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Theatre Company.

Pack a picnic for Promenade, an unrepeatable performance July 19 on the South Waterfront.



Boogie down with Chromeo on July 27 at Berbat's.

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RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.manifestpdx.org/calendar.)

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 presents a CD promotion giveaway for **Delta** by **Delta Goodrem**. (9 pm. 219 NW Davis St.)

TUE • JULY 22

The Adventure Group takes an easy urban bike ride on the quiet street and trails of Portland. Meet at the drinking fountain on the Eastbank Esplanade. Repeats July 29. (6 pm. 8 SE Madison St. Laurent 503-880-8900.)

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.)

Relieve stress, feel calmer and improve creativity during the **Men's Meditation Group** presented by Manifest. (7-9 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.manifestpdx.org/calendar.)

WED • JULY 23

Get the word out about your business with the workshop **Small Biz Marketing 101**. (2-6 pm. 69 SE Taylor St. \$34 from www.causeit.org/events.)

Q Center presents **women's life coaching and consulting** focused on building greater personal knowledge and development. Gain life skills and perspectives applicable to both existing and future challenges. (7:30-9:30 pm. 69 SE Taylor St. \$5 members, \$10 nonmembers.)

Sordid Lives: The Series premieres on Logo. (10 pm.)

THU • JULY 24

The Adventure Group takes an urban hike on the Alder Trail. Douglas firs and maples form a canopy above bold clumps of sword ferns, Oregon grapes and flowers. Meet in Nob Hill for carpool to trailhead. (6 pm. 2422 NW

Private Dick Sucks

Richard Stevenson has achieved some cult fame for his series of detective novels starring Albany, N.Y.-based gay private dick Donald Strachey. Even *The New York Times* has weighed in favorably on the books, although whether they'll be as positive about the film version of his novel *On the Other Hand, Death* is doubtful at best.

The film opens on a street drenched in shadows à la film noir, with Strachey (Chad Allen) tracking a woman who turns out to be an Albany policewoman whose own surveillance project Strachey may have destroyed. The hapless Strachey is hauled into the police station, but his explanation that he was hired by the female cop's hubby to bust her for having an affair loses some steam when it turns out she's not married. This curious situation turns out to be the tip of the iceberg in a small town that appears to be riddled with secrets, some of them involving gay-bashing, illicit queer affairs, corporate criminality and people who are not who they seem to be.

Strachey gets distracted from his quest to prove his innocence by the plight of an older lesbian couple (Margot Kidder and Gabrielle Rose) who are threatened with violence if they don't agree to follow the crudely scrawled command on their living room wall: "DYKES GO HOME!" More gay secrets emerge involving a clandestine teenage affair, and Strachey's monogamous relationship is threatened when his lover's ex-boyfriend Andrew comes on to Strachey. The plot becomes increasingly convoluted and somewhat difficult to follow, as director Ron Oliver doesn't have the chops to make this material clear or credible, much less engaging.

The best thing about this entry in the franchise (preceded by two films dealing, respectively, with outing and gay reparative therapy) may be Kidder and Rose. The plot is derivative and predictable, and the acting is mostly by-the-numbers. But Kidder's weatherbeaten face and croaky voice and Rose's tormented demeanor give some emotional heft to the foolishness, and some viewers will enjoy the fetching flesh of Andrew as he offers it to our hapless hero.

—Gary Morris



On the Other Hand, Death: A Donald Strachey Mystery premieres July 25 on Here.

Thurman St. Evan 503-701-7922.)

In Other Words celebrates the release of the book **Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls** with food, a DJ, readings and performances. (6-8:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Manifest presents a free introductory **men's kundalini yoga class** to open and balance your chakra energy and increase focus, centeredness and spiritual connection. Followed by a free introductory **men's hatha yoga class** to create a soothing, mellow environment for beginning students to discover yoga comfortably. (6-7:30 pm kundalini, 7:45-9:15 pm hatha. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.manifestpdx.org/calendar.)

The Men's Wellness Center presents an informational session about **The Adventure Group**, which meets regularly for a variety of outdoor activities. Come meet new people and start making plans for summer adventures. Healthy snacks will be provided. (7-8:30 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

Q Center presents **Dads Group**, a safe place to discuss issues of common interest, listen and support. (7-9 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Q Center joins forces with the Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival to bring you the best in queer cinema during **Queer Film School**. Tonight's selection is *The Celluloid Closet*. (8-10 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

The Egyptian Club presents **The Underground** goth/industrial night every second and fourth Thursday. (9 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

Queer Bait, a weekly dance party at the Eagle PDX, presents **Freestyle Italo/Soul II** featuring DJs Olek and Jack with drag monsters Splendor, Fannie Mae, Rosa Panocha and Ignora. (10 pm. 27 NW Sixth Ave. \$3.)

FRI • JULY 25

On the Other Hand, Death: A Donald Strachey Mystery premieres on Here. (www.here.tv.com.)

Doug Fir Lounge presents the compelling indie-folk music of New York City singer/songwriter **Jay Brannan**. **Annie Stela** opens. (6:30 pm. 830 E Burnside St. \$12 from TicketsWest.)

Keshet hosts a potluck and Shabbat welcome 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. (6:30 pm. David 503-226-7079, ext. 14.)

In Other Words showcases local female musicians at the **Luna Music Series**. (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Out Dancing's monthly **Dance Social** is every last Friday at Ankeny Street Studio. Lesson and refreshments included. (8:15 pm. Southeast Ninth Avenue and Ankeny Street. \$8.)

C.C. Slaughters presents the Oregon Bears' monthly **Double X Dance** featuring music by DJ Peter Calandra of Studio 54 fame. (9 pm-1 am. 219 NW Davis St. \$2.)

Crush presents **CJ and the Dolls**. Drag performer Mickey Pollizatto is leaving for Europe, and who knows if/when she's coming back! (11 pm. 1400 SE Morrison St.)

SAT • JULY 26

The Adventure Group goes mountain biking in Mount Hood National Forest around Dog River, featuring a nine-mile intermediate-level loop. Meet outside Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer or two hours later at trailhead. (9 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. RSVP to Laurent at 503-880-8900.)

The Adventure Group goes whitewater rafting on the Deschutes River, with camping option the night before. Meet at the RiverDrifters base in Maupin. (9:30 am. 405 Deschutes Ave. RSVP to Evan at 503-701-7922.)

Turn your financial challenges and fears into visions and practical opportunities during the men's workshop **Financial Planning in Volatile Times** presented by Manifest. (10 am-noon. \$10-\$45 sliding scale. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.manifestpdx.org/calendar.)

Southern Oregon Pride 2008 features entertainment, food, a beer garden, vendors and info booths in Padgham Pavilion at Jackson County Fairgrounds in Central Point. (Noon-7 pm festival, 7-10:30 pm dance. 1 Peninger Road. \$5-\$10.)

Performance Works NorthWest presents **Create Your Own Performance**, a weekend intensive on making live art, through July 27. Queer director/choreographer Jessica Wallenfels guides the sessions from material generation to an informal, invited showing at the end; participants receive a still photo and DVD of their performance. (1:30-6:30 pm Saturday, 1-6 pm Sunday. 4625 SE 67th Ave. \$90-\$120 sliding scale.)

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.)

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.)

Are you looking for a place to meet other college folks and play some games? Then **College Game Night** at Q Center is the place for you and your friends. (8-10 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

C.C. Slaughters presents a CD promotion giveaway for **Dancing** by **Elisa**. (9 pm. 219 NW Davis St.)