



Gay actor John Steinkamp (upper right) stars in Third Rail's *Nobody Here but Us Chickens*, opening April 25.



Artistic director Bob Mensel leads the Portland Gay Men's Chorus in a celebration of the diverse traditions of men's choral music May 2 and 3 at First Congregational Church.

Women come together

Musician Whispers Sweet Nothings

Seattle singer/songwriter Kym Tuvim's third release, *Nothing Sweet Nothings*, is a soulful stew with moments that cook and moments that

simmer. Her voice is lush, resonant and earthy, with a deep, luxurious timbre that will envelop you like a warm blanket on a rainy Pacific Northwest night. The opening track, "Mystery," is lyrically honest and raw, delivered in a haunting, bluesy package:

"I love someone who is broken, I've been broken, too, with our hearts split wide open and nothing for us to do," Tuvim offers.

"The songs were the most truthful and bare that I had written," she says. "Musically, they were the most diverse."

The diversity of the music on *Nothing Sweet Nothings* is daring and adventurous from the title track, a jazz instrumental, to the ragtime arrangement of "So Far Away" and the jazz infusions in "Birdsong." The absolute standout on the disc is "Flood," a swamp mama romp high-

lighting Tuvim's newfound love of slide guitar and the power and sensuality of her voice.

Tuvim comes by her musical chops quite naturally. Her grandfather was a big band leader and her father a pianist. She recalls sitting be-



Kym Tuvim performs April 19 at Mississippi Studios.

neath her father's grand piano as a child, absorbing the musical influences of her household. Forced to take piano lessons as a child and wanting to quit at times, she persevered, pursuing a bachelor's degree in piano and composition from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle.

Interestingly enough, it is rootsy guitar playing and not piano that anchors the disc. Tuvim's musical training is evident in the arrangement of "So Far Away" with its Dixieland band feel, ragtime clarinet and trumpet introduction and interludes, making the sweetest love song even richer.

Tuvim describes the songs on *Nothing Sweet Nothings* as "unguarded observations on the quiet, in-between place where love fails and where it is the saving grace." In the case of *Nothing Sweet Nothings*, her observations are right on.

—Dale Schiff

SUN • APRIL 20

Keshet hosts a second Passover seder for queer Jews as well as their spouses, partners, significant others and good friends and family, whether Jewish or queer or not. Bring a dish and a beverage. (David 503-226-7079, ext. 14.)

Q Center presents **Parenting and Pregnant Lesbians of Portland**, a monthly get-together to discuss topics relevant to lesbian parenting and child rearing. Bring the kiddies, enjoy some snacks, and associate with other parents. (2-4 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Hasbro present the **GLBT Play-a-Thon Championship** at Fox & Hounds to raise money and awareness for child abuse prevention programs across the state. (3-5 pm. 217 NW Second Ave.)

Q Center hosts **Tranz Guys**—a group for trans men and intersex, genderqueer and questioning people who were assigned female at birth—every third Sunday. (6-8 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Lambda Award-winning author **Nina Revoyr** (*The Necessary Hunger*, *Southland*) reads from *The Age of Dreaming*—a stunning work that is part historical novel, part mystery and part unrequited love story—at Powell's Books. Also reading are **Abraham Rodriguez** (*South by South Bronx*) and **Elizabeth Crane** (*You Must Be This Happy to Enter*). (7:30 pm. 1005 W Burnside St.)

C.C. Slaughters kicks off the third year of the live game show **Family Feud!** (8 pm. 219 NW Davis St.)

Athens Boys Choir celebrates the release of its latest music video, "Fagette," directed by queer filmmaker Ali Cotterill, with a live performance at Holocene. Music by Team Gina and DJ KillaWatts, too. Golf gear for the Astroturf photo booth encouraged! (8 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$4.)

MON • APRIL 21

Gay-owned **Wild Abandon Restaurant and the Red Velvet Lounge** celebrates its 13th anniversary by opening for weekday breakfast and lunch. Half of all today's proceeds benefits Our House of Portland. (7 am-2 pm and 4:30-10 pm. 2411 SE Belmont St.)

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. \$6 plus canned food items for Esther's Pantry.)

Interested in preserving local queer history? **Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest** meets at Q Center. (7-9 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

C.C. Slaughters gives away passes for the movie **Made**

of Honor. (9 pm. 219 NW Davis St.)

TUE • APRIL 22

The Adventure Group takes an easy urban bike ride on the quiet street and trails of Portland. Meet at the fountain on the Eastbank Esplanade. Repeats April 29. (6 pm. East end of Southeast Madison Street. Laurent 503-227-2914.)

One of Portland's most glamorous divas, the divine Rose Empress XXXVI Maria, and the fantastic members of the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court host **Q Center Bingo!** (7-9 pm. 69 SE Taylor St. \$5.)

Dexter's Famous Spoken Mic gives writers "rock star status" by bringing beginners and more established readers together for inspirational rants and performances every last Tuesday at In Other Words. (7:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

OPB presents the queer newsmagazine **In the Life**. (11 pm.)

WED • APRIL 23

Understand the importance of designing a financial strategy that will help protect your assets while navigating state and federal laws governing same-sex couples during the presentation **Wealth Planning for Domestic Partners** at Q Center. (5:30-7 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Time management is about more than to-do lists and tattered agenda books—it's about where your visions and dreams show up in your day-to-day activities! Dismantle the old stories running your relationship with your watch and empower yourself with simple systems for managing and sharing your schedule—and balancing your life—during **Time 101** at Touchstone Coffee House. (6:45-9 pm. 445 NE 70th Ave. \$24 at the door, \$19 in advance from www.causeit.org/events.)

Living Room Theaters screens the classic 1952 musical **Singin' in the Rain**. Proceeds benefit Camp Starlight. (7 pm. 341 SW 10th Ave. \$20 from poisonwaters@poisonwaters.com or 42nd Street Coffee House.)

Author **Tom Spanbauer** (*The Man Who Fell in Love with the Moon*, *In the City of Shy Hunters*, *Now Is the Hour*) reads from his first novel, the newly reissued *Faraway Places*, at Powell's on Hawthorne. (7:30 pm. 3723 SE Hawthorne Blvd.)

Mirah and Spectratone International present **Share This**

Place at Mission Theater. Former Chumbawamba member **Danbert Nobacon** opens. (9 pm. 1624 NW Glisan St. \$15 from Ticketmaster.)

THU • APRIL 24

The Governor Hotel hosts the **Children's Trust Fund of Oregon Blue Ribbon Celebration** featuring a hosted wine bar, appetizers, music by Sneakin' Out, a small silent sale and an auction of art from the exhibit *Happy and Healthy Families*, featuring paintings by 12 Oregon celebrities including gay artists Sam Adams, Chris Coleman, Darcelle XV, Thomas Lauderdale and Philip Iosca. (5-7:30 pm. 614 SW 11th Ave. \$35 from www.ctfo.org.)



Is "pulling out" a safe way to practice anal sex? How accurate is a rapid HIV test? You can't really get HIV from oral sex, can you? CityGuys are back for **HIV Mythbusters: Round 2** at the Men's Wellness Center. All questions are welcome. (7-9 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

Annie Vergnetti, Blacque Butterfly, Silk & Olive and **DJ Androjenous** perform at the Egyptian Club. (7:30 pm. 3701 SE Division St. \$5.)

Ali Astro Strikes Again

Portland filmmaker **Ali Cotterill** (aka Ali Astro) has made quite a name for herself. The 28-year-old's slickly produced, professional-quality music videos for regional acts like Scream Club, Nicky Click, Basic Fix and Caught in Candy have screened in festivals around the world including Los Angeles, Toronto and Milan, as well as on gay cable channel Logo. She has become a sought-after producer for queer and genderfuck performers and musicians in the Northwest who have gone from shunning the media to recognizing the power of adapting its forms to their own subversive messages. Her latest creation, "Fagette," reaches beyond the Pacific Northwest

scene to feature Athens Boys Choir.

Despite the name, Athens Boys Choir is actually the solo project of Katz, a trans spoken word performance artist from Astoria—whose third album, *Jockstraps and the Queen*, was released last April—has shared the stage with Ani DiFranco, Indigo Girls, Bitch, Tegan and Sara, Danielle Howle and Michelle Malone. Cotterill made repeated appearances on HBO's *Jam*. For an example of the sort of sex-positive culture that both Katz and Cotterill excel at, listen to "Tranny Got Pack" at www.athensboyschoir.com, which brilliantly in-



Ali Cotterill (inset) shares her '80s fetish in the video for Athens Boys Choir's "Fagette."