



Mississippi Studios welcomes Michelle Malone on Dec. 1.

The Intrigue of Impasse

Counterintuitive though it may seem, Mike Barber and Cydney Wilkes have made great progress in their art by exploring the concept of no progress, or impasse.

The gay dancer/choreographers, who have collaborated since 2003, first began to play with the idea of impasse during a joint dance residency at Djerassi in California. That exploration evolved into a first dance work, which was performed as part of Barber's *Ten Tiny Dances* series, then into a second for *On the Boards* in Seattle.

This month Wilkes and Barber present yet another new work based on the concept of impasse: an evening-length piece titled *A Certain Facilitation of Impasse*.

Dancer/choreographers Mike Barber and Cydney Wilkes present *A Certain Facilitation of Impasse* Dec. 8 to 10 at Disjecta.

For *Impasse*, Barber and Wilkes have each created their own pieces, as well as collaborative sections. Both choreographers also dance during the course of the work. Other performers include Jenn Gierada, Margretta Hansen and Hermann the dog. (Yes, a dog.) Heather Perkins has composed original music to accompany the performance.

Impasse begins with Barber's solo, which utilizes a Plexiglas cube situated on a raised stage.

"We've really physicalized impasse in different ways," says Barber, revealing that other sections of *Impasse* include an 8-by-8-foot pen and a rope enclosure.

As the evening progresses, the audience moves to different areas of the performance space, witnessing the dances from new perspectives.

Disjecta's location, in the historic Templeton Building, is well suited to Wilkes' and Barber's shared tendencies toward site-specific work. Barber likes the venue's roughness and character, whereas Wilkes is intrigued by the way the performance space—narrow with tall ceilings—restricts her pieces.

"It's like being cinched, in a way, but in another way, it's like a canyon," she describes.

Although the evening's work draws on physical limitations to explore the idea of impasse, Barber and Wilkes are also interested in mental and emotional standoffs, such as the impasse that can occur between two choreographers. "That is one of the impasses represented: the impasse between two people who are trying to do a work," says Barber.

Wilkes and Barber have had their share of working through artistic conflict together, but they consider it part of the creative process. As a whole, Barber says his partnership with Wilkes has been both positive and generative.

Wilkes adds: "It's been very good for us.... It's exciting to be back in the collaborative position."

Impasse will be performed 8 p.m. Dec. 8 to 10, with a 2 p.m. matinee Dec. 10, at 5 S.E. Third Ave. Tickets are \$15 from 503-286-9449.

—Rebecca Ragain

Trixie's Beauty Bar throws a holiday open house featuring a light champagne brunch, good cheer, good conversation and raffle tickets for pedicures, haircuts and facials! Proceeds benefit Raphael House. (1-4 pm. 4821 N Lombard St.)

GO OUT Purchase green, local and recycled treasures—goods and services with artistic and international flair, antique and vintage items—during the **Season of Peace Sale** at Friends Meetinghouse. Proceeds benefit the education and community programs of the Quaker Meeting. (2-5 pm. 4312 SE Stark St. 503-232-6167.)

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

Q-LAND and LoveTribes present **Beat the Blues**, a men's depression peer support group that meets every first and third Sunday. (6-8 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

Candye Kane, a blues entertainer who describes herself as "a black drag queen trapped in a white woman's body," performs at Starky's. Canned food and cash donations benefit Esther's Pantry. (7:30 pm. 2913 SE Stark St.)

Bolivia "Dawson" Carmichaels and Miss Gay Oregon XXXIV Mylar Black host the first-ever **Family Feud Bar Wars 2006** at C.C. Slaughters. Tonight it's Scandals vs. Silverado! (9 pm. 219 NW Davis St.)

MON • DEC. 4

GO OUT The Portland Institute for Contemporary Art presents its **2006 Holiday Cabaret** at Wilf's featuring photos with Santa, a silent auction, heartwarming hors d'oeuvres, wonderful cocktails and wine, karaoke open mike and musical favorites presented by host Holcombe Waller, House of Cunt's Amber Martin, Hand2Mouth Theatre and many surprise guests. Festive sweaters, ties and other holiday ephemera encouraged! (6 pm-midnight. 800 NW Sixth Ave. \$75 from 503-242-1419, ext. 221. \$3 members, \$5 nonmembers after 9 pm.)

Learn to open from the inside out during a free introductory **men's core strength yoga class** presented by Q-LAND and LoveTribes. (6:30-7:45 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

The **Bisexual Community Forum** hosts a casual discussion group every first Monday at 3 Friends Coffeehouse. (7:30 pm. 201 SE 12th Ave. 503-285-4848.)

TUE • DEC. 5

Q Center presents **Scholarship and College Night** for queer students, families and community members to receive valuable information regarding scholarship opportunities, college life, student activities and campus resources. (6-8 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

GO OUT Gay musical theater performer Gregg Arntson reunites with vocalists Laurie Campbell-Leslie and Wendy Martel-Vilkin and pianist Darcy White for **The HollyTones' Christmas Style**, jazzing up the holidays with traditional, contemporary and hip tunes at Wilf's. Repeats Dec. 12. (7:30 pm. 800 NW Sixth Ave. \$15 from 503-223-0070.)

Somday Lounge presents acrobatic quartet **Kazum**, cos-



Johnny Sole holds an opening reception Dec. 1 for a group show featuring queer artist Mike Fox's collage pieces.

turned anarchist shout-along posse **Here Comes a Big Black Cloud** and heart-smart party starter **DJ Herbal Tea**. Proceeds benefit **Portland Freeskool**, a grassroots community education project that challenges the entire conceptual underpinning of the school system. (9 pm. 125 NW Fifth Ave. \$5-\$15 sliding scale.)

WED • DEC. 6

GO OUT Elder Resource Alliance throws its annual holiday open house party featuring the magical piano fingers of Bob Lamberson, gutsy guitar and standup bass stylings from Harmony Ranch, sing-alongs, the "old and kicking through memory lane musical slide show," savory snacks, a raffle and super surprises at Friendly House Community Center. (2-5 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave.)

The **Portland Area Business Association** throws a winter party featuring food, fun, libations and a silent auction at the Governor Hotel. (6-10 pm. 614 SW 11th Ave. RSVP at www.paba.com.)

Reach your wellness goals and self-treat chronic ailments during the free introductory **men's therapeutic yoga class** presented by Q-LAND and LoveTribes. (6:30-8:30 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

THU • DEC. 7

You're invited to former Oregon Gov. **Barbara Roberts' 70th Birthday Benefit** at the Portland Hilton. Proceeds benefit Planned Parenthood of the Columbia-Willamette. (6 pm reception, 7 pm dinner. 921 SW Sixth Ave. \$70. RSVP to 503-280-6150, ext. 2155, by Dec. 4.)

It's My Pleasure offers an in-depth look at female anatomy and the mechanics of **Women & Orgasm**. Pre-orgasmic women welcome! Prepay required. (7 pm. 3106 NE 64th Ave. \$10 from 503-280-8080.)



The Hidden Cameras perform Dec. 1 at Doug Fir Lounge.

AUBREY EDWARDS