

community



Baker, Fire on the Mountain and Mother's Bistro & Bar, among others—as well as red vodka cocktails—should keep palates red, hot and sated.

VIP ticketholders are granted access to an exclusive pre-party at 8 p.m. and VIP lounge throughout the affair. All attendees can immortalize their experiences in the photo booth—perhaps after a custom body-painting in the “Candyland” themed room or, for VIPs, a sprint to the VIP vanity room.

At the center of all this red hot sexiness, though, is a very real philanthropic heartbeat, and Red Dress is known just as much for its remarkable fundraising quotient as for its infamous “raise the roof” readiness. Q Center, Pivot and the SafeChoice program at YWCA of Clark County are once again this year's beneficiaries, all of which are quick to commend Red Dress organizers for their uniquely selfless charity.

“The Red Dress Party brings the community together in such a vibrant way and is one more pivotal moment for folks to create change,” says Brad Forkner, Pivot center coordinator. “We are ecstatic and grateful that funds raised will help further Pivot's mission, including creating a safe space free of stigma and shame and providing culturally competent HIV/STD testing.”

“It's so important for us as an organization to be a beneficiary of Red Dress,” says Mary Wheat, media coordinator for Q Center. “With a nonprofit organization like ours, every dollar counts for us to be able to keep our doors open and to keep our programs going,



and Red Dress is a fun time for everybody.”

Even the Oregon Sports Union and Reed College women's rugby teams are getting in on the spirit of Red Dress. The two teams take to the field the same afternoon as the party in a battle of gridiron grit, glitter and garish gowns, with players donning red dresses to generate sponsorship funds for the cause. The ORSU is donating all of the proceeds from the event to Red Dress.

“We love what the Red Dress party is all about and saw a unique opportunity for us to contribute to their good work,” says Julie Howard, ORSU Women's team president via press release. “Not everybody wants to put on a red dress and go wreck people on the pitch—but we can't wait!”

That impatience is palpable in these final weeks leading up to Red Dress 2011.

“I think people should be prepared for something new and fresh that is well organized and a fantastic night,” says Echols. “I want people to come out, have a great time and follow through with their volunteer efforts throughout the year, whether it be with Red Dress or whatever they do as a community.”

A limited number of general admission tickets to this year's Red Dress Party are available at red-dresspdx.com for \$75; VIP tickets are \$125. VIP admission starts at 8 p.m., April 16, general at 9, 535 NW 10th at Hoyt St. You can also donate to the cause by sponsoring a player during the ORSU/Reed College benefit exhibition match Saturday, April 16 at noon. To sponsor a player, email wom-enspresident@orsu.org or visit orsu.org.

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