

JUST OUT *at 25*

ROEY THORPE

Amped-up activist

Claim to Fame: Converting Basic Rights Oregon into a proactive movement instead of being defensive and waiting for the next attack. Building a political action committee to endorse candidates. Strengthening a grassroots movement to lobby elected officials from across the state.



So They Say: "I know this is a hard night for all of us. Now we know the pain of having the right to marry put to a public vote. But let me tell you, this is not the way to decide social policy." (Nov. 5, 2004)

Who's Next: Aubrey Harrison and Jessica Lee at BRO. "They understand the power of grassroots organizing and bringing queer voices to the forefront."

Roey Thorpe, a queer rights activist and an inspiring public speaker, was drawn to Oregon from Ithaca, N.Y., to run BRO as executive director from 2001 to 2006. Under her leadership, approximately 3,000 same-sex couples were briefly married in Multnomah County in March 2004.

After resigning from BRO, Thorpe worked as program director of the Freedom to Marry Coalition to focus on the nationwide issue of marriage equality. She now lends her political savvy and high-powered network to Equality Federation, a national organization that connects statewide gay rights groups such as BRO with resources, funding and strategies to continue fighting for equality for sexual minorities.

DON HORN

Director and playwright

Claim to Fame: Founder and managing director of Triangle Productions, known for bare feet and a yearlong tan. Considers Washingtonian Tonya Harding a friend and "real nice lady."

So They Say: "I know people would walk into Fred Meyer and ask at the ticket counter, 'Can I have that lesbian show?' just to provoke them. That was our first controversy." (Sept. 1, 2000)

Who's

Next: Film director Ryan Trecartin.

Don Horn, founder and managing director of Triangle Productions,

has brought unique theater to Southeast Portland for the past 19 years. He tried to retire in 2006 when he sold the Theater Theatre building on Southeast Belmont Street and fled to his second home in Greece. His son's near-fatal auto accident brought him back to the United States, and the call of the theater was too great to resist.

The theater's fleeting nature has inspired Horn to create something lasting. He is halfway through writing a book about his second home, the Greek island of Zakynthos. He also wants his reach as a playwright to extend beyond Portland: He's hoping to bring his 2008 show *Tonya & Nancy: The Rock Opera* to Seattle.

Horn sees theater as a chance to gently convey a message. Most of the works that Triangle produces have a gay bent to them. According to Horn, most playwrights, composers and passionate actors are gay, and you can find gay subtext in most works if you look for it.



STEVE FULMER

Organizer

Claim to Fame: Founder of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus, founding member of the Portland Public Schools Sexual Minority Task Force and chairman of the merger committee for Cascade AIDS Project.

So They Say: "AIDS is not spread by casual contact: Hugging does not cause AIDS. And ignoring the problem doesn't make it go away." (February 1986)

Who's Next: David Pierce, general manager of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus and "a terrific organizer."

Steve Fulmer was born and raised in northwestern Ohio and, from a very young age, knew he had

Continued on Page 23

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