



Windy City Blenders

Campy Gender-Bending Performance



www.WindyCityBlenders.com

WindyCityBlenders@gmail.com



Windy City Blenders Ensemble Bio

The Windy City Blenders (WCB), a Chicago based gender-bending performance ensemble, has been enchanting audiences periodically throughout the past decade. Appearing and disappearing, fading and reforming, each of these talented performers have unique and accomplished individual careers. As inescapable as gravity, they are pulled together time and time again to create something greater than the sum of their parts.

Historically, travel along trade routes was largely responsible for cultural growth and exploration, as ideas and goods were passed along the way. Exposure to different visions and the sharing of new ideas has always been a critical element in the flourishing of arts and sciences. WCB is the brain child of the accomplished original producer, Melissa Rapp. She had the idea to form an ensemble that would act as ambassador for the Chicago drag king and burlesque communities, bringing our unique style to other countries and fostering lasting relationships with those communities. This year, both long-time WCB performers C. Byrne and Tamale Sepp have stepped up to co-produce with Melissa in the upcoming 2014 year.

In spring of 2004, the original WCB ensemble traveled to Dublin, Ireland and collaborated with the newly formed Irish troupe, the Shamcocks for a sold-out show. By autumn of that year, the Shamcocks traveled to Chicago and with the WCB, traveled to Toronto and worked on a collaborative show with local Canadian performers. By spring of 2005, the WCB returned to Dublin for another show and hosted many workshops as a part of the ALAF festival. Then they traveled with the Shamcocks to Berlin, Germany for a collaborative show and workshops with The Kingz of Berlin.

Taking a break from international traveling, the members of WCB performed in countless shows around the US under a variety of names and groups. Then, united once again in 2009, the WCB returned to Dublin and performed in another collaborative show with their Irish companions. Jumping the water, they again returned to Berlin as well for another show with The Kingz of Berlin.

Having once again gone out and gained new individual experiences and skills in the years since, honing their craft and growing as performers, this group of unique and dynamic characters are reuniting once again as the Windy City Blenders in 2014. Available to perform shows and conduct workshops, this Chicago-based crew is ready to once again dazzle and connect with counterparts around the globe.





Windy City Blenders Highlights

Drag Kings of Ireland
The Shamcocks
 proudly present
The Chicago Crew
Windy City Blenders!
 Drag • Burlesque • Camp • Sleaze
Thursday March 31st
 The Sugar Club, Leeson Street
 Doors 9:00pm / Show 9:30pm



MISS TAMARA & MAXX HOLLYWOOD
 PRESENT
Steampunked
A NIGHT OF SPECTACLE AND FASHION!
 9pm on Friday, April 3rd @ Circuit Nightclub • 3641 N. Halsted

COME EXPERIENCE
 the past/future revolutionary
 aesthetic of Steampunk through the
 fantastical fashions of some of
 Chicago's premier designers.

FEATURING DESIGNS BY
 • Sam Beyer
 • Robin Colley
 • Crawshaw
 • Diane Lamm
 • Mended Moabit
 • Chyna Stokes

DON'T MISS...
 • One of a kind steampunk gear and clothing
 available for purchase!
 • Dancing to your favorite booty shakin'
 hits from DJ Crrr!
 • Your chance to show us your Victorian side...
 Outfits and costumes are highly encouraged!
 • Doors open at 9pm, show will start promptly
 at 10pm • \$12, \$10 for Circuit Club Members • 21+

AND COMING EARLY SUMMER!
TOPS, BOTTOMS, & ACCESSORIES
 A Night of Drag, Burlesque, Circus, Glittery
 Mulletts, Cheerleading & Other Vaudevillian
 Pursuits! Dance Party to follow the show!

Proceeds benefit the Windy City Blenders and their completed 2009 Dublin/Berlin tour.
 The Windy City Blenders: A Chicago performer collective building international communities
 through music, performance, live music, dance, theater, and more.

FRIDAY 20th FEBRUARY @ THE SUGAR CLUB

alive & erect from chicago
WINDY CITY BLENDERS
 with **DOPPLEGANG**

TICKETS €10 / DOORS @ 7.30
ADVANCE TICKETS FROM PANTIBAR

STEAMPUNKED
 Girlbar presents Steampunked, a benefit event for
 the international gender performance troupe, the
 Windy City Blenders!

Drag • Burlesque • Bellydance • Fashion Show
 • Designs for Purchase • Dance Party to Follow

Circuit Nightclub
 3641 N Halsted St
 Chicago, IL 60613

Saturday, January 3rd
 Doors 8pm, Show 9pm
 15 dollars to a great cause!

Throw on your goggles,
 don that necktie, and
 enjoy the spectacle.

photos: bcjphotography.com





Windy City Blenders Press

dyke diva.com
the alternative lesbian site
home | calendar | advice | gay games chicago 2008 | columnists
photos | movies | music | i heart my city | about us | contact us | links

C. Byrne's stuff
select below

Chicago Performers Exporting Gender-blending

By: C. Byrne

Haven't heard of a crew called *Chicago Performers Exporting Gender-blending* yet? Don't worry, you will.

Shortened simply to CPEG, these ladies and gents are poised to take over the world! Well, maybe not so much "take over" as increase awareness for queer art. The first stop is Ireland and the crew consists of ten performers: Ambi Dextrous, Madame Mojo, Manny Lady Lynx, Chip Starlight (aka many names), Mr. K, Myr Jack "Pretty Boy" Black, Izzie Big, Jack Hoff, and Maxx Ho.

The CPEG Irish Crew
And if you weren't planning on going to IDKE this October another reason why you should go: Drag Kings with Irish in an exchange program with CPEG, they're sending a few lads to perform. I sat down with CPEG producer Melissa Rapp out the details.

C: How did CPEG originate?
Melissa: I gave birth to it. It is my brainchild.

C: Tell me a little about CPEG and its goal within the and other cities?
Melissa: Historically, travel on trade routes was largely r cultural growth and expansion, as ideas and goods were c



WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP
CELEBRATING 25+ YEARS OF Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender NEWS
Search Gay News Articles

Advanced Search

News Index | Archives | About WCMG | Publications | Bars & Clubs | Calendar | Videos | Advertisers
Local | National | World | Politics | Obitis | Profiles | Views | Entertainment | Theater | Dance
Travel | History | Marriage | Youth | Trans | Lesbian | Celebrations | Food | Nightlife | Sports | M

American Airlines
We're proud to welcome you aboard.

PHOTO SPOT
REELING LGBT FILM FESTIVAL: Week Two

Windy City Times - Download PDF Issue

The adventures of roller-derby star Melissa Rapp
SPORTS
by Ross Forman, Windy City Times
2012-10-17

Windy City Rollers team from The Hometown Rollers. Photo by C

Windy City Queercast
queer and now .com

Shows | Blogs | Hosts | Team

SHOW DETAILS

WCQ293 Windy City Blenders
2009-03-26

Host: Amy Matheny with Mitchell Fair
Mitchell is doing his last Queercast before his cruise. He's trying to plan out the remainder of his packing and is having a hell of a time. Mitchell and Amy talk extensively about their first drag experiences and burlesque inclusion in drag shows. When and where did you see your first drag show?

Movie Minute: Valentino The Last Emperor visit the Official Movie Site

For more reviews from Richard Knight Jr, visit www.knightatthemovies.com

Guest: Melissa Rapp (Ambi Dextrous) of Windy City Blenders joins Amy on the Queercast. The WC Blenders are a drag king troupe taking the world by storm! Melissa talks about her background, influences and when she started performing drag. They also discuss the labels of drag kings and drag queens. How do they feel performing for Chicago audiences? The answer may surprise you. For more information visit www.windycityblenders.com

Music Featured on This Queercast:
Pink - "Sober"
Britney Spears - "Circus"

Photo: Windy City Blenders

Play Free MP3 Post a Comment





Windy City Blenders Workshops

FINDING YOUR INNER DRAG KING

Ready to blur the lines between gender norms? We'll take you step by step through the traditional process of transforming into a drag king, from binding to packing to facial hair. Once your inner king is born, we'll then use theatrical exercises to help each person discover how their inner king identifies, moves, and interacts with the world.

BURLESQUE TRICKS OF THE TEASE

Ever been curious how burlesque performers get the courage to tantalize and tease in front of a huge crowd? Our burlesque veterans will teach you the tips and tricks of the tease! Participants will learn how to turn undressing into a charged strip-tease and will gain the confidence to create their own pieces.

STAND YOUR GROUND

Does public speaking scare you? Do you wonder how in the world performers can get up in front of a packed crowd and be so self-expressed? This workshop will empower you to be able to stand your ground on stage by building your confidence in a safe space. You will soon experience the freedom to powerfully interact with crowds.





Windy City Blenders Individual Bios



HOLLY ALCORN

Holly Wouldn't has nine years of solo and ensemble performing experience in burlesque, drag kinging and tribal fusion belly dance. Holly has been a steady presence in the performance scene in Chicago, participating in numerous troupes and creating popular solo pieces. When she's not being a school girl, zombie, clown or super sexy vixen, Holly loves long walks in nature and kitten naps.



BERIANNE BRAMMAN

Berianne, often performing as Scott Beowulf, knows her way around a glitter bomb. Equal parts Drag King, Performance Artist, and socially-awkward fool, she has performed with A Sordid Collective, Breakbone Dance Company, The NeoFuturists, The Windy City Blenders, and The Windy City Smarmies on stages in the US, Canada, Ireland, and Germany. He's as comfortable in a wig as he is in an epic Old English poem.



C. BYRNE

C. Byrne, aka Todd HotBod, has been a drag king for over 10 years, performing as part of multiple ensembles as well as creating popular solo work. In the past few years, she has been studying partner acrobatics and has been incorporating traditional circus arts into gender bending performance. She is also a skilled videographer, working on several side projects while expanding her performance resume.



MEREDITH MILLER

Known as a cabaret artist with a unique fusion of music and object theater, Meredith Miller has been an important figure in the revival of burlesque and Vaudeville internationally. In addition to her performance work, Meredith is one of the Midwest's leading puppet and specialty props designers — in fact, she creates every object in her shows. More at www.MeredithJMiller.com



JIM PRIZ

Jim Priz has been a stunt and theater performer for the last eight years, making various stage and film appearances. He brings a strong physicality to his roles, which is balanced by his sense of physical comedy. Jim has been training with Asylum Stunts since 2005, where he also serves as an instructor. In 2010 Jim began training at The Aloft Loft, blending his fight training with aerial trapeze and partner acrobatics.



MELISSA RAPP

The original producer of the Windy City Blenders, Melissa has almost two decades worth of event and community producing behind her, as well as 10+ years of performing as her drag alter-ego, Amby Dextrous. She now dedicates her time and energy to the sport of roller derby, playing with The Chicago Outfit as Rapp Scallion. She is also one of the master-minds behind events like The Amazeballs Race and other exciting competitions.



TAMALE SEPP

Tamale is a comedian and interdisciplinary performer based out of Chicago and has been with the Windy City Blenders since the very beginning. She fire dances, belly dances, performs drag and burlesque, and is an active member of numerous ensembles. She is a staple in the stand-up comedy and storytelling scenes, produces Brass Chuckles Comedy and Just Dickin' Around Comedy, and rides a giant black motorcycle with an eyelash. More at TamaleRocks.com.



Thank You

We look forward to hearing from you.



www.WindyCityBlenders.com

WindyCityBlenders@gmail.com