

A "Rare Breed" of Pet Stores NOW OPEN!!

- **Healthy Pet Foods**
Innova, Wellness, Innova Evo, Spot's Stew, California Natural, Nature's Variety, Merrick, Oma's Pride
- **Raw Diets and Meaty Bones**
- **Natural Dog & Cat Products, Unique Gifts**
- **Agility & Training Stuff**
- **Toys & Treats you won't find anywhere else**



Agility Classes
start in May.
Call for info.



Show Me the Biscuit!

Think Outside the Big Box!

165 Rte 7 So. Milton
802-893-3100
M-F 10-6, Sat 10-4
Closed Sunday

PRIDE GEAR!

OUTFIT YOURSELF,
YOUR LOVED ONES AND
EVEN YOUR PETS!



peace & justice store

Open Seven Days • 863-8925 • 21 Church Street, Burlington

NEW T-SHIRTS FOR PRIDE!

Jackie Marino, REALTOR



RE/MAX
North Professionals

(802)655-3377 x223
(800)639-4520 x223
JackieMarino@verizon.net



"Out" and Serving our Community since 1989



April's

Home Improvement, Inc.

KITCHENS • BATHS • REMODELING

Additions, Disability Modifications

802-310-7579

Today's Technology, Yesterday's Craftmanship
www.aprilshomeimprovement.com
aprilshomerepair@aol.com

Serving Chittenden County and Surrounding Areas

a+e STAGE

Doin' Time in Bennington

BY JUDY MURPHY

Peterson Toscano began life as a born-again Christian and later spent 17 years in the ex-gay movement before fully accepting himself as a gay man in 1999. He is now a Quaker Christian and has turned his incredible journey into theatrical performances that use storytelling and humor to both entertain and educate.

Audiences in the United States, Canada, England and Africa have been regaled by his performances of "Doin' Time in the Homo No Mo Halfway House; How I Survived the Ex-Gay Movement," which is Toscano's humorous rendition of a 12-step Christian program that attempts to change men's sexual orientation. Peterson spent years in reparative therapy through counseling, ex-gay support groups, an ex-gay residential program and even three exorcisms. In "Doin' Time..." he plays five characters in a unique performance that critics have compared to those of Lily Tomlin and Whoopi Goldberg.


"Queer 101" follows the character Chad after his graduation from the Homo No Mo Halfway House and he has to cover a Queer 101 class. He introduces the class to individuals who shaped queer history and his own.

"It is incredibly important that I be funny," he said in a recent telephone interview. "It isn't successful unless they laugh their asses off."

"I never attack," Toscano said. "I use comedy as a tool, not a weapon. Even in my expose' of the ex-gay movement I do not attack its leaders," he said. In fact, he often meets with conservative Christian leaders for coffee, lunch or a chat, and recently spent three hours with a representative from Focus on the Family.

"It is important to continue the dialogue, to disperse assumptions and de-escalate violence," he says. "As a Quaker

A multi-character, one-person comedy that explores queer history, homophobia and sexual minority issues through the words and lives of lesbian and gay poets.



QUEER 101

Written and Performed by
Peterson Toscano
(author of Doin' Time in the Homonomo Halfway House)

"Now I know my gAy-B-Cs..."

www.petersontoscano.com

On Friday, April 7th, at 7 pm Toscano will perform "Queer 101" for high school and college students in Bennington. The event is free for students with ID.

On Saturday, April 8, Toscano will perform "Doin' Time in the Homo No Mo Halfway House" at 8 pm. Tickets may be purchased for \$8 in advance from the Bennington Bookshop, the Hawkins House and South Street Cafe in Bennington, or \$10 at the door, and \$5 for students with student ID. Both performances will be at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse in Bennington.

The performances are sponsored by Bennington Pride Coalition and made possible by a grant from the Vermont Unity Project. For more information, check the web at www.petersontoscano.com and www.homonomo.com. Contact the Bennington Pride Coalition at Benpride@gmail.com or www.benningtonpride.org.

Christian I don't see anyone as my enemy. They may be an opponent on a specific issue, but there is much more to them and me than that one issue."

In addition to performing and writing, Toscano also speaks before college audiences. When interviewed, he was packing to attend a conference on linguistics in Washington, D.C. and was excited about performing

"Queer 101" at McGill University in Montreal.
Toscano lives in Hartford, Connecticut. ▼

➔ Judy Murphy is secretary of the VT Freedom to Marry Task Force and state coordinator of the Vermont Chapter of the National Organization for Women. Canadian born, she now lives in the U.S.