

Lincoln City Central Oregon Coast

Don't Miss Oregon Coast Pride • September 6-9, 2012

exercise
free will

Lincoln City on the Central Oregon Coast

For further information contact the Lincoln City Visitor & Convention Bureau
541-996-1274 © 800-452-2151 www.oregoncoast.org

HOT TOPICS



by Catherine Hollenbeck

SOLIDARITY
LOW BROW/
HIGH FEMME

Feminist and Femme. If you catch me on a less cranky day I might be happy to use these terms as part of my identity. This wasn't always the case. During my formative feminist years I was constantly (and not academically) having intense and deeply personal conversations with other women, gender queers, and trans people about our shared experiences under patriarchy. Our sharing turned into study and reflection about our similarities. It also turned into tough conversations about our differences and privileges and how these differences affected our understanding of a very complicated world. Years later, I tongue in cheek identify as a "radical sell-out". I have a full time job in human resources, a car, a salary, business cards, and the thought of being in a 6 hour processing session around feminist politics sounds like hell on earth right now.

However, I have something that keeps drawing me back to observing communities dialogs. The community I am in is a robust one, full of smart well-educated queers (academically and not) and a lot of self-identified feminists. Many of these feminists are also self-identified femmes. We're having conversations about a lot but in particular, about femme solidarity. For those not familiar with the term, *femme solidarity* is a pretty amazing concept. So it goes: femininity is not valued in this world. Femininity is often seen as the weak, artificial, stupid, shallow counterpart to masculinity. Thus, as femmes and/or feminists we need to both value the feminine and each other. I am seeing a whole new generation of feminists using the term "femme solidarity" but something is ringing hollow with me.

For instance, I have overheard unfortunate gross heteronormative terms like 'butch scarcity'

SATURDAY, JUNE 16th, 7:30pm
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, PCPA

Portland Gay Men's Chorus
SUMMER of LOVE
MUSIC OF THE BEATLES

Sponsored in part by Bill Dickey and David Wagner

"The long, hot summer revisited." It's June 1967. All around the world, people are celebrating the greatest year in music history with festivals of peace and love. Across the pond, The Beatles are heating up the charts with hits from their groovy new record, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. Go back in time with the Portland Gay Men's Chorus for a festival that reminds us, "All You Need Is Love".

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