



Dames at Sea opens July 25 at Broadway Rose Theatre Company.

Hot Flash presents **Stardust**, a ladies dance for women 21 to 101 featuring DJ Lauren playing swing, Latin and music from the '40s through the '70s at Boxxes. (5-9 pm. 1035 SW Stark St. \$8.)

Liberty Hall presents the **Hot Pink Salsa Dance** featuring dance lessons, professional performances, raffle prizes, refreshments and tamales. Proceeds benefit Code Portland's ongoing fight for peace and justice. (7 pm. 311 N Ivy St. \$5-\$15 sliding scale.)

Celebrate Christmas in July! The Imperial Sovereign Rose Court presents **The Taint & the Ho-Ho-Ho Ball** featuring a contest for the most creative costume at Embers. Proceeds benefit Esther's Pantry. (7 pm. 110 NW Broadway. \$5 donation.)

Flash Choir performs new choral work by dyke musician and composer Sarah Dougher at Reed College Chapel. (7 pm. 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd.)

The South Waterfront Artist-in-Residence Program presents **Promenade**, an unrepeatable event involving more than 30 performers: a dance ensemble, a pedestrian movement choir, an original score delivered via live bicy-

clists and a series of secret interventions by an illustrious group of some of Portland's most compelling artists, including gay dancer Gregg Bielemeier. Picnics encouraged. (8 pm. Southwest Moody Avenue and Curry Street.)

Q Center presents **College Movie Night**. Repeats Aug. 2. Tonight's film is *Capturing the Friedmans*. (8-10 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Rotture presents **Sluts and Squares**, which becomes a solidly danceable monthly party with new disco lighting and no performance breaks. DJs Shimmy, Verse and Corban rock the house with dancers Nova, Violetta and Lulaby. (9 pm. 315 SE Third Ave. \$5.)

The Egyptian Club presents **Rose City Sirens**, Portland's favorite all-queer burlesque troupe, every third Saturday. (9 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

C.C. Slaughters throws a **Blackout Party** featuring a CD promotion giveaway for *Love Is Dead* by Kerli. (9 pm. 219 NW Davis St.)

BearBust at the Eagle Portland. (9 pm-midnight. 835 N Lombard St. \$8 members, \$10 nonmembers.)

Burly Girl Productions presents **Hot & Steamy**:

Bringing the Dirty South to the Wet Northwest featuring a wet T-shirt contest, burlesque, belly dancing, drag and drink specials at Northbank in Vancouver, Wash. The first 40 guests receive naughty sex kits! Get \$2 off with a pet item donation for the Oregon Humane Society. (9:30 pm. 106 W Sixth St. \$7.)

SUN • JULY 20

The Adventure Group takes a difficult hike to Salmon Butte in the midst of the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness. The view from the summit includes Devil's Peak, Mount Adams, Mount Rainier, Mount St. Helens, Mount Jefferson and all Three Sisters. Meet outside Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (9 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Ron 503-284-3345.)

The Adventure Group takes a five-hour bike road trip. Meet at the north end of Northeast 33rd Drive. Repeats July 27. (9 am. 2900 NE Marine Drive. Dave 503-281-4798.)

In Other Words presents **Homorobics** every Sunday, physically strengthening our community in a feminist, queer and body-friendly environment with an emphasis on enjoyment, not weight loss! Bring a towel and hand weights if you've got them. (11 am. 8 NE Killingsworth St. \$2-\$4 donation.)

Asian & Pacific Islander Lesbians and Gays holds a meeting at Thien Hong open to anyone interested in good Chinese-Vietnamese dining and talking about the group's future. (6 pm. 6749 NE Sandy Blvd. RSVP to aplg_pdx@yahoo.com.)

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.)

Manifest presents **Beat the Blues**, a men's support group to find practical strategies for dealing with depression. (6-8 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.manifest-pdx.org/calendar.)

MON • JULY 21

Playfully explore the city by bike with other men during **Wanderlust** presented by Manifest. Meet at Wild Oats. (6:30 pm. 3535 NE 15th Ave. \$5-\$15 sliding scale.)



Portland Opera's Broadway Across America stages **A Chorus Line** July 29-Aug. 3.



Gilberto Martin del Campo stars as d'Artagnan in **The Three Musketeers** through Aug. 24 at Lakewood Theatre Company.

Sordid Lives Is Behind the Times

Del Shores' stage play **Sordid Lives** made a minor splash when it premiered in 1996 in Los Angeles, winning a number of awards and finding a particularly enthusiastic audience among Southern queens who claimed to recognize their own experiences in the play's dizzy brand of dysfunctional camp. The movie version appeared in 2000, gaining new adherents and becoming a minor cult hit in the process. A miniseries seemed the next logical step: Logo will present 12 half-hour episodes, written and directed by Shores, starting July 23.

For anyone who happened to miss it, **Sordid Lives** chronicles the misadventures of an extended family of Southern eccentrics in the late 1990s in Winters, Texas. The original story opened with the death of matriarch Peggy Ingram, an event that pulls the ragtag family together to uncover and spill secrets and sling the dish. The characters included Peggy's pill-popping sister, Sissy, and daughters, LaVonda and Latrelle; LaVonda's gay son, Ty; trampy singer Bitsy Mae Harling; horny neighbor Noleta Nethercott and her amputee hubby, G.W.; and Peggy's notorious son, "Brother Boy," who's been institutionalized for 20 years for his homosexuality and obsession with Tammy Wynette, which includes dressing up like his idol and performing for the

other inmates.

The first two episodes of the miniseries introduce the characters and the basic situations. LaVonda and Latrelle spend time swilling pharmaceuticals, Bitsy gets out of jail, Peggy (this is a prequel) dances at the bar, Noleta fantasizes about killing her hubby and tak-



Fans of the play or the movie will no doubt love **Sordid Lives: The Series**. As for the rest of us....

ing up with a hot soap star, and Ty alternates between visits to an annoyed psychiatrist (Margaret Cho) and hooking up with new boyfriend Jacob. Brother Boy learns that Tammy Wynette is dead and freaks out; to add further insult, he's sent to a creepy female shrink determined to "dehomosexualize" him.

Fans of the play or the movie will no doubt find much to love in this addition to the **Sordid Lives** franchise, since it appears to reprise the basic plot and situations. And they'll be happy to see stalwarts like Emmy winner **Leslie Jordan** back as Brother Boy and newcomer **Rue McClanahan** (looking sadly ravaged) as Peggy. Viewers who aren't entranced by shrill, second-rate acting, white-trash décor, "funny" names like Latrelle and Southern gothic caricatures, however, may find this tough going. Despite being set in the 1990s, it feels like the 1950s, trying desperately to wring pathos and comedy out of ancient concepts like women with "bad reputations" and drag queens locked in mental hospitals. In 2008, **Sordid Lives** looks like a period piece, and not a very interesting one at that.

—Gary Morris

Rotture Goes Radioactive

The name may sound like a flaming Transformer who goes from robot to homobot, but the only thing that **Faggottron** changes is the normally hetero but queer-friendly scene at Rotture into a gay dance party. DJ Solomon and DJ Rad of Rude Dudes convert the lounge—a second-story warehouselike venue located in industrial Southeast Portland offering a spacious room for grooving and a generous outdoor patio overlooking downtown—into a radioactive hotspot for technocrats diggin' electronica and dance music. The gay DJs keep the tunes playing at high decibels for an optimal fab-factor.

"Our music is on the fly," Solomon says. "We play mixed genres with beats from modern and old. We like to bridge the gaps when we spin."

Ghetto and electro are but a few of the types of music **Faggottron** pumps out from its pink-lit stage. Party people can also head downstairs to Branx—a smaller but even wilder venue that hosts outlandish events like *Sick*—where the music isn't much different but the people treat quirky as the norm.

Kaetlin Kennedy, a straight ally and bartender at Rotture since its opening, enjoys **Faggottron** and sees a lot of her friends from Portland's art community at the monthly queer night.

"Rotture has a lot of diverse shows, like unusual noise shows," she says. "It's a great dance space. **Faggottron** has a really good turnout, and I've had a really good time. I always look forward to it."

Kennedy's enthusiasm comes from her experience with the gay and lesbian community.

"Queers people tend to let loose a lot more," she says. "They have more fun and are much nicer."

—Julius Calasicas

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