

NIGHTLIFE

"Sashay." To Stay

Portland Drag Race returns for a third season of eleganza extravaganza



It's that time of year again, folks: time for tax forms, time for (broken) resolutions and time for drag fabulousity. Of course, it's always time for the latter—especially in our drag-happy town, where no one does it better than Poison Waters and the latest crop of ladies to gear up for **Portland Drag Race**. The third installment of the RuPaul series offshoot debuts January 19 with a very special audition night.

More on that shortly. Returning host Waters has much to say of the 2011 edition, which will build on dress-to-impress and in-house challenges of previous years and up the glam ante—while keeping economic recovery in

mind. "This year more focus will be on ingenuity, doing more with less, kinda like the whole country is doing," Waters, aka Kevin Cook, explains. "Drag is expensive and time consuming, so we'll challenge the contestants to really be creative, and fierce on a budget."

She should know. After doing just that for more than 20 years, Waters has the art of fierceness during financial duress down to a science. She notes an aim to "go green" by "recreating existing wardrobes and making workable pieces of wardrobe outta unlikely materials." And since a queen has to know how to sell, an additional "secret" challenge—running the entire

12 weeks of competition—will test the gals' marketing skills for sponsor Absolut.

The third time kicks off charmingly with a star-studded casting night January 19 featuring appearances from Mimi Infurst and Stacy Layne Matthews from *Ru Paul's Drag Race* Season 3 (premiering this month on Logo). The official stage competition begins the following Thursday.

After two seasons of drag drama, Waters is reflective like any good, Ru-esque mentor: "I've been pleasantly surprised these past two seasons by the contestants' creativity, strength and willingness to think and work outside of the box,"

she says. "My favorite aspect is watching firsthand the personal growth they each achieve not only as entertainers and drag queens, but as valued members of our community."

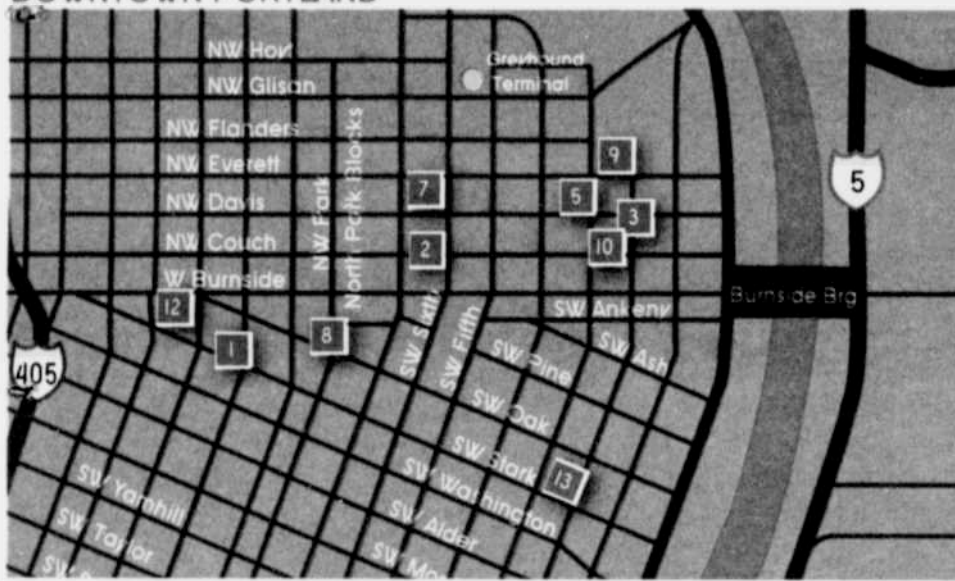
In other words—and to paraphrase RuPaul—they're learning to love themselves, and we love them in turn. Get out there and hail the queens.

Special casting night, Wed., Jan. 19, 8 p.m.; regular competition Thursdays beginning Jan. 27, 9 p.m.; Red Cap Garage, 1025 SW Stark St.; no cover; redcapgarage.com.

—Amanda Schurr

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Scandals, one of Portland's most established gay men's bars, has been a fixture on the ever-

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- 13 SILVERADO**
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Come and get it!

Multnomah County Health Department