



Quintana exhibits Douglas Miles' alternative view of Native American art through April 28.

Mississippi Pizza Pub presents **Bit** and the **Exciting Conclusion**, **Swan Island** and **Slim and the Competitive Eaters**. (8 pm. 3552 N. Morrison Ave.)

THU • APRIL 19

GO OUT Crush throws a **big gay dance party** with DJs Rob and Brad! (9 pm. 1400 SE Morrison St.)

DJ BJ spins with Eats Tapes, Lucky Dragons, The Dodos and Powdered Wigs at Holocene. (9 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St.)

The **Rose City Sirens** present their all-new tantalizing burlesque show at the Egyptian Club. (9 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

FRI • APRIL 20

Oregon's capital city hosts the second annual **Salem Film Festival** through April 22 at Salem Cinema. Be sure to check out *Coffee Date*, a romantic comedy about a straight man whose life spins out of control when an unexpected friendship with a gay man causes everyone in his life to assume he's queer. (For a complete schedule visit www.salemfilmfestival.com.)

Hey, all you classy martini-swillin', mellow-music-listenin', good-conversatin', lady-appreciatin', hard-workin' queer women! Come enjoy a good drink with good friends in a quiet, relaxing, nonsmoking environment during **Gimlets n' Garters** every third Friday at Fez Ballroom. Stick around for '80s dancing upstairs! (6-10 pm. 316 SW 11th Ave. \$6-\$8.)

Don't miss out on all the fun! Drag queen extraordinaire Miss Mylar hosts **Chicos Latinos Bingo** at the Men's Wellness Center. Come by and have a delectable pastry and play for a chance at an obscenely huge bottle of ID Glide. (7-8:30 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

SAT • APRIL 21

Weather permitting, **The Adventure Group** takes an easy kayaking trip in Scappoose Bay and Sauvie Island. Meet in the lot at Montgomery Park. (9 am. 2701 NW Vaughn St. Evan 503-701-7922.)

The Adventure Group takes a moderate 12-mile mountain bike ride in Forest Park. Helmets required. Meet at the

west end of Northwest Thurman St. (10 am. Laurent 503-227-2914.)

Gay gurus Bill Donnelly and Jeff Bader—aka the Spirit Trainers—teach a **special yoga class** at Andrea's Studio in Hillsboro to help calm your mind, regulate your breath and gently move energy through your body. (10-11:30 am. 874 NE Birchwood Drive. \$15 from www.spirittrainers.com.)

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

Toe-tappin' urban folkie **Liz Snavely** of Grand Rapids, Mich., brings her catchy lyrics and gritty and powerful vocals to *In Other Words*. (6 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

The Portland Institute for Contemporary Art presents **Tada Underground**, an annual fund-raising gala featuring a performance by queer neo-folkie Holcombe Waller, a special choral presentation, a Wall of Wine, an incredible dinner prepared by the wizards of Simpatica Catering and the announcement of the 2007 Time-Based Art Festival lineup! (6-10 pm. 509 SW Taylor St. \$150 from 503-242-1419, ext. 221.)

Ladies are invited to mingle at the beautiful Edgewood Manor during **Eat My Martini**. (7:30-10:30 pm. Register at www.yourplaceormineproductions.com.)

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

Tip your hat to **Crystal's Country Jam** at the Portland Metro Club (PPAA). (8-9 pm lessons, 9 pm-1 am dancing. 618 SE Alder St. \$5, \$8 with lessons.)

SUN • APRIL 22

GO OUT Who knew that one of the smallest, most diverse and most endangered ecosystems in North America is nestled on 26 acres in West Linn? Q-LAND and LoveTribe explore the beautiful spring wildflowers and unique plants at **Camassia Natural Area** followed by a delicious dinner. (1:30 pm carpool, 2:15 pm walk. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

The Portland Arts & Lectures series welcomes humorist **David Sedaris** to Keller Auditorium. (7:30 pm. 222 SW Clay St. \$30-\$60 from www.literary-arts.org.)

Watch Out, Boys, She'll Chew You Up

One of the (many) pleasures of the enduring film noir genre is the unforgettable gallery of gorgeous, gun-toting, ball-busting women who populate it. These decidedly undomestic temptresses can't be bothered with cooking din-din for hubby or doing the dishes or cleaning Junior's dirty diapers—they'd rather rob a bank, swindle an insurance company, steal their mother's boyfriends, murder their annoying husbands or, in a few extreme cases, try to take over or destroy the world. Their victims aren't always rubes, either: Even the savviest man in a film noir can be brought down by a femme fatale determined to take advantage of his romantic, or lustful, feelings for her.

Just how lethal these women can be can be seen in the Northwest Film Center's **Killer Ladies** series. Featuring glistening 35mm prints in a rare appearance on the big screen (a vastly different experience from watching them on the tube), the series showcases 10 of the toughest gals in film history. One of the revelations of revisiting these classics is that, despite the havoc they wreak, these women are surprisingly sympathetic as they try to blast their way out of the traps of dull domesticity, middle-class life and suffocating sex roles.

A perfect example is Brigid O'Shaughnessey (Mary Astor) in 1941's *The Maltese Falcon*. She spends the entire movie tearfully fucking over everybody around her, including love-struck gumshoe Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart). But we viewers are as drawn to her beauty and power as Spade is, and we unexpectedly suffer as he does when she finally gets her comeuppance. In 1950's *Gun Crazy*, Annie Starr (Peggy Cummins) leads a good-natured naif astray, but she does it with heart. Jane Greer's brilliant portrayal of murderous Kathie Moffat in 1947's *Out of the Past* humanizes one of noir's most vicious characters, one who single-handedly engineers a dizzying series of double-crosses to get the kind of plush life—and man—she

wants. Some of the women here go even further. In 1962's *The Manchurian Candidate*, frustrated power bitch Mrs. Iselin (Angela Lansbury) destroys her son in a plot to take over the U.S. government. In the 1955's apocalyptic *Kiss Me Deadly*, a scheming beauty opens an atomic-age Pandora's box capable of destroying the world.



Joan Crawford won her only Academy Award for *Mildred Pierce*.

Critics often read film noir as one of the more butch genres, embodying male anxieties and fantasies of empowerment as they try crime as a way to get rich, or nail some moll who wouldn't look at them if they don't have money. But this series shows noirs are just as likely to be fueled by female ambition. A case in point is 1945's *Mildred Pierce*, which has its share of memorable males, but the women—Crawford as the obsessive mother and Ann Blyth as her monstrous daughter Veda—dominate the film with Mildred's climb to wealth through her dogged entrepreneurship and her endlessly fascinating emotional tug of war with Veda.

The films' proto-feminist angle is only one of the lures of this series. Fans of snappy scripts, stellar performances, intricate plots, stunning location photography and even queer subtexts (in the case of *The Maltese Falcon* and *Gun Crazy*, starring gay actor John Dall) will also find much to love.

Killer Ladies runs through April 29 at Portland Art Museum's Whitsell Auditorium, 1219 S.W. Park Ave. For a complete schedule visit www.nwfilm.org.

—Gary Morris

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