8 in Eugene.



The gay and lesbian outreach ministry at **St. Philip Neri Catholic Church** begins a six-week program on spirituality with a presentation of the award-winning PBS program *Amazing Grace* hosted by Bill Moyers. The only requirements are an open mind and an inclusive spirit. (7:15-9 pm. 2408 SE 16th Ave. Michael 503-819-1269.)

The organizers of Vas-o-Line present **Spread: A Butt Magazine Launch Party** at Crush. The "international magazine" recently profiled Portland, spreading our hometown boys across its raunch-sophisticated pages. Come early for *Butt* giveaways. Stay late for DJs Stormy, Dandyion, Solomon and Holcombe Waller. (9 pm. 1400 SE Morrison St.)

## THU • OCT. 12

**Elder Resource Alliance** invites older members of the sexual minorities community to meet each other, share common interests and enjoy fun conversation every second Thursday at Niki's Restaurant. (1-3 pm. 736 SE Grand Ave.)

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

Picture it: You're soaping up the boys in the shower, and you come across an unfamiliar lump. Now what? Come hear a Ph.D. in nursing shed some light on **testicular cancer** at the Men's Wellness Center. If you are between 15 and 35, then you really should attend, as this cancer strikes your age

group at disproportionate rates. (7-8:30 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)



DJs Puppet, Stormy, Kinetic and guests celebrate **World Animal Month** during the weekly alterna-queer party **Booty** at Acme. Proceeds benefit the Dove Lewis Stray and Wildlife Animal Fund. (9 pm. 1305 SE Eighth Ave. \$3-\$10 donation.)

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.)

**Ladytron** performs with **Pipedream** at Berbat's Pan. (9:30 pm. 10 SW Third Ave. \$18 from TicketsWest.)

## FRI • OCT. 13

Dress in all black to get in free as the Egyptian Club celebrates **Friday the 13th**. A midnight raffle will give away \$100 in cash and E Room gift certificates! (1 pm-2:30 am. 3701 SE Division St.)

Come to the Men's Wellness Center for a screening of the camp classic **Mommie Dearest** with Miss Mylar hosting as Joan Crawford! (7-8:30 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

**Portland Baroque Orchestra**, led by renowned lesbian violinist Monica Huggett, opens its season with three of Bach's famous *Brandenburg Concertos* through Oct. 15 at First Baptist Church and Reed College's Kaul Auditorium. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 909 SW 11th Ave. 3 pm

## Alix Dobkin: Grandchildren, Memoirs and Keepin' On

For the first time in recent memory, Alix Dobkin is head over heels for boys—that is, her two cherished grandsons, ages 4 months and 3 years. Dobkin, who will be in Portland for a double-header reading and concert Oct. 18, says she is happiest spending time with her grandchildren.

"They've changed my life completely," she says, "and they are the light of my life." It was "a surprise to me, as I had no expectations for grandparenthood." She loves making music with the 3-year-old, but "the 4-month-old doesn't sing yet."

This month's concert will largely be "a walk down memory lane." Dobkin has written one song in the past 16 years, "to my daughter on her wedding." However, she promises "some unfamiliar signposts, stories and new songs from other songwriters."

Dobkin hasn't been writing songs because she is busily writing a memoir, *My Red Blood: Radical Girl Takes on the American 20th Century*. She says the manuscript has suffered countless drafts. "Starting in 1992, I completed the first draft sometime in 2002. Then I revised it a few times and sent it to several readers for their comments." She reduced the initial page count from 673 to 419 and forwarded it to her agent, "who has just started reading it."

The excerpt Dobkin will present in Portland is "Teenage Commie in the 1950s." Finding potential readers who will commit to buying the book might help line up a publisher, which she hopes happens "within the decade."

Dobkin followed a relationship from "my beloved Catskill Mountains and mid-Hudson Valley" to Los Angeles in 1995. A year later, single again, she relocated to Oakland, Calif., where she lived for four years before returning to the East Coast. Now living in Woodstock, N.Y., "where I belong," she performs fewer than 50 days a year and is "not hustling jobs because I love staying home with the grandkids."

Dobkin appears 7:30 p.m. Oct. 18 at In Other Words, 8 N.E. Killingsworth St., then 9 p.m. at Mississippi Pizza Pub, 3939 N. Mississippi Ave.

—Patricia L. MacAodha



Alix Dobkin

JOANNE GIGANTI