



Froelick Gallery exhibits paintings by queer artist Stephen O'Donnell in its *Winter Group Show* through Jan. 27.



Scream Club celebrates the release of its new video Jan. 28.

A Yellow Boat Filled with Love

True to its collaborative nature, Insight Out Theatre Collective joins forces with CITE Educational Theatre this month when it opens *The Yellow Boat*, a play that tells the true story of Benjamin Saar, an 8-year-old hemophiliac who contracts HIV through a blood transfusion.

His inspired drawings and paintings transform his pain and express his understanding of life through an imagination alive with dance by way of choreography from Robin Lane of Do Jump! The production will feature work by several award-winning queer artists, including actors Kurt Conroyd (*Clean*) and Julianna Jaffe (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*), composer Wade McCollum (*I Am My Own Wife*) and director Andrés Alcalá (*Men on the Verge 2*).



Matt Caffoni (center) plays an 8-year-old artist with HIV in *The Yellow Boat*.

For Alcalá, directing *The Yellow Boat* has been on his wish list for a long time. "I was profoundly moved by this play the first time I read it. I was inspired with the idea that it was being told through the eyes and imagination of a child. Not just any child, but the son of David Saar," a playwright with whom Alcalá has worked. "There is a taboo in speaking to children about certain subjects, such as death, AIDS or an understanding of tolerance or lack thereof, and why certain people are alienated."

Gay actor Matt Caffoni (*West Side Story*), a relative newcomer to Portland, plays Benjamin. He says *The Yellow Boat* deals with what happens when a community chooses to react with fear and misunderstanding—and what can be learned from the uncomplicated, open and available hearts of children.

"Benjamin is different—he is an artist, a hemophiliac, he is a person living with AIDS—and this story celebrates those differences.... He had a remarkable ability to reach out to others and to communicate at an early age his overwhelming feelings of isolation, anger, hope and acceptance," says Caffoni, who believes it is the responsibility of the queer community to continue to break down barriers in the fight against HIV/AIDS. "We have been there in the trenches since the beginning and must continue to educate and lead by example. It is my hope that this play can begin to do just that by starting some cross-generational dialogue about love, loss and acceptance."

Insight Out presents *The Yellow Boat* Jan. 19 to Feb. 11 at Echo Theater, 1515 S.E. 37th Ave. Talkbacks follow every performance. Tickets are \$15 from 503-493-8070 or www.iotcpdx.com; Sundays are \$5-\$15 sliding scale.

—Timothy Krause

FRI • JAN. 26

The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center presents **Parents, Friends and Families Night**, an open house with tours, baked goods, warm drinks and energetic youth followed by its monthly open mike. (6-8 pm open house, 8-10 pm open mike. 2100 SE Belmont St.)

The Back Room—an occasional series of presentations, symposia and bacchanals hosted by queer scribe Matthew Stadler—welcomes art historian and curator John O'Brian, who was editor of Clement Greenberg's papers, at Medoyeff Distillery. Food will be prepared by Naomi Pomeroy. (6:30 pm. 2025 SE Seventh Ave. \$45 from www.thebackroompdx.com.)

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

Gigantic bottles of lube, movie passes, Starbucks gift cards, a date with Miss Mylar (kidding)—these are only a few of the fabulous prizes you can win when you try your luck at **Chicos Latinos Bingo** at the Men's Wellness Center. (7-8:30 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

Queer character actor **Peterson Toscano** leads a community conversation about the issues he raises in his performance pieces at Salem's Freedom Friends Church. (7:30 pm. 2425 13th St. SE.)

GO OUT Performance poet **Felicity Artemis**, known for her outrageous onstage antics, bares all to expose the true nature of decency, humanity and accountability in a world that is dying for change in *Indecent Exposure!* at Haven. (8 pm. 3551 SE Division St.)

Singer/songwriter **Holcombe Waller** debuts *Patty Heart Townes*, an original theatrical performance based on the songs of Patty Griffin and Townes Van Sandt, through Jan. 27 at Holocene. (9 pm Friday, 3:30 pm Saturday. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$10 from Brown Paper Tickets, Jackpot Records or box office.)

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

SAT • JAN. 27

The Adventure Group takes a difficult snowshoe trek to Frog Lake Buttes, where Mount Hood reveals itself in all its wintry glory. Meet in Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (9 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Evan 503-701-7922. chair@adventuregroup.org.)

GO OUT Elder Resource Alliance presents a "train the trainer" session at Friendly House for people who would like to facilitate its diversity trainings for nursing and social work students, care and social service providers, and community leaders. Refreshments provided. (9 am-3 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave.)

Bridge 13, an interactive youth-led program designed to help allies understand the experiences of queer youth, welcome parents, family and friends to attend an educational and fun training at the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center. Free food! (Noon-2:30 pm. 2100 SE Belmont St.)

Deaf & Hearing Out Reach presents its monthly queer social at 3 Friends Coffeehouse. Come hang out with old friends and make new ones. All sign levels welcome! (6-9 pm. 201 SE 12th Ave. www.dhor.org.)

GO OUT In Other Words presents queer slam poet and activist **Andrea Gibson**, a powerful, compassionate and inspiring performer whose work deconstructs the foundations of the current political machine, highlighting issues such as patriarchy, gender norms, white supremacy and capitalist culture. Portland poet and performer **Marie Fleischmann** opens. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

It's My Pleasure presents the class **Anal Sex, or You Want to Put What Where?** taught by the lustrous Brandy. Learn about everything including getting started, relaxation, safe-

Queer performance artist **Peterson Toscano** presents the premiere of *The Re-Education of George W. Bush* at Peace House. (7 pm. 2116 NE 18th Ave. \$10.)

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.)

WED • JAN. 24

Sexual minority seniors and their friends are invited to **Elder Resource Alliance Games Day** at Volunteers of America Marie Smith Center. Play cards, checkers and more while snacking on light refreshments and socializing! (2-4 pm. 4616 N Albina St.)

Performance artist **Peterson Toscano** presents *Queer 101—Now I Know My gAy, B, Cs!* to kids 23 and younger at the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center. (7 pm. 2100 SE Belmont St.)

THU • JAN. 25

Lesbian-owned taco bar Dingo's presents **Girls Night Out** every Thursday. (7 pm. 4612 SE Hawthorne Blvd. 503-233-3996.)

Realtor Deb Counts-Tabor and mortgage broker Gary Boyer hold a **homebuyer workshop** every fourth Thursday to share information about the Portland real estate market as well as tips and tricks for finding the perfect home, increasing credit scores and preparing for the big purchase. (7-8 pm. 1730 NE 10th Ave. RSVP to Deb 503-913-1103 or deb@prunw.com.)

GO OUT It's My Pleasure presents a **Polyamory Panel** facilitated by Miss V. Learn the ups and downs of having multiple partners from people living the life. Discussion will include ethics, boundaries, jealousy, coming out to family and friends, safer sex and how to meet other nonmonogamous folks. Bring your questions! (7-8:30 pm. 3106 NE 64th Ave. \$10. Register at 503-280-8080 by Jan. 22.)

Q-LAND and LoveTribе present **Create a Job You'll Love**, a practical, fun and affirming workshop where men support one another in figuring out their right livelihood. (7-9:30 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

Norah Vincent reads from *Self-Made Man*, detailing how she spent a year undercover pretending to be a man to explore the many remarkable mysteries of gender identity, at Powell's. (7:30 pm. 1005 W Burnside St.)

Mother's Velvet Lounge and Cafe welcomes groovy guys and gals to stop by for **Cabaret Karaoke**. This month's theme is "Age of Aquarius." Come early for a good seat! (8 pm-1 am. 212 SW Stark St. www.cabaretkaraoke.com.)

Acme presents **Booty: Queer as Ye Be**, Portland's queer party for the piratecore, every Thursday. (9 pm-2 am. 1305 SE Eighth Ave.)



Beth Ditto of *The Gossip*—who was recently chosen as "coolest person" by British music rag *NME* over such luminaries as Thom Yorke—rocks the house Jan. 19 in *Burn to Shine*.