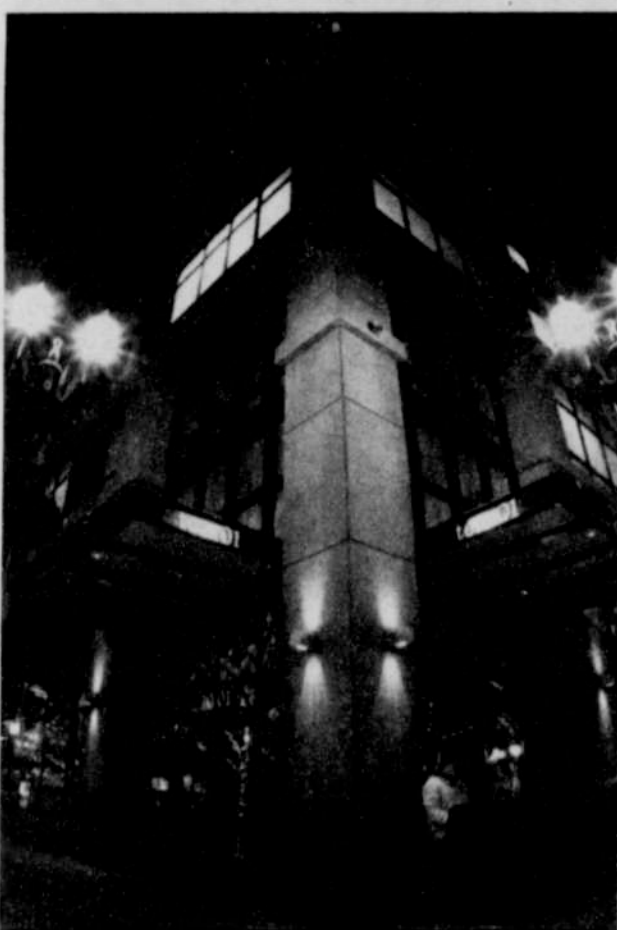




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That Small Town Feeling

Portland's most famous drag queen shows civic pride

Ever hear something you wish you'd said? That's how I felt when Walter "Darcelle" Cole described Portland as "the most cosmopolitan small town in America." Our most famous drag queen made this observation at a preview of *Queens of Heart*, the documentary by Jan Haaken and Wendy Kohn about the eponymous Darcelle XV, now the oldest drag club in the United States. Thomas Lauderdale and Philip Iosca assembled a laundry list of luminaries for the host committee, including Sam Adams, Howie Bagdadonutz, Paul King, Walter Jaffe and Kathleen Saadat, which resulted in a crowd that nearly filled Cinema 21.

Afterward, at Bruce Carey's Bluehour, Kevin "Poison Waters" Cook professed his love for Oregon Ballet Theatre's Christopher Stowell. But the director dined instead with dancers Roman Rykine and Yuri Possokhov, who were both visiting from out of town. When Yuri accidentally referred to Kevin as Poison Oak, the quick wit bit back, "You can scratch it anytime or smear lotion on it."

Also taking shots at Poison is Joni Kabana, but hers are of the photographic kind. Joni's photos appear on Poison's Web site as well as in the corporate offices of Blue Cross/Blue Shield. She attended the party with makeup artist Kristin Arnett. High school thespian Grant Miller charmed his way into every conversation and bubbled with excitement after meeting Gus Van Sant. Aaron Scott filled me in on his plans to take a bite out of the Big Apple, where he hopes to study journalism at either NYU or Columbia.

Matt Jaffe was there after spending the weekend as a ski instructor at Mount Hood Meadows, where he says "cute boys get to the front of the lift line." But who needs Mount Hood when there were plenty of cute boys at Bluehour, including Randy Rapaport, Chris Beanes and Jeremy Neldon. Chris and Jeremy moved to Portland last summer, getting married in Canada on their way from Juneau, Alaska. They met nine years ago in—of all places—the bathroom at Silverado.

Speaking of boyfriends, Will Simonds and Robert North threw open their West Hills home for their annual holiday party, where I discovered that the couple have been fabricating fine glass designs in their basement, a hobby Will says started because they "wanted to work with something warm and colorful during the winter." Also warm and colorful were the guests, including Joey Lee, who was there with a new beau, Corey Otterson, and Grant Hamilton, who's been with his beau, Jacob Muñoz, for "12 years, one month and three days." Also together for 12 years were Randy Bossert and Roger Rand, who, Randy proudly announced, wears size 15 shoes.

Speaking of shoes, at December's Salon Q, I met shoe salesman Chris Richards, who says his job gives

Out Going
BY FLOYD SKLAVER

him an excuse to satisfy his "footwear fetish" (although he's quick to insist that he doesn't mean foot fetish). He loves his product so much, his closet holds 84 pairs (and that's after the dozens brought to Goodwill). The monthly meet gathered for the first time (but hopefully not the last) at downtown's Bettie Ford Lounge. There, I chatted with photographer Antimo Cimino, who is helping Troy Lakey with his new gay-themed theater company, Key Productions. Troy directs Key's inaugural production, *Can't Say I Do*, a musical satire about gay marriage, which premieres Jan. 5 at World Trade Center Theater.

Trung Tu was there after recent Lasik eye surgery, which meant he could see all the hot men, including Dwayne Moore, who just moved here

Floyd, Darcelle and Thomas Lauderdale celebrate the documentary *Queens of Heart*.

from Baltimore, and recently single Garret Saiki. David Barashi, looking relaxed and rested after two weeks vacationing in Israel, and Scott Osburne happily told me about his trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina, "where the men were hot and cheap—just like me." I also chatted with Zurain Imam, a Pakistani fashion journalist visiting family in Beaverton through March. True fashion maven that he is (Zurain was called "One of the 50 Most Important People in Entertainment" by a Karachi magazine), his MySpace site includes Madonna, Paris Hilton, Anna Wintour, Brad Pitt and Isaac Mizrahi among his "friends."

So, Darcelle is right. Portland is indeed the most cosmopolitan small town in America. Especially if you're Out Going. 10

FLOYD SKLAVER wants to know about your event.
E-mail him at floydslaver@comcast.net.