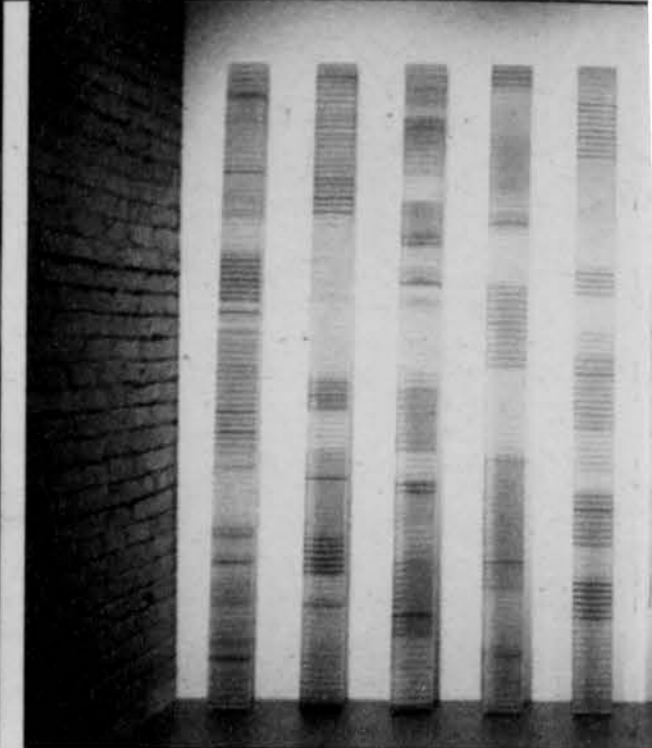




Blame Sally performs April 18 at Mississippi Studios.



Mexican-American lesbian author Myriam Gurba reads April 9 at Powell's.



Glass artist Jun Kaneko is on display through Jul

Life's a Bitch

Unlikely as it may be, if the opportunity ever arises to engage in a verbal duel with *Bitch*, walk away. You will lose. Badly. Proof of *Bitch*'s oral prowess is scattered all over her new tour de force, *Make This Break This* (Kill Rock Stars), her first solo effort after a three-album stint as half of *Bitch* and *Animal*.

"Unstick," the triumphant cello- and violin-driven opener, sets the tone for *Make This Break This*, which alternates manic-depressively between epic and compact, personal and political, fearless and weak. "I should just stop my mouth, pull it off then out, unstick it from your dick, take a long road trip, kiss you goodbye, try not to cry and hope you'll come around." Talk about a mouthful.

The towering title track mines similar ground as kooky folk's longer-winded answer to Soft Cell's "Tainted Love," while "Almost to the Water" revisits the relentlessly funky verbal spew of *Bitch* and *Animal*'s finest work. The fabulously furious "Rise" is the latest in a long line of tracks to take Dubya to task for his War in Error. While *Bitch* claimed earlier in the record that she'd rather "write than fight," there are clearly some worthy battles in which she's willing to participate.

The only misstep, and a slight one at that, is the 10-minute collage of multiple answering machine messages set to music and vocals that brings the record to a close, but even that is empowering enough to be forgiven. At its conclusion, I found myself wishing my friends would constantly barrage me with such sweet and memorable messages. Now that Ani DiFranco (who gave *Bitch* and *Animal* their auspicious start on her own Righteous Babe Records) seems more concerned with being the poet laureate of acoustic depression, it's encouraging to have a fearless truth-speaker like *Bitch* to shake up the status quo with her heady folk-funk stew.

—Jim Thompson

Bitch brings her politically charged, pop-culture-driven and deeply personal songs to town April 18.



held every second Monday at Albina Press Coffee Shop. (6:30 pm. 4637 N Albina Ave. Cody Bambino 503-313-3636. cody@pridefoundation.org.)

Q-LAND and LoveTribe present a free **men's core strength yoga** class to reduce stress followed by a free **men's restorative/yin yoga** class to promote deep relaxation. (6:30-7:45 pm core, 8-9:15 pm restorative. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

Combining the spark of Michelle Tea, the comic angst of Augusten Burroughs and the warmth of Sandra Cisneros, **Myriam Gurba** has created a territory all her own in her first book, *Dahlia Season*. Powell's Books presents a reading with **Elizabeth Ellen** (*Before You She Was a Pitbull*). (7:30 pm. 1005 W Burnside St.)

TUE • APRIL 10

District hosts **Salon Q**, a monthly mixer for men and women to socialize in a smoke-free environment. (7 pm. 232 NW 12th Ave.)

WED • APRIL 11

Queer author Ariel Gore teaches the memoir workshop **The Language of Your Life** Wednesdays through March 21 at The Attic. (10 am-noon or 7:30-9:30 pm. 4232 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$290 from 503-963-8783 or www.atticwritersworkshop.com.)

The **Portland Area Business Association** holds its monthly meeting at MacTarnahan's Taproom with a presentation by Our House of Portland's John Oules. (11:30 am-1 pm. 2730 NW 31st Ave. \$7-\$20 from www.paba.com.)

GO OUT Alberta Street Public House resurrects **Suck My Open Mic** hosted by Tamara J. Brown every Wednesday! (9 pm. 1036 NE Alberta St.)

THU • APRIL 12

Elder Resource Alliance invites older members of the sexual minorities community to meet each other, share common interests and enjoy fun conversation every second Thursday at Niki's Restaurant. (1-3 pm. 736 SE Grand Ave.)

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.)

GO OUT Dingo's wants its girls back! The lesbian-owned taco bar invites you back to **Girls Night Out** every Thursday. (5:30 pm. 4612 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Print out a coupon for \$1 off any margarita at www.girlsongay.com.)

Kaiser Permanente presents **Problem-Solving for Same-Gender Couples** Thursdays through May 17 at Interstate Medical Office Central. Learn decision-making, stress-management and negotiation strategies and other essential relationship skills to enhance your ability to communicate more effectively and better deal with conflict. (6:30-8:30 pm. 3500 N Interstate Ave. \$90 member couples, \$130 nonmember couples from 503-286-6816, ext. 1.)

Powell's on Hawthorne presents a reading by *Hip Mama* founder **Ariel Gore**, whose new book, *How to Become a Famous Writer Before You're Dead*, is an irreverent and empowering guide filled with secrets they never teach you in fancy master's degree programs to help aspiring writers turn themselves into buzzworthy authors. (7:30 pm. 3723 SE Hawthorne Blvd.)

FRI • APRIL 13

Hip Chicks Do Wine teaches a **Wine and Cheese Pairing Class**. Cost includes a flight of seven wines paired with four to five cheeses. (6-7 pm. 4510 SE 23rd Ave. \$30 from 503-234-3790.)

GO OUT Lesbian-owned **Touchstone Coffee House** throws one final party to thank supporters for eight years of connecting through community. Featuring live music by The Snippet Birds, a potluck and drawings for unique prizes every 15 minutes! (6-9 pm. 7631 NE Glisan St.)

Gay Playwright Collaborates with Fierce Females

Eighteen years ago, a female friend talked Jonn Jorgensen into writing a short audition piece for her.

Though the gay Montana native has been involved in many aspects of theater—acting, directing, choreographing and stage managing—Jorgensen never planned to become a playwright.

He certainly didn't know at the time that this short audition piece would eventually evolve into a full work that would be performed in New York City, St. Thomas, Missoula, Mont., and now in Portland.

Nonetheless, he wrote the audition piece for his friend. About 10 years later, when they were both in New York, the same friend asked Jorgensen to write a few more monologues. Unbeknownst to him, she also booked a 79-seat theater for a performance of his script.

Jorgensen recalls: "I never really considered playwrighting until I had to, until I had this deadline ticking on me and a really insistent friend who said, 'Yes, you can.' When I started, I actually found I had plenty to say and write about."

Thus, *Other Women* was born. A reading of the work was staged at New York City's Trilogy Theatre in 2000. Then Jorgensen took it on the road with him, tinkering with the script between performances in Montana and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"Then I really thought I was all done with it," says Jorgensen, who moved to Portland in 2005.

When he arrived in the City of Roses, Jorgensen looked for work as an actor. During auditions, he noticed that Portland seemed to have "an embarrassment of riches" when it came to incredible actresses. In fact, it seemed to Jorgensen that there were 10 great actresses for every available role.

Jorgensen heard about The Bluestockings, Portland's new theater company of "sassy sisters," through a friend who was involved with the group. So he decided to call up artistic director **Buffie Rogers** and propose that The Bluestockings produce *Other Women*.

The idea was initially greeted with skepticism. After all, the company had been formed to showcase Portland's female theater talent.

But they agreed to read over the script. And the rest is history. "We had naysayers until they read it," says Rogers. "Then we had one naysayer."

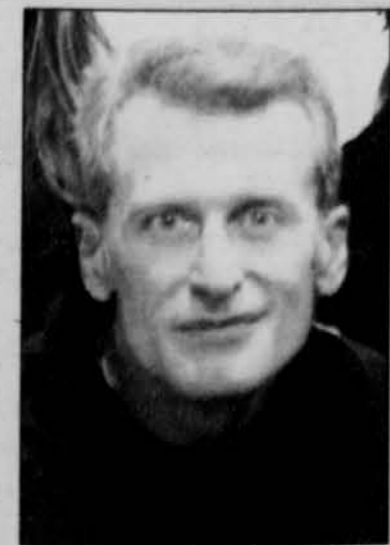


The monologues of *Other Women* celebrate fascinating, frank, funny and furious females who defy convention.

The company decided to include *Other Women* in its second season.

Rogers particularly likes the piece because it explores and celebrates the life experiences of women without alienating the men in the audience. "It's not *Menopause: The Musical*, if you know what I mean," she says.

The Bluestockings perform the West Coast premiere of *Other Women* through April 15 at Theater Theatre, 3430 S.E. Belmont St. Tickets are \$12-\$15 from 503-274-9309.



—Rebecca Ragain **Jonn Jorgensen**