



The *L Word* star Mia Kirshner reads from her book *I Live Here* Oct. 28 at Powell's.



Pepe & the Bottle Blondes perform Oct. 31 during the eighth annual Portland Erotic Ball.



Barbara Higbie (left) and Teresa Trull celebrate

9 Muses Tavern presents **Teresa Trull and Barbara Higbie** performing music ranging over terrain from blues and gospel to folk, rock and jazz. Irreverent singer/comedian **Lisa Koch** opens. (7 and 9 pm. 2715 SE Belmont St. \$22 from TicketsWest.)

Dress to kill during **Sick: Drag Fiasco** featuring performances by Sissyboy's infamous Linah Co-caine, Demon Doll and Kiley Kreep with music by DJs Jimme Jamma, Burn and Megadeath. (9 pm. 320 SE Second Ave.)

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

**Head of the Class**

Artists Repertory Theatre is home to the Northwest premiere of **Stephen Karam's** hot-ticket play *Speech & Debate*.

"This play is like if George Bernard Shaw had written an episode of *Gossip Girl*. It's a beautifully structured piece that respects convention but is of-the-moment about things," says **Jon Kretzu**, associate artistic director of Artists Rep and director of the play.

Set in a classroom in Salem, the play centers around three archetypical outcasts—the dowdy girl, the gay guy and the nerd—who, in addition to grappling with their own identities in the strange land between childhood and adulthood, form a debate club to expose a teacher at the heart of a sex scandal. The play explores a technology-fueled world of IM, blogging, text messaging and what it is to grow up in a place where the hypocritical politics and scandals of the day are the backdrop against which teenagers are trying to find their way.

And if that weren't enough; there's a rock musical version of *The Crucible* combined with the story of a teenage Abe Lincoln wrestling with coming out.

"Young playwrights often have Mack truck subtlety with issues in their work. This piece is very subtle. [Karam] sprinkles feelings about homophobia, rights, loneliness of a gay character and coming out throughout the piece," says Kretzu, who is gay. "He's a very mature playwright. We've seen plenty of plays about all these things, and this play is fresh, surprising and touching. I love that."

Kretzu strives to bring a full scope of talents to directing the work. "We interpret through the prism of our existence, and as a gay man, it comes through. But it's also only a sliver of the pie that I am."

*Speech & Debate* stars **Derek Herman, Jennifer Rowe and Adrian de Forest** as the trio at the heart of the show.

"Casting took forever. They are very particular roles," Kretzu says. "And these actors are these people. They totally relate and play off each other as if they've known each other for years."

Of the play's place in Portland's theatrical landscape, Kretzu is clear: "It's the coolest damn play in Portland this year. You want to be in one of those 60 seats."

—Kristin Steele



Grown-up ideas, high school ambition and teenage bravado collide in the text messaging and IM world of *Speech & Debate* through Nov. 23 at Artists Rep.

**SUN • OCT. 19**

The **Adventure Group** takes an easy walk from Vancouver Lake to Frenchman's Bar regional park. Meet outside Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (10:30 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Evan 503-701-7922.)

The Portland Institute for Contemporary Art presents **Cloud Eye Control's Under Polaris**—a multimedia quest through expansive arctic landscapes, mythical creatures and the ethereal Aurora Borealis blending original live music, video projection, inventive staging and beautiful animation—at Leftbank. (2:30 and 6:30 pm. 240 N Broadway. \$8 members, \$10 nonmembers from www.pica.org.)

Crush presents **Soul to Soul**, a monthly tea dance for Unity Project featuring funk, hip-hop and soul music by DJ Celest and \$2 draft beers. Free mesquite-grilled hamburger and potato salad from 4-6:30 pm! (3 pm. 1400 SE Morrison St. \$3.)

C.C. Slaughters presents **Family Feud** followed by a DVD promotion for **Brothers & Sisters Season 2**. (8 pm game, 9 pm promotion. 219 NW Davis St.)

**MON • OCT. 20**

Elder Resource Alliance presents a **walking class** featuring instruction, warm-ups, hand-outs and a 30-minute walk at Friendly House. Repeats Oct. 27 and Nov. 3. (10-11 am. 1737 NW 26th Ave.)

**Wanderlust: Men's Cycling Ride-about** visits some of Portland's haunted houses. Meet at Whole Foods. Repeats Nov. 3 with a cemetery ride! (6:30 pm. 3535 NE 15th Ave. \$5-\$15 donation. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.manifestpdx.org/calendar.)

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.)

One of Portland's most glamorous divas, the divine Rose Empress XXXVI Maria, hosts an ASL-interpreted **Q Center Bingo!** Preceded by **Pride Foundation** presenting its newest 2008 grant awards with light refreshments. (6 pm grants, 7 pm bingo \$5). 69 SE Taylor St.)

**TUE • OCT. 21**

Elder Resource Alliance presents **Gardening in the NW** at Friendly House. Repeats Oct. 28 and Nov. 4. (11 am-12:30 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave. RSVP to 503-224-2640.)

**King for a Day**

It's hard not to be awestruck by **Kaki King's** virtuosity on the guitar. The 28-year-old Georgia peach turned New York transplant makes gorgeous, intricate, textural sounds on the guitar using finger picking, fret slapping and percussive thumping with her thumbs and heels of her hands.

It was King's pairing with producer **John McEntire** (Tortoise, The Sea and Cake) on 2006's *Until We Felt Red* that made her the darling of lo-fi indie, shoegazer scenesters, late-night talk show hosts and rock stars alike. She was then enlisted by **Eddie Vedder** and **Sean Penn** to make a beautiful musical soundscape for the movie *Into the Wild*, which earned her a Golden Globe nomination. Adding to her growing fame was *August Rush*, a sweet 2007 film about a boy guitar prodigy that utilized her skills as a hand double for the lead actor. Although she didn't compose music for the film, the guitar styling is all her own, and the soundtrack has introduced her music to a much wider audience. In addition King recently made guest appearances on **Foo Fighters'** latest CD, *Echoes, Silence, Patience and Grace*, and **Tegan and Sara's** disc *The Con*. She is now dating one of the **Quin** twins, Sara. Clearly, she's come a long way from busking in the New York subway for change.



Kaki King performs Oct. 21 at Wonder Ballroom

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 Q Center. (6-8 pm. 226 NW 12th Ave.)

Manifest presents a panel discussion with insights from financial professionals about **Managing Your Finances in Turbulent Times** at Q Center. (7-8:30 pm. 69 SE Taylor St. \$5-\$20 donation. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.manifestpdx.org/calendar.)

Guitarist/singer/songwriter **Kaki King** performs with **The Mountain Goats** at Wonder Ballroom. (8 pm. 128 NE Russell St. \$18 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

OPB presents the queer newsmagazine **In the Life**. This month's episode, "Civil Rites & Civil Rights," features a look at California's Proposition 8, a remembrance of longtime activist Del Martin and a conversation with Julian Bond, chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. (11 pm.)

**WED • OCT. 22**

Elder Resource Alliance presents **Seniors Sharing Stories & Music Jam** at Friendly House. Share your writing or the writing of a favorite author, or play a favorite song from a CD or sing something meaningful to you. (2-4 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave.)

The bisexual women's group **Getting Bi PDX** invites newcomers to a light and breezy dinner meeting at **Old Wives' Tales**. (6-8 pm. 1300 E Burnside St.)

Are you tired of the dating game or the same old arguments? Do you find yourself collapsing love with sex, convenience or just the fact that someone says yes when you ask them out? Come find the secret to **Causing Love** at Touchstone Coffee House. (6-9 pm. 445 NE 70th Ave. \$34 from www.causeit.org/events.)

Gay art collector Allan Oliver present **Buenos Aires Visual Arts Tour**—a slide show of museums, galleries, studios and waterfalls with wine and sweets from Argentina—at Onda Gallery. (7 pm. 2215 NE Alberta St. RSVP to nancy@terranovatur.com by Oct. 17.)

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 pm. 69 SE Taylor St. \$5 members, \$10 nonmembers.)

**THU • OCT. 23**

Thinking about coming out? Looking for a phobia-free space to consider whether now is the right time? Q Center presents **Coming Out: Discourses & Resources**, a new group led by a rotating team of trusted queers. (6-7 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Q Center screens the movies you hate to admit you love at **Guilty Pleasures**. Tonight's selection is renegade filmmaker John Waters' ever-so-raunchy *Pink Flamingos*. Repeats Oct. 30 with the lady-lust vampire drama *The Hunger!* Upstairs will be a meeting for **Dads Group**, a safe place to discuss issues of common interest, listen and support. (7-9 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

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