



Clear your throat for **Sing-Along Mary Poppins** through Nov. 12 at Cinema 21.

The sultry twilight duo **Felina** performs sad, soulful, experimental and occasionally operatic songs with **DeMarco** at the Red and Black Cafe. (8 pm. 2138 SE Division St.)

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.)

SUN • NOV. 12

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.)

DJs Harmony, Beyonda and Saffronica lay down the hottest world, Latin, house and old-school beats during

Vive la Difference

I was always the kid who didn't relax and enjoy playing football or basketball until the end of the fourth quarter or whenever the outcome was already decided. That said, with National Coming Out Day receding from memory, it's time for me to come out and shamefacedly admit it: I have not appreciated the **Indigo Girls** enough.

Sure, every now and then a song will come along and wallop me over the head and remind me not to take this dynamic dyke duo for granted, but it usually fades from memory like the resolve to drive slower after a speeding ticket. With the release of the astounding *Despite Our Differences* (Hollywood Records), there is now a whole record to alert me of the need for appreciation, past and current.

Despite Our Differences could easily describe the Grammy-nominated, million-selling Girls themselves. After 20 years of making music together, **Emily Saliers** has always been the lipstick lez with the literate lyrics and pristine melodies ("Closer to Fine" from the self-titled 1989 debut), while **Amy Ray** has always been the plainspoken people's poet and unrepentant rocker ("Shame on You" from 1997's *Shaming of the Sun*).

Given her penchant for \$10 wordplay, it's exhilarating to hear Saliers deliver the F-word mid-song in "Pendulum Swinger," an optimistic ode to solving the world's problems by having the men step aside and let sisters do it for themselves. Also the recipient of a well-placed F-bomb and goosed along by **Pink**'s punk-rock, Janis Joplin-striving backup vocals, Ray's reckless "Rock and Roll Heaven's Gate" takes ferocious aim at the music biz and sounds like a late-night first take, drunk on Boone's and estrogen.

Upbeat rockers abound, but there's plenty of gentler acoustic soothing to be found as well, most notably on "Last Tears" and "Lay My Head Down," the latter featuring this lovely line: "And I want to lay my head down on you because you're the only solid thing in this room."

"I still believe despite our differences that what we have's enough," Saliers sings about a troubled relationship in "I Believe in Love," but she could just as well (and might) be singing about the dynamic give-and-take needed to sustain a successful long-term musical collaboration. With *Despite Our Differences*, the Indigo Girls prove that what they have is more than enough.

The Indigo Girls perform with **Bitch** and **The Exciting Conclusion** 8 p.m. Nov. 6 at Crystal Ballroom, 1332 W. Burnside St. Tickets are \$37 at the door or \$35 in advance from the box office or Ticketmaster.

—Jim Thompson



Tart, a monthly party for queer girls at Holocene. (4 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

MON • NOV. 13

Queer filmmaker **Vanessa Renwick** delivers this week's installment of the Portland State University Master's of Fine Arts Monday Night Lecture Series in Room 92 at Fifth Avenue Cinema. Co-sponsored by the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art. (8:15 pm. 510 SW Hall St.)

TUE • NOV. 14

Salon Q, a monthly mixer for men and women to socialize in a smoke-free environment, returns to Aura. (7 pm. 1022 W Burnside St.)

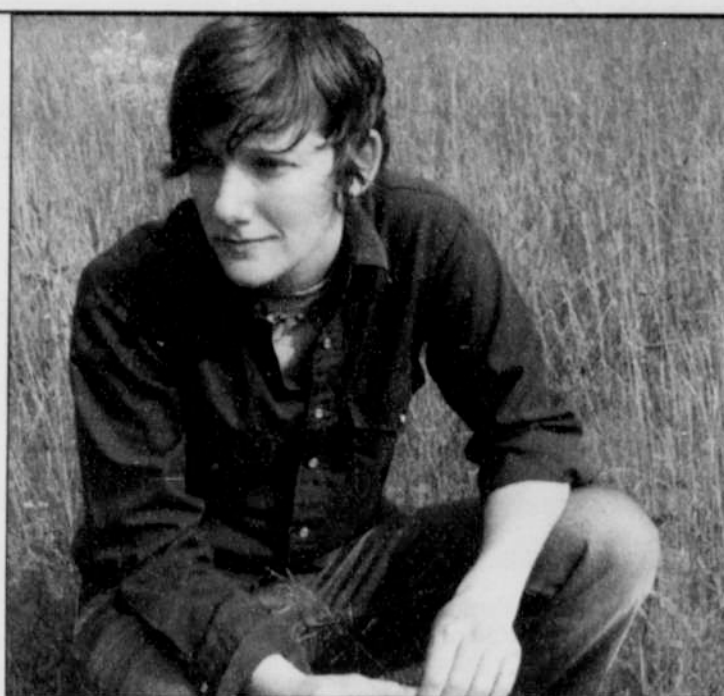
In Other Words welcomes **Benson Deng**, author of *My Story of Survival as a Lost Boy of Sudan*, who was driven from his small village in the war-ravaged nation at the age of 7. Alone, barefoot and naked, he joined up with other boys to walk thousands of miles to seek refuge. (7:15 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

WED • NOV. 15

Elder Resource Alliance hosts a presentation by Providence ElderPlace at Friendly House Community Center. This unique program provides and coordinates all care (including medications, equipment and transportation), housing placement (if necessary) and social activities through an interdisciplinary team of professionals. Light refreshments will be served. (1:30-3 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave.)

How I Paid for College novelist and former *Just Out* columnist Marc Acito hosts a reading by finalists for the **Oregon Book Awards** at the Japanese Garden. Literary Arts will present the annual honors Dec. 1. (6:30 pm. 611 SW Kingston Ave. \$10 from 503-222-5144, ext. 133.)

In Other Words presents a reading from **VoiceCatcher**, featuring new prose and poetry by 46 award-winning and



Chris Pureka performs Nov. 15 at Mississippi Studios.

emerging women writers from Portland's own thriving literary community. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Jim Brickman performs at Salem's Elsinore Theatre. (7:30 pm. 170 High St. SE. \$20-\$50 from TicketsWest.)

Chris Pureka performs songs from her third album, *Dryland*, at Mississippi Studios. The New England songwriter combines a uniquely haunting voice, poignant lyrics and guitar work ranging from rhythmic riffs to intricate finger picking for some gritty, thoughtful tunes. (8 pm. 3939 N Mississippi Ave. \$10 from 503-288-3895.)

White Eagle Saloon presents **Light in the Dark**, an evening with Joni Laurence, Juliet Wyers and Lincoln Crockett. (8:30 pm. 836 N Russell St.)

Crush presents **Krush Groove**, a queer hip-hop dance

party featuring Automaton, K.O., ill camino and RAD. (9 pm. 1400 SE Morrison St.)

THU • NOV. 16

Brother to Brother presents **Ujima Eshé Thanksgiving Dinner** in support of HIV-positive African Americans. (RSVP to Cherrell at 503-417-7991.)

In Other Words presents **Size Positive: The Politics of Body Image** featuring Linda Kanzinger, author of *Size-Positive Style! Clothing for the Plus and Supersize Woman*. (6:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

The Men's Wellness Center discusses **Internet Hookups: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly**. Share stories, safety tips and advice on writing a profile and proper Netiquette, and learn how to more effectively have those tough safer-sex discussions with a guy you've only just met. (7-8:30 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

928 SW Stark St.)

Bagdad Theater screens **For the Love of Dolly**, a documentary that vividly illuminates the Dolly Parton fan phenomenon by focusing on the human stories of five of the entertainer's most devoted followers. Proceeds benefit the Siren Nation Women's Music Festival scheduled for November 2007. (8 pm. 3702 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$8.)

Jim Brickman performs at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (8 pm. 1037 SW Broadway. \$38.50-\$48.50 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Taste, the Egyptian Club's free weekly nonsmoking dance party, throws a **Pajama Party** featuring games of Spin the Bottle and Truth or Dare for Taste Dollars and a sexy pajama contest for a Fascinations gift card! (9 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)



Having toured the United States and Europe extensively since the mid-'90s, **Catie Curtis** has become well known for her raw and organic live performances. Catch her Nov. 9 in Eugene and Nov. 10 in Portland.

Night Owl

Boston-grown singer-songwriter **Catie Curtis**' sixth solo release, *Long Night Moon*, comes to us on Nashville, Tenn.-based Compass Records. The result is a collection of beautifully delivered personal narratives set to music.

In addition to Curtis' well-refined acoustic guitar and vocals, *Long Night Moon* features an impressive lineup of supporting players and guest backing vocalists including **Mary Chapin Carpenter**, **Erin McKeown** and **Kris Delmhurst**. **Lorne Entress** lends his distinctive production talents to the album along with some well-delivered accordion fills in the track "Hard Time with Goodbyes."

On *Long Night Moon*, Curtis sings simply about the pleasures of life and love, from the cycles of birth and death to staying warm on cold day. Her songwriting style is never cliché; instead, it is full of consistently moving imagery.

"People Look Around," written by Curtis and **Mark Erelli**, was inspired by the Bush administration's response to Hurricane Katrina. The song was the grand-prize winner in this year's International Songwriting Contest. In the opening verse, Curtis is able to refine layers of political commentary into a simple couplet: "If they can keep us fighting about marriage and God/There'll be no one left to notice if our leaders do their jobs."

"Rope Swings and Avalanches" deftly combines Curtis' intricate guitar with a measure of Lucinda Williams-inspired grit. It's a song about letting go that doesn't sink under its own weight. And with the dreamy and richly melodic title track, Curtis ties up the collection perfectly with a lullaby.

—Jodi Darby