

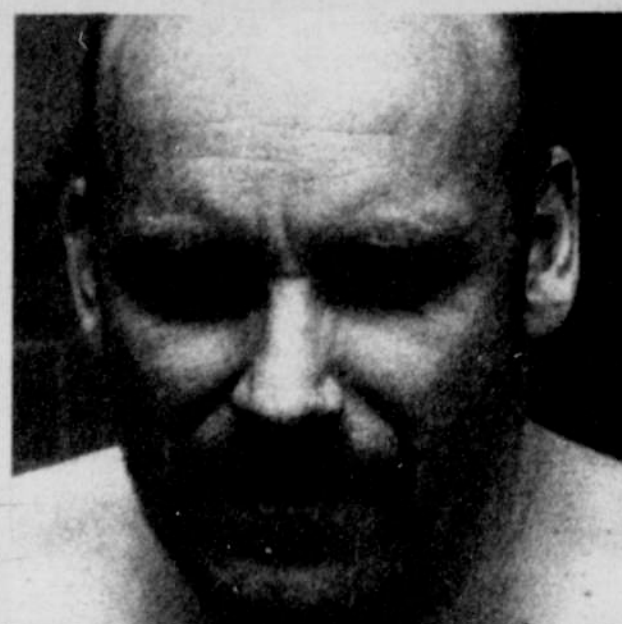
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Richard Morel

Several summers ago DJ and remix master Richard Morel, most recently celebrated for his collaboration on the last Cyndi Lauper record, inspired me to take off my shirt and, as they say, dance like no one was looking. A few years later, in the midst of a frigid winter, Morel has again inspired me to remove an article of clothing. This time it's my hat in honor of his latest solo offering, *The Death of the Paperboy*.

After more than a decade of achieving acclaim as a skilled remixer for a diverse selection of artists such as Pet Shop Boys, Seal, Pretenders, The Killers and Nelly Furtado, Morel stormed Portland's Doug Fir Lounge one sweaty August 2006 night with indie rock guitar legend Bob Mould as *Blowoff*, a duo that combines DJ sets with live guitar rock. A much-anticipated monthly event in Washington, D.C., that draws thousands, *Blowoff* brought out only a handful to the Portland show, but many of those doffed their tops and shook their behinds with joyful abandon.

The *Blowoff* record and show introduced me to and left me in awe of Morel's voice, which sounds like New Order's Bernard Sumner aspiring to be Leonard Cohen with a touch of Nitzer Ebb's Douglas McCarthy minus the creepy sexual vibe. Those



"You shake a storm up, we'll turn the porn up," teases Richard Morel on *Death of the Paperboy*.

heavenly pipes are thankfully front and center on *Death of the Paperboy's* 11 tracks, most of which are uniformly muscular but moody, electronics-enhanced rock with alternately beautiful and bleak lyrics.

Like a fireworks display which saves the best for last, a couple of *Paperboy's* most memorable tracks are its final two. "I'm So Low I Keep Falling" is the funkiest, most loose-limbed song on the record, enlivened by Morel's humorous encouragement ("You shake a storm up, we'll turn the porn up"). The epic closer "Nova" opens with book-worthy lyrics ("We pulled off to the side of the road to do another line in the Nova on a photograph of your old man and your mom") and is the

luxurious musical equivalent of a day spent sunbathing.

Paperboy is bolstered by an eight-song remix disc that finds Morel (alias: Pink Noise) cutting out the middleman and reimagining selected tracks as dancefloor fillers, not useless filler. The highlight of this second disc is a seven-minute version of David Bowie's "Sweet Thing," which achieves the rare as far as covers go: absolutely obliterating the original, rendering it obsolete and near-meaningless.

—Jim Thompson

»WED • APRIL 2

Crush presents Gayme Show Bingo every Wednesday. (9 pm. 1400 SE Morrison St.)

»THU • APRIL 2

Reflect, write and share from your heart in an open, non judgmental space during Men's Soul Talk, a weekly writing group presented by Manifest. (6:30-8 pm. \$5-\$15 donation. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.manifestpdx.org/calendar.)

Poison Waters is calling for all Fabulous Drag Queens for Portland's Drag Race! See this issue's Northwest Briefs for more information. (7 pm. 1035 SW Stark St.)

Scandals celebrates 30 years! Featuring Sneakin' Out, wine tasting, art show, DJ's, dancing, gogos, and more. (7 pm. 1125 SW Stark St.)

Pearl's Women Center presents Arlo Guthrie "Lost World Tour" a fundraiser for the Congregation Beth Israel & The Guthrie Center Congregation Beth Israel 150th Anniversary Celebration. (7:30 pm. Reserved Seating \$36. Premier Seating \$180. 1972 NW Flanders St.)

Hardscaping in Focus: Learn about using stone, wood and water in giving structure to your garden. Glenn Nardelli and Megan Twilegar of Pistils Landscape Design lead the conversation on how to transform your garden by employing a variety of handsome structural elements. (Berry Botanic Garden, 11505 SW Summerville Ave., Portland. Thursday, 7-9 pm. \$15)

»FRI • APRIL 3

SAT • APRIL 4 Opening Reception for The Distance Traveled and Art Exhibit featuring premier Portland artist Gene Gill and Eric Bowman Broderick Gallery (1-6 pm. 15800 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd., Lake Oswego)

»SAT • APRIL 4

Debut of Saturday Flashback Dance! Barracuda Nightclub, 6-10pm \$8.00 Hosted by Hot Flash Dance Parties: retro dance party open to all sexual orientations: meet new people and dance to some of the best retro music around

»SUN • APRIL 5

Are you a little rusty at pinochle? Always wanted to learn how to play? Be coached by the regulars during the gay-friendly Pinochle Group Beginners Night every first Sunday at Hobo's (6 pm. 120 NW Third Ave.)

Crush presents Tease Time. A Modern Burlesque Revue with host Miss Frankie Tease, every Sunday (5-8 pm. \$7 includes raffle ticket. 1400 SE Morrison St. www.girlpartiespdx.com)

»For a complete listing of Q Center events please visit <http://www.pdxq-center.org/>

»MARCH 21-APRIL 5

NW Children's Theatre presents "Goodnight Moon" at the NW Neighborhood Cultural Center (Matinees at Noon and 3 pm. 1819 NW Everett St., \$15-20 for adults, \$10-16 for youth 14 & younger)

March 26-29, 2009 Broadway Across America presents "Girls Night The Musical" at The Newmark Theater (Thursday March 26th at 7:30 pm; Friday March 27th at 8 pm; Saturday March 28th at 2 and 8 pm; Sunday March 29th at 2 and 6:30 pm. 1111 SW Broadway. Tickets at 503-790-ARTS, the PCPA Box Office or ticketmaster.com)

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QT

tuesday, april 21

gay/lesbian/bi/trans social mixer 5 pm-close
@ Vault Martini Lounge / No Cover, Drink proceeds to Portland's Q-Center / 226 NW 12th Portland, Or 97209

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