



Mona Superhero's duct tape creations are at Berbat's this month.

Atole Serves Up Some Home-Cooked Funk

The night I caught Atole at Towne Lounge, it was one of those magical Portland nights I live for. The crowd was small but carried an air of excitement and a familiarity between one another that made this show feel honest. Atole, a solo project of Manny Reyes, co-creator of the indie-queer pop band the Do N Dudes, came on stage beaming.

"Earlier today my boyfriend and I signed up to be domestic partners! I know I should have practiced today, but Tim and I just went home and...fucked." The crowd screamed with joyous approval, the programmed beats started playing, and the show began.

The name Atole (pronounced awe-toe-lay) comes from a sweet Mexican porridge that Reyes used to eat each morning with his family. His parents are first-generation Mexicans raising their kids in suburban Las Vegas.

Recalling a childhood full of support and love, Reyes says he chose the name to conjure up strong feelings of togetherness and community. "All my Mexican friends remember eating atole as kids; it is a happy thought for everyone I talk to. I want to bring that sense of happiness to my music."

There just might be something to the name, because that is exactly how the audience reacted. Atole's new songs carried a deep, velvety resonance that made the crowd dance like fluid, unconfined by hipster approval. People flowed with a freedom I rarely catch at a Portland show.

With an awkward range and some nervous hesitancy, Reyes' voice took some time to warm up to, but his authentic energy and presence made up for it. Atole was most effective when the music was lost in heavy reverb and Reyes screamed into the mike like a banshee desperate for her fix. In these moments the clever gay lyrics shined and the crowd stopped dancing just to admire the raw form sound of Atole.

My only disappointment was that I missed out on his earlier gigs. I understand Atole used to be configured by Reyes and surrounding boom boxes mixing the music live, which sounds like a feat. He is now consciously moving toward a cleaner sound. "I'm giving up the crappy Wal-Mart boom boxes!" Reyes yelled as he smashed his last remaining boom box on the bar floor. It was a poetic moment of freedom for him and to share with his fans.

Atole opens for Matmos, an experimental gay couple who have produced much of Björk's material since 2001, Oct. 20 at Holocene.

—Mark "Zebra" Thomas

Live out your Florida retirement fantasies while sipping Bloody Marys and mimosas during **Bingo Brunch** every Sunday at Muu-Muu's. (11 am-3 pm. 612 NW 21st Ave.)

World music and dance troupe **Bellissimonde** celebrates the release of its first music CD at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (2-4 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave. \$5.)

People living with HIV/AIDS are invited to the **WellBeing Sunday Brunch**, serving free home-cooked meals in the historic Mt. Olivet Building. (3-6 pm. 1734 NE First Ave.)

Canadian singer/songwriter **Tracy Rice** performs with **Nancy Dillon** at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (9:30 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

MON • OCT. 23

Logo reruns the premiere episode of **Jacob & Joshua: Nemesis Rising**, a reality series exploring the world of identical twins who launch their band and music career as openly gay artists. (7 pm.)

The **Human Rights Campaign** meets at Jackman Joe's. (7 pm. 1111 SW 16th Ave.)

Berbat's Pan presents **Tha' Boom**, Portland's dopest free queer hip-hop party, every Monday. DJs Automaton, K.O., Ill Camino and Rad! spin the best in dirty south, booty bass, grime, electro, R & B and old school along with the freshest new cuts. (10 pm. 10 SW Third Ave.)

TUE • OCT. 24

Central Library presents **Zinesters Talking** featuring queer independent publisher Sean Bieri (*Cool Jerk & Homo Gal*). (6-8 pm. 801 SW 10th Ave.)

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.)

GO OUT Canadian singer/songwriter **Tracy Rice** performs at the Green Room's Songwriter Showcase. (9 pm. 2280 NW Thurman St. \$5.)

Paragon Club presents the queer night **Havoc** every Tuesday featuring DJs Girl-Pilot, Rashidoblaze and rotating guests spinning '80s, new wave, dark techno pop and hip-hop. (9 pm. 815 N Killingsworth St.)

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



Identical twins launch their music career as openly gay artists in **Jacob & Joshua: Nemesis Rising** Oct. 23 on Logo.

Now It's Overhead performs with **Summerbirds in the Cellar** and **The Evening Episode** at Towne Lounge. (9 pm-1 am. 714 SW 20th Place. \$7 at the door, \$6 in advance from Brown Paper Tickets.)

WED • OCT. 25

GO OUT **Elder Resource Alliance** presents an interactive information session by Mary Lee Turner of Oregon Commission for the Blind about the tools and resources for people who have experienced vision loss. Meet in the conference room at Friendly House Community Center. (2-4 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave.)

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 "Design Dollar Do's and Don'ts." (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.)

Learn more about the history of women's reproductive health care in the United States as **Radical Women** review the book *Witches, Midwives and Nurses* at the Bread and Roses Center. (6:30 pm. 819 N Killingsworth St. \$6-\$10 autumn buffet donation.)

The **Portland Lesbian Choir** welcomes new members and seeks an accompanist for its 20th anniversary season of music with its talented new director, Ray Elliott. Weekly rehearsals are at Ainsworth United Church of Christ. No auditions. Monthly stipend. (6:30-8 pm. 2941 NE Ainsworth St. 503-727-3306. portlandlesbianchoir@hotmail.com.)

THU • OCT. 26

It's My Pleasure offers the class **Polyamory 101**, a panel presentation on nonmonogamy. All are welcome. (7 pm. 3106 NE 64th Ave. Register at 503-280-8080.)

In Other Words presents **Si Se Pudea: Chicana Resistance and Empowerment**, a workshop and facilitated discussion on the history and current experiences of women working for social change featuring Washington State University professor Luz Maria Gordillo. (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.)

GO OUT Play with dirty toys from Fascinations and enjoy the RoadCity Sirens' unique brand of burlesque during **XXX Games at Taste**, the Egyptian Club's free weekly non-smoking dance party. (9:30 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

FRI • OCT. 27

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 Shabbat. (6:30 pm. David 503-226-7074, ext. 14.)

In Other Words presents its monthly **Luna Music Series**. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

GO OUT **Chicos Latinos** hosts bingo at the Men's Wellness Center! Good times, great prizes and a surprise guest appearance. Plenty of chips and salsa to munch on, too. (7-8:30 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

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



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