



us laugh April 22.



Sleater-Kinney's Carrie Brownstein performs April 27 inside The Back Room.



Oregon Ballet Theatre revives *Eyes on You*, Christopher Stowell's tribute to Cole Porter, April 27-May 5.

BLAINE TRUITT COVER

GO OUT Learn how to land the man you really want—or keep the one you already have—during **How to Be a Better Boyfriend** at the Men's Wellness Center. Whether you're in search of a new kind of relationship or are looking to build one that is stronger and more meaningful, this workshop will focus on what exactly "doing relationships differently" looks like. (7-9 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

Mother's Velvet Lounge and Cafe welcomes groovy guys and gals to stop by for **Cabaret Karaoke**. This month's theme is "Spring Sprang Spring," a celebration of love and reproductive freedom. "Not so much political...but more biological." (8 pm-1 am. 212 SW Stark St. www.cabaretkaraoke.com.)

FRI • APRIL 27

Rosetown Ramblers, Portland's queer square dance club, holds its second annual garage sale through April 28. Rain dates are May 11 and 12. (8 am-4 pm. 1911 SE 26th Ave.)

The Back Room—an occasional series of presentations, symposia and bacchanals hosted by queer scribe Matthew Stadler—welcomes John Trombold



Members of **Le Grande Q Revue** flank **Gimlets n' Garters** organizer West Duncan.

Gimlets + Garters = Girls Galore

Opening night of **Gimlets n' Garters**, a new monthly affair held at Fez Ballroom, was in one word: sweltering. From the moment my pussy posse and I stepped in, it was gaga fer girls. All types and all ages (older than 21, that is) were in attendance with drink in hand and a lil' groove to their stride. As multiple DJs spun a variety of beats, the ladies swooned belly up to the bar, rubbing elbows with the misses or lounging in one of the plush couches surrounding the dance floor. Even the table arcade paid homage to what was taking place: Ms. Pac-Man.

Targeting women who are tired of the same old lesbian meat markets and looking for a "quiet, classy place," GnG is a terrific alternative for those more into actually socializing than shouting over bass beats. With mystery appearances and top-shelf performers lined up, GnG is sure to become a success. This particular evening included the über-fine burlesque troupe **Le Grande Q Revue**, which had me drooling all over me damn self.

Taking place every third Friday, a night that has yet to truly belong to any one lesbifest, **Gimlets n' Garters** is a perfect place to lay to rest the workweek and get yer groove on early. The cover charge includes the renowned '80s night upstairs, which begins at 10, making for a long, righteously good evening.

Gimlets n' Garters starts 6 p.m. at 318 S.W. 11th Ave. Cover is \$6-\$8.

—Jenny Nguyen

and Peter Donahue, editors of *Reading Portland* (an anthology that includes texts by queers Chuck Palahniuk and Walt Curtis), at Podkrepa Hall. Featuring live music by Carrie Brownstein of Sleater-Kinney and food prepared by Naomi Pomeroy of Clarklewis. (7 pm. 2116 N Killingsworth St. \$45 from www.thebackroompdx.com.)

American roots artist **Lauren Sheehan** performs during the Luna Music Series at In Other Words. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Dueling divas Diane Syrcle and Alexis Hamilton perform during the 13th annual **A Class Act**, a classical music and decadent dessert revue at The Old Church. Proceeds benefit the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship Fund of Equity Foundation. (8 pm. 1422 SW 11th Ave. \$35 at the door, \$30 in advance from *Balloons on Broadway*.)

GO OUT **Out/Loud**, the biggest queer women's music festival in the Northwest, electrifies Eugene with God-Des and She, Sista in the Pit, The Ovulators and Sophe Lux at McDonald Theater, followed by a party at Club Snafu. (8 pm show, 1010 Willamette St., \$5-\$15 donation. 11 pm after-party, 55 W Broadway, \$3.)

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.)

Ask Irene, a new bluegrass/old-time band with all queer women, performs with **Chickweed** at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (9 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

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.)

SAT • APRIL 28

Weather permitting, **The Adventure Group** takes a moderate hike and difficult snowshoe hike just west of Mount Hood featuring a waterfall, a sub-alpine lake, vast stands of wildflowers and a spectacular ridgetop view. (Evan 503-701-7922.)

Barracuda throws another **Hot Flash Dance Party** for seasoned lesbians 36 and older featuring music from the '70s to today, a great dance bar and wall-to-wall sexy, gorgeous women! (5-9 pm. 9 NW Second Ave. \$8.)

By popular demand, the **PDX Lesbian Network** organizes another five-course wine pairing dinner. (6 pm. \$50 from PDXlesbianet@yahoo.com.)

Stumptown Stages presents **Les Miz at the Mansion**, a benefit performance of selections from *Les Misérables* featuring a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar at Pittock Mansion. (6:30 pm. 3229 NW Pittock Drive. \$40-\$65 a person, \$75-\$125 a couple from 503-381-8686.)

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.)

SUN • APRIL 29

Weather permitting, **The Adventure Group** takes a very difficult hike at Elk and Kings Mountains featuring steep, rugged trails climbing to sweeping coastal viewpoints brightened with wildflowers. Meet in Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (9 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Todd 971-506-9677.)

Are you interested in helping partner or promote the idea of a **gay campground near Portland**? Then come to a planning meeting at the home of Edmour V. Gagnon. (2 pm. 44 SE 50th Ave. 360-713-3039.)

The Eagle Portland presents **Pup's Where's the Meat**, a barbecue and brew bust. Proceeds benefit the Mr./Ms. Oregon State Leather 2007 titleholders. (4-8 pm. 835 N Lombard St.)

The hottest multibar game show returns! Bolivia "Dawson" Carmichaels hosts **Family Feud Bar Wars—Episode II: Attack of the Queens** at C.C. Slaughters. Tonight it's your favorite staff members from Darcelle XV Showplace vs. Red Cap Garage! (9 pm. 219 NW Davis St.)

MON • APRIL 30

It's My Pleasure presents the class **Women and Orgasm**. Learn how to have multiple, extended and full-body orgasms; about the G spot and its many joys;

Divas Duel for A Class Act

The quintessential fund-raiser for the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship Fund of Equity Foundation is the ever-classy **A Class Act**. The 13th annual benefit will be celebrated with the vocal stylings of Portland favorites **Diane Syrcle** and **Kathryn Alexis Hamilton**. They will convey their extensive repertoires through an evening of duets and solos from opera, Broadway and art song.

Syrcle, a soprano and pillar of the Rose City's art and music community, has sung with the Portland Gay Men's Chorus, Portland Opera, Oregon Symphony and others. She is the executive director of Portland Youth Philharmonic and the minister of music at Bridgeport United Church of Christ, where her partner, Susan Leo, is the pastor.

Hamilton, a mezzo-soprano who is acting as a guest artist with the Rose City Chamber Orchestra, is known for many critically acclaimed performances in productions with celebrated conductors. She is also manager of education and outreach for the Portland Opera, through which she helps bring opera to communities of Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Syrcle and Hamilton, friends of Anne Shepherd, will dazzle attendees with 50 minutes of uninterrupted musical ecstasy. The pair honed their dueling diva skills during the past nine years to create an art form.

After the music will be a scrumptious showcase of Portland's most sinful pastries. You can expect to nibble the finest of sugary treats from places such as Joseph's Dessert Company, Piece of Cake and Holiday Essence Quality Cake.

The scholarship benefits third- and fourth-year law students who have demonstrated a dedication to fighting bigotry and discrimination against sexual minorities and others.

A **Class Act** will be held 8 p.m. April 27 at The Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave. Tickets are \$35 at the door or \$30 in advance from *Balloons on Broadway*, 617 S.W. Washington St. For more information call 503-286-1752.

—Malka Geffen



Diane Syrcle (top) and Kathryn Alexis Hamilton help raise money for pro-queer law students April 27.