

film

# Tooning Up in Portland

The first Platform International Animation Festival gets a little gay

by Andy Mangels

Although short-play animation festivals like Spike & Mike's have appeared at Cinema 21, Portland has never had a full-on animation festival to call its own. Until now.

The Platform International Animation Festival will debut later this month, bringing "premieres and retrospectives, rare screenings, guest speakers, exhibitions, special events and screenings for the family, workshops with leading artists, parties, a picnic and plenty of opportunities for meeting new friends and like-minded artists," says staffer Alisa MacDonnell. "There will be something for everyone, from animation professionals to students to the general public."

Now, in the pages of *Just Out*, when one says "something for everyone," it had better include the queer community. Enter the debut of lesbian artist Rose Bond, whose animated installation *Intra Muros* (*Within the Walls*) will explore gender identity. It premieres 9 p.m. June 28 in the Maytag Building, 1136 N.W. Hoyt St.


Bond's piece will not be in contention, as she was on the selection committee for the festival's Animated Installations Competition, but it will be shown as part of the evening's events and on several additional days. According to Platform press materials, "Animated installations use animation within an environment. Rose Bond was instrumental in developing the criteria for this new competition."



Lesbian artist Rose Bond has created an installation exploring gender identity.

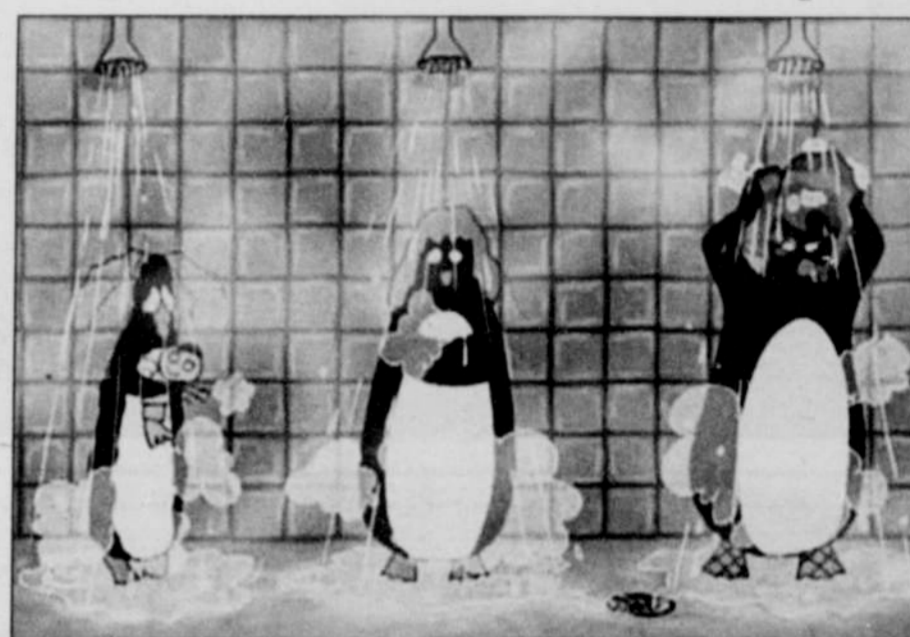
Bond says: "In terms of what's happening in queer culture, gender ambiguity interests me as an animator. In my new street-sited installation...I've drawn from myself—gesture, body movement and stance—and found a way to destabilizing gender expectations. Beyond that, the piece is a metaphor for all those times when creativity is blocked, when calls don't come, when chaos is so close."

And speaking of chaos, what could be more chaotic than lesbian penguins in prison? *Penguins Behind Bars* is a new series in development at Cartoon Network, written by Mabel Maney, author of the *Nancy Clue and the Hardly Boys* series of gay spoof sleuth books. Reps from *Penguins Behind Bars'* Hulascope Studios will be in town for the festival.

"This is an important time for animation, with the rapid growth of technology changing our craft every day," says MacDonnell. "Aiming to empower fellow artists, we have created a literal Platform for young and established animators to come together to explore the new challenges and possibilities that contemporary and future technologies bring to animation. Whether the animation has been created for theaters or cell phones or the side of a building, if it is brilliant and interesting, we will show it." 

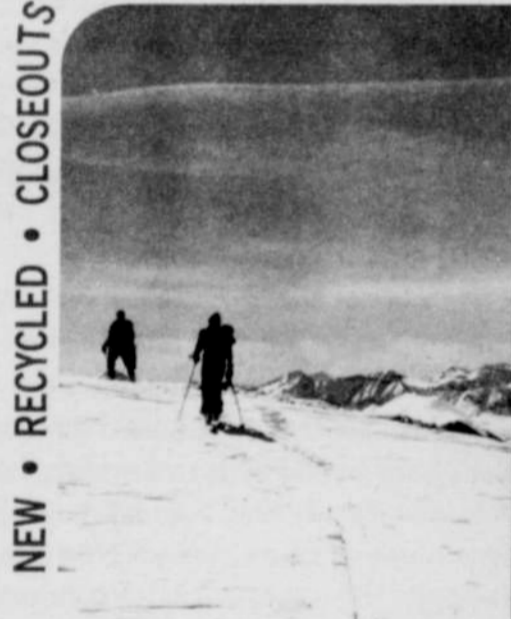
The PLATFORM INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION FESTIVAL will run June 25 to 30 at locations throughout Portland. Every day is packed with screenings and interactive events, many of which are kid-friendly. For more information on how to get tickets, go to [www.platformfestival.com](http://www.platformfestival.com). You can see a "trailer" for Bond's installation piece at [www.pnca.edu/exposure/stories/198/rose-bond](http://www.pnca.edu/exposure/stories/198/rose-bond). For a two-minute trailer of *Penguins* visit [www.penguinsbehindbars.ca](http://www.penguinsbehindbars.ca).

Best-selling author ANDY MANGELS has produced special features for dozens of animated DVDs and wrote the book *Animation on DVD: The Ultimate Guide*.



*Penguins Behind Bars*: It's like *Happy Feet* meets *Oz*.

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