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ART BRIEFS

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By Nick Mattos, PQ Monthly

Philadelphia singer-songwriter **Aiden James** headlined last year's Portland Pride — and evidently we made a great impression upon him, because he's back in town on Feb. 25. Playing as part of the **Portland Queer Music Festival Benefit** Showcase, the wonderfully charming and talented Mr. James will share the stage with a diverse sampling of the region's best queer musicians, including Portland hip-hop enchantress **HYPNOTits** and Seattle's **Butcher**. Perhaps giving the headliner the biggest run for his money, though, will be **Kim Delacy** — the folk-pop alter ego of local phenomenon and PQ crush **KizMet**. Luckily, the Rotture stage will certainly be big enough for the two of them. (Feb. 25; 9 PM to late. Rotture, 315 SE 3rd Ave, Portland. Tickets \$5, 21+)



What if, after we died, we didn't go to heaven or hell? What if the place we ended up in instead closely resembled Berlin during the Cold War? This is the odd, fascinating question asked in **"Die Unterwelt,"** the abstracted pop opera presented by internationally-acclaimed trans-disciplinary artist **Nadia Buyse** (aka DUBAIS) on Feb. 28 at the Hollywood Theatre. A PNCA graduate, Buyse has received great critical and popular acclaim for her performances in such venues as the Time-Based Art Festival, Berlin Month of Performance Art, the ART STAYS festival in Slovenia, and Free the Word Fest in the Republic of Georgia. This is Buyse's last performance in Portland before moving to Berlin — so you'll kick yourself if you miss this. (Feb. 28; 9:30 PM. Hollywood Theatre, 4122 NE Sandy, Portland. \$7)

Stand in solidarity with workers in the world's oldest profession on International **Sex Workers' Rights Day at the Sex Workers' Rights Benefit** on March 3. Benefitting the Portland Womens' Crisis Line and Sex Workers Outreach Coalition, the event will feature a wide array of art and performance by local stars including **Sophia St. James, Carla Rossi, Autry!, DieAna Dae, Layne Fawkes, Ozzy Poles, Valeria Aguilar, and Jennifer Montenegro**. (March 3; doors at 6 PM, show at 7. The Star Theater, 13 NW 6th Ave, Portland. Tickets \$12, available at StarTheaterPortland.com)

Presented by **Disjecta Contemporary Art Center, Portland2014** is a major biennial exhibition celebrating artists who are defining and advancing contemporary art practices. Portland2014 will include exhibitions, events and performances in multiple locations throughout Portland from March 8 through April 27, 2014. Exhibitions in Disjecta's 6,000-square-foot building in North Portland, Upfor Gallery in the Pearl District, White Box, University of Oregon, Portland in Old Town/China Town, and The Best Art Gallery in Portland in Northeast Portland, will be complemented through a series of public artworks, interventions and a Saturday Series of public lectures and panels designed to engage diverse audiences by activating new contexts for contemporary art throughout the city. For more information, including a complete calendar (<http://www.pqmonthly.com/calendar>) of the exhibition, visit biennial.disjecta.org.

Looking for a gaming buddy, a partner in cosplay, an awesome person to invite to your next cocktail party or a cuddle buddy for a Game of Thrones marathon? You won't want to miss the **Portland Geek Council's Speed Friending** event on March 20 at Mississippi Pizza. Meet like-minded and friendly people in a low-pressure, high-entertainment-value atmosphere presented by Molly Newman of Quizzical Empire and co-hosted Jaime Kirk aka Master Dingo from PDX Yar. Enjoy delicious pizza, beer, and drink specials while you're at it — all the better to bond with geeks over, right? (20 March; 7 PM to 9 PM. Mississippi Pizza Pub, 3552 N Mississippi Ave, Portland. Admission free.)

Tom Spanbauer is the favorite author of many a Portland queer, and for good reason — he infuses the world with magic. His novels including “The Man Who Fell in Love with the Moon” and “Faraway Places” explore the themes of race, sexual identity, and the ways that individuals create their own families to prevail over shortcomings that exist within their true biological families with a magical realism that demands comparisons to Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Francesca Lia Block. His forthcoming novel “**I Loved You More**” explores the blurred lines between friendship, love, and sex over two decades of relationship, calling into question the accuracy of memory and the permeability of the lines between gender identities. “I Loved You More” will be released by Hawthorne Books on April 1 — so, head down to your favorite local bookseller and put your copy on preorder now. For more information, visit TomSpanbauer.com. We'll have more with Spanbauer in our next issue—so watch for it!

–Nick Mattos

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