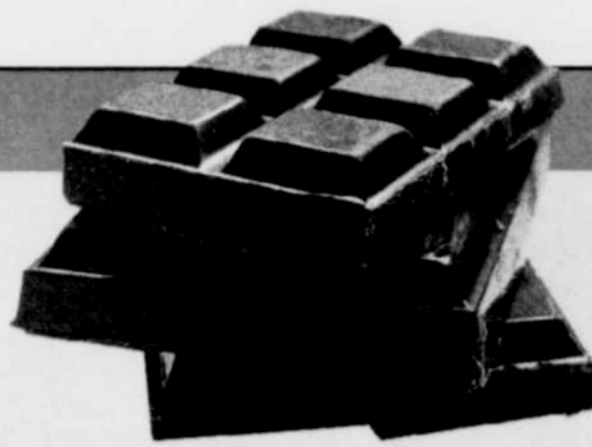


OUT & ABOUT

A Divine Food Festival

> TASTE THE FOOD OF THE GODS AT CHOCOLATE FEST



Its scientific name literally translates to "food of the gods." In ancient times, it was even used as currency. Of what do I speak? Why, cocoa beans of course—the raw material for my favorite food group, *chocolate*.

Lucky for me, **Chocolate Fest** is just around the corner. This three-day candy orgy kicks off at 6 p.m. on January 21 with a 21-and-older opening night premiere featuring music by Echo Jazz Trio and adult libations. This is also where voting for the "Best in Show" confection takes place.

The remainder of the festival is open to all ages and features tasty chocolate treats from

the Northwest and beyond for you to savor and delight in. To further prove that chocolate isn't just for kids, the festival will give those of age the opportunity to pair wines with chocolates for the ultimate gourmet experience. There are also demonstrations and presentations throughout the weekend to help you become a true chocolate connoisseur. To help assuage any guilt you might have about consuming vast quantities of the stuff, note that proceeds from this event benefit the World Forestry Center. Yep, you're eating chocolate for charity.

By the way, I completely disagree with any-

one who contends chocolate is better than sex. Rather than picking one over the other, I say do both—preferably at the same time. And that means my date to this event is going to have a *really* good weekend.

Opening Night Premiere (21+), Jan. 21, 6 p.m.; Jan. 22-23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Oregon Convention Center, Exhibit Hall A, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.; premiere, \$20; regular tickets, \$7-\$10; chocolatefest.org or 800-992-8499.

—Bennie Tan



Fertile Ground is 10 days of more than 50 Portland-generated arts events of new work. A sampling:

BRIDGETOWN. A MUSICAL
Jan. 27-29 @ Conduit, 918 SW Yamhill

DAVID SAFFERT'S BIRTHDAY BASH TRAVAGANZA!
Jan. 21 & 22 @ Curious Comedy Theater, 5225 NE MLK

LOSING GROUND IN THE BIG CITY
Jan. 20-23 @ the Headwaters, 55 NE Farragut #9

MR. DARCY DREAM BOAT
Jan. 20-29 @ Theater! Theater!, 3430 SE Belmont

STORIES FROM THE STREETS
Jan. 28 & 29 @ Sellwood Masonic Lodge, 7126 SE Milwaukie

SUBURBAN TRIBE 6 SMARTER THAN PHONES
Jan. 20-30 @ Theater! Theater!, 3430 SE Belmont

THREADS: THE TRUE STORY OF AN INDIANA FARM GIRL IN VIET NAM
Jan. 27-Feb. 12 @ The Headwaters, 55 NE Farragut #9

<< CONTINUED FROM PG. 23

Hamburger Mary's Trivia Night! (8:00 p.m., Hamburger Mary's, 19 NW 5th, 21+)

Licious Karaoke. (8:00 p.m., The Northbank Bar, 106 W 6th, Vancouver, 21+)

Step & Hip-Hop II dance classes with SWAGGER. (5:00 p.m. Step, 6:00 p.m. Hip-Hop II, Bamboo Grove, 134 SE Taylor, \$5-\$7 sliding scale, theotherspacepdx.com)

GO Profile Theatre presents a staged Reading of Lee Blessing's **When We Go Upon the Sea.** (7:30 p.m., Theater! Theater!, 3430 SE Belmont, \$10-15, profiletheatre.org)

Satori Men's Chorus invites you to join them. Interested? Come to rehearsal! (7:00 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1244 NE Cesar Chavez, satorichorus.org)

Anawim Christian Fellowship. (6:30-8:30 p.m., Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, pdxqcenter.org)

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change. (1-3:00 p.m., Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, oloc.org)

Inter-Personal Violence Support Group. (6-8:00 p.m., Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, pdxqcenter.org)

Free Rapid HIV testing & STD screening for guys into guys. (11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Pivot, 209 SW 4th, pivotpdx.org)

THURS JAN 13

GO **Radical Act**, Tex Clark's documentary about women who rock, premieres as part of the Reel Music Film Festival. (7:00 p.m., Mission Theater, 1624 NW Glisan, 21+, nwfilm.org)

Grease: it's not a dance night for boys. It's a new production of the classic musical, direct from Broadway! (7:30 p.m., Keller Auditorium, 222 SW Clay, \$25-55)

Mary-Go-Round Mary-oke. (8:00 p.m., Hamburger Mary's, 19 NW 5th, 21+)

Licious Karaoke. (8:00 p.m., The Northbank Bar, 106 W 6th, Vancouver, 21+)

Profile Theatre presents a staged Reading of Lee Blessing's **When We Go Upon the Sea.** (7:30 p.m., Theater! Theater!, 3430 SE Belmont, \$10-15, profiletheatre.org)

Hip-Hop I dance classes with SWAGGER. (5-6:00 p.m., Bamboo Grove, 134 SE Taylor, \$5-\$7 sliding scale, theotherspacepdx.com)

Queer gaming nerds! Come to **Queer Magic**, a queer version of Magic the Gathering. (6-9:00 p.m., In Other Words, 8b NE Killingsworth, inotherwords.org)

Relationship Gardening is a support group for single, gay men who desire monogamy. (\$25/week, Call 503-348-0405 for pre-screening, relationshipgardening.com)

FRI JAN 14

GO **Dirty Queer celebrates its 4th anniversary!** Portland's favorite X-rated open mic, Dirty Queer is a haven for queer erotic entertainers of all sorts: dancers, jugglers, singers, musicians, comics, poets, storytellers, and more. Come early if you want to participate (or sit)...the sign-up sheet (and chairs) fill up fast! ASL



Ajai Tripathi, Danel Malan, Rory Stitt and Danny Moreno in Teatro Milagro's **Duende de Lorca**, running Jan. 13-22. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit milagro.org.

interpretation will be available. (6-11:00 p.m., In Other Words, 8b NE Killingsworth, 18+, \$1-5, dirtyqueer.com)

Film Action Oregon and BAM (Beer and Movie) presents a **Preview-Opening and Party for Portlandia.** (7:30 p.m., Hollywood Theatre, 4122 NE Sandy, \$15, filmaction.org)

Profile Theatre presents a staged Reading of Lee Blessing's **When We Go Upon the Sea.** (7:30 p.m., Theater! Theater!, 3430 SE Belmont, \$10-15, profiletheatre.org)

Dashboard Confessional makes a stop in Portland to mark the 10th anniversary of *The Swiss Army Romance*. (8:00 p.m., Wonder Ballroom, 128 NE Russell, \$25 adv/\$28 dos)

GO Get **BENT**, you dance-ey prance-ey queers... DJs Jodi Bon Jodi and Roy G Biv want you to burn up the dance floor. (9:00 p.m., The Foggy Notion, 3416 N Lombard, 21+, \$3)

Film Fridays at Pivot! This week's film: *Beautiful Thing* (1996). (7:00 p.m., Pivot, 209 SW 4th, Free, pivotpdx.org)

Licious Karaoke. (8:00 p.m., The Northbank Bar, 106 W 6th, Vancouver, 21+)

Oregon Bears Happy Hour. (5-7:00 p.m., Fox & Hounds, 217 NW 2nd, 21+)

The Adventure Group goes on a 3-day Snow-Vaganza in Mt Bachelor with lodging in Sunriver. (RSVP to Evan at 503-701-7922)

Manifest Community Gathering. Men and their allies are invited to enjoy a potluck dinner, discussion, live musicians, and a drum circle. Donation Suggested to benefit Manifest's Diversity Outreach Program, which connects high risk men with community resources. (6:00 p.m., RSVP to 503-223-8822 x1 or online at manifestpdx.org)

SAT JAN 15

GO **Gaycation Goes Catastrophic!** This ain't yer grandma's Gaycation. They're starting the night with the music video premiere of *Run With It*, then resident DJs Mr. Charming and Snowtucker kick it up a notch to prepare for hottie rapper/producer Katastrophe. And if that wasn't enough, the Athens Boys Choir will be making an appearance. (8:00 p.m., Holocene, 1001 SE Morrison, 21+, \$3 before 10/\$5 after 10)

GO Hip Chicks Do Wine presents **Beat the Winter Blues**, a fundraiser for Esther's Pantry and soup cook-off. Hosted by the ever-gracious Poison Waters, with music by Galynne Davis. Don't forget to bring non-perishable food donations! (4:00 p.m. cook-off, 6:00 p.m. entertainment & wine tasting, Hip Chicks Do Wine, 4510 SE 23rd, \$10-15, hipchicksdowine.com)

Profile Theatre presents a staged Reading of Lee Blessing's **When We Go Upon the Sea.** (7:30 p.m., Theater! Theater!, 3430 SE Belmont, \$10-15, profiletheatre.org)

Ecstasy Inferno's CANDY SHOP is open for a sticky, sweet night of bumping and grinding. (9:00 p.m., Red Cap Garage, 1035 SW Stark, 21+, \$6)

MRS is at it again, with a late night feeding of queer dance party awesome. Featuring DJs Beyondadoubt, Trans Fat, and Ill Camino. (10:00 p.m., Mississippi Studios, 3939 N Mississippi, 21+, \$5)

Capricorn Party in the 'Couve! (8:00 p.m., The Northbank Bar, 106 W 6th, Vancouver, 21+, the-northbankbar.com)

Bad Girls PDX presents **An Evening with Janet Hardy.** Janet will read from her memoir *Girffag: A Life Told in Sex and Musicals*, and her short story *Toby*. (7-9:00 p.m., In Other Words, 8b NE Killingsworth, \$5-7 sliding scale, inotherwords.org)

Maricon is an (almost) weekly dance party, featuring DJs Moisti, Trans Fat, and Ill Camino. (10:00 p.m., Matador, 1967 W Burnside, 21+)

LIVE ART. Bring your camera or drawing materials and create live art from a selection of spectacular local models. (1-3:00 p.m., Backspace, 115 NW 5th Ave., \$5)

Continuing the Conversation: providing safe learning environments for LGBTQ children, teens, adults, and allies. (9:00 a.m., Lewis & Clark Graduate Campus, room SCCC101, Free)

SGI-USA Oregon has an LSBT meeting. SGI-USA Oregon is part of a movement for peace and happiness through the practice of Nichiren Buddhism. (2:00 p.m., SGI Community Center, 1221 SE Madison, sgi-or.org)

Daddies and Papas is a social group for GLBT men raising young children. (10:00 a.m.-Noon, Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, pdxqcenter.org)

LGBTQI & Disabled support group. (1-2:30 p.m., Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, pdxqcenter.org)

Free Rapid HIV Testing for guys into guys. (5-9:00 p.m., Pivot, 209 SW 4th, pivotpdx.org)

SUN JAN 16

GO Her **HRC Portland** is funky fusion bhangra hip-hop courtesy of DJ Anjali. Learn this unique dance and then dance the night away in support of equality. Event includes silent

auction. (7-10:00 p.m., Lola's Room, 1332 W Burnside, 21+, \$10 includes an HRC membership)

Profile Theatre presents a staged Reading of Lee Blessing's **When We Go Upon the Sea.** (2:00 p.m., Theater! Theater!, 3430 SE Belmont, \$10-15, profiletheatre.org)

Co-hosts Whitney Streed and Miss Frankie Tease present **Hangover Helper**, a comedy and burlesque show. There's even a brunch buffet, whenever your hangover subsides. (2-5:00 p.m., Tonic Lounge, 3100 NE Sandy, 21+, \$5)

Dirty Porn Bingo, hosted by Chi Chi and Chonga. (8-10:00 p.m., Boxxes, 1035 SW Stark, 21+)

Ambiente bilingual discussion group. (2-4:00 p.m., Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, pdxqcenter.org)

Tranz Guyz discussion group. (6-8:00 p.m., Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, pdxqcenter.org)

MON JAN 17

GO Just Out presents **Gay Skate!** Rose Emperor XVIII ShelleY and Rose Empress XLIV Poison Marie Waters will be there to kick off the Decade Celebration of their reign as monarchs of the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court. Proceeds benefit the Just Out Scholarship Fund. (7-9:00 p.m., Oaks Park, 1 SE Spokane St., \$6 plus a food donation for Esther's Pantry)

GO Basic Rights Oregon presents **Know Your Rights: Legal Insights for Transgender Oregonians.** (6:30-8:30 p.m., Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, sliding scale based entry, wheelchair accessible, basicrights.org)

CoHo presents a stage reading of **Fat Pig** by Neil LaBute. (7:30 p.m., ART Morrison Stage, 1515 SW Morrison, \$5)

Burger night at Starky's! Come enjoy a delicious \$5 burger with your hostess Poison Waters. (6-9:00 p.m., Starky's 2913 SE Stark, starkys.com)

Mary-oke. Sing your heart out, Mary. (8:00 p.m., Hamburger Mary's, 19 NW 5th, 21+)

OUT Dancing presents Country Two-Step lessons. (6:30 p.m. advanced, 7:30 p.m. basic, Ankeny Street Studio, 975 SE Sandy, \$10, out-dancing.info)

The Portland Polyamory Circle is a place to chat about inclusive relationships, extended families, and intentional community. (7:30 p.m., Contact Laury at 503-285-4848 for location)

TUES JAN 18

GO Pivot presents **Lube Wrestling!** The winner gets a fistful of cash and a basketful of lube. (9:00 p.m., Red Cap Garage, 1035 SW Stark, 21+)

Beary-oke! Sing your heart out with the Oregon Bears. (9:00 p.m., Scandals, 1225 SW Stark, 21+)

Lookin' for some sweet tunes to zone out to? Check out **Weed...** we're talking hotties and vinyl. My dream come true. (9:00 p.m., Sloan's, 36 N Russell, 21+, Free)

Late Awakenings is a support group for women who question their orientation or who come out and identify as lesbian later in life. (7:00 p.m., Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, pdxqcenter.org)

Free Rapid HIV testing & STD screening for guys into guys. (5-9:00 p.m., Pivot, 209 SW 4th, pivotpdx.org)

WED JAN 19

GO Poison Waters hosts the **Portland Drag Race: Season Three Kick-Off and Casting Call!** Featuring winners from the first two seasons as well as contestants from *Ru Paul's Drag Race*, Mimi Imfurst and Stacy Layne Matthews. (8:00 p.m., Red Cap Garage, 1025 SW Stark, 21+, No cover)

GO **Pink Flamingo Bingo.** Hosted by the ever-fabulous Candi Wrapper, it's high drama and good old-fashioned fun... with a few tiaras and catwalk turns thrown in for good measure. (7-9:00 p.m., Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, \$5 for 8 games, pdxqcenter.org)

Hamburger Mary's Trivia Night! (8:00 p.m., Hamburger Mary's, 19 NW 5th, 21+)

Licious Karaoke. (8:00 p.m., The Northbank Bar, 106 W 6th, Vancouver, 21+)

Step & Hip-Hop II dance classes with SWAGGER. (5:00 p.m. Step, 6:00 p.m. Hip-Hop II, Bamboo Grove, 134 SE Taylor, \$5-\$7 sliding scale, theotherspacepdx.com)

Satori Men's Chorus invites you to join them. Interested? Come to rehearsal! (7:00 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1244 NE Cesar Chavez, satorichorus.org)

Anawim Christian Fellowship. (6:30-8:30 p.m., Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, pdxqcenter.org)

Inter-Personal Violence Support Group. (6-8:00 p.m., Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, pdxqcenter.org)

The Feminist Queer Sci-Fi/Fantasy Reading Group discusses *Zahrah the Windseeker* by Nnedi Okorafor-Mbachu. (6:30 p.m., In Other Words, 8b NE Killingsworth, inotherwords.org)

Free Rapid HIV testing & STD screening for guys into guys. (11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Pivot, 209 SW 4th, pivotpdx.org)

THURS JAN 20

Mary-Go-Round Mary-oke. (8:00 p.m., Hamburger Mary's, 19 NW 5th, 21+)

Licious Karaoke. (8:00 p.m., The Northbank Bar, 106 W 6th, Vancouver, 21+)