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### **Speed Rack races to find the fastest woman in America and raise funds to find a cure**

**New York, NY**, October 19, 2011 – Forget balls to the wall – this is about babes rushing at the bar as Speed Rack, the national bartending competition, comes to Portland to kick off the second leg of a ten city bartending tour.

The tour launched this October in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in an effort to find the fastest female bartender in America, while raising funds for breast cancer charities. The Speed Rack tour follows the success of the inaugural LUPEC (Ladies United for the Preservation of Endangered Cocktails) Speed Rack competition in New York City this past May, which raised \$3,500 and the Boston race where \$5,000 came in from attendees who watched Samantha Kershaw of Citizen/Noir take the crown. Now it's Portland's turn to put their beauties to the test.

Speed Rack is the only national cocktail competition that features top female bartenders in key cocktail markets and puts them head to head in timed challenges. It is the first competition to highlight the up and coming generation of strong women in the spirits industry.

Using sponsors' products\* participating bartenders are required to make a round of cocktails, culled from a list of 50 accepted industry standard recipes, in front of a panel of judges. Judges will rate each drink based on prep time and accuracy.

The Portland judging panel includes spirit industry luminaries Misty Kalkofen, Audrey Saunders and Charlotte Voisey plus a local woman who knows a thing or two about bad wet things...Poison Waters. Waters comments, “Everyone knows a drag queen’s favorite things are cocktails and racks! And then add in the element of speed? Get outta here! What a perfect way to spend an afternoon!”

Spend the afternoon of October 23, 2011 at Left Bank Annex ([www.leftbankannex.com](http://www.leftbankannex.com)) from 1-4 PM with a drag queen and a bunch of girls who surely won't be dragging their

heels. Tickets to the event include all food and drink and cost \$20. They can be purchased online at is [pdxcwspedrack.eventbrite.com](http://pdxcwspedrack.eventbrite.com) or at the door (cash only).

Following the Portland competition Speed Rack will then travel to other cocktail focused cities with strong LUPEC Chapters including Los Angeles (Nov 13, 2011), and Washington DC (Dec 4, 2011). In 2012 Speed Rack will head to San Francisco, Houston, Denver, South Florida, Las Vegas, and Chicago, all with the goal of raising \$75,000 before the ultimate Miss Speed Rack is crowned in May 2012 at the national finals in NYC.

Created by Ivy Mix and Lynnette Marrero of LUPEC NYC, the 10 city tour is produced by Lindsey Johnson of Lush Life productions and event coordinated by Claire Bertin-Lang of Proof ABV. Event and local PR assistance in Portland is being provided by Emily Baker of the Oregon Bar Guild, and Katie Burnett of Watershed Communications.

Additional information can be found on the Speed Rack website [www.speed-rack.com](http://www.speed-rack.com), on Facebook [www.facebook.com/speedrackinfo](http://www.facebook.com/speedrackinfo) and on twitter [@speed-rack](https://twitter.com/speed-rack). To compete please contact [ivy@speed-rack.com](mailto:ivy@speed-rack.com) or [lynnette@speed-rack.com](mailto:lynnette@speed-rack.com). Tickets can be purchased at [pdxcwspedrack.eventbrite.com](http://pdxcwspedrack.eventbrite.com).

### **Portland/Seattle Contestants**

Mykla Anderson	The Bitter End Pub
Anu Apte	Rob Roy (Seattle)
Melissa Cross	Sun Liquor (Seattle)
Beckaly Franks	JoBar (Portland)
Jade Godfrey	Greg's (Bend, Oregon)
Lacy Hawkins	Luc Loc/Marriot (Portland)
Jenn Hegstrom	Pope House (Portland)
Allison Hunt	Circa 33/Central (Portland)
Erika Joyner	Salt of the Earth (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
Becca June	Cocktail Cart (Portland)
Mindy Kucan	Beaker and Flask (Portland)
Tara McLaughlin	Zig Zag Cafe (Seattle)
Alise Michele	Bunk Bar (Portland)
Sarah Rehmann	H50 (Portland)
Lydia Reissmueller	TenderBar Consulting

### **MC**

Chris Patino

### **DJ**

Nick Van Tiel

### **Judges**

Misty Kalkofen  
Audrey Saunders  
Charlotte Voisey  
Poison Waters

**\*Participating Sponsors for 2011 events:**

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