



Lesbian jazz musician Patricia Barber performs Feb. 24 at Crystal Ballroom.

electronic music during the new all-ages queer dance night **2 B Fierce** at Satyricon. (9 pm. 125 NW Sixth Ave.)

The **Divided** performs with **Insomniac Folklore** and **Zechs Marquise** at the Red Room. (9 pm. 2530 NE 82nd Ave.)

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

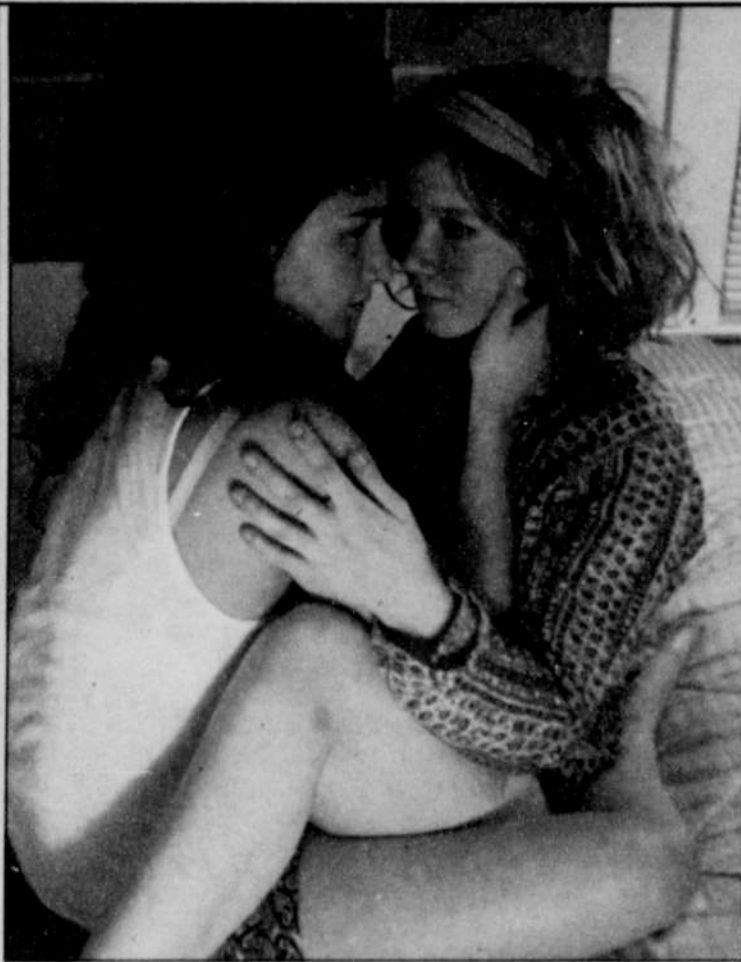
DJ Jimme Jamma and Club I.T. present dirty rapper **Cazwell** at Someday Lounge. (11 pm. 125 NW Fifth Ave.)

SUN • FEB. 18

Gay award-winning author Andy Mangels is among the guests during the **Portland Comic Book Show** at Memorial Coliseum. (10 am-5 pm. 300 N Winning Way. \$6.)

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



A lesbian couple fall under the spell of a backgammon-playing guru in Tabuki Theatre's *Goa: A Ghost's Story* through March 3.

mingles while secret notes are passed about the room! (6-10 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

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

Inn at Harbour Village in Ilwaco, Wash., welcomes world-famous female impersonator **Darcelle XV** with Roxy, Poison Waters, Celeste Towers, Bebe J, Destiny Lynn and Mr M. as they entertain the audience with their Las Vegas-style cabaret revues of glitz, glamour and comedy. (7:30 pm. 120 Williams Ave. NE. \$25 from 360-642-0087; includes one drink.)

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.)

MON • FEB. 19

Gather around the **Portland Polyamory Circle** for informal discussions of open relationships and commitment. (7 pm. Laury 503-285-4848.)

Grease your wheels during **Gay Skate Night** presented by *Just Out* every third Monday at Oaks Park. (7-9 pm. 1 SE Spokane St. \$5 plus canned food items for Esther's Pantry.)



Portland pays tribute to the legendary David Bowie on Feb. 22.

Mattilda, aka Matt Bernstein Sycamore, reads from *Nobody Passes: Rejecting the Rules of Gender and Conformity* at Powell's on Hawthorne. The collection of essays confronts and challenges the very notion of belonging by asking the question, "What lies are people forced to tell in order to gain acceptance as 'real'?" The answers are as varied as the life experiences of the writers who tackle this urgent and essential topic. (7:30 pm. 3723 SE Hawthorne Blvd.)

C.C. Slaughters presents **Monday Movie Madness** featuring free movie passes for *Reno 911! Miami*. (9 pm. 219 NW Davis St.)

TUE • FEB. 20

Do you think it's time for a local, direct-action coalition that works to defend and expand reproductive rights? **Radical Women** holds a meeting at In Other Words to find out if there is a desire for such a group and what it could do. Postponed because of the snowstorm. (6:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Learn how to use heated stones, gentle pressure and deep diaphragmatic breathing to get grounded and find your deeply centered place during **Men Touching with Heart** presented by Q-LAND and LoveTribe. (7-10 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)



Mattilda rejects the rules of gender and conformity Feb. 19 at Powell's on Hawthorne.

Poet, playwright, director, conductor, actor, best-selling author, social activist and three-time Grammy winner **Maya Angelou** mesmerizes with the vigor and fire of her spoken word at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (7:30 pm. 1037 SW Broadway. \$30-\$70 from Ticketmaster.)

Sasha Scarlett hosts Portland's biggest Fat Tuesday celebration at **Crystal Ballroom** featuring Cherry Poppin' Daddies, Pepe & the Bottle Blondes, Stolen Sweets, New Iberians and Bobby Torres Marching Band. (8 pm. 1332 W Burnside St. \$18 at the door, \$15 in advance from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Celebrate Fat Tuesday at the **Egyptian Club** with masks, beads, dancing and karaoke. The wildest party of the year! (9 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

Independent Lens examines homophobia among rappers in **Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes** on OPB. (11 pm.)

WED • FEB. 21

Create a sensual care kit of delicious scented bath salts and massage oil with **Elder Resource Alliance** at Friendly House. (2-3:30 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave. \$2 sliding-scale materials fee.)

The **Portland Area Business Association** hosts an after-hours event at Horace Long Photography. (6-8 pm. 265 N Hancock St.)

THU • FEB. 22

Oregon Tradeswomen offers an information session at the Portland Community College Workforce Training Center in which participants prepare for high-wage, high-skilled careers in the building trades and learn about apprenticeships. (2-4 pm. 5600 NE 42nd Ave. Register at 503-335-8200, ext. 21.)

All right, crafty ladies: Bring your projects to **Lights, Action, Crafts!**—an evening of crafting and chatting on the fourth Thursday of every month at In Other Words. Vegan and veggie snacks will be provided. Bring yourself and your knitting, crocheting, decoupage, whatever you can transport to show off and share! (6:30-8:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

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

Voodoo Lounge presents **Ladies Night** every Thursday featuring cocktails and dancing for women who are lesbian, bi or just curious. (8 pm. 53 NW First Ave.)

Mother's Velvet Lounge and Cafe welcomes groovy guys and gals to stop by for **Cabaret Karaoke**. This month's theme is "The First Annual Hackademy Awards." Come see the stars! Come feel the drama! Come sing a song! (8 pm-1 am. 212 SW Stark St. www.cabaretkaraoke.com.)

Doug Fir Lounge presents **Heroes: A PDX Tribute to David Bowie** featuring The Sort Of's, Lael Alderman, The Ones, Jim Brunberg and many more! (9 pm. 830 E Burnside St.)

See Jane Run performs at Mississippi Pizza Pub. Come listen to some great acoustic music, have a drink or two, choose from among more than 20 board games to play, and win door prizes! (9-11 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave. \$5.)

Skrike a Poşe

Acclaimed British playwright Caryl Churchill is known for her feminist and socialist leanings and for her knack for perplexing audiences with fragmented narratives and illogical scenarios.

The Skriker, an experimental work from 1994, tells the story of a shape-shifting spirit who leaves her underworld haunt and tries to win the attention of two sisters in England. The funny, disturbing and mind-bending play gets a two-week run in Portland courtesy of CoToP (Collective of Truly Odd People) Productions.

Lesbian actress Coleman McNear plays one of the sisters, and she's serving as the producer. "Portland has a great theater community, but it can be hard for young artists to put up a show," she says. Acting on this frustration, the 22-year-old Portland State University graduate founded CoToP last year with artistic director Arran Hersey.

"We're looking to do shows that aren't seen a lot, or bring new twists to shows we have seen," she explains. "The Skriker hardly ever gets produced," she adds, citing *Cloud 9* and *Vinegar Tom* as two of Churchill's more popular plays.

Phil Meyer directs the production, and veteran Portland musician Sylvia Hackathorn supplies the soundtrack. PSU student Skye Champaign portrays the shifty Skriker in 12 incarnations ranging from a bag lady to a little girl. McNear plays a pregnant woman whose sister goes to an asylum after killing her own baby. Toss in some cryptic monologues and a menagerie of strange creatures, and you have yourself a certifiably demented fantasia in two acts.

McNear urges viewers not to sweat it if they get confused. "I started understanding the play when I stopped trying to understand it," she says. "It's best to just listen to the words and accept that you'll never figure out where the characters are going."



Coleman McNear (left) and Merritt Glover star in Caryl Churchill's experimental fantasia *The Skriker*.

After *The Skriker* closes, McNear begins training for CoToP's July production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Bound for controversy, this interpretation features copious blood and nudity, and it depicts Romeo and his sidekick Mercutio as gay lovers. To add to the subversion, McNear will cross gender lines and play Romeo.

CoToP Productions presents *The Skriker* 8 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday from Feb. 22 to March 10 at Theater Theatre, 3430 S.E. Belmont St. Tickets are \$10-\$15 from 971-235-4550.

—Stephen Blair