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general admission and \$25 for reserved front-row seating. (Service charges will apply through Ticketmaster, and remember, if you're buying from Wonder Ballroom, its box office only takes cash.)

If variety shows are your thing, you won't want to miss the sixth annual **Community Holiday Show** 7 p.m. Dec. 9 at Darcelle XV Showplace, 208 N.W. Third Ave. Admission is \$5. The show will feature members of Portland's drag, leather and bear communities, according to event organizer Ben Brown Jr., Mr. Oregon State Leather 2007 and a board member for the Oregon Bears. It's a benefit for Central City Concern, a homeless resource center, and Esther's Pantry, a food bank serving people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

"I'm very proud to be chairman this year," said Brown. "It's never dull. If one number maybe isn't your cup of tea, just

wait a few minutes and you'll find something that will really trip your trigger.... It is a true cabaret show. It's not like you're driving up Burnside and you see the word 'cabaret' and all it means is topless dancers."

Members of the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court will open the show with a choreographed dance number, and the host for the night will be Rose Emperor XX Babalou. Also performing will be former Oregon Bear Mark Armstrong, who will reprise his drag performance of "I'm Tired" from the movie *Blazing Saddles*.

Brown says he is particularly looking forward to Ms. Oregon State Leather's Wonder Woman-themed performance. "It's incredible. It's so well put together. When I saw it for the first time, I was literally floored," he said. "I kind of want to leave it a surprise."

Mr. Oregon Bear 2007 Mark Brown will be dressed as "Santa Bear" and will be available for \$5 Polaroid photos from 6 to 7 p.m. There will be raffle tickets and fabulous prizes available from a number of area retailers, including Spartacus Leathers, Fat Cobra Video and Starbucks. Poison Waters (aka Kevin Cook) will host an auction at intermission. "Everyone will have an opportunity to win because everyone gets a raffle [ticket] when they come in the door," said Ben Brown Jr.

Imperial Sovereign Rose Court members will be very busy this holiday season. Not only are they performing in the Community Holiday Show, but they are holding the **Prince and Princess Ball** on Dec. 8 at Embers Avenue, 110 N.W. Broadway. Rose Emperor XXXIV Hollywood Nightengale Foxx and Rose Empress XLIX The Surreal Fiona Foxx will name their court for the year and celebrate with a cabaret-style show featuring live numbers and drag performances. The theme is "Escape from Alcatraz...A Christmas Jubilee." Doors open at 5 p.m., and the show starts at 6. Tickets are \$15.

The Imperial Sovereign Rose Court will also host a day-long event called the Emperor's Tree Hunt beginning at 10 a.m. Dec. 9 with breakfast and ornament making at Joq's, 2512 N.E. Broadway. After breakfast, the group will head to Q Center, 69 S.E. Taylor St., to decorate a tree and offer toy and gift donations to area orphanages. The last stop will be Flying Pig Bar and Grill, 47100 N.W. Sunset Highway in Manning. "It's my lovely privilege to buy everyone a round," said the Emperor. "Then we'll go home and get ready for the bear event that night."

Although the bears are holding their event at Darcelle XV Showplace, the lady herself will not be performing that night. Darcelle XV (aka Walter Cole) will throw her annual holiday show at 8 p.m. Dec. 16. Performers will include past winners

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"When I was 8 years old and my brother and I were away for summer vacation with my grandparents, my mother got remarried to a man that we hated. He was a starving-artist type who didn't work, had horrible B.O. and walked around the house naked. And he was a raging alcoholic.

"Christmastime rolled around and we were so poor that we couldn't afford a Christmas tree, which I resented him for. I watched that Charlie Brown Christmas special and I thought, 'If he can do that, so can I.' I found this stick that had no leaves on it. It was just a stick. I snipped bows from an evergreen tree on the property and when I got back to the apartment, I put the stick on an old TV cart and I taped the branches from the tree on the stick. I hung a bunch of Christmas balls on there. My stepfather hated it. My mother loved it.

"Summertime rolled around, and I got my revenge. He had agreed to stop drinking. I was out playing in the garage, and I found two Hefty bags full of empty vodka bottles. So when mother came home from work, I dragged them into the living room. She divorced him a month later.

"Happy holidays, everybody!"

MITCH CALHOUN
Crush co-owner

"I was brought up a Jew, and my mother's Catholic. My parents tried to incorporate both religions so we could figure out what we wanted to be. My dad bought a tree and bought blue and white lights and made a Hanukkah Christmas tree. We sat around the Christmas tree with a menorah on top, singing Hanukkah songs to Christmas song melodies.

"The year after that, I thought we were going to have another Hanukkah bush, but we had an actual Christmas tree and I learned Christmas songs from Elvis Presley records because that's what my mom played around the house.

"You could say I had a very Jewish Christmas."

JULIANNA JAFFE

Ghost of Christmas Present, Portland Center Stage's A Christmas Carol



MARTY DAVIS



MARTY DAVIS

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This poster is one of many raffle prizes at the Community Holiday Show.

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