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MUSIC

Friday, April 21

Oregon Green Garter Band — big band, rock, etc., 8 p.m., Beall Concert Hall. Tickets $1 students/seniors, $3 general, available at the door.

Saturday, April 22

Saturday Market Earth Day Celebration — 10 a.m.: Earthsong (eco-political folk music); 11 a.m.: Storigami (Michael Sussman folds paper and tells stories); 12 p.m.: O'Carolan's Consort (Celtic music); 1:30: Harmony (seventeen women in close harmony singing old and new music); 3 p.m.: Swing Beans (big band, bluegrass, country and blues).

Mayor's Ball — 86 bands on 12 stages, 4 p.m., Memorial Coliseum, Portland. Tickets $10 at G.I. Joe's. Proceeds will benefit the Oregon Fund for the Homeless and Hungry, Outside In, Burnside Projects' Youth Shelter House and St. Francis Dining Hall.

Zoo Gang — rock 'n' roll, 8 p.m., Hult Center Soreng Theatre. Tickets $5, available at Hult Center outlets.

Calendar

Monday, April 24

Faculty Artist Series — classical percussion by Charles Dowd, 8 p.m., Beall Concert Hall. Tickets $1 students/seniors, $4 general, available at the door.

Tuesday, April 25

Piano concert — with Arthur Maddox performing selections by Albeniz, Clementi and the Grateful Dead, 8 p.m., United Lutheran Church, 2230 Washington St. Free admission, donations accepted.

Wednesday, April 26

University Symphony — concerto concert, 8 p.m., Beall Concert Hall. Tickets $1 students/seniors, $3 general, available at the door.

Curtis Salgado — gospel, 8 p.m., Hult Center Soreng Theatre. Tickets $10.50, available at Hult Center outlets.

Thursday, April 27

Shocase Free Noon Concert — The Songspinners, 12:15 p.m., Hult Center lobby.

Faculty Artist Series — with tuba player William Stanton, 8 p.m., Beall Concert Hall. Tickets $1 students/seniors, $4 general, available at the door.

Mary McCaslin and Jim Ringer — folk, 8:30 p.m., WOW Hall. Tickets $6 advance, $7 DOS, available at EMU Main Desk, House of Records, Record Garden, Balladeer Music and Cat's Meow.

Friday, April 28

Harpsichord concert — with Julia Harlow, 12:10 p.m., First Christian Church Chapel, 1166 Oak St. Free admission.

Eugene Opera — "Cosi Fan Tutte," 8 p.m., Hult Center Silva Concert Hall. Tickets $5.50 to $35.50, available at Hult Center outlets. Also playing Sunday, April 30 at 2:30 p.m.

Benefit concert — Soulsations, Midnight Sun and Transister, 9 p.m., WOW Hall. Tickets $4 and up on a sliding scale, available at the door. The concert will help provide cancer treatment for local organic farmer Melyse Connelly.

Saturday, April 29

X-Piracy — rock 'n' roll, 8 p.m., Hult Center Soreng Theatre. Tickets $6.50, available at Hult Center outlets.

Sunday, April 30

Riders in the Sky — cowboy songs and irreverent commentary, 2:30 p.m., Hult Center Soreng Theatre. Tickets $5, available at Hult Center outlets. Another performance will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for this performance are $12.50 and $15.

Turn to Calendar, Page 10

Courtesy photo

Arnold (Harvey Fierstein, left) and Alan (Matthew Broderick) share a quiet breakfast in a scene from "Torch Song Trilogy."

'Trilogy' isn't usual screen homophobia

By Sean Axmaker
Emerald Contributor

Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song Trilogy*, adapted from his off-Broadway cum Broadway play, is a welcome sight for the traditionally homophobic Hollywood.

Movie Review

Apart from the turgid "problem" dramas of the early '80s, where homosexual protagonists were viewed from a heterosexual perspective, homosexual characters have been relegated to colorful secondary roles in most mainstream films.

Though a number of independent and foreign productions have managed positive portrayals of gay and lesbian characters, Hollywood has traditionally portrayed such sexual orientations as deviant.

This comedy/drama explores the life of a gay man the way most films portray the lives of heterosexual characters. Fierstein reprises his stage role as Arnold Beckoff, a female impersonator at a gay club.

Though he doesn't ignore his "difference" from straight society, as best exemplified by his mother (Anne Bancroft), neither does Fierstein exploit or sensationalize. Arnold's sexuality is not aberrant; it is simply the way he is.

Such an approach should not seem revolutionary (and it surely is not), but it marks a big step for traditionally conservative Hollywood, whose forays into presenting lesbian relationships have usually been accompanied by gratuitous scenes of female nudity.

Gay relationships offer no such exploitation angle (male nudity is not a big selling point as films go). Any film seriously portraying gay characters and relationships must instead survive by its merits as a drama/comedy.

Torch Song survives by its merits. Fierstein shines as the warm, vulnerable Arnold, stumbling through romance in the search for a meaningful relationship. Bancroft is excellent as his loving but combative mother, who sees her son's homosexuality as a defect or a disease.

In the stage production, Matthew Broderick played the young man Arnold adopts. But in the film version he plays Alan, Arnold's young lover won over by sincerity and warmth. Their relationship is portrayed tenderly and affectionately.

The film, efficiently directed by Paul Bogart, retains much of its play structure. The action takes place in a few specific locations around a number of self-contained scenes, and the

Turn to Trilogy, Page 10

Bulgarian folk musicians to perform

A concert of Bulgarian folk music performed by the internationally acclaimed group Balkana will take place in Eugene Thursday, May 4 at 8 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall.

This is a rare opportunity to hear the most well-known singers and instrumentalists from Bulgaria. Bulgarian folk music is known for its distinctive drone-based harmonies, haunting melodies, dense ornamentation and complex rhythms.

Balkana's singers, known as *Trio Bulgarka*, include Yanka Rupkina, Stoyanka Boneva, and Eva Georgieva. They have electrified audiences from Eastern Europe to New York with their stunning ballads and lively dance songs. They recently recorded three tracks with Kate Bush for her upcoming album, and appeared on NBC's "Sunday Night" television program. New Music Express described Rupkina's emotionally charged soprano as "one of the planet's finest voices."

The three instrumentalists in the group are known as *Trakiskata Troika* (Thracian Trio), including Stoyan Velichkov (*kaval*, end-blown flute); Mikhail Marinov (*gudulka*, vertically held fiddle); and Roumen Sirakov (*tamboura*, lute). They will be joined by renowned virtuosi Kostadin Varimezov (*gaida*, bagpipe) and Jimmy Vasiliev (*tupan*, drum).

Tickets are $4 for students and senior citizens and $7 for the general public. They are available at the EMU Main Desk, Hult Center box office, Balladeer Music, Oasis Fine Foods and at the door.

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