

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

## A New Sensation

This summer's underground hit, *Trainspotting*, has surfaced with a crashing wave of critical acclaim and with the daze and fluidity of a surreal daydream.

A four-pack of Edinburgh junkies show us the tainted life of shooting up heroine, stealing goods and philosophizing about life.

Renton (McGregor), the film's leading man, vacillates between wanting a conventional sober life and defying all laws binding him to one.

With a fast-paced, vivid quality, Renton and his fellow lifemates fiddle the time away leaping to the highs and lows of a drug addict's life. Hallucinations abound, throwing forward several very funny scenes, including Renton diving into

the underground abyss of a public toilet to search for a flushed opium suppository.

Through all of its revolting, violent, and comedic drama, *Trainspotting* is surprisingly moving.

It successfully contemplates Renton's dilemma of whether his altered existence is superior to the monotony of the conventional domestic life with the 9-5 job, kids, and family caravan.

*Trainspotting* does not encourage or discourage, glamorize or unglamorize, or preach "just say no" or "just say yes".

Pure and simple, it's a good, off-beat summer movie portraying dysfunctional Scottish lads just taking it day by day.

My question is, why do I find it so easy to relate?

### In The Arts



BY SABRINA SAKALA

## Golden Texan pixie dust

Describing the *Dixie Chicks* as a country music band is like calling Dolly Parton a singer, Roy Rogers a cowboy, or Ross Perot a millionaire. It doesn't come close to conveying the true essence of this dynamic trio.

The *Dixie Chicks* (lead vocalist Natalie Maines; award-winning fiddler Martie Seidel; and dobro/banjo guitarist Emily Erwin) represent a refreshing blend of powerful harmonies, distinctive instrumental abilities, and good ol' (as well as great new) country music.

Don't miss their Aug. 27 and 28 acts in Salem at the Oregon State Fair.

They are young, talented, and full of energy that transcends into everything they do.

When you experience Natalie's talent, you will understand why she was awarded a vocal scholarship from Berkeley School of Music in 1994. When sisters Martie and Emily join



The Dixie Chicks

in with harmony, it is truly magical.

However, the real magic happens when this trio hits the stage. The *Chicks* deliver the music that start toes tappin', hearts beatin', and the

dance floor movin'.

The *Dixie Chicks* have been voted Best Country Band in Dallas at the Observer Music Awards for four years in a row.

## State Fair offers kids contests

Kids can really act their age at the Oregon State Fair and win great prizes in the bargain. The Home Economics and Agriculture-Horticulture departments offer a variety of special contests for children of all ages. Special entry rules apply for all contests.

Oregon kids who can pack a lunch will be guaranteed winners Friday, Aug. 23 in the Decorated Brown Bag Lunch Contest. Oregon Bread turns sandwiches into fun for kids 15 and younger in this contest sponsored by Oregon Western Hazelnut Bread and Franz Bakery. Decorate a big brown bag to show what you like to do best

in Oregon; then fill it with all the best of Oregon lunch treats. Not only will everyone entering this contest be admitted to the State Fair free that day, but the top three winning lunches earn free tickets to great Oregon events that include choices from the following: two tickets to the Harlem Globetrotters; Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus; and ice show extravaganza in Portland; OMSI Oregon Coast Aquarium; Oaks Amusement Park; or Enchanted Forest. Firshbees are awarded to all entrants.

The Oregon Fruit Products Sun-

dae Super Topping contest is for Oregon children 16 and younger and takes place on Friday, Aug. 23. Pile your toppings of fruit and nuts on a dish of frozen yogurt, all provided by the Fair, and win an AM/FM cassette/CD Boombox, or \$50 and \$25 gift certificates from Blockbuster Music. Sponsored by Oregon Fruit Products.

The Oregon State Fair is looking for some 3-point shooters to come off the bench for the first Trailblazer Slam Dunk contest on Sat. Aug. 24. Cooks 16 and younger can put a little positive rotation on their casserole cooking skills and be on the road to the Rose Garden with four VIP tickets to a Portland Trailblazer game, dinner for four in the Rose Garden Dining Room, and VIP parking. Second place wins a custom-size Trailblazer jacket and Third place receives a Trailblazer hat, tee shirt and poster. Sponsored by Flav-R-Pac frozen vegetables and Santiam canned vegetables.

Other special contests for kids include: the Children's Old Time Butter Making Contest, Thurs. Aug. 22; the Third Annual Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest, and the Milk Moustache contest, Fri. Aug. 24; Balance a Potato on your Head contest, Sun. Aug. 25; and the Dress a Fruit or Vegetable Contest (free fair admission with entry), Thurs. Aug. 29.

All special contests will be conducted on the demonstration Stage in the Jackman-Long Building. To learn about the special instructions for entry for these special contests, please call the Oregon State Fair, Home Economics Department at (503) 378-3247, or write them at 2330 17th St. NE Salem, Oregon 97310.

## Mysterious women on the scene at the crimes



Carol O'Connell's *Killing Critics* (Putnam) begins with a discreet murder, but quickly connects with a much more brutal crime. As NYPD sergeant Kathleen Mallory probes into the murder she discovers that the ghosts of the past will not be still. And the formidable Kat Colorado, "the quintessential female P.I." (Booklist), comes to the aid of a childhood friend in Karen Kijewski's latest thriller, *Honky Tonk Kat* (Putnam), set against the backdrop of

Nashville's country music scene. In the age of talk-show mania, and crazed paparazzi, it's hardly unusual to hear of a celebrity being harassed by an overzealous fan. But when superstar country entertainer Dakota Jones begins receiving threatening letters, then finds dead roses on her bed, she fears it's not the work or your run-of-the-mill kook. At Dakota's urging, Kat joins her friends tour to investigate the case.

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## CORN DOGS. THEY'RE NOT JUST FOR BREAKFAST ANYMORE.

### FRIDAY, AUG. 23 - CHILDREN'S DAY

Two free hours of carnival rides for everyone 10 am to noon.\*

### MONDAY, AUG. 26 - LES SCHWAB DOLLAR DAY

Ride until 6 pm for \$1 per ride—all rides, no limit. Game tickets are 20 for \$8.\*

### WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28 - PEPSI DAY

With \$13 and a Pepsi coupon, you can ride all day (10 am to 6 pm) plus receive 11 game tickets. Some games may require more than one ticket.\*

### FAMILYVILLE

A wonderful assortment of attractions await the family *Uptown*, *Downtown*, *Across Town* and *Out of Town* in this special area devoted to family entertainment. The Cultural Arts Stage offers music performances *Uptown*. OMSI showcases interactive exhibits designed for all ages *Downtown*. Alberti Flea Circus performs *Across Town*. And the Great American Petting Zoo can be found *Out of Town*.

### OREGON COUNTRY

Enjoy the best of Oregon as you relax in this green picnic grove beneath shady oak trees and enjoy Oregon wines and hand-crafted beers and Oregon foods to complement them. Strolling musicians provide mood music throughout the area all day, every day.

### FOUNTAIN PLAZA STAGE

Enjoy a sensational line-up of free musicians and groups performing daily on the Fountain Plaza Stage, with music to match any mood, including: Tab Benoit, Dread Zeppelin, Goose Creek Symphony, Body & Soul, Zachary Richards, Dixie Chicks, Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, Jeff & the Revolvers, Soul Vaccination and over a dozen more great artists, including a special appearance by *Tower of Power* on Sept. 2.

### JUST 45 MINUTES SOUTH OF PORTLAND

Take I-5 south to Salem, Exit 258 (Portland Road). Turn left at Lana Avenue, continue straight.

### HOURS

10 am - 10 pm Sunday through Thursday  
10 am - 11 pm Friday and Saturday

### ADVANCE PURCHASE DISCOUNT OFFER

Come to any Oregon branch of Washington Mutual bank before August 22 and get \$1 off the regular adult admission of \$6. Advance sale price for children 6 - 12 is only \$1.

### ADMISSION

ADULTS (13 YEARS AND OVER)	\$6.00
ADVANCE SALE - ADULTS (WITH ADVANCE PURCHASE DISCOUNT OFFER)	\$5.00
SENIORS 65+ (NO ADVANCE SALE DISCOUNTS APPLY)	\$4.00
CHILDREN (6 - 12 YEARS)	\$3.00
ADVANCE SALE - CHILDREN (WITH ADVANCE PURCHASE DISCOUNT OFFER)	\$1.00
UNDER SIX	FREE
PARKING PER DAY	\$3.00
SEASON PARKING	\$36.00



Aug. 22 - Sept. 2 • Salem

\*Discounts listed above may not be combined with any other fair discount. <http://www.fair.state.or.us/fair.html>

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## AE events

### Friday the 23rd

#### From S.F.

Margery Snyder and Whitman McGowan, two San Francisco poets, perform at Cafe Lena, 9:30pm, 2239 SW Hawthorne Blvd., 238-70087.

#### About Shakespeare

Mount Tabor Park is the site for *Much Ado About Nothing*, through Aug. 25, 7pm Friday and Saturday and 2pm Sunday, Volcano Amphitheater.

#### Trivia Pursuit

Wayne Faligowski, emcee of the quiz show *High Five*, brings the Hudson's Bay High School team to face our own City Club members, 12:15pm, Portland Hilton, Rose Ballroom, 921 SW 6th Ave., 241-9242.

#### Encore

The Heathman pub presents another performance by Terry Robb and Albert Reda on acoustic and electric guitar, beginning at 7pm., through Aug. 24, 901 SW Salmon St., 227-5700.

### Saturday the 24th

#### Noon Tunes

The Mary Kadderly Duo and Michael Allen Harrison and Friends perform at the Water Tower courtyard, 5331 SW Macadam Ave., 274-2786.

#### German Cinema

*Maybe...Maybe Not*, the highest-grossing German film ever, has arrived in the U.S. Writer/director Sonke Wortmann looks at infidelity and mistaken sexual identity, through Aug. 29, Cinema 21, 616 NW 21st Ave., 223-4515.

#### Historical Perspective

The Oregon Historical Society presents "The Oregon Trail," an exhibit of 80 contemporary photographs by Greg Mac Gregor. The black and white images document the trail as it appears today, passing through industrial yards, private ranches cities and highways, through Jan. 5, Oregon History Center, 1200 SW Park Ave.

### Sunday the 25th

#### Market Music

The Portland Saturday Market presents singer and guitarist Brenda Dickey at 11:30 am and the Portland Songwriter's Association and the best of local songwriter's musicians at 1pm, 108 W. Burnside, 222-6072.

#### Dancer's Forum

Dreams Well Studio presents a dance/performance arts forum featuring an informal opportunity to see, show and discuss dance and performance art, 7pm, 2857 SE Stark St., 234-2665.

#### Wine & Dine

Wine tasting, a silent auction and a buffet dinner precede *Showing Up for Work*, with Alan Nause and Jack Cantwell in a benefit for the Artists Repertory Theatre, 5pm, Cooper Mountain Vineyards, 294-7373.