



Queer standup comedian Jessica Halem performs Jan. 31 at Favorite Show.

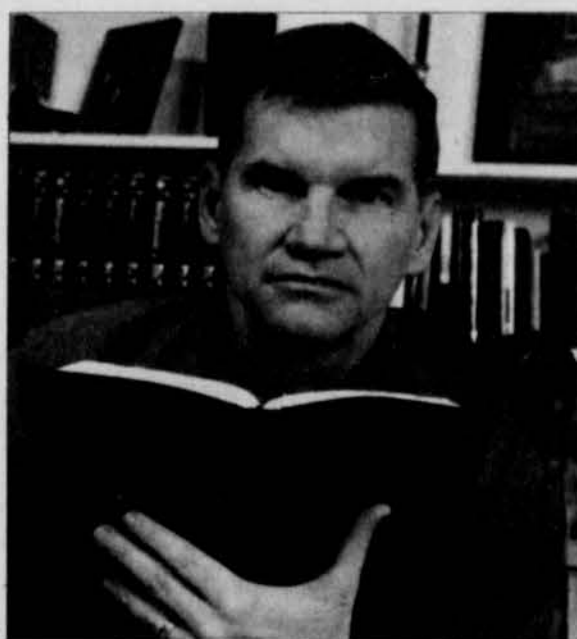
Fall from Grace

Ted Haggard's story dominated more than a few news cycles in late 2006 and early 2007, with occasional reappearances throughout 2008. His fall from the presidency of the country's largest evangelical group (30 million members) and his "exile" by New Life Church, which he founded, were tracked in meticulous detail in both mainstream and queer media. And no wonder. This narrative had it all: a massive reversal of fortune, a closeted evangelical icon, a hunky rent boy, secret motel trysts, furtive blow jobs and even methamphetamine to spice things up. Haggard was attacked by the gay community as just another religious closet queen getting a well-deserved comeuppance and cried over—then reviled—by his less-than-forgiving Christian associates.

The 42-minute HBO documentary *The Trials of Ted Haggard* reworks the familiar narratives into a surprisingly complex, sympathetic picture of a charismatic man equally undone by internalized homophobia and a fatally naive attitude about the world in general and the world of corporate Christianity in particular. It's a bit shocking, given his pivotal place in the modern evangelical movement, to learn that he was far from the empire-building hucksterism of Falwell, Robertson, Swaggart, et al. "Pastor Ted" made \$130,000 a year and apparently had no Cayman Islands bank accounts or phony charities. Even his condemnations of homosexuality and same-sex marriage seem lukewarm, and he arguably paved the way for the modern eco-evangelism movement by preaching that Christians need to be engaged in social issues like poverty and AIDS and by suggesting gay civil unions as an equitable substitute for marriage.

The Trials of Ted Haggard packs quite a punch in its brief running time, filling in the outlines of this seemingly cartoonish, eternally grinning character with flesh and blood. Filmmaker Alexandra Pelosi is an unsparing interviewer, recording his fruitless attempts to get a job ("I'm sure I'll get it unless they Google me") and his family as they move like nomads from one "safe house" or motel to another. She asks him questions like "Where did all your friends go?" and draws out remarkably candid responses. "I'm worthless at this point," he says, a statement that sounds more self-pitying than it is. He also gives a bitter portrait of his fellow evangelicals: "In some circles they'd rather have me be a murderer than gay." It's easy to dismiss Haggard as no more than a delusional closet case, but while he may or may not be that, it doesn't tell the whole story of this unexpectedly complex character.

—Gary Morris

*The Trials of Ted Haggard* premieres Jan. 29 on HBO.

Froelick Gallery exhibits queer painter Leiv Fagereng this month as part of its Winter Group Show. (Visit JustOut.com for "On View" gallery listings.)



An aspiring writer and soldier confronts Biloxi Blues through Feb. 15 at Pro

Mount Carmel Lutheran Church presents **Reconciling in Christ Sunday Worship Service**, an annual celebration of the ecumenical community that welcomes and includes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. (7 pm. 515 SW Maplecrest Drive.)

Urban folksingers **Katie Sawicki and Adam Sweeney** open for rising folk diva **Antje Duvokot** at Alberta Street Public House. (8 pm. 1036 NE Alberta St. \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance.)

Someday Lounge presents **Kick/Ball/Change**, an evening showcasing the best and brightest new works from the Portland dance scene: the smooth hip-hop moves of All of the Above, the bump-and-grind of Beefcake Burlesque, the campy hilarity of Cattitude, the improvisation of KO&Co. and the radical politics of Untrained, I. (9 pm. 125 NW Fifth Ave. \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance.)

MON • JAN. 26

Gay attorney and author Richard B. Schneider presents **Legal Documents That Everyone Needs** at Macy's. (1:30-3 pm. 621 SW Fifth Ave. \$7. Register for Course No. 480 at www.oasisnet.org.)

Interested in preserving our local queer history? **Gay & Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest** meets at Q Center. (7 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

Katy Perry performs with **Alphabeat** at Crystal Ballroom. (7:30 pm. 1332 W Burnside St. \$18 from Ticketmaster.)

TUE • JAN. 27

Crush presents **"That's So Gay" Trivia Night**. (7 pm. 1400 SE Morrison St.)

Tranny and trivial CJ and the Dolls host **Gastronomical Trivia Night** featuring fabulous prizes and fun chocolate knickknacks and snacks at Pix Patisserie. (7 pm. 3901 N Williams Ave. \$2.)

Touchstone Coffee House transforms into a '50s-style bohemian beatnik hideaway—complete with accompanying bongos and jazz—as local writers share their poetry during **Professor Sketchy's Winter Salon Series**. (7 pm. 445 NE 70th Ave.)

Q Center presents **Queer Spirituality**, a monthly exploration of spirituality, faith and religion from a queer perspective. (7-8:30 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

WED • JAN. 28

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.)

Licensed therapist Nina Watt provides effective tools on how better to communicate with your loved one during

Express Yourself, a lively discussion at the Men's Wellness Center. (7-9 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

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.)

THU • JAN. 29

Q Center screens the movies you hate to admit you love at **Guilty Pleasures**. Tonight's selection is *Beaches*. (7-9 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

The Trials of Ted Haggard premieres on HBO. (8 pm.)

Break out your instruments and your poetry books for **Open Mic Night** hosted by folksinger Katie Pfeiff at The Egyptian Club. Repeats Feb. 5. (8 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

Mother's Velvet Lounge & Cafe presents **Cabaret Karaoke**. This month's theme is "Winter Wonderland: The Return of Fraulein Barbi Gutenteit." (8 pm-1 am. 212 SW Stark St.)

Burly Girl Productions presents **Indulgence**, Portland's first and only weekly burlesque revue, at Hawthorne Theatre. Sexy and talented performers will include Fuchsia Foxxx, Jacqueline Hyde, Sahara Dunes, Meghan Mayhem and Tana the Tattooed Lady along with belly dancers, contortionists, singers and vaudeville-type acts. (9 pm. 3862 SE Hawthorne Blvd.)

FRI • JAN. 30

Write Around Portland celebrates the release of the anthology *Now/Past/Future* at First United Methodist Church. Hear the powerful and creative words of fall workshop participants: queer seniors, people living with HIV/AIDS, mentally ill youth, low-income adults and many others. Rescheduled because of inclement weather. (6:30-8:30 pm. 1838 SW Jefferson 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 **Bears Union Suit and Long John Party**. Cover includes clothes check. (9 pm. 219 NW Davis St. \$5.)

SAT • JAN. 31

Lesbian therapist Dawn Menken co-facilitates **Family Circle**—a drop-in clinic to work with families on their deepest dreams, challenges and obstacles—at Process Work Institute. (9:30 am-12:30 pm. 2049 NW Hoyt St. \$50 from 503-223-8188.)

Hot Flash Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

Pauline Miriam is looking forward to Jan. 24, the popular **Hot Flash** dances, along with a few huddles at Barracuda nightclub to celebrate the phenomenon.

When Miriam came to Portland, she was disappointed "out" group events and few opportunities for women from the '50s, '60s and '70s. A few organizations were hard for her to find enough of the music she craved. Many "Enchanted Broccoli Forests" can a gal eat? All those potluck goodies than by dancing to one's favorite tunes.

Never a shrinking violet, Miriam decided to start her own. She was missing regular dances, so were other women. Seasoned lesbians 36 and older, booked a club and an unnecessary. Hot Flash took off. "I was getting 2008," Miriam says, "and that was only the beginning." Her now beckon lesbian dancing enthusiasts in Washington, D.C., and Seattle made a "Best of 2008" list. "We've been a hot flash ever opened," she says.

While Miriam's initial outreach was to the slightly older, she was welcome to participate and soon requested more generations. Motown, Chaka Kahn and The Jackson 5 and Madonna. Miriam complies with requests, working to create a balance of older and newer music styles and a generational nature of the crowds that Hot Flash attracts to a contemporary skin," as she puts it.

When Miriam isn't on the dance trail, she volunteers at Oregon Humane Society. Her goal is "to continue to meet and socialize."

For more information visit www.hotflashdances.com.

The Passengers (a psychedelic drone duo with an experimental bent) and **Teeath** (a mix between basement-dubbed rock and dance beats) perform at Mississippi Pizza Pub. Proceeds benefit the Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls and Girls Rock Camp Alliance. (1-5 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave. \$5-\$10 donation.)

Celebrate the city of Portland during **The Winter Gala** featuring special guest Heather Matarazzo (*The L Word*) and musical entertainment by Storm Large, the Pete Peterson Orchestra, DJs and other surprise performers at The Nines Hotel. Proceeds benefit Q Center. (7:30 pm VIP, 8:30 pm general. 525 SW Morrison St. \$75-\$175 from Tickets Oregon.)

Urban Grind presents **Favorite Show**, a multimedia comedy night featuring readings from Riot Act Media's Joan Hill Depper and Portland author Mykle Hansen; coffeehouse music from Katie Jean

Arnold; violin and stand Wilson, M. Jessica H.

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