

## LAMPOON OF THE *MOON*

Portland Women's Theater Company reprises its popular production of the deliciously vicious spoof *Blaire of LaLuna*

by C. Jay Wilson Jr.

**P**ortland Women's Theater Company has revived its production of *Blaire of LaLuna* due to an "overwhelming" audience response to the play's previous performances. The production satirizes the unbelievably ridiculous 1992 lesbian film *Claire of the Moon*, which was produced, sadly enough, in the state of Oregon. PWTC's unruly interpretation unabashedly mocks the film's stilted dialogue and the painful progression of the film's tiresome ac-

response, and even unexpected situations and mistakes that are incorporated into the action.

Improvisation is a difficult form of theater to execute, for it requires a group of quick-witted actors willing to trust the performances and instincts of those with whom they share the stage. It is the ultimate in theatrical vulnerability, as each performer must expect that they will be thrown into the realm of outrageous random activity. *Claire of the Moon* consequently offers up perfect subject matter to this formula, for the satire's outcome by sheer comparison will be more enjoyable than the original motion picture.

As is true with most improvisational theater, however, the audience must expect to sit through tedious, seemingly purposeless action to encounter those moments when the action and actors work together to create an inimitable comedic demonstration. Those who enjoy precise theater that

employs tight blocking devoid of extraneous dialogue may become frustrated with lulls in some of the play's stretches. Theatergoers should expect that there will conceivably be awkwardly stagnant interactions that must be overcome to arrive

at the play's more enjoyable moments.

*Blaire of LaLuna* runs Friday and Saturday at 8 pm through July 8 at the Portland Women's Theater Company, 1728 NE 40th Ave. Tickets are \$8, and reservations are recommended. A special June 17 performance in celebration of Lesbian and Gay Pride will be free of charge, with admission on a first come, first served, basis.

### Theater

tion, leaving little room for the audience to wonder exactly how the cast of this production received the film.

The first part of *Blaire of LaLuna* concerns itself with the "making of the film" and features the events that lead up to the completed production including the "audition scene from hell" and various obstacles, both personal and financial, that must be overcome throughout the rehearsals. The second part is an accelerated multimedia presentation of PWTC's version of the final result.

This performance, as well as other PWTC productions including the long-running lesbian soap opera *Misguided Lives*, is "improvisationally developed," which requires a group of actors to create their own action and dialogue based upon a loosely developed outline of sequences. Each extemporaneous performance therefore is unique and is manipulated by factors such as the dynamic established each night by the players, audience

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Cindy Tennant (left) and Kathleen Pinmental in *Blaire of LaLuna*

PHOTO BY STEVE COX

Portland Center Stage

the

featuring the world premier of **Comfort and Joy** by Jack Heifner a comedy about Tony and Scott, in love and in Los Angeles at the holidays, and what happens when their families come to call... and... **From the Mississippi Delta** by Dr. Endesha Ida Mae Holland the story of a remarkable African-American woman's journey from poverty to personal power...

**A Midsummer Night's Dream** by William Shakespeare the immortal fantasy of romance in the fairy-enchanted forest; a co-production with choreographer Robert Davidson...

**The Road to Mecca** by Athol Fugard

fearful villagers for compromises that may change Miss Helen's life as an artist - and as an independent woman. **Private Lives** by Noël Coward martinis, cigarette holders, a moonlit terrace, the South of France...need "oui" say more? **Tuesday nights at 7:00pm**, with receptions following at area restaurants with the cast and fellow G.A.L.A. members. Series tickets begin at just \$49.50 for all five shows and receptions

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\* Gay and Lesbian Audiences

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