

MON • DEC. 17

Gather around the **Portland Polyamory Circle** for informal discussions of open relationships and commitment. (7 pm. Laury 503-285-4848.)



Grease your wheels during **Gay Skate Night** presented by *Just Out* at Oaks Park. (7-9 pm. 1 SE Spokane St. \$5 plus canned food items for Esther's Pantry.)

TUE • DEC. 18

Vault Martini Lounge presents the monthly queer social mixer **Q-T**. Enjoy a cocktail from a selection of 44 exotic libations or take advantage of exclusive drink specials benefiting Basic Rights Oregon. (6-8 pm. 226 NW 12th Ave.)

Q Center presents **Late Awakenings**, a group for women who came out later in life, every third Tuesday. (7 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Doug Fir Lounge presents an evening celebrating the limited live CD release of *Into the Dark Unknown*, **Holcombe Waller's** smash performance at the 2007 Time-Based Art Festival. **Chris Garneau** opens. (9 pm. 830 E Burnside St. \$10 from TicketsWest.)

WED • DEC. 19

Elder Resource Alliance presents **What Is Skilled Nursing Care/Intermediate Care & What Happens When You Need It** at Friendly House Community Center. (2-4 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave.)

Learn how you can get involved during the **In Other Words volunteer orientation** meeting. (6:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)



The Men's Wellness Center presents **Meditation: Healthy Mind, Joyful Life**. Learn about practices for calming our minds and techniques for transforming our attitudes to live more joyfully, healthy and aware. Perfect for

de-stressing during the holiday season! (7-9 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

In her final show before heading to Las Vegas to assume the role of Mistress of Seduction in Cirque du Soleil's *Zumanity*, Portland native **Edie** performs at Darcelle XV. This dancin' dragster will high-kick her way through an all-singing hour of all-out fun, mixing standards with original numbers, all with her signature 1960s mod go-go feel. (8 pm. 208 NW Third Ave. \$15 from 503-222-5338.)

Satori Men's Chorus performs some of the music from its *Winter Light* concert at The Grotto Festival of Lights. (9 pm. Northeast 85th Avenue and Sandy Boulevard.)

THU • DEC. 20

Dads Group, a support/social group for men coming out later in life, meets every third Thursday at Q Center. (7-8:30 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

FRI • DEC. 21

In Other Words presents **Girl Movie Night** with a screening of *Cleopatra Jones*. Watch the special agent kick some serious ass as she cracks down on drug trafficking in the United States and abroad. (6:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)



PDX Lesbian Network presents another wine pairing dinner. Come enjoy five luscious nonvegetarian courses paired with wine, with an opportunity to purchase wine after the event. (\$50 from pdxlesbianet@yahoo.com.)

Hot apple cider, Miss Mylar does Mrs. Claus (hee hee) and great prizes?! All guys (and their friends) are welcome to this month's **Chicos Latinos Bingo** at the Men's Wellness Center. (7-9 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

Q Center presents **Cabaret with a Q**, Portland's newest "anything goes" monthly piano bar/cabaret. Because it's "the most wonderful time of the year," come prepared for some holiday music! (8-10 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

SAT • DEC. 22

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.)

The Gender Fluids are at it again with the second annual **Queer Quistmas** spectacular at Mississippi Pizza Pub! This year's holiday cheer is loaded with things that would make Jack Frost heat up and melt into a big puddle of, well, Jack fluid. The vignettes feature song and dance, spoken word and a multimedia fruit pie only John Waters could love! Electro-pop sensation CJ and the Dolls open. (10 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave. \$5-\$10 sliding scale.)



From left, George Michael joins Ricky Gervais and Gerard Kelly for the series finale of *Extras*.

Extras! Extras! Read All About It

"Reality TV" has survived, and to some extent thrived, on American dreams of upward mobility and instant celebrity and wealth—not to mention being incredibly cheap for the networks to produce. But the endless parade of annoying wannabe superstars, chefs, psychics, etc. has spawned a more intriguing twin: the reality TV satire. Shows like *Reno 911* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm* have become cult favorites here in the States by making fun of the genre, but Great Britain hits the bull's-eye with *Extras*, seen in the United States on HBO and available on DVD.

Running only two seasons—a tidy 12 half-hours plus the series finale premiering Dec. 16—*Extras* was conceived by, and stars, **Ricky Gervais** and **Stephen Merchant**, also responsible for the highly acclaimed series *The Office*: In *Extras*, Gervais plays nervous, ambitious schlub Andy Millman, a "little 43-year-old actor" who spent the first season desperately trying to move from extra to star and the second finding fame when he sells a show to the British Broadcasting Corp. His "success" becomes incredibly humiliating, however, as the network dumbs Andy's artistic concept down to the gutter; he's forced to wear a bad wig and silly glasses and repeat brainless catchphrases like "Are ya havin' a laugh?" In an unbelievable exchange, Andy and his co-stars titter as they try to figure out if one of them said "fish stew" or "fist you!"

Extras' 80-minute climax reprises all that was best about the series, not the least being the use of actual stars in situations that riff on the darker (or more notorious) aspects of their fame. **George Michael** appears in a hilarious gay park-cruising scene; hunky **Clive Owen** portrays an appallingly sexist male diva who wants to do something incredibly nasty to a hapless extra on a movie set. Andy is equally infected by egomania, but he's not tough enough to pull it off. He pleads for more respectable parts but ends up dressed as a vomiting dragon for a *Dr. Who* episode. In a truly inspired sequence, Andy appears in the British reality series *Big Brother*. The cult of celebrity has rarely been given such a drubbing. The finale is obviously not the best place to start watching (*Extras* virgins should start at the beginning), but for those who've seen the prior seasons, it's a brilliant conclusion to a comedy masterpiece and proof positive of the stellar comic talents of Gervais and Merchant.

—Gary Morris

STEVE CHERRY/POLARISSTUDIOS.COM



Holly Jolly Hullabaloo...Again! features Integrity Productions' version of "Little Red Riding Hood" with a global warming message Dec. 13-29.

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