

WED • NOV. 1

Elder Resource Alliance holds a business meeting at Friendly House. (3:30-4:30 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave.)

Need a **Gaycation**? Then party down at Holocene for a queer night with booty-shaking beats spun by DJs Mr. Charming, Snowtiger and Automaton. (9 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$2.)

THU • NOV. 2

Postmodern psychemotive rock duo **Swallows** perform music informed by blues, indie rock, surf rock and the rejection of preconception at p:ear gallery, preceded by an open mike with p:ear youth. Proceeds benefit the nonprofit arts organization for homeless and transitional youth. (7 pm. 809 SW Alder St.)

Perri Gaffney reads from *The Resurrection of Alice*—a novel inspired by young black girls who found themselves in arranged marriages to men who were old enough to be their grandfathers, a fairly common practice among African Americans through the mid-1990s—at In Other Words. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

It takes a lickin' and keeps on tickin'. Your heart, that is. Come to the Men's Wellness Center as a representative from Gilead (the same folks who brought us the new once-a-day HIV med) presents the basics on **cardiovascular disease** and gives helpful hints on keeping our hearts happy. (7-8:30 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

Outside the Box

Transgender playwright **Renee Chiquapin** thought she was squaring off against her nemesis when she first sat down to write *Dora's Box*.

"I was deconstructing the life of the most typical, white, classist, racist, homophobic soccer mom I could imagine," she says. "The kind of transphobe that makes my daily life miserable. What I discovered is that my life experience is so big that I can actually find myself in what I thought was my polar opposite."

Dora's Box, which runs through Nov. 4 at Back Door Theatre, features fireball actress **Katie O'Grady** in a one-woman tour de force. She plays Dora, a seemingly stereotypical soccer mom who discovers her inner depths and strengths through acting classes.

Against her own better judgment, Chiquapin opted to direct the show herself when other directors backed down from the difficult material. "It's a different creative process to direct than write," she says. "I see weaknesses in the script, but I don't change them. I see it as a *fait accompli*."

A recent rehearsal revealed that *Dora's Box* is a bit abstract and will surely cause fans of conventional theater to scratch their heads. Chiquapin's concise overview of the play should help viewers follow the protagonist's journey. "I want to honor modern women," she says. "Their complexity, their brilliance and their fears."

She also hopes to convey that "clinging to narrow self-conceptions and living from fear kills us. The only way to be healthy is to keep growing."

Chiquapin, who previously lived in Montreal, moved to Portland last year. As a trans woman she feels safe here, though she's cautious about venturing past 82nd Avenue, an area she perceives to be a Christian fundamentalist stronghold.

She named her new company Tabuki Theatre. "Tabuki is trans theater," she says, because "the voyaging to the mythic, the unconscious and the taboo inevitably leads to personal or social transformation through integration of what had been repressed, denied, ignored or unsuspected."

Ironically, none of the productions slated for this season has transgender content. *Red White Blues*, a play about three hippie kids questioning the

FRI • NOV. 3

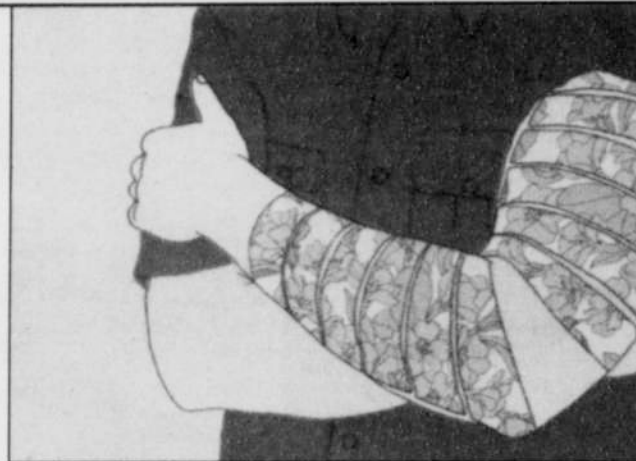
Out Dancing's **beginning salsa** class starts tonight and continues every Friday in November at Ankeny Street Studio. **Intermediate cha-cha** class follows. (7-8 pm salsa [\$24 for month], 8-9 pm cha-cha [\$32 for month]. Southeast Ninth Avenue and Ankeny Street. 503-236-5129. www.outdancing.info.)

Mark Bailey, one of North America's most eminent Russian music specialists, directs the professional vocal ensemble **Cappella Romana** in its season-opening concert at St. Mary's Cathedral featuring Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's influential and rarely heard sacred masterpiece, the *Divine Liturgy*, Op. 41. (8 pm. 1716 NW Davis St. \$25 from 800-992-TIXX.)

DJ BJ spins at Holocene during a benefit for **Flight 64**, a cooperative printmaking studio dedicated to supporting Portland artists. (9 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St.)

SAT • NOV. 4

The Back Room—an occasional series of presentations, symposia and bacchanals hosted by queer scribe Matthew Stadler—moves into the loft of Pink Martini frontman Thomas Lauderdale and his partner, artist Philip Iosca. Their special guests are poet and essayist Lisa Robertson and artists Hadley + Maxwell of Vancouver, British



Contemporary Crafts Museum & Gallery exhibits cutting-edge embroidery by **Andrea Vander Kooij** through Nov. 12.

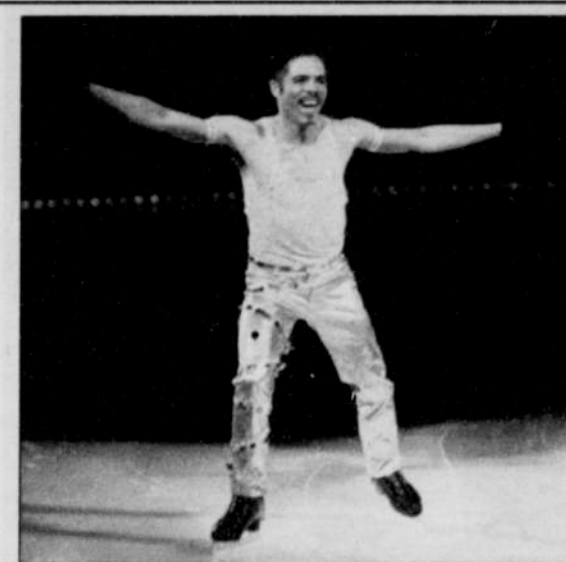
Columbia. Dinner will be prepared by Seth Lorinczi of Valentine's. (6:30 pm. 728 SW First Ave. \$45 from www.thebackroomdx.com.)

Urban cowboys and girls are in abundance during DJ Crystal's **country western dance** at the Portland Metro Club (PPAA). (9 pm-1 am. 618 SE Alder St. \$5.)

SUN • NOV. 5

Q Center presents **Family Playdate** every first Sunday. (Noon-2 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Get lucky during the Fox & Hounds' **Monthly Charity Bingo**. (3:30 pm. 217 SW Second Ave.)



Rudy Galindo glides into town Oct. 28.

Rudy Galindo Joins Skating, Gymnastics Lineup

Gay ice skater Rudy Galindo will join the Hilton Family Skating and Gymnastics Spectacular 7:30 p.m. Oct. 28 at the Rose Garden.

Galindo is best known for his success with pair partner Kristi Yamaguchi. He has faced several personal challenges in his life but continues to skate at a top professional level. Along with Yamaguchi, he won the 1989 and 1990 U.S. Pairs Championship before his U.S. Singles title and World Bronze Medal in 1996.

Almost four years ago, Galindo was diagnosed with Avascular Necrosis, a degenerative disease affecting both hips. The news seemed to spell the end to a celebrated amateur and professional skating career. However, three years ago, he received his first new hip, a revolutionary "ceramic-on-ceramic" joint recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration. His left hip was replaced that same year. Intensive physical training followed the surgeries and made him able to continue skating.

Galindo has successfully overcome other serious obstacles during his athletic career, including the deaths of his father and a brother, a split from Yamaguchi and testing positive for HIV. His 1997 autobiography, *Icebreaker*, details his personal struggles and triumphs during his roller-coaster career.

He now coaches kids in Reno, Nev., doing some choreography for competitive skaters in the off season. He is also active in many AIDS-related charities.

Galindo will be joined by award-winning gymnasts Shenea Booth and Arthur Davis, Paul Hamm, Shannon Miller, Morgan Hamm, Dominique Moceanu, Chellsie Memmel, Nastia Liukin, Ivan Ivankov and Jordan Jovtchev and skaters Brian Orser, Michael Weiss, Rory Flack Burghart, Alexei Polishuk and Vladimir Besedin, Amber Corwin and Violetta Adanasieva and Peter Dack. Tickets are \$30-\$100 from 877-789-ROSE.

—Jim Radosta



A stereotypical soccer mom (Katie O'Grady) discovers her inner depths and strengths through acting classes in *Dora's Box*, a new one-woman show by transgender playwright Renee Chiquapin (inset).

Vietnam War, starts in February. The season concludes in June with *Coal Burns*, a play about poet Audre Lorde.

"Of course it would be nice to do plays on transsexual themes," Chiquapin says. "I've written more than a few. But it's impossible to hold an audition where the people you need are neither male nor female. If the actor is clearly a guy, or clearly a gal, then the existential situation that transsexuals deal with doesn't really play."

—Stephen Blair

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