



Performance artist Reba Sparrow helps raise money for Gertrude Press on Aug. 16.



"This Looks Like a Job for a Chicano!" is the title of this painting in Gwenn Seemel's politically charged art show *Apple Pie*, opening Aug. 28 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center.



Spiritual Healing

Lynn Frances Anderson has a great set of pipes. Sure, she can sing a pretty ballad, but give her a blues tune and she will shake the rafters and blow the roof off.

Anderson, a longtime fixture on the Portland music scene, is a rare musician: without a day job, in a town where musicians are many and paying gigs few. An Oregon native raised in a small town in the woods with Northwest natural landscape and beauty as her constant companions, Anderson has always had a deep spiritual connection to the world around her, and music is an integral expression of her spiritual path.

Her last disc, *Born Lucky*, was released in 2006. A few months later, she and her longtime partner split. The album title became a sadly ironic testament to how a person's luck can change in a week, month or even a moment. Anderson talks about this dark time with such grace and humility, you just want to throw an arm around her shoulder.

"In spiritual terms, this is referred to as 'the dark night of the soul'



Lynn Frances Anderson's spiritual foundation helped her through a split with her longtime partner, a loss that "took me to my knees."

or the 'shaman's death,'" she says. "The combination of my spiritual foundation and an incredible group of friends carried me through this difficult time. I believed in the solidity of my relationship, and my commitment was so strong, the loss took me to my knees."

Anderson is a seeker of truth through humanity and is a student of Native-American traditions, shamanism and, more recently, Buddhist leanings.

"My spirituality has been a big part of healing and continuing to do my music," she says. "My music has been a big part of healing and continuing my spiritual work. They are interwoven."

Although adversity is hard on the heart, it makes for good music and songwriting, and Anderson has written a slew of songs just waiting to be captured on a new disc. If you can tell something about a musician about the company she keeps, Anderson has surrounded herself with some top-notch talent: Scarlet Rivera, Bob Dylan's violin player; Joe Craven, longtime collaborator with Dave Grisman; and lately

Tony Coleman, B.B. King's drummer.

Anderson co-headlines a show with Jennifer Batten, an amazing rock guitarist (think vintage Eddie Van Halen), Aug. 22 at Tonic Lounge.

—Dale Schiff

Celebrate good times! Embers presents **L4L PDX** for lesbians 35 and older. Dance to '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s music in a nonsmoking environment. (5-9 pm. 110 NW Broadway. \$5.)

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.)

C.C. Slaughters presents **Block Party 2008** starring international recording artist Kristine W, Team Gina, DJs Alex Hollywood and Robb, Superstar Divas and Details Dance Co. Proceeds benefit *Street Roots*. (7 pm. 219 NW Davis St. \$15.)

Q Center presents **College Movie Night**. (8-10 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Hipbone Studio hosts **Gertrude Press Lounge Night**, a debauchorous visual feast featuring entertainment by drag troupe The E-Kings, musician Annie Vergnetti and performance artist Reba Sparrow. Food, beer and wine included! Proceeds benefit Gertrude Press, which publishes a quarterly that showcases and develops the talents of queer creatives. (8-11 pm. 1847 E Burnside St. \$12.)

The Egyptian Club presents **Rose City Sirens**, Portland's favorite all-queer burlesque troupe, ev-

ery third Saturday. (9 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

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

SUN • AUG. 17

The Adventure Group takes a five-hour bike road trip. Meet at the north end of Northeast 33rd Drive. Repeats Aug. 24 and 31. (9 am. 2900 NE Marine Drive. Dave 503-281-4798.)

The Adventure Group takes a moderate hike on the south side of Mount St. Helens. Meet outside Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (10 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Ron 503-284-3345.)

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.)

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.)

In advance of the DVD release Aug. 19, Logo

presents the world broadcast premiere of **Affinity**, based on the mystery romance novel by Sarah Waters (*Tipping the Velvet*) about a socialite who becomes infatuated with a female prison inmate in 19th century London and discovers a world of secrets and shadows, heightened passions and the allure of the supernatural. (10 pm.)

MON • AUG. 18

Manifest presents a free introductory **men's core strength yoga class** to develop your spinal and abdominal muscles. (6:30-7:45 pm. 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.)

TUE • AUG. 19

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 Aug. 26 and Sept. 2. (6 pm. 8 SE Madison St. Laurent 503-880-8900.)

Vault Martini Lounge presents the monthly queer social mixer **Q-T**. Enjoy a cocktail from a selection of 44 exotic libations or take advantage of exclusive drink specials benefiting Basic Rights Oregon. (6-8 pm. 226 NW 12th Ave.)

Late Awakenings, a support group for women who question their orientation or who identify as lesbian later in life, meets at Q Center. (7-9 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Manifest presents a **men's healing touch exchange** to help you get in touch with chronic holding patterns and gently free the emotional and physical energy trapped in them. (7-10 pm. \$15-\$45 donation. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.manifestpdx.org/calendar.)

Mississippi Pizza Pub presents **Five Fingers Fest—A Lesbian Music and Art Show** featuring handmade glass, paintings and screenprinted clothing along with performances by charismatic improvisational sensation Malcolm Rollick, dark folk indie angel Sarah Renfro and the colorful jazz-folksters Chica y Los Gatos. (9-11:15 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave. \$5.)

WED • AUG. 20

Elder Resource Alliance celebrates its seventh anniversary at Friendly House with a barbecue potluck picnic party featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie option, cold drinks, birthday treats, door prizes, a silent auction, singing and merriment! Please bring a side, salad or dessert. (2-5 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave.)

Manifest presents a free introductory **men's therapeutic yoga class** to address specific wellness challenges or goals. (6:30-8:30 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.manifestpdx.org/calendar.)

THU • AUG. 21

The Adventure Group goes on a "Cemeteries Galore" urban walk through Marshall Park, Tryon Creek State Park, Dunthorpe Hills and three cemeteries. Meet at the east end of Southwest Evans Street. (6:30 pm. 8100 SW Sixth Ave. Evan 503-701-7922.)

Gender Queery, a discussion group for all your unconventional gender needs, meets at Q Center. (6:30-8 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Plan B hosts the first-ever summer art extravaganza **Paint Your Art Out!** featuring live painting exhibitions by four Portland street-influenced artists; a silent auction featuring queer artists Molly Jochem and Ro Tam; and performances by pole dancer Martina, fire dancer Miss Jane Power and Stellan of the BB Dolls. Proceeds benefit the Siren Nation Women's Music and Arts Festival, which will take place Nov. 3 to 9. (7-10 pm. 1305 SE Eighth Ave. \$5.)

Dyke duo **Felina's Arrow** opens for **Tango Alpha**

Tango and Amara
830 E Burnside St.

GO OUT Drag p... Splend... the pre... American Dream... **Queer Bait** at the E... Ave. \$5.)

Margaret Cho return... time in more than... **Show**, which follow... ward moments with... parents and irreverent... entourage. (11 pm.)

FRI **GO OUT** Back by... ness Ce... one of A... ing miniseries about... hope, based on Tor... Part two screens Au...

Lesbian Love Behind Bars

The lesbian-inflected historical romance is a specialty of gifted novelist Sarah Waters (*Tipping the Velvet*), and *Affinity* is the third of her works to be transferred to the big screen, although in fact it was made for the little screen, by the cable network Logo.

The film follows the travails of wealthy Victorian noblewoman Margaret (Anna Madeley), who has plenty to be depressed about. Her beloved father has died, and her best friend (a secret lover) has just married her brother. It doesn't help that she's also besieged by the unwanted attentions of a male family friend. To lift her mood, she does what a lot of wealthy depressed Victorian women apparently did, becoming a "lunatic visitor" to a women's prison. The idea is that society women could assuage their class guilt while providing a model of genteel deportment to the Bonnie Parkers and Ma Barkers of the day.

At dank, dreary Millbank Prison, Margaret stumbles on, and quickly becomes obsessed with, a gorgeous prisoner named Selina Dawes (Zoe Tapper). Selina's back story is doozy. She's allegedly a "spirit medium" who, during one of those pesky channeling sessions that go terribly awry, may have killed a woman. The two become increasingly involved, and the film plays a cat-and-mouse game about whether Selina is actually a con artist or the suffering, innocent psychic she claims. (She blamed the woman's death on a malevolent male spirit named Peter Quick.)

The women's mutual crush becomes so blatant that Margaret is chastised by the warden. Meanwhile, evidence of