

## Up and coming

Portland's classic repertory theatre, The New Rose, is presenting one of Shakespeare's dark comedies, *All's Well That Ends Well*, with Jane Titus in the role of Helena. Directed by Peter Fornara, *All's Well That Ends Well* opens March 16 and runs through April 28, playing Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. Opening night tickets are \$11; all other performances are \$8.

One of Shakespeare's last comedies, *All's Well That Ends Well* examines moral issues

in a society with moral problems. According to critic John C. Bean, Helena in *All's Well* may be the culmination of Shakespeare's studies of women. Bean says Helena is unquestionably his most erotic heroine, a woman with magically potent femininity. Helena, Bean says, creates a world in which sexual experience matters, and it matters most because it cannot be separated from the emotional and the personal. Helena is a woman in love.

Jane Titus, appearing as Helena, is one of Portland's busiest actors. She most recently played Ma Prama Rama Kree in the New



Jane Titus

Rose production *Christmas at Juniper Tavern*; other roles include Natalia Landauer in The Theatre Workshop's *I Am a Camera*, Henny Berger in *Awake and Sing*, and Mrs. Chisolm in *The Petrified Forest*. Titus is an authoritative actor, she is always the character she is playing.

Director Peter Fornara's Shakespearean experience is extensive; he has acted in and/or directed 20 Shakespearean productions, many of them as Director of the Portland Shakespeare Company. Fornara most recently directed and acted in Sam Shepard's

*Curse of the Starving Class*, one of this season's most successful productions.

Bertram, the object of Helena's affections in *All's Well That Ends Well*, is played by Sam Mowry, with Alan H. King as his sidekick Parolles. Others in the cast are Renee Boutin, Ken Colburn, Lee Forest, Amy Fowkes, Warren Harshberger, Ira Howard, Eric Pedersen, Janet Penner, Rollie Wulff and Gaynor Sterchi as the Countess. Costume design is by Shaune Wunder; scene design is by Russell Guinn and Jim Gilsdorf is lighting designer.



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