

It's Party Time!

- FOOD
- FLOWERS
- CAKES
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- MOBILE DJ
- EVENT PLANNING
- VENUE




One call we do it all...
www.ItsPartyTimeCatering.net (503) 628-3616
Flowers by Mary Beth Bartel: (503) 203-8652

We Love Bears!

"STEIFF TRUNK SHOW"
 JUNE 1st 11AM-3PM
 FREE Steiff goody bag
 & drawing for Steiff animals!



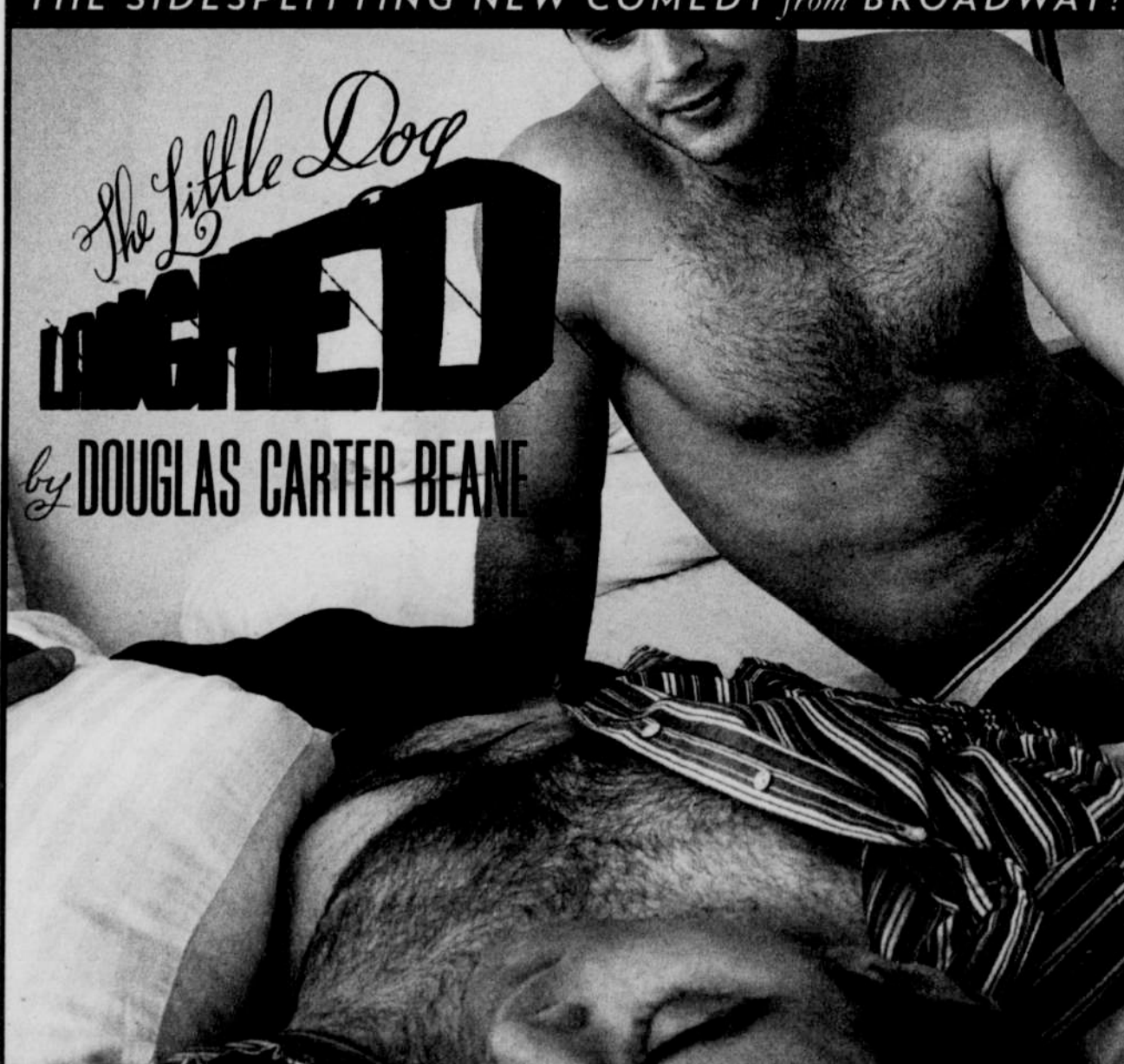
Christmas AT THE ZOO
 118 NW 23RD AVENUE (503) 223-4048

THE SIDESPLITTING NEW COMEDY from BROADWAY!

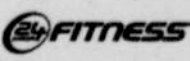
The Little Dog

LAUGHED

by DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE



503.445.3700 www.PCS.ORG
 GERDING THEATER AT THE ARMORY 128 NW Eleventh Ave IN THE STUDIO





Hard Candy

Author finds that fiction is stranger than truth

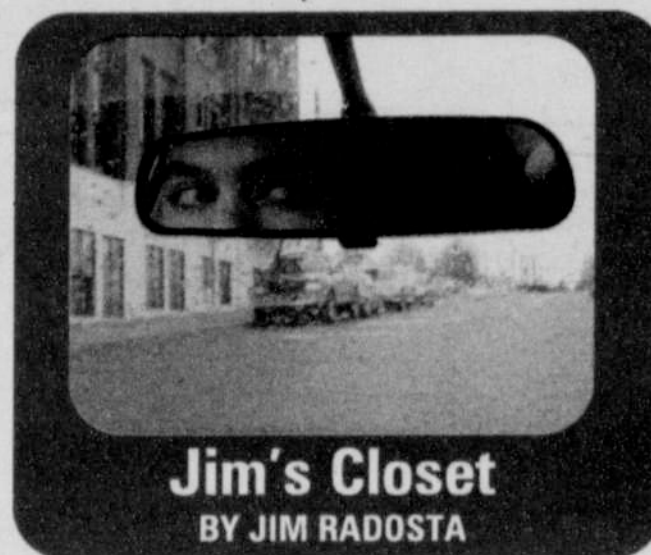
"I call it the memoir I wish I had," Josh Kilmer-Purcell says of *Candy Everybody Wants*, his breezy novel about a gay teenager who escapes the Midwest to pursue stardom in New York and Hollywood.

The 38-year-old author's life has been slightly more bumpy, as we learned in 2006's *I Am Not Myself These Days*, the sordid account of his drunken days as Aquadisiac, a 7-foot-2 drag queen in Manhattan famous for her clear plastic brassiere filled with goldfish.

But at least Kilmer-Purcell's story has a happy ending: His memoir is being made into a movie produced by Clive Barker (*Hellraiser*), he has a steady day job as an advertising executive (clients have included Absolut Vodka and Target), and in his spare time he writes a column for *Out* and sells goat-milk soap made at the farm he runs with his partner, Dr. Brent Ridge from Martha Stewart Living, in Sharon Springs, N.Y.

Jim Radosta: How did you end up on a book tour with James Frey? I just find it interesting that you're switching from memoir to novel, and he could've saved himself so much trouble if he had called *A Million Little Pieces* a novel.

Josh Kilmer-Purcell: I used to work with his wife, and I'm the godfather of their daughter, so we've been acquaintances for a long time. Both of our books were just coming out at the same time, and they're novels from the same publisher, so we



follow. In general it's a lot more fun than memoir, because you don't have to look at the bad bits about yourself. [Laughs]

One of my huge influences was Armistead Maupin. I interviewed him for *Out* magazine last year, and in the course of that, I wound up going back and rereading all of the *Tales of the City* [series] in one fell swoop, and I realized just what an absolute genius he was at storytelling. You couldn't finish one chapter and not begin the next. That was sort of my inspiration for the arc of this book. There are crazy coincidences and mad-cap adventures going from coast to coast, but I just wanted to create the ultimate summer beach read. I don't think I've solved any universal problems with this book.

JR: Now that Aqua has been retired since 2000, are there times when you miss those days at all?

JKP: [Pauses] Uh, there are times when I miss her, because she brought a level of unpredictability and spontaneity in my life. Basically, I don't get into as much trouble without her, but on the other hand I don't get into as much fun, either. But there's just no way that I would allow myself to get into the self-destructive behavior patterns again.

JR: Have any of your columns in *Out* come back to bite you?

JKP: I wrote a column claiming that Fred Phelps [the 78-year-old founder of GodHatesFags.com] is the most important gay activist alive today. Recently I appeared with Shirley [Phelps-Roper, his daughter] on Logo in a joint interview, and I got quite a lot of supportive e-mails saying they realize what I'm doing in a subversive way, but then quite a lot of hate mail saying that I shouldn't humanize her in the slightest.

But I can't really help it—for the six months that we've been pen pals, I've sort of developed this little crush on her. [Laughs] So I like her, she likes me. Now it's too hard to be sworn enemies.

And I actually, honestly believe that once Fred is dead that the family will be released from this spell of child abuse. They're grown adults, but they were raised by this emotionally abusive, physically abusive man. (10)

JOSH KILMER-PURCELL reads with James Frey 7 p.m. May 21 at Bagdad Theater, 3702 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Tickets are \$27, which includes a copy of Frey's *Bright Shiny Morning*, from Ticketmaster.

Arts and Culture Editor JIM RADOSTA needs your feedback. E-mail him at jim@justout.com.



Like the fictional protagonist in *Candy Everybody Wants*, Josh Kilmer-Purcell was raised in rural Oconomowoc, Wis.

thought, "Well, let's make it on the same day and go out together."

My first book came out when the whole memoir thing exploded, and it was a little bit hairy at the time because memoir is a very ill-defined genre. Memory is fallible, and storytelling is personal.

Thank God I had a disclaimer. ["It's the truth in drag."] It seems like if you have a disclaimer, you have a clean slate at least.

JR: How did your writing process differ this time around?

JKP: It was actually much harder. With a memoir you're writing down what happened, so you know how the story ends, you know how it starts, you know everything that happens in the middle. It's just sort of coloring it the right way.

With fiction, you have this clear blue sky of anything could happen. In one way it's very freeing and very fun, because you get to create these things out of nowhere, but on the other hand there are still forms of fiction that you need to