

on stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents the slapstick comedy *Owen Meany's Christmas Pageant*, adapted from the best seller by John Irving about a dwarf's fight to be the baby Jesus, extended through Dec. 24. This short sugar rush of sour Christmas candy is a lark despite a geezer literary adaptation that's got everyone talking in the third person. Gay pianist Matthew Kern plays the little diva Owen. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$15-\$40 from 503-241-1278.)

Arts Equity presents tap-dancing saxophonist and performance artist Shoehorn in the multimedia travelogue/visionary fantasy/memoir *Saxovision* through Dec. 30 in Vancouver, Wash. (Call for times. 606 Main St. \$18-\$24 from 360-695-3770.)

As You Are Productions presents true holiday tales and sketches in *Beyond the Glitter and Fruitcake* Dec. 2 and 3 at Subud Center. (7:30 pm. 3185 NE Regents Drive. \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance from 503-235-2633 or www.annerutherford.com.)

BroadArts Theatre presents the *CornyCopia Comedy Musical Gala*, featuring performances, gifts, handmade crafts, original artworks and community celebration, Dec. 10 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. (1-4:30 pm performances and gift fair [\$5], 7-10:30 pm banquet and concert [\$25-\$100]. 1819 NW Everett St. 503-288-5181.)

Broadway Rose Theatre Company presents *Broadway Goes Christmas—Haulin' Out the Holidays*, an original music revue about the struggle of putting on a show and the joy of the season, Dec. 2-18 at the Tualatin High School auditorium. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 22300 SW Boones Ferry Road. \$15-\$24 from 503-620-5262 or www.broadwayrose.com.)

Do Jump Extremely Physical Theater presents *Do Jump for the Holidays* through Dec. 23 at Echo Theatre. (Call for times. 1515 SE 37th Ave. \$15-\$22 from 503-231-1232 or www.dojump.org.)

Fever Theater presents *I Am a Superhero*, the story of two brothers attempting to become a superhero through different means, through Dec. 18 at Goldsmith Building. (8 pm Thursday-Sunday. 10 NW Fifth Ave. \$10-\$15 from 503-233-4420; Thursdays are "pay what you can.")

Hitchhiking rabbits, metamorphosing caterpillars, insomniac hippos, guilty raccoons and dysfunctional ducks fill the collection of oddities in **Imago Theatre's** latest version of *Big Little Things* Dec. 3-Jan. 1, 2006. (Call for times. 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$16-\$31 from 503-231-9581.)

Impetus Arts presents *Private Dances and Other Performance Art, Part I*, a variety-style show of raw, autobiographical material by dancers and musicians of many different cultures and abilities, including some who use wheelchairs and crutches, Dec. 9 and 10 at Performance Works NorthWest. (8 pm. 4625 SE 67th Ave. \$6-\$20 from 503-493-9090 or impetusarts@yahoo.com.)

Integrity Productions presents *Alice in Bed*, Susan Sontag's free-dramatic fantasy based on the life of Alice James (the brilliant sister of Henry and William James) merged with the heroine of *Alice in Wonderland*, through Dec. 11 at Theater Theatre. Curiosity peaks with a choreographed prologue, after which Alice may as well stay in bed for all one is led to care. Despite a well-mannered cast, the production doesn't open any doors to the script's intentions. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$5-\$15 from 503-286-3456.)

Integrity Productions uses the tale of *Hansel & Gretel* to convey the message of holiday spirit and giving in the original children's show *The Holly Jolly Holiday Hullabaloo!* Dec. 14-Jan. 1, 2006, at Theater Theatre. (Call for times. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$5-\$10 from 503-286-3456.)

Lakewood Theatre Company presents Neil Simon's *Broadway Bound*, the story of two brothers trying to break into the world of professional comedy writing while coping with the breakup of their family, through Dec. 11. The boys really try to make a go of it—unlike their parents, who seem a little disengaged and too-often resigned from one of Simon's most perceptively smart, heartachingly funny works. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$22-\$24 from 503-635-3901 or www.lakewood-center.org.)

Miracle Theatre Group presents *Posada Milagro*, a free Spanish-language Christmas celebration featuring the Teatro Español ensemble, Dec. 18. (1-5 pm. 525 SE Stark St. 503-236-7253.)

Northwest Children's Theater celebrates the centennial of J.M. Barrie's fantasy masterpiece *Peter Pan* through Dec. 31 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. (Call for times. 1819 NW Everett St. \$12-\$20 from 503-222-4480 or www.nwcts.org.)

Oregon Ballet Theatre presents George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* Dec. 9-24 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$18-\$98 from box office or 503-2-BALLET.)

Oregon Children's Theatre presents the theatrical fiesta *Ferdinand the Bull* through Dec. 4 at Miracle Theatre. This campy, hourlong ¡Olé! flutters with mucho singing, dancing and wonderfully frenetic interactive fun, not to mention the timeless, gay-relevant message for kids and adults alike that it's OK to dance to a different drummer. ¡Cha-cha-cha! (Call for times. 525 SE Stark St. \$17-\$22 from 503-228-9571 or Ticketmaster.)

Pacific Artists Ballet Theatre, Oregon's only youth ballet company, presents *La Boutique Fantasque (The Enchanted Toyshop)* Dec. 16-18 at the Performing Arts Center on Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus. (Call for times. 12000 SW 49th Ave. \$10-\$18 from 503-452-8448.)

Portland Center Stage presents the world premiere of *This Wonderful Life*, gay actor Mark Setlock's one-man sendup of Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*, through Dec. 24 at Newmark Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$15-\$56 from 503-274-6588.)

Portland Civic Theatre Guild's First Tuesday Readers Theatre presents *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Tennessee Williams' classic culture clash, Dec. 6 at The Old Church. (10:30 am. 1422 SW 11th Ave. \$5.)

Readers Theatre Repertory presents an evening of *Holiday Cheer* Dec. 9 and 10 at Blackfish Gallery. (8 pm. 420 NW Ninth Ave. \$8 from 503-295-4997.)

Slocum House Theatre presents *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens' beautiful study of the true meaning of the holiday, through Dec. 18. (Call for times. 605 Esther St., Vancouver, Wash. \$8-\$10 from 360-696-2427.)

Sowelu Theater Ensemble presents *An Evening of Flamenco and Ballads* performed by Juliet Cardinal, Joaquin Lopez and Stan Olmsted, extended through Dec. 11 at Back Door Theater. (8 pm Friday-Sunday. No shows Dec. 9 and 10. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$10-\$15 from 503-230-2090.)

Sowelu Theater Ensemble presents *The Fever*, Wallace Shawn's play about a privileged traveler who collapses in a poor country where her language isn't spoken, Dec. 8-17 at Back Door Theater. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Dec. 11. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$8-\$15 from 503-230-2090.)

Stark Raving Theatre ambitiously presents *The (second) Annual Cold Comedy Concoction*—four writers, four direc-

tors, four actors, four comedies in one night—Dec. 16-Jan. 14, 2006. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 7 pm Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$10-\$20 from 503-232-7072; Thursdays are "pay what you can.")

Stumptown Stages presents *Urinetown*, a Tony-winning musical about a Gotham-like town that outlaws the use of private toilets in response to a terrible water shortage, through Dec. 18 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. Broadway glitz is flushed away in favor of bing-bang-booming performances—a real relief for Portland musical theater from one of the Rose City's newest amenities. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$25 from 503-381-8686.)

Tere Mathern Dance reflects on *The Grammar of Regret* by examining the ways we express it in sentiment and language through Dec. 11 at Conduit Dance. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 7 pm Sunday, plus 3 pm Dec. 11. 918 SW Yamhill St. \$11-\$14 from 503-221-5857.)

2Boards Productions presents *Dog Opera*, a dramedy about a gay man and a straight woman in their 30s trying to find love outside their life-long friendship, through Dec. 18 at Theater Theatre. It's about time we take an honest look at the *Will & Grace* "marriage of true minds," but like its lonesome characters, this slew of scenes—frequently delivered via telephones and answering machines—sadly sits on its hands, leaving one wanting a little more action. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10 from 503-232-5375; matinees are two-for-one; Dec. 14 is "pay what you will"; Dec. 3 is "feed the actors" night.)

Vancouver Youth Theatre presents *A Christmas Magdral*, an evening of medieval tradition, fine desserts and Christmas merriment, through Dec. 3 at The Portal. (7 pm. 2007 E 12th St., Vancouver, Wash. \$8-\$15 from Urban Eccentric and Unravell'd Yarn.)

White Bird presents Alonzo King's *LINES* Ballet in a thrilling program displaying his unique fusion of classical ballet technique and the angular dynamism of contemporary dance Dec. 8-10 at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall. (8 pm. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$14-\$25 from 503-725-3307 or Ticketmaster.)

Reviewed by TIMOTHY KRAUSE. Read more at followspot.blogspot.com.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



www.DykesToWatchOutFor.com

Peace like a river
Saturday, Dec. 17 4:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Sunday, Dec. 18 6:00 PM

Cabell Hall
on the Campus of
Catlin Gabel School
8825 SW Barnes Road, Portland

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