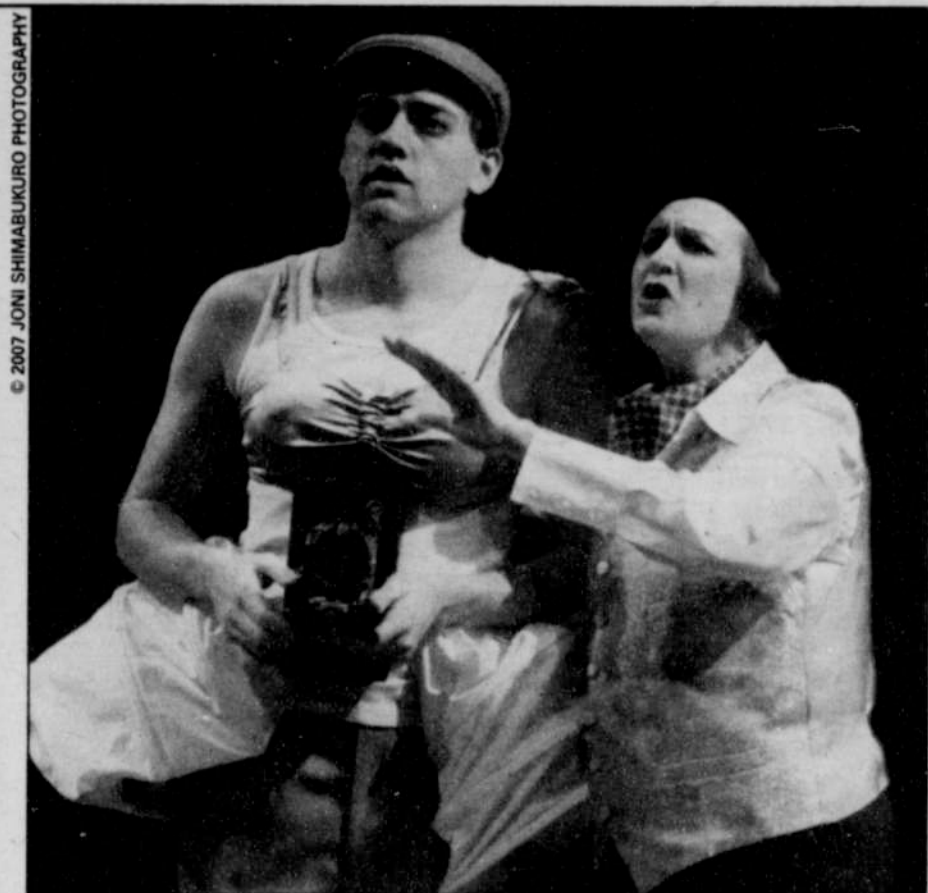




A director takes an actor aside to explain that he's different from the other boys and that he should explore the wide world to discover himself in *Act a Lady* through March 11 at Portland Center Stage. Don't miss the Feb. 28 performance benefiting Basic Rights Oregon!

Acme presents **Booty: Queer as Ye Be**, Portland's queer party for the piratecore, every Thursday. (9 pm-2 am. 1305 SE Eighth Ave. \$3 before 10 pm, \$5 after.)

Logo presents **Bad Girls** every Thursday. (10 pm.)

FRI • FEB. 23

The **Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center** presents a sleeper for kids 23 and younger who want to attend the Oregon Queer Youth Conference the next morning. Midnight movie and breakfast provided. (2100 SE Belmont St. RSVP to Virginia at 503-872-9664, ext. 24, or vmartin@cascadiabhc.org.)

Come to the Men's Wellness Center for scrumptious Mexican pastries, sassy backtalk from Miss Mylar, out-of-this-world prizes and oodles of super-friendly Latino guys at **Chicos Latinos Bingo**. All guys welcome! (7-8:30 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

Sarah Green, a singer/songwriter from Los Angeles in the vein of Elliott Smith and Damien Rice, performs at Haven. (7:30-9 pm. 3551 SE Division St.)

Portland Baroque Orchestra, led by renowned lesbian violinist Monica Huggett, presents vocal and instrumental gems by 18th century Italian masters during *Marian Inspirations* through Feb. 25 at First Baptist Church and Reed College's Kaul Auditorium. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 909 SW 11th Ave. 3 pm Sunday, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. \$22-\$39 from www.pbo.org.)

Don't Drop the Soap!

The "women in prison" drama is one of the more alluring subgenres of the soap opera, typically featuring gorgeous, scantily clad jailbirds, hints (or more) of lesbianism, sadistic guards, framed naifs, babbling nutcases and so on. Sometimes they succeed—who can forget the entrancingly lurid 1950 feature *Caged* or Australia's irresistible series *Prisoner: Cell Block H*? But sometimes the soapy impulses take over, and the results aren't pretty. Alas, such is the case with **Bad Girls**—too "serious" to be campy, and too bad to be taken seriously.

Introduced in 1999 by the British Broadcasting Corp. and now working on its eighth season, *Bad Girls* has been imported by Logo in hopes of replicating the show's cult status in Britain. The first episode establishes the basic format, the major early characters and some of the backstory. They're all here—"Jim Fenner," the ambitious guard who hates the female warden, "Helen Stewart." A teenage inmate, "Rachel," struggles to survive among the supposedly hardened cons. A pregnant inmate miscarries, causing a ruckus among the prisoners and threatening to cancel the "fashion show" they've been planning.

There are so many areas in which the show fails to be credible or even interesting that it's hard to know where to start. If the predictable plot "twists" and lame acting aren't enough, how about the girls' look? They could pass for *Playboy* playmates, oozing attitude and strutting around in stylish couture. As in HBO's *Oz*, this is fantasy prison, with guards and cons intermingling so freely it looks more like summer camp than jail. Prisoners barely bother to hit their cells; they're too busy arguing with the guards or parading up and down the catwalks. And heaven forbid the guards try to confiscate the array of possible weapons their charges freely carry—from lighters for their cigs to razor-sharp berets for their hair. Mustn't upset the girls.

Presumably, Logo picked this up because of what some critics call the "strong lesbian storyline." It's not very evident in the first episode. But American viewers might miss some of this supposed lure anyway, because Logo "edits for content." Apparently terrified of offending sponsors, they censor even mild words such as "shit," which can be heard regularly on network shows like *The Shield*. God knows what they'll do when faced with a steamy, sweaty lesbian tryst. Best to skip the censored Logo version entirely and head for the DVD store, where you can rent the entire first season *uncut*.

—Gary Morris

Portland's radical drag troupe **Sissyboy** presents **Cirque du SoLazy!** at Sorneday Lounge. Join Kirsty Alley Amrrgh-ulara as she takes us on a circus adventure filled with wonder, excitement and some really freaky freaks! Trapeze, fire spinning, stilted and attitude are just a few highlights from "the most mediocre show on earth." This one is Fannie Mae Darling's long-awaited writing and directing debut—tragic train wreck, or does Zebra need to go looking for a new job? (8 and 11 pm. 125 NW Fifth Ave. \$5.)

Out Dancing's monthly **Dance Social** is every last Friday at Ankeny Street Studio. Lesson and refreshments included. (8:15 pm. Southeast Ninth Avenue and Ankeny Street. \$8.)

DJs BJ and P. Disco spin with special guests Dat'r and E*Rock during the first-anniversary party of **Boombox Friday** at Holocene. (9 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

JoeyCub hosts the Oregon Bears' monthly **Double X Dance** featuring music by DJ Peter Calandra at C.C. Slaughters. (9 pm-1 am. 219 NW Davis St. \$2.)

DJs Girlfriends and Linoleum spin during the queer party **Thin Pink Line** every second and fourth Friday at Rotture. (10 pm. 315 SE Third Ave.)

SAT • FEB. 24

The **Adventure Group** takes a moderate hike at Eagle Creek up to the High Bridge, weather permitting. This popular trail in the Columbia River Gorge passes major waterfalls, traverses cliffs with side rails and crosses several small streams. Meet in Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (9 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Greg 503-963-4138.)

The Art Institute of Portland presents the college talk **Success in the Arts: What It Takes to Make It in Creative Fields**. (11 am-2 pm. 1122 NW Davis St. RSVP to 503-228-6528 or simont@aia.edu by Feb. 22.)

Pearl Health Center presents the **Pearl Winter Health & Wellness Fair** featuring free food, nutritional samples, health screenings and advice from health care providers. (11 am-4 pm. 721 NW Ninth Ave. #100A.)

Lesbians in the Arts—a monthly social gathering for artists, musicians, writers, performers and others to share and support each other in their creative endeavors—meets for artful treats at Pix Patisserie and some gallery hopping. (1 pm. 3901 N Williams Ave. courtneyswan@spiritone.com.)

Portland Lesbian Network hosts a five-course non-vegetarian wine pairing dinner. You'll have the opportunity to

purchase wine after the event. (6 pm. \$50 includes wine. RSVP to pdxlesbiannet@yahoo.com by Feb. 17.)

Brother to Brother honors seven sheroes and heroes who make a positive difference in the quality of life for the black queer community during **Keeping My People** at Portland State University's Native American Student and Community Center. (6-8:30 pm benefit [\$50 donation], 8:30-11 pm after-party [\$10 donation]. 710 SW Jackson St. RSVP to Iran at 503-417-7991 or iran@brotohopdx.org by Feb. 16.)

Asian & Pacific Islander Lesbians and Gays welcome the Year of the Pig with their lunar new year celebration and annual meeting at Legin Restaurant. (7 pm. 8001 SE Division St. \$25 sliding scale at the door, \$20 sliding scale in advance from mjohnes@comcast.net by Feb. 18; drinks not included.)

Meet, mingle and socialize with bisexual and bi-curious women during the first-anniversary celebration of **Sweet Pandora's Box**. Bring your own beverage; light snacks, sodas and bottled water will be provided. The hot tub will be ready for action! (7:30 pm. 7716 SE 20th Ave. \$15 at the door, \$10 in advance from www.sweetpandorasbox.com.)

The Freedom Socialist Party celebrates Black History Month with a screening of **At the River I Stand** at the Bread and Roses Center. The film chronicles the 1968 sanitation workers strike, which brought the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to Memphis, Tenn., where he was assassinated. (7:30 pm. 819 N Killingsworth St. \$3 door donation, \$7 Southern supper donation.)

Patricia Barber performs with **Kurt Elling** at Crystal Ballroom. (8 pm. 1332 W Burnside St. \$20-\$40 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Hey, what's your vice? Holocene presents **Double Down**, the fab queer party where the player always wins, every fourth Saturday. (8 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

GO OUT Dress to impress during the alcohol- and drug-free **Winter Formal Dance** for kids 23 and younger at the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center. (8-11 pm. 2100 SE Belmont St.)

Myshkin's Ruby Warblers performs with **Carolyn Mark** and **Amy Hunnie** at Mississippi Studios. (10 pm. 3939 N Mississippi Ave.)

SUN • FEB. 25

GO OUT The **Rose City Softball Association** hosts a meet and greet at Hobo's for new players interested in playing in the league this spring. The open and women's divisions welcome all skill levels, from beginners to advanced, 18 and older. Meet players, managers and officers in a casual, friendly environment. Learn about the league, the upcoming season and how you can become a member of Portland's largest gay sports association! (4 pm. 120 NW Third Ave. www.rosecitysoftball.org.)

Film Action Oregon rolls out the red carpet at the historic Hollywood Theatre for the only **Oscar Night America**



Jana Losey performs Feb. 16 at Mississippi Pizza Pub and Feb. 17 at Nine Muses Acoustic Tavern.

Building Blocks

Jana Losey has cramps, but she's still managing to have a good sense of humor.

"We were supposed to be touring with a vegetable oil-powered van for this tour, but that didn't work out. Instead, we got the Hybrid Honda. We're calling this 'The Cramps Tour.'"

Touring with her partner and tour manager, **Melanie Peters**, the 33-year-old Losey is bringing her pop with peace to the metro-natural folk crowd in Portland. With sounds reminiscent of a young Patti Griffin, Losey is sure to be a hit in this city.

On the road from the small town of Lawrenceville, Pa., the acoustic-pop singer has packed more into her tour than anyone could ever fit into an economy car, no matter how practical. Promoting her upcoming spring release, *Blocks*, Losey shows the evolving artist within transitioning through the growth spurts of progress.

"It's kind of poppy, and is something we can definitely take on the road. The second album is a little more contemporary, a little cooler."

Her first release, *Bittersweet*, was born into heavy radio play in September 2006, mostly to an adult crowd. Now aiming for a new target, Losey hopes to hit a bull's-eye.

Touring has been equal parts planned and serendipitous fortune, as many of Losey's opening acts have been friends made across the country via MySpace.com. Doing her shopping online, Losey has found new talent wherever she goes and at the touch of a button.

"I've hooked up with tons of people—I met **Kim Devine** in San Diego that way. It's really cool to find people in their hometowns to play with, and then just come to them," says Losey.

Losey's future looks bright as she keep her priorities in check: recycling as much as possible, and being comfortably famous. She's a made-for-Portland woman in spirit and music—and we're ready for her.

—West Duncan



Bad Girls airs 10 p.m. Thursdays on Logo.