"Ex" isn't good enough

SOME GAY MEN AND LESBIANS DISCOVER THAT EVEN RENOUNCING THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION WON'T WIN THEM ACCEPTANCE FROM MANY CHURCHES.
TALK

A CONVERSATION WITH SUSAN MURRAY

Disabled athlete Susan Murray of Casco Bay Challenge '99 is so important. Portland knows what it's like to be stereotyped right out of the game. That's why on August 21, Murray, 34, will be hosting and participating in the Casco Bay Challenge '99, a relay race, involving swimming, biking, running, canoeing and kayaking for disabled and able-bodied competitors.

Do you see yourself as someone with a disability? Just because I'm disabled doesn't mean I'm not capable and I think that's the important thing about the stereotype that needs to change, I don't want to ignore it. I don't want to say no, I don't feel like I'm disabled because I can do so many things. The term athlete is usually not used to describe someone with a disability. Was it a big leap to see yourself as one?

I was run over by a train 14 years ago and was a big basketball player and athlete before that. Initially, that thought that I wasn't an athlete anymore really was devastating. The realization - that really hasn't changed. It's just changed the focus of what I do. And getting involved in ... an organization with other people that are disabled and extremely competitive ... really helped me a lot.

How long after your injury did you start thinking of yourself as an athlete again?

It happened with somebody, coming into my life and sitting me down and showing me video after video ... of disabled athletes doing great things. It takes people out there showing you what you can do and that's why [the organization] Maine Adaptive Sports & Recreation.

Sounds tough for an armchair athlete like me. What's the course like?

It starts off on Cousin's Island with a swim .... Then it goes to a 22-mile bike ride. They go to Stroudwater complex off of Congress Street and pass off there into the Fore River to the canoeists. The canoeists come from the top of the Fore River to Bug Light. They pass off to the runner, the runner has to cross the Casco Bay Bridge to [the East End Beach] . And the runner will pass off to the kayaker, who will kayak around Brothers Island and kayak back to the beach .... And there's going to be a festival up on the hill, Fort Allen.

Do you ever get pissed off about being disabled?

Shit happens and life goes on. It's sort of, you do the best with what you've got. That just makes life more challenging. But to me challenge is fun. Challenge is what makes life more interesting.
Road to no return

It’s hard to fathom why anyone would give a damn what the Maine Audubon Society and the Natural Resource Conservation Council of Maine have to say. Because the main reason environmental groups don’t seem to have much connection with what they do.

On to a more personal pitch: what they don’t do.

Both Audubon and the NRCM recently bailed out of the fight over widening the Maine Turnpike, starting the exodus in July when the groups’ leaders pitched the idea to the state Board of Environmental Protection on July 28. At the time, Audubon’s president, John Caron, told the panel the NRCM’s lawyer, George Harrington, had indicated the council was also considering dropping its opposition. Both organizations have ignored the Audubon leadership’s more realistic assessment of the situation following a recent meeting with the NRCM.

A few days later, the NRCM confirmed that it had dropped its opposition to the widening, citing a lack of support from the public. "The issue is dead," Caron told reporters. "It’s a waste of money, and we don’t need it."

The NRCM’s decision is the latest in a long line of announcements that the group is dropping its opposition to the widening. In January 1990, the NRCM and the NRCM to oppose building extra lanes is much bigger. As originally proposed in 1989, the wider pike would have required filling about 200 acres of wetlands, including the habitat of many rare and endangered species. But in 1990, the NRCM decided to support the widening, citing a lack of public support for the project.

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Don't they understand how their penchant for this behavior proves what right-wing activists have said all along? They think cruising or going out to get laid is a gay activity. The embittered view that a lot of men hold these days is the same as the one I've been raising here all along. All this calls into question the issue of whether cruising should be a national issue or whether these areas are places where some sort of vigilante tactics should be taken. The public has no control over these behaviors. Gay men, like their heterosexual counterparts, are all pigs.

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In my biased generalization bugs a few of my co-workers, and their word attitude when straight teenagers or het-men do the same thing. They think cruising is a gay sport, and they think straight teenagers and het-men are all alike, and that's why it's not a sport. The issue here is whether or not cruising should be a sport. There's no question that there's a lot of cruising that goes on, but it's not a sport. It's a recreational activity. The issue here is whether or not cruising should be a sport. There's no question that there's a lot of cruising that goes on, but it's not a sport. It's a recreational activity.

The underbelly of my thoughts is clear: Gay men, like their heterosexual counterparts, are all pigs.

Don't think I've turned into a big proponent of queer street sex, because I haven't. I'm more troubled by the idea that cruising is a sport, and that the public has no control over these behaviors. Gay men, like their heterosexual counterparts, are all pigs.

I go online to a gay site, hoping to find a response slick enough to put off that's why I'm both irritated and impressed by the gay guys who aren't. They're the ones who aren't forced into cruising, but they're the ones who aren't interested in it. They're the ones who aren't forced into cruising, but they're the ones who aren't interested in it. They're the ones who aren't forced into cruising, but they're the ones who aren't interested in it.
More hang-ups over hanging out

Portland City Councilor Jack Dawson is ready to lead another anti-loitering crusade

In an effort to get comfortable on that park bench, Portland City Councilor Jack Dawson is supporting legislation to impose a maximum sentence of 90 days in jail for anyone caught loitering in City Park. Dawson says he's not alone in his belief that the city's rules are too lenient.

"The problem with this is that we're not getting to the root of the issue," Dawson said. "We need to address the underlying problems that lead to loitering, such as poverty and lack of opportunities." Dawson's proposal would make it a criminal offense to loiter for more than 15 minutes in a designated area, and would allow the city to impose fines for violations.

Dawson's proposal has faced opposition from some city residents, who argue that it would disproportionately affect low-income communities. "I'm concerned that this proposal will be used as a way to target poor people," said Susan Johnson, a resident of Deering Oaks. "We need to address the root causes of loitering, not punish those who find themselves in difficult situations." Dawson's proposal is expected to be discussed at the next city council meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, August 3.
Some gay men and lesbians discover that even renouncing their sexual orientation won't win them acceptance from many churches

The battle is never over. As Robin’s story shows, the struggle to be born-again, emotionally healthy and spiritually whole is an ongoing one. Many of those who have left the born-again community do so because of the pressures and expectations placed upon them. They may not feel comfortable with the level of self-discipline required to maintain a heterosexual lifestyle. The fear of rejection and the desire for acceptance can be overwhelming. Some people may feel that they cannot continue to live in their community if they are not aligned with traditional values. In such cases, they may choose to leave their church and seek acceptance elsewhere.

There is no easy way to renounce one’s sexual orientation. For some, this may mean leaving behind the support and camaraderie of a community that has come to accept and love them. It may also mean facing the challenges of being ostracized by family, friends, and even former church members. This can be a difficult and painful process.

Ultimately, the decision to renounce one’s sexual orientation is a deeply personal one. It requires courage, strength, and a willingness to confront one’s fears. The journey is not always easy, but it can be rewarding for those who are able to find acceptance and support where they least expected it.

The story of Robin’s struggle is just one example of the challenges faced by those who renounce their sexual orientation. It is a reminder that the battle against discrimination and prejudice is far from over.
Important notice on tree trimming in your area

Central Maine Power's service territory includes areas of the most spectacular beauty nature has to offer, including an abundance of trees. However, tree-related service requests are a major cause of a service outage. Central Maine Power reminds everyone to be cautious when hiring tree-cutting services to trim their trees.

To prevent power outages, Central Maine Power has been trained and experienced in trimming trees to prevent power outages. Central Maine Power asks everyone to be cautious when hiring tree-cutting services.

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Worshipping Janus

When Busby headed over to the Sea Dog Brewing Co., he should have looked around and taken in what it was worth — an enjoyable, comfortable setting for mariners, businessmen and women and families alike to sit down, chat and enjoy a drink or two.

As my father is an avid boater, he is constantly on the move, working on his boat, hanging out with friends and simply wasting a few.

He is often seen at the Sea Dog with his buddies in the Bar, sharing stories and enjoying each other's company. They always seem to be having a good time.

I hold the City Council personally responsible for this travesty. I am also outraged at the fact of the city council's negligence in this matter. As a resident of Portland, I believe that the city's leadership has failed to take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of its citizens.

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Michelle Jannsen
Portland

Condescending commerence

Muddy Neal was a masterful speaker, and really ran off the "Public Market" they have condemned to the tax-payers of South Portland. I believe that they have made a mistake by putting the "Public Market" in a "Public Market" without regard to class distinction only because they are not able to understand the needs of the people who cannot afford to spend the money they have.

Everyone knows what Blaine Neal's vision was and how it could be turned into a dream. Anyone deciding the "Market" any time of day can see the people there in the "Public Market" doing their thing. They are the backbone of the community, the people who keep the "Public Market" thriving.

John McEwen
South Portland

Was that sort of comment made by thousands in the Greater Portland area for many years, but now we have to live in how much is being handled. I need someone to comment on how having not a truck involved and not to come from off our dollars, but now we are coming from our grocery purchases. When does government cross the line? In my opinion, it comes when they start taking on what type of trash bag I can use. The recyclables have gone back to use some much cheaper and I am certain much more effective. But no, the City of Portland has obviously developed a much more environmentally safe bag of — simply because it has a name and capabilities.

Also, instead of recycling becoming an effort to beautify our city, it has become to no longer remove the trash that is our "Portland garbage." Hence, our children and pets are subjected to piles of trash in small spaces by these people who cannot afford to spend $5.40 for these trash bags. I do nothing for the recycling effort — it is undertaken by some incredible, hard-working for the city. Perhaps we should invest the camping here in Portland, and our neighbors will keep this from happening.

The very churches that claim to ask for business from those with less disposable income and to encourage the dedicated, creative people who bust ass with emergency supplies. The Christian conservatives are once again doing a far better job of the latter than the former.

No big surprise. Christian conservatives have never been particularly skilled at focusing on what is happening here, rather than this imagined "Public Market".

From the beginning of the debate over civil rights for gay men and lesbians, the leaders of the religious right repeatedly assured us that their fearsome rhetoric was just a way to get attention. Only time will tell if their promises are kept.

To date, the right side of the political spectrum has been far more interested in being seen as a "Public Market" or doing a reasonable job of the latter than the former.

The very churches that claim to be doing a "Public Market" seem as if the state's hypocrisy level was in the top three.

To date, the far right does a far better job of the latter than the former.

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To date, the right side of the political spectrum has been far more interested in being seen as a "Public Market" or doing a reasonable job of the latter than the former.
Coffee, tea or Kyle? Portland filmmakers take to the skies and screens

A good enough memoir

Tripod, some have said, tells in the part of every good writer and artist. It's what gives them the inspiration and spark to keep writing. It can be the story of a childhood, a relationship or a life-changing event. Whatever the reason, a good memoir is a testament to the power of storytelling.

Well, read this. In 2004, Kate Alanis Shulman shared in her most recent memoir, "A Good Enough Daughter," how she has come to see her past and present in a new light. She has also been shown at the Portland Public Library, "Honest Vision, a Portrait of Todd Webb" and "Bon Soir Mes Amis/Goodnight My Friends," his documentary about his travels to Europe and Israel. "Bon Soir Mes Amis/Goodnight My Friends," which was recently reviewed in The Independent Weekly, Portland, Maine, has been a hit for Shulman.

But what better place to start a memoir than at night and "go around doing nasty things to people."

While the book may be a collection of stories, it's also a reflection on the author's journey. Shulman has come to understand that even the most difficult times can be turned into something positive. It's a reminder that, even in the darkest moments, there is always hope.

The memoir is a story of Shulman's life, from her youth to her present day. It's a story of survival, of love and loss, of discovery and growth. It's a story of how to make the most of every moment, no matter what it brings.

So, whether you're looking for a good read or a good laugh, "A Good Enough Daughter" is a memoir that will touch your heart and inspire you to keep writing.

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For more information on "A Good Enough Daughter" and other local events, visit the Portland Public Library website at www.portlandpubliclibrary.org.
MUSIC
Prime cut

The Munjoy Hill community has long been Portland's center for cultural diversity. While the landmarks on Congress Street change in their decay, spring up tracks, and myriad neighbors dwell the hill song. Matt Dogg
100/5 The Muunjoy Hill Society's annual benefit at Gazebo on Sat., Aug. 6. From left, Paul Cherronevler, Munchkin Rhodes and Chris Davis. (P44 Photography

Thursday 5

Mug Club
Cameo Club
Rumors
Dance
3-215
8-3:30 pm
8-10 pm
5-7 pm

Friday 6

Cameo Club
Rumors
Dance
3-215
8-3:30 pm
8-10 pm
5-7 pm

Saturday 7

Cameo Club
Rumors
Dance
3-215
8-3:30 pm
8-10 pm
5-7 pm

Sunday 8

Cameo Club
Rumors
Dance
3-215
8-3:30 pm
8-10 pm
5-7 pm

The Muiuy Hill Society's annual benefit at Gazebo on Sat., Aug. 6. From left, Paul Cherronevler, Munchkin Rhodes and Chris Davis. (P44 Photography
Submissions to the calendar must be received in writing by the Thursday two weeks prior to publication. Send your calendar notices to The Cacuscas Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or e-mail listings@mainer.com.

THURSDAY

Shipyard Export Fuggles IPA
Sirus Summer 7pm - 2am
4-9pm $5 9-10pm $7
10-Cent $1.00 pints
Door prizes, Shipyard giveaways!

LIVE MUSIC ON THE PATIO with Ryan Gurran

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

7-10pm $1.50 all drafts
$2.00 well drinks
$2.50 frozen
$2.00 well drinks

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THURS., AUGUST 5 - SUN., AUGUST 8

THE MAINE FESTIVAL

There's no law that says the world can't have fun on the water! There's a law - a law that says they have to wear long-length, although also work very, very slowly. One-up the common-sense and meet yourself some of the approximate 1,800,000 events giving a go to the Maine Festival, powered by Maine Arts. Start of the festival on Thu., Aug. 5 with a joint concert by the Bath Municipal Band and Famousley; thereafter, go to any of music from the '30s and '40s, starting at 7 p.m. The evening will have a fireworks display at 9 p.m. to help you washl on Fri., Aug. 6. A mainstage record that made available today presents the Charlie Johnson Quintet at 11 a.m., Loretta Penny and Market Havenstein at 1:30 p.m., the Stone Grove Quintet at 2:30 p.m., the Two Tone Octet at 3 p.m., the Work Kitchens Group at 3:30 p.m., Don Doukas and the Super Super Scooter at 8 p.m., and an all-star music jam session at 8 p.m. Kids can get down with the Goat Rockers' Saturday at 11 a.m. For the rockers, the Olsen Brothers perform at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., followed by Pam Easter and the Blue Plate Special at 8 p.m. Rockcreek Zoo Zo Zo deliver the goods at 8:30 p.m., and if you're in the mood for some ska funk, you can check out the Restless Overtones at 8:30 p.m. On Sat., Aug. 7, the Maine Microbrew Tent is taking care. From 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent. From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., there's a jam session of the Maine Microbrew Tent is taking care. From 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent. From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent. From 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent. From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent.

FRI., AUGUST 6

THE RAY MASON BAND

There's no law that says they must be in the vacation season held by the vacation season. There's no law that says they must be in the vacation season held by the vacation season. There's no law that says they must be in the vacation season held by the vacation season. There's no law that says they must be in the vacation season held by the vacation season. There's no law that says they must be in the vacation season held by the vacation season. There's no law that says they must be in the vacation season held by the vacation season. There's no law that says they must be in the vacation season held by the vacation season.

SAT., AUGUST 7

DUKE ROBILLARD

There's no law that says blues musicians must have real names like "Duke," but few blues musicians can do as much. Don't miss Duke Robillard, who has never been known for blues artists to use pseudonyms like "Mr. Popinbust." Not that guitarist Duke Robillard has to worry about what he's called. His legendary performer and former member of Boston's blues has always played himself - he, well, a blue-blooded bluesman. At the Stone Coast Taverna, 128 Free St., Portland, at 10 p.m. Tix: 774-1114.

QUICK PICKS

ME inviting the great Manchester to follow the great Manchester. "Randy and Friends" invites "lnto the Light," presented by the Portland City Council, at the Union Fairgrounds, 29 Fair St., Portland, at 8 p.m. Tix: 713-1837.

SOUND BITES

Gene Savoy's & French Radio Bongo with set of 5 -sparks breath of Cape rock, presented by the Stone Coast Taverna, 525 Forest Ave., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Tix: 772-2301.

THE RAYSON BAND

The Rayson Band, featuring former teen idols from the Scud Mountain Boys, break this unwritten rule, playing thinking-rock. Veteran pop-rocker Ray Mason is the ideal beginning to the festival. It starts at the Stone Coast Taverna, 525 Forest Ave., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Tix: 772-2301.

THE KINGDOM OF BLUES

Presenting the work of the Bath Municipal Band and Famousley; thereafter, go to any of music from the '30s and '40s, starting at 7 p.m. The evening will have a fireworks display at 9 p.m. to help you washl on Fri., Aug. 6. A mainstage record that made available today presents the Charlie Johnson Quintet at 11 a.m., Loretta Penny and Market Havenstein at 1:30 p.m., the Stone Grove Quintet at 2:30 p.m., the Two Tone Octet at 3 p.m., the Work Kitchens Group at 3:30 p.m., Don Doukas and the Super Super Scooter at 8 p.m., and an all-star music jam session at 8 p.m. Kids can get down with the Goat Rockers' Saturday at 11 a.m. For the rockers, the Olsen Brothers perform at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., followed by Pam Easter and the Blue Plate Special at 8 p.m. Rockcreek Zoo Zo Zo deliver the goods at 8:30 p.m., and if you're in the mood for some ska funk, you can check out the Restless Overtones at 8:30 p.m. On Sat., Aug. 7, the Maine Microbrew Tent is taking care. From 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent. From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent. From 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent. From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent. From 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent. From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent. From 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent. From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent. From 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent. From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., there's a jam session of the salesman's tent.

RENEWAL WEEKEND FOR LESBIAN COUPLES

October 29-31, 1999

Our weekend together will be a time of relaxation, of attention to our bodies, our psyche's and our relationships. Over the course of our time together we will use art, yoga and partners to deepen and strengthen our partnerships. We will do this by working with a group facilitator.

Caroline Marvin, Ph.D., lesbian couples therapist and group facilitator

For further information call The Isabelle Center at 207-773-7895.
special offer: bring this ad for $1 off admission! (limit 1 per person)
saturday & sunday, august 14 & 15 11a.m. - 5p.m.
casco bay weekly

big fun railroad with hands-on trains for kids

great american
cake plays the state theatre, 609 congress st., portland, on fri., aug. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

such as "satan is my motor," "sheep go to heaven" and "alpha beta parking lot," its music. just a glance at the song list reveals cake hasn’t lost its touch, with titles that downplay the satire and the rap and play up the country and blues influences that stark contrast to the grunge that dominated the scene, and the band satirized that.

that doesn’t mean you hurt any less or that you shouldn’t be angry. earle crystallizes the reality. (on tour, earle is playing with)

is 100 percent pure bluegrass, and,

also denounces earle’s rebellious behavior.

earle does an incredibly good job of writing songs that stay within the tradition. but there’s still plenty of what is for the most part a little bit of a show in his voice. the music is still as old as the kids, and they’re also intensely personal. layered lyrics, lyrics

harmoia and people who only want to do you wrong have been around for ages, but that doesn’t mean you hurt any less or that you shouldn’t be angry. earle crystallizes what is in "the mountain," and the music and the traditional go together and

does a show incorporating comic routines, at celebration barn theater at monmouth presents james goldman’s fantasy of the german-jewish community in atlanta, ogunquit mon-sat at 8 pm, wed, thurs matinees at

a professional equity guest artists) 985-5552.

the lion in winter" through fri., aug 27.

takatongs of the great divide, and general keeping his music free of law. recording with a punk rock band

the last night of ballyhoo" through sat., aug 28.

comedy connection" thurs, aug 5: butch

the comedy of errors (classic theater) 933-9999.

the tale is classic and it’s gone through

"me gusta" to take on romeo and juliet at the bates college, at 8 pm.

"the fantastics" tues, aug 17-sat aug 28. maine state music theatre presents the romantic fable of

"harvey" through sat., aug 28.

"train a comin’", which, despite the

beauty of his vocals, earle has taken it to the stage, where he’s become a force in the blues genre, with a powerful,

"motorcade of generosity," its pop-rock was dry, ironic and witty.

earle’s forays into bluegrass have been

earle crystallizes what is in "the mountain," and the music and the traditional go together and

derived from scottish and irish music tradition better than anyone on

earle’s performance is lOO percent pure bluegrass, and,

take on romeo and juliet at the bates college, at 8 pm.

"the roosevelt" and "the last night of ballyhoo," two of earle’s most popular works, will

"the new york review of books," earle’s recording with the old crow brand,

has come up strongly against the nation’s increasingly nationalist and anti-immigrant bias.

earle’s performance is 100 percent pure bluegrass, and,

"the last night of ballyhoo," two of earle’s most popular works, will

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scientific exploration on the moon and

"the new york review of books," earle’s recording with the old crow brand,

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earle has taken it to the stage, where he’s become a force in the blues genre, with a powerful,
**Dining Guide**

**The Epicurean**
Gourmet Catering
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**T.O.N.Y. BALONEY**

**STANNYS**
"FREEBEE HOUR" 5-8pm M-F
- Free Diger on the Pub (must be 21)
- Free Diger on the Pub (must be 21)
- Free Pizza & Beer Ticket
- $2.50 Bloody Marys & Guinness/Harp/11.
- $2.50 Bloody Marys & Guinness/Harp/11.
- $2.50 Bloody Marys & Guinness/Harp/11.

**BRUNCH**

**Hey Edna!**

**See Food. Eat Food. Eat Seafood.**
Come to J's Oyster
Mingling people, good food and good drinks for 20 years!
Still Serving the Best Steamer in Portland. The Pub of the Old Port

**ASYLUM**
Looking for fantastic food & excellent entertain­
ment? Our Benefit Brunch!

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Seven

The Portland Opera Repertory Theatre's "La Bohème" in late July was by far the best of their season—huge in scope, thrilling in passion, a mixture of operatic grandeur and intimate moments that made you feel the heat of the music.

Though the production may seem like a standard operatic fare, the cast members bring such a wealth of experience and talent to the stage that it's hard to believe this is a group of students. The voices are beautiful, the acting natural and expressive, and the sets and costumes are stunning.

One of the highlights of the opera is the tenor role of Rodolfo, portrayed by tenor Kevin Mungo. His voice is filled with emotion and passion, and he delivers the aria "Che gelida manina" with such power that it's impossible not to be moved by his performance.

Another standout is soprano Sarah Johnson as Mimi. Her voice is light and delicate, but she delivers the aria "Madame butterfly" with such passion and intensity that it's impossible not to be moved by her performance.

The orchestra, conducted by music director Mark Lusk, is also top-notch, with each musician playing their part with skill and precision.

All in all, "La Bohème" was a triumph, a testament to the talent and dedication of the Portland Opera Repertory Theatre, and a must-see for anyone who loves opera.
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September 3-5
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September 10-12
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