

audiences a chance to see this classic play as never before.

Babe: An Olympian Musical

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Before there was Martina Navratilova, there was Babe Didrikson, a queer female athlete in the 1940s who challenged the gendered bias of professional athletics. Despite the social obstacles of her gender, sexuality and class, Babe went on to win three Olympic medals and helped found the Ladies Professional Golf Association. *Babe: An Olympian Musical* celebrates this athletic pioneer's accomplished life with a "big, brassy" (read: butch) cast. Striving to "do for theatre what Babe did for sports: break the gender line,"



playwright-lyricist Carolyn Gage and composer Andrea Jill Higgins have collaborated to create the first ever mainstream musical featuring a leading masculine woman with a lesbian

love interest. Concert readings in Arizona and Minneapolis were hits; Gage is currently looking for a home for her groundbreaking play.

Dykes on Mics

Ochi's Lounge, New York City

For a doubled-over theater experience, catch a performance of *Dykes on Mics*. Produced by two New York-based comedians, Leah Dubie and Amy Beckerman, *Dykes* features rotating queer (and queer-friendly) stand-up acts and has made a side-splitting impact on the Northeast comedy scene since its November '07 launch. Past *Dykes* performers also seen on LOGO and Comedy Central include Gloria Bigelow, Jackie Monahan, Margaret Cho's tour-mate Ian Harvie, Brad Loekle and Diana Yanez. These performers were featured in the LOGO documentary *Out in the City* and bared all for the cause



during their topless comedy benefit, Generositties, which raised money for breast cancer research in 2008.

V-Love

Hudson Guild Theatre, New York City

V-Love is a virtual kitchen sink theater production, complete with singing, dancing, burlesque, beat-boxing and spoken word. Billed as a "multimedia cabaret," this play tells the tale of six women who "sing, dance and talk their way through some sticky situations." Among the cast of characters is Dr. Gorgeous, a sex columnist and housewife



who moonlights as a stripper and Miss North Dakota, a dirty-mouthed debutante who MCs the show. Written by Lucile Scott and starring burlesque icon Dr. Lucky and sexy actress Glenys Javiet, *V-Love* had audiences swaying in their seats, tapping their toes and even participating in the action.

Never After

Somerville Theater, Somerville, Mass.

Behold a tale of woe and adventure for a fated-from-birth lesbian. Written and composed by Colleen Campbell, *Never After: Not Your Grandmother's Fairytale Musical* is the story of Princess Lesley Ann (Cheryl Bellows), a damsel who's not too keen on princess life in the kingdom of Generica. A tale of self-discovery complete with dragons to battle and unexpected love to conquer, *Never After* truly is a far cry from your classic bedtime story.



Dykeotomy

Center for Sex and Culture, San Francisco

Kimberly Dark is a professor, poet, performer and self-described "pop-sociologist." Her most recent one-woman show, *Dykeotomy*, spins a poetic tale of modern gender confusion. Told in highly crafted, and often hilarious, narratives, *Dykeotomy* tackles everything from awkward strap-on sex to tales of her own dating life. But the performance isn't just about dildos and dating, Dark's academic side comes through with explorations of biology and gender. If you're looking for a comedic but cerebral play, *Dykeotomy* will fit the playbill. [Jacob Anderson-Minshall, Kimberly Bale, Briana Hernandez, Sassafras Lowrey, Heather Robinson, Kristin A. Smith, Yana Tallon-Hicks] ■



Best of the Rest

Lesbian plays were scattered across the marquees this year. Here are a few more that caught our eye... *And Baby Makes Seven*, which showed at the Philadelphia Gay and Lesbian Theatre Fest, is a play about a gay family who must rid their house of three imaginary children to make way for their real newborn... *Once Upon a Lesbian*, a collectively written and directed Vancouver, Canada production about two futuristic women who find a time capsule left by the Lesbian Collective in 2169... Fringe Festival hit *My Mother's Lesbian Jewish-Wiccan Wedding* played at The Panasonic Theatre in Toronto... *The Second Coming of Joan of Arc*, a one-woman show from established playwright Carolyn Gage, which played at the Central Florida Gay and Lesbian Theater Festival. Lesbian-themed *The Color Purple*, starring *American Idol* winner Fantasia rocked Atlanta before going national... And coming soon, the launch of the new epilogue to *The Laramie Project*, developed by the Tectonic Theatre Project, and based on new interviews from last fall. It will have readings in all 50 states, Spain, Australia and Hong Kong, as well as at the University of Wyoming—the college Matthew Shepard attended at the time of his death.