



Oregon Ballet Theatre presents the only West Coast performances of George Balanchine's quintessential *The Nutcracker* Dec. 8-24.

the year. The 16-piece big band will have you dancing to your favorite tunes of the swing era. Come early for lessons by Daniel Hutchison of Out Dancing. (7 pm lessons, 8 pm dance. 300 NE Multnomah St. \$18 at the door, \$15 in advance from www.rcgfb.org.)

Confluence: The Willamette Valley Mixed GALA Chorus presents its holiday concert through Dec. 9 at Salem's First Congregational Church and Corvallis' Unitarian Fellowship. Behold the Star! will feature festive songs such as "Gloria Deo," "Scarlet Ribbons" and "Calypso Noel" as well as an audience sing-along of familiar Christmas carols. (7:30 pm Saturday, 700 Marion St. NE. 4 pm Sunday, 2940 NW Circle Blvd. \$12-\$15 from www.confluencechorus.org.)

Mississippi Pizza Pub presents **The Shondes, Tara Jane O'Neil and SGs** featuring Sarah Gottesdiener and Sarah Dougher. (8 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave. \$5.)

UnderU4Men presents a special holiday stocking-stuffer extravaganza, **Underwear Party 2007**, at C.C. Slaughters. Win a modeling contract or underwear for a year! Proceeds benefit Basic Rights Oregon. (9 pm. 219 NW Davis St. \$7 at the door, \$5 in advance from UnderU4Men.)

Girl4Girl Portland throws a Winter White Holiday Bash with DJ Shortee at Wonder Ballroom. (9 pm-2 am. 128 NE Russell St. \$10 from www.girl4girlportland.com.)

SUN • DEC. 9

The Imperial Sovereign Rose Court presents a new twist on the **Emperor's Tree Hunt**, starting with breakfast and ornament making at Joq's, followed by tree decorating at Q Center. Donations benefit Our House of Portland. (10 am. 2512 NE Broadway.)

Q Center presents **NoHo Trans/Genderqueer**

Group, for folks who are not on hormones, every second Sunday. (2-4 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Keshet presents a potluck dinner and Hanukkah party with a white elephant gift exchange, latkes and applesauce! (5 pm. RSVP to mike@seeingresults.com.)

Gay-owned Vino Paradiso presents a six-course **German wine dinner** with pairings personally selected by Ewald Moseler, a premier distributor of German wines in the Northwest. (6 pm. 417 NW 10th Ave. \$75 from 503-295-9536.)

Darcelle XV Showplace presents the sixth annual **Community Holiday Show** featuring cabaret acts from the bear, leather and drag communities; an auction hosted by Poison Waters; a raffle; and Polaroids with Santa Bear for \$5. Proceeds benefit Esther's Pantry and Central City Concern. (6 pm. 208 NW Third Ave. \$5 or an equivalent amount of nonperishable items.)



Gay-owned Muse Art and Design exhibits Hickory Mertsching's intriguing representational still lifes through Jan. 5, 2008.

Holocene presents **Pop Tart** for bois, dykes, ladies and the like every second Sunday. (7 pm-1 am. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

MON • DEC. 10

The **Human Rights Campaign**, which advocates for queer issues, holds a volunteer meeting every second Monday at Q Center. Get involved! (7-9 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

TUE • DEC. 11

Old Wives' Tales hosts the **Bisexual Women's Discussion Group**. (6:30 pm. 1300 E Burnside St. RSVP by Dec. 10 to pdxbiwomen@gmail.com.)

GO OUT In Other Words presents a night of collaborative storytelling, performance and readings by the **Brontosaurus Word Processing Exchange**. Rendezvous with this queer writing collective's special combination of exposed, hilarious and courageous words. (6:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St. \$3-\$10 donation.)

Aura Restaurant & Lounge hosts **Salon Q**, a monthly mixer for men and women to socialize in a smoke-free environment. (7 pm. 1035 SW Stark St.)

Wilf's Restaurant and Bar presents **The HollyTones...on Ice!** featuring gay performer

Kregg Arntson. Shake up the holidays with a cabaret full of frosty, frothy tunes that capture the spirit of the season. Repeats Dec. 18 and 19. (7:30 pm. 800 NW Sixth Ave. \$15 from 503-223-0070.)

PBS' *Independent Lens* series presents **The Paper**, which goes behind the scenes of Penn State's *The Daily Collegian* as it faces a major crisis after deciding to cover a gay rights kiss-in and publish a homophobic response letter. The controversy that erupts both inside and outside the newsroom has far-reaching social consequences, and the event forces the young editors to reflect on news choices they've made. (10 pm.)

WED • DEC. 12

The **Adventure Group** takes a moderate snowshoe hike above Government Camp. Meet outside Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (9 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Ron 503-284-3345.)

THU • DEC. 13

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.)

Have you gotten your flu shot? The Men's Wellness Center presents **Vaccination Night**

The Turn of the Scrooge

This holiday season the Portland theater company Public Playhouse takes the dick out of Dickens by rounding up an all-female cast for its production of **Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol**.

In this revisionist version of the yuletide staple, actor and playwright **Tom Mula** steals the spotlight from Ebenezer Scrooge and shines it on the chained ghost of Jacob Marley. Mula performed the show solo when it premiered in Chicago in 1998, and later he rewrote it as an ensemble piece for four actors.

In Public Playhouse's girl power rendition, the company's executive director, **Jolin Milberg**, stars as Jacob Marley, and pansexual actress **Kate Mura** plays the role of Scrooge.

In *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*, Mura says: "The focus turns to how Marley has to bring about Scrooge's redemption. Now we know his backstory and why he needs Scrooge to be redeemed."

Mura, 28, grew up in New Jersey and studied acting at DePaul University in Chicago. Rather than unleash yet another portrayal of Scrooge as a one-dimensional crotchety old man, she's employing an acting technique called RasaBoxes. The technique—which is inspired by Hindu philosophy—allows actors to explore a wide range of emotional states when preparing for a role. "It gives me a broader palette to work with," says Mura.

Mura is energetic and articulate, and she offered some engaging tales about her childhood and her sexuality. According to her mother, she had her heart set on show business before she was even born. "When my mother was nine months pregnant," she says, "my parents went to an opera. I kicked on different sides of the womb depending on whether the altos or sopranos were singing. My mom knew I'd be a performer."

Growing up near Manhattan gave Mura an opportunity to see queer-themed plays like *Falsettos* and *Angels in America* at an early age. But of all things it was the animated film *The Last Unicorn* that inspired her to explore her sexuality to its fullest. "The prince says, 'I love whom I love,'" Mura recalls, "and it helped me realize I could love people regardless of their sex or gender."



Kate Mura (right) faces off with Jolin Milberg in *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*.

Apart from her Portland acting credits—which include a recent role in *8 Views Toward Center* by Integrity Productions—Mura has worked on sets and costumes for Third Rail Repertory and Northwest Children's Theater. In addition, she recently acted in the local film *The Messiah Complex*.

Public Playhouse presents *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* through Dec. 22 at CoHo Theatre, 2257 N.W. Raleigh St. Tickets are \$14-\$16 from 503-922-0532.

—Stephen Blair

Dark Sees the Light

Following on the heels of his critically lauded work-in-progress performance of *Into the Dark Unknown: The Hope Chest* at September's Time-Based Art Festival, queer neo-folkie musician **Holcombe Waller** will celebrate the release of a limited, local-only live DVD of that entire performance, as well as a compilation CD of live recordings from that and other performances.

The gig is scheduled for 9 p.m. Dec. 18 at Doug Fir Lounge, 830 E. Burnside St. Brooklyn artist **Chris Garneau** opens. Tickets are \$10 from TicketsWest.

Waller will be joined by his backing ensemble, **The Healers**, featuring **Ben Landsverk**, **Kelly Meyer**, **Tim DuRoche**, **Galan Cohen** and **Steve Kennon**. Proceeds from merchandise sales will finance a self-produced theatrical version of *Into the Dark Unknown* to be presented next year in Portland and San Francisco. The show has already been selected for presentation at the "On the Boards" mainstage during Seattle's New Works Northwest Festival next May.

This represents a new foray into the performance art world for Waller, who has been writing and recording music for about 15 years. In addition, he is preparing his next studio album, taking modern dance classes and developing a sequel to his solo clown performance piece, *Mihael Sagalovesky and the Tragic Torments of Patty Heart Townes*, based on the songs of *Buffie-Sainte Marie*.

Holcombe and the Healers will also be featured at this month's taping of the OPB variety show *Live Wire!* 8 p.m. Dec. 14 at Aladdin Theater, 3017 S.E. Milwaukie Ave. Tickets are \$15 at the door or \$12 in advance from the box office or Ticketmaster.

Holcombe Waller is releasing DVD of his acclaimed *TBA Unknown: The Hope Chest*