

OUT & ABOUT

» A TASTE OF PORTLAND DANCE SPOTLIGHTS THE REGION'S TALENTS

Best Foot Forward

Portland is rich with dancemakers. Some have been working here for a decade or longer; others have recently moved to the area.

Because producing a dance performance consumes so much time, energy and cash, many choreographers are able to present their work locally only once or twice a year, which means it's easy for performing arts fans to miss these occasions. Perhaps that's why **A Taste of Portland Dance**, featuring the work of seven dance artists, attracted a full house last summer. It gave audiences a chance to sample a variety of Portland's best dance in one event.

The first Taste of Portland Dance was a response to KBOO radio's call for participation in its 40th anniversary celebration.

"I was thinking it would be great to get together local dancemakers," says choreographer Agnieszka Laska, who rounded up members of Portland's dance community for an early-evening event squeezed in before the previously scheduled premiere of Laska's own work, happening later that night.

A Taste of Portland Dance was a success worth repeating; the 2009 version takes place Saturday, June 20 at Imago Theatre. New this year is a roundtable, during which choreographers will discuss the challenges facing the local dance community today — a time when even Portland's largest dance institution, Oregon Ballet Theatre, faces dire financial troubles. The discussion is free and open to the public; location and time to be announced.

A Taste of Portland Dance showcases work from seven professional artists: Russell Capps, founder of Vancouver's Washington State Ballet; Mizu Desierto, founder of Portland's Water in the Desert festival; Lauren Edson, whose work will be presented in Seattle this winter as part of a Joyce Theater-sponsored series; Gavin Larsen, a principal dancer with Oregon Ballet Theatre; the rapidly-expanding Northwest Professional Dance Project; and Richard Sokpor, a former member of the National Dance Company of Ghana. Laska will offer an excerpt from her work-in-progress, "Lamentatio."

Laska hopes A Taste of Portland Dance will expand attendees' appreciation for "the full spectrum of what's going on in dance in Portland."

—REBECCA RAGAIN

A Taste of Portland Dance is Sat., June 20, 7 p.m., at Imago Theatre, 17 SE Eighth Ave., \$15 at the door, \$10 students/seniors/Dance Coalition of Oregon members, artixpdx.com.

teer, though, but she can sit on your shoulder while you do!). (Gather/6 pm, March/7 pm, North Park Blocks, NW Park/Couch)

GET OUT! Pride 2009! Come join the go-go crew, flesh artists with a few surprises and celebrate PRIDE. 2 dance floors with dj's ZITA, WILDFIRE and CHELSEA STARR. Performances by: Zora Phoenix, Blaze, Miss Germany, and LadyKilla loves Pegatron! Pre-funk at Dingo's on Hawthorne beforehand! (Doors/8 pm, Mt. Tabor Theater, 4811 SE Hawthorne, \$10/advance, \$15/door, Tickets available at Dingos on Hawthorne and www.brownpapertickets.com)

Hot Flash Pride Dance!! For women who are too old for the 20-something club scene and too young to stop dancing! Picture a dance floor packed with fabulous women partying to the sounds of Aretha, The Jackson 5, Chaka Khan and Blondie. You'll also hear Flo-rida, Rihanna, Beyonce, Justin Timberlake, Usher and the newest from Madonna. (5-9 pm, Barracuda, 9 NW 2nd Ave, \$8, 21+)

The Portland Gay Men's Chorus presents Mars on Broadway with special guest star Susannah Mars. Portland's first lady of musical theater will be the special guest as they romp through some of the greatest musical moments from Broadway - for one night only! (7:30 pm, Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 SW Broadway, \$21/\$27/\$33, www.pdxgmc.org or by phone at the PGMC box office at 503-226-2588)

The Rose City Softball Association holds its annual Softball All Stars VS the Portland Police Charity Softball Game. Come out and cheer your Gay and Lesbian All Stars as they take on the Portland Police Team! (11:30 am-3 pm, Farragut Park, North Kirby/Farragut in North Portland, \$5 donation to support GLBT community!)

CC Slaughters 6th Annual Beach Party Celebration for Pride Weekend! CD Release Party for The Black Eyed Peas and The Sounds! (11 pm/Release party, CC Slaughters, 219 NW Davis, www.ccslaughterspdx.com)

9th Annual BlackOUT concert for Portland Black Pride featuring Melange Lavonne, Last Offense and Bry' Nt. (9 pm, Papa Lounge, 105 NW 3rd)

Calling all queer youth who enjoy watching/performing original songs, poems, & art! Come and sip a stellar cup of coffee, meet new folks, and enjoy a great night of talent. We've got the space, the coffee, and the piano - now all we need is you! (7-10 pm, Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, Free)

Portland Gay Volleyball's 2nd Annual Pride Blind Draw Tournament It is an all-day tournament followed by an "after-tournament" party in northwest Portland. (9-6 pm, at Brentwood Park in southeast Portland.)

» SUN JUNE 14 •

PRIDE PROM! Open to all queers and allies ages 21+ over! Dancing, Prom Pictures, Drink Specials, Appetizers and other Prom Goodies! (8 pm, In the Tomb at the E-Room, 3701 SE Division St, \$10)

5th Annual Stark Street Block Parties! Hosted by Poison Waters with performances by Lonnie Gordon, Jacinta, and Lady Bunny! (All day, SW Stark/10th Ave)

CC Slaughters' After Parade Party! And Superstar Divas Show with Bolivia, Honey, and Ginger. Music by DJ Robbi! (10 am/Special opening, 8 pm/Divas Show, CC Slaughters, 219 NW Davis, www.ccslaughterspdx.com)

» MON JUNE 15 •

Wanderlust Cycling Group. Have fun exploring Portland by bike, followed by optional dinner & hot tub. (6:30-8 pm Mondays, weekly, www.manifestpdx.org/calendar)

Find work and abundance group. Men committed to creating work that is both fulfilling & brings them abundance support one another every week. The group will also learn crucial job skills like informational interviewing, networking, resume writing, internet research, etc. Facilitated by Thom Cathcart, life coach. (7:45-9:30 pm, Mondays, weekly, www.manifestpdx.org/calendar)

Test your trivia knowledge for FREE every Monday night at Suki's (near PSU, located below the Travelodge). Prize is chiefly bragging rights. Groups as well as individuals welcome - they'll find a team for you. (9 pm, Suki's Bar & Grill, 2401 SW 4th Ave., www.sukisbargrill.com)

Just Out presents everyone's favorite: Pride Special GAY SKATE! Doors open at 7 pm with skating until 9 pm. Please bring canned food donations for Esther's Pantry. Gay Skate is a familyfriendly, all-ages event. Arcade games and snack bar available. Win Pride Special door prizes tonight. (7 pm, Oaks Park Pavilion, 7805 SE Oaks Park Way, \$6).

» TUES JUNE 16 •

Head downtown to Reading Frenzy for a reading of Portland Queer: Tales of the Rose City in celebration of Pride Month. At once a love letter to the Rose City and a dream of escape, the stories of *Portland Queer* reveal the contradictions and commonalities of life in one of the world's great queer meccas. Authors will be in attendance. (7 pm, Reading Frenzy, 921 SW Oak, Free)

Martinis, anyone? Head on down to Vault for the weekly queer night. (9 pm-close, Vault, 226 NW 12th Ave, www.vault-martini.com)

Late Awakenings is a support group for women who question their orientation or who come out and identify as lesbian later in life. That tends to be anywhere from 35 to 65, but anyone is welcome at any age. (7 pm-9 pm, Q Center, 4115 N. Mississippi, www.pdxqcenter.org)

A social group for all of our genderfabulous sisters (anyone identifying and/or presenting on the trans-feminine spectrum). We meet for fun, discussion, and support around what it means to be on the trans-fem side of things. (7 pm-9 pm, Q Center, 4115 N. Mississippi, www.pdxqcenter.org)

Yoga With Charles! This coed class, for all levels from beginner to advanced, practices a mixture of Flow, Core, and Relaxation poses. Bring a friend for only \$5! *bring your own mat and blanket (if needed) (6:30-8 pm, Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, \$35/month or \$10/drop-in)

» WED JUNE 17 •

Personal Training Group. Learn with ACE Certified Personal Trainer David Scheer and a team how to turn your wellness goals into fun, easy exercise & nutrition. (7-8 am weekly Mon, Wed, & Fri, www.manifestpdx.org/calendar)

The Adventure Group takes a very difficult hike to Table Mountain, a grueling climb with a great reward on top: one of the best panoramas in the whole Columbia River Gorge, including a bird's eye view of the Bonneville Dam. (9 am, Meet outside Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer, 3030 NE Weidler St, Please RSVP - Evan 503-701-7922)

Welcome to a writing group at Q Center for self-identified women writers of all levels and genres. The goal of Women Who Write is to combine a critique and creative writing group, all within a supportive space. (7-9 pm, Q Center, 4115 N. Mississippi, www.pdxqcenter.org)

Get easy and fun exercise with the Walking Group. Create community and enjoy Portland's beautiful Esplanade & neighborhoods. (6-7 pm Wednesdays weekly, Bob Basar & David Hicks, www.manifestpdx.org/calendar)

FAME! North Portland's new queer dance night happening every Wednesday night! Cheap food and drinks, pinball and pool. (9:30 pm-close, Portsmouth Pub, 5262 N. Lombard St. Free!)

» THUR JUNE 18 •

Come out for PABA Biz Builders! PABA is the Portland Area Business Association, an organization made up of businesses and individual professionals interested in networking. We are an association that recognizes the rewards and challenges of being in the business world and seeks to support and promote the efforts of members. (7-9 am, Q Center, 4115 N. Mississippi, www.pdxqcenter.org)

Connect your breathing, body & mind with Beginner's Yoga. Bryan Rollins, Hatha Yoga Instructor. (6:15-7:30 pm, Thursdays weekly, www.manifestpdx.org/calendar)

The Adventure Group takes a moderate hike from Nob Hill to Kings Heights and Pittock Mansion with optional post-walk dinner on NW 23rd. (6 pm - Meet on the NW corner of Wallace Park, 2512 NW Raleigh St, Evan 503-701-7922)

Join a culture sharing conversation for the GLBT community. Listen to and learn from one another as we tell our own stories. (6-9pm, Sellwood Community Center, 1436 SE Spokane, www.ourunitedvillages.org)

Bites for Rights! Join a number of amazing establishments around the state that will be donating 15% of their proceeds to Basic Rights Oregon. Make a day of it and support equality for all. Visit as many places as you can, be sure to thank them before you leave, and don't forget to order dessert! Visit www.basicrights.org for a list of participating restaurants!

Ms. V will discuss the different types of orgasm, the sexual response cycle, and overcoming obstacles to orgasm in this Women & Orgasm class hosted by It's My Pleasure. Pre-orgasmic women encouraged to at-



Cabaret with a Q. 8-10 pm. Thurs. June 18 at The Q Center.

tend. You must pre-register to reserve a spot. (7 pm, It's My Pleasure, 3106 NE 64th, \$10, to register call 503-280-8080)

Welcome to a revival of the classic cabaret, where the piano was the center of attention and the hills were alive with the sound of music. Cabaret with a Q is a monthly evening of singing, meeting friends and delicious conversation around the piano. With the delightful Bob Lamberson as our host and Glenn Goodfellow at the keyboard, you can either sing along with the group or grab the mic and rock a solo. (8-10 pm, Q Center, 4115 N. Mississippi, www.pdxqcenter.org)

Head down to Diablos every Thursday for the Queer Underground Dance Party! (9 pm, Diablos, Eugene, \$3, 21+, thequeerunderground@gmail.com)

» FRI JUNE 19 •

Personal Training Group. Learn with ACE Certified Personal Trainer David Scheer and a team how to turn your wellness goals into fun, easy exercise & nutrition. (7-8 am weekly, Mon, Wed, & Fri, www.manifestpdx.org/calendar)

Are you ready to test your knowledge with an inquisitive, fun game of Jeopardy? Come learn about the different aspects of health and random gay culture factoids! Prizes will be awarded too! Refreshments and light snacks will be provided. (7:30-8:30 pm, Men's Wellness Center, 928 SW Stark, Free, cityguys@cascadeaids.org)

Learn all about the mysterious and elusive G-Spot at It's My Pleasure. In-depth discussion of female ejaculation, anatomy, positions, toys, and additional resources including books and videos. (7 pm, It's My Pleasure, 3106 NE 64th, \$10, to register call 503-280-8080)

CRAVE, Portland's Tastiest Ladies Dance Party! Join us for Crave's Androgyny Theme Party! DJs Mani and Zita. Performances by the Rose City Sirens. Ten sexy go-go girls! 'Best Androgyny' Contest. Drink specials & jello shots. Giveaways from It's My Pleasure & Lucky Devil Lounge! (9 pm, Crush, 1400 SE Morrison, \$7, www.myspace.com/cravepdx)

Pornapalooza Porn Exchange with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (9-12 pm, Dirty Duck Tavern, 439 NW 3rd Ave. More details at www.dirtyducktavern.net)

» SAT JUNE 20 •

The Adventure Group goes whitewater rafting on the White Salmon River, with thrilling III-IV rated rapids, plush cool passages of unique flora and pleasant forests under the warming sun of the Eastern Washington plateau. (7:30 am, Meet outside Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer, 3030 NE Weidler St, RSVP required - Jim 503-760-3814)

PFLAG Black/African American Monthly Chapter Meeting. (10 am-noon, Ainsworth United Church of Christ, 2941 NE Ainsworth, Michael Room, Back side of church, for more information, contact Geri Washington 503-421-3343 or geri.washington@yahoo.com)

New cooking and eating well group at Manifest. Open to adult men of all ages, sizes, races, orientations, experience levels and backgrounds. Learn how to cook simple, nutritious meals. RSVP George Ellis 503-223-8822 x1 (10 am-noon, \$15-\$25 sliding scale, www.manifestpdx.org/calendar)

Calling all queer youth who enjoy watching and discussing movies for the Youth Movie Night. Tonight's Film: *The Laramie Project*. (7-10 pm, Q Center, 4115 N. Mississippi, www.pdxqcenter.org)

Head out to the "Eve of Summer Jody Crocker Concert" at the E-Room, hosted by the PDX Lesbian Network. (9 pm-2 am, E-Room, 3701 SE Division, cover at the door)

The Art Institute of Portland presents "Silhouettes: A Fashion Show Benefiting the

