

STEPHANIE DAVIS



Clockwise from below, The Tragedies' *Theatre du Grand Guignol* runs through Oct. 28; Miracle Theatre Group opens Portland's longest-running *Day of the Dead Festival* Oct. 27; and Sissyboy goes to hell Oct. 27 at Holocene and Oct. 31 at Doug Fir Lounge.



FROM GLITZY TO GORY

Portland outfitters do crazed costumes and pernicious parties

by Malka Geffen and Jaymee R. Cuti

The queer community has one important thing in common: We love dressing up. Halloween is the godsend holiday when we can don our wigs or fake blood and play pretend with the rest of society.

Some people buy costumes for parties year round, but Halloween raises the standard. The following Portland shops help the costume-challenged prepare to amaze.

Red Light Clothing Exchange, at 3590 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. and 1111 S.W. Stark St., prioritizes with style. According to manager Heather Jones, the entire women's side of the store is filled with costumes. "We have costumes all year round," said Jones, "but we go over the top at Halloween."

Jones says people come in with an idea for a costume in mind, look around and get completely sidetracked. "I hear, 'Oh, wow! maybe I'll be a vampire...oh, look at this! Maybe I'll be a pirate!'" Luckily, costumes are displayed in 25 to 30 categories to help customers stay focused.

Sales and the number of customers triple in October, according to Jones. She believes people

come to Red Light because of the sheer volume of costumes and the affordable prices. "Plus, you can sell it back to us after Halloween!"

Wigland, at 1011 N.E. Broadway, is the place to go for that very special hair. Though it changes every year, manager Maria Song says people are always looking for the Farrah Fawcett and Marilyn Monroe wigs. "Mullets are always popular, and the big '70s hair," she added.

The Halloween wig sale starts about a week before the holiday, according to Song. While costume wigs sell year round at Wigland, the store adds more to its stock for Halloween because "more adult parties are getting bigger and bigger," she said.

According to Song, synthetic wigs are easy to style, and most customers choose to style their own. "But if you want a Victorian wig, we'll style it for you," she said.

Whether you're going for a punk-glam or Marie Antoinette, you'll want to check out Wigland's selection of lids.

When asked what Ray's Ragtime is doing for Halloween this year, owner Ray Tillotson sarcasti-

cally said: "Nothing. We have nothing." And nothing could be further from the truth. The store, at 1001 S.W. Morrison St., is packed with vintage clothing and accessories.

"For Halloween we bring in more costume stuff and make sure we're stocked on boys and girls wigs and masks," says

Tillotson. "Flexible people have a better time in here," he says of the frazzled costume shopper. "We can usually put some real fun stuff together."

Tillotson, who often works with local theater groups and the opera, was proud to announce a recent coup: "I just saved Molly Ringwald from a costume disaster!"

The gay-friendly Ray's Ragtime has sent many



The Lippman Co. comes alive with a Day of the Dead display.

pirates and tramps out of its doors so far this year. "Halloween is the one time of year people can get out of their skins, have fun and push people's buttons," Tillotson says. "And we help them do that."

Spartacus, a favorite of the leather community, has transformed its fetish shop at 300 S.W. 12th Ave. into a Halloween wonderland with accessories tacked up at every turn. From wigs to masks to

MARTY DAVIS