

year to celebrate the Pagan holiday of Beltane and were inspired to spread the word even further. However, when asked about the Faeries, Mitchell makes one thing emphatically clear: "I am *not* a hardcore hippie guy."

Even if he's not fond of the look, the sensibility is there: "[It's] definitely in me and in my work, a kind of belief that things can be better for society as a whole and for the community that you commune within." Mitchell will not be moving full-time to the Faerie sanctuary anytime soon, though. "I'm more about creating communities than joining them," he explains, "but I've had really good experiences with the Faeries, despite my not being as Faerie-ish as some. I'm just

not much of a joiner, especially because sometimes it reminds me of church."

Along with his co-promoters, Mitchell has succeeded in forming a vibrant community around Mattachine that he hopes will also manifest when it swings through Portland. "[The party] attracts very creative people, very productive people, and that's who we promote towards," he says. "When you're around creative people, your creative side comes out." Just as his films celebrate the freakiest of the freaks as they struggle to connect with others, the Mattachine tour is a celebration of queer identity—an invitation for queers to re-embrace creativity and tenderness in an ethical vision of

gay culture.

"Being queer used to be a passport to non-conformity, to finding your own gender and your own specialness," Mitchell observes, and perhaps Mattachine can bring back this old-school passport to a generation that lost it. Still, all high-minded goals aside, Mitchell offers the best reason to throw a party in the Rose City. "I always have a blast in Portland," he says, "and I can't wait to see all my buddies again." ☐

With Amber Martin, PJ DeBoy and Paul Dawson; Sat., August 6, 10 p.m.; Mississippi Studios, 3939 N. Mississippi; \$5; mississippistudios.com.

Bunny, "The Heifer"

Lady Bunny hops into Portland

BY DANIEL BORGES

Pioneer, legend, high-profile fixture—it's all a matter of semantics when it comes to an icon like Lady Bunny. With wigs and fake eyelashes to the sky and flawless, glitzy dresses, Lady Bunny, born Jon Ingle, has come a long way from her modest beginnings in Chattanooga, Tenn. First a major star in Atlanta alongside the likes of RuPaul, she soon took on New York City—and won. There she remains a queen-of-all-trades, a wildly successful deejay, singer, promoter and actress.

Perhaps best known for founding Wigstock, the NYC drag festival that now boasts 40,000+ attendees each year, Bunny is also a notable journalist (*Star*) and comedienne—her routines and infamous parodies keep her ever the jet-setter, as Bunny books venues from L.A. to Paris. *Just Out* chatted with the legendary Bunny ahead of her upcoming Portland show.

Just Out: Bunny, when were you last in Portland? What's the weirdest thing that happened to you here?

Lady Bunny: I spun at Mitchell Gold's [grand reopening] event [in 2010] and afterward went to visit Darcelle at her place. I loved meeting those girls and Darcelle couldn't have been sweeter—and it wasn't that weird but it *was* hilarious: A black female customer in a wheelchair was ruling the joint. She was wearing a wig and told me that because she had wigs in three different colors and her senile husband thought he had two other girlfriends on the side. I also performed a couple summers ago with Taylor Dayne at your gay pride—the crowd was amazing and I really hit it off with the emcee, Poison Waters. Until I got back to my hotel and realized that she'd stolen my crack pipe!

JO: What can Portland fans expect from your show? Music? Comedy?

LB: All of the above. I do have some new material like my parody of [Katy Perry's] "Firework" and [Far East Movement's] "Like a G6."

JO: Any special requests from us?

LB: Horse-hung drug dealers, meet me backstage.

JO: Your parodies kill. Tell me a bit about your process. Any one song you're most fond of?

LB: I'm a twisted heifer. My humor can be so inappropriate that when you see me on stage, my number has usually been tried out several times. I don't trust my own instincts anymore—after I made crowds at Wigstock uncomfortable with a parody of "Dance With My Father" called "Suck Off My Father," which was performed too soon after Luther Vandross' death. Maybe it's time to resurrect it!

JO: When I re-watched the trailer for your DVD, *Rated X (For Extra Retarded)*, it reminded me that you've literally been everywhere. *Sex and the City* cameos, you name it. What specifically inspired the making of the DVD?

LB: Angel dust! Seriously, I've loved having cameos on *SATC*, the Pamela Anderson Roast, *To Wong Foo*—but it was time for a starring vehicle of my own. And my humor is so raunchy that no TV show is going to air it, so I came up with something I could sell myself without censorship.

JO: What's your favorite celeb or TV moment so far?

LB: Pamela is outrageous—so gorgeous and fun. But Patti LaBelle, Carol Channing and Charo are three of my favorite performers ever. I've gotten to work with all of them and even got video footage of Charo from the set of *Drag U* saying, "Lady Bunny is the biggest puta in the United States." Chaka Khan was another idol who guest judged on *Drag U*. Barbara Eden once told me she wished she could get her hair to look like mine—and she inspired all of my hairdos with her looks on *I Dream of Jeannie*.

JO: You make headlines for making even Republicans (like the Bush twins) have



SUBMITTED PHOTO

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—LADY BUNNY

fun. What's the sexy secret to your crossover success?

LB: It's easy to make Republicans have fun—just take away someone's rights or slash vital services in a recession! It's funny you ask that because many of my deejay gigs are in ultraconservative Texas. While I do have a passion for politics, I take a break while I'm spinning and focus on partying. I think people hire me because they get a clown and deejay for the price of one—it surely isn't because of my mixing skills. Speaking of clowns, I just deejayed for Lady Gaga at the after-party for her CFDA fashion award. Did you hear her give me a shout-out during the song "Teeth" on her *Monster Ball* HBO Special? Suddenly, I'm relevant again! ☐

The always-relevant Lady Bunny appears at Red Cap Garage, 1035 SW Stark, at 10 p.m. Fri., July 29. She'll perform, spin and stick around for a meet-and-greet. Cover is \$3.

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