

on stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents a world premiere adaptation of *The Seagull*, Anton Chekhov's exploration of a Russian actress, her son, her lover and his muse, through Feb. 26. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$15-\$40 from 503-241-1278.)

Arts Equity presents *The Ice Fishing Play*, a winter comedy that brings a lonely fisherman cheek-to-gill with destiny, through Feb. 26 in Vancouver, Wash. (Call for times. 606 Main St. \$10-\$34 from 360-695-3770.)

CoHo Productions presents *The Real Inspector Hound*, Tom Stoppard's absurdist mockery of the traditional "who-dunit," Jan. 27-March 4. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$19-\$22 from 503-220-COHO.)

Defunkt Theatre presents *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights*, an unpredictably absurdist take on the Faust story, through Feb. 18 at Back Door Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$10-\$15 from 503-481-2960; Thursdays are "pay what you will.")

Disjecta presents *Island Desk: My Teeny Tiny Knowledge of Nothing*, Monster Squad and Marty Schnapf's labyrinth that follows the struggles of one woman at odds with the rigidity of her corporate office environment, through Jan. 22. (8 pm. 338 NW Sixth Ave. \$10-\$14 from 503-708-5801.)

Insight Out Theatre Collective presents *Kindred*, a riveting dark comedy about two prisoners seeking redemption and connection in desperate circumstances, Feb. 3-18 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. (8 pm Wednesday-Saturday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$15 from 503-234-0973; Wednesdays are \$5-\$15 sliding scale.)

Lakewood Theatre Company presents *The Lion in Winter*, an ingenious drama pitting King Henry II against his strong-willed wife and their three heirs in a 12th century struggle for love and power, through Feb. 19. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$22-\$24 from 503-635-3901.)

Last Rites Productions presents a graphic retelling of the 1966 cult horror film "Manos" *The Hands of Fate* through



Theatre Vertigo retells the ancient Greek myth of Philomele in *The Love of the Nightingale* through Feb. 11.

Feb. 4 at Theater Theatre. (10:30 pm Thursday-Saturday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$8-\$10 from www.lastrytesproductions.org; Thursdays are "pay what you can.")

Liminal Performance Group presents the Portland premiere of *Far Away*, Caryl Churchill's dark, quasi-political play staged on a set composed entirely of video projection surfaces, through Feb. 18 at Goldsmith Building. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 20 NW Fifth Ave. \$6-\$10 sliding scale from 503-890-2993.)

Miracle Theatre Group presents *Mi Vida Gitana*, a cross-cultural romance between a young Spanish gypsy girl and an American boy, through Jan. 21. The play's small cast is challenged to draw out the story's big-picture ambitions because the script, though artfully bilingual, is otherwise pretty sketchy. Mixing some cool beatbox with hot flamenco adds pleasing swatches of color. (8 pm. 525 SE Stark St. \$14-\$18 from 503-236-7253.)

Miracle Theatre Group presents *Men on the Verge 2 (The Self-Esteem Files)*, a one-man show revealing a vibrant

array of gay Latino identities, Feb. 3-25. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 525 SE Stark St. \$16-\$20 from 503-236-7253.)

New Blue Parrot Theatre presents Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* through Jan. 22 at Washburn Performing Arts Center in Washougal, Wash. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 1202 39th St. \$8-\$10 from www.newblueparrot.com.)

Northwest Children's Theater presents the Tony-nominated musical *A Year with Frog & Toad* Feb. 3-26 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. (Call for times.

1819 NW Everett St. \$12-\$20 from 503-222-4480 or www.nwcts.org.)

Oregon Children's Theatre presents E.B. White's timeless *Charlotte's Web* Jan. 21 at Keller Auditorium. (2 pm. 222 SW Clay St. \$10-\$22 from 503-228-9571 or Ticketmaster.)

Polaris Dance Theatre presents the premiere of *Scapes*, a compelling collaboration with gay choreographer Eric Skinner and others, Jan. 25-28 at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall. (8 pm. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$18-\$22 from 503-725-3307 or Ticketmaster.)

Portland Center Stage presents the longest-running musical in U.S. theater history, *The Fantasticks*, which follows two starry-eyed teens into their first great romance, through Feb. 5 at Newmark Theatre. Sadly, PCS' high-concept retooling misdirects attention, as if the production doesn't trust the sincere charm of its own material. How does all the window dressing serve a play utterly simple in essence? It doesn't. Fortunately, the

exquisite score is intact, and Ron Daum stands out as a musical theater trooper. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$15-\$56 from 503-274-6588.)

Portland Opera presents Giuseppe Verdi's *Macbeth* in partnership with BodyVox Feb. 4, 7, 9 and 11 at Keller Auditorium. (7:30 pm. 222 SW Clay St. \$37-\$133 from 503-241-1802 or Ticketmaster.)

Profile Theatre Project continues its Lanford Wilson season with *Burn This*, a visceral exploration of loss, love and art about a dancer grieving the accidental death of her gay collaborator, through Feb. 12 at Theater Theatre. It's a daring story filled with open wounds and emotional scars, but it's only when these characters let go and move on—about halfway through the second act—that things start to get interesting. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$13-\$28 from 503-242-0080.)

Slocum House Theatre presents *The Odd Couple*, Neil Simon's comedy about a slob bachelor and his meticulous roommate, through Feb. 5. (Call for times. 605 Esther St., Vancouver, Wash. \$8-\$10 from 360-696-2427.)

Theatre Vertigo presents *The Love of the Nightingale*, a rich retelling of the ancient Greek myth of Philomele and a story of the power of words and the price of silence, through Feb. 11 at Theater Theatre. *Nightingale* is an extraordinary epic strikingly staged, a classic tragedy with a contemporary voice—and the embodiment of true ensemble work representing companywide collaboration toward a unified vision, one that takes advantage of theater's unique power to tell compelling stories. Recommended. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$15 from 503-306-0870; Thursdays are "pay what you will.")

White Bird presents the Portland debut of Great Britain's celebrated Richard Alston Dance Company Feb. 1 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (7:30 pm. 1037 SW Broadway. \$19-\$43 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

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

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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