

reviews

news and

A&E

Constance calls for Circuit Party and Sisterly Love for South VT

Constance Craving cannot get enough organizing apparently, on top of all of her other fabulous events she will be working on Vermont's first effort into circuit parties. Yes, that's right Next year Vermont will sponsor the first Blue and Gray ball. Combining color theme parties with the uniform party, queer revelers can come as their preferred combatant from the conflict between the states. I would call it the civil war, but that name has simply become so dry, hasn't it?

Anyway, the problem of course is that the Northern uniforms were of a color that matches easier, but the South simply had the better cut. Constance has decided of course that she will be dressed as Mary Todd, after Abe's death, when she wore all that black.

The ball will be held in St. Albans, sight of the northernmost skirmish of the Civil war, in which some soldiers snuck through the border to rob a bank, after a wild night in a Montreal bath house no doubt. This of course is the reason today that they ask all of us at the border if we have any firearms.

If that isn't enough to do, Constance has decided to kick off yet another sister city program. As you know the Queen City has a sister city in Russia and one in Nicaragua. Well Russia has so much to offer with the babushka and the so many creative things they have done with rabbit fur and Polyester. Nicaragua gave us that lovely flourish of patterned hippie wear that occurred at the end of the eighties, but really what does Burlington "please dress down" Vermont have to offer these cities in return? We can't take credit for the Birkenstock, that's Sweden's fault. And those god awful hippie shirts that tie in the back, no culture should have to look at that. And its not like our more fabulous citizens are sent over as ambassadors of good will. Cherrie, nor Yolanda, nor Amber, nor Marguerite, not even Nan Patrick have had a call from the mayor to share the wealth of our culture.

This brings Constance to her point. She has found a city as distant and exotic as our other sister cities, one in which we can only benefit from our ties, that's right The fair City of Brattleboro. Constance invites you to discover our distant soul sister metropolis. The city founded by hippies many years ago, shares many of the same attire problems. Brattleboro in fact has grown into an area that hosts twice as many gay bars as Northern Vermont! Constance invites you to discover our friends in Brattleboro. And they even speak English!

Allen Fletcher Says...

The Vermont Youth Orchestra is, simply put, a wonder! Their most recent concert - October 4 at Union 32 in Montpelier, and October 5 at The Flynn Theatre - entitled "Once Upon a Time," devoted itself to music associated with, or inspired by, fairy tales. It was astonishing - so much so that your writer can't quite decide how it should be reviewed.

The personnel roster shows almost 90 young people - high school seniors and younger - who come from a variety of locales, requiring varying degrees of effort to attend rehearsals (like Rutland and Plattsburgh). That they are a committed lot is not to be discussed. Neither is their level of individual accomplishment.

Their conductor, Troy Peters, is unquestionably the right man for the job: clear baton technique, a sense of challenging, yet appropriate repertoire (Humperdinck, Sibelius, Vermonter Thomas L. Reed, and Tchaikovsky), and a decent researcher - he also wrote the excellent program notes.

The featured soloist, Dorian Vandenberg-Rodes, was alarming: a twelfth grade virtuoso dealing with the razzle-dazzle Sibelius Violin Concerto as if it were child's play, rather than the daunting technical terror that is for many, and that with almost unnatural accuracy.

The enterprise is private and gift supported. It offers and extraordinary opportunity for the young to learn both the orchestral repertoire and the ways of the orchestral player, which require discipline and the capacity to subjugate self to ensemble in interests of good transmission of a composer's

vision and a conductor's interpretation.

It is also noteworthy that the ensemble dedicates a substantial amount of time to in-school residencies, which open the world of music and instrumental musicians to students who might otherwise not have the opportunity to get up-close and personal with a Tuba or Violin. Thus do members learn the ways in which special knowledge can be transmitted

and excitement shared.

The organization is forty years old, and unquestionably successful in its effort to accomplish its mission: "to create opportunities for young people to appreciate and pursue excellence in music." So what, then, if the Tchaikovsky was overplayed, and the Joy Dance in the Read was just too long? Be there next time. Buy tickets. Give money. They're great!

It's Yolanda's World, the rest of us are just lining up for Kool Ade, or somethin'!

BY SAL INGLIMA

Yolanda let us know just why she is up there wrapped in plastic and why we keep coming back again and again. Is she a man, a woman, a drag queen or an alien? Can she sing Elvis like the King, the Partridge Family like Deborah Harry on acid, spirituals like Aretha Franklin? She can, she can! But what's even

more eye-opening than Yolanda's Charo puff-wig and sometimes Jell-O chesties are the kitschy catchy tunes she pens herself, sitting at home alone strumming her guitar, tending to her pet tamagochi, and bewailing the Boy who Sung the Blues and left her with more saran wrap than she knows what to do with. Or maybe it's Tex, the sex toy freak who left a clutter of paraphernalia around poor Yolanda while he's moved on for greener (haired?) pastures. Yolanda in full effect is constantly weaving a multi-leveled entertainment orbit around you, interrupting comedy with music, music with genderfuck, glitter with her brawny tattoos.

And like any diva in da middle, Yolanda is supported by her fun lovin', riff-spooling, jam kicking band- Cooper Hesby on keyboards, Tommy Grahm on guitar, Willy Tanglewood on drums, and Johnny Ace on bass. But where would this po-mo Dorothy be without her own Rainbow at the end of the stage, the ever blissful smiling Rainbow, when she's not harmonizing with Yolanda on a chorus of "Why do you think I'm so scary?"

Yolanda throws our gender/identity confusion back on us, and lets us think for a second on the constant hypocrisy forced on us in our male/female straitjacket drag, or male/female strait-jacket minds; and this bravery with exposing one of our culture's most enduring taboos is part of what makes Yolanda's shows so winning, and why we know it's Yolanda's World- the rest of us are just applauding...



CALENDAR

november

3 MONDAY

GLITTER Film - Stonewall. Loving and ribald, if a bit clunky, this tribute to the Stonewall uprising follows the fortunes/or misfortunes as the case may be of a cadre of participants, notably a spunky queen named LaMiranda (Guillermo Diaz) and the clean-cut, budding activist, Matty Dean (Frederick Weller), who romances him. The film has energy, spunk and a reverent feel for the era when modern gay rights came of age. 7:45-10:00 PM. Wednesday, 5th. The Rhombus Gallery, College & Church Sts., Burlington. 652-1103. FMI Contact Steven Kopstein at 802-434-5653 or email: GLITTERvt@aol.com.

Southeastern VT Freedom to Marry Task Force will next meet 7pm at the home of Lauren Leigh 11 Oak St.,

Brattleboro. Email: vmtf@sover.net or call Bari Shamas for directions or questions 387-5788

5 WEDNESDAY

GLBQ Youth Newsletter Meeting for Outright VT, Burlington. 7-9 p.m. FMI (800) GLB-CHAT

Telephone support group for HIV+ women, Twin State Women's Network. 8:30-9:30 p.m. FMI (800) 473-7796.

Pop/jazz vocalist and musician Suede in concert. 8 p.m. At the Unitarian Church in Burlington. Tickets \$12 by calling (802) 863-2437. This performance benefits Vermont CARES and Outright Vermont.

6 THURSDAY

Safety and Dignity in Our Relation-

ships, a community forum to discuss battering in same sex/gender relationships, and work toward creating support for survivors. 6-9 p.m. Cointois Auditorium, Burlington. FMI call (800) 649-2437 or (802) 658-3131.

7 FRIDAY

Comedienne Karen Williams will perform at the MucCullough Students Center at Middlebury College at 8 pm. FMI call David at 388-0750.

Opening reception for Scottie Harrison at Phoenix Rising 104 Main St. Montpelier. A longtime resident of Plainfield. For the past several years she has concentrated on imagery derived from her dreams, attempting to integrate waking and dreaming consciousness through her drawings. 5-7 pm at Phoenix Rising. Exhibition runs from Nov 7th through Nov 29th.

(802) 229 0522 open Mon-Thurs 10-5, Fri 10-6 Sat 11-5

8 SATURDAY

5th Annual Statewide Conference and Our Town Meeting, sponsored by the Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Rutland High School. FMI call Judith at 623-6131.

Thanksgiving Dinner with the Lakes



Scottie Harrison's work

and Mountains women, 6 PM, Rumney, NH, 603-726-3667.

An Evening with the Royal Court Of New York City. Drag show and dance to benefit ACoRN. 8 PM, American Legion Hall, WRJ, VT, \$15 at the door and \$10 in advance from POB 2057, Lebanon, NH 03766. FMI: 603-448-2220.

8-9: 18th Annual Waitsfield PTO Ski and Skate Sale to benefit Waitsfield Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization. 9 am to 4 pm Saturday; 10 am until 3 pm on Sunday. FMI call Deb Hall at 496-5535.

Manhattan Pizza in Burlington hosts songwriters Nato, David Kamm, Aaron Flinn and the Steph Pappas Experience at 10 p.m. No cover.

Third annual Lesbian and Gay Parent and Family Issues Conference at