

A Skinderella Story

The endearing British comedy *The Full Monty* proved that a guy doesn't have to have six-pack abs to be sexy. In the 1997 film, a group of unemployed men resort to stripping to ward off financial ruin, triumphantly dropping their drawers in front of an enthusiastic audience.

Acclaimed gay playwright **Terrence McNally** (*Love! Valor! Compassion!*) teamed with musician **David Yazbek** in 2000 to create a Broadway version set in Buffalo, N.Y. Two years ago, director **Greg Tamblyn** staged the show in Portland, and he's bringing his rendition to Lake Oswego's Lakewood Theatre through April 13.

Gay Portland actor and musician **Rick Lewis** serves as musical director, and he plays the role of Harold, the oldest member of the striptease brigade. He describes *The Full Monty* as "a Cinderella story, in an odd way."

"I'm incredibly modest," he says. Still, he finds

the final scene invigorating. "There's something empowering about knowing that what we're about to do makes the audience cheer."

Just how revealing is the scene? Lewis is not entirely forthcoming when asked this question, but his coy response should pique the interest of anyone with a prurient streak: "After the show there are people who swear they have seen everything."

Like the film, the musical depicts the way the men learn to accept themselves and each other. A gay relationship develops between two of the strippers, and although there are no bedroom antics, the men hold hands on stage.

For Lewis, "Pride is one of the driving forces of the story. Harold's biggest fear is that he's lost the tools to keep his marriage together, and he questions what makes him attractive to his wife."

Lewis confided that his duties as musical director are relatively easy on this gig. "The

score is so fabulous. I'm not really tweaking it." He believes his primary responsibility is to help the actors develop their interpretive skills when singing the lyrics. "There's no reason why the music can't have the same storytelling qualities as the dialogue," he says.

Originally from Ohio, Lewis made his way to New York City in the 1980s. He worked with stage luminaries such as **Stephen Sondheim** and **James Lapine** and—among other musicals—wrote *The Taffetas*, a hit off-Broadway tribute to the McGuire Sisters and other female singing acts.

Lewis moved to Portland in the early 1990s. He frequently works as a musical director for Portland Center Stage, most recently on last fall's crowd-pleasing production of *Cabaret*. Lewis rounds out his working hours as the entertainment and marketing director for the Portland Spirit.

—Stephen Blair



Rick Lewis, from left to right, with the musical's original cast of *The Full Monty*.



The photography documentary, *Black White + Gray: A Portrait of Sam Wagstaff and Robert Mapplethorpe*, premieres March 7 on Sundance Channel.

Mr. Oregon State Leather 2007 Ben Brown Jr. hosts **Eagle PDX: Back to Basics**, an event for men in the leather/Levi/bear community featuring raffle prizes and boot blacking by Shell, every third Friday. Proceeds benefit Central City Concern and Blackout Leather Productions. (9 pm-midnight. 27 NW Sixth Ave. \$10 beer or soda bust; \$1 off wells if shirtless.)

SAT • MARCH 22

Weather permitting, **The Adventure Group** goes snowshoeing at Mirror Lake. Meet outside Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (9 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Greg 503-963-4138.)

Coming out, acceptance, rejection...what is your story of transition and transformation? Elder Resource Alliance presents **Civil Writes**, a workshop in which you will have an opportunity to tell your story and receive an introduction to narrative/poetry therapy with techniques for memoir writing, at Friendly

House. (12:30-3:30 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave. RSVP to Rachel at 503-224-2640 or eracoordinator@yahoo.com.)

Quest Center's Healing and Empowerment Program hosts an orientation session for its new support group for **lesbians with cancer** and their partners. (1-3 pm. 2901 E Burnside St. RSVP to 503-238-5203.)

Kaki King, an Oscar-nominated instrumental ingenue from Atlanta, performs with **Matt Sheehy** at Doug Fir Lounge, preceded by a free gig at Music Millennium. (3:30 pm, 3158 E Burnside St. 9 pm, 830 E Burnside St., \$14 from TicketsWest.)

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.)

PDX Lesbian Network organizes a spring dinner featuring five glorious courses all paired with wine. (6-9 pm. \$50 from pdxlesbianet@yahoo.com.)

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.)

Lesbian legend **k.d. lang** performs through March 23 at Aladdin Theater. (8 pm. 3017 SE Milwaukie Ave. \$49.50 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Mr. Oregon State Leather 2007 Ben Brown Jr. hosts a **Fourth Saturday Party** for the men's community featuring boot blacking by Shell at Eagle Portland. Come in your favorite leather/Levi/bear attire. Free raffle tickets to anyone who brings in canned goods for Esther's Pantry. Proceeds benefit Central City Concern and Blackout Leather Productions. (10 pm-1 am. 835 N Lombard St.)

Artist Links Past and Present with Green Nuance

Tabor Porter spent, at his reckoning, too many years working jobs that contributed nothing to the light of creativity that surrounds him in the North Portland home he shares with his lover, **Greg Carrigan**, also an artist. The two men have separate living and studio spaces but share a life filled with creativity, community and many friends.

Porter graduated from Washington's Evergreen State College, pursuing a general education major and an art minor. In the mundane world, he worked at a variety of worthwhile jobs, but it took three challenges to lead him full time into the art world: He quit drugs and alcohol, came out of the closet and tested positive for HIV.

"I found art after I sobered up," he says. "Awakening to being gay led to embracing opening to my intuitive self. The breakthrough into being gay brought me into the art world."

Dealing with AIDS opened Porter further. He attended Oregon College of Art & Craft on a scholarship, earning a certificate.

Initially he created jewelry, using precious metals and employing techniques he would later learn were dangerous to the environment. He moved toward assemblage art because "I wanted to go green, and I felt guilty about the use of precious metals."

Because mining practices include bad conditions and poor pay for the workers, he reuses the precious

metals involved in his work.

In addition to fashioning assemblages from found items, Porter has added wood carving to his creative milieu. His use of recycled items, and he is surrounded by them, reflects his determination not to forget the past.

"The past," he says, "teaches us about the future."

Carrigan is quick to point out that

Porter has two pieces of his work in the permanent collection at Tacoma Art Museum. He also tells me about a play that he and Porter wrote about AIDS. In May, the multi-talented couple will again produce *WonderQuest*, an art fund-raiser for Project Quest.

Porter will exhibit mixed assemblages through March 25 at Guardino Gallery, 2939 N.E. Alberta St. His work can also be found at The Real Mother Goose.

—Patricia L. MacAodha



Tabor Porter fashions assemblages from found items.

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