



Tara Chatterton's *Opposite to Nature* focuses on portrayals of women and young girls internalizing the external pressures of societal roles through Feb. 24 at Pushdot Studio.

Cascade AIDS Project. (11:30 am-1 pm. 2730 NW 31st Ave. \$7-\$20 from www.paba.com.)

Show your stuff during **Elder Resource Alliance Bowling Day** at AMF Pro 300 Lanes. Beginners and all skill levels welcome! (2-4 pm. 3031 SE Powell Blvd. \$6 includes two games and shoes. RSVP to Rachel at 503-224-2640.)



Learn simple breath practices, gentle stretches and basic mantras to open and connect your genital and heart chakras during a special 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.lovetribes.org/menspirit.)

Heather Rocklin of Mahasiddha Buddhist Center gives a talk about **Geshe Kelsang Gyatso's** *How to Solve Our Human Problems*, a book offering practical advice to readers interested in self-improvement and spirituality, at In Other Words. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Erin McKeown performs with **Eleni Mandall** at Doug Fir Lounge. (9 pm. 830 E Burnside St. \$12 from TicketsWest.)

Annie Vergnetti performs with **Melissa Larkin** and **Right on John** at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (9 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

THU • FEB. 15

Boxxes and **Red Cap Garage** celebrate Mardi Gras '07 through Feb. 20 with FSO DJ and Seth Hutton spinning music, go-go boys slinging beads and a \$250 grand prize for the Mr. Big Contest winner on Fat Tuesday! (1035 SW Stark St.)

C.C. Slaughters celebrates Mardi Gras through Feb. 20 with a \$100 cash prize each night except Monday and a \$500 cash prize on Fat Tuesday! (219 NW Davis St.)

Are you the next king or queen? **Silverado** celebrates Mardi Gras 2007 with prizes and special guests through Feb. 20. Come for the beads, stay for the skin! (1217 SW Stark St.)

Acclaimed author **Armistead Maupin** reads from his latest work, *Michael Tolliver Lives*, during the seventh annual **Investments in Dignity Awards and Auction** at Portland Center for the Performing Arts. Proceeds benefit Equity Foundation. (5:30 pm. 1111 SW Broadway. \$65 from Ticketmaster.)

Gay choreographers Mike Barber and Daniel Addy host a reading by gay author **Matthew Stadler** accompanied by a light meal and wine. Proceeds benefit Performance Works Northwest. Tickets are extremely limited! (7-9 pm. \$15 from www.performanceworks.org.)

Tamaras and **Nicole Sangsoree** perform at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (9 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

FRI • FEB. 16

VH1 Recommended Artist **Jana Losey** performs at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (6-8 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

In Other Words presents **Erotic Activism with Tobi Hill-Meyer**, a genderqueer transdyke trying to squeak out a living while making time to write about sexuality, gender and all things queer. Provocative work. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Come on down to the Men's Wellness Center and watch the grande dames of Hollywood as the venomous Bette Davis torments poor Joan Crawford in the 1962 classic **What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?** You'll laugh, you'll cry, but mostly you'll laugh at the subtle acting of these two screen legends. (7-9 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

Gay-owned Crush presents **Venetian Carnival**, an evening of performance, music and dance on the weekend before the start of Lent featuring a string quartet, a juggler, a sword swallower, fire performers and DJs in two rooms. Costumes highly encouraged! (8:30 pm-3 am. 1400 SE Morrison St. \$15.)

SAT • FEB. 17

Orleans Candle Co. holds a **Mardi Gras Open House** featuring beads, masks and other carnival decorations. Free food and festivities! (10 am-6:30 pm. 5036 N Lombard St.)

Central Library's Writers Talking series welcomes queer scribe **Ariel Gore**, editor-publisher of the zine *Hip Mama* and author of the forthcoming book *How to Become a Famous Writer Before You're Dead*. (1-2:30 pm. 801 SW 10th Ave.)

Q Center presents the **Daddies and Papas Potluck** every third Saturday. (5:30-7:30 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Sweet Pandora's Box invites bisexual and bi-curious women to meet up for appetizers, dinner and cocktails at Portland City Grill followed by an evening of dancing and

maybe a drag show at Embers. (6 pm, 111 SW Fifth Ave. 9 pm, 110 NW Broadway.)

In Other Words presents **Take the Blame's** fourth anniversary show with **LKN**, **Drastic Plastic** and **The Revenants**. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St. \$5.)

VH1 Recommended Artist **Jana Losey** performs at Nine Muses Acoustic Tavern. (8 pm. 2715 SE Belmont St.)

BearBust at Gail's Dirty Duck. (8-11 pm. 429 NW Third Ave. \$8 members, \$10 nonmembers.)

Acme presents **Sluts + Squares** featuring live music by Trannysaurus Sex, The Tactics and Advisory with DJs Durt and Boy. (9 pm. 1305 SE Eighth Ave. \$3.)

DJ Jimme Jamma and Club I.T. present dirty rapper **Cazwell** at Someday Lounge. (11 pm. 125 NW Fifth Ave. \$10.)

SUN • FEB. 18

Portland Gay Men's Chorus presents *Classical Matinee* featuring guest conductor Mary McCarty leading a chamber chorus as well as members in solo and ensemble numbers, both vocal and instrumental, with special guests from the community. (3 pm. 1422 SW 11th Ave. \$20 from www.pdxgmc.org.)

Join the Chub Love Club for **Secret Admirer Cupcake** featuring DJs Harmony and Sappho at Holocene. Dance and mingle while secret notes are passed about the room! (6-10 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

Here Come the Brides

Last season's *First Comes Love* (aka *My Fabulous Gay Wedding*) was hosted by "Wedding Fairy" Scott Thompson of *Kids in the Hall* fame. This second season Scott has gone missing, replaced by another comic, **Elvira Kurt**. She's no Scott Thompson, but it hardly matters. This show, which tracks the wedding prep and nuptials of various gay and lesbian couples, rises or falls on the strength of its subjects, not the hosts. And if the first episode is any indication, the second season should be a very good one.

Denis and **Joa** are, respectively, a French-Canadian floral designer and a German flight attendant living in Toronto. Together 11 years, they want to tie the knot in front of a large contingent of supportive family and friends. As always with this show, the Cinderella motif runs riot. "The boys," as Elvira calls them, are a mess, financially challenged and stuck with a house wrecked by water damage and termites. Not to worry, though—Elvira corrals some friends to fix the house, while wedding planner **Fern Cohen**, whose second job must be magician, finds them a spectacular wedding space for free.

The hourlong show works some familiar reality-TV tropes like the cliffhanger before the commercial. ("Can Fern pull it off? Or is this wedding in trouble?") There's never much doubt that, like a Popeye cartoon, this one will end positively. But what's surprising, and engaging, here is how charismatic, lovable and emotionally intense Denis and Joa are, willing to expose every raw nerve. One of the highlights is a dramatic scene between Denis and his mother, who helps him resolve a lingering trauma about his late father. One unintended downer: The show's strong message about the rewards, and rightness, of gay marriage is a little bittersweet given the very different attitudes toward it here in the supposedly civilized United States.

—Gary Morris



Queercore trio **Take the Blame** celebrates its fourth anniversary Feb. 17 at In Other Words.

Grizzly Bear performs at Mission Theater and Pub. (7 and 10 pm. 1624 NW Glisan St. \$10 from Ticketmaster.)

Embers presents the 24th annual **Valentines from Hell** show, *Scream Girls*. Proceeds benefit the Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund. (8 pm. 110 NW Broadway. \$5 donation.)



First Comes Love, featuring comedian **Elvira Kurt** (left) and wedding planner **Fern Cohen**, premieres 10 p.m. Feb. 12 on Logo.

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