

Diversity Dialogues series to discuss transphobia, misogyny on June 24

ASTORIA — The Lower Columbia Diversity Project and Astor Library Friends Association present Diversity Dialogues, a series of discussions and presentations focusing on topics related to diversity. The first event in the series is “Misogyny and Transphobia,” a community conversation facilitated by Drew Herzig of the Lower Columbia Diversity Project. The event will take place at 6 p.m. Friday, June 24 at the Astoria Public Library, located at 450 10th St. Admission is free.

Transgender issues have been in the news lately. The civil rights of the transgender community are being affirmed, but the backlash has been intense. What’s going on? How does the controversy about transgender rights, especially the rights of transgender women, reflect our society’s view of women in general? How is our cultural misogyny shaping the conversation? What do terms such as gender identity and gender expression mean? And what’s the big deal about bathrooms?



SUBMITTED IMAGE

Between the recognizable gendered bathroom signs is a trans-inclusive symbol.

Questions such as these will be the focus of the June 24 event.

The mission of the Lower Columbia Diversity Project is to engage proactively with diversity issues in the region, educate the community on the benefits of diversity, tolerance and inclusion, and provide a forum through which individuals, groups and organizations may address concerns relating to diversity in the community.

The Astoria Public Library, a department of the City of Astoria, is guided by the mission statement, “Explore ideas, engage minds, excite imagination.” For more information, contact library staff at 503-325-7323 or visit astorialibrary.org

Blues guitarist to perform in Long Beach

Peninsula Arts Center welcomes David Jacobs-Strain

LONG BEACH, WASH. — Oregon blues guitarist and songwriter David Jacobs-Strain will perform at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 25 at the Peninsula Arts Center.

A fierce slide guitar player, Jacobs-Strain is known for his virtuosity and spirit of emotional abandon; his live show moves from humorous, subversive blues, to delicate balladry, and then swings back to swampy rock ‘n’ roll. It’s a range that ties Jacobs-Strain to his own generation and to guitar-slingers like Robert Johnson and Jackson Browne.

“I try to make art that you can dance to, but I love that darker place, where in my mind Skip James, Nick Drake, and maybe Elliot Smith blur together,” Jacobs-Strain said.

Jacobs-Strain began playing on street corners and at farmers markets as a teenager and bought his first steel guitar with the quarters he



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY TARA LAIDLAW

David Jacobs-Strain will perform at the Peninsula Arts Center.

saved up. Before he dropped out of Stanford to play full time, he had already appeared at festivals across the country, often billed as a blues prodigy, but he had to fight to avoid being a novelty act: “I wanted to tell new stories; it just wasn’t enough to relive the feelings in other people’s music,” he said.

Jacobs-Strain has appeared at festivals from British Columbia to Australia, including Merlefest, Telluride Blues Festival, Philadelphia Folk Festival, Bumbershoot, and Blues to

Bop in Switzerland. He’s taught at Jorma Kaukonen’s Fur Peace Ranch, and at 15 years old was on the faculty at Centrum’s Blues and Heritage workshop. On the road, he’s shared the stage with Lucinda Williams, Boz Scaggs, Etta James, The Doobie Brothers, George Thorogood, Robert Earle Keen, Todd Snider, Tommy Emmanuel, T-Bone Burnett and Del McCoury.

His 2013 album, “Geneseo,” speaks of open roads, longing hearts and flashbacks of Oregon — a record

of emotions big and small, and lyrics that turn quickly from literal to figurative. “I’m fascinated by the way that rural blues inscribes movement and transience,” Jacobs-Strain said. “The music that frees a singer keeps them on the run; there’s a crossroads where a thing can be enchanting but dangerous; damaging but beautiful.”

On “Geneseo,” old sounds become new, the blues takes an unexpected turn, and Jacobs-Strain moves further into his own territory. The record was funded by fans; over 200 people pitched in on Kickstarter to pay for the album’s mixing and promotion.

The Peninsula Arts Center is located at 504 Pacific Ave. N. Admission is \$12 at the door or online through Brown Paper Tickets, or call Bill at 360-901-0962. Wine, beer, and other refreshments are available for purchase.

Concerts benefit the Long Beach Peninsula Acoustic Music Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization.

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