



PAGE 3 by Marty Davis

Dragging It Out

We're not just about queens, we're about businesses (with queens)

"All you write about is drag queens," spattered and sputtered the indignant alcohol-fueled friend at a typical-for-me Sunday morning brunch. "Drag queens, drag queens, drag queens. Why can't you write about the business community, why always the drag queens?"

Answering the question and attempting a robust conversation at that moment wasn't really an option, so I simply wiped off the spittle and left—with a good bit of dramatic indignation, I might add. Now, several months later, I'd like to calmly and rationally address the off-balance notion that *Just Out* only writes about drag queens.

Horse pucky.

There.

Addressed.

Moving on.

Wait a minute. I may not be done with this after all. The truth is that some of the finest people in this community are drag queens. Some of the most generous and giving people you could ever hope to meet are drag queens. Admittedly, some royal pain-in-the-ass folks are drag queens, too, but that's another story for another day. Drag queens—traditional, punk, genderqueer, new and old school—are the liveliest and most entertaining part of our community. They are embedded in the roots of our history; many will become the leaders of our future. They are free spirits, they celebrate, they are joyous. Sometimes they're just tipsy, but again, another day. As long as there are drag queens, *Just Out* will write about them. To say that's all we write about, though, is more than a little shortsighted and just plain wrong.

Here's the short version of this story. The LGBTQ community as a whole, and *Just Out* in its role, is not about drag queens or business leaders. It's not political leaders or show promoters. It's not gay men or lesbians. It's not genderqueer or Primetimers. It's all of us. We demand inclusiveness from the greater community; let's offer it up to ourselves, too. While our friends in heels and glitter may get the spotlight and center stage, that's not to say that the business leaders of our community aren't doing important work in their own right. Business owners are the first people called when money and dona-

tions are needed to support our causes and nonprofits that we hold near and dear. LGBTQ business leaders, and our strong, supportive allies and friends, are always the first asked and usually the first to step up. A drag queen may lead the parade, but a business owner donated the balloons. It takes both of them together to make a good parade. *Just Out* staunchly supports local business and our business leaders—always have, always will. In this issue, we shine the spotlight on a diverse and vibrant bunch of new and old business owners. Kindly note that only one involves men wearing dresses.

Oh. Nothing makes you sit up and take note of your policies and practices like a scathing and threatening letter from a reader. In this instance, it's our Letters to the Editor policy that has come under question and under fire. Back before Facebook, back in the olden days, people didn't have forums for discussion like those available today. This will seem hard to imagine for many but once upon a time, when people had something to say, and wanted to share, they wrote letters, Letters to the Editor. People would read these letters, mumble and grumble and then write back their own letter in response. Discussion on these heated topics could go on for weeks, even months. Today a perceived injustice will be posted as a Facebook status, righteous indignation will rise like steam, people will fuss and fume for a good 20 minutes and then, oh look, a cute kitten video and that's the end of that.

Where am I going? Oh yeah, Letters to the Editor. We like them, we encourage people to write them, we print them, but we don't print them all. Letters to the Editor have to be relevant to some aspect of our specific community. While I love that you're passionate about the Sellwood Bridge, send that letter to the *Oregonian*. If, as an LGBTQ voter, you support a candidate for office based on their marriage equality position, please share your thoughts with us. *Just Out* will not print "broadcast" letters, those that are nonspecific to a publication and are sent to every paper in the state. We won't print letters from folks who have destroyed

their credibility by sending 250 letters a week on every topic under the sun. Again, the *Oregonian*.

As a newspaper, *Just Out* supports the first amendment and freedom of speech rights. It is not our place to censor reader opinions and beliefs. As editors, we don't, can't, fact-check people's opinions. But what we can do is keep a more watchful eye on content that might be damaging or be perceived as an attack on a community member. That said, all community leaders and institutions are subject to the watchful eye of the public. There may be disagreement; there may be differences. *Just Out* has always been, and will continue to be, a forum for the discussion of these differences. But again, we will also be watchful of letters that might prove to cause unwarranted damage to said leader or institution.

Letters to the Editor aren't the only way to get your name before *Just Out* readers. We've got the welcome mat out for experienced freelance writers. Please take note, we're not looking for columnists right now—we're quite happy and full up with the ace ones we have. We do need, however, more lively and sharp voices to send to the theater, to the movies, to interview drag queens—oops, I mean business owners, and to fill our pages with quality news reporting. We'll send you off to meet fascinating people and we'll give you a seat at our bloggers table.

We'll even pay you for your efforts. Remember that old saying, "A penny for your thoughts?" Close.

You'll work under the tutelage of Amanda Schurr, one of the finest editors in Portland. You should actually pay me for the lessons and training you'll get from her. Just kidding. Sort of.

To be specific, we would like to hear from you if you're versed in AP style, understand deadlines like mothers understand children, are Out & About in Portland's LGBTQ community and have an understanding and love of the place and the power of print publications. If this sounds like you, please contact Amanda Schurr at amanda@justout.com.

We look forward to hearing from you



just out

VOL. 27, NO. 20

OCTOBER 1, 2010

INSIDE»

» FEATURE

20 THE BUSINESS OF COMMUNITY

A roundup of LGBTQ establishments offering a little something different:

Oasisba, Stone Buddha, Fido's Indoor Dog Park, Cassell Communications and Fantasma

» PROFILES

16 WALKING TALL

Jonathan Reitan ramps up AIDS Walk fundraising, confronts AIDS head-on

» NEWS / EVENTS

6 NORTHWEST NEWS IN BRIEF

18 ASHLAND CALLING

New organizers step up with Southern Oregon Pride's first official march

» ARTS & CULTURE

25 OUT & ABOUT

32 A GROWN-UP NOISE

Corin Tucker goes solo and rocks quieter

34 MAKING A KILLING IN VARIETY THEATER

Star performers shine darkly for "Murder"

36 DANCING MACHINE

New leadership and new productions energize Oregon Ballet Theatre

38 PLGFF, TAKE TWO

More from the 14th Annual Portland Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

40 KEEPING IT WEIRD

The Egyptian Room widens its welcome mat

» COLUMNISTS

30 LIVING OUT LOUD

35 LADY ABOUT TOWN

42 PETLANDIA

43 REMEMBER TO BREATHE

» BACK PAGES

50 OUT AND ABOUT

51 PEACOCK AFTER DARK 2010

COVER ARTIST

Alisa Starr makes *Snarky Cards: Brutally Honest Greeting Cards*. She sells them in bars from a box that hangs beneath her boobs. She guarantees that they will "crack you the fuck up." You can learn more about this "art prostitute" at superalisa.com, and in our Oct. 15 issue.

