

'JANES' — MALE AND FEM

THE JANE BARNES REVUE — A CROSS-DRESSING, COMMUNITY-BUILDING PRODUCTION — TURNS 7

By ERICK BENGEL
COAST WEEKEND

By day, he is Kevin Cronin: affable, mild-mannered family man and straight-laced community development director.

But come nightfall April 1 at the Astoria Event Center, Mr. Cronin will disappear. And a Ms. Tippy Oakwood — a sexy, strutting starlet that looks just like Kevin but without the Y chromosome — will re-emerge after a year in hiding.

Tippy's Second Coming is one of more than a dozen drag performances mounting the catwalk at the seventh-annual Jane Barnes Revue — a topsy-turvy, gender-bending fundraiser for the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association.

The adults-only event is named for "Oregon's First Lady," an adventurous, resourceful figure history often credits as "the first European woman to set foot in Oregon Country" shortly after the city's settlement, according to the Oregon Encyclopedia.

Barnes, a consummate survivor, traveled abroad and made her own way in the world. "Doing that as a woman at the time was a very big accomplishment," Sarah Lu Heath, the downtown association executive director, said.

To survive their inhibition-shedding excursion down the runway, the revue's male stars — the "Gentleman Janes" — summon their inner Jane Barnes.

"There's so much nervous energy that it's just electric," said Marco Davis, founder of Astoria's Dragalution, who is choreographing and will perform in group dance numbers that open and close the show.

Cronin was pretty nervous last year when he introduced the world to "Tippy Oakwood" (the name of his childhood cat plus the New Jersey drive he grew up on). "I had never done anything like that before," he said.

But, as an athlete puts on his uniform and psychs himself up before a crucial game, Cronin donned his black wig, sleek black dress and makeup — blush, mascara and bright red lipstick — and created the person he needed to be.

JANE BARNES REVUE

Ages: 21+

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 1. Doors: 6:45 p.m.

Tickets: VIP: \$75; Catwalk reserved \$55; not-so-close reserved \$45; general seating \$25. Available at Old Town Framing Company, 1287 Commercial St. (Early purchase is strongly encouraged.)

Refreshments: Food, beer, wine available



PHOTOS BY
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Above: Marco Davis, performing as Daylight Cums, is showered with praise and money, while dancing to the song "Big Spender" at the Jane Barnes Revue at the Astoria Event Center in 2015. The money from the event went to the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association.

Left: Brad Smithart, performing as "Lady Terrar," reacts while being motorboat-ed by an audience member during the Jane Barnes Revue at the Astoria Event Center in 2015.

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